

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 05001336

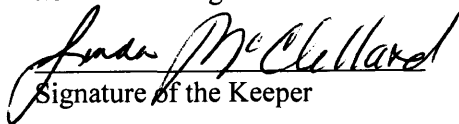
Property Name: Clark Center Lutheran Church

County: Clark State: South Dakota

N/A

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

November 29, 2005  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance. "1940" is, hereby, dropped as a Significant Date because it lies outside the Period of Significance, which is based on the date of the church's original construction in 1898. The nomination does not indicate that the 1940 alterations contribute to the architectural significance of the property.

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The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

1336

SEP 16 2005

**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 Clark Center Lutheran Church  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 1/2 Mile east of intersection of 421<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 168<sup>th</sup> Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Clark Vicinity x  
state South Dakota Code SD county Clark code 025 zip code 57225

**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.)

Jay D. Vogt 09-12-2005  
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dakota SHPO  
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

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 16 2005

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that the 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

*Linda McClelland*      11-29-05

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**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**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion	Sub: Religious Facility
Funerary	Cemetery
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion	Sub: Religious Facility
Funerary	Cemetery
_____	_____
_____	_____

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Stone; Cement
Roof	Asphalt
Walls	Wood
Other	_____
	_____

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

See Continuation Sheets

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

- 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.)

- 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.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1898 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clark Center Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Clark County, SD  
County and State

**Significant Dates**    1898; 1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**    N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**    N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**    Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 #

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:    N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clark Center Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Clark County, SD  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** About 7 acres

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>595504</u> Easting	<u>4978134</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Jason Haug  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization South Dakota SHPO date July 22, 2005  
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone (605)773-6296  
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

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## Additional Documentation

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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)

Clark Center Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Clark County, SD  
County and State

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**Property Owner**

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

name Clark Center Lutheran Church Congregation  
street & number 102 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Clark state SD zip code 57225

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**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.



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## Narrative Description

Clark Center Lutheran Church is located in rural Clark County, South Dakota approximately five miles northwest of Clark, the county seat. The church property is a seven-acre rectangular parcel on a north-south axis and is surrounded by trees on every side. The church is located in the southwest corner of this parcel and a cemetery is located along the east side of the grounds. The church was constructed on a stone foundation with wood clapboard siding. The roof is currently clad with asphalt shingles which have replaced the historic wood shingles. The church is rectangular with a square bell tower centered on the front of the façade (south elevation).

There is a concrete staircase on the south façade that ascends to a double entry door. To the right of the staircase is a small entry addition constructed in 1940 to provide interior access to the basement. It is inset into the "L" of the tower and the nave and provides an interior stairway to the basement. There is a double steel entry door on the south side of this addition. Directly above these doors is a sign that reads "Lutheran Church – Clark Center." Above the front entry door on the tower is a three-light lancet arch transom window. Above the transom windows is a flared section on the tower that has asphalt shingles. Along the bottom of this flared section is a row of wood dentils. There is a paired one-over-one double hung sash window above the flared section on the tower and another row of dentils above the windows. Above this row of dentils is a paired louver into the belfry of the tower. Atop of the tower is an octagonal spire clad with wood shingles that has a small gable on each of the four sides of the tower.

The east elevation has three two-pane awning windows, a cellar door, and a three-pane awning window from left to right (south to north) across the basement. From left to right across the east elevation of the main level is a one-over-one double hung sash window on the front entry addition followed by four five-over-four double hung sash windows with lancet arches. Each of the lancet-arch windows has an arched window head. There is a one-over-one double hung sash window on the east side of the rear elevation. A brick chimney extends up from the junction of the sanctuary and the rear addition. The only openings on the north elevation are two three-pane basement windows.

From left to right across the basement level of the west elevation are five two-pane awning windows and a small door at the base of the tower. Across the main level from left to right on the west elevation is a modern single steel door and a one-over-one double hung sash window, both on the rear addition. Next there are four five-over-four double hung sash windows with lancet arches, identical to those on the east elevation. The southern most lancet-arch window is currently boarded up.

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The interior arrangement of the Clark Center Lutheran Church is a simple rectangular plan. After passing through the exterior entry doors on the front tower, there is a double door each with a single light. There is a rectangular nave with a column of pews on each side of the central aisle. The chancel is slightly elevated from the nave by three steps. Both the original altar and kneeling rail have been replaced. A basement was enlarged in 1940 and houses a kitchen and a social hall.

## Narrative Statement of Significance

The Clark Center Lutheran Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Specifically, the Clark Center Church is an example of a rural first-generation church built according to the simple nave-plan. This simple, rectangular plan with a central bell tower exemplifies the rural church common to most permanent rural settlements in South Dakota.<sup>1</sup>

There were two plans followed by congregations when constructing their church. The first was the ritual, or liturgical plan. This plan features a central altar and the nave, apse, chancel, and transepts (if present) are apparent from the exterior. The second plan was the non-ritual, denominational plan. In this plan the pulpit receives more emphasis than the altar. Interior organization is also less evident from the exterior in this plan. The most common church design in South Dakota was the nave plan, the simplest of the ritual-plan variations. Churches built according to this plan are rectangular with a nave, a narthex beneath a central front bell tower, and generally lack transepts.<sup>2</sup> Most of these simple nave-plan churches have been identified as vernacular adaptations of the Gothic Revival style because while they do have lancet arches on windows and doors, they generally have little to no other forms of decoration.<sup>3</sup>

Clark County was organized in 1881 with the county seat of Clark located close to the center of the county. During the 1880s three different railroads were constructed through Clark County with the Chicago and Northwestern in 1882, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paulin 1887, and the Great Northern in 1889. These railroads helped to increase settlement into the county. Prior to the first railroad being constructed, Clark County's population was only 111 people. By the turn of the century

<sup>1</sup> Erpestad and Wood, *Building South Dakota*, 63.

<sup>2</sup> Erpestad and Wood, 63.

<sup>3</sup> Edaes, Megan. *Churches in South Dakota*, 22.

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the population had jumped to just under 7,000 people.<sup>4</sup> Typically, a congregation was established when a sufficient population had settled in the area. This sudden increase in population in Clark

County and the surrounding counties resulted in numerous congregations being organized and several churches being constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Prior to the construction of a congregation's first church, many gathered in nearby schools, homes, or whatever other building could be found to adequately hold the congregation. When congregations were able to construct their first church, many turned to the nave plan for its affordability and ease of construction. For this reason, the nave plan was common for first-generation churches among most denominations in the state. By 1890 138 Lutheran churches had been constructed in South Dakota, most of which utilized the nave plan. Many early churches also had cemeteries on the church property. Later churches, however, were built on smaller parcels that did not afford enough land to accommodate a cemetery.<sup>5</sup>

The Clark Center Lutheran Church was organized on July 11, 1883 with the help of Rev. A.O. Utheim. From 1883 until the nominated Clark Center Church was constructed in 1898, the Clark Center congregation worshipped in nearby school houses as well as in the homes of congregation members. Hans Lien had donated the land in 1892 for a cemetery but burials had been made at the location as early as 1883. In 1897, the congregation chose land adjacent to this cemetery to construct their first church.

Like several other rural churches across the region, including the National Register listed Bradley Lutheran Church, Telemarken Lutheran Church, and Good Hope Lutheran Church, all also in Clark County, the Clark Center Church was constructed according to the nave plan in a vernacular Gothic Revival style. Elements of the nave plan found in the Clark Center Church include its rectangular shape and a central bell tower on the south façade with a narthex beneath the tower serving as the front entrance. Sunday school rooms and the sacristy were added to the north side in 1940 and a small front entry added to the southeast corner to provide an inside stairway to the basement which was also enlarged in 1940 to include a kitchen and social hall.<sup>6</sup> The Clark Center Church retains its

<sup>4</sup> Centennial History of Clark County, 193

<sup>5</sup> Erpestad and Wood,

<sup>6</sup> Centennial History - Clark County, SD: 1881-1981, 192-193.

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character-defining features from its period of significance, including the central bell tower, lancet arch windows, rectangular nave, and adjacent cemetery.

Because the Clark Center Lutheran Church is significant architecturally it meets Criteria Consideration A and is thus eligible under Criterion C as an example of a vernacular Gothic Revival nave-plan church constructed in rural Clark County during the late nineteenth century.

### **Bibliography**

Erpestad, David and David Wood. *Building South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997)

Edaes, Megan. *Churches in South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2002)

Clark County History Committee. *Centennial History of Clark County, SD: 1881-1981* (Clark, SD: Clark History Committee, 1981)

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Clark Center Lutheran Church follows the legal boundary of the church grounds which is the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, Township 117, Range 58, Clark County, South Dakota. The southeast corner of the boundary is created by the intersection of 168<sup>th</sup> Street and the boundary between the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of Section 10, Township 117, Range 58. From this point the boundary follows 168<sup>th</sup> Street east 460 feet. It then runs north for 660 feet and turns west for 460 feet to meet the boundary between the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of Section 10. The boundary then turns south where it meets the starting point.

### **Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Clark Center Lutheran Church encompasses the entire immediate property both historically and currently associated with the church. This boundary is distinct and visible by the trees that outline the property and the road along the south edge.