

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Baptist Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication
city, town Kief N/A vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county McHenry code 049 zip code 58747

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
1	0
Total	

Name of related multiple property listing:
Ukrainian Immigration to North Dakota

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official James E. Sperry State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) Date August 28, 1987

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Carol P. Shull

10-16-87

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL: siding

WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT: shingles

other GLASS: colored

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Liberty Baptist Church is one of three architectural features found on the site located in the southeast corner of the corporate limits of Kief, North Dakota. The church sits northwest of the intersection of Fifth and Christina Streets. The nominated area measures 106' north-south x 166' east-west and is ringed by deciduous trees on all but the western boundary of the site. Along that side of the site are planted two small evergreen trees. The trees mark the north and west site boundaries, and the gravel road marks the east and south boundaries.

Two privies are near the site's north west corner, designated by a power pole, and are not significant. Immediately northeast of the church is a concrete and brick marker noting the historic significance of the church. Its base measures 6' north-south x 1'9" east-west. Neither the pole nor the sign were recorded as architectural features.

Across the road from the site on the east and south sides is farmland. To the west is an abandoned church, last associated with Mennonites in the Kief area. A residential site is sited to the north.

The church measures in its main block 22' north-south x 30' east-west and opens to the east. The vestibule entry and a concrete entry platform each comprise an added 8' east-west x 12' north-south on the church's east side. The church has a poured concrete foundation with exterior metal siding. The siding is stamped to simulate narrow board siding. Three gothic arched windows are on each of the north and south sides. The windows are double-hung two-over-two sashes. However, with the arch of the upper sash the lower sash could only be raised about a foot.

A variety of glass types light the space: clear glass, several types of translucent glasses, and even some colored clear and translucent (textured) glazing. Hammered glass (textured surface and uncolored translucent) appears to be the original glass type. In the upper sashes of some of the windows is clear colored glass. The translucence of the first floor windows obscures viewing of the interior from outside at ground level. The window frames have been painted and even a couple have been caulked shut. The window frames remain intact.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

The siding has been added in the last ten years (Interview with Spichke). In residing, the soffit and fascia have been covered. The east-west running ridge line caps the asphalt shingle roof which forms a clipped gable or jerkinhead. In the western portion of the clip of the gable is a chimney.

The double door, on the east side, has above it an uncovered electric light. There is a fixed two pane window in the south side of the entry vestibule. Beneath the building is a crawl space revealed by a screened opening on the foundation's southern side. A hole in the siding on the south side reveals that a styrofoam insulating material probably in sheet form has been placed between the siding and the original clapboards. Those clapboards appear to be intact.

The interior of the church has been renovated, presumably at the same time as the siding. A central aisle separates the pews. The ceiling is barrel vaulted and lined with acoustical tiles. Wood panelling covers the walls to a height which coincides with the point of the arched windows. The front of the church is simply decorated with organ, two chairs, and small altar.

This site retains very good-excellent integrity. Little appears to have affected overall integrity with the exception of electrical hookups and installation of masonry sign. The integrity of the church is compromised only by the application of metal siding in the last ten years. It is likely that the materials are intact beneath the siding so that the facility retains high integrity with slight compromise to integrity of design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1902-1936

Significant Dates

1902-03

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect and Builders unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The site is historically important for being the first "Stundist" church building erected in North America. Stundists are emigrants from the Ukraine who left Russia beginning in the 1880's to escape religious persecution. Although Stundist settlers located in Louisville, Kentucky and Yale, Virginia before other Stundist groups arrived in North Dakota, those eastern settlers did not immediately provide a special house of worship. They met, instead, in members' homes. The early success of Stundist farmers in central North Dakota and the ability to worship freely in the sparsely populated area allowed for construction of at least 16 Stundist churches, many of which are located in or near towns on the Soo Line branch west of Drake (Dubovy, p. 64). Among the churches mentioned by Dubovy is Liberty Baptist Church.

Stundists arrived in the Kief area in 1901 and built the church in 1902-03 at a location about two miles west of the church's present location (see quad map). By the late 1920s many farmers had relocated to Kief upon retirement but found it difficult to attend services during inclement weather. The church was moved to its present location in 1936 to make it easier for the elderly members to attend (Interview with Ann Spichke). The church was not changed in materials or design during the move.

Architecturally the roof type resembles that employed in pioneer housing constructed by immigrant Ukrainians. The tradition of hipped-roof earth-walled dwellings with thatch as a roofing material was brought from Russia to the upper Great Plains by this group, but quickly disappeared due to scarcity of reeds. Pioneers constructed houses, though, which retained the hipped or clipped gable roof configuration in available materials because of these roof types retained their water shedding capability (Noble: 144-146). While the Liberty Baptist church does not possess the long-side entry typically found on the dwellings, the roof type is sufficiently dissimilar to local churches to suggest a link with traditional housing forms.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1983 Dubovy, Andrew. Pilgrims of the Prairie: Pioneer Ukrainian Baptists in North Dakota. Dickinson: Ukrainian Cultural Institute.

Interview with Ann Spichke, October 20, 1986.

Interview with Philip Spichke September 8, 1986.

1984 Noble, Allen. Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape (Volume 2). Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.

On-site Survey and recording of property, September 8, 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet of Multiple Properties Nomination Form

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Division of Archeology and Historic Preservation, SHSND

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1 4 | 3 8 5 9 4 0 | 5 3 0 1 2 7 0
Zone Easting Northing

B _____ | _____ | _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____ | _____ | _____

D _____ | _____ | _____

Quad Map for Liberty Baptist Church is in the Semevolos Farm (individual) nomination

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 & 2, Block 13, Original Township Plat of Kief, North Dakota

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated area includes the significant resource and the land surrounding it which has been historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Martin Perry/Architectural Historian
organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date 7/15/87
street & number Heritage Center telephone 701-224-2672
city or town Bismarck state North Dakota zip code 58505

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Consult the contextual statement for discussion of Stundists and other Ukrainian immigration to America and to North Dakota. The importance of the Liberty Baptist Church is as a representative of the history of religion and settlement. It is important nationally as the first effort of the Stundist immigrants to maintain their cultural heritage by erecting religious spaces. The church is of statewide significance for its role in fostering settlement of the immigrant Stundists in central North Dakota.

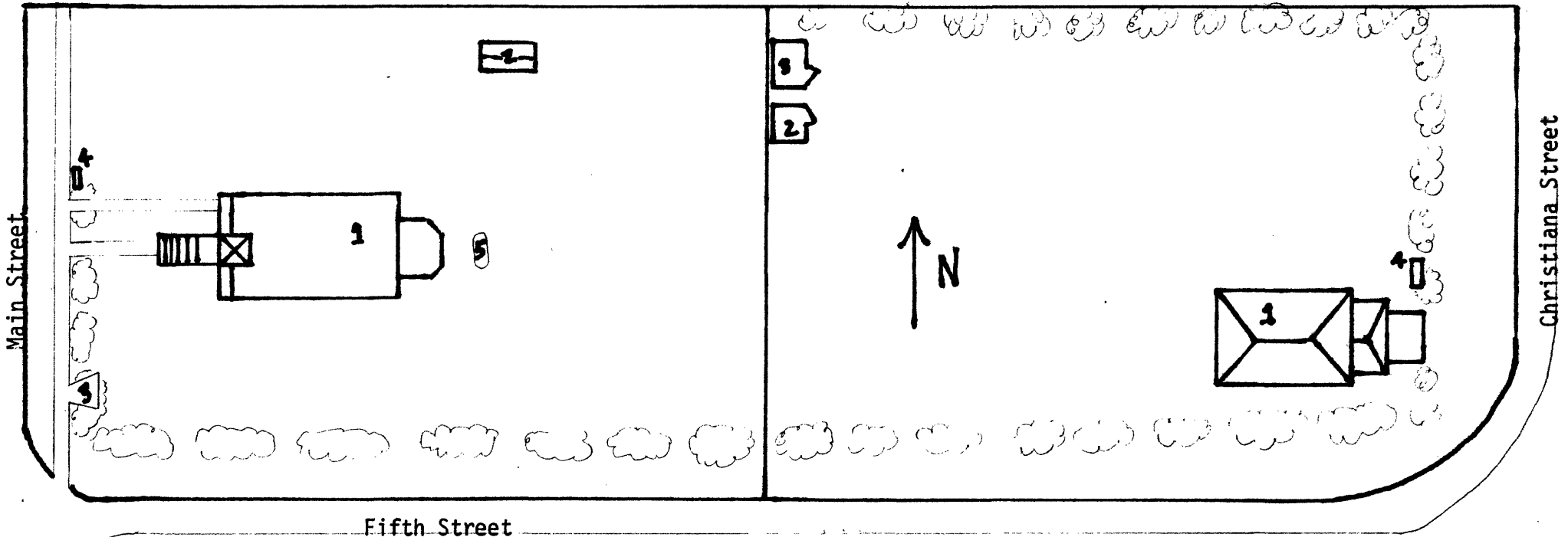
KIEF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

- 1: Church
- 2: Privy
- 3: Extension of sidewalk
- 4: Sign
- 5: Propane tank

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

- 1: Church
- 2: Privy
- 3: Privy
- 4: Commemorative sign

RESIDENTIAL LOTS



FARMLAND

SITE MAPS FOR KIEF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH AND LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH
 LOCATED IN KIEF, ND
 SCALE: 1:400 (3"= 100")
 BOLD LINES MARK SITE BOUNDARIES

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

Liberty Baptist Church
Kief (McHenry County), North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Exterior of church, view of southwest.
Photo 1 of 4

Liberty Baptist Church
Kief (McHenry County), North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Exterior of church, view to northeast.
Photo 2 of 4

Liberty Baptist Church
Kief (McHenry County), North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry
Date of photo: September 8, 1986
Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Interior, rear of church, view to east.
Photo 3 of 4

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photos 2

Section number _____ Page _____

Liberty Baptist Church
Kief (McHenry County), North Dakota

Photo Credit: L. Martin Perry

Date of photo: September 8, 1986

Location of negative: State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck, ND 58505

Interior, front of church, view to west.

Photo 4 of 4
