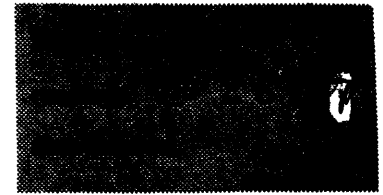


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Immanuel Lutheran Church Item number PE-5 Page 1

SITE PE-5

NAME Immanuel Lutheran Church

LOCATION Zeona vicinity  
Perkins County (105), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Zeona, South Dakota 57795

CLASSIFICATION Buildings, private, NA acquisition,  
occupied, restricted access, religious

DESCRIPTION Excellent condition, altered (very  
slightly), original site

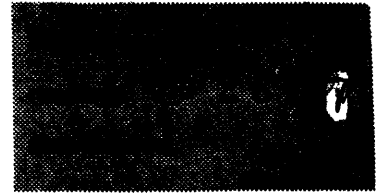
The Immanuel Lutheran Church is located in Zeona on a Perkins County gravel road fifteen miles north of Mud Butte and U.S. Highway 212. Presently in excellent condition, the church is still used on a regular basis. Its present appearance, which dates to 1923, displays the influence of Gothic Revival styling.

The front facade faces east toward the road. A square bell tower with battlements mark the main facade. Below the apex of the gable is a lancet window with a white wooden cross which replaces the traditional tracery found in the windows below, on either side of the double doors. The present set of doors replaced the original set which had three verticle windows in each door, and is the only known exterior modification.

The church is a large rectangle with a rectangular projection on the rear (west) facade. An entry to this section is located on the south facade in a small gable-roofed projection. The church has four windows in the nave, and one in the narthex on both side walls. All of the windows are double-hung with tracery in the pointed transoms. They have their original window screens.

The exterior of the church is painted white. The roofs of all sections are covered with predominantly green, mulit-colored composition shingles. The foundation is concrete block that is covered with cement and there is a full basement.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Immanuel Lutheran Church Item number PE-5 Page 2

The interior of the church remains as it was built, with the exception of the pews and ceiling fans. The original woodwork including the wainscoting, window and door surrounds remain intact. The hardwood floor has been carpeted.

Southwest of the church is a shed-roofed wood-frame outhouse (contributing). It is shiplap and is painted white. The roof is covered with composition shingles.

The cemetery is divided by the church with twenty-seven marked graves located on the south side and twenty-two marked graves on the north side. Most of the stones date to the 1910s and are red or gray granite, although there are a few homemade cement markers.

**SIGNIFICANCE** 1900-present, architecture, religion, settlement

**DATE:** 1923

**BUILDER:** Not Available

The Immanuel Lutheran Church has been an important cultural and religious landmark for the Zeona community since its completion in 1923. The church has a history that started in the spring of 1913 ten years before the present church was constructed. Formed by a group of local Norweigan homesteaders the church had its first meeting in the home of Mrs. L.M. Larson in Zeona with services conducted by the Reverend T.C. Tollefson. The Reverend Tollefson rode the thirty-five miles from his home in the Slim Buttes to conduct the service. After the initial service, a business meeting was held and a Congregational Ladies Aid was formed.

The congregation was named Immanuel meaning "God With Us". The services were held throughout the Zeona community over the years being conducted in Norweigan at the beginning and English later as everyone learned the new language. The Ladies Aid raised funds for the church and missionary work with oyster and lutefisk suppers, and sales of various sorts.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church is significant to the Zeona community and Perkins County because it represents a form of vernacular architecture associated with the early Norwegian settlement of this part of the state. The number of Scand-

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number PE-5

Page 3

avians who emigrated to western South Dakota is large and the number of Norwegian emigrants was substantially larger than the other ethnic groups. Significantly, few Norwegian sites remain relatively intact in the region, thus enhancing the importance of the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The site is in excellent condition and has been meticulously maintained by the congregation since the church was constructed. The burial ground contains the remains of the region's earliest homesteaders.

QUADRANGLE NAME Zeona, SD UTM 13/663570/5006370

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE About two acres

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the property are considered to be a set of imaginary lines that lie 45 feet from the north, west and south exterior walls of the structure and twenty feet from the front (east) exterior wall of the structure. The site is located in the SW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 8, Township 14 North, Range 10 East in Perkins County, South Dakota.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Immauel Lutheran Church Item number PE-5 Page 4

