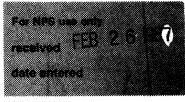
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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SITE PE-8

NAME Duck Creek Lutheran Church and Cemetery

LOCATION Seven miles southwest of Lodgepole, Perkins County (105), South Dakota (046)

- OWNER Gordon Romness Secretary/Treasurer RR 2 Box 805 Hettinger, North Dakota 58639-9429
- CLASSIFICATION Buildings, private, NA acquisition, occupied, restricted access, religious

Situated on the treeless flat prairie, the Duck Creek Lutheran Church is located about seven miles southwest of Lodgepole in Perkins County. The church is located along Duck Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Grand River.

The church, constructed ca. 1900 is stylistically rural Gothic. It is simple in design, with readily identifable Gothic features such as butresses, hoodmolds, labels and pinnacles absent. The building is of wood-frame construction and is covered in clapboard that is painted white. The gable roof of the church is covered with wood shingles. The gable roof of the narthex is covered with pale gray composition shingles.

The church is entered through a set of double doors in the narthex on the front (east) facade. The north and south side walls have three lancet windows with window surrounds. The church rests on a poured concrete basement that is entered from the south side of the structure. A red brick chimney rises from the ridgeline.

A new plywood outhouse (non-contributing) is located southwest of the church.

Entry to the cemetery is through a gate in the north fence. Thirteen stones are scattered throughout the burial ground.

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SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, religion

DATE: ca. 1900 BUILDER: Not available

The Duck Creek Church and Cemetery is significant to Harding County and western South Dakota as a fine example of a simple rural Gothic church. The cemetery contains the graves of the areas early settlers. The church continues to serve the spiritual needs of this agricultural community.

The Lutheran Church in South Dakota has had a long and distinguished history of providing spiritual and social guidance the rural residents throughout the state. to The first Lutheran service was conducted in July, 1859 by the Reverend Abraham Jocobsen for a group of Scandinavian pioneers who settled at the juncture of the Missour and James Rivers. Statistically, the majority of Scandinavian and Geramn immigrants in the state beloned to a Lutheran Church. Thus, as northwestern South Dakota settled by WAS these immigrants many Lutheran churches were established throughout the rural communities. As the population has declined through the years the churches have been closed, and the congregations consolidated.

The Duck Creek Church is important to Perkins County as one of the few rural Gothic Lutheran churches that remains with a practicing congregation. The church is in very good condition and the cemetery is well maintained. NPS Form 10-900-a (3-82)

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