

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | MAR 31 1980 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAY 7 1980 |

**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

Renner Lutheran Sanctuary

AND/OR COMMON

Nidaros Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baltic Niadros Lutheran

LOCATION

Church

STREET & NUMBER

Off. U.S. 77

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Renner

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

South Dakota

— VICINITY OF

CODE
046

COUNTY

Minnehaha

CODE
099

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Renner Lutheran Congregation

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Renner

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota 57055

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Minnehaha County Courthouse
Safe in office of Renner Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Renner

STATE

South Dakota 57055

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

May, 1979

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input 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 | | DATE <u>1939</u> |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Renner Lutheran Sanctuary is a variation of the "Country Church Gothic" mode. It was built in 1878 as a symmetrical, rectangular building with a shingled gable roof and a projecting two-stage tower. The Sanctuary rests on a high, rock-faced concrete foundation, and is covered with white clapboarding.

Entrance to the church is gained through double doors at the top of a single run of stairs. The doorway is covered by a triangular, bracketed canopy. A red quadrafoil overlight decorates the entrance, matching quadrafoil cut-outs on the steeple. To either side of the entrance set back into the south wall of the nave is a large lancet window. Four bays of lancet windows mark the east and west side elevations.

The most prominent feature of the building is the steepled tower. On the front facade of the tower at the second story level is a double-hung window topped with a red trefoil-cut arch. Above, trimming the lower stage of the steeple, is a course of three red quadrafoils, topped in the belfry above by a single quadrafoil. The quadrafoil motif is carried around on the east and west sides of the tower in both stages, two below and one above. The peak of the cross-gable shingled steeple is marked by a sharp finial.

Intersecting the east side of the Sanctuary is a one-story pyramid roofed addition with a ground-level door. To the west, a long, basement-level addition with a low gable roof was constructed for church education functions. On the rear, a gabled-roof projection extends north from the center of the building. A tall, brick exterior chimney rises above the roof ridge along the north wall of the nave at the joint of the addition.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Renner Lutheran Sanctuary is a prime example of the local adoption of Gothic architecture to the plains of Dakota Territory. It has been important to the religious development of southeastern South Dakota, for it is the mother church of several other congregations in Minnehaha County. Lastly, it is important from the fact that it manifests the efforts of early Norwegian pioneers to organize a house of worship.

The Nidaros congregation was organized on August 12, 1868 and the name Nidaros was chosen since it was the area in Norway from which most of these pioneers had come. Their first resident pastor, Ole O. Sando was assigned to serve this new congregation in October, 1873. Church services were conducted in private homes and in the schoolhouse. There was a move by members who lived on the west side of the Sioux River to form two congregations, but this proposal was defeated. In 1875 the congregation voted not to admit anyone associated with the National Grange, on the ground that the Grange was a secret society not in harmony with the tenets of the Lutheran Church.

In September, 1877 the congregation agreed to build a church which was to resemble the Holden Church in Goodhue County, Minnesota. The building contract for \$525 was awarded to the members of the building committee: Messrs. Thompson, Brende, and Langness, and the church was ready for services the next spring. Misfortunes struck in April, 1878, for a strong windstorm completely destroyed their new church. The present structure was built from the ruins of the first church.

In 1911 the congregation divided and the East and West Nidaros Churches were built. The "Old" Church was then moved to Baltic, South Dakota. In 1939 the church was moved to serve the needs of the people living in and around the town of Renner, where it is now located.

The Renner Church, the oldest continually used Lutheran Church in South Dakota, is also the state's second oldest Lutheran church building. Organized in 1868 as the first religious congregation in Minnehaha County, these Norwegians erected a structure which remains a symbol for Lutherans of their pioneer origins and an architectural landmark for the residents of Renner.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Minnehaha County, by Dana R. Bailey, 1899.
Diamond Jubilee, A History of the Nidaros Lutheran Congregation, by
 1943 Diamond Jubilee Committee
Norwegian Pioneers History 1866-1896, Translated and reprinted by Emily
 Brend Sittig and Clara Brende Christensen, 1976.
Nidaros Centennial, by John Eide, Historian, 1976.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Renner, South Dakota

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 684210 4834820
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located 1100 feet west of the Renner Corner on U.S. Highway 77 and 1200 feet east of the Silver Creek.
 (see continuation sheet)

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

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Technical Editing:
 Carolyn Torma

NAME / TITLE

Renner Church Council, Morris Oien, deacon

ORGANIZATION

Renner Lutheran Congregation

DATE

28 February 80

STREET & NUMBER

U.S.D. Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605-677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota 57069

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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

John J. Little

TITLE Director of Historical Preservation Center

DATE 3/17/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W.D. Ray Luce
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/7/80

ATTEST: *William H. Graham*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5.6.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nidaros Centennial Pictorial Review, by John Eide, Historian, 1968.
Renner Lutheran Sunday School Golden Anniversary, by the Golden
Anniversary Committee, 1970.
The Renner Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory, 1972.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary is the north edge of the road, the western boundary is the edge of hill as marked on the USGS, the northern boundary is a line extending west to east and parallel to the rear wall of the church 20 meters north of this wall, and the eastern boundary is a line parallel to lane east of church and 20 meters from the east wall of the church.