

143-7

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1.5 mi north of Hwy. 44, 1 mi east of Hwy. 68 N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Kimballton X vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Audubon code 009 zip code 51543

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ Date 8/13/91

State Historical Society of Iowa

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 10/3/91
See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

No style

Materials

foundation concrete

walls wood/weatherboard

wood/shingles

roof asphalt

other metal/tin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on a hilltop 1 mile east and 1.5 miles north of Kimballton, the Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church is a one story, T-shaped, frame building with a 1.5 story central entry tower and is similar in design to the other known Danish churches in Shelby and Audubon counties. The building has a gable front orientation facing west with an ell on the north side. The latter was added to the main core of the building in 1906 to serve as a schoolroom and was renovated in 1980-1981 on the interior and exterior including the modification of the original windows and doorway and the addition of a rear stairway entrance into the basement. The church is surrounded on the south, east, and north sides by a cemetery. A parsonage is situated directly west of the church and across the north-south gravel road. Only the church building itself is being nominated in this document.

The church building rises from a poured concrete basement foundation that was added to the structure in 1948. In adding the basement, the building was raised approximately 2' 6" but remains on its original location. Other modifications to the exterior of the church include the addition of shed-roofed wings to the sides of the entry tower to accommodate the basement entry in 1948. At the same time, the exterior tower entry door was modified from its original double door with pointed-arched transom to a plain double door. These doors were replaced in 1981. A pointed-arched window in the tower above the entry was also covered over at that time. The remainder of the tower includes the original paired, pointed-arched louvers in the tower lantern and a metal-shingled flared spire roof. Decorative shingle siding original to the church construction is present on either side of the front facade adjacent to the tower. The four windows along the south side of the building are pointed arched and original to the building; however, the original glass panes were replaced in 1953 with stained glass. Two shed-roofed additions were also made in 1948 on either side of the original apse but did not substantially alter the interior configuration of that apse. The only other recent modification has been the blowing of insulation into the walls.

The majority of the original exterior components remain intact including the wall cladding on the main core of the building, the cornerboards and friezeboards, the boxed eaves, and the windows hoods and surrounds. Of the original windows, only the two in the ell addition on the north side have been modified. Furthermore, the additions to the tower entry and the apse are clad with compatible board widths and types.

The interior of the church has remained relatively intact since its construction and contains a significant component in the painted enamel wood graining on the pulpit, wainscoting, and window and door surrounds, and the original pews with decorative applied woodwork, all of which constitute a rare surviving example of these Danish decorative arts. The semi-circular altar rail is also original.

XSee continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally
Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ETHNIC HERITAGE/European	1898-1924	1898
RELIGION		
ARCHITECTURE		
ART		
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Hjuler, Nis P.	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion A within the multiple property historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Religious Culture for its association with an important United Church congregation in the region following the split in the Danish Lutheran church in 1894. Furthermore, it is the best surviving representation of this particular synod and the historic split in the Danish Lutheran church in the two county area. The nominated property is also locally significant under National Criterion C because it was constructed, at least in part, by skilled Danish carpenter/cabinet maker, Nis P. Hjuler, and exhibits distinctive interior elements associated with Danish decorative arts in the region as related to the historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Decorative Arts. The property meets Criteria Exception A of the National Register because it is a religious property which derives its primary significance from this historical importance and architectural distinction. The period of significance for this property begins with its construction in 1898 and closes with 1924, the end date of the Danish Immigrant Settlement period of significance. During this period, the Bethany Church served an active and important congregation of the United Church synod.

The Bethany Church was first organized in 1890 before the Danish Lutheran Church split into two synods. Following that split, some of the original congregation left to establish a Grundtvigian congregation in Kimballton, while others remained and followed the pietistic synod. This congregation and that in Elk Horn were among the earliest Danish Lutheran churches in the area, and were the primary churches directly affected by the split. While the nominated property was built four years after the actual split, it replaced the original church which had been built before the split and was struck by lightning and burned in 1898. The schism in the Lutheran Church was to influence not only the religious direction of the Danish settlement area's development, but also affected social and educational development well into the twentieth century. Of all the nine United Churches once extant in Shelby and Audubon counties, the Bethany Church is among the few to survive and is the only one to retain a substantial measure of historical structural integrity.

Nis P. Hjuler, who was also a founding member of the Bethany congregation, was born in 1864 in Sonder-Jutland, Denmark. He immigrated to the United States

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anonymous. Bethany Church During Fifty Years: 1890-1940. Blair, Nebraska: Dana College Archives, pp. 8-9, 1940.

History Book Committee. Kimballton: 1883-1983. Kimballton: History Book Committee, p. 1-2 and 12-Section 1B, 1983.

History Book Committee. Bethany Lutheran Church History Book: 100 Years in Christ, 1890-1990. Audubon, Iowa: Jumbo Jack's Cookbook Company, 1990.

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 # _____

_ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
_ Other State agency
_ Federal agency

Local government
_ University
_ Other

Specify repository:
_ Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 329040 4613000
Zone Easting Northing
C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing
D _____

_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the bounds of the building itself and 10 feet out from the building on all sides.

_ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah Rogers, Project Director
organization Preservation Partnership Phase III date June 30, 1991
street & number 520 Franklin telephone 319-849-1271
city or town Center Point state Iowa zip code 52213

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 3 Page 1

Name of related multiple listing:

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

The few interior modifications include the removal of the original altarpiece, the lowering of the pulpit, and the covering of the upper walls and concave ceiling with elaborate pressed metal sheeting. The latter is an early 1900s modification and added a compatible decorative element to the church interior. Historic photographs indicate that the upper walls and ceiling appear to have been originally covered with diagonal wainscoting with painted borders and cornerboards.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

settling first in Seattle, Washington, before migrating to Audubon County in 1893. Hjuler was a carpenter and blacksmith by trade and was skilled in furniture making. In 1898 he helped build and finish the interior of the Bethany Church. The use of wainscoting and the decorative woodwork of the pulpit and pews can likely be attributed to Hjuler's skill and influence. It is not known if he was also responsible for the wood graining, but this was a decorative art common to the interiors of buildings in the Danish settlement area and executed by skilled Danish craftsmen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the topographic description as follows:
the NW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 16, T79N, R36W, of Sharon Township in
Audubon County, Iowa, as taken from the USGS Kimballton, Iowa, Quadrangle Map.
The specific location property is 2400 feet north of the SW corner of Section 16
where it intersects with sections 17, 20, and 21, and 90 feet from the east edge
of the north-south gravel road.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

*** Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sharon Township, Audubon County, Iowa
Leah Rogers, photographer
Original negatives, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
#1	Church from a distance 2/20/91 view to NNE		
2	Church 2/20/91 view to NE		
3	Church (front detail) 2/20/91 view to E		
4	Church (rear) 2/20/91 view to SW		
5	Interior details of nave 2/20/91 view to NNE		
6	Interior details of nave 2/20/91 view to W		
7	Interior closeup of pressed metal 5/25/90		

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Floorplan Page 1

Bethany Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sharon Township, Audubon County.

