



OMB
820

**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 *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 any 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 Neuburg Congregational Church
other names/site number 32HT00154

2. Location

street & number 83rd Ave SW and 57th St SW N/A not for publication
city or town Mott vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Hettinger code 041 zip code 58646

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)
Signature of certifying official/Title 6-29-07
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
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 commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

8-15-07
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Neuburg Congregational Church
Name of Property

Hettinger , North Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

Contributing Noncontributing

private

building(s)

1 0 buildings

public-local

district

1 0 sites

public-State

site

1 0 structures

public-Federal

structure

0 0 objects

object

3 0 **Total**

Name of related multiple property listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious: Religious Facility

Vacant/Not in use

Funerary: Cemetery

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Wood: shingles

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet

Neuburg Congregational Church
Name of Property

Hettinger, North Dakota
County and State

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 a 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.

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:
Church records

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/settlement

Period of Significance

1925-1957

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Neuburg Congregational Church
Name of Property

Hettinger, North Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 6.4

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	13	717826	5163073	(NAD27)	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing

2					4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Willard J. Harsch

organization N/a date 2007

street & number 1968 Mesquite Loop telephone 701.255.6262

city or town Bismarck state ND zip code 58503

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 the 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Description

The Neuburg Congregational Church is located at the intersection of two gravel roads in Hettinger County in southwestern North Dakota. The land surrounding the church property consists of rolling cropland and pasture. The property is marked by a wooden sign. A church, cemetery, and privy occupy the site. The church is remote, approximately 26 miles from any town, and it is near the corner of three counties, Hettinger, Stark and Grant.

Located north of the church are three out houses used as rest rooms and storage. The buildings are of wood construction with gable roofs. The buildings are divided with three restrooms for the men and three for the women. The approximate size of two of the out houses are 5' x 8', the third building had a portion of it used for storage and the approximate size of that building is 8' x 12'.

The cemetery, founded in 1898, predates the church by 7 years. It is located on the northeast corner of the property and is surrounded by a chain link fence. A steel gate holds an arch reading "Neuburg Congregational Cemetery." This gate was donated by John and Sara Luithle in 1995. The cemetery is also the location of a metal bell tower which hold the original bell from the church, which was originally purchased by Christian Endeavor fundraisers (the youth organization of the church). A granite monument near the bell tower contains the names of those whose remains lie in unmarked graves (see list in Additional Documentation), as well as the inscription, "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come (Heb.13 v.14)." The cemetery is still in use.

In 1925, a wood-framed, wood-sided, front-gabled, 30' by 46' building was constructed. There is a concrete-walled basement under the body of the church. To the south, a steeple/bell tower provides the entrance and vestibule to the church. To the north, a four-sided apse with contains the altar. The entire building is covered with horizontal siding. The roofs are all asphalt shingled. The windows are gothic arched, single-hung, wood framed sash, five over four panes. This is the standard window pattern in the building, and all windows follow this pattern.

The church faces south with wooden stairs leading up to double wood five-panel doors in the steeple tower, which serves as a vestibule. Modern metal pipe handrails flank the concrete stair. A fixed half circle transom window is above the doors, and windows puncture the sides of the vestibule. The steeple is built atop a pent-gable roof at the first story of the vestibule. With a full eave return, the gable visually acts as a pediment, increasing the verticality of the tower. The bell tower, above, contains three windows, one per side, exempting the side that intersects the building. The steeple is capped by a hipped roof with a four-sided spire surmounted by a wooden cross. The steeple is flanked by two windows at the second story. Short gable returns emphasize these two windows.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Description (continued)

The east and west facades of the building are mirror images of one another. Four windows are equally spaced along each side. Basement windows are placed under each window on the main building, meaning four on each side, two in the south, none to the north (rear). The east side of the building, at the south corner, has a simple five-panel wood door set at ground level, allowing access to the basement or upper level via stairs.

The interior of the church consists of three spaces, as the exterior indicates. One enters through the vestibule, which has space to the sides to hang coats and hats. The basement can be access through the vestibule to the east side. The sanctuary is entered from the vestibule through double varnished wood five-panel doors, under the choir loft, which is located on the south end of the sanctuary above the entrance doors supported by two wood columns. A varnished wooden floor extends through out the entire length of the church, though a carpet runner covers the aisle, which runs down the center of the room, flanked by wood pews. The ceiling is vaulted and covered with a fiber-type panel, which also covers the tops of the walls. The lower four feet of the walls are covered with varnished knotty pine.

Several raised steps lead to the chancel located on the north end of the sanctuary. There are two single hung glass pane windows with single pane glass. Each window has a pointed arch made of glass. The chancel is constructed with five sides facing the sanctuary. The main sanctuary and the chancel have vaulted ceilings covered with a fiber type ceiling block. The walls are covered with a fiber material with the lower four feet of the wall covered with varnished knotty pine. Dark varnished wooden pews fill the sanctuary.

Electricity was installed when the church was constructed in 1925. It was powered by a 36-volt power plant until 1950 when Rural Electrification Administration brought power to the area. The interior lights hang by chain from the ceiling and have a two-tiered white glass shade over the light bulbs.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Statement of Significance

This church was formed by German people who migrated from Germany to South Russia and later immigrating to the United States to homestead in the Dakota Territory. These immigrants had been lured to Russia with promises of free land during the reign of Catherine II. They were also promised freedom from taxation, military service, and community autonomy. As a group, they held fast to their German heritage, but when life became restrictive in Russia, they moved again, this time to the United States. They sought out lands similar to the steppes they were familiar with in Russia. Many of them ended up in Hettinger County, congregating with others from the same area.

From 1898 through 1905, a group of Germans-from-Russia immigrants met at the John Sayler farm (now known as the Jacob Gruebele farm) to worship. They were led by Pastor J.E. Schwabenland.

On January 5, 1905 a group of people met and organized the church named Neuburg, after the area in Russia from which most of the people had immigrated. They learned they could purchase a Lutheran church building from a congregation north of the Heart River. Members agreed to the purchase, and the building was moved to the site of the present Neuburg Church. According to historical reports, the building was cut into sections to be transported by horse-drawn wagons.

In Russia, these immigrants lived in villages where they had close neighbors, relatives, and friends. In their new homeland, spread out on the prairie farms and isolated by poor roads, they had a need for companionship and community. The church offered this, serving as a nucleus of the community.

As families grew larger and several nearby churches closed, the Neuburg congregation outgrew its building. In 1925, members voted to building a new building, to measure 30' by 46', with a basement and steeple. The project was funded partly by various fundraisers, including church suppers and bake sales. Members were required to donate cash or labor or materials to the church, making the very act of construction a community building venture. This church building was constructed at the beginning of the Depression, which began on the prairies during the droughts of the 1920s, destroying crops and livelihoods of farmers.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Descendents of these pioneers remember the strong sense of community this congregation had. The sound of a hammer working would often serve as a call to come help a neighbor with a project. House fires were common in this era, and the congregation would help the family rebuild. Ministers were well-fed – fresh meat, eggs, milk, cream, and vegetables from the gardens of devout but cash-poor congregants. In times of poor crops, a minister might offer to take less salary.

The church was entirely member supported. Children were confirmed into the faith at age 16 or 17. They participated as young adults until age 21. Upon reaching the age of majority, they were asked to accept membership, and with it, financial responsibility to the church. If they decided to leave the church, they had to decline membership verbally in public, or in writing.

The church offered more than just religious instruction. Culture was preserved and community created within its walls. A “Kinder Day” was held once each year for all the youth of the community, not just the members. A picnic was held with games and sweet treats such as pop and candy. Christian Endeavor was a young adult social group where many lasting relationships began. This is the group that raised the money for the original church bell, now hung in the cemetery. These events and groups were a way for the older members of the congregation to pass on the culture they had brought with them from their old country.

In 1938, it was decided to have each member seed one acre or more of wheat, of which the proceeds would go the church. They were to search for spiritual guidance as to how many acres they felt they could seed.

Women were not allowed to vote at the business meetings of the church until 1941 (the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920). Originally, the church itself was segregated by gender, with the women on the left side of the church and the men on the right. For the women, the Ladies’ Aid Society was the primary social group, holding fundraisers such as the annual Harvest Supper. They provided meals at a low-cost to the Future Farmers of American and 4-H Club for their banquets, as well as for funerals and anniversary celebrations. Traditional Russian recipes were passed on to the next generation through the food cooked and served by this group; this was another way to transmit culture. The women also provided quilts to foreign aid societies.

An effort shared by all was the fall supper, prepared by the ladies aid of the church. The Neuburg members would host supper guests from several counties and many surrounding towns like Mott, Richardton, Elgin, Glen Ullin, and Hebron. Since seating was limited in the basement where the meal was served, the guests would receive a number when they purchased a ticket and sit in the sanctuary and visit until their number would be called. The whole

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Statement of Significance (continued)

process sometimes took several hours but everyone enjoyed the visiting and great food. The church did not have any running water, so the men of the church would remove one of the basement windows to the kitchen and hand pails of fresh water into the basement to do the dishes and the used water was handed back out.

Bible School and confirmation classes were held in the summer. Vacation bible school was open to all denominations and children from all surrounding counties attended. The classes grew larger as each summer passed. Confirmation students from other churches were also allowed to join the classes. Classes in smaller churches did not always have enough students to have confirmation so they would get confirmed with the Neuburg students. Often Neuburg members would house the students while they attended class.

In 1908, the members voted to build a barn for the horses to protect them from the harsh cold winters, since worship services were held Sunday morning and afternoon. The barn belonged to the Neuburg church but only those who helped in any way (monetarily or with labor) had the right to use it. Any one having a stall was to keep it clean and was responsible for the up keep. If a member was to leave the church he no longer had a right to the barn but did have the right to sell his stall to another member of the church. In 1933, the barn was remodeled to accommodate cars. In 1954 it was decided to sell the barn.

Although these people immigrated from Russia, this group totally ignored the Russian part of their heritage. They culturally identified as Germans. German was the primary language; the only other language spoken and written was English. Church records were kept in German through 1958 (they have since been translated). Until 1953, all services (two every Sunday) and Sunday School classes (for adults and children) were conducted in German; in 1953, the congregation voted to hold one service a month in English. The congregation eventually moved to holding the morning service in English and the afternoon service in German. Twice a year, Mission Sundays were held. The regional church congregations were invited to hear speakers from a foreign mission or a home mission, and to raise money for the same. A fundraising meal was also provided.

This church represents the faith and culture of hundreds of hard-working farm families in southwestern North Dakota. This immigrant group is significant in the history of North Dakota for their unique blend of cultures. The church building was one place that helped the group hold on to its culture so that the descendents of these immigrant families are able still to learn and embrace that culture.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 6

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Bibliography

Ottmar, Martha . "Neuburg Congregational Church 70th Anniversary booklet." Mott, ND, (1975)

Luthle, Sara. "Neuburg Congregational Church 75th Anniversary booklet" Bismarck, ND, (1980)

Klein, William. Klein Genealogy, oral interview. Ocean Side, Ca.

Neuburg Congregational Church. Church Records. Stored at The First Congregational Church of Mott, ND.

Verbal boundary description

From a point on the SE corner of the SE1/4-18-136-91 due north 32 rods, west 32 rods, south 32 rods, east 32 rods to the point of beginning, containing 6.40 (hundreds) acres.

Verbal boundary justification

Boundaries determined by information obtained from the Hettinger Co., ND Register of Deeds Office. Parcel is the entire lot historically associated with the church.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation Page 7

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

PASTORS:

J.E Schwabenland	1898-1900
J. Dienes	1901-1903
J.F. Reister	1903-1905
Jorne	1905
A. Hodel	1906-1917
J.L. Hirning	1917-1919
J.N. Sauer	1920-1930
Jacob Kessler	1926-1930
Edwin Gutjahr	1930
D.G Shurr	1930-1934
Richard Uhlmann	1934-1936
Edward Wslinger	1937-1940
Jacob Weissenburger	1941 Died
George Kissler	1942-1946
D.G. Schurr	1946-1947
H.O. Sheer	1948-1955
Jacob Rath	1955-1958
Ervin Hummel	1958
Christ Maedche	1958-1965
Bob Lennich	1966
Grant Carlson	1966-1972
Henry Goldsack	1972-1976
Alvin Crandall	1976-1977
Ted Dockter	1977-1980

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation Page 8

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

The following names are listed on the monument which names those buried in unmarked graves in the Neuburg Cemetery:

Wilhelm Enzi
Katherine Riegle
Herbert Hirning
Sophia Saylor
Rudolph Saylor
Henry Buckenberger
Julius Schram
Reinhold Lutz
Reinhold Behringer
Reinhardt Schultz
Katherina Behringer
Ludwig Gunsch
Bertha Ader
Peter Heuple
Emil Schultz
Mathilda Schultz
Magdalena Auch
Martha Auch
Gottlieb Heinle
Oscar Sailer
Lydia Hummel
Child of John Schultz
Harold Bertsch

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation Page 9

**Neuburg Congregational Church
Hettinger County, ND**

Photo Identification List

For all photos

1. Neuburg Congregational Church
2. Hettinger County, North Dakota
3. Willard and Jeanette Harsch
4. March 2007
5. digital image

Photo 1, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_1
SW view of the church exterior, camera facing NE

Photo 2, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_2
NW view of the church exterior, camera facing SE

Photo 3, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_3
NE view of the church exterior, camera facing SW

Photo 4, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_4
Shed and outhouses to the north of the church, camera facing W

Photo 5, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_5
Cemetery gate, camera facing N

Photo 6, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_6
Cemetery bell tower and unmarked graves monument, camera facing N

Photo 7, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_7
Interior towards altar, camera facing N

Photo 8, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_8
Interior towards balcony, camera facing S

Photo 9, ND_HettingerCo_Neuburg_9
Interior east wall, camera facing SE