

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975

1. NAME

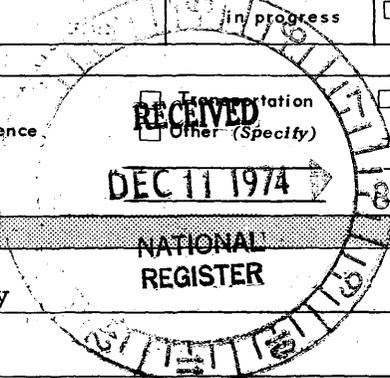
COMMON:	Muskego Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Muskego Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue West			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th		
STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Luther Theological Seminary			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2375 Como Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Blvd.			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey/Statewide Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934/1963		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul	STATE: Minnesota	CODE 22	

STATE: Minnesota
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Muskego Church is located on the campus of Luther Theological Seminary in St. Anthony Park at 2375 Como Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota. The original location of the log church was at Muskego, Wisconsin, southwest of Milwaukee; the church was positioned "atop an eminence called 'Indian Hill'".¹

In 1904, Muskego Church was purchased, dismantled, and removed to be reconstructed on the building's present site. It was at this time, that the exterior log walls were furred with two-by-fours and covered with a clapboard siding for protection. The covering of lap siding was removed, in 1970, when it was discovered that rather than protecting, the siding was rotting the logs beneath. Once again, the attractiveness of the exterior walls constructed of red oak logs, adzed and handplaned to a thickness of approximately six inches, were exposed. The massive logs are coped and scribed with interlocking ends shaped by an axe. The fit of the hewn logs is so tight that only the interlocking ends of the logs were chinked with clay.

The structure of the building is divided into two parts; the main room and the chancel. The main room inside face measures twenty feet one inch by twenty six feet two inches. The chancel measures twenty feet four inches by twenty feet three inches. The overall length of the building is forty feet five inches long.²

The chancel's roof is lower than the roof of the main room by two feet; both roofs are wood shingled. Windows are placed in each of the long walls, one above the other; the original doors and windows have been replaced. A cement stairway now meets the front double door entrance.

The interior of the church was restored to its initial appearance after its arrival to St. Paul. The hand planed log walls are left exposed throughout the interior and the floor and ceiling are wood finished. "None of the wood inside has been painted, and the marks left by adz and plane testify to the hard labor that went into the church's construction."³

A gallery is located across the back of the church and extends the length of the main room. It is supported by six hand carved pillars of solid black walnut. Several plank seats supported on wood trestles are located in the gallery which is accessible by stairs from the ground floor. Beneath the wood gallery, on the main floor, are located fourteen straight-back pews.

Contained within the chancel are the choir stalls, sanctuary, altar and pulpit. The turned log altar rails, altar and pulpit are made from black walnut. The extremely high pulpit is reached by a stairway to the left of the altar at the east end of the building.

1. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, p. 231
2. U.S. Department of Interior Offices of National Parks, H.A.B.S. Survey number 29-24
3. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, p. 232

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Muskego Church represents a beautiful example of pioneer log construction with old world craftsmanship in addition to being an historic site of national significance. It is reported to be the "first Norwegian Lutheran Church built in the United States".¹

This log meeting house was built by Peter Jacobson in 1843² to serve the early colony of Norwegian immigrants that settled at Muskego, Wisconsin near Milwaukee.² On March 13, 1845, the two story log structure was dedicated as the first Norwegian Church in the United States.³ The log church served its pioneer congregation of some two hundred and seventy people for twenty-four years. It was replaced, in 1869⁴, with a larger building by the congregation who had outgrown the log meeting hall. The original church was removed from its position on "Indian Hill" and placed on the old Jacobsen farm to be used as a barn and storage shed.⁴

Through the efforts of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, in 1904⁴, Muskego Church was purchased, dismantled, and removed to be reconstructed on its present site at the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1934 the Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the craftsmanship in their detailed drawings of the interior and exterior of the log church. Presently the Church is open for tours year round, upon request. It is occasionally used for services during the summer months.

Muskego Church is significant as the first reported Norwegian Lutheran Church in the United States and as a beautiful example of pioneer log craftsmanship.

1. "Muskego Church", Minnesota History, March 1963, Editorial, Minnesota Historical Society staff
2. Dorr, W.G., Historic American Buildings Survey Descriptions; folder 2, drawings #14
3. Barton, A.O., "Old Muskego Settlement", North Star, December 1921
4. Ibid.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barton, A.O., "Old Muskego Settlement", North Star, December, 1921
History of Norwegians in America, Augsburg Publishing House, Mpls., 1925
 Koeper, H.F., "Muskego Church", Historic St. Paul Buildings, St. Paul
 City Planning Board, St. Paul, 1964; pp. 91
Minneapolis Tribune Picture Magazine, March 4, 1973; pp. 28, 31
 "Muskego Church", Minnesota History Vol.38, No. 5; Minnesota Historical
 Society's Editorial Staff, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul,
 1963; pp. 231-233
 St. Paul Pioneer Press, February 9, 1930, Section three; June 16, 1946,
 Section two page 4, October 4, 1963 (see continuation sheet)

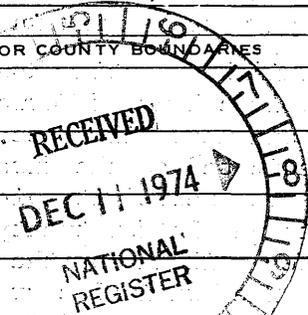
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		44 0 59 . 06 . "	93 0 11 . 45 . "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John J. Hackett, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 20 November 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society
 Date: December 17, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 5/19/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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		MAY 12 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER
(Number 100)

7. Description

The simple furnishings such as the 1848 patented cast iron stove whose pipes encircle the underside of the gallery, the pump organ, baptismal font, portraits of persons important to the founding and growth of the log church, complete the interior of the log chapel that served the needs of the early Norwegian congregation.

This historical site has been given recognition by the United States Department of Interior when the Historic American Buildings Survey, in 1934, recorded the log chapel. A marker was positioned at the intersection of Luther Place and Como Avenue in 1963 to bring attention to the significance of the old Muskego Church; "A house of worship erected in 1844 by the first congregation organized by Norwegian Lutheran immigrants in America".⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

United States Department of Interior Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations Branch of Plans and Designs. Log Chapel - St. Paul Minnesota, Survey No. 29-24, 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey, Sheets 1-3 of 3

4. Holmquist, June, et al, History Along the Highway, p. 18

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Muskego Church in Ramsey County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75001013

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Ramsey

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Norway Lutheran Church (Muskego)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date