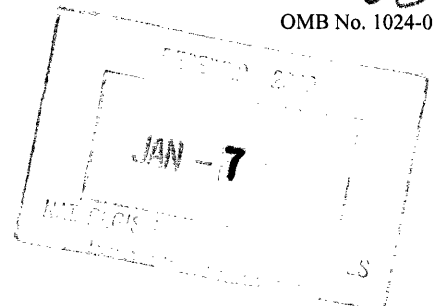


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nordre Trefoldegheds Menigheds
other names/site number North Trinity Church (preferred), The Swede Church, North Trinity Lutheran Church 32WA113

2. Location

street & number 6 mi W and 3/8 mi S of Jct US 81 & CR9 not for publication
city or town Nash vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Walsh code 099 zip code 58237

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title 1-02-04
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/20/04

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in use

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Clapboard

roof WOOD: Shingle

other BRICK, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- Documentation on file (NPS) checkboxes and descriptions.

- Primary location of additional data checkboxes and descriptions.

Name of repository:

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1893 - 1952

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Knut Staven, Carpenter

North Trinity Church
Name of Property

Walsh, ND
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	606610	5368840	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Blain Fandrich, historian / assistance from State Historical Society of ND staff

organization Ethnoscience date December 11, 2003

street & number P. O. Box 30577 telephone (406)252-9163

city or town Billings state MT zip code 59107-0577

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kenneth Johnson

street & number 14349 County Rd. #9 telephone 701-352-0551

city or town Grafton state ND zip code 58237

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Description

North Trinity Lutheran Church is a Gothic Revival style building constructed with a central steeple in 1893. The building utilizes a linear ground plan consisting of, in sequence, a steeple entryway facing east, a front-gabled building section, and a dropped, front-gabled wing. The building is oriented east-west, with the steeple section located at the east end, the building section located in the center, and the wing section located at the west end. The church retains excellent physical integrity, though the interior has been moderately altered since its original construction (i.e., wired for electric lights, tiles over the original wood floor). The church rests on a two-foot high concrete foundation with no basement. The building is a wood frame clad in four-inch clapboard siding with four-inch corner boards attached with wire nails. The walls are one-half foot thick. Fenestration is a symmetrical placement of wooden, 5:4, double-hung Gothic arch windows with clear glass panes and wood sills. The church is painted white.

The defining central steeple of this Gothic Revival building functions as the main entrance and bell tower. The tower footprint measures 12 foot square. The steeple consists of a two-story square tower surmounted by a square lantern (belfry) topped with a six-sided spire which terminates in a wooden cross. The lower story of the tower has paired four-panel wooden doors in the east wall topped with a 3-light Gothic arch transom. The first story interior of the steeple contains the vestibule. The upper story of the tower is pierced by a window in the east wall directly above the doorway. The tower and lantern are separated by a pent eave with soffits and dentils. The single-story lantern is clad with fish-scale pattern wooden shingles. The north, east and south sides of the lantern each have an eight-slat Gothic arch louvered opening. The bell within the lantern can be rung by means of a hammer or a clapper. The lantern has a cross-gabled, wood shingle-clad roof with closed eaves and bed molding topped by a spire. The spire has six sides and is clad with square wooden shingles set in a coursed pattern and accented with a band of diamond pattern wooden shingles. The spire terminates with a wooden cross.

The vestibule interior has a tongue-and-groove wood floor, currently covered by acrylic floor tiles installed in 1951. The walls and ceiling are covered with horizontal bead board, except for the belfry access hatch on the north side which is made of 2" x 4" planks. Two wooden pews are located in the vestibule, one each along the north and south walls. Two bell ropes hang down from the ceiling, one which operated the hammer and the other which tilts the bell and clapper. There is also a guest registry stand that was placed in the vestibule circa 1985. Paired four-panel wooden doors separate the entry from the nave.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Description (continued)

The front-gabled building section behind the steeple measures 28 feet north-south by 36 feet east-west and contains the nave and part of the sanctuary. The building has eight windows located as follows: one on each side of the steeple on the east wall and three each in the north and south walls. The roof is a steeply pitched front-gable sheathed with wooden shingles set in a coursed pattern.

The east end of the building contains the nave, which contains 18 wooden pews, 9 on each side of the center aisle. The walls have 3 feet of dark brown vertical wainscoting with tan fiberboard paneling above. The vaulted ceiling is covered with white fiberboard tile. The shape of the ceiling is a sloped apex, except above the altar, where it is a rounded vault. Electric lights, with Art Deco light fixtures, replaced the original gas lights circa 1939, when the REA power lines reached the church.¹ The building has a wood tongue-and-groove floor, currently covered by acrylic tile installed in 1951. The original wooden pulpit sits atop a foot-high dais located in the northwest corner of the nave. A sanctuary platform is located in the center of the west end and extends 7 feet into the building from the wing. The original altar and altar-railing set atop a 1 foot high sanctuary platform. A pump organ was once located in the southwest corner of the nave, across from the pulpit. The organ was removed from the church for safe keeping in 1953 and replaced with a piano.² The pulpit, altar-railing, altar, and organ all date to the original construction of the church in 1893. The organ, pulpit and altar-railing were purchased for the church and the altar was handmade by a local craftsman. Unfortunately, the identity of the craftsman who made the altar and whether or not he was a member of the congregation are unknown.³ The sanctuary platform originally stood completely inside the west wing. The platform and rear sanctuary wall were moved approximately 7 feet forward (east) in the early 1920s.

¹ The globes are made of milk glass and are hexagonal in shape. Two of the lights are located within the nave and have three tiers with geometric and religious imagery on each side of their upper tier. One of the lights is located in the steeple and has a single tier, a clear glass basin-shaped base and geometric designs on each side of the milk glass section.

² The congregation still has the original organ, which is returned to the church for the annual summer service. Kenneth Johnson, personal communication 1998.

³ Lloyd Johnson, personal communication 1998.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Description (continued)

The wing section is located on the west end of the building. The wing measures 16 feet north-south x 20 feet east-west and contains part of the sanctuary and the kitchen. The wing has four exterior windows. Two are the Gothic arch windows, one each on the north and south sides of the wing closest to the main building. Two 4:4 double-hung "cottage" windows balance these out, one each located at the western ends of the north and south sides of the wing. A single 4-panel wooden door is located near the south end of the west wall. The roof is a dropped, steeply pitched, front-gable clad with wooden shingles set in a coursed pattern.

As already noted, the west wing interior once contained all of the sanctuary and a small kitchen/vestry area. The Gothic arch windows now located in the kitchen portion of the west wing originally opened onto the sanctuary. During the 1920s, the sanctuary wall was moved approximately 7 feet east and the kitchen/vestry area expanded to currently include all but 4 feet of the west wing area. This alteration reflected the increasing use of the church as a social gathering place. No longer used as a vestry, the kitchen area has built-in pantries, a counter along the east wall, and a Monarch-brand wood-burning cook stove along the west wall. The stove was installed at the time of the alteration to facilitate the use of the area as a kitchen. A "Superframe" oil-burning heat stove, probably installed in the 1930s or 1940s, is also located along the west wall. Tables currently occupy the center and north side of the room. The floor of the kitchen, like the rest of the church, is constructed of wood tongue-and-groove planks now covered by acrylic tiles installed in 1951. The walls and ceiling are covered in sheetrock. Access to the kitchen is through a four-panel wood door in the east wall entering into the sanctuary/nave and a 4-panel wood door in the west wall that exits onto a small concrete stoop.

Other exterior features of the building include two brick chimneys and two concrete stoops. The first chimney is constructed of red bricks set in a running bond and located on the west interior end of the wing. This chimney provides ventilation for the wood stove in the kitchen. The second chimney is located on the exterior at the south-side junction of the building and wing. The exterior chimney measures 2 feet square and is constructed of red brick set in a running bond. This chimney once provided ventilation for two coal burning pot-belly heat stoves in the nave. These heat stoves were removed circa 1954, and the chimney is no longer in use. The first concrete stoop is located on the east side of the steeple and provides access to the main entrance. The stoop measures 8 feet north-south with a 3.5-foot landing and three 1-foot steps for a total measurement of 6.5 feet east-west. The stoop is flanked by two metal pipe railings, one on the

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Description (continued)

north side and the other on the south side of the steps. The second concrete stoop is located on the west side of the wing and provides access to the rear entrance. The stoop measures 3 feet north-south with a 3-foot landing and three 1-foot steps for a total measurement of 6 feet east-west.

The church grounds are flanked by trees on the north, west and south sides. The church grounds are also flanked by the Middle Branch of the Park River on the west side and a gravel road on the east side. A cemetery is located on the east (front) side of the church, between the church and the gravel road. The cemetery is bisected by a 12 foot wide grass pathway which extends from the gravel road to the church front entry. This path divides the cemetery into two sections, one on the north side and one on the south side of the pathway. This division of the cemetery is purely aesthetic, and does not represent a class or social division among the congregation or the burial plots.⁴ The cemetery gravemarkers include bevel markers, flush markers, tablet markers and obelisk markers. Granite is the primary gravemarker material throughout the cemetery. The church and cemetery grounds are circumscribed by a fence made of metal posts with a chain strung between them. The current fence was installed in 1940, replacing an earlier barbed-wire fence. The fenceposts were initially strung with wire mesh to keep cattle out of the cemetery, but the mesh was replaced by chain in 1980.

A 5-foot square wood-frame outhouse is located on the southwest corner of the grounds. The outhouse has four-inch clapboard siding, four-inch corner boards and a vertical tongue-and-groove wood door at the west end of the north wall. Vent openings are located in the north and east walls. The outhouse is covered by a shed roof made of common rafters and covered with wood shingles set in a coursed pattern. Its roof has open eaves with fascia-board trim. Wire nails were used in the construction of the outhouse. The outhouse is painted white and has no foundation. This outhouse was placed on the church grounds in the late 1930s, replacing an earlier outhouse. The current outhouse has been moved several times since it was placed on the church grounds. The outhouse is a contributing building because it is directly associated with the functioning of the church as a religious and social gathering place for the Swedish immigrant community of the area.

⁴ Dwain Johnson, personal communication 1998.

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance

North Trinity Lutheran Church is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It also meets criteria consideration A, being both historically and architecturally significant beyond its religious function. It is eligible in a statewide context under Criterion A because of its association with the settlement of Swedish immigrants in the State. Historian Playford V. Thorson states that churches, more than anything else, "identified settlements of Swedish background in North Dakota."⁵ This is an important distinction within North Dakota because little historic physical evidence of the Swedish immigrant population currently remains throughout the state. North Trinity Lutheran Church is the last standing building directly associated with the early Swedish settlers of Glenwood Township, Walsh County, North Dakota. The church is eligible under Criterion C, in a local context, because it is a fine example of a late 1800s center-steeple Gothic Revival church of Swedish origin in Walsh County, North Dakota. The period of significance associated with the North Trinity Lutheran Church dates from the construction of the building in 1893 until the closing of the church in 1952.

Historical Overview

Swedish immigrants began arriving in North Dakota in the 1870s and 1880s, during what has been described as the "Great Dakota Boom," a reference to the first great influx of immigrant homesteaders into North Dakota in the late 1800s.⁶ The reasons that motivated many of these settlers to leave Sweden in the late 1800s included economic hardship, lack of opportunity, overpopulation, political discontent and avoidance of military service.⁷ Swedish immigration into North Dakota was also spurred by railroad-sponsored and state-sponsored emigration agents in Sweden, who emphasized free land and economic opportunity. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads, for example, not only publicized settlement in North Dakota, where these companies owned substantial land holdings they wanted to sell, but also arranged

⁵ Playford V. Thorson, "Scandinavians," in *Plains Folk: North Dakota's Ethnic History* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1988) 214, 217.

⁶ Elwyn B. Robinson, *History of North Dakota* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1966) 133-135.

⁷ Thorson, 215. Over 475,000 Swedish immigrants entered the United States during the late 1800s.

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

transportation from Sweden directly to North Dakota. This sort of sponsorship was described by one Swedish immigrant who, before emigrating to North Dakota wrote, "an agent of the Northern Pacific Railway of America . . . had newspaper stories and pictures telling about mile after mile of prairie land-virgin and fertile No trees to cut and clear. No rocks to move The agent can arrange the entire passage [from Sweden to North Dakota] for us – all we have to do is say we will go."⁸ In some instances group emigrations were organized. Upon arrival in North Dakota, a substantial number of these immigrants settled in Glenwood and Fertile Townships in northeastern Walsh County and in Adams, Silvesta and Dewey Townships in northwestern Walsh County. The total number of Swedish immigrants, however, remained a relatively small percentage of the population. In Walsh County the Swedish immigrant population only totaled about 3.4 percent of the population in the early 1900s, as compared with 4.5 percent of the total state population.⁹ The Swedish settlers also tended to scatter throughout rural areas rather than concentrate in communities. This result of this scattered settlement of the Swedish immigrant population often resulted in a lack of strong ethnically-identified communities.

One explanation for the lack of a strong Swedish ethnic identity in North Dakota was offered by Helge Nelson, a professor from the University of Lund, Sweden, who did research in North Dakota in the 1920s and early 1930s. He hypothesized that "In view of this even distribution of the Swedish stock . . . it is not to be expected that any really great colonies will arise. The Swedes also easily assimilate with their surroundings, the more so since the most important foreign population, the Norwegians, are akin to the Swedes."¹⁰ Thus, the Swedish ethnic influence throughout much of North Dakota was often absorbed and lost within the dominant Norwegian ethnic identity. There are however, some exceptions where the Swedish settlers made notable efforts at retaining their ethnic identity, with various results. North Trinity Lutheran Church is one of those notable efforts.

⁸ Quoted in Thorson, 215-216.

⁹ William C. Sherman, *Prairie Mosaic: An Ethnic Atlas of Rural North Dakota* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1983), pp. 96-97, 115; Thorson, pp. 214, 427-431.

¹⁰ Helge Nelson, *The Swedes and the Swedish Settlements in North America*, 1 vols. (Lund, Sweden: C.W.K. Gleerup, 1943), quoted in Thoraon, p.214.

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

One reason that may explain the relatively strong Swedish ethnic identity in Glenwood Township is that many of the early Swedish settlers were first generation, as opposed to other parts of North Dakota where many of the Swedish settlers were second generation."¹¹ The sense of community among these first generation Swedes was probably further strengthened by the fact that several of them came from province of Dalsland, Sweden.¹²

The arrival of Swedish settlers in Glenwood Township in the late 1870s was soon marked by the establishment, in 1879, of the new post office and townsite of Sweden, North Dakota. The townsite, located in Section 36, T158N, R54W, also had a store and a cabin.¹³ John M. Almen, the settler who opened the post office and named the townsite, has been described by one historian as "a homesick Swede."¹⁴ Whether or not Mr. Almen was homesick for Sweden remains unknown, but there is no question that he exemplified the strong sense of Swedish ethnic identity and community among the settlers in Glenwood Township. In addition to founding the townsite of Sweden, Mr. Almen also helped establish the home-church movement, which eventually developed into the North Trinity Lutheran Church.¹⁵

¹¹ Thorson, p. 219.

¹² Gunder V. Berg, ed., *Walsh Heritage: A Story of Walsh County and its Pioneers* (Grafton, N. Dak.: Walsh County Historical Society, 1976), vol. 1, pp. 354-355.

¹³ Douglas A. Wick, *North Dakota Place Names* (Bismarck, N. Dak.: Hedemarken Collectibles, 1988), p.190; Berg, p. 340. The townsite of Sweden was abandoned in 1882, when the Great Northern railroad constructed a line approximately one mile east, at the present town of Nash, North Dakota. A stone marker, erected by the North Dakota State Historical Society, was erected at the townsite of Sweden in 1964. North Trinity Lutheran Church, located approximately 3/4 mile southwest of the Sweden townsite, is visible from the marker.

¹⁴ Sherman, p. 115.

¹⁵ The home-church movement consisted of people opened their homes for church services prior to the construction of a church. These services literally turned homes into temporary churches.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

The congregation that eventually became part of the North Trinity Lutheran Church was founded in 1879, under the leadership of John Almen and his brother Carl Almen.¹⁶ The congregation, then known as the Trinity Church, soon attracted other settlers in the area and grew rapidly until, in 1885, it split into two congregations for geographic reasons. Many people found it difficult to travel great distances to church, particularly in winter. It was therefore decided that members living south of the Middle Branch of the Park River became part of South Trinity Church (*Sondre Trefoldegheds Menigheds*) and members living north of the river became part of North Trinity Church (*Nordre Trefoldegheds Menigheds*). The first business meeting of the newly-formed North Trinity Lutheran Church was held in June 1885, though the congregation did not officially divide until late December 1885. The following year, the North Trinity congregation began raising funds for construction of a church. By November 1892, the congregation had a building fund of \$620, and the decision was made to begin building a church the following spring.

The site selected for the church was located in the NE-SE-NE of Section 35, T158N R54W, Walsh County, North Dakota, along the banks of the middle branch of the Park River. The land was donated to the Trustees of Nordre Trefoldegheds Evangelical Lutheran church by John Almen.¹⁷ The designer of the church is unknown, though records indicate that the church may have been designed by congregation members.¹⁸ It is known, however, that the church was constructed by congregation members in 1893 under the direction of a Swedish carpenter, Knut

¹⁶ Anniversary Booklet Committee, *100th Anniversary, 1879-1979: North Trinity Lutheran Church, Walsh County, North Dakota, July 6-8, 1979* (n.p., [1979]), p. [3]; *Seventy-fifth Anniversary, 1879-1954: North Trinity Lutheran Church, Walsh County, North Dakota, July 17, 1954* (n.p., [1954]), p. [7].

¹⁷ John Almen filed a cash patent for the land in 1882.

¹⁸ *History of the North Trinity Church, Park River Circuit North Dakota District* (n.p., n.d), p. [2]. Congregation officers decided that the building should consist of a 12' x 12' tower, a 28' x 36' nave, and a 12' x 16' addition. The actual size of the church is *I'* identical, except for the addition, which is 20' x 16'. While it is *most* likely that, because of limited funds, the congregation did design the church, there is also the possibility that they may have purchased plans and later modified them.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Staven, who was also a church member.¹⁹ The church was opened for services that same year. The services at North Trinity Lutheran Church were originally conducted in Swedish.²⁰ Though some members of the congregation were Norwegian, the two languages are mutually intelligible, so it is unlikely that the use of Swedish was a problem. The fact that Swedish, rather than Norwegian, was used during services is a further indication that the dominant ethnic influence at North Trinity Lutheran Church was Swedish, even though the dominant ethnic influence throughout the area was Norwegian. The Swedish influence was also noted among the community by the fact that North Trinity Lutheran Church soon became known as the "Swede church."²¹ Services were delivered in Swedish until the early 1920s, at which time the congregation began using English.²² The ethnic identity of the church, however, remained and the church continued hosting a variety of social events, some of which dated back to before construction of the church.

The most notable and longest lasting social tradition associated with North Trinity Lutheran Church is the annual picnic. It was held by the congregation in the area since 1886, and at the site of North Trinity Lutheran Church since 1892. The annual picnic was initially sponsored by the North Trinity Ladies Aid and included a bake sale and auction, as well as a "lemonade stand" for children. The congregation invited everyone in the area to attend the picnic, which soon became an important community social event. Its popularity was one of the reasons the church kitchen was expanded in the early 1920s. The annual picnic continued until the church was closed in 1952, a period of almost 70 years (1886-1952). The former members of the North Trinity congregation, however, did not want the church to fall into total disuse after it was

¹⁹ Dwain Johnson, personal communication 1998. Anniversary Booklet Committee. *Seventy-fifth Anniversary, 1879-1954: North Trinity Lutheran Church* (Walsh County, n.p., 17 July 1954).

²⁰ John Paulson, personal communication 1999.

²¹ Dwain Johnson and John Paulson, personal communication 1998.

²² Dwain Johnson and John Paulson, personal communication 1998. The discontinuation of Swedish services at North Trinity church in the early 1920s was not an isolated phenomena. The use of the Swedish language for church services, as well as in general conversation, declined rapidly throughout North Dakota in the early 1920s. See Thorson, p. 421.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

closed; nor did the congregation like the prospect of ending the annual picnic tradition. Thus, they decided to hold one service each year in conjunction with the annual picnic. The annual picnic is now held on Father's Day afternoon and draws people from throughout the surrounding area. While the latest generation of celebrants at the annual picnic do not speak Swedish, they still recognize North Trinity Lutheran Church as "the Swede church."

North Trinity Lutheran Church is the last standing building directly associated with the early Swedish settlers of Glenwood Township, Walsh County, North Dakota. The church, which once served as a foundation of the Swedish immigrant community, now serves as a landmark of the Swedish heritage of many area residents. The rare strength of the Swedish ethnic identity in Glenwood Township of Walsh County, North Dakota can be attributed to the concentration of first generation Swedish immigrants. As one of the last standing buildings associated with the ethnic Swedish group in Walsh County, as well as an intact example of Gothic revival architecture associated with this group, the North Trinity Lutheran Church allows a physical examination of the social center of this ethnic group.

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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North Trinity Lutheran Church
Walsh County, ND

Verbal Boundary Description

“[The] tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Walsh, and State of North Dakota, to-wit: Commencing forty five (45) rods and fifteen (15) links north and two (2) rods west of the quarter section corner between sections thirty five (35) and thirty six (36) in Town 158 N of Range 54 west, thence west twenty (20) rods thence north twenty three (23°) degrees east three (3) rods and five (5) links, thence north ten (10°) degrees east six (6) rods and thirteen (13) links; thence east fourteen (14) rods and two (2) links; thence south fourteen (14) rods to place of beginning.” County of Walsh Indenture, 19th of January, 1894.

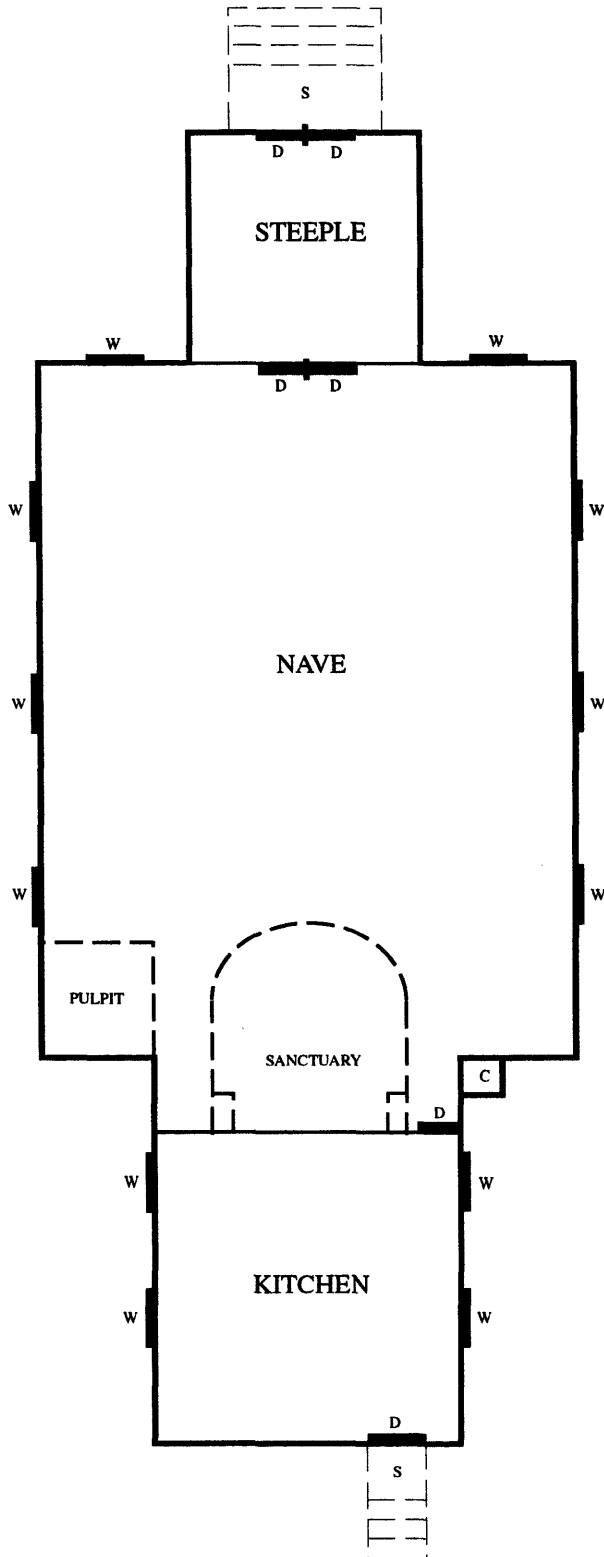
Boundary Justification

This parcel of land was deeded the Trustees of the Nordre Trefoldegheds Evangelical Lutheran Church by John and Petronella Almen on the 19th of January, 1894.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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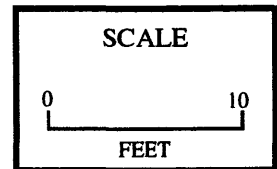
North Trinity Church
Walsh County, ND



SKETCH MAP OF
NORTH TRINITY CHURCH



KEY:
W = WINDOW
D = DOOR
C = CHIMNEY
S = STOOP





MAP OF GLENWOOD

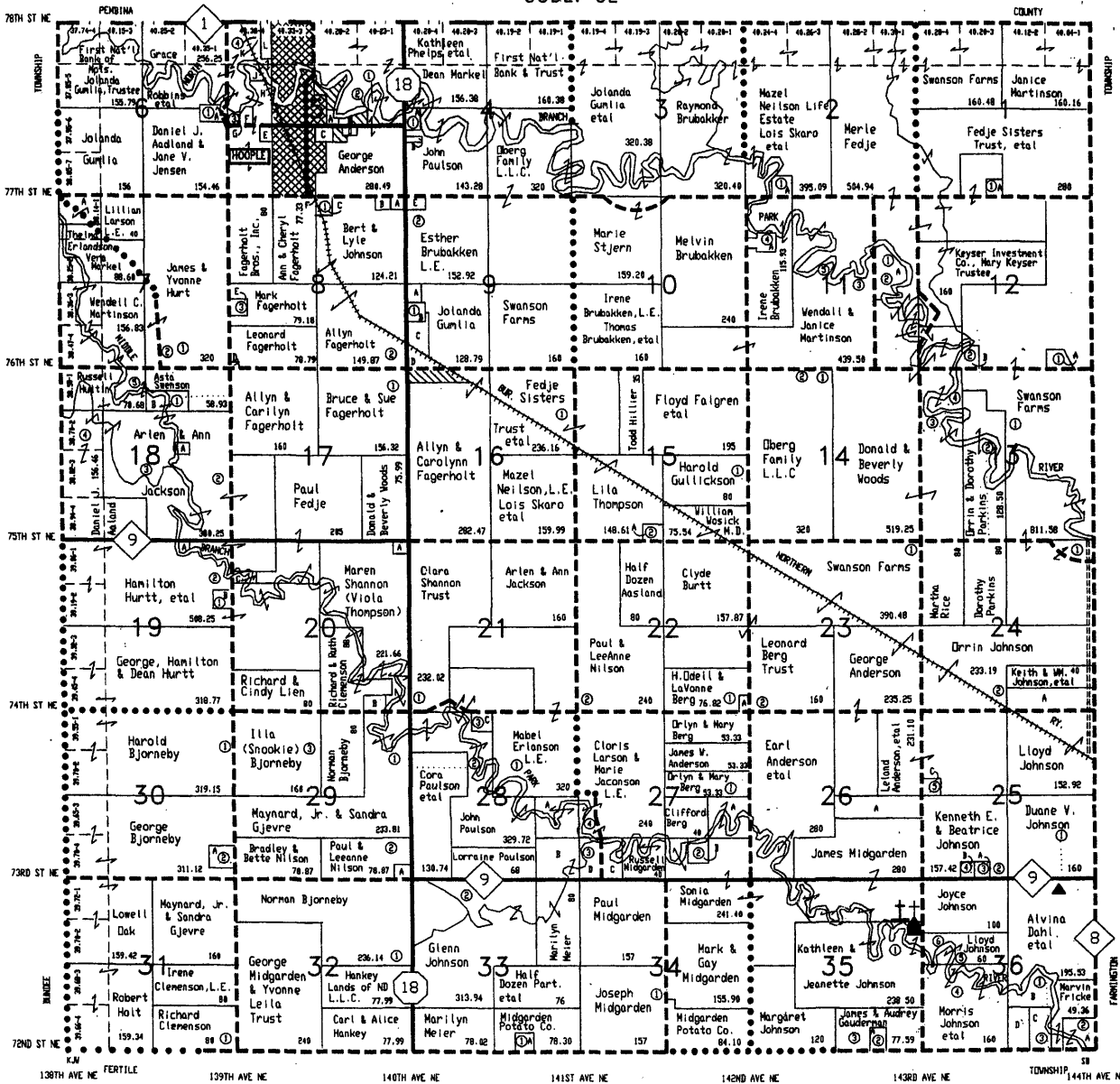


158 N

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RANGE: 54 W

CODE: GL



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