

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|----------------------------------|
| STATE: Minnesota |
| COUNTY: Ramsey |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975 |

1. NAME

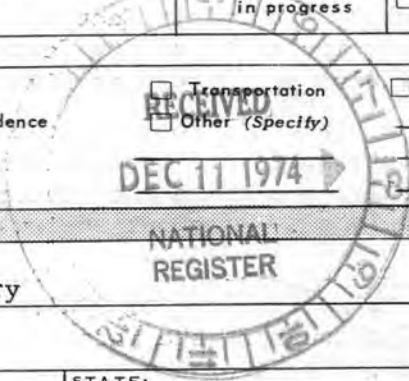
| |
|---|
| COMMON: Muskego Church |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church |

2. LOCATION

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th | |
| STATE Minnesota | CODE 22 | COUNTY: Ramsey | CODE 123 |

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| OWNER'S NAME: Luther Theological Seminary | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | STATE: Minnesota | CODE 22 |

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Blvd. | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | STATE: Minnesota | CODE 22 |

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey/Statewide Historic Sites Survey | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1934/1963 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | STATE: Minnesota | CODE 22 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Minnesota**
COUNTY: **Ramsey**
ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 12 1975**
DATE: **MAY 12 1975**
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Muskego Church is located on the campus of Luther Theological Seminary in St. Anthony Park at 2375 Como Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota. The original location of the log church was at Muskego, Wisconsin, southwest of Milwaukee; the church was positioned "atop an eminence called 'Indian Hill'".¹

In 1904, Muskego Church was purchased, dismantled, and removed to be reconstructed on the building's present site. It was at this time, that the exterior log walls were furred with two-by-fours and covered with a clapboard siding for protection. The covering of lap siding was removed, in 1970, when it was discovered that rather than protecting, the siding was rotting the logs beneath. Once again, the attractiveness of the exterior walls constructed of red oak logs, adzed and handplaned to a thickness of approximately six inches, were exposed. The massive logs are coped and scribed with interlocking ends shaped by an axe. The fit of the hewn logs is so tight that only the interlocking ends of the logs were chinked with clay.

The structure of the building is divided into two parts; the main room and the chancel. The main room inside face measures twenty feet one inch by twenty six feet two inches. The chancel measures twenty feet four inches by twenty feet three inches.² The overall length of the building is forty feet five inches long.²

The chancel's roof is lower than the roof of the main room by two feet; both roofs are wood shingled. Windows are placed in each of the long walls, one above the other; the original doors and windows have been replaced. A cement stairway now meets the front double door entrance.

The interior of the church was restored to its initial appearance after its arrival to St. Paul. The hand planed log walls are left exposed throughout the interior and the floor and ceiling are wood finished. "None of the wood inside has been painted, and the marks left by adz and plane testify to the hard labor that went into the church's construction."³

A gallery is located across the back of the church and extends the length of the main room. It is supported by six hand carved pillars of solid black walnut. Several plank seats supported on wood trestles are located in the gallery which is accessible by stairs from the ground floor. Beneath the wood gallery, on the main floor, are located fourteen straight-back pews.

Contained within the chancel are the choir stalls, sanctuary, altar and pulpit. The turned log altar rails, altar and pulpit are made from black walnut. The extremely high pulpit is reached by a stairway to the left of the altar at the east end of the building.

1. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, p. 231
2. U.S. Department of Interior Offices of National Parks, H.A.B.S. Survey number 29-24
3. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, p. 232

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Muskego Church represents a beautiful example of pioneer log construction with old world craftsmanship in addition to being an historic site of national significance. It is reported to be the "first Norwegian Lutheran Church built in the United States".¹

This log meeting house was built by Peter Jacobson in 1843[✓] to serve the early colony of Norwegian immigrants that settled at Muskego, Wisconsin near Milwaukee.² On March 13, 1845, the two story log structure was dedicated as the first Norwegian Church in the United States.³ The log church served its pioneer congregation of some two hundred and seventy people for twenty-four years. It was replaced, in 1869[✓], with a larger building by the congregation who had outgrown the log meeting hall. The original church was removed from its position on "Indian Hill" and placed on the old Jacobsen farm to be used as a barn and storage shed.⁴

Through the efforts of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, in 1904[✓], Muskego Church was purchased, dismantled, and removed to be reconstructed on its present site at the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1934 the Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the craftsmanship in their detailed drawings of the interior and exterior of the log church. Presently the Church is open for tours year round, upon request. It is occasionally used for services during the summer months.

Muskego Church is significant as the first reported Norwegian Lutheran Church in the United States and as a beautiful example of pioneer log craftsmanship.

1. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, Editorial, Minnesota Historical Society staff
2. Dorr, W.G., Historic American Buildings Survey Descriptions; folder 2, drawings #14
3. Barton, A.O., "Old Muskego Settlement", North Star, December 1921
4. Ibid.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barton, A.O., "Old Muskego Settlement", North Star, December, 1921
History of Norwegians in America, Augsburg Publishing House, Mpls., 1925
 Koeper, H.F., "Muskego Church", Historic St. Paul Buildings, St. Paul
 City Planning Board, St. Paul, 1964; pp. 91
Minneapolis Tribune Picture Magazine, March 4, 1973; pp. 28, 31
 "Muskego Church", Minnesota History Vol.38, No. 5; Minnesota Historical
 Society's Editorial Staff, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul,
 1963; pp. 231-233
 St. Paul Pioneer Press, February 9, 1930, Section three; June 16, 1946,
 Section two page 4, October 4, 1963 (see continuation sheet)

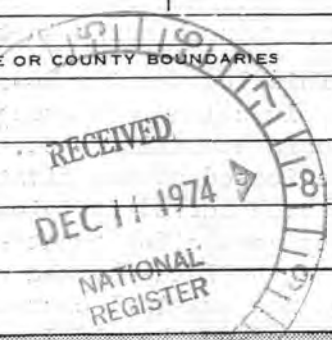
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|----|----|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | | LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | | |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 44 | 0 | 59 | 06 | 93 | 0 | 11 | 45 |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | | | | | |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | | | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | | | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John J. Hackett, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 20 November 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: December 17, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Auerberg
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/19/75

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Minnesota | |
| COUNTY | |
| Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| MAT 12 1975 | |

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

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number All entries.)

7. Description

The simple furnishings such as the 1848 patented cast iron stove whose pipes encircle the underside of the gallery, the pump organ, baptismal font, portraits of persons important to the founding and growth of the log church, complete the interior of the log chapel that served the needs of the early Norwegian congregation.

This historical site has been given recognition by the United States Department of Interior when the Historic American Buildings Survey, in 1934, recorded the log chapel. A marker was positioned at the intersection of Luther Place and Como Avenue in 1963 to bring attention to the significance of the old Muskego Church; "A house of worship erected in 1844 by the first congregation organized by Norwegian Lutheran immigrants in America".⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

United States Department of Interior Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations Branch of Plans and Designs. Log Chapel - St. Paul Minnesota, Survey No. 29-24, 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey, Sheets 1-3 of 3

4. Holmquist, June, et al, History Along the Highway, p. 18



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Muskego Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2375 Como Avenue West
CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul
STATE: Minnesota

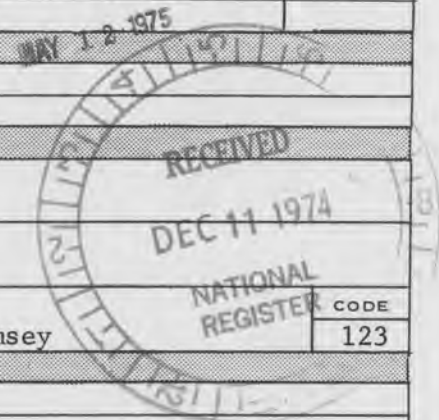
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|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| CODE 22 | COUNTY: Ramsey | CODE 123 |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Eugene D. Becker
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1961
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Direction - looking west
View - the main room, which includes the gallery, main entrance and pews.
Photographed from the pulpit.
#1024





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

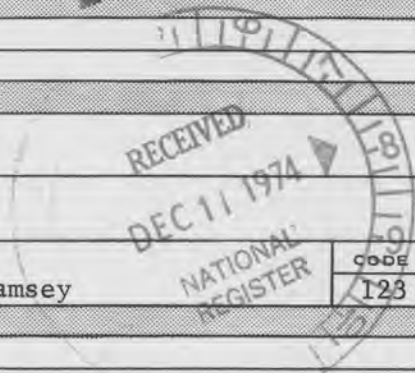
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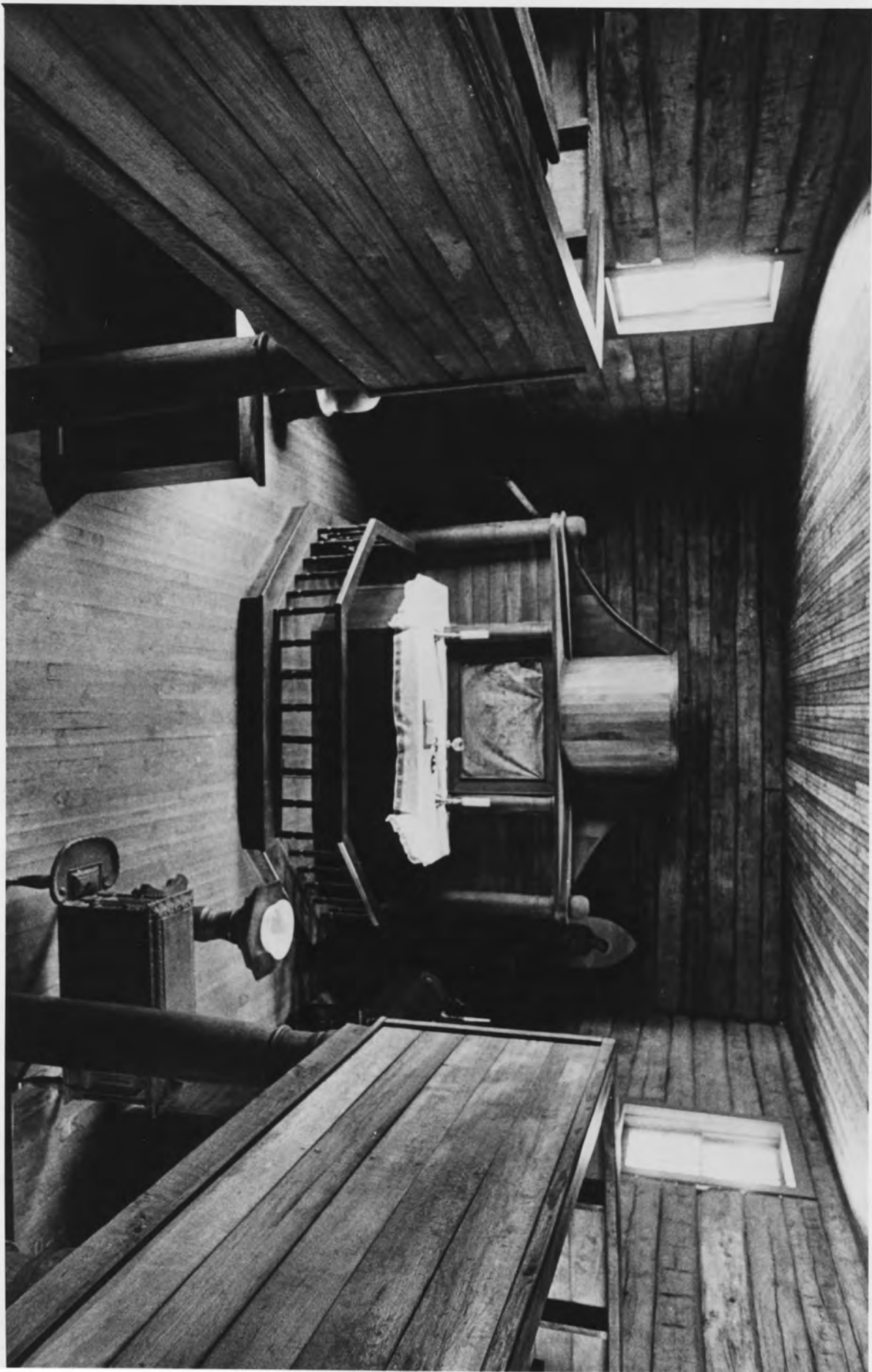
| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Minnesota | |
| COUNTY | |
| Ramsey | |
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| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|---|--|------------------|---------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: | | Muskego Church | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | Muskego Church | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | |
| 2375 Como Avenue West | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | |
| St. Paul | | | |
| STATE: | | CODE | COUNTY: |
| Minnesota | | 22 | Ramsey |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: | | Eugene D. Becker | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: March 1963 | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | | | |
| Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. | | | |
| Direction - looking east | | | |
| View - interior of the chancel which includes pulpit and altar. | | | |
| Photographed from beneath the gallery in the main room. | | | |
| # 2034 | | | |

MAY 12 1974





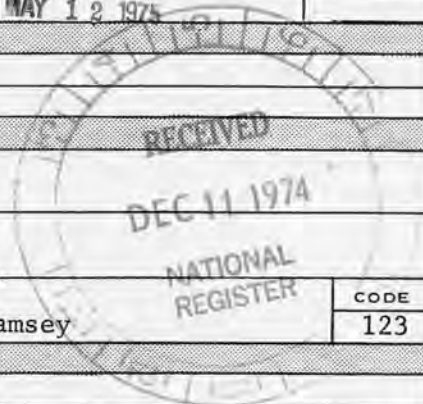
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| MAY 12 1975 | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|--|--|---------|------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: | Muskego Church | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | Muskego Church | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Minnesota | 22 | Ramsey | 123 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: | Minneapolis Tribune | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: | March 1973 | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | Minneapolis Tribune, 425 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415 | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Direction - looking east View - the interior of the chancel photographed from the gallery in the main room. | | | |



#3094



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAY 12 1974 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Muskego Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2375 Como Avenue West

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE
22

COUNTY:
Ramsey

NATIONAL
REGISTER

CODE
123

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Minneapolis Tribune

DATE OF PHOTO: March 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

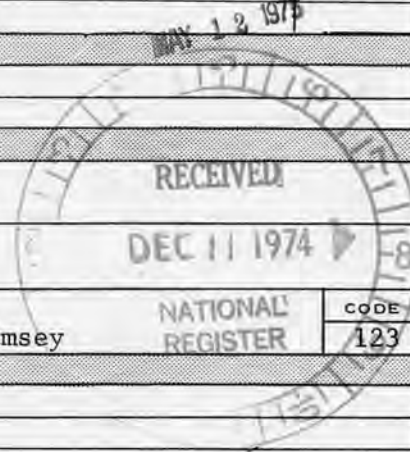
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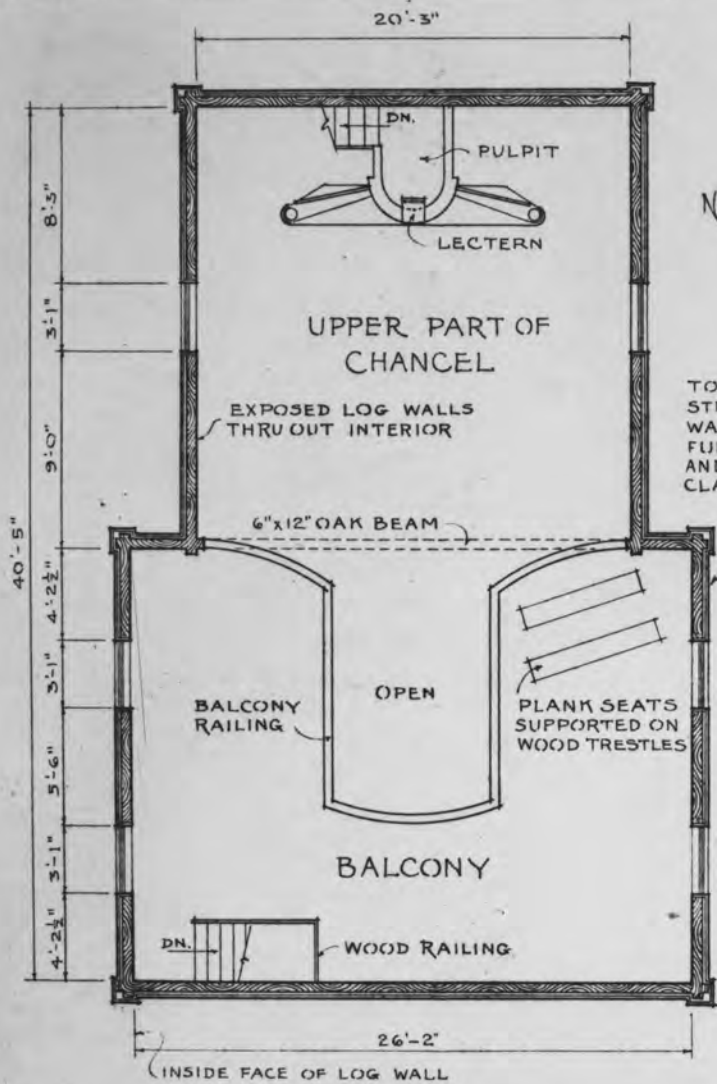
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Direction - looking south

View - the north elevation of the main room and chancel to the rear

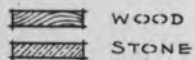
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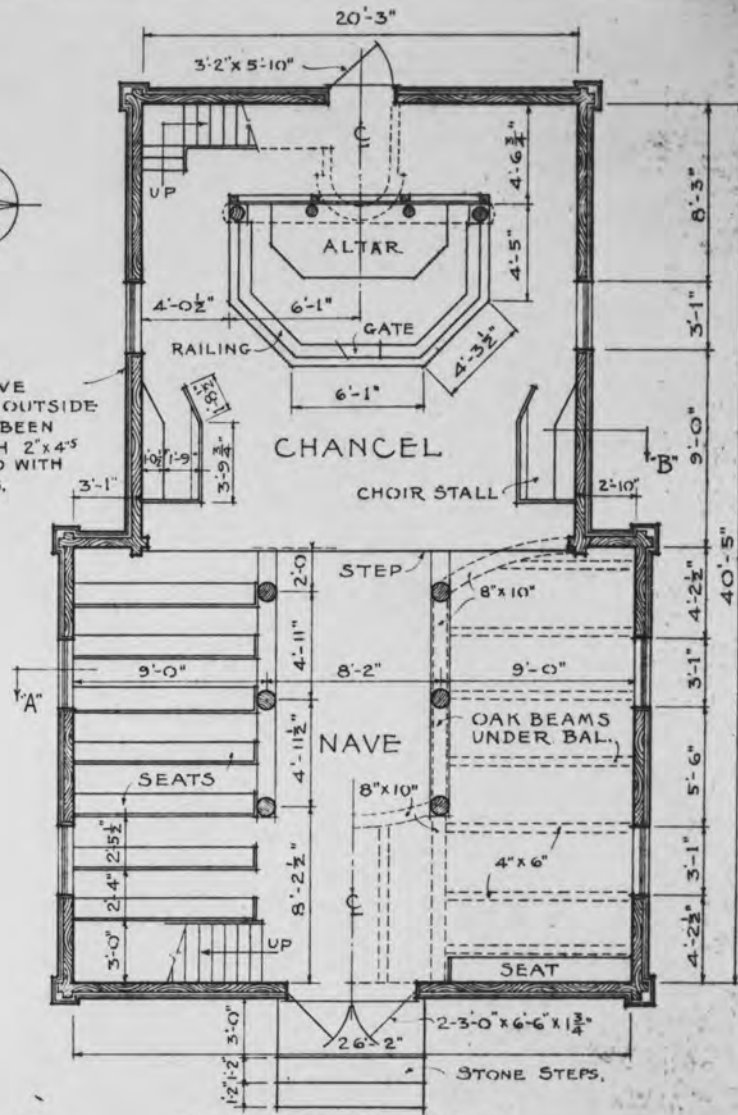


BALCONY PLAN A

KEY TO MATERIALS



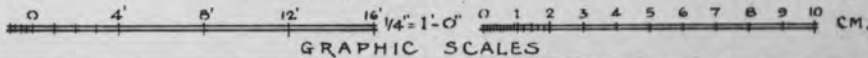
TO PRESERVE STRUCTURE, OUTSIDE WALLS HAVE BEEN FURRED WITH 2" x 4" AND COVERED WITH CLAPBOARDS.



MAIN FLOOR PLAN A

NOTES:

EXTERIOR WALLS CONSTRUCTED OF RED OAK LOGS - ADZED AND HAND PLANED TO THICKNESS OF APPROXIMATELY 6".
WOOD FLOORS THRUOUT.



E.D. CORWIN - DEL.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

LOG CHAPEL. ST. PAUL MINN.

SURVEY NO.

29-24

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 3 SHEETS

INDEX NO.

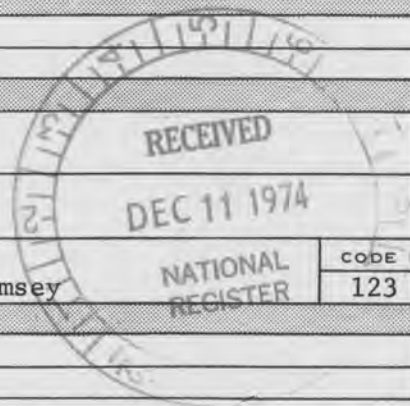
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

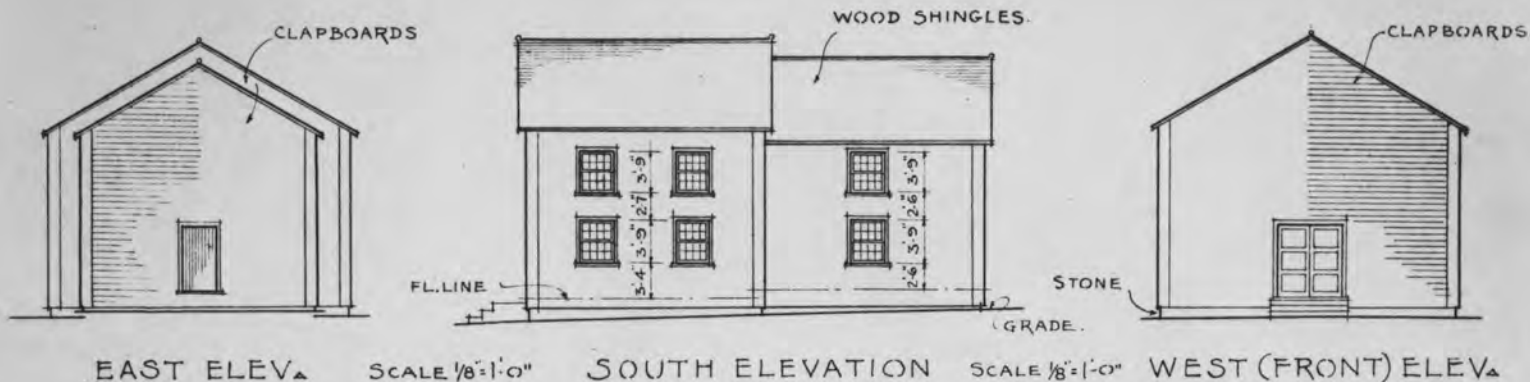
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|-----------------------------|------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER MAY 12 1975 | DATE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

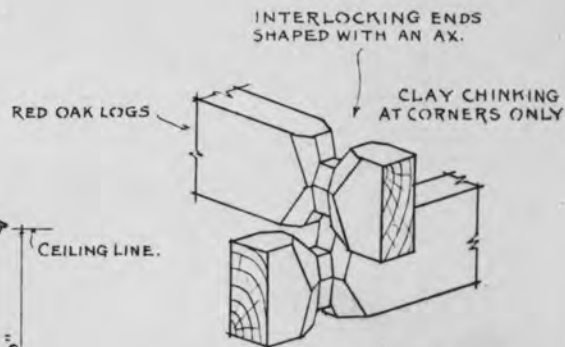
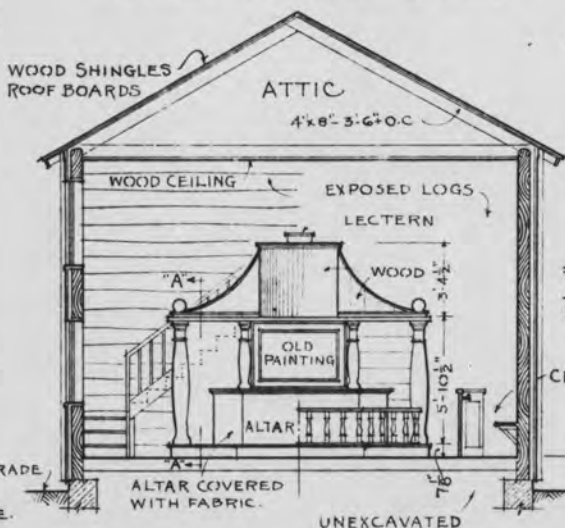
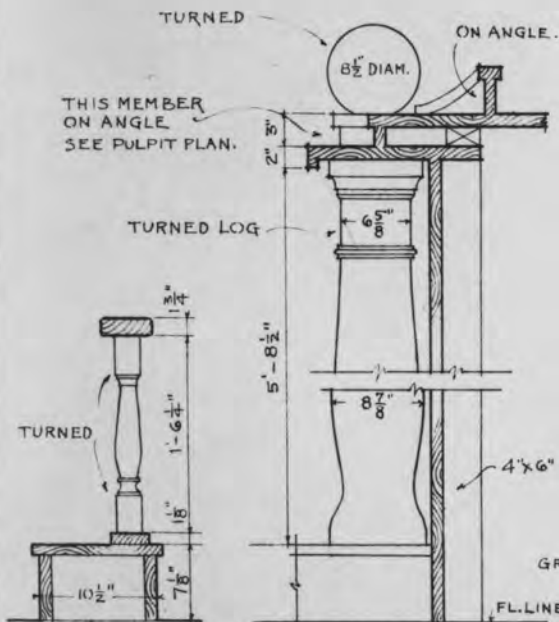
| | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: Muskego Church | | AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | | | |
| STATE: Minnesota | CODE 22 | COUNTY: Ramsey | CODE 123 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Eugene D. Becker | | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: October 1974 | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Sheet 1 of 3 sheets of Survey No. 29-24, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934, U.S. Dept. of Interior. Log Chapel - St. Paul, Minnesota | | | |



NOTE: NORTH ELEVATION SAME.



NOTE: TO PRESERVE STRUCTURE, EXTERIOR LOG WALLS HAVE BEEN FURRED WITH 2"x4"s AND COVERED WITH CLAPBOARDS. ENDS OF LOGS AT CORNERS OF BUILDING HAVE BEEN BOXED IN. ORIGINAL DOORS AND WINDOWS HAVE BEEN REPLACED.



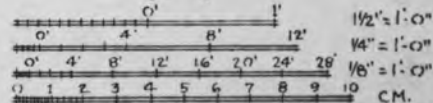
ISOMETRIC VIEW SHOWING METHOD OF INTERLOCKING LOGS AT CORNERS OF BUILDING.



SEC THRU ALTAR RAIL.

SEC "A-A" SCALE 1 1/2"=1'-0"

SECTION THRU CHANCEL TOWARD ALTAR SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



GRAPHIC SCALES.

E. D. CORWIN - DEL.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

LOG CHAPEL. ST. PAUL MINN.

SURVEY NO.
29-24

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 3 SHEETS

INDEX NO.

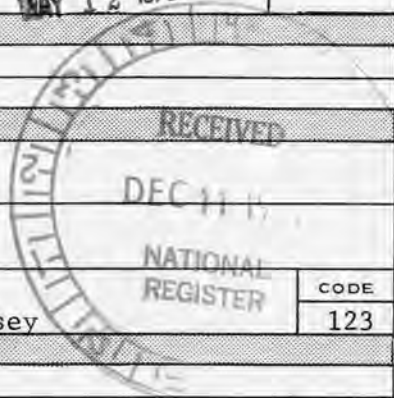
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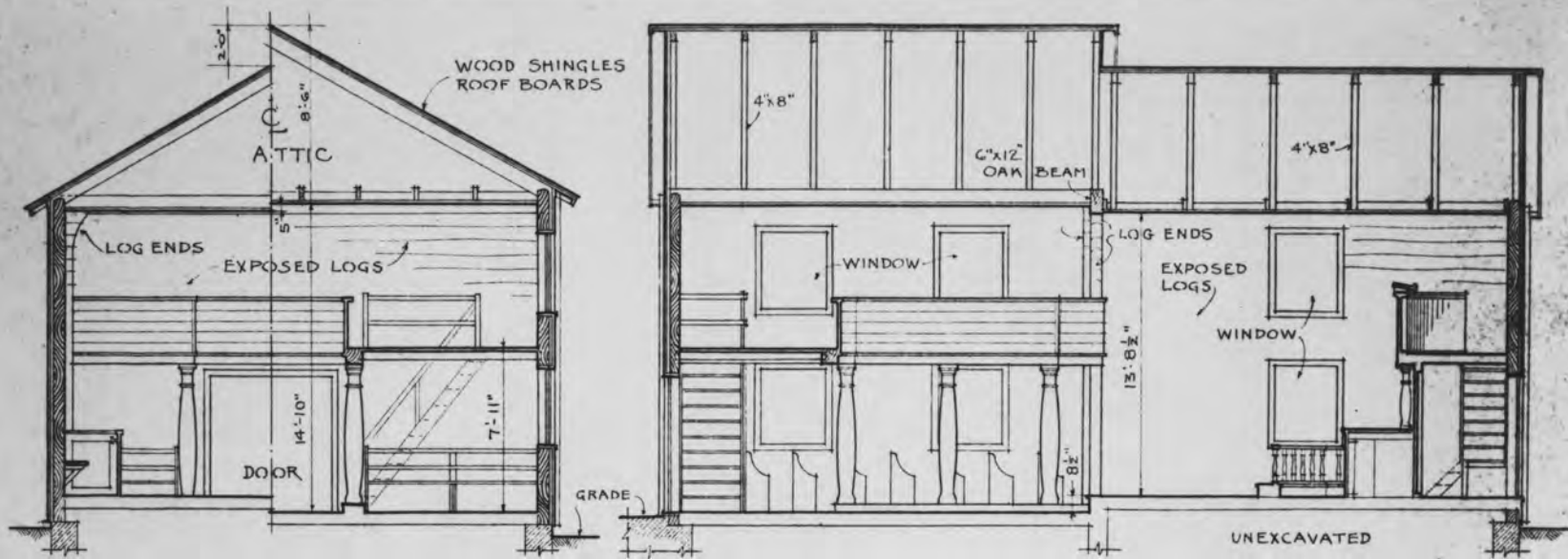
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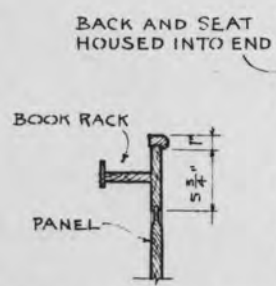
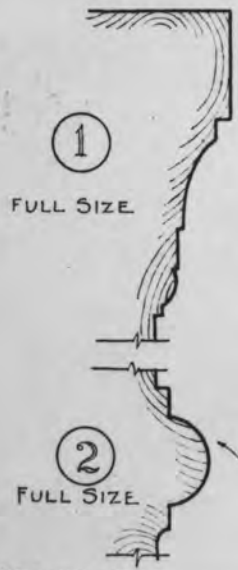
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---------|------|
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| COMMON: | Muskego Church | | |
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| CITY OR TOWN: | | | |
| St. Paul | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Minnesota | 22 | Ramsey | 123 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: | Eugene D. Becker | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: | October 1974 | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: | | | |
| Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. | | | |
| Sheet 2 of 3 sheets of Survey No. 29-24, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Log Chapel - St. Paul, Minnesota | | | |



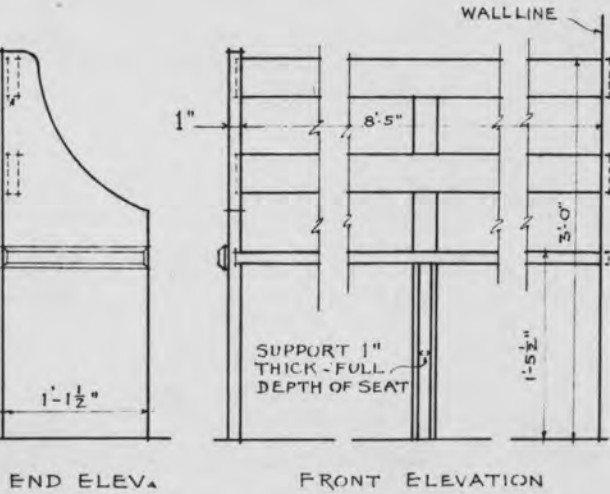


SECTION ON LINE -"A-B" SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0" LONGITUDINAL SECTION ON C OF BLDG.

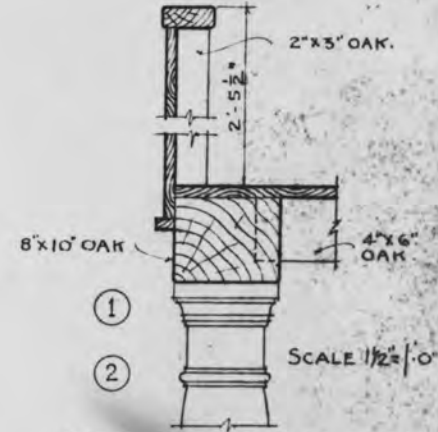


FRONT OF CHOIR STALL SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

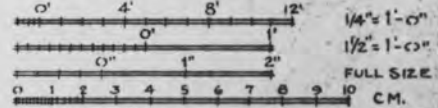
NOTE: POSTS TURNED FROM BLACK WALNUT LOGS. DIAM. AT NECK 7 3/4". GREATEST DIAM. - 10 1/2"



DETAIL OF SEATS IN NAVE SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



SEC. THRU BAL. RAIL



GRAPHIC SCALES

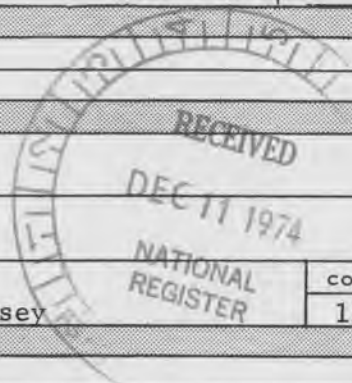
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAY 12 1975 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. NAME | | | |
| COMMON: Muskego Church | | AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul | | | |
| STATE: Minnesota | CODE 22 | COUNTY: Ramsey | CODE 123 |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | | | |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Eugene D. Becker | | | |
| DATE OF PHOTO: October 1974 | | | |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Minnesota Historical Society, 690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 | | | |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION | | | |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Sheet 3 of 3 sheets of Survey No. 29-24, Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934, U.S. Dept. of Interior. Log Chapel - St. Paul, Minnesota | | | |



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE Minnesota | |
| COUNTY Ramsey | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAY 12 1975 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Muskego Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Muskego Church

2. LOCATION

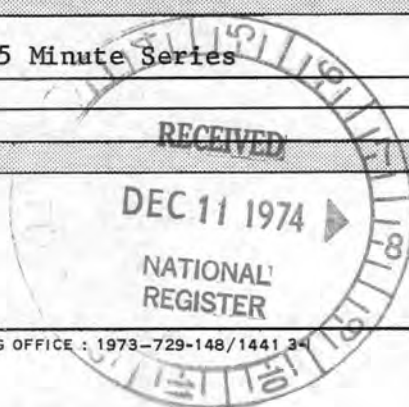
STREET AND NUMBER:
2375 Como Avenue West
CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul
STATE: Minnesota CODE 22 COUNTY: Ramsey CODE 123

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
USGS - St. Paul West Quadrangle, Minnesota, 7.5 Minute Series
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1967 Revised 1972

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

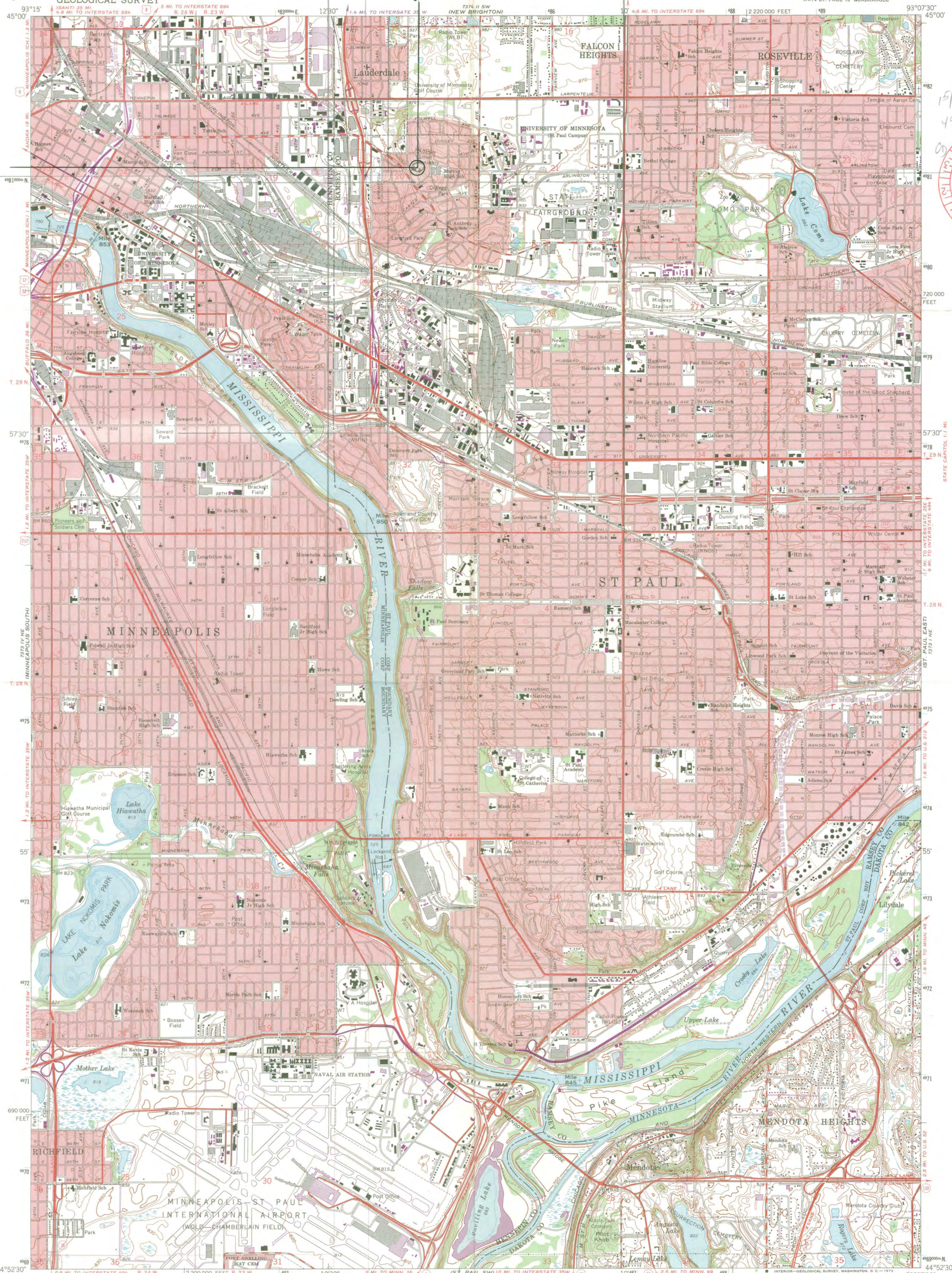


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

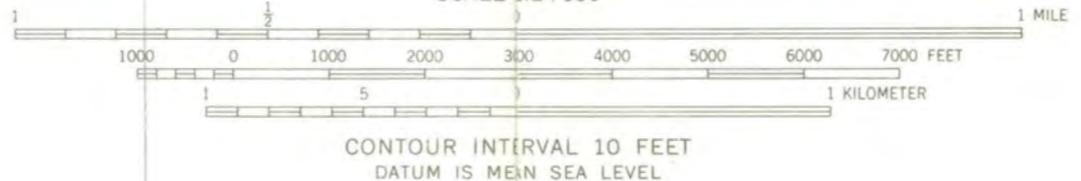
ST. PAUL WEST QUADRANGLE
MINNESOTA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE

44°-59'-06"

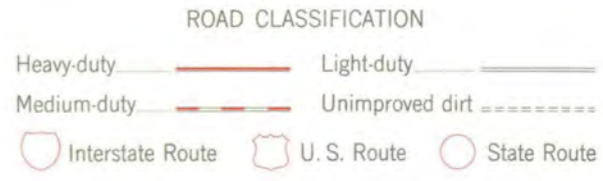
15/484580
4981080



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1947 and planetable surveys 1951. Revision from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by Minnesota Department of Conservation
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system, south zone
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Dotted land lines established by private survey



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ST. PAUL WEST, MINN.
NW/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4452.5-W9307.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 7373 1 NW-SERIES 872

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Muskego Church in Ramsey County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75001013

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Ramsey

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988
Date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyon
11/19/89

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

NORWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH (MUSKEGO)
- NAME CHANGE FOR MUSKEGO CHURCH
RAMSEY COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Working No. 24 June, 1988

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: _____

Action: ACCEPT 1/9/89
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Approved
Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

The National Register has accepted additional information submitted by the SHPO. This information clarifies name, address and geographic location information on the original documentation.

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership Public Acquisition | Status Accessible | Present Use |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | | | |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AD 75001013

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Muskego Church
Other names/site number: Norway Lutheran Church
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2375 Como Avenue West
City or town: Saint Paul State: MN County: Ramsey
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
|  <hr/> Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MN Dept. of Admin | <u>12/10/18</u> Date |
| <hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

| | |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| <hr/> Signature of commenting official: | <hr/> Date |
| <hr/> Title : | <hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/log construction

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/log

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheet.

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

A: RELIGION, ETHNIC HERITAGE/OTHER - Norwegian

C: ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1844 Criterion C

1904–1970 Criterion A

Significant Dates

1844, 1904

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

See continuation sheet.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheet.

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheet.

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 # MN-29-24
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Luther Seminary Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): RA-SPC-0737

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum: WGS84

1. Latitude: 44.984254 Longitude: -93.195033

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Muskego Church Boundary Sketch Map."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with Muskego Church that retains historic integrity, as well as landscape features added to the site during the property's period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Berglin and Charlene Roise
organization: Hess, Roise and Company
street & number: 100 North First Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55422
e-mail roise@hessroise.com
telephone: 612-338-1987
date: August 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Muskego Church
Name of Property

Ramsey, MN
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

See continuation sheet.

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Muskego Church, also known as Norway Lutheran Church, is located at 2375 Como Avenue West on the campus of Luther Seminary in the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Completed in 1844, the log church was originally built near Muskego, Wisconsin, where it was positioned “atop an eminence called ‘Indian Hill,’” according to *Minnesota History*. The site was a Native American burial ground before it became a churchyard and pioneer cemetery for the Muskego settlement. The two-story church was constructed using red oak logs, which were adzed and hand-planed to a thickness of approximately six inches. Historian John Hackett reported that the hand-hewn logs were so tight that “only the interlocking ends of the logs were chinked with clay.”¹

The early congregation outgrew the church in 1869 and disassembled the property, relocating it to the bottom of the hillside to clear the site for a larger brick structure. The log building was subsequently purchased by a local farmer and used as a barn until 1904, when it was bought by the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, simply known as the United Church. The pioneer church was then dismantled again and “shipped piece by piece” to the United Church Seminary—a precursor to Luther Seminary—in Saint Paul, where it was reassembled “on a slight rise of ground reminiscent of its original location,” according to *Minnesota History*. Its exterior log walls were furred with two-by-fours and covered with clapboard siding for protection, but the interior recreated its early configuration. The son of Peter Jacobson—the first chairman of the Muskego congregation—oversaw the reassembly in Saint Paul according to a 1968 manuscript by Ernest Sihler, archivist for the American Lutheran Church. “He had worshipped in the church from 1844–1869 so remembered well how it looked as a church.” A 2015 historic structure report also cites a 1903 etching of the property, the recollections of Muskego Church’s early pastor, Reverend H. A. Stub, and a black walnut pillar that was salvaged from the interior as the basis of the 1904 work.²

The exterior cladding was removed in 1970, when seminary personnel discovered that it was damaging the logs rather than protecting them. With the siding removed, Muskego Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 (Ref. No. 75001013) as a significant example of pioneer log construction and as the “first Norwegian Lutheran Church built in the United States.” The 1975 nomination did not include a property boundary or a period of significance, so this amendment clarifies these elements. This amendment also reevaluates the property’s significance using current National Register standards.³

¹ “Muskego Church,” *Minnesota History* 38 (March 1963): 231; John J. Hackett, “Muskego Church,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, November 1974, 7:1.

² “Muskego Church,” 231; Robert Claybaugh, Will Stark, and Jay Schmidt, “Historic Structures Report, Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego) for Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota,” report prepared by Claybaugh Preservation Architecture, Stark Preservation Planning, and Barn Repair Specialists, March 2015, n.p.; Ernest W. Sihler, “The Story of the Muskego Church,” May 1968, Muskego Church files, Luther Seminary Archives, Gullixson Hall, Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota (hereafter Seminary Archives).

³ Hackett, “Muskego Church,” 8:1; Claybaugh et. al., “Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego),” n.p.; “Welcome to Old Muskego Church on the Luther Theological Seminary Campus,” undated pamphlet, Muskego Church files, Seminary Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

Narrative Description

Muskego Church sits atop the eastern hillside of Luther Seminary's Upper Campus, the historic nucleus of the institution formerly known as the United Church Seminary. The two-story log building is oriented in an east-west alignment, with the west (front) facade facing the seminary's great lawn (Photograph 1). A straight flight of concrete stairs runs in front of the church, and a concrete sidewalk curves around the building's north and east (rear) sides. These features were added to the site by the late 1920s. Norway pine trees, which were planted in the 1930s, encircle the property (Photographs 3 and 4).

Muskego Church rests on a limestone foundation. It measures approximately forty feet long and is divided into two sections: the nave to the west and the chancel to the east. Both sections have wood-shingled, gabled roofs, but the chancel's roof is lower than the nave's by approximately two feet. The chancel is also slightly narrower than the nave (Photograph 2).

The walls are formed by hand-hewn red oak logs, which are saddle-notched at the joints (Photograph 5). Roman numerals were incised into the logs when the church was relocated to Saint Paul in 1904. Chinking between the logs is a composition of Portland cement, latex grout, hydrated lime, and washed sand; the present chinking dates to 1994, when the property underwent an extensive restoration. Walls in the east and west gabled ends are clad with unpainted, wood, lap siding. Eight-over-eight, wood-sash windows are on the north and south walls of the church. The windows on the second story are vertically aligned over those on the first. The existing windows were installed in 1904 to replicate the church's original appearance. Wood-plank doors with large strap hinges are in historic entrances on the east and west walls, with double doors filling the primary (west) entrance to the nave. They are black walnut to match historic descriptions of the property and were installed during a 1994 restoration campaign.

The interior of Muskego Church was recreated after its 1904 relocation to Saint Paul. A letter published in 1906 in *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration (1821-1840)* offered the following description of the original interior: "It was built of oak logs hewed on both sides, six inches thick, and matched after the Norwegian fashion of building houses. On the inside the logs were dressed perfectly smooth and then fitted so close together that no mortar was used between them. Double doors in the front were made of black walnut. . . . Galleries were built across the front and along both sides to about the middle of the church. These galleries were supported by six heavy columns turned out of solid walnut." Another account reported that there were "two rows of three windows on either side" and "seven pews on one side and eight on the other, having a seating capacity of ninety. The gallery had a seating capacity of at least one hundred. When making use of the aisle and the part of the chancel it was possible to crowd up to two hundred and fifty people into the church." According to Paul Daniels, current archivist and curator for Luther Seminary, male congregants sat on the right side of the aisle, while women and children filled the pews on the left side and in the U-shaped gallery (Photograph 7), which is accessed by steep wood stairs in the northwest corner of the nave. The gallery is currently inaccessible due to structural deterioration, but it includes a wood floor supported by wood joists. Wood planks form the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

gallery railings. Modern track lights have been installed on the wood joists beneath the gallery and along the outside walls of the upper level.⁴

The church's log walls were not the only references to Norwegian models. The high pulpit (Photograph 6), raised approximately seven feet above the floor and placed in the center of the chancel, followed "the pattern of the churches in Norway" and enabled the pastor "to see the people in the gallery," as Sihler reported. Placing the altar beneath the pulpit also followed Norwegian customs according to Daniels, who noted that the arrangement not only conserved space in a limited building footprint, but also reflected a "theological perspective" for a community that emphasized the "spoken word over sacrament."⁵

The pulpit and altar dominate the chancel, the floor of which is one step higher than the nave. Wood stairs are in the northeast corner of the chancel, just to the left of the altar, to access the pulpit. The wood structure forms a screen wall behind the altar, and the upper portion curves around the pulpit. Four turned, black walnut columns are along the wall on the lower level. The outer two are topped with rounded finials. A Hardanger embroidery panel hangs in the center of the wall beneath the lectern. It features common Christian iconography such as the cross, a chalice, and a dove. The embroidery was hung as part of the 1994 restoration; a painting of the Last Supper was in this location previously but was removed because it had become deteriorated over time. The embroidery panel is framed with wood painted in a traditional Norwegian rosemåling pattern. The predominant colors in the rosemåling are ochre and oxblood, which were typical of the nineteenth century, according to Daniels. A five-sided altar railing with turned spindles and a raised kneeler surrounds the altar, which is constructed with stained plywood and covered in a white altar cloth. A wood-plank door is on the east wall of the church, immediately behind the altar. Daniels reported that this door would have been used by the preacher to enter the church from the parsonage, which would have been near the rear of the church on its original site.⁶

Wood-framed boxes on either side of the chancel provided seating for the pastor and the klokker, who led liturgical music and read Bible passages during worship services. The pastor sat along the north wall, closer to the pulpit stairs, while the klokker sat on the opposite side. The chancel also includes a moveable baptismal font and a traditional Norwegian kubbestol—a barrel-shaped chair formed from a log. The baptismal font features a white porcelain bowl set into a pedestal made of turned wood. The kubbestol and the baptismal font date to the mid-nineteenth century, although they were placed in Muskego Church in 1904. Both would have been common in Norwegian Lutheran churches during Muskego's original era of construction, according to Daniels.⁷

⁴ Sihler, "The Story of Muskego Church," 3; Letter from Hans Ellertson to Rasmus B. Anderson, quoted in Rasmus B. Anderson, *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration (1821-1840): Its Causes and Results* (Madison, Wisc.: privately published, 1906), 419-420; Nils Nilsen Rønning, *The Saga of Old Muskego* (Waterford, Wisc.: Old Muskego Memorial, 1943), 24.

⁵ Sihler, "The Story of Muskego Church," 3; Paul Daniels (Head of Arts and Archives, Luther Seminary), in discussion with Jessica Berglin, October 2017.

⁶ Paul Daniels discussion, October 2017.

⁷ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

The church's stained beadboard-paneled ceiling is another feature dating to 1904. Sihler's manuscript reported that Norwegian churches traditionally featured vaulted ceilings. Daniels remarked, however, that the dropped ceiling was installed to conceal the rafters, which were in severe disarray, likely the result of the building's function as a barn for over thirty years and the two relocations.⁸

These minor deviations do not detract from the property's integrity or significance as "a beautiful example of pioneer log craftsmanship," as the 1975 National Register nomination states. The log walls are the primary elements that remain from the property's original 1844 construction. These survived the church's relocation to Saint Paul in 1904 and have been repaired since that time. Muskego Church's new position on the seminary's eastern hillside was carefully selected to evoke its original hilltop setting in Wisconsin. The church's period of significance includes the relocation to Saint Paul, where it has been for over 100 years, so its integrity of location and setting are intact. Much of the interior was rebuilt in 1904 following the guidance of original congregation members and an early pastor who presided over the church, as well as physical architectural evidence. Although the material dates to 1904, workers faithfully recreated the design and workmanship of the early Norwegian pioneers. These considerations underscore the property's integrity of feeling and association as a monument to Norwegian cultural heritage.

⁸ Ibid.; Sihler, "The Story of Muskego Church," 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Muskego Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 (Ref. No. 75001013) as “the first reported Norwegian Lutheran Church in the United States and as a beautiful example of pioneer log craftsmanship.” The National Register standards and guidelines have been refined since the 1970s, so this document serves as an amendment to the earlier version, which identified the property as a site of national significance. The previous nomination did not define a property boundary or a period of significance, although it did list Religion and Architecture as the areas of significance. The nomination’s rationale, outlined above, makes Muskego Church eligible under Criterion A in the area of Religion and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture using current National Register conventions. Because arguments of “first,” “oldest,” and “earliest” are difficult to document according to present National Register standards, properties are often evaluated for other historical associations. In addition to its religious and architectural significance, Muskego Church is representative of the settlement of Norwegians and the proliferation of Norwegian culture in the United States, making it eligible under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage.

Within these contexts, the period of significance for Muskego Church under Criterion C is 1844, the year the church was completed. Under Criterion A, the period of significance begins in 1904, when the church is reassembled at its current location in Saint Paul, and ends in 1970, the year the exterior of the church was returned to its original appearance.

Muskego Church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because of its architectural significance and its importance as a site of Norwegian cultural heritage. It meets Criteria Consideration B for moved properties because it retains enough historic features to convey its architectural values and maintains other aspects of integrity (design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). In addition, the exceptional effort made by the Norwegian-American community to relocate and rehabilitate the building in the early twentieth century signifies its cultural importance to that community. The building’s ongoing value is reflected in the restoration of the building in 1970, marking the end of the period of significance. This restoration was exceptionally important for revealing the “old world craftsmanship” of this property, which the original nomination cited as nationally significant. As a result, Muskego Church meets Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years.

A note on the historic name: The property was called Muskego Church in the National Register nomination that was submitted in 1974 and approved in 1975. In 1988, the Minnesota State Historic Office provided additional information to the Keeper that resulted in the official name being changed to “Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego)” in the following year. This has led to confusion. With the exception of the National Register listing, the church is virtually always called Muskego Church. The property is also designated a local landmark by the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission as Muskego Church. There is historical justification for using the name Muskego Church. A 1905

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 8 Page 2

newspaper article, for example, described the recently relocated building as the “Old Muskego church.”⁹ This revised nomination uses Muskego Church as the property’s historic name and includes Norway Lutheran Church under “Other names/site number.”

Narrative Statement of Significance¹⁰

The Pioneer Church

Completed in 1844, Muskego Church is recognized by many historians as the first church built by Norwegian immigrants in the United States. Because it was not dedicated until March 1845, though, after the dedication of two other Norwegian Lutheran churches in the vicinity of Koshkonong, Wisconsin, some accounts regard the latter pair as “the first two Norwegian Lutheran church edifices on American soil.” Further complicating the matter, other scholars consider a log meetinghouse constructed around 1840 in the Fox River Valley near Norway, Illinois, to be “the oldest Norwegian Lutheran church in the country.” Built by Elling Eielsen, a prominent lay preacher in the Haugean tradition, the two-story log cabin, called the “preacher’s place,” contained a space for worship as well as Eielsen’s residence.¹¹

Writing in 1906, Norwegian-American scholar Rasmus Bjørn Anderson attempted to clarify which of these properties came first: “The Muskego church was begun in the spring of 1844. It was used by Rev. C. L. Clausen in the autumn of 1844, but was not dedicated before March 1845. It would be stating the matter accurately to say that the first church begun and *built* by the Norwegian immigrants in this century was the Muskego church; but that the two churches on Koshkonong were the first to be *dedicated*. In this statement, I do not take into account the meetinghouse built by Elling Eielsen in the Fox River settlement in 1842”—or 1840 in some accounts.¹²

Historians David Johnson and Christopher Stratton provide another explanation in their National Register nomination for Hauge Lutheran Church, which was built around 1847 to replace Eielsen’s meetinghouse after it was destroyed in a fire. According to the authors: “The arguments regarding which is the first Norwegian Lutheran church in the country appear to be over whether one considers Eielsen a minister before he was ordained and whether one considers the meetinghouse to be a church. Some sources consider the Muskego Church, originally located near Muskego, Wisconsin, founded by Claus Clausen to be the first church. Others consider that to be the country’s first Norwegian Lutheran Church based on the state-church practice.” Johnson and Stratton also remarked that it is not uncommon to have conflicting accounts regarding dates of construction for these early churches “since the dates of the physical buildings can become mistaken for the dates the congregations were established.” This reality

⁹ “First Church Is Here,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 18, 1905.

¹⁰ Parts of this section have been excerpted from Jessica Berglin and Charlene Roise, “An Assessment of Significance: Luther Theological Seminary Upper Campus,” report prepared by Hess, Roise and Company, January 2017.

¹¹ Anderson, *Norwegian Immigration (1821–1840)*, 426–427; David Johnson and Christopher Stratton, “Hauge Lutheran Church,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, September 2015, 8:18–19.

¹² Anderson, *Norwegian Immigration (1821–1840)*, 426–427; Johnson and Stratton, “Hauge Lutheran Church,” 8:18–19. Johnson and Stratton report that Eielsen’s log meetinghouse was built by 1840.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 8 Page 3

makes it even more difficult to document which of these Norwegian Lutheran churches was first established.¹³

Regardless, Muskego Church is a monument to the pioneer era of Norwegian settlement in the United States. It is the only one remaining from this period because Eielsen's meetinghouse burned down and the early Koshkonong churches were replaced with larger structures. Muskego Church was originally constructed to serve a colony of immigrants near Muskego, Wisconsin, in the southeastern part of the state. The earliest group left their home country in the spring of 1839 and arrived in Milwaukee later that year. Many fled "to escape from the clerical-dominated Lutheran Church that was supported by the Norwegian government," according to historian Terry Shoptaugh. Ernest Sihler, archivist for the American Lutheran Church, reported that they "intended to go to a place in northern Illinois where there were some Norwegians, but land agents in Milwaukee persuaded them to go to Muskego," approximately twenty miles southwest of the city. Although "the countryside looked inviting," life on the frontier was difficult: "They bought land and settled as best they could, only to find the next spring that much of the land was swampy and could not be cultivated. Some moved out; others moved to higher land. There was much fever and sickness and there were many deaths."¹⁴

Despite these hardships, life in America held great opportunity for the immigrants, and the Muskego colony steadily grew with new arrivals throughout the mid-nineteenth century. The settlers brought their native cultural and religious traditions to their new country. Although they did not have a pastor or a formal place of worship in the early years, "the Christian laymen did the best they could" and "gathered for devotions and prayer" in the haymow of a community member's barn. The congregation's first pastor, Claus Lauritz Clausen, arrived in 1843 after a series of chance encounters in Norway. Clausen, a Dane, was on a walking tour of Norway to restore his ailing health when he met Tollef (Tollef in some accounts) Bache, the father of Soren Bache, a member of the Muskego settlement. The group in America had written to Tollef, whom Sihler described as a "God fearing business man [*sic*] living not too far from Oslo," for his help in securing a teacher from Norway. The twenty-something Clausen was studying to enter foreign mission work when he met Tollef on his hiatus. As the two visited, Tollef "brought out the letter he had received from the Norwegian settlers in America. He suggested to Clausen that maybe God wanted him to go to America to help his countrymen rather than to the foreign mission field. Clausen deliberated and prayed and came to the conclusion that this was a call from God."¹⁵

The Dane and his young bride arrived in Wisconsin in the summer of 1843. Although the Muskego members initially hoped he would become a school teacher for their children, "when they learned of Clausen's preparation for becoming a foreign missionary as well as his other schooling, they wished to have him as their pastor." Clausen was congenial to the idea, but was not an ordained minister. At that

¹³ Johnson and Stratton, "Hauge Lutheran Church," 8:18–19.

¹⁴ Ibid., Terry Shoptaugh, "Norwegian Buildings at Heg Park," National Register of Historic Places nomination, December 1979, 8:1; Sihler, "Story of the Muskego Church," 1; "History," Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, <http://westernkoshkonong.org/history/> (November 27, 2017).

¹⁵ Sihler, "Story of Muskego Church," 1–2; Theodore Blegan, *Norwegian Migration to America: The American Transition* (Northfield, Minn.: Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1940), 137–138.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 4

time, pastors were sent directly from Norway because “there was no theological faculty available to examine” ministerial candidates in the new land. A willing Lutheran pastor could perform an ordination, however, and the Muskego congregation found a sympathetic ear in Pastor Krause, a German Lutheran minister near Milwaukee. Pastor Krause “spent several hours examining” Clausen and concluded that he “had the knowledge and convictions to serve as a Lutheran pastor.” Krause ordained Clausen on October 18, 1843, in the Muskego congregation’s humble haymow sanctuary.¹⁶

With a pastor in place, members shifted their attention to erecting a proper church edifice. Once again, the Muskego congregants turned to friends and family in Norway for assistance and raised \$430 for the cause. Plans were begun in December 1843, with construction commencing in early 1844 and completed later that year. The church was dedicated on March 13, 1845. Members were highly engaged in the construction process, contributing “much volunteer labor” to help reduce construction costs. Red oak logs were “hailed up to Indian Hill, a former Indian burial ground, where they were squared, notched, and fitted. This work was according to the method of building log houses in Norway.” Peter Jacobson was credited with being the church’s builder in the 1975 National Register nomination, although Sihler simply called him “the first chairman of the congregation and active in the building of the church.” A 1942 manuscript from an unknown author, part of the collections from the Luther Seminary archives, offers another account of the church’s original construction story: “In the spring of 1844 the congregation began constructing a church on Indian Hill. Each farm was to cut logs and bring them to the Church site. Halvor Nelson Lohner had charge of the construction of the church. Ole Haagason shingled the church. His wife Kari carried the shingles up the ladder for him.”¹⁷

Despite the differing accounts, these sources illustrate how building Muskego Church was a community effort and a momentous occasion for the settlers. A later newspaper article called the church “an unpretentious building,” but one “which was pointed to with pride and the threshold of which was crossed with bared heads and reverent hearts.” Although it was built using humble materials, it followed Norwegian models of construction. As *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration* reported: “It was built of oak logs hewed on both sides, six inches thick, and matched after the Norwegian fashion of building houses. On the inside the logs were dressed perfectly smooth and then fitted so close together that no mortar was used between them. Double doors in the front were made of black walnut. The pulpit was also made of walnut and was about seven feet from the floor. Galleries were built across the front and along both sides to about the middle of the church. These galleries were supported by six heavy columns turned out of solid walnut.”¹⁸

The congregation used the log church until it outgrew the structure in 1869. By that point, membership had reached over two hundred people. A larger brick church, Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church (NRHP, 1980), was dedicated in 1870. To make way for the new house of worship, Muskego Church

¹⁶ Sihler, “Story of Muskego Church,” 2; Blegen, *Norwegian Migration to America*, 138–139.

¹⁷ Sihler, “Story of Muskego Church,” 4; Hackett, “Muskego Church,” 8:1; “The Muskego Church,” typed manuscript with handwritten revisions, 1942, Muskego Church files, Seminary Archives.

¹⁸ Hackett, “Muskego Church,” 8:1; Anderson, *Norwegian Immigration (1821–1840)*, 419–420.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 5

was relocated to the “old Jacobsen [Jacobson in other accounts] farm to be used as a barn and storage shed,” where it stood for over thirty years.¹⁹

A 1966 manuscript from E. Clifford Nelson, a religious scholar and long-time professor at Saint Olaf College, chronicles how the log church came under the United Church’s ownership and was transferred to its seminary in Saint Paul. Nelson examined Hjalmar Rued Holand’s 1908 *De Norske Settlementers Historie*, in which Holand claimed he “visited Muskego in 1897 and was so disturbed to find the church being used as a pig sty that he wrote a letter to *Skandinaven* advising its restoration.” Nelson explained, however, that he “examined every issue of *Skandinaven* for 1897 and found no letter from Holand.” Instead, he uncovered “a letter from a young American Ibsen-enthusiast, Sebastian Selkirk, from Indianapolis, Indiana, who had bicycled through the Norwegian settlements in southern Wisconsin . . . and came across the old Muskego Church being used as a pig sty (grisehus).” Nelson further reported: “[Selkirk] expresses the hope that Norwegian leaders will not continue to permit this indignity but will see to its restoration.”²⁰

Nelson also reviewed the archives of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, housed at Saint Olaf College, to determine “that by 1900 the church had been bought . . . for the United Church. However, a representative of the Norwegian Synod went to Muskego and offered H. Jacobson, the owner, double the sum. But Pastor Wilhelm Rasmussen of Muskego immediately drew up a contract which H. Jacobson signed.” Although the church had been sold, there was no money to ship it to Saint Paul, so church leaders embarked on a campaign to raise enough funds for the relocation. According to Nelson’s manuscript: “At the convention of the United Church in 1902 Pastor L. M. Biorn spoke about the restoration of the church. The minutes of the United Church report that a resolution was passed urging pastors to collect the necessary funds. Rasmussen spoke to the ministerium and was made chairman of the Muskego Church committee which was given power to act once they had the money. . . . Contributions were slow in coming in. Several letters in *Lutheraneren* in summer and fall of 1904 have pleas to send in money for the project. \$2,000.00 was needed.” The campaign was apparently successful and the building was moved by the end of the year.²¹

New Century, New Home

Muskego Church’s 1904 relocation and reassembly at the United Church Seminary was widely celebrated among Norwegian Lutherans, who had been fragmented by religious differences since arriving in the United States. The seminary was a fitting new location for the property because the United Church, established by a merger of multiple synods in 1890, represented the largest group of Norwegian Lutherans in the country. Membership totaled approximately 152,200, surpassing the

¹⁹ “History—Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church . . . A Unique Heritage,” Norway Lutheran Church, <http://www.norwaylutheranchurch.org/home/about/history> (November 7, 2017); Shoptaugh, “Norwegian Buildings at Heg Park,” 8:1–2.

²⁰ E. Clifford Nelson, “Data on Restoration and Moving of Muskego Church,” 1966 manuscript, Muskego Church files, Seminary Archives, 1–2.

²¹ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 6

combined numbers for the Norwegian Synod and Hauge's Synod, the two major church bodies that opposed unification in 1890. The Norwegian Synod, founded in 1853, was characterized by its doctrinal conservatism and traditional orthodoxy. In contrast, Hauge's Synod, founded in 1846, was lay-oriented with a greater concern for fostering members' personal religious experiences than maintaining formal worship practices and clerical authority. The United Church represented a middle ground between the two groups and was "committed to the principle of inclusivism . . . and a moderate confessionalism, according to *Lutherans in North America*. "Included within it were those who prized both doctrine and piety, both churchliness and lay activity, both order and freedom." All three synods merged in 1917 and their affiliated seminaries were united on the Saint Anthony Park campus. The institution became the preeminent theological school for training Norwegian Lutheran pastors in the country.²²

The United Church began considering plans for its divinity school in the mid-1890s after severing organizational ties with the Lutheran Free Church, which was connected to Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis. As architectural historian Kristin Anderson reported, the United Church operated its seminary "in an undistinguished business block on busy Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis's Seward neighborhood" for a few years before deciding on the Saint Anthony Park site. "Recent extensions of the Twin Cities Rapid Transit Company's streetcar lines on Como Avenue made the . . . neighborhood accessible and convenient, and plans to buy and build there were approved in June 1900 and announced in August."²³

The main seminary building, now called Bockman Hall (NRHP, 1985), opened in 1902. It was designed by notable Norwegian-American architects Diedrik Omeyer and Martin Thori, whose firm was based in Saint Paul. The three-story, temple-front building was estimated to cost \$75,000 according to building permits. As historian David Lanegran remarked, it "was set at the top of a hill in a traditional landscape design used for liberal arts colleges and theological seminaries in the Midwest. . . . In the early days the seminary was housed entirely in one building; there were classrooms, a chapel, faculty apartments and rooms for students, janitor and kitchen staff." The seminary soon outgrew its centralized footprint and added detached faculty housing, beginning with the president's house in 1904. The addition of Muskego Church to the campus that same year was marked by great fanfare. A newspaper headline exclaimed "First Church Is Here." The same article extolled: "Side by side members of the convention will behold the first structure erected by the Norwegian Lutherans in America and the grandest and most expensive structure erected by the Norwegian Lutherans in America."²⁴

²² Eugene Fevold, "Merger Developments—Americanization," in *Lutherans in North America*, ed. E. Clifford Nelson (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975), 335–341.

²³ Patricia Murphy, "United Church Seminary," National Register of Historic Places nomination, July 1984, 8:1; "Mann's Addition to St. Anthony Park North," 1892, on file at Ramsey County Property Records, Plato Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Ramsey County Property Records, Documents 250754 (dated August 4, 1900) and 251717 (dated August 20, 1900); Kristin Anderson, "Petition Requesting an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Zvago St. Anthony Park Cooperative, St. Paul, Minnesota," report submitted to the Environmental Quality Board, August 2016, 17.

²⁴ David Lanegran, *St. Anthony Park: Portrait of a Community* (Saint Paul: District 12 Community Council and Saint Anthony Park Association, 1987), 55; Saint Paul Building Permit Nos. 37685 (dated September 25, 1900) and 42987 (dated August 1, 1904); "First Church Is Here," *Minneapolis Tribune*, June 18, 1905.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Muskego Church

Name of Property

Ramsey, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7

At the seminary's campus, Muskego Church was situated east of the main building, atop a hillside behind the president's house. It was oriented to the west to overlook the seminary's great lawn and to recall its original hilltop setting in Wisconsin. According to Sihler, the son of Peter Jacobson oversaw the 1904 project. "He had worshipped in the church from 1844–1869 so remembered well how it looked as a church." A historic structure report for the property also cited a 1903 etching of the property, the recollections of Muskego Church's early pastor, Reverend H. A. Stub, and a black walnut pillar that was salvaged from the original church as the basis of the interior work. When the church was rebuilt, clapboard siding was applied to the exterior log walls because church leaders hoped this would protect the logs from decay. This condition was documented in 1934, when the property was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS No. MN-29-24).²⁵

Cladding the walls had the opposite effect on the log walls and actually expedited their deterioration. As a result, the siding was removed in 1970, and the logs have been exposed ever since. By the last half of the twentieth century, Muskego Church was used primarily for ceremonial purposes and tours. In the seminary's early years, however, it functioned in an educational role, offering students a pulpit and an altar where they could rehearse sermons and practice liturgical rituals. These uses were discontinued by the mid-twentieth century, when the seminary expanded its footprint to the north on the site of an existing Episcopalian preparatory school. Several new buildings were part of the acquisition, including classroom and chapel spaces, diminishing the need to use Muskego Church for these purposes. When the property was listed in the National Register in 1975, the nomination reported that "presently the Church is open for tours year round, upon request. It is occasionally used for services during the summer months."²⁶

Muskego Church underwent an extensive restoration campaign in 1994. Charles Nelson, historical architect with the Minnesota Historical Society, oversaw the work, which was performed primarily by volunteers from Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church, the third-generation Norwegian-Lutheran church in Muskego's original Wisconsin community. The restoration largely focused on removing concrete chinking from the logs and rethinking them with a more suitable composition as well as repairing and replacing rotted logs. Rain gutters and sealant were applied to minimize water penetration, although moisture continues to be a threat to the building. In 2015, a historic structure report was completed, outlining priorities for future roof repair and log replacement due to persistent water infiltration. The work will ensure this nearly two-hundred-year-old monument to Norwegian culture will endure for future generations.²⁷

²⁵ Hackett, "Muskego Church," 7:1; "Muskego Church," 231; Claybaugh et. al., "Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego)," n.p.; Sihler, "Story of the Muskego Church," 4; E. D. Corwin, "Log Chapel, Saint Paul, Ramsey County, MN," Historic American Buildings Survey No. MN 29-24, 1934.

²⁶ Hackett, "Muskego Church," 8:1.

²⁷ Muskego Church files, Seminary Archives; Claybaugh et. al., "Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego)," n.p.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1

Muskego Church Geographical Information
Base map obtained from Google Maps

Datum: WGS84

Coordinates: 44.984278, -93.195042



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 2

Muskego Church Geographical Information

Base map obtained from Google Maps

Datum: WGS84

Coordinates: 44.984278, -93.195042



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

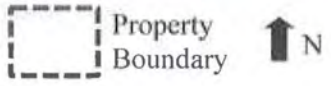
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 3

Muskego Church Boundary Sketch Map
Base map obtained from Ramsey County Property Records GIS



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 4

Muskego Church Key to Photographs

Base map obtained from Ramsey County Property Records GIS



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

| |
|--|
| Muskego Church |
| Name of Property |
| Ramsey, MN |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number Photographs Page 1

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

The following information is the same for each image. Name of Property, City or Vicinity, County, State, Name of Photographer, and Date of Photograph.

Name of Property: Muskego Church
 City or Vicinity: Saint Paul
 County: Ramsey
 State: Minnesota
 Name of Photographer: Jessica Berglin
 Date of Photographs: October 23, 2017

Photograph 1 of 7: West (front) facade, looking east.
 Photograph 2 of 7: West and south facades, looking northeast.
 Photograph 3 of 7: East (rear) and south facades, looking northwest.
 Photograph 4 of 7: West and north facades, looking southeast.
 Photograph 5 of 7: Detail of log notching at northwest corner, looking southeast.
 Photograph 6 of 7: Chancel with high pulpit and altar, looking east.
 Photograph 7 of 7: Nave with lofted gallery, looking southwest.













EXIT



National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MINNESOTA

Date Entered MAY 12 1975

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---|------------------------------|
| Muskego Church | St. Paul Ramsey County |
| Lockett, David, House | St. Paul Ramsey County |
| Brunson, Benjamin, House | St. Paul Ramsey County |
| Muench, Adolf, House | St. Paul Ramsey County |
| Stockton Roller Mill | Stockton Winona County |
| Dodge Farm | Rochester Olmsted County |
| Fire Department Number One | Duluth St. Louis County |
| Nicollet House Hotel | St. Peter Nicollet County |
| Administration Building - Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children | Owatonna Steele County |

Also Notified

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hon. Walter F. Mondale | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey | Mr. Russell W. Fridley |
| Hon. Joseph E. Karth | Director |
| Hon. Albert E. Quie | Minnesota Historical Society |
| Hon. James Oberstar | 690 Cedar St. |
| Hon. Thomas Hagedorn | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 |
| Regional Director, Midwest Region | |

PR

MMott/row

5/14/75

Property Muskego Church

State Minn.

Working Number 12.11.74.2140

Ramsey
75001013

TECHNICAL

Photos 4 3 plans
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 12.12.74
cm

HISTORIAN

Conf.
E. Smith
1-10-75

Moved & reconstructed

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

CONF
Thorpe
1/8/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept
M. Barnes
27 Dec 74

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Conference
Accept
Colz 5/1/75

BRANCH CHIEF

meets exception
to criteria.

Accept
Hunt
5-5-75

KEEPER

[Signature]
5/9/75

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 7-1-75

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 12 1975

INT:2106-74



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 • 612-296-2747

January 8, 1975

*Find & Hold
until*

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
801 19th Street North West
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

In November of 1974, I submitted to you the National Register form for the Muskego Church, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Due to a misunderstanding which has developed with the owners of the property and further information which they have requested regarding the nature and consequences of the nomination, I am requesting that you please withhold any action on this nomination for the immediate future.

I expect that this problem should soon be resolved once we have an opportunity to meet with the owners, and ask for your cooperation until then.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Fridley
Minnesota State Historic
Preservation Officer

RWF:ns

cc: Mr. Lloyd Svendsbye
Luther Theological Seminary
2375 Como Avenue West
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Thomas J. Lutz, FHA Division
Minnesota Historical Society

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-5-77
 Reviewer INITIALS: Jny
 NR DOE May 12, 1975

57M

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: ¹⁰ Muskego Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West
 CITY, TOWN: St. Paul CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th
 STATE: Minnesota VICINITY OF: COUNTY: Ramsey code 123

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER
 HA050

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
 NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>INTERIOR</u> | <u>EXTERIOR</u> | <u>ENVIRONS</u> |
| - Substantially intact-1 | - Substantially intact-2 | - Substantially intact-3 |
| - unknown - 4 | - unknown - 5 | - unknown - 6 |
| - not applicable - 7 | - not applicable - 8 | - Not applicable - 9 |

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CONDITION - | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RECONSTRUCTED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXCAVATED | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCAVATED | |

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
 then- religious
 now- religious

HA050

SIGNIFICANCE:

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION - 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE - 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIO/CULTURAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | | <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN & COMMUN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT | | <input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING |

Claims

Norwegian Lutheran Church
 "first" YES NO is U.S. "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Log Construction

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

② Peter Jacobson

ETHNIC GROUP:

Norwegians

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1843, ~~1869~~

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

1904 - moved

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

0.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

✓ Log construction, 3 stories, rectangular auditorium with chancel, shingled gabled roof, gable end ^{paneled} double door ~~paneled~~ entrance, Coped and scribed logs with mud chinking ~~at~~ at corners only; original hand finished black walnut interiors, pews, altar, and 3-sided balcony; Restored; ^{Stet} moved, 1904

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Excellent example of well-crafted log construction; thought to be first Norwegian Lutheran Church in U.S. HABS.

**Department of Administration
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
203 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
651.201.3292**

TO: Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Denis Gardner

DATE: 12/10/2018

NAME OF PROPERTY: Muskego Church

COUNTY AND STATE: Ramsey County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:
 Nomination
 Multiple Property Documentation Form
 Request for determination of eligibility
 Request for removal (Reference No.)
 Nomination resubmission
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
 Additional documentation (Reference No. 75001013)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- USGS Map
- Sketch (photo key) map(s)
- Correspondence
 - Owner Objection
 - The enclosed owner objections
 - Do Do not constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS:

Muskego Church (Norway Lutheran Church) in St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota, was listed in the National Register in 1975. A recent major construction project in the vicinity of the church initiated the Section 106 review process. As mitigation for the project, the SHPO had an opportunity to update the National Register nomination for the church. The early nomination is substantially lacking in historical information and context. This update rectifies that failing.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/17/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.