

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 27 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Christ Evangelical Church

and/or common Christ Church Museum

2. Location

street & number N of Germantown on Fond du Lac Ave.
~~W188 N12808 Fond du Lac Avenue~~ not for publication

city, town Germantown vic. vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Washington code 131

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Our Saviour's United Church of Christ, c/o Karl Kannenberg, Board President

street & number Division Road

city, town Germantown vicinity of **state** Wisconsin 53022

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number 320 Fifth Avenue

city, town West Bend **state** Wisconsin 53095

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison **state** Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated at the juncture of six roads, its tower rising above the crossroads community of Dheinsville in the village of Germantown, Christ Evangelical Church is a vernacular ecclesiastical structure built of locally quarried limestone. Based on a simple rectangular plan, the church is characterized by roughly textured limestone walls, pointed arched openings, and a three story bell tower at the entrance which culminates in an octagonal steeple.

The main body of the church is a simple one-story rectangular unit with gently pitched gable roof (more Greek Revival than Gothic in inspiration) and a profiled cornice which wraps around the building with thin gable returns on the north and south elevations. The load-bearing walls are constructed of rough faced limestone blocks (quarried at the Rockfield Quarry, approximately one mile from the site) laid in regular courses, contributing both a rich texture and a warm, monochromatic color to the composition. The mortar joints were repointed with concrete sometime in the twentieth century. The east and west walls are each punctuated with four pointed arched windows, tall in proportion (although delicate in relation to the massive walls) resting on stone sills, regularly spaced and symmetrically arranged. The entrance bell tower (added to the structure in 1888) is more Gothic Revival in character, rising three stories and crowned with an octagonal spire, flared at the base. Constructed of smooth limestone blocks (more regularly coursed than the main walls) each story of the tower is demarcated by profiled wooden course and arched openings. Entry is provided through panelled double doors, set within a large central arched opening beneath a stained glass window in the tympanum. Above the entry, a smooth stone course is inscribed with the words "Ev Christos Kirche." The second story of the tower is ornamented with an arched window with thin tracery and stained glass and the third story contains the bell, with louvered arched openings on all four sides. On the rear (north) elevation, two small circular windows pierce the wall, and a cream brick exterior chimney rises on the west wall, well above the gable ridge. A fiberglass roof was added to the structure in 1982.

The interior of the church is a modest rectangular auditorium with a wooden platform for the pulpit and alter, reflecting the same design simplicity exhibited on the exterior. The original whitewashed stone walls were covered with lath and plaster and a paneled, hipped ceiling, constructed of thin wooden slats, was installed beneath the original ceiling in an effort to reduce heating problems (both alterations taking place early in the twentieth century). The most distinctive feature of the interior is the colorful stained glass windows (with original metal frames), installed in 1910, which portray pastoral Biblical scenes. The windows are set within deep arched window wells, testimony to the thickness of the load bearing walls. A small balcony extends over the rear portion of the auditorium, accessible from narrow wooden stairs on either side. Wooden pews were installed in the 1920s. The original hardwood floors remain in good condition and were cleaned and varnished in 1976.

Surrounded by trees and adjoining a church cemetery (not included in the nomination), Christ Church is the dominant visual landmark in the Dheinsville community. In 1975 the church was leased to the Germantown Historical Society and has been used by that group as a museum since 1976.

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/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Assoc. with the development of the community

Specific dates 1861-62 (construction) **Builder/Architect** not known

1861-1961 period of significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic as well as physical focal point of the Dheinsville community in the Village of Germantown, Christ Evangelical Church served for 100 years as the spiritual and community center of the German settlement in the area, and precipitated the development of the village which grew up around it. Built in 1861-62¹ by settlers from the Hunsruck mountains region of Germany, the church remains today the best preserved and most historically significant remnant of the crossroads community of Dheinsville and a significant local example of the vernacular Gothic Revival tradition in Wisconsin church building.

Dheinsville, located at the juncture of sections 8, 9, 15, and 16 in the Village of Germantown Washington County, was first settled by immigrants from Seibersbach and nearby villages in the Hunsruck mountains of western Germany.² Philipp Dhein, his son, their families, and a small contingent of others claimed over 800 acres of land at the site in August 1842, and created the nucleus of a settlement which attracted fellow settlers from the Hunsruks.³ Within two years of their arrival the settlers established a Protestant congregation (founded 1844 by Philipp Dhein, William Waschmuth, and Andrew Wetterau) and the group's first church structure was erected in the early 1850s on land donated by Philipp Dhein.⁴

When the congregation decided in 1860 (during the church presidency of Dhein) to build a new structure, they erected it on the same site and constructed it of limestone from the nearby Rockfield quarry of congregation member Peter Dix.⁵ Completed in 1862, the church soon generated a small crossroads community of businesses, run by congregation members, catering to the needs of the surrounding farmers.

Although an 1859 county plat map showed no businesses in that corner of Dhein's land, the situation changed dramatically in the first few years after construction of the new church.⁶ By 1873, plat maps and state business directories alike confirm the presence of a thriving community clustered around the church. Dheinsville boasted several businesses (most run by congregation members), including Philipp Dhein's inn, a blacksmith and wagon shop, a post office, a general store, and the offices of the Germantown Mutual Insurance Company (whose brick building was erected opposite the church in 1879).⁷ In 1888, the congregation added a bell tower which spired above the village and clearly underscored the structure's central role in the community's growth.⁸

Christ Church's congregation continued to conduct services in the German language until the 1920s,⁹ and the congregation used the building for regular services until the early 1960s when it merged with the nearby Zoar Church¹⁰ (to form Our Savior's United Church of Christ). In 1975, the congregation leased the church building to the Germantown Historical Society which, since 1976, has maintained the building as a museum and research center devoted to the local history of Germantown, thus preserving its historic role as the center of the community.¹¹

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1.0

Quadrangle name Jackson, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 6	4 0 1 6	2 1 1 0	4 1 7	8 1 9	0 1 7 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

D						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

E						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

F						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

G						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

H						
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leonard T. Garfield, historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 4/15/83

street & number 816 State Street

telephone (608) 262-2970

city or town Madison

state WI 53706

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of WI

date SEPT. 19, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Beth Garza
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/9/83

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet

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Architecture: Christ Evangelical Church is a locally significant example of the Gothic Revival tradition which dominated ecclesiastical architecture in nineteenth century Wisconsin. Although the carefully crafted limestone building reflects a simplicity of plan and modesty of scale, the pointed arched openings and steeply vertical front tower are strong vernacular expressions of favored Gothic motifs. An enduring visual landmark, the church was identified in a 1975 reconnaissance survey of Washington County conducted by the State Historical Society, as the finest example of its style in the old town of Germantown.

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Footnotes

- 1 Christ Evangelical Church Records, Christ Church Museum, Germantown, WI. The same date is quoted in Carl Quickert, The Story of Washington County (Menasha: Collegiate Press, 1923), p. 164-165.
- 2 For information on the ancestry and place of birth of members of the early settlers of Dheinsville, including the Dhein family, see: Sila Lydia Bast, Bast Genealogy and Related Families (Milwaukee: March, 1971).
- 3 Records of the General Land Office: Wisconsin Local Office Tract Book, Vol. 53, p. 178.
- 4 One Hundredth Anniversary of Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church (Dheinsville: Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1942), n.p.
- 5 Bast, Bast Genealogy.
- 6 Map of the County of Washington, Wis. (Milwaukee: Mann and Pumb, 1859).
- 7 Map of Washington and Ozaukee Counties (Milwaukee: Nash Tucker, 1873-74).
- 8 One Hundredth Anniversary . . ., n.p.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Pearl Kuhn, "Christ Church Museum (brochure)" (Germantown: Germantown Historical Society, n.d.), n.p.
- 11 Ibid.

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9.

Major Bibliographical References

Bast, Sila Lydia. Bast Genealogy and Related Families. Milwaukee: 1971.

History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wis. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881.

Map of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wis. Milwaukee: Nash and Tucker, 1873-74.

One Hundredth Anniversary of Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church. Dheinsville:
Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1942.

Quickert, Carl. The Story of Washington County. Menasha: Collegiate Press, 1923.

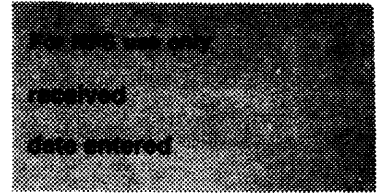
10.

Verbal boundary Description and justification:

The nominated property is described thusly: Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 145 (Fond du Lac Avenue) and Maple Road, proceed northerly alongside the western edge of Maple Road 200 feet, then proceed westerly 150', then proceed southerly until the northern edge of Fond du Lac Road, then proceed southeasterly alongside the northern edge of Fond du Lac Road until the point of beginning. Said property is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 8, Town 9N, Range 20E, Registered in Volume 52, p. 166 Register of Deeds office, Washington County Courthouse.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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PROPERTY NAME Christ Evangelical Church

8	3	0	0	4	3	2	4
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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

1	3	1
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COUNTY CODE

Correct street address is W188 N12808 Fond du Lac Avenue

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

2/13/86

DATE