

SEP 20 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPD # ECA-OH-597-1/89] [use paper with at least 25% cotton rag content, use NLQ or LQ printer]

United States Department of the Interior -- National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES -- REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Telemarken Lutheran Church other name/ site number: NA

2. Location

street & number: 1/2 mile west & 1 mile north of Wallace /NA/ not for publication city, town: Wallace /XX/ vicinity state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Clark code: SD 025 zip code: 57272

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property:		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
/XX/ private	/XX/ building(s)	1		buildings
/ / pubic-local	/ / district			sites
/ / public-state	/ / site			structures
/ / public-federal	/ / structure			objects
	/ / object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Harris Kasin, Sec./Treas.; w/technical assistance by John Rau, SHPD staff organization: Tellemarken-Wallace Cemetery Association date: July 21, 1989 street & number: RR 1, Box 58 telephone: 605-758-2547 city or town: Wallace state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57272

page 3: Telemarken Lutheran Church
property name

, Clark
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:

RELIGION/Religious structure

Current Functions:

RELIGION/Religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
(enter categories from instructions)
Late Gothic Revival

Materials:
(enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Wood

roof Wood Shingle
other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance: /XX/ see continuation sheet

8. Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in
relation to other properties: / / / / /XX/
nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria /XX/ A / /B /XX/C / /D

Criteria Considerations /XX/A / /B / /C / /D / /E / /F / /G

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/European
Architecture

Period of Significance
1894-1939

Significant Dates
1894
1901

Significant Person
NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
Holvig, Edward E.
Markrud, Halvor

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations,
and periods of significance noted above /XX/ see continuation sheet

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property name

, Clark
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

9. Major Bibliographical References

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by NPS:

- / / preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- / / previously listed in the National Register
- / / previously determined eligible by the National Register
- / / designated a National Historic Landmark
- / / recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- / / recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- /XX/ State historic preservation office
- / / Other State agency
- / / Federal agency
- / / Local government
- / / University
- / / Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: Less than one acre

UTM References:

A = /14/	/618-460/	/4994-960/	B = / /	/ /	/ /
C = / /	/ /	/ /	D = / /	/ /	/ /
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Quad: Wallace

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

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Situated in the midst of the rolling and fertile plains of northeastern South Dakota, the Telemarken Lutheran Church is a small wood frame Gothic Revival edifice. The building rises from a poured concrete foundation and is clad with clapboard siding. It is capped by a gable roof covered with wood shingles. A bell tower topped by a steeple projects upward from the center of the east (front) gable end. The bell tower and east gable are clad with fishscale shingles. The main entry door in the center of the bell tower is capped by a lancet arched overlight. Two small lancet arched windows and three small rose windows light the upper level of the tower. The belfry is surrounded by louvered lancet arched openings. Each axial facade is pierced by four elongated lancet arched windows with one-over-one clear glass lights. A simple nave plan church, it has no apse or sacristy.

Interior wall and ceiling surfaces are covered with narrow tongue-and-groove boards. A short wainscot of the same material encircles the sanctuary. Congregation seating is provided by several simple hardwood pews. An elaborate Gothic-influenced carved altar with spires topped by Latin Crosses and a painted canvas depicting the Ascension of Christ dominates the front of the church. A semielliptical communion rail separates the altar from the congregation.

In 1967-68, the bell was removed and encased in a small concrete block masonry open-sided structure capped by a gable roof. Located just east of the church, this structure bears memorial plaques honoring the founders of the congregation. Adjacent to the church on the west and north is a cemetery with gravestones dating back to 1892. The church yard and cemetery is punctuated by several trees of both coniferous and deciduous varieties. An iron pipe and woven wire fence surrounds the entire church complex. The memorial bell structure and the cemetery are not included within the boundaries of the nominated property.

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Under Criteria A and C of the National Register Criteria, Telemarken Lutheran Church is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/European and Architecture. It is associated with the pioneer settlement of Norwegian immigrants to the northeastern part of South Dakota and the imprint they left on the land. The church is also a very well-preserved example of the early wood frame churches that these Norwegian Lutherans typically built in the countryside. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the nominated property relates to the following historic contexts: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, B.7 Ethnic Enclaves/Norwegians; and IV. H. Religion.

After the various groups of people of German descent, Norwegians were the second largest body of immigrants to come to southern Dakota Territory. Like other European ethnics they tended to settle in their own little communities, where they could nurture familiar language and customs and then gradually learn how to fit into the mass culture. Because so many Norwegians came to South Dakota, their settlements are spread throughout the state rather than concentrated in a single region. Indeed, Norwegian place names are found in almost every county of the state. Also as one of the earliest immigrant groups to enter the Dakotas, they quickly adapted their building habits to that of middle-America. Therefore, although a few folk houses and barns inspired from their Old World traditions can be found, most of their surviving early building stock resembles that of contemporary American vernacular culture, with one predominant exception-- the churches.

Mostly Lutheran, these Norse newcomers frequently erected small wood frame churches surrounded by cemeteries and bearing some marks of their former homeland. Outwardly, these buildings are primarily based on widely available patternbook plans for inexpensive Gothic Revival churches, but on the interior they usually took on the decor of more traditional Norwegian Lutheran sanctuaries. Although second and third generation churches were larger, much more ornate, architect-designed masonry buildings, the first church constructed by a Norwegian community was a simple wood frame nave plan church. Generally their liturgy called for little embellishment of the interior, except for emphasis given to the altar, pulpit, and baptismal font. Seating, walls, windows, and ceilings were very plain. Altars, although quite small in scale, were elegant carved wood monuments to the Medieval traditions of Norway. Latin Crosses and pinnacles as well as painted canvases depicting Biblical scenes are common. The altar is usually surrounded on three sides by a communion rail. Telemarken Church is an almost textbook example of these trends in church building. Recently restored to careful standards, it is one of the best-preserved specimens of these early Norwegian churches in the immediate region.

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The church lies on the border between Codington County, to the east, and Clark County, to the west. Codington County was organized in 1878 at the beginning of the "Great Dakota Boom." Clark County was organized three years later as the rapid movement of settlers spread westward. During this time, many different European ethnic groups homesteaded in this region. A large contingent of Norwegians settled in northwestern and north-central Codington County and extreme northeastern Clark County. There, they established several small Lutheran congregations, which served to identify their community in the protracted absence of nearby towns. Only tiny post offices served the immediate commercial needs of the community for decades. Service towns such as Florence and Wallace were not established until 1906, when the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad ran a line from Watertown, some twenty miles to the southeast. At first the congregations met in members' homes until enough resources for a church building could be secured. But, by the late 1880s and early 1890s, several Lutheran churches sprang up within just a few miles of each other. Of these, the Telemarken Church, taking its name from Telemark, Norway, is the oldest intact survivor.

The Telemarken Lutheran congregation was founded in 1887. In January of 1890, the congregation decided to erect a church and plat a cemetery. Ole O. Aas donated an acre of ground for the complex. More land was added later. The first interment in the cemetery was in 1892. Started in late 1893, the new building was completed in the spring of 1894, with the first services conducted on March 26, 1894. Edward E. Holvig served as building contractor. Rev. B. L. Hagboe was the first pastor. All twelve ministers that served at Telemarken were of Scandinavian descent. In 1901, the bell tower and steeple were added by Halvor Markrud. The Ladies Aid donated the bell in 1907 and the altar in 1911.

Besides regular worship services, for many years, the church continued to be the focal point for social activity in the Norwegian community. Fellowship suppers, sales, and sewing parties were just a few of the many events that took place there. The church lent a sense of neighborhood stability to its members for more than one generation. But, by the 1930s and 1940s membership fell off due to families moving away in times of both hard economy and increased mobility. As elsewhere in South Dakota, the immediate area had too many churches for too few people. In 1948, Telemarken merged with Calvary Lutheran Church in nearby Wallace. Since then the Wallace-Telemarken Cemetery Association, founded in 1923, has cared for the cemetery and church building.

In 1987, the association completed restoration of the church in time for a celebration of the congregation's centennial. Funds for the project were donated from former members and their descendants from across the United States. To local residents, the building stands as a memorial to its

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immigrant founders who were among the first settlers to populate the area. It is used for services every Memorial Day.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from construction of the church in 1894 and to 1939, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register. The property derives its significance from its historical and architectural distinction and therefore qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criteria Consideration A. The cemetery is not included within the nominated property, because it does not satisfy Criteria Consideration D.

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Centennial History of the Northern Two-Thirds of Clark County: Including the Towns of Clark, Bradley, Garden City, Raymond, Crocker, and Elrod. S.l., S.n., 1981. pp. 93-96.

De Jong, Gerald F. "A Preliminary Guide for Studying European Ethnic Groups in South Dakota: A Bibliographic Essay." South Dakota History. XV (n. 1-2, Spring-Summer, 1985): 66-114.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. "The Architectural History of South Dakota." Draft Ms. Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, N.d. Chapter 8 (Early Churches). pp. 1-10, 16, 19-19.

The First 100 Years in Codington County, South Dakota. Watertown, SD: Codington County History Book Committee, 1979. pp. 43-46.

Hauffe, Rick. "Restoration: Church Project Reverses Trend." Watertown (South Dakota) Public Opinion. February 25, 1987.

Ostergren, Robert C. "European Settlement and Ethnicity Patterns on the Agricultural Frontiers of South Dakota." South Dakota History. XIII (n. 1-2, Spring-Summer, 1983): pp.49-82.

_____. "The Immigrant Church As A Symbol of Community and Place in the Upper Midwest." Great Plains Quarterly. I (n.4, Fall, 1981): pp. 225-238.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.

Telemarken Lutheran Church
Wallace Vicinity, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East and north facades, camera facing southwest
Photo No. 1

2.

Telemarken Lutheran Church
Wallace Vicinity, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East and south facades, including noncontributing memorial bell structure,
camera facing west-northwest
Photo No. 2

3.

Telemarken Lutheran Church
Wallace Vicinity, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing west
Photo No. 3

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Consisting of only the church edifice, the nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that connect to form a rectangle around the rectangular building. The eastern boundary line lies 10 feet east of the east wall of the narthex/bell tower and runs parallel to that wall. The southern boundary line lies 10 feet south of the south axial wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The western boundary line lies 10 feet west of the west gable end wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The northern boundary line lies 10 north of the north axial wall of the church and runs parallel to that wall. The property is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 24, Township 119 North, Range 56 West, 5th Principal Meridian, in Clark County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include only the church edifice and to exclude the memorial bell tower and cemetery, which do not meet the criteria or the criteria considerations for listing in the National Register.