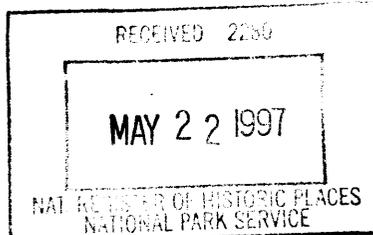


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East side of Capitol Hill Road, .5 miles north of Junction with Route 161 N/A not for publication

city or town New Sweden, N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evelyn Peterson 5/16/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6-20-97

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other Two Stage Tower with Spire

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1880, 1912, 1930

Significant Dates

1880, 1912, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Aroostook, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	5 6 6 9 3 0	5 1 9 8 5 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James H. Hewat, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1997

street & number 55 Capitol St., 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

Located on the southwest side of Capitol Hill in the village of New Sweden, Maine, the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church is a handsome wooden frame building with a two-stage tower and spire. The use of Gothic arch windows throughout the church, including the stained memorial windows, is indicative of the influence of the Gothic Revival. Originally sheathed in clapboards when the church was constructed in 1880, the exterior walls of the building are now rendered in painted stucco as a result of a 1930 remodeling campaign. An addition dating from 1912 runs off of the southeast corner of the church, while a smaller ell dating from 1946-47 extends from the back (east) end of the building. The entire building rests upon a concrete foundation.

The west and primary elevation (fronting on Capitol Hill Road) consists of the gable end of the church from which the tower and broached spire rise to a height of more than eighty feet. A small wooden cross surmounts the wood octagonal spire which is sheathed with wood shingles. The corners of the two stage tower feature simple stuccoed English buttresses probably dating from 1930. Each face of the belfry contains a louvered equilateral arched opening and above this stage of the tower is a low pent roof upon which rests the spire. A working bell, dating from the original construction, is housed in the belfry. The intersection between the first and second stage of the tower is also punctuated by a low pent roof.

A small narthex is centrally located on the gable end of the church and contains a double door above which is set a truncated equilateral arched opening with a memorial stained glass window dating from 1930. Stuccoed English buttresses are located on the corners of the narthex and the main body of the church itself. With the exception of a large, centrally located Gothic arch stained glass window dating from 1930, the gable end of the church is largely unadorned. The north side of the nave features four attenuated lancet arched openings with stained glass windows, also dating from 1930. Prior to the 1930 changes to the building, the large Gothic arch openings on the main body of the church contained eight light, fixed pane windows. An exterior brick chimney rises between the two central windows on this elevation. On the south elevation, the fenestration is broken after the third window by the 1912 parish hall addition (Svea Hall). The west and east sides of the Svea Hall addition contains three, four over four, double hung Gothic arch windows. English buttresses flank the gable end of Svea Hall on which are located two four over four, double-hung lancet Gothic arch windows, and a centrally located doorway and portico. A small attic story Gothic arch window is centrally located on the gable end of Svea Hall. An addition with a half-hip roof dating from the late 1940's projects from the choir of the church. Access to this addition is provided by a door on the north side. A small dormer projects from the roof on the east side of the addition.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

The church's interior is separated into several spaces: a small vestibule at the west end of the building providing formal access to the sanctuary; the sanctuary which features a choir loft and an elaborately decorated altar; and the parish hall which is located off the southeast corner of the sanctuary. An ell containing a kitchen and restroom facilities is located behind the altar. A stairway at the southwest corner of the sanctuary provides access to the choir loft. Handsome but restrained, the 1930 decorative scheme of the sanctuary features white walls and woodwork, dark stained pews, Gothic arch memorial stained glass windows, and a painted mural behind the altar. A central aisle separates the interior space of the sanctuary and leads to the altar which is enframed by a round arched opening at the east end of the space. An elliptical rail supported by turned balusters separates the sanctuary from the altar. The back wall of the altar features a painted fresco of Christ in Gethsemane, signed "Klagsead". It seems probable that this painting dates from the 1930 changes to the building when the memorial stained glass windows were installed. The carved reredos and altar table inside the choir is painted white with gold trim. Two doors flanking the altar lead to the two additions; the northeast door to the 1940's addition, and the southeast door to the Svea Parish Hall.

Constructed in 1912, the Svea Parish Hall addition retains period pressed metal walls and ceiling. A Sunday School room is located on the second floor of the parish hall. The windows, doors, and mouldings all appear to date from the 1912 construction of Svea Parish Hall.

The two story parsonage, located on the property just north of the church, was constructed in 1885-1886. It has had significant physical changes which render it a non-contributing resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

The Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church in New Sweden, Maine is a handsome Gothic Revival building originally erected in 1880 and extensively remodeled in 1930. The relatively restrained decorative scheme on both the interior and exterior of the church reflects the Lutheran predilection for sophistication expressed through simplicity and understatement. It is the first Lutheran Church building erected in Maine, and is believed to be only the second in New England. The Church's development is closely associated with the settlement of this area of Aroostook County by Swedish immigrants in the last decades of the nineteenth century. It is also notable as it is one of only a few historic religious buildings in the state to be rendered in stucco. The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A as a religious property whose local significance lies in its architectural statement.

The history of Lutheranism in Maine traces its roots to 1870 and the arrival of the first fifty-one Swedish settlers to the state. These settlers were part of an experiment sponsored by the State Legislature to encourage foreign immigration to Maine following a period of marked population decline to the western United States following the American Civil War. Each of the Swedish settlers was granted 100 acres of land, (five of which were to have been cleared of trees), and a state built log house.¹ The Swedish settlers were granted this land in what became the town of New Sweden in 1895.

The first Lutheran services in the area took place in the summer of 1871 in the Hall of the Capitol with the arrival of minister and farmer Pastor Wiren. In 1874 it was decided that a church should be built, and the present location was chosen.² Work appears to have begun on the building in 1879 and been completed in the spring of 1880. The original church comprised what is the main portion of the building today, including the choir, with simple Gothic arch windows and a steeple rising to eighty feet. A church bell was presented to the congregation by the sponsor of the settlement at New Sweden, William W. Thomas, Jr. His name is inscribed upon the bell which still hangs in the belfry. No architect is known to have been involved in the design of the building.

Dedicated as the First Swedish Evangelical Church of Maine in 1881, the name was changed to Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church in 1896 to honor Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus (1594-1632) who, for a short time during the Thirty Years War, occupied a significant area of northern Germany in an attempt to solidify the presence of the Protestant faith in northern Europe. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the congregation grew quickly as new settlers to the area arrived from Sweden. Lutheran Churches in nearby Stockholm and Caribou were established in the early 1900's to serve the growing Swedish Lutheran populations in those communities.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

The increasing size and wealth of the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran congregation apparently allowed the construction of a parsonage in 1886. Two years later a horse barn was built just east of the church. This barn was demolished in 1944 to make way for the present addition on the east end of the church. In 1911 work began on a parish hall addition to the church. The addition was completed in 1912 and was named Svea Hall, after the so-called Svea Youth Group who were instrumental in spearheading its construction. In 1912, the Gustaf Adolph Church became part of the newly formed New England Conference of the Lutheran Church of America. However, Swedish continued to be the language of the liturgy at Gustaf Adolph until 1940 when the congregation voted to convert to a schedule of three Sunday services a month in English.

A remodeling campaign which resulted in the present appearance of the church appears to have taken place in 1930. Work during this campaign included the rendering of the building in stucco, a new concrete foundation, the installation of eight memorial stained glass windows, and significant ornamental changes to the interior of the building including the execution of the altar painting. While there is no indication as to whether an architect was involved in the remodeling of the church, the total project cost was in excess of \$7,000.00. The addition at the east side of church was constructed sometime between 1944 and 1946.

The appearance of Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church today is the result of several remodeling campaigns to the building between 1912 and 1946. While the rectangular body of the church is most likely the configuration of the original 1881 building, the subsequent changes to the building reflect the increasing size and sophistication of the congregation during the first half of the twentieth century. It survives today as an excellent example of rural church design from this period.

1. Kirk Mohny, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Nicholas P. Clase House, New Sweden, Aroostook County, Maine, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1989.
2. "Gustaf Adolph Evangelical Lutheran Church, One Hundredth Anniversary 1871-1971", New Sweden, Maine, 1971.

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Continuation Sheet

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 9 **Page** 2

Gustaf Adolph Evangelical Lutheran Church, One Hundredth Anniversary, 1871-1971". New Sweden, Maine. 1971.

Mohney, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Nicholas P. Clase House, New Sweden, Aroostook County, Maine. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1989.

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Continuation Sheet

GUSTAF ADOLPH LUTHERAN CHURCH

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of New Sweden Lot Number 137.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church.