

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Name of Property
Ramsey County, ND
County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD


NRIS Reference Number: 15000106

Property Name: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

County: Ramsey County State: ND

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

 _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/23/15

Amended Item in Nomination

This SLR is issued to make the following substantive corrections:

Section 7

The nomination lists one contributing resource and two non-contributing resources. The contributing resource is the church. The nomination lists a 1954 addition, which has a 1987 addition, as two non-contributing resources. As these are additions, not free-standing buildings, they should not be counted as separate buildings. Therefore, the nomination consists of one contributing building (which has a non-contributing addition) and should be corrected accordingly.

Section 8

The property is listed under Criterion C (architecture). The period of significance given is 1930-1987, which is an error. The period of significance should be the year 1930, for when the church was constructed.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

Distribution

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 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: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Other names/site number: 32RY625

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: 601 6th Street NE

City or town: Devils Lake State: ND County: Ramsey

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

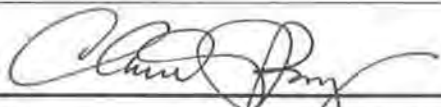
I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x 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 x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

	<u>2.5.2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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:)

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/23/15
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Brick with limestone trim

Roof: Church: asphalt shingle

Spire: copper

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

St. Olaf Lutheran Church is a brick Late Gothic Revival style church with limestone trim featuring pointed arched stained glass windows, including a spire, located at the northeast corner of 6th Street NE and 6th Avenue NE in the City of Devils Lake. Joseph A. Shannon (1859-1934) was the architect of the church and the builder was the Devils Lake firm of Fjeldseth & Johnson. The current St. Olaf church building was completed in 1930 and is located in a primarily residential neighborhood adjacent to the downtown commercial district of the City of Devils Lake. The exterior of the church building has hardly been modified, except for the east elevation, where there have been two additions. The interior of the church building retains its original character, although the altar area has been remodeled.

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Within the nominated property boundary is a 1950s masonry two-story educational wing. The educational wing is located adjacent to the east of the church and faces 6th Street NE. The educational wing is considered non-contributing. [see photograph 9 of 9.]

Also included in the nominated property boundary is the Centennial Addition. The Centennial Addition, built in 1987, is adjacent to and connects the church and the educational wing, and covers the front facade (south elevation) of the educational wing. The west interior wall of the Centennial Addition is the east exterior wall of the church. The Centennial Addition is considered non-contributing. [see photograph 9 of 9.]

Narrative Description

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church was built in 1930 in the town of Devils Lake, North Dakota. The church is located a couple of city blocks northeast of the main downtown area. The street location is at the corner of 6th Street NE and 6th Avenue NE. The church, located facing 6th Street NE, is on the northeast corner of the intersection. The church building entry faces south to the street and the rear of the church is on the north end at the alley. It is located at the same intersection just diagonally across the street from where the original church was located. The older congregational wood-frame building was built in 1888. The 1888 church does not exist anymore. The 1930 St Olaf Lutheran Church building was designed by J. A. Shannon, Architect from Devils Lake, North Dakota.

The existing church as it stands now consists of the original building of 1930, a class room addition built in 1954, and a more recent Centennial Room Addition built in 1987. Both additions are on the east side of the original building.

1930 Church

The original 1930 church is a Cruciform shape style. The church building exterior overall dimensions are 60 feet 0 inches wide and 115 feet 5 inches long and an additional 16 feet 0 inches length for the front stairs. Thus the total length is 131 feet 5 inches long. The main body of the church without the Cruciform arms is 41 feet 0 inches wide at the exterior. The floor level of the main church body is 7 feet above the grade level at the front of the church. The basement level is 4 feet 2 inches below grade. The dimension of the basement level to the main church floor level is 11 feet 2 inches.

The interior dimensions of the main worship room are 37 feet 8 inches wide by 71 feet 4 inches long and an additional Altar area (to the north) is 37 feet 8 inches wide by 20 feet long. The Narthex, south of the worship room, is 15 feet 0 inches wide and 9 feet 0 inches in length. The total width of the Cruciform plan at the extended arms is 57 feet 4 inches and 22 feet 0 inches north to south. The dimension of the main floor level to the interior church peaked ceiling is 34 feet 8 inches high.

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The wall finish in the worship room is painted plaster. The present ceiling has four main wood trusses located over the congregational seating area. In between the wood trusses are wood beams spanning from truss to truss. In filling between the beams and trusses is painted gypsum wall board. The beams and trusses are finished with oak boards that are stained in a medium-dark walnut color. This color matches the other miscellaneous trim through-out the church. The walls and ceiling above the Altar are painted plaster. The sidewalls in the altar area curve up and slope forming the ceiling into a gothic shape.

The main worship area includes a balcony at the rear. The dimension of the main floor level to the top balcony level is 12 feet 4 inches. The balcony is dimensioned as 37 feet 8 inches in width and a depth of approximately 17 feet. The front 8 feet of the balcony does cantilever into the worship room and the remaining rear 9 feet is over the Narthex area. Access to the balcony is the stair tower in the southwest corner of the church via the Narthex area. The stairs provide access to the most top tier of the balcony. The balcony is sloped towards the front of the church and is tiered down six levels for a total drop of 31 inches.

The church ceiling encompasses a high ceiling, 34 feet 8 inches above the floor. It is sloped the same as the exterior roof and is framed out with four major wood roof trusses. The four trusses frame-out the south roof system located immediately above the congregation seating area. They are structurally functional and esthetically pleasing. They are an example of form following function. The supporting trusses are an open web design where the framing members crisscross showing timber members that are sized to withstand the roof forces. The trusses are 15 foot on center and carry the weight of the roof framing.

The roof structure construction membrane from inside to outside is: gypsum wall board, 5/8 inches tongue & groove wood plank, 3/4 inch x 2 inch wide wood stripping, 1/2 inch insulating lath, 3/4 roof boards, and then the shingle roof system. This system is supported by the purlins, beams, and the main roof trusses. The original ceiling had exposed vertical wood purlins connecting to the beams. The finish on the purlins matched the beams and trusses. In the year 2004 remodeling of the church took place and the purlins were covered with the now exposed painted gypsum wall board. Only the wood beams and trusses are exposed to view.

The basement is a near duplicate in plan as the main level. The basement structure: walls, floor, and foundation are concrete. The concrete walls and interior steel support columns support the church floor system. The church floor consists of 2 x 12's at 16 inch o.c. with floor planking. The basement functions as a social gathering space in the main body area. The north end, located beneath the Altar, is the kitchen area which prepares meals for the various social functions. The finishes of the basement are plaster walls and ceiling. The basement area is naturally lighted with wood framed rectangular shaped windows that have an opening size of 40 inches wide and 54 inches high.

The exterior of the 1930 church is brick and accented and trimmed in limestone. The church design is Late Gothic Revival. The contributing design is the Gothic arched windows and doorways. The building design is simplistic and not ornate. The roof is steeply pitched at a 10/12 roof

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pitch. The steeply pitched roof is framed at the gable ends of the church with brick walls which are parapeted 1 foot 6 inches above the roof level. The parapets are trimmed and topped off with limestone. The limestone sections are shaped with a pointed top at about 45 degrees pitch each way to form the limestone cap. The brick gable end walls are located at each end of the four major roof directions and at the small southwest entry and small southeast entry.

The main church tower and spire is the prominent element on the south elevation and provides directional aspiration of heavenliness. The front tower is massive in shape, built of brick and trimmed in limestone. The original church doors have been replaced with double metal doors. The metal doors are very utilitarian and do not blend in with the original architecture. The entourage of the doors is trimmed in ornate limestone. The limestone jambs and head form an arch above the doors. The arch statement is not a Gothic arch but a low slope arch. A 32 inch high horizontal entablature like structure made of limestone separates the door area from the large Gothic narrow window above. The tower and spire frames the main entry. The main entry is raised above the main front walk level at a height of 7 feet 6 inches. The elaborate stair section at the main entry is made of concrete steps with side railing walls. The railing walls are 34 inch high and are made of brick with a limestone cap that matches the building parapets. There are 12 steps from the top porch to the ground level. The brick railing walls gently curve from the top stair 10 feet wide to the bottom stair that is 12 feet wide. Attached to the brick railing wall is a metal hand rail used by the people. The curved stair section is architecturally a very nice touch to the church main entry. Above the main doors is a narrow but very high window section that accents the front verticalness of the tower while providing a light airiness to the structure. The window 7 feet wide extends a full 21 feet high. The window shape comes to a curved point in a Gothic manner just as the other church's main windows. An interesting fact is that the window is not visible to the main church body. The structure of the tower separates it from the main church body. The front window illuminates natural light to only the interior tower space which is used as storage. The access to the tower space is from a door located at the balcony.

The main front tower section is brick and consists of four walls. The four walls are flanked with 45 degree angled brick buttress at the four corners. The height of the brick tower section is approximately 50 feet. It is topped with a glass fenestration section, a solid roof spire section, and a cross. The clear glass fenestration on top of the brick section is eight sided. Each side is 10 feet wide and 13 feet high. The design of each window is Gothic.

On top of the glass fenestrated section is the spire. The spire is eight sided as the glass fenestration and is covered in copper panels with asphalt shingles imprint. The spire base takes off at the 10 foot dimension and upwardly narrows to intersecting the eight sides into one point at the top. This spire section is 58 feet tall. A seven foot high cross sits on top and seals the spire section. The cross is glass at the north and south sides. At night it is lighted but usually only on special occasions. An interior light bulb is on a pulley system that allows for the bulb to be changed as needed.

The worship room of the church is fenestrated with three large Gothic windows on both the west and east sides. Each window measures 7 feet 4 inches wide and 11 feet 0 inches high. The

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Cruciform arm, extending west, is fenestrated with one large window. This Gothic window is 11 feet 0 inches wide and 16 feet 8 inches high. The large window unit in the Cruciform arm, extending east, was the same as the west window but was removed for the 1954 addition. No known information as to the whereabouts of the removed window unit. The 1954 addition connects the east side of the building only at the Altar and east Cruciform arm area. The main church body elevation remained free of the 1954 addition.

The window design at each of the Gothic windows, except the Altar window, is a simple design motif. The each small side windows in the worship room of the church have three vertical sections. The larger window in the Cruciform arm has four sections of similar size and an additional two smaller sections. In each section is a simple narrow flower design that depicts the candle and flame for the "light of life".

The Altar window located high on the north wall is pictorial art design. The pictorial design depicts the Ascension of Christ. The window was fabricated with imported glass stemming from Germany, France, Belgium and England provided and installed by Albert J. Larscheid of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1930.

Visually framing the windows on the east and west sides on the exterior of the church are brick buttresses. The buttresses are structurally functional. They receive the roof loads imposed from the roof trusses. The buttresses are two tiered in height. The lower tier is of brick construction 21 inches wide and projects out 21 inches. The upper section is 21 inches wide and projects out 12 inches. They are in line with the roof trusses located inside the church. The buttresses are trimmed out with limestone at the transition of the tier dimensions and at the top.

The southwest entry is level with the ground. The southwest entry structure projects two feet beyond the main church wall. The entry serves as the main entrance to the stairwell going to the main level, balcony and basement. The projection is flanked out at the corners with 45 degree angled buttresses. This treatment accents the entrance and emanates a welcome feeling upon approaching the entry area. The dimensions and designs of the flanking buttress are the same as the main church buttresses. The double entry doors also have a 42 inch high Gothic style window above it. A very similar southeast structure serves as an east entry from the 1987 Centennial Addition at the main and basement levels.

The exterior of the building is brick with red hues. The front of the church has a 13 inch high limestone water table located at the first floor height. The limestone water table is used at the front tower area and then transitions to a brick band continuous around the remaining parts of the church walls. The brick band is 8 inches high soldier coursing and projects 1½ inches. The Gothic windows are framed out with brick. The brick is corbelled in two rows of header courses.

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At the base of the windows is an 8 inch limestone sill the width of each window. The window jamb rises up and is transitioned to form the arch. The transition point of the arch is a limestone flag 8 inches high and 12 inches wide. Only brick encompasses the arch.

1954 Educational Wing Addition

In 1954 the Educational Wing addition was added to the original church building. The addition was added onto the east Cruciform arm and the Altar area of the 1930 church. The main body of the church was not added onto allowing natural light through the east windows.

Houkom and Skaret, Architects of Fargo, North Dakota designed the addition. The addition is very functional making space for classrooms, library and associated spaces. The architecture is very utilitarian with rectangular glass block windows and doorways and non-ornate finishes. One Gothic window was used above the front entrance of the addition. The exterior is brick veneer and a flat roof. The interior is very basic construction; concrete/steel floor joist structure, 52 inch high glazed tile wainscots with the remaining walls finished in plaster. The ceilings are finished in 8 inches x 8 inches acoustical tiles glued to the structural ceiling.

The addition is two and one-half stories high. The basement level and the main level are the same as the 1930 church building. On the main level the addition increased the size of the church body to the east with a 47 foot addition. The church body to the east was increased about 35 feet and the remaining twelve feet for corridor and building structure. The addition of 47 feet was along the alley side and returned to the south 105 feet and 6 inches. The addition terminated at the south end about inline with the front of the main church. At the sides, the distance between the 1954 addition and the 1930 original church building is 18 feet. The main width dimension of the addition going east is 48 feet 0 inches wide and the dimension of the addition going south is 38 feet 0 inches wide.

The exterior is face brick veneer, stone cap at the roof and a matching 8 inch high brick band water table as the original church.

1987 Centennial Room Addition

The Centennial Room Addition connects the 1954 addition to the east side of the old 1930 church body. The 1987 addition is directly attached to the front of the 1954 addition and infill the space between the 1954 addition and the 1930 church building. The addition extends 17 feet to the south of the 1954 addition and is a story and a half tall with a basement. The addition is a handicapped accessibility inspired project. The entry is at the ground level and opens immediately to a gathering space and coat storage. It has an elevator that services the main level of the church as well as the basement. There are also steps to the main level of the church, to the basement level of the main church and to the 1954 addition. The east windows in the main church body were not removed and are now artificially lighted from the 1987 addition.

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The exterior of the 1987 addition is brick veneer and topped with a 24 inch high pre-cast concrete fascia ribbon. The total front height is 18 feet and the width of the addition at the front is 53 feet 4 inches wide. An entry projection at the door projects out 30 inches x 10 feet 8 inches wide. This projection protects the main doors at the main wall from wind, rain, and snow. There are four windows, Gothic in style, on the south side. They are 30 inches wide and 13 feet 6 inches high. Being the entry is offset to the east of the face of the addition, one window is to the east of the door and the other three are to the west of the door. An additional window is on the west side of the addition. The windows do match in style and proportion the smaller Gothic windows of the 1930 church located on the south side adjacent to the main church tower.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1930 - 1987

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Joseph A. Shannon, Architect
Fjeldseth & Johnson, Builders

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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.)

The St. Olaf Lutheran Church is proposed to be significant at a local level of significance. Its primary significance is under National Register Criterion C, for its Late Gothic Revival architecture reflecting the work of Devils Lake architect Joseph A. Shannon. The period of significance (1930 – 1987) begins with the year of construction of the nominated building and ends with the year of construction of the Centennial Addition, which covers the east elevation of the nominated building.

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

St. Olaf Lutheran Church was designed by architect Joseph A. Shannon (1857-1934). Mr. Shannon was Devils Lake's first bona fide architect, but little is known of his architectural training. He was born in Edina, Missouri and there he spent his boyhood. At the age of twenty he moved with his family to Beardsley, Minnesota where he worked as a carpenter. In 1886 he homesteaded near Bristol, South Dakota. For three years he was employed by the government as a carpenter at Fort Sisseton, South Dakota. For many years he engaged in building and contracting. He was practicing architecture in Devils Lake by 1906 and, though he apparently did not possess a recognized architectural certificate or degree, he was one of the state's first architects to be granted license to practice architecture under North Dakota's licensing law, which was passed in 1917. He served for three years as the president of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture. He resided in Devils Lake until his death.

Shannon is known to have designed seventeen buildings in the City of Devils Lake, fifteen of which remain standing. A short biography in "Devils Lake Beautiful" published for the Devils Lake Commercial Club by the North American Publicity Bureau 1915-1916 states that most of Devils Lake's finest up-to-date buildings had been designed by Shannon as well as many fine homes. The office of Boyd and Shannon was responsible for most of the large scale buildings in the Devils Lake region during the building boom of 1906-1909.

Shannon was primarily influenced by the Chicago School, so his design of the St. Olaf Church in the Late Gothic Revival style represents a significant anomaly in his portfolio (which also includes Classical and Romanesque designs). His sanctuary designs for two nearby churches, the Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, both listed on the NRHP in 2008, were in the Akron Auditorium style, symbolizing the progressive American Protestantism of those denominations. In contrast, the traditional design of the Late Gothic Revival St. Olaf Church symbolizes the doctrinal conservatism of the Norwegian Lutheran church and the cultural conservatism of the local Norwegian-American community. St. Olaf Church shows Mr. Shannon was adept at adopting the Late Gothic Revival style, emphasizing verticality with a steeply-pitched roof, tall bell-tower topped with a soaring spire, pointed arched windows and entrance, and a vaulted ceiling. His design also included Late Gothic Revival characteristic elements such as, the dark brick exterior with decorative light limestone

decorative banding, use of ornate limestone door jambs, and two-tiered masonry buttresses with

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limestone trim.

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The primarily residential neighborhood which is the setting of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church also includes the Episcopal Church of the Advent, located one block west and listed on the NRHP in 2002, the aforementioned Methodist Episcopal Church located one block south, the aforementioned Westminster Presbyterian Church located one block south and one block west, and the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, constructed in 1907 and located two blocks south. The St. Olaf neighborhood is located northeast of and adjacent to the City of Devils Lake Downtown Commercial District, listed on the NRHP in 1989.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church was historically associated with the ethnic Norwegian-Lutheran commercial, agricultural, and religious community in the Devils Lake area, within a historical context of the insularity and nationalist identity of the local Norwegian-American community. The Church's architecture is a reflection of this association.

The City of Devils Lake lies on the north shore of Devils Lake in northeastern North Dakota. Devils Lake was incorporated and settled during the First Dakota Boom, in the 1880s. During this time, land in the area was made available for homesteading, drawing settlers from the eastern U.S.A., Canada, and Europe. Also during this time, the Great Northern Railway made its way across North Dakota, with a station in Devils Lake, facilitating the settlement and growth of boomtown Devils Lake. A significant number of the settlers came from Norway.

The Norwegian immigrant's experience in the prairies of North Dakota was difficult. The Norwegian immigrant's Norwegian-Lutheran church was an important stabilizing and supportive social factor in his unsettled world. Norwegian immigrants were naturally attracted to a Lutheran church in which their native tongue was used, for nationalistic and cultural reasons as well as for religious ones. (Fevold 1980:255-278). The St. Olaf congregation was a cornerstone institution of the local Norwegian immigrant community, who built St. Olaf Lutheran Church in 1930 as a monument to their successful settlement in the Devils Lake area, as a monument to their nationalism, and as a monument to their conservative Lutheran religious doctrine.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, a Christian congregation in Devils Lake, North Dakota, was formally organized on July 20, 1885, led by Norwegian-Lutheran missionary Rev. O.H. Aaberg. Many Norwegian immigrant families had settled in the area during the First Dakota Boom and urged Rev. Aaberg to establish a Lutheran Church to serve the ethnic Norwegian immigrant community. "The largest group of immigrants in North Dakota, the Norwegians, were especially devout Lutherans." (Wilkins & Wilkins, 1959:111).

The organization of the church under the St. Olaf name accurately portrays the church as an ethnically Norwegian-American congregation. Olaf was a King of Norway in the eleventh century, who was canonized as a saint by Norwegian Christian leaders one year after his death. Olaf is identified as "rex perpetuus Norvigae" - the eternal King of Norway. Therefore, to put the name of St. Olaf on the

church was to proclaim the church's Norwegian identity and the Norwegian nationalism of its

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congregation.

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In nineteenth-century Norway, Lutheranism was the state-sanctioned religion (since the time of the Reformation) and had what amounted to a religious monopoly on the population. Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Devils Lake area left behind a religiously homogeneous population, and encountered other settlers who identified as Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Jews, Presbyterians, Methodists, and others. While the local population was predominantly Christian, the Euro-American settlers in the Devils Lake area formed an ethnically and denominationally heterogeneous population. The Devils Lake area was also populated by Metis and the Dakota. The dynamics of adapting to the nascent culture of the Dakota prairie in the Devils Lake area must have been daunting.

But the Norwegian immigrants to the Dakotas were shepherded by Norwegian Lutheran clerics, like Rev. O.O. Aaberg, affiliated with the Norwegian Synod, who preceded most of the Norwegian immigrants in his forays to the Devils Lake area and, as the population grew, established nine Norwegian-Lutheran churches. And these churches were not loosely-organized congregations of like-minded Lutherans, they were bastions of Norwegian identity and culture.

The Norwegian immigrants adhered to their Lutheran heritage and the St. Olaf congregation adhered to its Norwegian identity and the Norwegian language. Services were exclusively in Norwegian until 1898. Until 1920, one-half of the services were in Norwegian and one-half were in English. In 1921, the church was identified as "St. Olaf's Norwegian Lutheran Church." By 1933, however, all services were in English, with only the occasional special communion services in Norwegian.

The church was affiliated, in succession, with the Norwegian-Danish Lutheran Conference, the Norwegian United Lutheran Church (Norske Forende Lutherske Kirke), and the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. In 1960, it joined through merger with the American Lutheran Church. In 1987, more than 50 years after converting to English language services, the church still was very much Norwegian-American in its view of itself.

St. Olaf was the first church in the area to broadcast services on the radio on October 11, 1925, on pioneering Devils Lake station KDLR broadcast. From 1925 -1929, the morning broadcasts were of the English service followed by an afternoon broadcast of the Norwegian service.

The early pastors resisted the trend toward use of the English language. These clerics would have been trained in seminaries in Norway, or Norwegian-Lutheran seminaries in the US, and were affiliated with the Norwegian Synod or the Norwegian-Danish Conference. The early pastors' surnames are readily-identifiable as Norwegian or Danish, including Aaberg, Saugstad, Logeland, Lavik, Madsen, Lovland, Strandess, Fonkalsrud, Nykrem, Haarvei, and Loftness. The Norwegian-language church was located within a two-block radius of an Episcopal Church, a Roman Catholic Church, a Presbyterian Church, and a Methodist Church. The Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Methodist churches conducted services in English, which the younger members of the Norwegian-American community found attractive. In a 1907 letter, written in Norwegian, St. Olaf's pastor, Rev. Johannes Haarvei, lamented the decline in

membership and the defection of children to attend Sunday School at the nearby Westminster

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Presbyterian Church (located on the same city block as the first St. Olaf church building), where classes were conducted in English. He attributed the church's troubles partly to "an inclination to change over to the English language prematurely."

The settlement period Norwegian-Lutheran clerics were not simply Norwegian nationalists. Norwegian-Lutheran theologians were deeply-concerned that a switch from the Norwegian language to the English language would result in unacceptable doctrinal errors and the church members they shepherded would be led astray by adopting the "American spirit" and Americanized Protestantism. Classes in the Norwegian-Lutheran seminaries established in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and South Dakota were conducted in Norwegian into the 1920s.

For the first 100 years, the St. Olaf congregation identified itself as an ethnic Norwegian community. The Norwegian immigrants proved to be culturally conservative, strongly identifying with the Lutheran Church, their ethnic identity as Norwegians, and their native Norwegian language. The perseverance and success of the Norwegian immigrant community led the St. Olaf congregation to increase its membership. By the 1950s, St. Olaf had over 2,000 members.

Between 1887-2014, 30 pastors have served St. Olaf. During this time there has been one supply pastor and 4 interim pastors. The longest term served by one pastor was 32 years by Rev. E.L. Rude from August 21, 1938 - August 30, 1970.

The initial building to house the St. Olaf congregation was a 50 x 32 foot wood frame church located on a lot on the southwest corner of 5th Street and 5th Avenue. The current church building, which is the nominated historic property, is located on the northeast corner of the same intersection. The struggles of the early congregation are evidenced by the fourteen year period between the construction of the first church building and its dedication -- the cornerstone was laid in 1888 but the church was not dedicated until 1902.

By 1921, the growth of the congregation warranted the start of a building fund and in 1927 a church building committee was formed, made up of church members T.J. Shelver, Niels Clausen, Thor Nestegard, Mrs. Jens Svec (Norwegian-born), and Mrs. Anton Skurdahl. In April 1929 the church site was purchased, ground was broken on April 6, 1930, the cornerstone was laid on June 6, 1930, and the completed church was dedicated on October 7, 1930. The cost of the church building was \$50,000, a significant sum in 1930 North Dakota, where the Depression had sent the economy reeling.

With interest in building a new Lutheran church growing, a restaurant was constructed in the Devils Lake fairgrounds (1927) where members served meals to the public during fair week. From \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year was in this way added to the new church fund.

At the opening dinner in the new church between 250 and 300 people were served at a cost of \$2.50 a plate. During this same week two other banquets were given, and a total of \$1,100 was taken in"

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Name of Property

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(Mrs. E.O. Tuneberg). The fund was augmented by a donation of \$10,000 by first-generation Norwegian immigrant and prominent local businesswoman Mrs. Jens (Nellie) Svee.

Fundraisers also included a traditional Norwegian Midsummer Night Festival, held on the Summer Solstice, featuring a large bonfire visible for miles.

The magnificent stained glass window behind the altar, depicting the Ascension of Jesus, was designed and executed by Albert J. Larscheid, Designer and Executor of Imported and Domestic Leaded Glass, Minneapolis, Minnesota. In a letter dated October 14, 1930 Larscheid wrote the following to Rev. George Loftness, Pastor:

The writer has already sent you a diagram of the chancel widow with the various panels marked so the man installing them can not [sic] go wrong. The large figure sections have already been expressed to you and the smaller shapes will go forward in the near future. Please note there are by actual count 1835 pieces (at least, probably more) selected pieces of glass in the chancel window, and as much as the coloring is in the glass, the pigment only gives form to the figures, the coloring is indestructable [sic] and practically all the glass is imported antique from Germany, France and England with a small amount from Belgium, so you see glass from all these countries which have contributed to beautifying your church, Your window can justly be termed a antique glass mosaic.

The designer also sent a numbered drawing of the window and its panels with the following instructions:

Panels not numbered, you can not go wrong on, only keep painted side, inside of church for uniformity. Follow numbers when installing windows, A. J. Larscheid.

The following key was also labeled in the picture.

7. Angel- St. Mathew, 8. Lion-St. Mark, 11. Baptismal font, 12. chalice, 13. commandments, old dispensation, 14. Bible, new dispensation, 9. Cow-St. Luke, 10. Eagle-St. John, and an arrow to another unnumbered column that says white roses symbolize purity and divine love[.] [No instructions for panels 1 – 6.]

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Barks, Mrs. Morris (1982). Manuscript - History of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Archives of St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

Fevold, Eugene E. (1980) "Reaching the Immigrant: Home Missions." In Nelson and Fevold, 1980.

Martens, Steve C. (1971). Manuscript ~ The Works of Joseph A. Shannon, Architect." NDSU School of Architecture.

Nelson, E. Clifford (ed.) (1980). The Lutherans in North America. Fortress Press, Philadelphia.

Nelson, E. Clifford and Eugene L. Fevold (1980). The Lutheran Church Among Norwegian-Americans: A History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Augsburg Publishing House,

Robinson, Elwyn (1966). History of North Dakota. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

Wilkins, Robert P. and Wynona H. Wilkins (1959). God Giveth the Increase: The History of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies.

Church Records, Archives of St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Devils Lake, North Dakota.

"New St. Olaf Lutheran Church is Realization of Great Ambition." Devils Lake Journal. October 17, 1930.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Ramsey County, ND

Name of Property

County and State

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 32RY625

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.38 acres

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14 | Easting: 510,655.00 | Northing: 5,328,991.00 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Block 12, Plat of Original Townsite of the City of Devils Lake. Roughly 122 feet (E/W) along 6th Street NE, 136 feet (N/S) along east side of building, 122 feet (E/W) along unnamed alley, then 136 feet (N/S) along 6th Avenue NE.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries are the legal description of the parcels of land on which the church building is located, together with ancillary buildings and church grounds, all of which are owned by St. Olaf Lutheran Church. The paved parking area, which lies east of the church grounds and is separated from the church grounds by a lot with a private residence, is excluded from the boundary description.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John C. Dumont, Douglas A. Goulding, and Susan L. Goulding
organization: City of Devils Lake Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: c/o Douglas A. Goulding, 327 15th Avenue SE
city or town: Devils Lake state: ND zip code: 58301-7001
e-mail: goulding@dv1.midco.net
telephone: 701 662 5999
date: October 14, 2014

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.)

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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

City or Vicinity: Devils Lake

County: Ramsey County

State: North Dakota

Photographer: James D. Goulding (1 – 8)

Date Photographed: June 2014

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Name of Property

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9. Front facade, view northeast.
- 2 of 9. South elevation, view north.
- 3 of 9. East elevation, view west.
- 4 of 9. North elevation, view southeast.
- 5 of 9. West elevation, view east.
- 6 of 9. Interior, vaulted ceiling, view south toward south entrance.
- 7 of 9. Interior, vaulted ceiling, and stained glass window above and behind altar, view north
- 8 of 9. Interior, detail of stained glass window above and behind altar, view north.
- 9 of 9. 1930 photograph, photographer unknown, front facade and partial west elevation, view east-northeast.

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

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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Google Earth, aerial view of property. Photo date: May 8, 2014.



TRUCK ROUTE

TO
2
→

6th ST &
6th AVE















1881

1881

1881

1881

1881

1881



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Ramsey

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/05/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/20/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/24/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000106

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See SLR for collection to Resource Count of POS.

RECOM./CRITERIA C
REVIEWER *[Signature]* DISCIPLINE *Historic*
TELEPHONE _____ DATE *3/23/15*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Lorna Meidinger

Architectural Historian

National Register Coordinator

State Historical Society of North Dakota

612 E Boulevard Ave

Bismarck ND 58505-0830

phone: 701-328-2089

fax: 701-328-3710

From: Reed, Roger [mailto:roger_reed@nps.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 1:21 PM
To: Meidinger, Lorna B.
Subject: St. Olaf Lutheran Church

[Quoted text hidden]

Reed, Roger <roger_reed@nps.gov>
To: "Meidinger, Lorna B." <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>

Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 3:48 PM

Thanks, I will do an SLR, if you like.

Roger G. Reed, Historian
National Register and National Historic Landmarks
1201 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
202-354-2278

[Quoted text hidden]

Meidinger, Lorna B. <lbmeidinger@nd.gov>
To: "Reed, Roger" <roger_reed@nps.gov>

Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 3:49 PM

I think that would work well, thanks.

