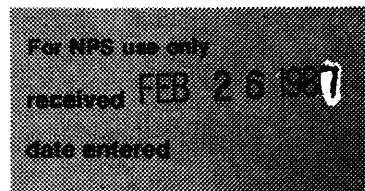


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SITE HN-5

NAME Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Cemetery

LOCATION Harding County Road 858, four miles north of Ralph, Harding County (063) South Dakota (046)

OWNER Boyd Scarsdale  
Box 34  
Ludlow, SD 57755

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition, unoccupied, restricted access, religious

DESCRIPTION Fair condition, unaltered, original site

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Cemetery is located on the northside of Harding County Road 858 on the rolling prairie. Ralph, the nearest town, is approxiamtely four miles south.

The church which was constructed ca. 1900 is rural Gothic in design. However, readily identifiable Gothic features such as hoodmolds, labels, buttresses and pinnacles are not present. The building is of frame construction and is covered in clapboard which is painted white. The gable roof of the church, and the steeple and bell tower are covered with green composition shingles.

The main facade has a symmetrical arrangement, and the church is entered through a pair of double doors. A bell tower is centered on the front, and crowing the tower is a steeple which is surmounted by a wooden cross. Four equilateral-arched windows are on each side wall. Tracery in these openings repeats the tracery in the two smaller windows in the entry at the base of the bell tower. The entire building rests on a fieldstone foundation over a full basement. An entrance to the basement is located off the exterior north wall of the structure. A red brick chimney is also on the north facade.

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Few changes have been made to the interior of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The interior of the church is painted pastel blue and green. Tongue and groove wainscoting is on the side walls. The church is a simple nave plan with the entrance in the bell tower, the nave and the alter located on the rear wall.

Thirty stones are scattered throughout the cemetery west of the church. Most of the stones date from the 1910s and 1930s. The cemetery is well maintained.

SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, architecture, religion, settlement

DATE: ca. 1900

BUILDER: Unknown

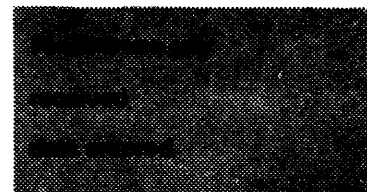
The Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Cemetery is significant to Harding County and northwestern South Dakota as being an outstanding example of a rural Gothic church and cemetery. It is unusual in its concordant setting in the midst of a ranching area still worked by descendants of those families who settled the land and founded the church.

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

The church is in fair condition and has begun to show signs of deterioration. The cemetery is in good condition and well maintained.

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QUADRANGLE NAME Ralph SW, SD UTM 13/640490/5077070

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000 ACREAGE Less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the site are a set of imaginary intersecting lines. The southern boundary is an imaginary line which lies ten feet from the edge of the southern most row of markers in the cemetery. Thence to the western boundary which lies ten feet from the western most row of markers in the cemetery. Thence to the northern boundary which lies ten feet from the northern most row of markers in the cemetery. The eastern boundary is formed by an imaginary line which lies ten feet from the eastern exterior wall of the church. The site is located in the SE quarter of the SE quarter of Township 22 North, Range 7 East, Section 25 in Harding County, South Dakota.

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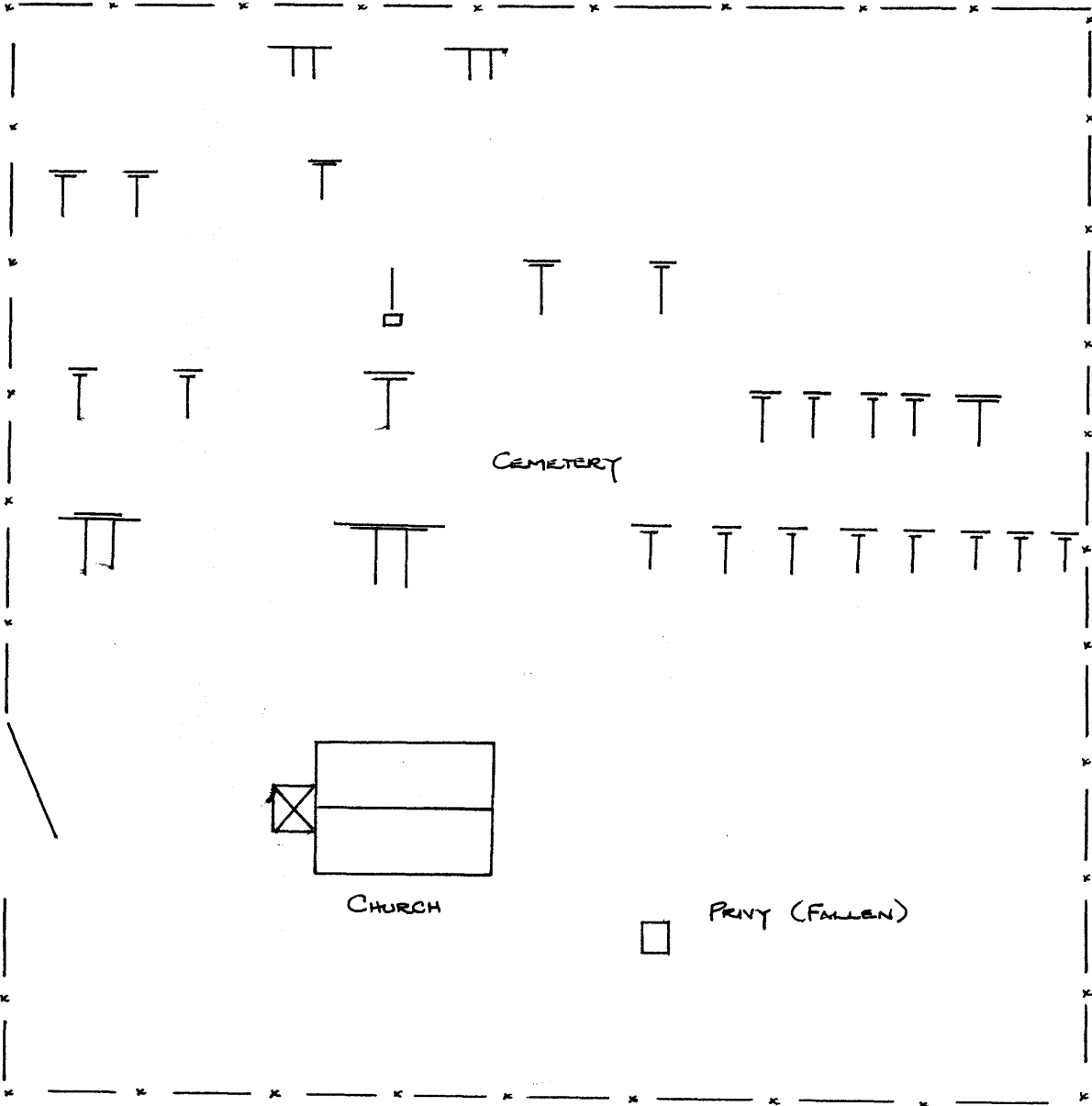
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← HARDING COUNTY ROAD

FENCE →



CEMETERY

CHURCH

PRIVY (FALLEN)