

YANKTON COUNTY SURVEY

NAME Vangen Church
LOCATION SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 30, T94N, R54W
OWNER Vangen Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church
ADDRESS Mission Hill, South Dakota 57046

DESCRIPTION The Vangen Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in 1896. Gothic in its window design, the white clapboard building has classical returning cornices on the southeast facade; the simple form has a gable roof with single stack chimney. The front facade features an agee-arch top light over double front doors, an open bell tower with turned-column balustrade crowning a projecting 2-stage steeple, and an uppermost spire covered with diamond-cut wood shingles over an intersecting -gable base. Although the weather vane rising from the spire carries the date 1869, probably only the building itself dates that early; the belfry, with its Queen Anne overtones, was probably a later addition. The 3-bay side facades each have three double hung windows with gabled hoods. The east facade also has a metal ladder extending up to the bell tower. A gable addition with double hung sash windows is present on the rear facade.

STYLE Vernacular Gothic/Queen Anne DATE 1869

SIGNIFICANCE The Vangen Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission Hill is significant in three areas: architecture, religion, and settlement. Although religious structures are usually not accepted the church should be included in the resource area because it is one of the more distinguished buildings architecturally. The church has served the religious needs of the congregation for over 100 years and is believed to be the oldest Lutheran Church still standing in the Dakotas. Occasionally this church is still in use, even though a new structure has been built to replace it. Gravestones in the church cemetery date to 1867 and reflect German and Norwegian settlement of the locality.

ACREAGE 3

BOUNDARIES The nominated property is located 1000 feet north of the Chicago and North Western Railroad line and 1800 feet northwest of the point where the Railroad line crosses the intersection of the two roads immediately east of the town of Mission Hill.

UTM 14/641640/4753860

OTHER According to the Register of Deeds, land deeded to Vangen Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church by Gilbert Severson in 1873.