

PH0670481

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 17 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 15 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME * *

HISTORIC Lebanon Lutheran Church, ALC

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Rural - 2 miles south, 6 miles west of Summit

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT No. 1

CITY, TOWN Summit

X VICINITY OF
CODE 046

STATE South Dakota

COUNTY Grant

CODE 709 51

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Hope Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Summit

VICINITY OF

STATE South Dakota

57264

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Grant County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Milbank

STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE March 1976

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN Vermillion

STATE South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1949</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lebanon Church building was built in 1908 at the south end of a country cemetery which had been dedicated and in use since the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation had been organized in 1892. It was located on a high elevation with a free open view. Hence, the name Lebanon. The original building, including the Chancel was 55 x 30 feet with an entrance hall added to the west. The Chancel was to the east. The church was a frame building painted white. The architecture was that of the modern Gothic, commonly used for many pioneer Lutheran churches. The three windows on either side (north and south) and the door, all had Gothic arches. The base of the steeple, above the door had a Rose Window. The belfry above had Gothic arched openings on all four sides. Above that, a tall steeple pointed to the sky, terminating with a weather vane.

Inside, the altar, altar rail, pulpit, and baptismal font were white with gold trim. The altarpiece had ornamental spires and decorated side wings framing the picture of Pockhorst's "The Good Shepherd." This picture had a different background from the one commonly seen in art books. The three-leaved clover design worked artistically in with the Gothic arch ornamentation on the altar and pulpit probably is to represent the Triune God. The top of the altar was of red velvet covered with a white lace scarf. The kneeling bench around the altar rail was of red velvet or plush. The pulpit had red velvet around the edge with a five inch gold fringe. A gold cross on red velvet hung from the book stand on the pulpit. The pews were of oak.

The bell in the belfry was rung by a rope extending down into the entrance hall. The church was at first heated with a central coal stove, but later a small basement was dug under the church, large enough to permit a hot air furnace to be installed. The church was lighted with gas lamps.

As the congregation grew, the need for Sunday School rooms became obvious. Also, the Ladies' Aid found it difficult to entertain and serve large crowds in the homes. It was, therefore, agreed that an alteration was necessary. Consequently, in 1949, a full sized basement was dug on the south side of the church and the church was moved to its new foundation. The following year a balcony was built on the back (west) above the main chapel. The entry was made into a narthex by enlarging it to reach the full width of the building. Electricity replaced the gas lamps. Except for the balcony, the main upper floor and furnishings was left as it was before remodeling.

In the new basement, knotty pine paneling was put on the walls and celotex on the ceiling. An open fireplace and kitchen space was also added. Because of seasonal strong winds, a safer front entrance to the narthex was placed to the south side. A door on the north-west led to the basement as well as to the narthex, and a back door to the basement was placed to the extreme southeast. The steeple was cut down and a cross replaced the weather vane. Unfortunately, to save expenses when the side windows needed repair, the arches were replaced by square panes.

In 1969 the Lebanon Congregation was merged with the congregation in Summit. A new congregation known as the Hope Lutheran Congregation was formed. The doors of Lebanon were soon closed. In 1973 all the inside furnishings on the main floor, except the pews were sold. In the basement the paneling on the walls was removed and sold, and the kitchen furnishings were sold or taken to Summit. Intentions were to sell the building, but this did not materialize. The pioneer church was left bare and empty.

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A society has now been organized to restore the building. This is called "The Society for the Preservation of the Lebanon Church Building." The pulpit, altar, including altarpiece, and the altar rail have been replaced... Except for some needed repairs on one or two of the windows the upper floor is in good condition. The basement, as yet, remains empty because of lack of funds. The furnace needs repair before it can be used.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation in northeastern South Dakota was opened for homesteading in 1892, a settlement of Norwegian immigrants moved in. Here they found good farm land for both grain and cattle. As in all pioneer settlements, aside from building homes for shelters, religion was uppermost in their minds.

On November 15, 1892, a group of these farmers met in one of the homes and with the help of a minister from Norway Lake, Minnesota, organized a Lutheran congregation. Services were held in various homes until two schoolhouses were built. Services were then held in these, alternating between the two. Being an almost solid Norwegian settlement the Norwegian language was used and early records that have been kept are in that language. The name chosen for the congregation was "Vor Frelser's Evangelisk Luthers Libanon Menighed I Grant, Roberts og Day Counties, South Dakota." (Translation: Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Lebanon Congregation in Grant, Roberts, and Day Counties, South Dakota.) Sunday school and Lutheran Parochial School were taught in the summer months. The year 1892, then marks the date of the first Lutheran Congregation on the newly opened Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation.

By 1908 the farmers had prospered to a point where they felt they could afford a church building. In that year the Lebanon Church was added to the community. A Young People's Society, later known as Luther League, was organized and in 1912 a 3-day convention was held in the Lebanon Church.

Lebanon became the center of the community both religiously and socially. Luther League programs, ice cream socials, and dinners were the principal activities. Children's Christmas programs brought overflowing crowds. An auction of goods made and donated by the ladies, and held in a nearby grove was the big community celebration of the year. An ice cream stand and a ball game by the young folks were a part of this celebration. The entire community, including other denominations, attended these activities. Proceeds went to help pay expenses of the Lebanon Church. The middle-aged and elderly of today literally grew up in the influence of the Lebanon Church.

Standing on high ground, the church can be seen from far away and has become a landmark for the area. It stands as a sentinel at one end of a rural cemetery that holds graves dating back to the nineteenth century. Removing the building would leave a very lonely looking resting place for those pioneers as well as for others who will be buried there in the future.

An agreement has now been made with the congregation that owns the building, and a society has been organized to keep the building in repair for the privilege of using it for weddings, funerals and other religious gatherings. The society recognizes that the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A pamphlet printed for a reunion celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Lebanon Congregation - 1967. Filed with Mrs. L.J. Dorsett, Ortleby, SD.

Early records have been microfilmed on December 5, 1961, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church Archives at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2
UTM REFERENCES

Longitude 97° 9' 37"
Latitude 45° 15' 58"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wilma Monserud, Corresponding Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Society for the Preservation of the Lebanon Church Building

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1107 East 4th Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Webster

STATE

South Dakota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John J. Little

TITLE Director, Historical Preservation Center

DATE

13 Jun 77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

W.D. Monserud

DATE

9/15/77

ATTEST:

Charles W. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9.5.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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significance of the building includes the following:

1. It is said to be the Pioneer Church on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation.
2. It was the center for social as well as religious life in this farming community.
3. Although built in 1908, the church is in fact, a part of the Lebanon Cemetery for which land was donated and accepted at a meeting on January 13, 1894.
4. It has been praised by people outside the community for its beauty and "should not have been closed."
5. We feel that its removal would be like destroying the foundation of the community.

If they could manage financially, they want to have the most needed repairs made in time to have a bicentennial program in the church this summer (1976).