NAME: Emmanuel Lutheran Church

LOCATION:

Street and Number: 1500 Hickory Street
City or Town: Dakota City
State: Nebraska

CLASSIFICATION:

Category (Check One):
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Ownership:
- Public
- Private
- Both

Public Acquisition:
- In Process
- Being Considered

Status:
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Yes
- Restricted
- No
- Unrestricted

Accessible to the Public:
- Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate):
  - Agricultural
  - Commercial
  - Educational
  - Entertainment
  - Government
  - Industrial
  - Military
  - Private Residence
  - Religious
  - Park
  - Transportation
  - Comments

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

Name: City of Dakota City

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

County Clerk, Dakota County Court House

Representation in Existing Surveys:

Title of Survey: Historic American Buildings Survey

Date of Survey: 1934

Depository for Survey Records: Library of Congress

City or Town: Dakota City
State: Nebraska
Code: 26

This form is part of the National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form, used by the United States Department of the Interior's National Park Service. It is designed to record information about historic properties with a focus on their classification, accessibility, ownership, and representation in existing surveys. The form includes specific fields for the name of the property, location details, classification, owner information, location of legal description, and representation in existing surveys.
The building was erected in 1860 as a one story, frame, Lutheran church with a gable roof crowned by a cupola or bell tower. The structural framework was fashioned from native cottonwood lumber. Some of the original siding has been replaced over the years, and a new roof was provided about 1960. Otherwise, no significant alterations have evidently been made over the years. The tower houses a bell which was cast in 1856 and is presumably original to the building. The pilasters of the tower and the heavy cornices and cornice returns show Greek Revival influence.

About ten to twenty years ago, the building ceased to be used for regular Lutheran worship services. In 1963 the deed to the church property was given to the Dakota City government by the Nebraska Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. In 1963-64 certain rehabilitation work was carried out by the Dakota County Historical Society. At the same time, while many early church furnishings were left intact, several additional historical items were placed inside the structure. The building is now operated as a museum occasionally opened to the public. The church and its property occupy lots 1, 2, and 3 in Dakota City block 220. These three lots define the boundaries of the land now being nominated to the National Register.
Only three or four Greek Revival churches are to be found in Nebraska, created as a territory in 1854. Emmanuel Lutheran Church is probably Nebraska's best, purest, and least altered example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The structure is believed to be not only the oldest but also the very first Lutheran church built in Nebraska.

The congregation which built the church was organized in July, 1859, by Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, a Lutheran missionary sent by Allegheny Synod to Nebraska Territory in 1858. In the spring and summer of 1860, during Kuhns' pastorate, the church was designed and constructed at a cost of $2000 by Augustus T. Haase, a member of the congregation. A carpenter by trade, Haase was born in Germany and came to Dakota City in 1858. Before Nebraska became a state in 1867, the building served for several years as a territorial county courthouse on weekdays and as a church on Sundays. Kuhns' successor as pastor of the church was Dr. Samuel Aughey, who came to Nebraska in 1864 and later became one of Nebraska's best known natural scientists.
Archives, Lutheran Synod, Fremont, Nebraska
files, Nebraska State Historical Society
M.M. Warner, Warner's History of Dakota County, Nebraska, 1893

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>00° 24' 45&quot;</td>
<td>96° 25' 03&quot;</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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<td>96°</td>
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<td>25</td>
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</tbody>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTRIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:                CODE:                COUNTY:                CODE:
STATE:                CODE:                COUNTY:                CODE:
STATE:                CODE:                COUNTY:                CODE:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John Q. Magic, Curator of History
ORGANIZATION:
Nebraska State Historical Society
DATE:
August 22, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 R Street
CITY OR TOWN:          STATE:          CODE:          26
Lincoln           Nebraska       68508

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 __________________________
Title __________________________
Date __________________________

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date __________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date __________________________
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, exterior from the northeast. No known alterations between 1964 and 1969.