

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche

and/or common St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2. Location

street & number Lake Avenue

___ not for publication

city, town Douglas

___ vicinity of

congressional district

state Washington

code 053

county Douglas

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Henry L. Westerman

and

Albert O. Westerman

street & number Star Route 238

P.O. Box 483

city, town Douglas, Washington

___ vicinity of

Waterville, Washington 98858

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Auditors Office, Douglas County Courthouse

street & number 203 South Rainier

city, town Waterville

state Washington 98858

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Washington State Inventory of
title Cultural Resources

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date July, 1980

___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Olympia

state Washington, 98504

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche is a familiar landmark in the tiny community of Douglas, Washington. Its tall framed steeple is visible from Highway #2, a state road that connects the county seat of Waterville to the Grand Coulee. The church faces east at the end of Lake Avenue, overlooking wheat fields and gently rolling hills of sage and bunchgrass. Fields border the church property to the north and west, and some 70 feet to the south is a 1949 parsonage, not included within the nomination. To the rear (west) and southwest of the church are a frame double privy and a small concrete cistern housing thought to date from the 1930's.

Constructed and dedicated in 1915, St. Paul's is a pleasingly designed frame building with a projecting central bell tower and steeple. Its plan is longitudinal and its steeply pitched gable roof, with returned eaves on the front facade, is clad with wood shingles. The original narrow lapped siding, painted white, is still intact. Gothic arched windows with wide moulded surrounds flank the main entrance and line both sides of the church. Broad wooden steps and railings, also original fabric, lead to panelled double doors with a bold semi-circular fanlight. A window in the belltower just above the doorway repeats the fanlight detail.

Paired gothic arched openings with louvered screens occur on each side of the bell housing at its uppermost level. The steeple features four gabled "dormers" each with its own small louvered opening. The roof surfaces of the steeple are covered with shingles of an aluminum gray. In addition to prominent moulded surrounds, the church is detailed with elaborate wood brackets, dentil courses, finished soffits and broad friezes.

The interior of St. Paul's includes, on the main floor, the pastor's office and sanctuary. The original hand-crafted altar, baptismal font and organ still remain in place, as does the patterned pressed tin ceiling with an egg and dart relief around its perimeter. The pulpit, pews, and bell which originally furnished the church have been removed. In the concrete daylight basement are the Sunday School classrooms and a lavatory.

Except for the removal of the furnishings mentioned above, St. Paul's remains remarkably unaltered. Both the interior and exterior fabric have been well-preserved and have mercifully escaped insensitive modernizations.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect** Wm. F. Puffert

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Since its completion in 1915, the Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche has been the focal point of the small town of Douglas, Washington. Although the population of Douglas has dwindled since its heyday in the late 1800's, the Lutheran Church still stands as a reminder of the community's pioneer past. The building is an exceptionally solid and well-crafted structure, and its physical integrity fortunately has been well-preserved. St. Paul's is an excellent example of early 20th century German craftsmanship in a remote eastern Washington setting.

The community of Douglas began to take shape in the 1880's as homesteaders staked claims on prairies where cattle and cattlemen had previously roamed free. Jacob Bunker of Illinois was one of the first German immigrants to settle in Douglas County and he reportedly recruited more of his countrymen to the area. Two of these families were the Westerman and Willms Families who travelled by train from Illinois to Ritzville, Washington Territory, in 1887 with the express intention of settling in the "Big Bend" country. Others of German and Scandinavian extraction arrived over the next few years, so that between 1887 and 1889, Douglas was the fastest growing community in the area. By 1889 the town boasted a school, post office, hotel, restaurant, food, hardware, and feed stores, a flour mill, blacksmith, stables, bank, butcher shop, community hall, mortician, and saloons. When the town closed down its saloons to better preserve law and order, much of the impetus for commerce and growth in Douglas moved with the saloon business to nearby Waterville. Waterville's supremacy was assured when it was officially named the county seat in 1889.

It was during the same year that the settlers of Douglas banded together to form a church. Their first organizational meeting included, among others, the pioneer Westerman and Willms families. Work was soon begun on a modest church structure using donated labor and lumber from the sawmill on nearby Badger Mountain. Although the population of Douglas went into decline shortly thereafter, church membership increased steadily as Lutherans from the surrounding countryside joined the congregation. In 1915, the present church was erected just south of the original building. A Mr. William Puffert from Colbert, Washington, was contracted to design and construct the new edifice for a total cost of \$10,000. The new Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche became the hub of the community, the center of its religious, civic and social life.

Architecturally, the church is an unusually sturdy and well-conceived example of vernacular church construction. It bears both Gothic and Federal period detailing combined in a thoroughly fresh and straightforward piece of country craftsmanship. Features such as the pressed tin ceiling in the sanctuary give the building a distinctive individuality among others of its type throughout Washington. The building fabric is remarkably well-preserved and the present owners, descendants of the pioneer Westermans, have every intention of retaining the building in its original state.

As the surrounding area farms grew in size and the population of Douglas dwindled, the congregation merged with the Lutherans in Waterville, where a new church was built in 1968. St. Paul's has stood vacant since that time, still the architectural pride of the community and a reminder of the thriving settlement that Douglas once was.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kenneth Duane Britt. "Douglas-Birth, Life and Death," Research paper for History 499 at Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. December 1979
 Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche Special Printing, Sixtieth Anniversary, 1949, Waterville, Washington

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one
 Quadrangle name Douglas Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A	1 0	7 2 1 5 1 4 0	5 2 7 8 4 7 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Lots 85 and 87, Block 1, Plat of Douglas, Washington

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Edited by: F. K. Lentz, OA&HP, Olympia, WA 98504

name/title Based on information provided by Kenneth Britt

organization ~~315 Ramona Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98001~~ date August, 1980

street & number OR 2001 Larrabee telephone (509) 662-2946, (206) 676-1008

city or town Bellingham, state Washington 98225

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title *Jacob E. Thom* date 2/22/82

For HCRS use only	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Arthur Byers</i>	Entered in the National Register	date <u>4/12/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register		
Attest:		date
Chief of Registration		

**United States Department of the Interior
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For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Lutheran St. Paul's Kirche Special Printing, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, United Lutheran
Congregation, Douglas, Washington, 1889-1964, 1964, Waterville, Washington

"Silent Sundays," The Wenatchee World, April 18, 1976. Wenatchee, Washington