

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 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 Immanuel Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number East side of West Second Street N/A not for publication
city, towns/site number Kimballton N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Audubon code 009 zip code 51543

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | 1 | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | | |
| | | 1 | 1 |
| | | | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet
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.

David [Signature] 8/13/91
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historical Society of Iowa

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

hereby, certify that this property is:

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. | <u>Beth Boland</u> | <u>10/3/91</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed for the National Register. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) | _____ | _____ |

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials

foundation brick

walls wood/weatherboard

roof asphalt

other glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church is situated on a large open lot on a gradual hillslope overlooking the east half of the town of Kimballton which sits at the base of the slope below the church. The church is situated so that it can be seen from a distance in the rural hinterlands surrounding the town. The hill rises gradually to the west of the church, with the town cemetery situated at the hilltop. The church and a parsonage built in the 1950s are the only two buildings on this large lot. The parsonage is located to the north of the church and is considered a noncontributing building to the nominated property. The lot slopes away from the church to the east and the south and is landscaped with trees and shrubbery. Before the parsonage was built, an evergreen grove was situated north of the church and, at one time, there was a horse barn on the northeast corner of the lot. That building is no longer extant, and the location has been adversely impacted by subsequent landscaping. Therefore, there is little potential for archaeological remains of this building.

The church building rises one story from a brick foundation. The frame building was constructed with a basement level, and the foundation rises approximately two to three feet from the ground level. The ground plan of the building is a cross-shape, with a rounded apse at the east end and a 3.5 story, square, central entry tower projecting out from the front (west) facade. This tower features paired pointed-arched windows in the lantern, with rectangular louvers between the lantern and the spire. The latter is covered with shingles which have been painted silver. The spire is also topped with a metal cross and has decorative gables with scrollwork screens at its base. A similar decorative gable with screen is located below the lantern and centered above the entry.

The roof of the building is covered with asphalt shingles, and the walls are clad with narrow, lapped board siding. The original cornerboards, friezeboards, and covered soffits are intact as is the wide board at the water table. The side gabled wings have gable screens at their peaks and wood shingled cornice returns. The windows are all pointed arched Gothic windows with stained glass and simple hoods. The stained glass is a replacement of the original clear panes, although the paired windows in the tower lantern retain the original clear panes.

Modifications to the building have included the replacement of the window panes with stained glass, the replacement of the west and south doors with metal doors, the repairing of the front stoop and steps, the removal of the metal roof ridge cresting (although the original finials and cresting remain on the gables at the base of the spire), a metal chimney on the north roof slope, and the addition of a brick building to the north wall of the church. The latter was constructed in 1965 and is attached to the church building across the north wall of the side wing. This addition is one story in height with a basement level.

XSee continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> nationally | <input type="checkbox"/> statewide | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> locally | | | | |
| Applicable National Register Criteria | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> D | | | |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> E | <input type="checkbox"/> F | <input type="checkbox"/> G |
| Areas of Significance | Period of Significance | | Significant Dates | | | | |
| <u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u> | <u>1904-1924</u> | | <u>1904</u> | | | | |
| <u>RELIGION</u> | | | | | | | |
| <u>ARCHITECTURE</u> | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Significant Person | Architect/Builder | | | | | | |
| <u>N/A</u> | <u>Hansen, Niels;</u> | | | | | | |
| | <u>Rasmussen, Jens</u> | | | | | | |

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

The Immanuel Danish Evangelical Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion A within the multiple property historic context of Danish Immigrant Settlement, 1865-1924: Religious Culture for its association with the Grundtvigian synod of the Danish Lutheran Church following the historic split within the church in 1894 and for its influence upon the growth and development of the Danish community of Kimballton. Furthermore, this property is the best representation of that historic synod in the Kimballton community and the two county area. The property is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C within the same context because it embodies the characteristics of Danish immigrant religious properties, exemplifies the work of skilled immigrant craftsmen, and physically symbolizes the influence of the Grundtvigian congregation in the Danish community of Kimballton. It is also among the best preserved historic Danish churches in the two county area and the only Grundtvigian church to survive. It meets Criteria Exception A because the building derives its primary significance from its important historical association and architectural distinction. The period of significance for this property begins with the construction of the church building in 1904 and closes with 1924, the end date of the period of significance of the Danish immigrant settlement in Shelby and Audubon counties. During that period, this church served as the predominant Grundtvigian church in the two county area and was influential in the development of Kimballton in the early 1900s-1910s.

When the Danish Lutheran Church split into two opposing factions in 1894, those that followed the teachings of Bishop N. F. S. Grundtvig remained with the "Danish Church," while those following the pietistic beliefs of Inner Mission Society left to establish a separate church, known commonly after 1896 as the "United Church." In the Shelby/Audubon county area, the United Church congregations retained possession of the earlier church buildings in Elk Horn and at Bethany Church in Sharon Township; however, some of their members left to organize a Grundtvigian congregation in Kimballton. Left without a church building and lacking, for a time, the resources to build a proper church, this congregation first met in various homes in the community or outdoors when the weather permitted. In 1896 the members purchased land on which they built an assembly house, or forsamlinghus, to use as a temporary church and community hall. They also purchased a neighboring house to use as a parsonage. After the church was built in 1904, the assembly hall was used variously for church and community activities including gymnastics, lectures, and folk dancing and

XSee continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

History Book Committee. Kimballton: 1883-1983. Kimballton: History Book Committee, 1983.

Mackintosh, Yette. "'Little Denmark' on the Prairie: A Study of the Towns of Elk Horn and Kimballton in Iowa." Journal of American Ethnic History 7(2) (Spring 1988).

Neve, Dr. J. L. A Brief History of the Lutheran Church in America. Burlington: German Literary Board, 1916.

Petersen, Peter L. The Danes in America. Minneapolis: Lerner Publication Company, 1987.

Church records of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton.

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 # _____

_See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
XState historic preservation office
_Other State agency
_Federal agency
_Local government
_University
_Other

Specify repository:
_Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 2.11 acres

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>15</u> | <u>327200</u> | <u>4610520</u> | B | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | _____ | _____ | _____ | D | _____ | _____ | _____ |

_See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Assessor's Office, Audubon County Courthouse, Audubon, Iowa: All of Block 3, Original Town of Kimballton, Audubon County, Iowa.

_See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the property.

_See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------------|----------|--------------|
| name/title | <u>Jeanette Lillehoj and Leah Rogers, Project Director</u> | | | | |
| organization | <u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u> | date | <u>June 30, 1991</u> | | |
| street & number | <u>520 Franklin</u> | telephone | <u>319-849-1271</u> | | |
| city or town | <u>Center Point</u> | state | <u>Iowa</u> | zip code | <u>52213</u> |

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Name of related multiple property listing:
The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

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The addition is attached to the side wing in such a way that the original wall remains intact and visible above the brick addition. This addition is also banked into the slope of the lot, so that it is not highly visible from the majority of vistas of the church building and does not greatly obscure the view of the historic church building for the vistas in which it is visible.

The interior of the main core of the church building has been relatively unchanged through the years. The center aisle runs east-west and is crossed by a north-south aisle reflecting the ground plan of the church. Notable interior features include the vaulted ceiling, the ornate brass chandelier which is suspended over the central aisle of the nave, the varnished pine woodwork with egg-and-dart molding, the carved altarpiece and statue, the semi-circular communion rail in front of the altar, and the raised pulpit, although the latter has been slightly lowered from its original height. The altar and pulpit are ornately carved with various cross-like symbols. The curved communion railing is supported by turned balusters. A small center portion of this railing can be removed to allow passage through the railing. The Christ-like statue on the altar is a copy of the one in Vor Frue Kirke in Copenhagen created by the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. This type of statue was common to the Danish Lutheran churches of the area. The brass chandelier is quite elaborate and retains the original glass globes. It was originally a gas fixture but has been converted to electricity. Additions to the interior of the church have included new pews, carpeting, base boards, four ceiling lights, and two ceiling fans.

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singing. The assembly hall and parsonage are still standing but both have been extensively modified through the years. The parsonage no longer retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for the Register, while the integrity of the assembly hall is questionable. This hall has been converted into several apartments and has had two additions made to the building through the years.

In 1903 the congregation decided to build a church in the northwest part of Kimballton. The pastor at that time, Jens Gregersen, had come from West Denmark, Wisconsin, where a new church had been built in 1900 for a Grundtvigian congregation. Through Pastor Gregersen's influence, the two craftsmen who had built the church in West Denmark, Niels Hansen and Jens Rasmussen, were brought to Kimballton to construct the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Hansen, a Danish immigrant, drew up the plans for the church, modeling it after the design of the church in West Denmark, while Rasmussen worked on the interior features including the pulpit, altar, and communion railing. When the church was completed in 1904, both Hansen and Rasmussen returned to West Denmark, Wisconsin. The church that they constructed in West Denmark burned to the ground in the 1930s; however, historic photographs of this building have survived.

Following the split in the Danish Lutheran Church, there were only four Grundtvigian churches established in the two county area compared to nine pietistic churches. However, of the four Grundtvigian churches, that in Kimballton was the largest congregation and the most influential. It had a tremendous impact on the development of the Danish community of Kimballton, influencing not only the religious life of the community, but the social, educational, and political aspects as well. It was the only church located in the town and its presence attracted a number of recent immigrants to this community in the early 1900s to 1910s when the third wave of Danish immigration resulted in a boom for the Kimballton community. The influence of the Grundtvigian congregation can be seen in the one-time presence of a Dansk Folkesamfund, a social organization founded on Grundtvigian principles, the number of dances, Danish plays, lectures, and folk singing activities which were held historically and into the present in the community, and the summer and Danish Children's schools that once operated in this community to help maintain Danish cultural traditions. Danish language services were held on a regular basis in the Immanuel Lutheran church until the 1960s when a new pastor arrived who could not speak Danish.

While the church building was not constructed until 1904, ten years after the historic split in the Lutheran Church, it is still locally representative of that split because this building is the only surviving Grundtvigian church in the two county area. Furthermore, the two buildings associated with the early church in this community, the assembly hall and the parsonage, have been greatly modified through the years and neither retains the structural integrity of the church building. The congregation built the assembly hall first, primarily because they lacked the resources for a larger church building. It has been noted that one can always hold church services in a gym hall, but one cannot do gymnastics in a church. Therefore, to meet their immediate needs for both a church and a hall, the congregation opted for the assembly hall. Their ultimate goal, however, was for the construction of the church building which they accomplished in 1904. This building, a large edifice which sits prominently overlooking the town and its hinterlands, symbolized the predominance of the Grundtvigian synod in this community.

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Section number Photos Page 1

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Kimballton, Iowa
Jeanette Lillehoj, photographer
November 1990
Original negatives, Jeanette Lillehoj, Kimballton, Iowa

| <u>Photo #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------|---|
| 1 | Church as seen from a distance View to NNW |
| 2 | Church and brick addition View to ESE |
| 3 | Church View to NE |
| 4 | Church, south side View to N |
| 5 | Church and addition (rear) View to SW |
| 6 | Interior of nave View to E |
| 7 | Church, southeast side 5/25/90 View to NW Photographer, Leah Rogers Original negative, Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation |

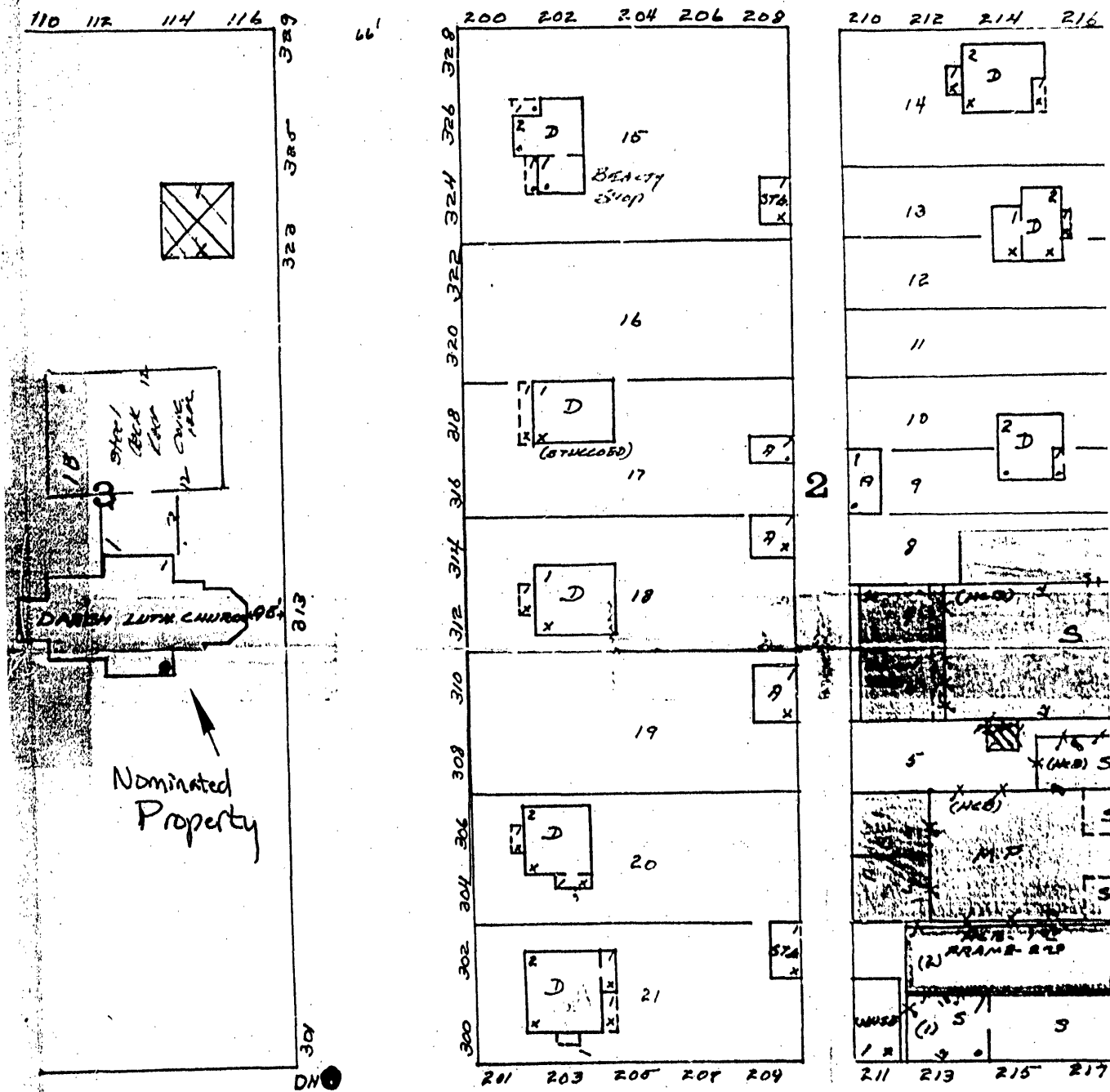
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Continuation Sheet

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1931 Fire Insurance Map, Kimballton

ESBECK



1931

ALFRED