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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED APR 5 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON
German
Evangelical St. John's Lutheran Church (also parsonage, outhouse and catechetical room)
St. John's Lutheran Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: T78N R7W, Sec. 21
CITY, TOWN: Kalona
STATE: Iowa
VICINITY OF: First
COUNTY: Johnson
CODE: 183
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: NONE

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: St. John's Lutheran Cemetery Association
STREET & NUMBER:
CITY, TOWN: Kalona
STATE: Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Johnson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER: Clinton Street
CITY, TOWN: Iowa City, Iowa
STATE:

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:
DATE:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
CITY, TOWN:
STATE:
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Four structures are included in this nomination, the church, parsonage, catechetical room and outhouse.

The church is a small (26' x 40') frame structure set on a high concrete block foundation. The three windows of each side are rounded at the top, and there is a plain glass fanlight over the entry in the front. The church is approached by a short flight of stone steps. The gable roof is covered in wood shingles and has a single brick chimney at the rear.

The one-room interior is basically unaltered, with wood floor and plaster walls and ceiling. Above the wainscoting, and again at the juncture of walls and ceiling, are traces of stencilling in varying degrees of preservation.

Renovation in 1917 consisted of the raising of the church to accommodate a full basement, but no changes were made to the basic integrity of the structure.

The parsonage is a rectangular, two-story frame house. It has two windows on each floor on each side. The front door to the extreme right of the front facade opens directly into the kitchen, a tradition found in many farmhouses of the period in Germany. A central chimney is on the gable roof. The foundation is stone. The interior is divided into three rooms on each floor, a living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, two bedrooms and a study on the second.

Set between and slightly to the rear of the church and parsonage are a four-hole outhouse and a very small frame structure called the "catechetical room", which was used as a classroom for children's religious instruction. Both are covered in vertical boards.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCAVATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1875; 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Albert Drews and members of the church congregation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Lutheran Church served for many years the spiritual needs of the small German community of Sharon Center, Iowa. Services in German provided important cultural ties with the homeland of most of the congregation, and contributed to the sense of community among strangers in a new land.

The congregation of the Evangelical St. John's German Lutheran Church was organized in 1870 by immigrants from Berlin, southern Germany, and Switzerland, who had come to the United States in 1866. It began as a mission under the Rev. J. Hoerlin, Sr., and was formally incorporated in 1875. At that time the church was built by parishioner Albert Drews with the assistance of the whole congregation. The coming of the first resident minister, H. Hertlein, in 1878, occasioned the construction of the parsonage beside the church, along with the catechetical room and outhouse.

Clergymen who served here included J. Leupp (1879-81), D. Hartman (1881-86), J. Kurtz (1886-96), his son Adolph (1896-99), and other men whose German names clearly showed the continuing ethnic tradition of this small parish. English services were introduced in 1905 "for the benefit of younger members". In the years between 1900 and the official closing of the church in 1955, the congregation grew progressively smaller and was forced to share ministers with other Lutheran churches in the area. From 1955 to 1958, a pastor from Iowa City conducted services in the Sharon Center church. Since then, an occasional funeral or family reunion has taken place on the church grounds, although the buildings are no longer usable.

St. John's Lutheran Church is one of a number of small, white-painted frame churches in the area which are among the few reminders left of the variety of ethnic traditions which once flourished in southern Johnson County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Documents in the possession of Anna Sehr, Iowa City, Iowa.
 Records of the Evangelical St. John's German Lutheran Church, now at Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ONE

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	61,11,2,0	4,610,019,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Anna Sehr	Mrs. H.R. Morgan	
ORGANIZATION	St. John's Lutheran Cemetery Association	DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	R.R. 3	1019 Second Avenue	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	Iowa City	Iowa City	STATE Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 11/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
CHIEF	<i>[Signature]</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 4/2/77
ATTEST	<i>[Signature]</i>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 4/4/77

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Evangelical St. John's German Lutheran Church, Kalona Vicinity, Johnson County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(This paragraph continues paragraph #3 of Item 8, superseding paragraph #4 of the nomination form)

Nonetheless, a small core of dedicated people, many of whom are descendants of original parishioners, retain a strong attachment to the church and the long-gone way of life it represents. St. John's, in company with the Irish-founded St. Stanislaus Church, west of Hills, and the Welsh Congregational Church to the northeast, are among the few reminders left of a variety of ethnic traditions which once flourished, on however small a scale, in the southern part of Johnson County.

(The formation of this congregation was part of an extended missionary effort originating with the parent congregation in Iowa City. During the 1870's, particularly under the encouragement of the Reverend Hoerlin, Sr., as many as six mission churches were founded in Johnson County and immediate environs. As far as is known, only St. John's Church and a church in Solon remain from that period of evangelical activity.)