

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran		COUNTY: Lyon
CURRENT NAME: Church & Parsonage		CITY/TWP.: Minneota
LEGAL DESC.: Commencing on the south line of Section twenty five (25) in Township one hundred and thirteen (113) North Range fourty three (43) West of the Fifth Principal (Cont. on next page)		ADDRESS: church: 412 East Lyon Street parsonage: 414 East Lyon Street Minneota, MN
CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:
Buildings <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local _____
Structure _____	Good _____	State <u>X</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____	
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes <u>X</u> No _____	Restricted <u>X</u>	PRESENT USE:
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes <u>X</u> No _____		church & parsonage
OCCUPIED: Yes <u>X</u> No _____		
DATE CONSTRUCTED: parsonage-1891 church-1895	ORIGINAL USE: same as above	
ORIGINAL OWNER: St. Paul's Evangelical Luth. Church	ARCHITECT/BUILDER: B. R. Johnson	
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: St. Paul's Evan. Lutheran Church 412 East Lyon St. Minneota, MN attn: John E. Josephson	ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u>	UTM REFERENCE:
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: The Society for the Preservation of Minneota's Heritage, (Cont. on next page)		Minneota Quad. 15/263155/4938005
FORM PREPARED BY: Susan Roth		
DATE: December 1980		

DESCRIPTION:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parsonage is located on a large lot set back from Lyon Street in Minneota. The church, built in 1895, is of frame construction on a limestone foundation. The general plan of the church is in the form of a cross. The Gothic, arched entry is in the base of the three story square tower which features a belfry with arched louvered openings, octagonal spire, and round window. The nave, a two story frame section, features a wood-shingled gable roof which runs the width of the structure and tall, regularly-spaced Gothic lancet windows. The chancel, at the rear, is also two stories in height with an intersecting gable roof. Interior features include an altar with pointed Gothic arches, quatrefoils and fleur-de-lis finials; a wooden, semi-circular communion rail, and a ceiling of beaded wood paneling painted blue. In 1969 a one-story frame addition was placed on the northeast corner of the nave. The parsonage, built in 1891, is located adjacent to the church. It is a two-story frame building built on an L-plan and sheathed in clapboard with end boards. The intersecting gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

SIGNIFICANCE:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parsonage is significant for its association with the Icelandic Population that settled regions of northwest Lyon, northeast Lincoln and southern Yellow Medicine Counties to form the second largest Icelandic colony in the United States. Icelandic immigration to rural Minnesota began in 1875 and by 1900 about 1,000 Icelanders lived in the tri-county region. To preserve their language, customs and religion, the immigrants built four churches in the area (Marble Twp, Lincoln County; Westerheim Twp, Marshall and Minneota in Lyon County). The pastor, hired to minister to all four churches lived in centrally located Minneota in the parsonage built in 1891. Four years later, at a cost of about \$1,550, the Minneota congregation, with donated materials and labor, constructed St. Paul's Church. Today, St. Paul's remains as the only active congregation and its building is the earliest of the remaining church structures. (In 1966 the Marble Township church, the only other remaining church, merged with St. Paul's congregation. Its latest building, constructed in 1925, is no longer used on a regular basis.) St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has become the focal point of the Icelandic community in rural southwest Minnesota. It represents a continuum of Icelandic settlement begun in 1875 and stands as a reminder of the contribution made by members of the community in the educational, commercial, and political development of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

"History of Struggles of Icelandic Lutherans," Minneota Mascot, 6 July 1956.

Rose, Arthur P. An Illustrated History of Lyon County, Minnesota. Marshall: Northern History Publishing Company, 1912.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Eightieth Anniversary 1887-1967. Minneota: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (?), 1967.

Vandersluis, Dr. Charles. Ninety Years at St. Paul's. Marshall: Ousman Printing, Inc., 1977.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION - Cont.

Meridian at a point one hundred and forty feet west of the south east corner of the south west quarter of said Section twenty five (25) running thence north at right angles to said south Section line two hundred and seventy (270) feet thence west and parallel with said south Section line one hundred and sixty (160) feet thence south and at right angles two hundred and seventy feet to the said south line of said Section and thence east on the said south section line one hundred and sixty (160) feet to the point of beginning. Also following described parcel of land to-wit, commencing two (2) rods west of the north east corner of the south east quarter of the south east quarter of Section thirty five (35) in Township and Range aforesaid running north sixteen rods: thence west ten (10) rods: thence south sixteen (16) rods: thence east ten (10) rods to the place of beginning and containing one acre of land and situated in Section thirty five (35) in Township one hundred and thirteen (113) North of Range forty three (43) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian. County and State aforesaid.

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG. - Cont.

Minneota, MN, attn: Joan Tomasek, Sec. and Lyon County Historical Society, Courthouse, Marshall, MN 56258

