NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED 19950630
95000798

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 Stockholm Swedish Lutheran Church & Cemetery

other names/site number NeHBS #FM00-020

2. Location

street & number 2.5 miles west & .5 mile south of Shickley not for publication [n/a]

city or town Shickley vicinity [x]

state Nebraska code NE county Fillmore code 059 zip code 68436

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] 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 [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [x] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Andrew Sommer
Signature of certifying official

5/15/95
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

printed on recycled paper

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

[x] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

[x] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility
Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious facility
Funerary/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood
roof Metal
other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

[x] **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.)

Property is:

[x] **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.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/European

Period of Significance

1878-1901

Significant Dates

1878
1900-01

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Aldrich, N.K. (architect)
Gustafson, A.A. (contractor)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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:
[x] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.1 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	603690	4473765	3.			
2.				4.			

[ ] See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan E. Hendrickson, Norman E. Landgren/Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian

organization Members of Stockholm Lutheran Church/Nebr. St. Hist. Society date February 1995

street & number RFD, Box 68; Rt. 2, Box 92/1500 R Street telephone (402) 627-7095, 627-7155/(402) 471-4767

city or town Shickley/Lincoln state NE zip code 68436/68501

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Stockholm Lutheran Church, c/o Richard Hendrickson, Trustee/Swedish Cemetery Assn. of Bryant Township, c/o Vernon Pearson, Trustee

street & number P.O. Box 53/RR 2, Box 58 telephone (402) 627-3575/(402) 627-4935

city or town Shickley state NE zip code 68453

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.

Description

Stockholm Swedish Lutheran Church and Cemetery are located approximately three miles southwest of Shickley in Fillmore County. The location is north of the center of a rural ethnic enclave formed when Swedish immigrants began settling in Bryant Township in the early 1870s. Named after the Swedish capital, the Stockholm Swedish Lutheran congregation was organized in 1875. In 1878, the cemetery was established when the Swedish Lutheran Church Association deeded five acres to the newly organized Swedish Cemetery Association. The present church building was constructed in 1900-01. This nomination consists of one contributing building, the church, and one contributing site, the cemetery. Two small sheds located north of the church (see site plan) are minor resources and are not counted in the nomination. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved.

Stockholm Swedish Lutheran Church is located near Shickley (1994 population: 360), a small town in southwestern Fillmore County. Fillmore County is in the Central Plains region of Nebraska which contains concentrations of Swedish settlements. The nominated property includes the church and cemetery. Landscape features include deciduous and conifer trees and shrubs in windbreaks and hedge rows along fence lines (see site plan). The church parsonage (no longer extant), located east of the cemetery, was built in 1909 and was known as "Stockholm's slott" (Stockholm's Palace), (Sandahl, 1931, 124).

Constructed in 1900-01 at a cost of $3,549.46, the church was designed by architect N. K. Aldrich of Galesburg, Illinois, after plans drawn by Swedish-American architect Olaf Cervin of Rock Island, Illinois (Church minutes, 1899). A. A. Gustafson of Funk, Nebraska, served as the contractor. Measuring 36' x 60', the building is a rectangular wood frame structure with a brick foundation. The gable roof (originally covered with wood shingles) with gable returns is sheathed with metal shingles. The church displays Gothic Revival detailing, most notably in the pointed arched window and door openings. The central engaged square bell tower displays a six sided belfry with dormer ventilator units, and contains the original 1,800 pound bell. A gilded metal cross, situated at the apex of the belfry, stands 70 feet above ground level. Access to the church is through double doors. Part of the original church, built in 1881, is attached to the north (rear) facade of the present structure and serves as a social room.

Interior features include a raised chancel that contains the wooden Gothic altar inside the communion rail. Above the main altar is an original oil painting entitled "Christ in Gethsemane" by Swedish-American artist Olof Grafstron. A Gothic wooden pulpit stands to the right of the chancel, along with the baptismal font. Interior walls and the ceiling are covered with decorative pressed tin. In March of 1987, the church was vandalized and many original pews were destroyed and/or stolen. Replacement pews of similar design and vintage were acquired and installed in the church interior.

The cemetery was established in February of 1878 when the Swedish Lutheran Church congregation formed the Swedish Cemetery Association and deeded five acres of church property for cemetery use. The cemetery adjoins the church property on the east (see site plan). The purpose of the Association was "to provide a burial ground for the Swedish people of this community" (Association minutes, 1886). Landscaped with conifer tree plantings, the cemetery is maintained by the Association. The church and cemetery continue to serve the Stockholm congregation.

Statement of Significance

Stockholm Swedish Lutheran Church (and Cemetery) is significant on a local level under the area of ethnic heritage (Criterion A) for its representation of a rural religious institution around which Swedish immigrants and their descendants sought to preserve their Swedish heritage. The church played an important role in the religious beliefs,

Statement of Significance (continued)

cultural traditions and social activities practiced by Swedish immigrants in the Stockholm community beginning in the late nineteenth century.

The property relates to the statewide context *Swedish-Americans in Nebraska* (18.04.04). The period of significance is derived from the year the cemetery was established (1878) through the construction date of the present church (1900-01). Criterion Consideration A is applicable and is met through the property deriving primary significance from ethnic associations. Criteria Consideration D is not applicable because the cemetery is being nominated along with the associated church, the main resource in the complex.

The mass emigration of Swedes to America ranks as one of the most profound nineteenth-century European experiences. In the middle of the nineteenth century, Sweden had a population of 3½ million, but during the course of a generation, more than one million had left for America (Runblom and Norman, 1976, 11). Some Swedish emigration came during the late 1840s and early 1850s, when farm families began their exodus in search of land and a better life (Hasselmo, 1974, 13). Many Swedish immigrants began moving into Nebraska after the Civil War; many of them coming from older settlements in states such as Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. Immigration also occurred directly from the old country, where Swedes came from the southern provinces of Smaland and Skane, and Dalarna in central Sweden. According to the U. S. census material for the years 1860-80, Nebraska's Swedish-born population rose from 70 to approximately 10,000; and during the 1880s increased to more than 28,000, the highest total on record (Kastrup, 1975, 444).

Although Fillmore County's Swedish population was comparatively low, its neighboring county to the west, Clay, had a high concentration of Swedish immigrants, especially in the eastern half. The Saron Swedish Lutheran Church in Saronville, Clay County, was organized in 1872, and the Gethsemane Swedish Lutheran Church, originally one pastorate with Stockholm Lutheran Church, was organized in the town of Edgar in 1882 and transferred to Ong in 1922.

Religious denominations are among the oldest groups formed by the Swedish people in America. Beginning with the earliest period of Swedish immigration, churches served as the centers of cultural and social life. A vital part of the lives of Swedish immigrants in the new world, the church became the strongest ethnic institution in the rural Swedish-American settlements in Nebraska. The church served not only as a gathering place for worshipers on a weekly basis, but also offered a variety of social and charitable activities to fulfill the needs of its members (Lindell, 1987, 262).

In 1875, the Stockholm Swedish Lutheran congregation was organized by Swedish immigrants from Moline, Illinois. Six acres of land were purchased for church purposes. In 1878 the Swedish Lutheran Church formed a separate entity known as the Swedish Cemetery Association and deeded church property for cemetery use. Church services were held in a nearby school and in members' houses until 1881 when the first church was constructed. The first full-time pastor was called in 1883. Membership increased considerably and the original church became too small to hold the congregation. A special meeting was held July 30, 1900, when the decision was made to construct a new and larger building--the present Stockholm Lutheran Church. The building was completed in January 1901 and dedicated in September of the same year. In 1911 membership peaked with 367 recorded, of which 239 were communicant members and 128 were children.

The Stockholm congregation tenaciously held to the Swedish language until 1937 when all services, except an occasional Swedish service on a festive occasion, were in the English language (Church minutes, 1937). Minutes of all congregational meetings were written in Swedish until 1931. Preservation of their mother tongue gave the Swedes

Statement of Significance (continued)

identity and took on special connotations, providing memories of the old country, childhood and families and friends. It was, for many Swedes, the most concrete expression of their "Swedishness" (Skardal, 1974, 88), (Hasselmo, 1974, 36-37). The Swedish language also provided a common bond among members of a church congregation, with many immigrants feeling it was the most distinctive feature of their religion (Lindmark, 1971, 236).

Stockholm Lutheran Church has played a significant role in the practice of Swedish folkways in the rural Stockholm community. Preservation of their Swedish heritage and traditions has long been a focal point of members of Stockholm Lutheran Church. Although the membership of Stockholm Lutheran Church has declined throughout the past half century, Swedish traditions have been preserved. A "Smorgosbordet" is annually held for members shortly before Christmas. "Lutefisk" is always featured on the menu. Annual picnics still commemorate the Swedish tradition of Midsummer celebration. At these occasions the Swedish flag flies from the Swedish Cemetery flagpole.

Today, the church and cemetery remain as evidence of the material and spiritual culture of a group of Swedish immigrants who settled in Nebraska in the 1870s, and established a Swedish-American Lutheran congregation. The church played an important role in the community's historically rooted beliefs, customs and practices, and stands as a symbol of Swedish-American heritage in Nebraska.

Bibliography

The Fillmore County Story, Geneva Community Grange No. 403, Geneva, Nebraska, 1968.

Gilkerson, Joni. *Swedish-Americans in Nebraska. Historic Context Report 18.04.04,* on file, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska. 1992.

Hasselmo, Nils. *Swedish America: An Introduction.* Stockholm: Esselte Studium in cooperation with Svenska Spraknamnden, 1974.

A History of Stockholm Lutheran Church, One Hundredth Anniversary, Stockholm Lutheran Church, December, 1975.

Kastrup, Allan. *The Swedish Heritage in America.* Swedish Council of America, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1975.

Lindell, Terrence Jon. "Acculturation Among Swedish Immigrants in Kansas and Nebraska, 1870-1900," Doctoral Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1987.

Lindmark, Sture. *Swedish America, 1914-1932: Studies in Ethnicity with Emphasis on Illinois and Minnesota.* Stockholm: Scandinavian University Books, Laromedelsforlagen, 1971.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Stockholm Swedish Lutheran Church, 1881-1947, Shickley, Nebraska.

Minutes of the Swedish Cemetery Association, 1878-1941, Swedish Cemetery Association, Shickley, Nebraska.

Runblom, Harald, and Hans Norman. *From Sweden to America.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1976.

Sandahl, Charles Frederick. *The Nebraska Conference of the Augustana Synod.* The Nebraska Conference, 1931.

Bibliography (continued)

Skardal, Dorothy Burton. *The Divided Heart*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974.

"Specifications for a Swedish Lutheran Church to be built at Shickley, Nebraska," N. K. Aldrich, architect, Galesburg, Illinois, on file, Stockholm Lutheran Church.

"Stockholm Church," *Shickley Herald*, 15 October 1915, 29 October 1915, Shickley, Nebraska.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as a square tract of land, beginning at a point at the southeast corner of the southwest 1/4 of Section 9, Township 5, Range 4 West of the 6th PM, thence commencing west 32 rods, thence north 32 rods, thence east 32 rods, thence south 32 rods to the point of beginning. Said tract of land containing 6.1 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that parcel of land that has historically been associated with the property and which contains the church building and cemetery.

Photo 1 of 8
c.1910 historic view looking NE showing S (main) & W facades
(NSHS H673.5-5627)

Photo 2 of 8
General view looking NE
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:18)

Photo 3 of 8
General view looking NW
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:11)

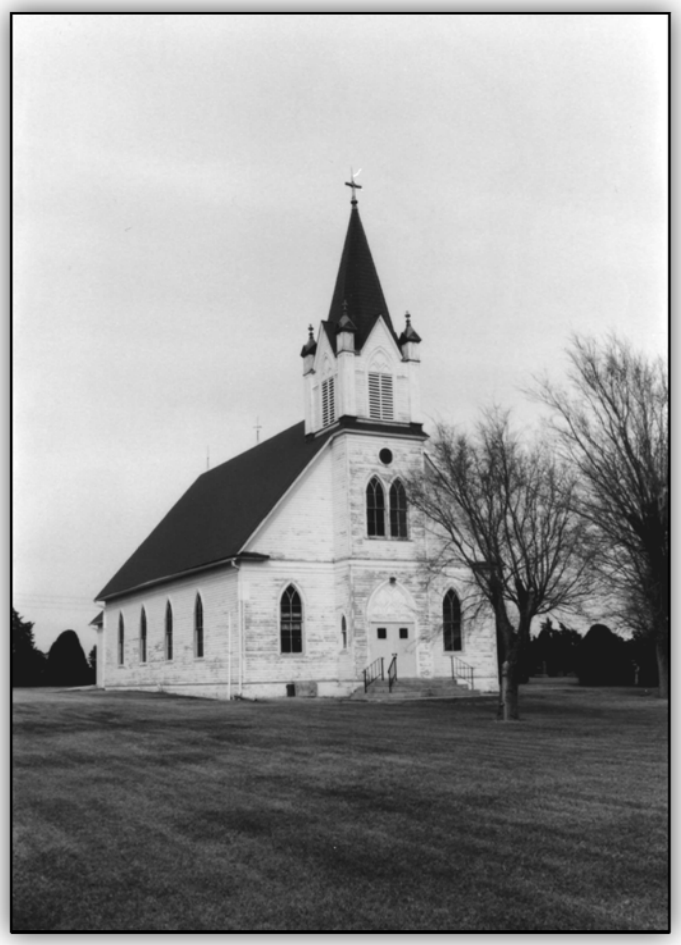


Photo 4 of 8
View looking NE showing S (main) & W facades
Photo by bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:6)

Photo 5 of 8
View looking SE showing N & W facades
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:15)

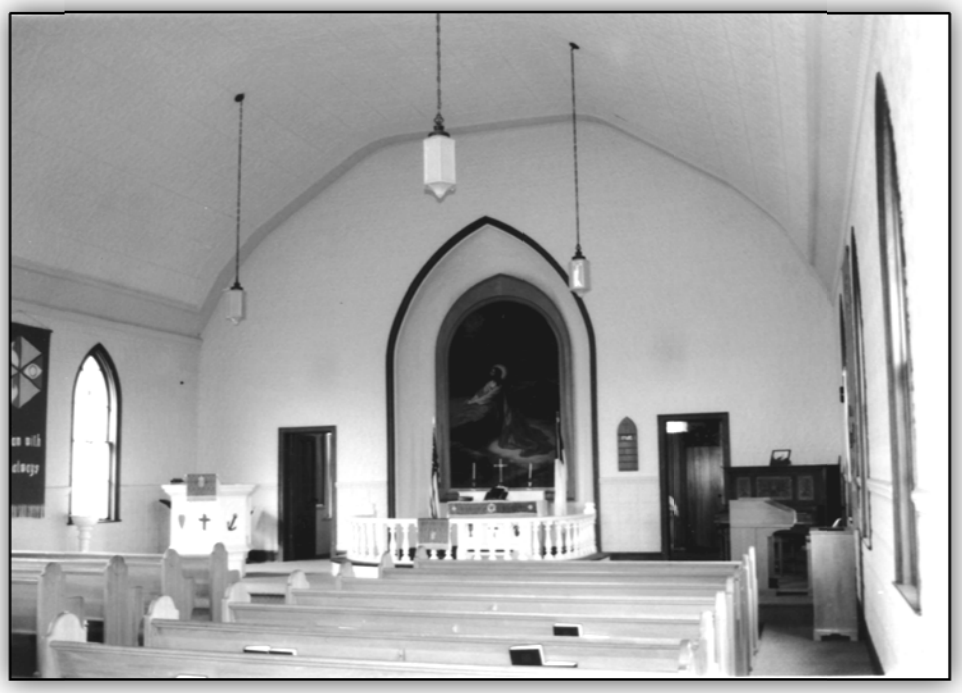


Photo 6 of 8
View looking NW toward altar
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:21)

Photo 7 of 8
View looking N toward altar
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:23)

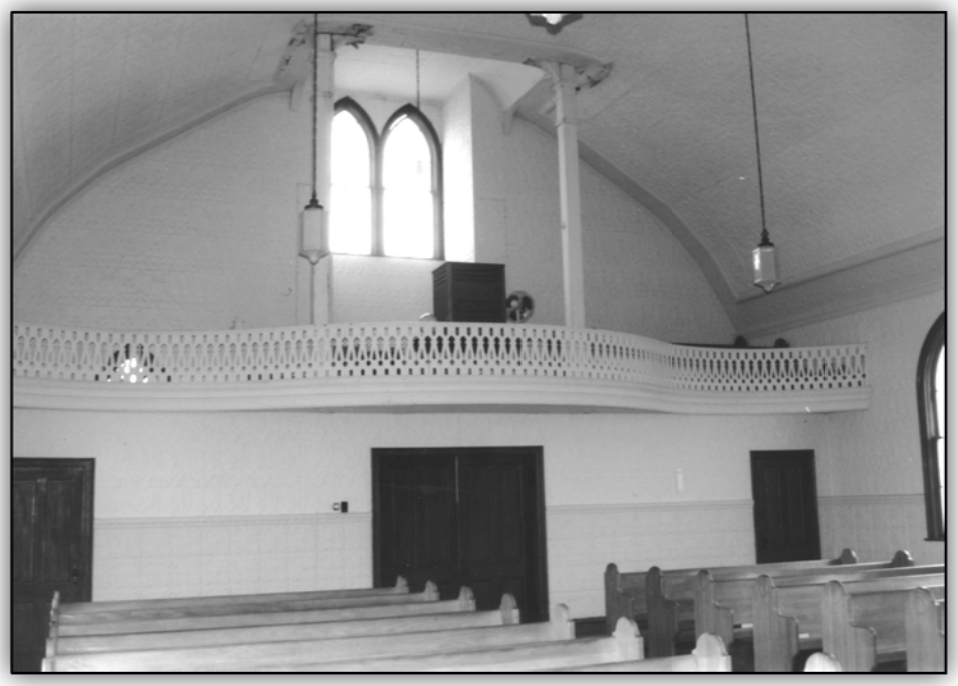
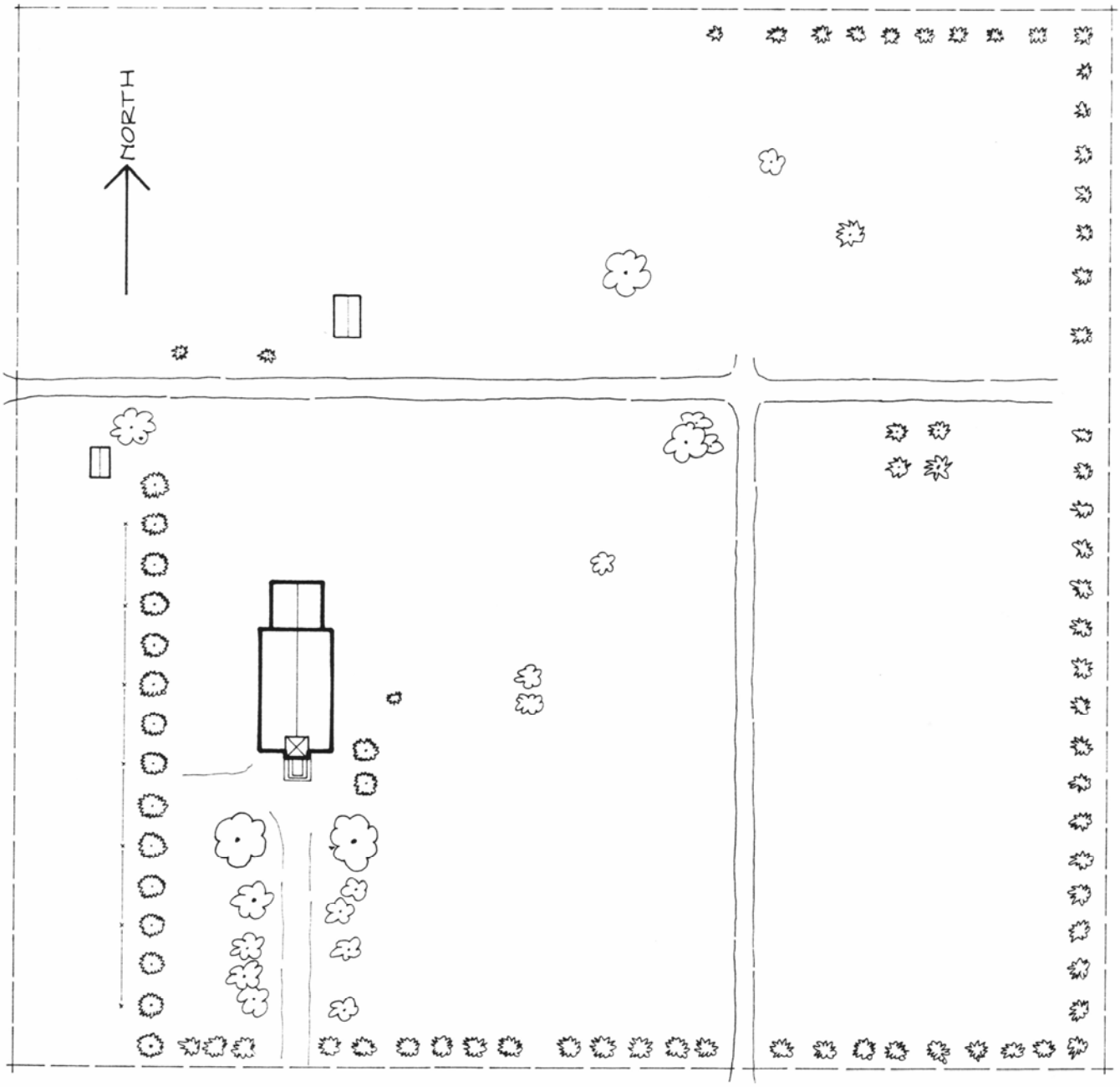


Photo 8 of 8
View looking SSW toward balcony
Photo by Bob Selzer, NSHS, Feb 1995 (9502/1:22)



STOCKHOLM SWEDISH LUTHERN
CHURCH & CEMETERY (NEHBS #FM00-020)
RURAL FILLMORE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN - NO SCALE

DRAWN BY DELL DARLING FROM
FIELD NOTES BY NORMAN E. LUNDGREN (DEC. 1993)
NSHS, FEBRUARY 1995