NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church)
other names/site number Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church
105-0000-0011

2. Location

street & number SW1/4, SW1/4,SW1/4, SW1/4, S13, T11S, R9W [ ] not for publication
city, town Denmark [X] vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Lincoln code 105 zip code 67481

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	____ buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	____	____ sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	____	____ structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	____	____ objects
	[ ] object	1	____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 [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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer May 14, 1991
Signature of certifying official Date
Kansas 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.

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:) ____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure:
Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure:
Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Stone: limestone
roof Wood: shingle; Metal: tin
other Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church) [c. 1875-1880, 1901] is located on the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, S. 13, T. 11, R. 9 in Grant Township, Lincoln County, Kansas (pop. 4,145). The church stands at the crossroads of Denmark, Kansas, an agricultural community that was settled primarily by the Danes in the 1870s. The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church) maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The church is a gable front, one-story, native limestone building roofed with wooden shingles. Its bell tower and entry were added to the south end of the church in 1901. The bell tower is clad and roofed with pressed metal shingles. The church has a southern facade orientation, measuring 26 feet from east to west and 46.5 feet from north to south.

The stone for the church was locally quarried. A striated, smooth cut, ashlar block is employed for the 1901 entryway. A less defined, random ashlar is employed for the 1875-1880 unit, although striations are apparent. The northern elevation displays the most random patterning of the elevations. Large quoins accentuate the four corners of the original building.

A double doorway, surmounted by a lancet transom punctuates the center of the building's facade. The wide wooden door surround is panelled. A lancet limestone lintel punctuated by a keystone surmounts the doorway, its ends are embellished by floral carvings. The lintel projects slightly from the building face. The entire 1875-1880 doorway was incorporated into the 1901 addition, including the lintel. The original front doors were replaced in the 1970s. The stained glass transom window dates from the 1970s replacement period as well.

Before the bell tower was added in 1901, a date and name stone was visible above the entry way. A circa 1890s photograph reveals that "Dansk E/AngLuth Kirke. A.D. 1878" was inscribed on the stone. The date and name stone was incorporated into the 1901 entry facade.

XX See continuation sheet

The gable face of the addition is sheathed with rectangular, pressed metal shingles. A circular stained glass window pierces the gable's center. The gable face is offset by a wooden stringcourse which rises to form a triangle in the center of the plane, providing a linear symmetry for the door and the bell tower.

The four sided bell tower is surmounted by a cross gable roof from which an eight sided spire rises. The base of the tower is clad in rectangular, pressed metal shingles. The tower's roof is clad with circular, pressed metal shingles. Rectangular vents surmounted by triangluar surrounds punctuate each face of the tower. A metal cross stands at the apex of the spire.

Four, 4/4 double hung windows surmounted by four tri-partite lancet transom windows compose the fenestration on the church's east and west elevations. The 4/4 double hung windows are surrounded by rectangular panes of colored glass. The lancet transoms are filled with colored glass as well. Lancet limestone lintels punctuated by a keystone surmount the windows, rectangular sills surmount the windows. The lintels and sills project slightly from the building plane. The northern wall is solid.

The interior of the church is defined by the 1901 entryway and the 1875-1880 nave. The entryway is separated from the nave by the original facade wall and a c. 1901 panelled wooden door. The entryway is lit by two, 4/4 double hung windows with colored glass, lancet transoms, as well as the stained glass, lancet tramsom that surmounts the exterior door and a circular stained glass window that punctuates the gable above the door.

The rectangular nave accepts two rows of handmade, wooden pews. It is lit by six, 4/4 double hung windows with colored glass, lancet transoms. The window surrounds, baseboards, door, door surround, altar gate, and pews have all been painted.

The pot bellied stove was replaced with a furnace in the 1970s, and the building was electrified in 1946. The wooden floor has been carpetted.

A community hall [c. 1911] and an outhouse [c. 1930] stand to the west of the church, the cemetery stands to the south and east of the church. A hedge row and fence mark to the southern boundary of the property.

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)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1875-1941	1875-1880, 1901
Social History	1875-1941	

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Morgansen, James - Builder (Mason)
Rasmussen, Anders - Builder (Carpenter)

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

The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church) [c. 1875-1880, 1901] is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the growth and development of the Denmark community and for its architectural significance as a vernacular limestone church with Gothic detailing. The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church) maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church) stands at the crossroads of Denmark, Kansas, an agricultural community that was settled primarily by the Danes in the 1870s. In 1875 the Denmark settlement boasted a store, a blacksmith shop, a school and a post office. Census reports indicate a steady population increase in and about the Denmark settlement between 1875 and 1885. Many of these settlers had been born in Denmark but had emigrated from Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois and most of the settlers were farmers. Community names include Rasmussen, Morgansen, Jensen, Nygaard, Nelson, Nielson, Anderson, Christiansen, Hansen, Swensen, Peterson, Andersen, Damgaard, Sorenson, and Morgenson.

The cornerstone for the church was laid in December, 1875 but construction halted in Spring, 1876 following theological disagreements among the congregation. The church originally was conceived to serve Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian Lutheran population, but when the Danish members of the congregation, who were in the majority, voted to consecrate the church in the Danish Synod of the Lutheran Church, all others withdrew their support. Work on the church did not resume until 1878 and the church was completed in 1880.

☒ See continuation sheet

The site selected for the church was on the summit of a gentle rise of ground on the homestead of Lars P. Nielsen, Nielsen donated the land to the Danish Society of the Lutheran Church in May, 1880.

The stone for the church was quarried three miles west of the site. The sand for the mortar was locally supplied. The lumber and shingles for the church were brought from Ellsworth, Kansas, a distance of twenty-three miles.

James Morgensen contracted to finish the stone work for $125. Morgensen, Anders Rasmussen, Hans Hansen and Niels Nielsen completed the church. Rasmussen supervised the carpentry work. The finish stone cutting was done by Mr. Robinson from Lincoln.

While the church was under construction services were conducted in the log schoolhouse by Rev. H. C. Bradbury, a Presbyterian circuit rider. The congregation brought their own pews or benches for the first services in the new church. This practice continued until 1881 when donations were sought to purchase pews.

An English Sunday School was organized at the church in 1880 by Rev. Andreas P. V. Bekker, who served the congregation from 1879 until 1883. In 1884 Rev. F. M. Christensen initiated the exclusive use of the Danish language and traditions in the service, and eliminated the Sunday School. This action caused some to leave the church. A Danish language Sunday School was established in 1892, and Danish remained the spoken language of the church until 1920 when the English language was reinstated.

A third schism in the congregation occurred in 1895 when ten members withdrew from the church and formed the Free Mission Church, whose building was located one mile from the Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church). The Free Mission Church does not appear on either the 1901 or 1918 plat books of Lincoln County however, indicating that it was not long-lived or well established.

Grant Township was the center of the Danish settlement in Lincoln County in 1915. The 1915 census shows two hundred families living in the Denmark settlement. The construction of the Salina and Northwestern line of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in 1915 caused Denmark to boom. By the 1920s the town boasted two

schools, a church, a mercantile store, a community hall, a post office, a hotel, a bank, a creamery, a telephone exchange, a grocery store, a lumber yard, a barber shop, a restaurant, two grain elevators, garages, and blacksmith shops.

The depression and drought of the 1930s had a severe impact on the settlement. Businesses closed and people left the community. In 1954 the post office was discontinued. The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church), the community hall, and the grain elevator survived the impact of the depression and drought and continue to serve the agricultural Denmark community some sixty years later.

In 1956 the church amended its constitution and by-laws and changed its name from the Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church) to the Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church.

The Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke (Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Church) is architecturally significant as a vernacular limestone church with Gothic detailing. The church is an example of the gable front, one-story, one room, native limestone building that stands in almost every county in the state of Kansas. Both schools and churches employed this simple and exceedingly appropriate form. The Gothic detailing in the door and windows allowed the simple stone building to look like a church.

"The use of the Gothic style, the preeminent European Christian style, consciously emphasized the history of the church....the Gothic satisfied a desire for ritual and the richness of tradition." (Stanton, p. 140, 1985).

The church exhibits the characteristic south gable front entrance, four windows on the east and west elevations, and a solid north wall. The bell tower and entry were added to the south end of the church in 1901. The addition of a bell tower to mid-nineteenth century churches and schools was not uncommon.

Before the bell tower was added in 1901, a date and name stone was visible above the entryway. A circa 1890s photograph reveals that "Dansk E/AngLuth Kirke. A.D. 1878" was inscribed on the stone. The date and name stone was incorporated into the 1901 entry facade, as was the entire 1875-1880 doorway, including the lintel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church. The Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church: The Centennial Anniversary. (Lincoln, KS: 1978).

Fitzgerald, Daniel. Ghost Towns of Kansas. V.3. (Holton, KS: 1982).

Northwest Publishing Company. Plat Book of Lincoln County, Kansas- 1901. (Minneapolis, MN: Northwest Pub., 1901).

Ogle, George. Plat Book of Lincoln County, Kansas- 1918. (Chicago: Ogle, 1918).

Stanton, Phoebe. "Religious Architecture." Built in the U.S.A.- American Buildings from Airports to Zoos. (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1985).

Sorenson, Ruth. "Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church." (National Register nomination draft, 1990).

Topeka Journal, 12 October 1915.

U.S. Census. 1870, 1875, 1880, 1885, 1905, 1915.

☐ See continuation sheet

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:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: Kansas State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	562500	4326745
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, S. 13- T. 11S-R.9 in Grant Township, Lincoln County, Kansas near Denmark, Kansas on a tract measuring 66.5 feet by 46 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly northeast of the northeast corner of the church's foundation, beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 66.5 feet couth, 46 feet west, 66.5 feet north, and 46 feet east to the point of beginning.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is located on a 3 acre tract that is historically assciated with it. The boundary for the nominated property includes a tract measuring 66.5 feet by 46 feet which contains the church. The remaining acreage is devoted to the cemetery and some yard area and is not included in the nomination.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date May 14, 1991

street & number 120 West 10th telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1992
Kansas Historic Preservation Dept.

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001154 **Date Listed: 9/12/91**

Danske Evangelist Lutheran Kirke	Lincoln	KS
Property Name	**County**	**State**

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Roland
Signature of the Keeper

9/12/91
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

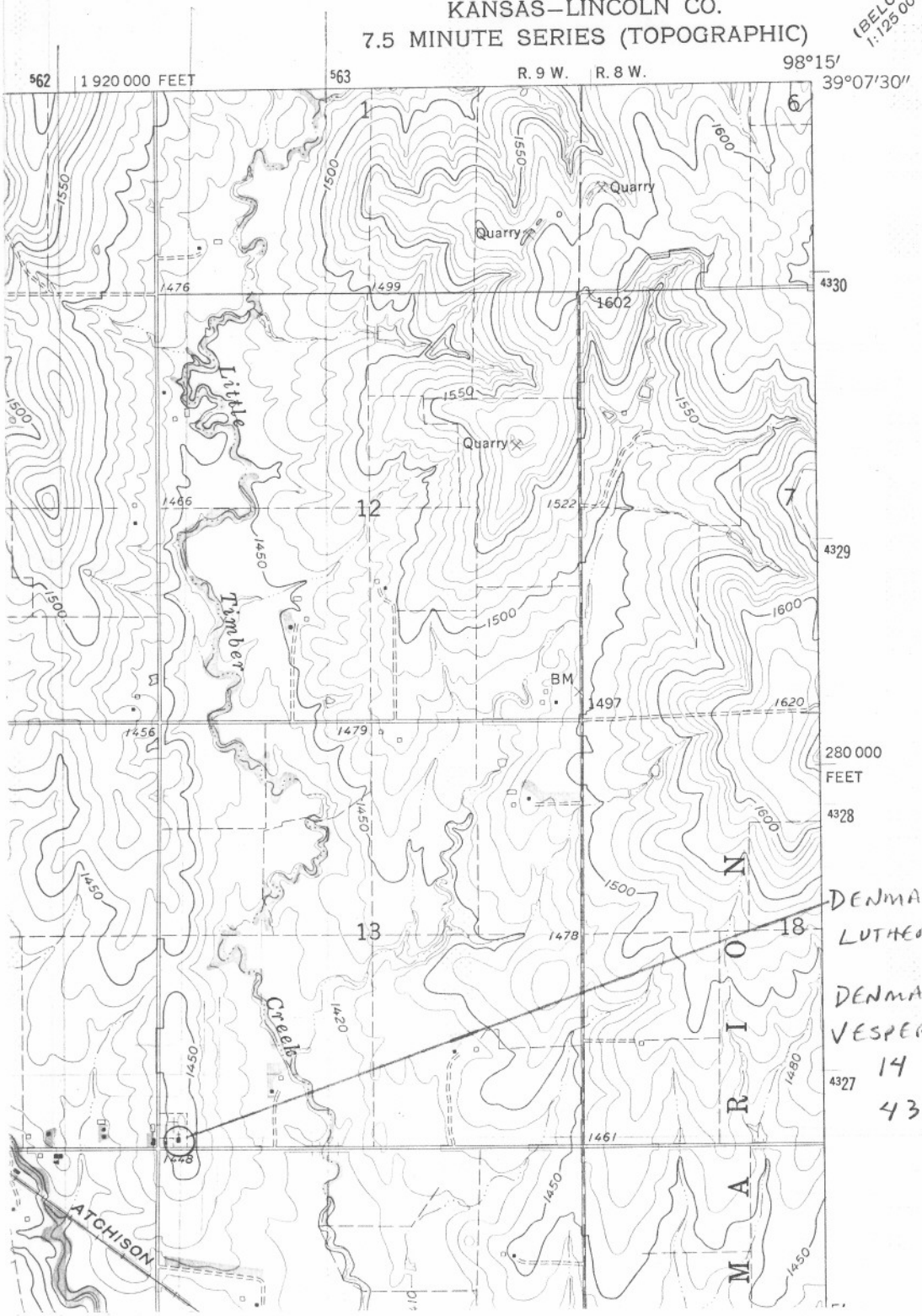
Because this is a religious property, Criterion Exception A (which was not checked on the form) applies.

This was discussed with Martha Hagedorn-Krass of the KS SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

VESPER QUADRANGLE
KANSAS–LINCOLN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(BELOIT) 1:125 000



DENMARK EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DENMARK, KANSAS
VESPER QUAD
14 562 500
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