

Revised 11-78

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Aurland United Norwegian Lutheran Church

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number SE of Frederick N/A not for publication

city, town Frederick sd.  vicinity of congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Brown code 013

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Aurland Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

street & number % Aurland Ladies Aid, Ruth Ylitalo, Pres.

city, town Frederick  vicinity of state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brown County Register of Deeds

street & number Courthouse

city, town Aberdeen state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Aurland United Norwegian Lutheran Church is no longer actively used for services, but is carefully maintained and is in an excellent state of preservation. The cemetery on the site remains in use. A simple frame rectangle, the church's front facade has a central double door with a window to each side. The side facades have three windows each, while the rear has no openings. The windows are four over four sash with large panes of clear glass. Over the windows are simple pedimented moldings. The interior has a center aisle plan with straight pews to each side. There is no chancel: the altar stands against the rear wall on a raised platform. Painted white and gold, the altar has a Gothic reredos with a large canvas of Christ in Ascension, and is surrounded by a curved communion rail. These altar furnishings are traditional for 19th century and early 20th century Lutheran churches in America and northern Europe. Other furnishings include a simple wood pedestal baptismal font, a Gothic pastor's chair and a reed organ. The original wood burning cast iron stove, still the only source for heat, is placed to one side just in front of the platform. The stovepipe crosses the room to the chimney, which rises in back of the altar. The church stands as it was built in 1903-1905 with no alterations, and contains all of the original furnishings.

# 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Ethnic: Norwegian

Specific dates Constructed 1903-1905 Builder/Architect un

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Aurland United Norwegian Lutheran Church is significant in the areas of ethnic history, religion and vernacular architecture. As a well-preserved example of a simple, frame country church, the Aurland Church remains a symbol of Norwegian settlement in Brown County. Formed in 1885, the congregation was founded four years after initial settlement. In 1903 when the congregants decided to erect a new ediface, they patterned it on their home church in Aurland, Sogn, Norway. Although there is no pictorial record of that church among the records, tradition suggests that details, such as the pediments over the windows, may have been copied from the mother church. Another traditional feature of the church is the cemetery, which borders the building on two sides. The church was used actively until 1953, during which time, no alterations had been made to the church. Despite its simplicity, the church was well made and its furnishings reflect the spirit of its pioneer builders.

UNNOT VERIFIED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed Abstract, Mits & Bounds, Book 112, p. 287.  
Early History of Brown County, South Dakota. Aberdeen: Western Printing Co. 1965.  
Brown County News, (Special 75th Edition); 1957.  
Historical Society. Historical Points in Brown County, (self-guided tour), 1976.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.035  
Quadrangle name Savo SW longitude 98° 24' 52" Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

latitude 45° 46' 14"

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**  
See enclosed map with scale and legal description.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Ylitalo, President  
Technical editing: Carolyn Torma, John Burrows HPC, USD, Vermillion, South Dakot

organization Aurland Ladies Aid date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number Box 544 telephone HPC: (605) 677-5314

city or town Frederick state South Dakota

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jennifer P. Fisher date 1/27/82

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only	
(I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Shelaine Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/16/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	