

DATA SHEET PH0681547

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 9 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Bethany Memorial Chapel  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Kendrick-Deary Highway  
CITY, TOWN  
Kendrick  
STATE  
Idaho  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Latah  
CODE  
16  
CODE  
057

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
United Lutheran Church  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Kendrick  
STATE  
Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Latah County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Moscow  
STATE  
Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE  
1972  
FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN  
Boise  
STATE  
Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bethany Memorial Chapel is a frame Gothic revival style country church. Situated on the crest of Big Bear Ridge and surrounded by mature evergreens amidst open farm land, it embodies the stereotypical image of a rural church.

An outset, central tower, which terminates with an open belfry and a steeple, is the major feature of the building. A Gothic arched double doorway with an ornate transom serves as an entry. A round window with a spiral like ornamentation is halfway up the tower. Gingerbread enhances the belfry's framed square openings and a finial surmounts the steeple.

The gabled nave has four bays, each of which includes a lancet window. The building has shiplap siding. A small one story gabled anteroom is to the rear.

The modest wainscotted interior with its wooden altar remains intact. A painting of Christ beautifies the altar.

There are no additions or alterations.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES      1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bethany Memorial Chapel is architecturally significant as a picturesque and well preserved country church. Its setting, modest details, and intact interior all contribute to make this house of worship one of the best surviving examples of a rural church in Idaho. As such it is a local landmark and a reminder of the values of an earlier generation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Ruth Slind March 10, 1978.  
Kendrick Gazette, April 30, 1909, p. 4, c. 2.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA see continuation sheet - sheet 10 2,9 A (see site map)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	1	5	2	8	8	6	0	5	1	6	7	17	2	5
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the Bethany Memorial Church and all the land owned by the Lutheran Church on Big Bear Ridge, exclusive of the cemetery.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

4 August 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Wells*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4 August 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Sally G. Oldham*

DATE

Dec 6, 1979

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Luce*

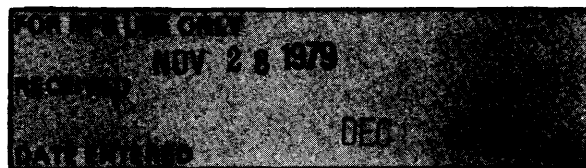
DATE

Dec 4, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



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The Bethany Memorial Chapel is a one-and-one-half-story gabled and ship-lapped structure, built in 1905, which stands facing west on an undisturbed site ringed by trees in the midst of North Idaho farmland. Its simple plan consists of a rectangular nave block four bays deep, a square, central, outset tower with open belfry and steeple, and an apparently original one-story section at the rear which contains a kitchen and dining room and has a side entrance to the south. The main roof is tin and the rear roof is shingled. The foundation of the church is rock with a wooden sill.

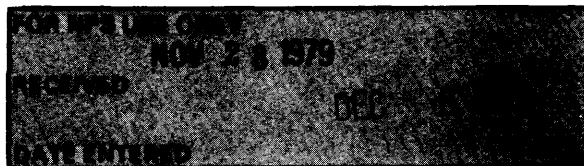
The overall character of the building suggests a Gothic Revival mode, but pattern-book classicizing elements and vernacular decorative treatments are also present and combine to form a pleasing hybrid of forms. The nave walls feature a double-hung, lancet-arched, clear-glass window in each bay, and the light above the double-door front entrance is pointed, with wooden tracery. There is also a circular window with mullions in a pinwheel pattern further up the tower. The nave block and tower are framed in simple molding and there are more elaborate molding strips on the ends of the nave eaves and on the overhanging, shingled skirt eave at the top of the tower.

The ornamental qualities of the exterior are focused at the belfry. It is slightly narrower than the tower and has crossed gables with bed molding above its four rectangular openings. These openings are headed with entablature-like molding and contain various kinds of millwork: ornate cut-out brackets at the corners and two sizes of spindle balusters in separate rows. The siding from the body of the church continues of the belfrey up to the center of each gable, which is filled with shaped shingles. The tent-roofed steeple crowns this ensemble with a display of rounded and pointed shingles arranged in alternating bands. A spherical finial on a thin stem is at the peak.

The nave of the church is 24x36x14 feet and is arranged typically with central aisle, two tiers of pews and slightly raised altar. This space retains its original handcrafted furniture and ornament and is in excellent condition. Most of the woodwork is stained fir, including the 38" high wainscoting which circles the room, interrupted only by the nave windows and a rear door with molded frame. The pointed window frames are also stained and stand out nicely against the light walls. The floor and ceiling are of painted fir: the boards of the shallow vaulted ceiling are narrow and run the length of the nave. The eight-foot pews are moveable; the body of each was made of a single piece of Douglas fir, with no laminations. They were handcarved by a member of the original congregation.

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The altar area is enclosed by a semi-circular rail with newel posts at the ends and twenty turned fir balusters. A three-by-five foot closed oaken table with applied wooden quatrefoil ornaments on the face holds the liturgical equipment. On this base sits a spiny, pinnacled frame in the form of a triptych, also of oak, which surrounds a religious painting, and which dominates the view from the vestibule.

There is an elegant pulpit to the right of the altar. To the left is a manually-operated organ, which is known to date from the construction of the church and is a piece of ornament in itself. Since there is no choir loft as such, space for singers in the Lutheran service is provided by a six-foot pew next to the organ.

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1 SIGNIFICANCE

The Bethany Memorial Chapel is architecturally significant as one of the handsomest and best preserved of Idaho's many small churches. Few buildings in Idaho exhibit such richness of design at this modest scale. Far fewer can claim to have been virtually unchanged and to have maintained such strong site integrity as does Bethany. The magnificent site opens in all directions to wheatfields and provides a clear view across the Potlatch River valley to the eastern mountains. The present-day Chapel is an enduring example of the relationship of architectural form to its accompanying landscape that is unsurpassed, even among rural churches, in a state largely settled during a century of change. The existence and present state of good repair of this building and site is also graphic illustration of the Chapel's continued significance to the congregation, Norwegian Lutherans, some of whom descend directly from the builders of the church.

This area, known as Big Bear Ridge, was homesteaded in 1895-1900 by ten to twelve Norwegian families of Lutheran background who came to the West directly from Scandinavia. They settled close together near the site of the Chapel; in 1902, they united themselves as a community and formed a constitution. By 1903, the group had designated a church building committee and had agreed on details of design and financing. Each member of the congregation was to work

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four days of the church--and absentee was required to hire a replacement and pay the wages. A site was eventually chosen and a committee of three was elected to oversee construction, which probably began in the summer of 1904. The one-half acre of land for the cemetery was given by a Mr. Jones with others offering as well. By 1905, the building was finished and the furniture carved by Mr. Eric Lein; the altar base is believed to have been copied from a catalogue of chancel furniture published by Klagstad Studios in Minneapolis. The triptych frame was not acquired until 1916 when it was purchased from Mr. Harold O. Fjeld of Moscow, Idaho, who carved and sold chancel pieces.

The architect of the church is not known, but the variety of detail and grace of the overall structure would tend to indicate some aesthetic guidance. However, it is clear that the members of the congregation participated in producing a building in keeping with their heritage. The evidence of Scandinavian influence is not conclusive in the floor plan, since the central outset tower form could be found in many European rural church types as well as, by 1900, in countless examples in the United States. The belfry, with its vertical emphasis and particularly its use of shingles and crossed gables has the "flavor" of examples in Scandinavian architecture, and appears to have been duplicated on a Lutheran church in nearby Deary. The most convincing link to native prototypes visible on the church is the arrangement of the altar specifically the semi-circular rail separating the dais from the congregation, since this is a form commonly found in Scandinavian Lutheran churches. It is likely that the settlers felt that the interior environment for performance of the worship was the most important traditional element to replicate.

The church is now used primarily for Christmas services and an occasional funeral or wedding. The congregation still meets as a whole once a year. The Bethany Memorial Chapel, in some specific ways, portrays the transmission of artistic forms from one culture to another. In more general terms, the church continues to represent a close-knit group of immigrants, just as the site they chose to build on typified the land into which they had come.

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Bethany Memorial Chapel  
Supplemental Information

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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<sup>1,2,7,8</sup>  
9

PAGE 1

1. Bethany Lutheran Church  
Bethany Memorial Chapel
2. Kendrick X vicinity of
7. X Excellent (see text)
8. X Exploration/settlement  
Date: 1905  
(see text)
9. Personal conversation with Marion C. Donnelly, Professor of Scandinavian architecture, University of Oregon

Kavli, Guthorm. Norwegian Architecture, Past and Present. London:  
B. T. Batsford, 1958.

Correspondence with Mr. Stan Cox, providing information on the settlement from the original church ledger.

10. approximately three acres.

This nomination includes the Bethany Memorial Chapel and the western portion of the triangular plot on which it stands, six miles northeast of Kendrick. The property is located by commencing from the eastern apex of the plot, at the fork in the road labeled "BM 2631" on the attached USGS map, one-quarter mile west of the "Lutheran Church" marker on Idaho Route 3. The plot continues 637 feet southwest from this point, thence 745 feet due north, thence 550 feet southeast; the nomination excludes the cemetery found at the eastern portion of the plot, 320 feet on each side from the point of departure.

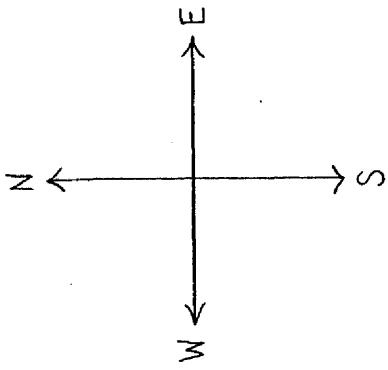
11. Supplemental information by  
Lisa B. Reitzes, Architectural Historian  
Idaho State Historical Society  
610 North Julia Davis Drive  
Boise, ID 83702 384-2120



Idaho Route 3

Kendrick →

Bethany Memorial Chapel  
total plot = 3.9 acres.



1/4 mile

