

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 26 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lars Rudi House

and/or common Lars Rudi Cabin

2. Location

street & number County Highway 15 N/A not for publication

city, town Sacred Heart Township X vicinity of Sacred Heart

state Minnesota code 22 county Renville code 129

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Burt and Johannes Enestvedt

street & number Rural Route

city, town Sacred Heart N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56285

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Renville County Courthouse

street & number DePue Avenue

city, town Olivia state Minnesota 56277

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1984-85 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

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 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 south-east 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	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 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868 **Builder/Architect** Lars 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 out-building 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

- 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.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Iverson Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	1	8	2	0	0	4	9	4	8	8	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that which is located in the northwest 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

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Granger/Contract Historian

State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date May 1985

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/20/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/24/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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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 lean-to 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.

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Lars Rudi House, Sacred Heart Township, (vicinity of Sacred Heart),
Renville County, Minnesota

Continuation sheet

Resource Count

Item number

8

Page

2

The Lars Rudi House Nomination contains 1 contributing Building.