historic name <u>St. Johannes Danske Lut</u>	herske Kirke		
other names/site number <u>St. John's Ev</u>	angelical Lutheran Churc	h Complex; NeHBS	#HM05-001
2. Location		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
street & number <u>2170 North T Road</u>			not for publication [na]
city or town <u>Marquette</u>			vicinity [x]
state <u>Nebraska</u> code <u>NE</u>	county <u>Hamilton</u>	code <u>081</u>	zip code <u>68854-9742</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		······································	
As the designated authority under the National Hist for determination of eligibility meets the documentai the procedural and professional requirements set fort Register Criteria. I recommend that this property b additional comments.) Signature of certifying official Director, Nebraska State Historical Soc	tion standards for registering proj th in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opin e considered significant [] nation:	perties in the National Regi- tion, the property [x] meets	ster of Historic Places and meets [] does not meet the National
State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not me	et the National Register criteria.	([] See continuation sheet f	for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title		Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau			
4. National Park Service Certification	$\wedge$	<u> </u>	
I, hereby certify that this property is: []See continuation sheet. []determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet. [] determined not eligible for the National Register.	Patink W.	Indus	11/13/92
[] removed from the National Register.	*****		
[] other, (explain):	Signature of Keeper		Date of Action

## 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

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER

# OMB No. 1024-0018

### Hamilton County, Nebraska County and State

5. Classification	······································			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
<ul> <li>[x] private</li> <li>[ ] public-local</li> <li>[ ] public-State</li> <li>[ ] public-Federal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>[] building(s)</li> <li>[x] district</li> <li>[] site</li> <li>[] structure</li> <li>[] object</li> </ul>	ContributingNoncontributing321152	_ sites _ structures	
<b>Name of related multiple</b> (Enter "N/A" if property is not pa		Number of contributing resources p in the National Register	reviously liste	
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)		
Religion/religiousfacilityReligion/churchschoolFunerary/cemeteryAgriculture/animalfacility		Religion/religious facility Religion/church school Funerary/cemetery Religion/church-related residence		
		Domestic/secondary structure		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions		<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)		
Gothic		foundation <u>Brick</u> walls <u>Weatherboard</u>		
		roof <u>Shingle</u> other Wood		

### Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

### 8. Statempent of Si nificance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

#### Property is:

- [x] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [] **B** removed from its original location.
- [] C a birthplace or a grave.
- [] **D** a cemetery.
- [] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [] **F** a commemorative property.
- [] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### 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):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- [] previously listed in the National Register
- [] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- [] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #\_\_\_\_\_

### Hamilton County, Nebraska

County and State

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

# Ethnic Heritage/European Exploration/settlement \_\_\_\_\_ **Period** of Significance 1899-1915 Significant Dates N/A Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A **Cultural Affiliation** N/A Architect/Builder Jensen, Carl Almquist, O.

### **Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [] Other State agency
- [] Federal agency
- [] Local government
- [] University
- [] Other
- Name of repository:

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke Name of Property	Hamilton County, Nebraska County and State
10. Geographical Data	·
Acreage of Property <u>3.6 acres</u>	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a	continuation sheet)
Zone         Easting         Northing           1.         14         589220         4539080         3.           2.         4.         4.	Zone Easting Northing [] See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
<b>Boundary Justification</b> (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Joni G. Gilkerson, Architectural Historian	
organization <u>Nebraska State Historical Society</u>	date <u>August, 1992</u>
street & number 1500 R Street, Box 82554	telephone (402) 471-4767
city or town Lincoln	state _NE zip code _68501
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	
<b>Photographs</b> Representative <b>black and white photographs</b> of the p	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 <u>St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church</u>	
street & number 2170 North T Road	telephone (402) 854-2509
city or town <u>Marquette</u>	state <u>NE</u> zip code <u>68854</u>

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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

## Section 7 Page 1

### Description

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church complex) is located in Kronborg, a small rural village which forms the northern boundary of an ethnic enclave where Danish immigrants began settling in northeastern Hamilton County beginning in the late 1870s. The Evangelical Lutheran congregation was established in 1880. The late nineteenth, early twentieth-century religious complex includes five contributing resources: three buildings, the frame church, gymnasium/school, and frame barn; one site, the church cemetery; and one contributing structure, the cemetery gate. The property also includes two non-contributing buildings, the church parsonage and garage. Structural and historical integrity, for the complex as a whole, has been preserved.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex, Kronborg, is located three and one-half miles east of Marquette (1992 population: 303), a small town in north central Hamilton County. The Platte River forms the northern boundary of Hamilton County which is located in the Central Plains region of Nebraska and which contains concentrations of Swedish and Danish settlements. The Danish village of Kronborg is located in Otis Precinct, an area settled by Danish immigrants beginning in the late 1870s. The church complex is a striking assemblage of late nineteenth, early twentieth-century religious architecture. It is a relatively compact group of buildings which form the southern boundary of Kronborg's town limits.

The inventory of principal buildings, sites, and structures follows, beginning with those resources that contribute, and followed by those that do not, with their numbers corresponding to the accompanying site plan. Landscape features include deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs in windbreaks, hedge rows, and along fence lines (see site plan).

#### **Contributing Buildings**

1. Church (photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5): built 1899-1900, frame, brick foundation, asymmetrical plan, 10.50 x 22.65 meters (34'4" x 74'3"), wood shingle gable roof with iron cresting and gabled transepts, engaged square bell tower at the northwest corner of building displaying eight (8) sided belfry with dormer ventilator units (gothic mutins and iron cresting removed), imbricated shingle siding producing diamond shaped motifs, flared eaves and decorative cross at steeple apex. High Victorian Gothic details include pointed arched window and door openings with window tracery, decorative border trim along eaves, and colored and stained glass windows. Interior features include a nave crossed by transept wings, center and side aisles which provide access to the pews and to the raised chancel which contains the wooden Gothic altar inside the communion rail, a raised pulpit stands to the right of the chancel, and a baptismal font to the left. Wooden wainscoting with diagonal beaded-board paneling throughout church interior, Carl Jensen, carpenter.

2. Gymnasium/School: (photos 6, 7, 8, 9, 10): school originally built 1901, frame, concrete block foundation, rectangular plan, 6.24 x 13.47 meters (20'5" x 44'2"), and wood shingle gable roof. Interior features include complete beaded-board finish, set horizontally on the walls and vertically in the wainscot. Gymnasium, "Brejdalik 1915" (large bright hall), built 1914-15, frame, rusticated concrete block foundation, rectangular plan, 14.15 x 18.45 meters (30'2" x 60'5"), steeply pitched gable roof with gable returns, roof covered with wood shingles, gable entry pavilion with double wooden doors, transom above, second story balcony with wooden columns supporting pedimented gable roof, wooden balustrade.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

# Section 7 Page 2

### **Description** (continued)

Fenestration consists of rectangular shaped window openings with double hung sash in single or double units, circular window opening in front facade. Gymnasium interior completely finished in beaded-board, set in vertically, horizontal and diagonal panels, stage is located at north end of building, O. Almquist, Architect, Central City, Nebraska, Gion & Young, Contractors.

3. Barn (photos 11, 12): built ca. 1900, frame with corrugated tin siding, square, 8.5 x 8.5 meters (27'9" x 27'9"), gable roof covered with wood shingles, interior retains original horse stalls and feeding troughs.

### **Contributing Site**

4. Cemetery (photos 1, 2, 3, 6): established 1882, first burial in 1883, cemetery grounds completely surround the church, with some of the gravestones placed in close proximity to the building.

### **Contributing Structure**

5. Cemetery Gate (photo 1): ca. 1900, main entry gate of wrought iron design with "St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church," wrought iron scrolled ornamentation, gate supported by two brick bases with swinging iron metal gates between.

#### Non-Contributing Buildings

6. **Parsonage** (photo 13): built 1948, one-and-one-half stories, rectangular, 10.35 x 13.70 meters (33'10" x 44'9"), brick face, gable roof with shed dormer.

7. **Parsonage garage** (photo 13): date unknown, one story, square, 6.23 x 7.50 meters (20'4" x 24'6"), frame with asphalt siding, hip roof, two-stall garage with sliding double doors.

On May 27, 1899, the entire church complex was destroyed by a tornado. In the June 3, 1899 issue of the **Hamilton County Register** it states: "The Danish Lutheran church, costing \$3,000, with its fine parsonage, school building, barn and cemetery, was left an utter wreck." In November of 1899, St. John's Lutheran Church Society entered in a contract with Carl Jensen, carpenter, to erect a new church building. By August of 1900, construction of a new church building, parsonage and barn was completed.

In Pastor Strandskov's August 28, 1900 minutes (<u>St. John's</u>, 1976, 22) he states: "At last the congregation has finished the big building project that has been done the past year. The congregation now has buildings on the church place, valued at close to \$7,000. The church cost was \$4,225.86. The parsonage, a little over \$1,000. The long red barn, \$200. All this has been built without debt. The members of the congregation have given close to \$4,000 beside a lot of free labor. We had a little over \$2,000 worth of insurance on the old buildings." The September 7, 1900 issue of **The Aurora Republican** described the new church: "..wherever a foreign settlement is found there is found also the church, and in most such communities churches of inspiring exterior and beautiful interior. Such a church is [St. John's]. It is located near Marquette and is the pride of the community in which it stands. It stands upon or near the site of the church building which was totally destroyed by a cyclone..."

The new school building was constructed in 1901. When the gymnasium was erected in 1914-15, the school building was attached as a wing to the gym hall, and used for classroom facilities. A description of

Section

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

nualion Sheel	St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke	
	Name of Property	
	Hamilton County, Nebraska	
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a. T 1

#### **Description** (continued)

the new gymnasium was given in **The Aurora Republican** on June 3, 1915: "The new auditorium building recently erected by the Danish congregation at Kronborg was dedicated Sunday, May 31.....Work on the new building was commenced last fall and represents an investment of \$4,000. The dimensions are 30 x 60 feet on the ground. All of the first floor is devoted to the assembly room, and the basement has a large dining room and a fully equipped kitchen."

The present St. John's parsonage was built in 1948, along with other improvements made to the church property that year, including new roofs for the church and hall, a new church organ, and raising of the gymnasium/school for a basement addition. Today, the village of Kronborg contains only a small number of buildings, including several houses and a few commercial buildings. The church property continues to be used for religious purposes.

### Statement of Significance

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke is significant on a state level under the area of ethnic heritage for its representation of a religious grouping of Danish-American buildings in Nebraska, and for its associations with the folk school philosophies of the Danish religious leader, poet and historian N.F.S. Grundtvig. Many of the activities held in the church and gymnasium hall/school centered on the Grundtvigian teachings. The property is also significant under the area of settlement for its instrumental role in the establishment and early development of a Danish-American community in the state. The church and its associated buildings played an important role in the religious beliefs, cultural traditions and social activities practiced by Danish immigrants in the Kronborg/Marquette community beginning in the late nineteenth century.

The property relates to the statewide context **Danish-Americans in Nebraska** (18.04.02). The period of significance is derived from the beginning (1899) and ending (1915) construction dates of all contributing resources. Criteria Consideration A is applicable and is met through the property deriving primary significance from the areas of ethnic heritage and settlement. Criteria Consideration D is not applicable because the cemetery is being nominated along with the associated church, the main resource in the complex.

The Danish immigrants that came to Nebraska in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were but a small part of the largest folk migration in history. In the century between 1814 and 1914, over 50 million persons left their ancestral homes in Europe to move to the United States and other overseas countries (Hvidt, 1975, 2). The more than 300,000 Danes were a small fraction of the total European emigration but a number equal to about 10% of the population of Denmark in 1900.

Historically, the Danish population was scattered throughout Nebraska, with heavier concentrations in the Northeast, Central, and South Central regions of the state. The largest concentration was along the Missouri River near Omaha, Douglas County (including Omaha), plus Washington and Dodge counties to the north and west. The second concentration of Danes was along the Platte River in the central and south part of Nebraska in the counties of Howard, Hamilton, Kearney and Nuckolls.

The best known Danish settlements in Nebraska are in Howard County. Dannebrog was settled by Danes who formed the Danish Land and Homestead Company in 1870 (Ebbeson, 1983, 1). Dannevirke, the

Section 8

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

## National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke Name of Property Hamilton County, Nebraska County and State

# Page 4

### Statement of Significance (continued)

second Danish settlement, formed as an outgrowth of Dannebrog. Northwest of Dannebrog the town of Nysted was founded in 1882. Nysted was more centrally located in the rural Danish community than Dannebrog and became important a few years later when a Danish-American folk school (NeHBS #HW09-003), modeled after N.F.S. Grundtvig's Danish folk schools, was founded there in 1887 (Hvidt, 1976, 252).

In Hamilton County, the first Danes to arrive in the early 1870s took homesteads along Lincoln Creek north of the present town of Hampton. During the latter part of the decade, Danish immigrants began settling in the Marquette and Kronborg area. Kronborg was not given its town name until 1909, and was named after Kronborg Castle in Helsingor, Sjaeland, Denmark. Two Danish Lutheran Churches were established in the county: Immanuel Lutheran Church (NEHBS #HM00-033), located north of Hampton and organized under the Blair Synod (Inner Mission) in 1874 (church now relocated to the grounds of the Stuhr Museum near Grand Island); and St. John's, organized in 1880.

The history of the Danish Lutheran church in America clearly reflects the cultural differences and religious tension among the Danish-Americans. The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in America in 1874. Although the church grew steadily after its formation, problems in differing opinions on religious doctrine soon became apparent among the Danish immigrants. There were some Danes, called Grundtvigians ("Happy Danes"), who stressed the importance of the Apostle's Creed and the sacraments, and who promoted the preservation of their national heritage, traditions, and customs. Their opponents, called the Inner Mission ("Holy Danes"), stressed pious practices, a literal interpretation of the Bible, and abandonment of old-world customs and assimilation into American society (Damn & Thornsohn, 1986, 104; Petersen, 1987, 48-49).

Nikolaj Frederick Severin Grundtvig (1783-1872) was a poet, priest, historian, and prose writer whose desire was to awaken the people of Denmark and Scandinavia to their heritage. Known as "the father of the Danish folk school" (Mortensen, 1977, 10), Grundtvig developed an educational philosophy that served as the foundation for Denmark's folk schools and a religious movement that became known as Grundtvigianism (Matteson, 1988, 9). These Danish-Americans affirmed the continuance of folk customs and formal culture from Denmark; sought to preserve the Danish language; and founded folk schools, societies, and colonies to enlarge and enrich their cultural life (Skardal, 1980, 277).

Grundtvigian Synod Pastor Jacob Holm was the first pastor to serve St. John's congregation early in 1880, but he only visited the Kronborg/Marquette area on an irregular basis. In the spring of 1880, the Danish community, comprising twenty-four members and their families, organized St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and called Pastor Soren Hamburg Madsen to serve their congregation. In 1882, Pastor Knud Clausen Bodholdt took charge of the parish and served until 1887 (Matteson, 1988, 122-123). The next pastor to serve the congregation was Thomas Kristian Thomsen, born in Odense, Denmark. Trained in Denmark's Grundtvigian folk schools, Thomsen immigrated to America in the summer of 1887, the year he received a call from the Marquette congregation. It was during his pastorate that the first church building was erected in 1888-89. The new facility provided an opportunity for Danes in this area to not only come together for worship, but to socialize as well.

Pastor Thomsen's hope was that a Danish folk school be started at Kronborg, however this dream faded with his untimely death in 1891 (St. John's, 1976, 9-13). Although plans never materialized for a folk school in Kronborg, St. John's congregation did establish a close relationship with the Nysted Folk School and supported it by sending their young people to attend school there, by donating monies, and by Section 8

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke Name of Property Hamilton County, Nebraska County and State

# Statement of Significance (continued)

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attending functions and celebrations sponsored by the school. In St. Peder's (Nysted) centennial book, Enok Mortensen states: "..a community such as Marquette, Nebraska, contributed more than a thousand dollars--evidence of their appreciation for what the (folk) school meant to them and their young people..." (St. Peder's, 1983, 20-21).

In order to preserve and promote their distinctive cultural traditions, the Kronborg/Marquette Danes established their own various religious, educational, and social organizations and groups based upon Grundtvigian ideas, and used the church and gymnasium/school to house these activities. Some of the groups established include: St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid Society, organized in 1883; the Young People's Society ("Godthaab Ungdomsforeningen"), organized in 1897 to promote singing, reading and preservation of the Danish language; "Folkedansere" (folk dancers); "Gymnastikhold" (gymnastics team); a church choir, organized in 1908; and the Kronborg Band. Some of the activities held in the Kronborg community included: the <u>Hostoptog</u> (Harvest Festival); the 5th of June celebration commemorating the signing of the Danish constitution; home talent plays like <u>Det Gamle Guld</u> and concerts like the <u>Fastelavn's Gilde</u>; <u>kurvebold</u> (basketball); summer school; reading groups; traditional Christmas celebrations; and fund raising events including <u>slojfegilde</u> (St. John's, 1976, 39, 41, 62-65). And with the celebration of these community events, the Kronborg/Marquette area Danes would raise their <u>Dannebrog</u> (Danish Flag) as a symbol of their national heritage.

St. John's congregation sponsored so many activities that they had a sort of folk school without walls (Matteson, 1988, 124), following the tradition of Grundtvigian philosophies established in Denmark's folk schools, brought to America by Danish immigrants, and practiced in Danish-American communities such as Nysted and Kronborg. As a result, Kronborg, with its active St. John's Church, came to be regarded as a religious and cultural nucleus of the rural Danish colony in Hamilton County, reflecting the practices of Old World Denmark, where the church parish served as the local unit of ecclesiastical administration, and played an important role in the social life of the Danish people.

St. John's Church also played a significant role in the practice of Danish folkways in the rural Kronborg/Marquette community, and represents a successful Danish-American settlement in Nebraska. The Danish language was used in church and school classes well into the 1930s, and up until 1965 all of the pastors to serve St. John's congregation were of Danish descent. Preservation of the Danish heritage in the Marquette/Kronborg area continued with the St. John's congregation celebrating "Danish Days," held in 1950, 1951, 1953, 1955, and 1959, when the traditions and customs of Denmark were observed. Ethnic colonies like Kronborg, in which Danish congregations and institutions were formed, helped to maintain loyalty among the Danish-Americans, and alleviate the homesickness felt by all of the immigrants (Larsen, 1992, 159).

Today, the church complex remains as evidence of the material and spiritual culture of a particular group of Danish immigrants who settled in Nebraska in the 1880s, and established a Danish-American Lutheran congregation. The church and its associated buildings played an important role in the community's historically rooted beliefs, customs and practices of Grundtvig's Danish folk schools, and stand as a symbol of Danish-American heritage in Nebraska.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Johannes Danske Lutherske Kirke Name of Property Hamilton County, Nebraska County and State

### Section 9, 10 Page 6

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"Dedication at Kronborg," Aurora Republican. Aurora, Nebraska, June 3, 1915.

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as a tract of land commencing at a point at the extreme southwest corner of Tax Lot 41, First Addition to St. Johanne's subdivision of Kronborg, thence north 543.75 feet, thence east 675 feet, thence south 356.25 feet, thence east 56.25 feet, thence south 187.50 feet, thence west 731.25 feet to point of beginning, all part of the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Section 19, Township 12 North, Range 5 West, Hamilton County, Nebraska.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property and which contains all contributing resources in the church complex.

