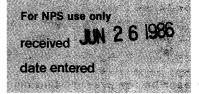
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name

Lars Rudi House historic

Lars Rudi Cabin and/or common

Location

County Highway 15 street & number

N/A not for publication

Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Township X vicinity of

Status

22 129 Minnesota Renville state code county code

Classification

Category _ district X_ building(s)

city, town

_ structure _ site

_ object

in process N/Abeing considered

Public Acquisition

no

X unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted

occupied

X yes: unrestricted

commercial educational entertainment government industrial military

Present Use

agriculture

X__ museum park private residence

- religious scientific
- transportation other:

4. **Owner of Property**

Ownership

X_private

both

public

Burt and Johannes Enestvedt name

Rural Route street & number

city, town

Sacred Heart

N/A_ vicinity of

state Minnesota 56285

Location of Legal Description 5.

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Renville County Courthouse

street & number DePue Avenue

city,	town

Olivia

state Minnesota 56277

Representation in Existing Surveys 6.

title	Minnesota Statewic Sites Survey	de Historic	has this pro	perty been dete	rmined eligible	e?ye	es <u>X</u> no
date	1984-85			federal	state	county	local
depo	sitory for survey records	State Historic	Preservation	Office, For	t Snelling	History	Center

St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition excellentdeteriorated Xgood O/Lruins	Check one unaltered X_ altered	Check one X original site moved date	N/A	
fair unexposed				and the second

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lars Rudi House, built in 1868, is located on the east side of County Road 15 in Section 22 of Sacred Heart Township, about 1/4 mile from the Minnesota River. The cabin is situated adjacent to the paved county road in a hilly, wooded area, directly across the road from the Enestvedt farmstead. A stable which once stood on the site has been demolished, and the cabin is now open to the public free of charge.

The 15' x 18' cabin was constructed of round oak logs joined at the corners with dovetail joints. The building is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall, with one room on each floor. The building has a wooden single leaf door on the north facade, a small 4/4 rectangular second story window and a small door opening on the east facade, a rectangular 2/2 window on the south facade, and paired 6/6 windows and a second story 4/4 window on the west facade. Inside, the cabin has exposed log walls, logs supporting a planked second story floor, a ladder to the upstairs, and the remnant of a common brick interior endwall chimney. About four feet east of the cabin are the remains of a stone, brick, and sod cellar which was built into the hillside.

The Rudi House is basically intact, although it has sustained some alteration through the years. A frame lean-to constructed by the Rudis on the north facade has been removed. The interior and exterior walls have been painted white, windows may have been replaced, a new roof has been constructed, a concrete floor poured on the first story, and concrete has been applied to the exterior to reinforce the northeast and southeast corners. The cabin has been furnished with antiques and photographs, and a sign reading "Rudi Memorial, 1868 -1948" has been attached to the west exterior wall. The cabin is in good condition and is being carefully maintained by the Enestvedt family.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	 community planning conservation economics education engineering x exploration/settlement 	 landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government 	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1868	Builder/Architect La	rs Rudi	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lars Rudi House, built in 1868 in Sacred Heart Township, is historically and architecturally significant as one of Renville County's best known and most intact early log houses, as the structure which best represents the county's earliest period of post-Dakota War settlement, and as a site which served as the home of a prominent early pioneer and was a well known gathering place for settlers in the area.

Renville County, located along the north side of the Minnesota River in southwestern Minnesota, was first visited by whites in the mid-1840's through circa 1860. By 1862 the southern portions of the county were sparsely populated by subsistence farmers living on the wooded river banks and near streams and lakes. The Dakota War (or "Sioux Uprising") of 1862, a series of skirmishes between local Dakota Indians and white settlers and soldiers which began in August of that year and affected 23 counties in southwestern Minnesota, effectively depopulated the county as settlers fled eastward to escape the conflict. Renville and nearby Brown counties sustained the heaviest casualties during the war. Incidents occurred as late as the spring of 1865, delaying resettlement of the county for about 2½ years. Although some settlers eventually returned to their farms, many abandoned their claims and left the area permanently. In 1865 and 1866, while nearby Fort Ridgely was still manned with soldiers offering protection to whites, settlers began to slowly reclaim the area.

Among the first to settle along the Minnesota in southwestern Renville County after the war was a group of about 50 pioneers from Numedal, Norway, who established farms in Sacred Heart and surrounding townships between 1866 and 1868. One of the most well known of these settlers was Lars Larson Rudi, who was born in Opdal, Numedal in 1827, immigrated to the U.S. in 1866, and came to Sacred Heart Township in 1867. He established a claim on the north bank of the river in Section 22 of Sacred Heart Township and constructed this log cabin in 1868. Rudi, a lay Haugean Lutheran preacher, quickly became a leader active in community religious, educational, and social affairs. He led Lutheran services in the area between 1867 and 1868 and was instrumental in establishing Our Savior's congregation, whose first service by an ordained minister was held in September of 1868 in a nearby cabin. Beginning in 1868 he taught the area's first parochial school in his home. Rudi's cabin was a regular stopping place for missionary pastors who travelled through the region and for new settlers who stayed with Rudi and his wife until they could establish their own farms nearby.

Rudi's cabin, located on an 80 acre claim which he eventually expanded to 160 acres, was occupied by Rudi, his wife Vighild Sunde whom he married in Norway in 1866, and his sister-in-law Ingebord Sunde. The Rudis had no children. The 15' x 18', two story cabin was built of oak logs, with a frame lean-to eventually constructed on the north side and a sod and stone cellar on the east side. Near the cabin was a stable, the only farm outbuilding known to have been constructed on the site. In 1891 Rudi sold his 160 acre claim to a friend and neighbor, Halvor Helgeson, but continued to live in the cabin and to use the stable, hay, and pasture for his horses and cows. In 1912 Helgeson sold the land to another neighbor, Ole Enestvedt. Rudi lived in the cabin until his death in 1913, when his wife and sister-in-law moved elsewhere. The cabin was occupied by Peter Olson in

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Major Bibliographical References 9.

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. The History of Renville County, Minnesota. 2 vols. Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr. and Co., 1916.

Smith, Mary Lou. Unpublished research on Lars Rudi Cabin. Renville County Geneological Society, Box 278, Renville, MN 56284.

Geographical Data 10.

2¹₂ acres Acreage of nominated property _ Quadrangle name Iverson Lake

UTM References

Δ.

Zone	3 1 8 2 0 0	4 9 4 8 8 4 0 Northing
c		
E		
G		

Zone Easting Northing

Quadrangle scale

1:24000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that which is located in the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northwest 1/4, of the northeast 1/4, of the northwest 1/4 of Section Twenty-two, Township 114 North, Range 37 West, Renville County, Minnesota

D

List all	states ar	nd counties for	properties	overla	pping state	or county	y boundai	ies		
state	N/A	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	code	N/A	county	N/A		•	code	N/A
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11.	For	n Prepa	red B	y						
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street & r	number	Fort Snelli	ng Histor	y Cent	ter	telepho	one (61	2) 726 -	1171	- -
city or to	wn	St. Paul			an a	state	Minneso	ta 5511	1	•
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State His	toric Pres	ervation Officer s	ignature	tus	sell ,	4. t	rille	4		¢
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Keeper of the National Register

date

Chief of Registration

Attest:

NYErster

United States Department of the Interior For NIPS use only National Park Service For NIPS use only National Register of Historic Places received Inventory—Nomination Form date entered

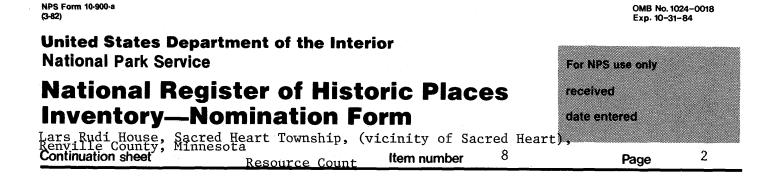
Sacred Heart Township (vic. of Sacred Heart, MN), Renville County Continuation sheet Lars Rudi Cabin Item number 8 Page 1

Item #8 (Significance) continued:

1913-14, and has been vacant since that year.

Ole Enestvedt, a fellow Norwegian pioneer and friend of the Rudis, removed the leanto from the north side, dismantled the sod roofed cellar, and razed the stable. He began to restore the cabin circa 1922. Since that time, the Enestvedt family, who still own the site and live directly across the road, have furnished the cabin with antiques and maintained it as a modest museum and memorial to early pioneers in the area. The site is open to the public. The cabin is now in good condition and has recently received a new roof and new chinking.

The Rudi House is locally significant as one of few early log houses still standing from Renville County's post-Uprising period of settlement. It is the county's best known and most intact early log dwelling and thus is the structure which best represents this early period of settlement. The Rudi Cabin was included in an eight month historic sites survey of Renville County conducted in 1984-85 by the State Historic Preservation Office. The survey staff determined that the cabin is the most intact of about eight log cabins known to be standing in the county, most of which are either in deteriorating condition or have been moved from their original sites. Furthermore, the site is important as a rare southwestern Minnesota example of pre-railroad era, river-related settlement. The site is a primary element illustrating this phase of the region's development, as discussed in the State Historic Preservation Office's "Early Agriculture and River Settlement" unit of the Resource Protection Planning Process (RP3) document, a study recently developed by the Minnesota Historical Society and the National Park Service to provide historic contexts in which to evaluate the significance of the state's historic sites.



The Lars Rudi House Nomination contains 1 contributing Building.