National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ection number Page		
SUPPLEMENTARY LIST	ING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number: 88000635	Date Listed:	6/9/88
Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church	Atlantic	New Jersey
Property Name	County	State
Multiple Name		
notwithstanding the National Park Ser in the nomination documentation.	vice certificat	Ton Included
Signature of the Keeper	June 9, 1988 Date of Actio	•
Amended Items in Nomination:	=============	
Count should include an additional co cemetery.	ntributing site	for
Period of significance should be inte beginning of the planning, land acqui church, which was finished in 1852.	rpreted as 1848 sition, and con	being the
Acreage is three acres as indicated o		scruction or

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Trenton

city, town

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

state

APR 2 5 1988

date entered

Type an entries—complete ap	pilicable se	CHOIIS			
1. Name					
historic Jacobus Evangeli	cal Luthe	eran Church	1		
and or common Zion Refor	med Churc	eh			
2. Location					
street & number Mays Land	ing Road	& State Hig	ghway 54		NA_ not for publication
city, town Folsom Boroug	h	vicir	nity of		
state New Jersey	code	034	county	Atlantic	code 001
3. Classificati	on				
Category Ownership district public structure both site Public Acquis object in process being con NA	}	Status X occupied unoccup work in p Accessible yes: rest X yes: unre	ied progress ricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Pi	ropert	y			
name Congregation of Z	ion Refor	med Church	of the	United Church o	f Christ
street & number Mays Landir	g Road (S	State Highw	7ay 54)		
city, town Folsom		vicin	ity of	stat	e New Jersey 08037
5. Location of	Lega	l Desc	riptic	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc	c. At	lantic Cou	nty Cou	rthouse	
	Landing			stat	e New Jersey
6. Representa		n Exist	ting (
Survey of the Great Egg title Rivers Watershed		Tuckahoe		perty been determined	eligible? yes _X_ no
date 1981				federal s	state <u>X</u> county <u>X</u> local
depository for survey records	Office of	New Jerse	y Herit	age, CN 404,	
city town Trenton				Stat	New Jersey 08625

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent X good	deteriorated ruins	unaltered _X_ altered	X original site moved date moved	
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Original appearance: The church was built by a group of German immigrant farmers who had organized as a congregation in the year 1848.

The church they constructed is a small box-like structure, rectangular in shape. The work was done by the men of the congregation and dedicated May 8, 1853.

The foundation is masonry. The cedar clapboard siding is painted white. The patterned shingles were made at the sawmill of one of the original members. The windows are 9/9 3 bays wide, 3 bays deep. The peaked window heads have scrolled decoration. The exterior above the windows suggesting a raised roof is sheathed in alternating rows of hand-made diamond, fish scales, and wood patterned shingles. In the rear of the building there are two windows in the chancel section of the structure. They are 4'6"x9" wide and are on either side of the chancel. A brick chimney was on the back of the building. The roof is a gable roof that was covered with cedar shingles; now because of fire safety laws is covered with asphalt shingles.

This then was the exterior appearance of the church when it was dedicated on May 8, 1853.

A major change took place in the exterior appearance of the church in 1895. The congregation decided the church should have a steeple. One of the members, Mr. Henry Kramer, was engaged to build and design a steeple and vestibule for the church. With the help of his son Edmund they made the decorations for the addition at their sawmill. They were aided by the men of the church in the construction of the vestibule and steeple.

The vestibule with the steeple projects from the front of the building. It contains double-leaf doors topped with a two light transom. The belfry has paired round-headed louvers. It is surmounted by an octagonal spire with a turned finial. The exposed rafters are notched. A small porch with five wooden steps lead down to a brick path which extends out to the sidewalk. So the exterior remains as it was built and dedicated in 1853 and with the addition of the vestibule and the steeple in 1895.

The interior of the building was not changed until the year 1961. Up until that time the building had been heated by a large wood-burning stove which was connected to the chimney in the rear of the building. The pews were hard, wooden benches with straight backs which were rather uncomfortable. Two stained glass windows were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kramer in memory of their parents. The windows are on either side of the chancel. Other windows contain the original glass. Oil lamps hanging from the ceiling provided the lighting for the building. The original carved pulpit is still in use as is the original communion table and alter in the chancel. A parlor reed organ was used in the

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services. It was donated to a church in Newtonville around the year 1888 when the Baptist Church in Hammonton donated an Estey reed organ to the congregation to be used in their worship services. The organ has been kept in repair and is still used for Sunday services.

In 1961 the interior of the church necessitated that some changes be made in order that the congregation could worship in comfort. Mr. Elwood DeLong a consultant and church design specialist of the United Church of Christ offered his services to help in the changes that were to be made and to help keep as much of the atmosphere of the old church as possible. New pews in the colonial design of the time the church was built were installed and the old wooden benches The wood burning stove was removed and replaced by electric heat. carpeting in the chancel and aisle replaced the worn-out carpeting. lamps were replaced with electric lights. The ceiling was in poor condition and had to be repaired. The whole interior was then painted. No changes have been made since that time. A building committee maintains and keeps the building in excellent condition.

With the addition of the vestibule and steeple in 1895, there was a need for a bell in the belfry. A bell on a tripod had stood next to the building. It was rung for church services, funerals, deaths, and to summon the people to community events. It had been erected on Christmas Eve 1852 and was rung at the dedication of the church in 1853. A disagreement in the congregation caused a separation, and a new Lutheran congregation was formed. The bell was sold to the new congregation in 1871 for sum of \$55.00. The church was without a bell until 1896, when Mr. Joseph Eckhardt, a member of the original congregation said he would donate a bell to be placed in the belfry of the church. The first bell did not please Mr. Eckhardt because it did not ring loud enough. A new bell was ordered and proved satisfactory. It hangs in the belfry bearing the name of the donor and the date 1896. It is still in use, calling the people to worship and tolling at the funeral services of members that are held in the church.

The style of the building is late Greek Revival with Queen Anne remodelling.

The setting was an oak forest that sheltered it from the North wind for over a century. In April of 1963, a spring of many forest fires in southern New Jersey, raging fire approached. The church was in the path of destruction but was spared as firefighters fought to save homes and buildings in the path of the fire. The church was spared but the beautiful oak forest was destroyed. Since then trees have been planted along the property line.

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A cemetery where the settlers buried their loved ones surrounds the church. Some of the graves on the sites of the building are unmarked. Those that have headstones contain the names of many of the original settlers and members of their families dating to the present time. One of the headstones is carved in German.

On the opposite site of the road (northeast) on which the church is located are two homes, one with a rear ell said to date to 1850, with the front section It contains patterned hand-made shingles such as those on the The other house also on the northeast side of the road dates from this period and contains a large barn and carriage house in the rear. further along on both sides of the road have homes of this period in time. would appear to be an historic area where the early settlers built their homes and their house of worship.

8. Significance

1600-1699 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899	agriculture architecture	community planning conservation economics education	g landscape architectur law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	184 8 : 1853	Builder/Architect Ur	nknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ which was originally the St. Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Germany is the oldest public building in the Borough of Folsom. It was the first church, the first school, and the meeting place for social and town meetings.

The building is Greek Revival in style with Queen Anne remodelling. The projecting vestibule with a steeple contains double-leaf panelled doors with a two-light transom. The belfry has paired rounded louvers surmounted by an octagonal spire with a turned finial. Rafter ends that are exposed are notched. Window heads are peaked with cut-out scrolled decoration applied to them. The exterior above the windows is sheathed in alternating rows of diamond, fishscale, and wood patterned shingles. The building was erected by the men of the settlement of New Germany. It has been well preserved and is a reflection of the earliest settlement in the area. The exterior has been untouched since a steeple and vestibule were added in 1895.

The German immigrants who settled in New Germany arrived by sailing vessel in the port of Philadelphia in small groups between the years 1845 and 1850. (The Background of Swiss Immigration, 1974 by Leo Shelbert).

Leaving their families with friends or relatives the men journeyed by stagecoach on the old route between Camden and Philadelphia to the site they had selected for their settlement. The land they chose was owned by the heirs of Samuel Richards, sons-in-law Stephen Colwell and Walter Dwight Bell, who were the executors of the Richards estate. It was from them the settlers bought their farms. The farms were laid out in twenty-five acre plots and sold for one dollar an acre.

When the homes were built and the land cleared, the men returned to Philadelphia to get their wives and children. After a journey of two days down the old stage route with their families and possessions they took up their lives in the little village they had named New Germany.

The first to record their deeds in the Court House in Mays Landing were: Philip Helzer, March 8, 1848; Henry Roller, March 8, 1848; Ludwig Noelling, Nov. 1, 1849; Peter Bernshouse, Nov. 11, 1849; Jacob Roller, March 1, 1850.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

GPO 894-785

10. Geog	raphical Data		
Acreage of nominate	1	cves	
Quadrangle name			Quadrangle scale 1:24000
UTM References			•
A 1 8 5 1 3 1 Zone Easting	1 ₁ 4 ₁ 0	B Eastii	ing Northing
c		D	
E		F I I I I	
G		H	
Variable			
Verbal boundary d	escription and justification		
Block 7,	Lot 5 of the Folsom Borou	gh Tax Map.	
List all states and	counties for properties overlap	ning state or county	boundaries NA
state	code	county	code
State		county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form	Prepared By		
Ma Co:	rtrude String		
name/title MS. Ge.			
organization		date S ₁	pring, 1986
street & number 14	9A Indian Cabin Road	telephon	ne (609) 561-3579
	twater		lew Jersey 08037
12. State	Historic Preser	vation Offi	icer Certification
The evaluated signific	cance of this property within the stat	e is:	
na	ational stateX	_ local	
			eservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89
665), I hereby nomina according to the crite	ite this property for inclusion in the large and procedures set forth by the large	National Register and ce National Park Service.	ertify that it has been evaluated
Deputy		2. 05	
State Historic Preserv	vation Officer signature	h po	eure
title Assistant	Commissioner for Natural R	esources	date September 1, 198
For NPS use only			
I hereby certify,	that this property is included in the I	National Register	11-100/
Landa O	mcClelland		date 6/9/88
Keeper of the Nat	ional Register		,
Attest:			date
Chief of Registrat	ion		

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It was about this time in 1848 the settlers felt the need of a place of worship where they could hold services in the manner to which they were accustomed. A congregation was formed and met at the house of members for five years. The men were busy building a small church on two acres of land that had been donated by Colwell for this purpose. On Nov. 1, 1850 Messrs. Colwell and Bell increased the grant to six acres.

According to the record book of the St. Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church there were thirty-three members of the newly established church.

An account of the dedication service of the St. Jacobus Church on May 8, 1853 states "After the want and desire developed among the German colonists in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey, for several years to found a congregation after the creed of our forefathers therefore according to the custom of the church and the law of the land elected (4) trustees namely; John Strack, Daniel Wolmesdorf, Gottlieb Sauter, and Jacob Roller Sr. After the donation of (2) acres of land for church and school, according to the deed from Messrs. Colwell and Bell, the trustees resolved to build a church on said land. It was immediately started and with the help of God, the contributions of the congregation, and Christian friends, was completed in the year 1852. After many vain attempts to acquire a regularly ordained preacher, the wish was granted when the Evangelical Synod of Pennsylvania helped to get A.C. Georgin, preacher in Camden to offer his services.

In response to our invitation he appeared on May 7 in our midst. In the evening the bell that was erected on December 24, 1852 tolled in the Lords Day. Sunday May 8, our church was solemnly dedicated as the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Hamilton Township, to the service of the Triune God. It was a fine festival. Our prayers and desires were fulfilled, and thanksgiving flowed that God had helped us worship in the new country in the way of our forefathers. This will remain a blessed memory. The text of the sermon was the Epistle of Jude, verses 21- (Keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, until eternal life, and convince some, who doubt.) After that Holy Communion was given to 23, and 8 children were baptized. In the afternoon the cemetery was dedicated with an appropriate speech.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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May the congregation long flourish and more and more contribute to the spread of the Kingdom of Christ. May the church remain an ornament of the county, a Temple in which God's glory will be proclaimed. May peace and unity dwell in these walls and the children and grandchildren in this Temple serve, in our mother tongue, the dear Lord according to our confession so that we may find ourself again in the celestial Zion, not made by men, that lasts forever. the dear Lord help us to do this through his love. "Amen".

Now that the church was dedicated and the settlers had a place of worship a The children of the village needed an education. new need arose. church was the only public building, it served as the first school.

The Hammonton News, Nov. 18, 1967, ran an article about the dedication of the new Folsom School, "The present school on the 25 acre tract is the third one The first was where the present Evangelical and Reformed Church is. This was in 1852."

The Bi-centennial Committee of Folsom issued a plate with a picture of the church on the front and an inscription on the back stating that it was the first public building in the Borough of Folsom and the first school.

Present day members of the church recall the names of relatives who attended the school and are buried in the churchyard, namely: Jacob Eckhardt, 1855-1933; Henry Roller, 1855-1915; Elizabeth Eckhardt Atz, 1857-1875; Charles Kempker, 1851-1888; Henry Kempker, 1851-1884; Joseph George Eckhardt, 1858-1875; George The earliest record of a school is from the Board of Education Hile, 1860-1933. of the State of New Jersey for the year 1867. Descendents of these early settlers tell the story that was told them concerning the school that was held in The children attended school from Monday through Friday. the church. school on Friday the pupils pushed back their moveable seats, swept the floor and The pews and other furnishings were put in place and the cleaned the room. The church continued to serve as the school church readied for Sunday services. until a one room building was erected on the northern border of the church property. In the year 1867 the first records of this school were reported by the Board of Education of the State of New Jersey. There were 97 children enrolled between the ages of five and eighteen with one teacher and a budget of \$236.84. This school is no longer in existence.

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The 33 signatures of the founders of the St. Jacobus Evangelical Church were D. Wolmesdorf, John Strack, George Grebe, L. The founders were: Noelling, J. Roller, A. Bernhardt, Michael Unger, Jacob Spies, Jacob Roller, Christian Kramer, Christian Spies, Daniel Klos, Heinrich Schocke, Daniel Hurter, Peter Bernshouse, Gottlieb Sauter, Andraus Sauter, George Blazer, Jacob Spies, Frederick Roller, F. Frederich Renstle, Joseph Eckhardt, Philip Helzer, John Sesor, George Roller Sr., George Heinrich Konig, Matthau Mulhauser, John Unger, John Backer, Adam Roller, George Roller. According to the custom men were dominant in the church. Men sat on the right side of the church, women on the left side. Men were invited to take Communion first. In spite of these customs women took an active part in the affairs and services of the church. active in the various social activities of the church. They took part in the festivals of the church. They provided food and encouragement when the men were busy with the construction of the church.

In the year 1871, the cause unknown, a disagreement developed among the members. Those members who wished to continue in the Lutheran faith left and built a new and larger church on the northern border of the property. The settlers who remained in the original church which they had helped to found chose to become affiliated with the Reformed Church of the United States.

An agreement recorded in Book No. 1 of the Book of Agreements, page 71 records (1) The six acres of church property is to be divided equally, the part belonging to the Lutheran Church to include the ground on which the one room school has been built. (2) The bell is to be sold to the Lutheran congregation for \$55.00.

In the year 1895 a vestibule and steeple were designed and built by Mr. Henry Kramer. It was added to the front of the church. Mr. Kramer was assisted in the construction by his son Edmund and the men of the congregation.

Lacking a bell since the original bell had been sold to the Lutheran Church a bell to be hung in the steeple was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Eckhardt. The bell still hangs in the steeple with the names of the donors and the date 1896 inscribed on it. It has summoned the members and friends to worship since that time and tolled the passing of faithful members and friends whose funeral services have been held in the church.

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The church shared pastors with the St. Johns Reformed Church of Egg Harbor City from the year 1870 to 1974. Services were held every other Sunday. For many years the minister who served the Egg Harbor and Folsom churches traveled from Egg Harbor City to Folsom by train. It was the custom for him to have Sunday dinner with a different family each Sunday he conducted services; the minister had a chance to become more intimately acquainted with the families he served and to be of service to them. The remaining time he spent making pastoral visits until it became time to get the train back to Egg Harbor City.

In June 1934 the German Reformed Church of the United States united with the Evangelical Synod of North America to form the denomination, The Evangelical and Reformed Church. The new name became Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In June 1957 that denomination united with the Congregational Christian Church. The new denomination was now called the United Church of Christ. Churches previously established were allowed to retain their original names with the designation United Church of Christ. From St. Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1853 to Zion Reformed Church in 1870 to the present day Zion Evangelical and Reformed of the United Church of Christ, the church has served the original settlers, their descendents and many others to the present time.

The services were conducted in the German language until the year 1921. Eleven pastors had served the congregation up to that time. M. Frankel, 1870; John Blackman, 1873-75; A. Boley, 1976; Carl Cast, 1877-82; G.B. Scibel, 1883-86; Herman Wiemer, 1889-93; M.H. Qual, 1893-1900; J.F. Kliefkin, 1900-02; Gustav Haack, 1902-07; H.J.F. Gramm, 1907-21; J.H. Myer, 1921-23; A.H. Elsoff, 1923-30; Charles E. String, 1931 to the present time. The last minister to conduct services in the German language was the Rev. H.J.F. Gramm who served from 1907 to 1921.

As mentioned in the dedication of the church on May 8, 1853 the cemetery was dedicated that afternoon. The cemetery has been faithfully cared for by past members and present members. Families who are descendents share in the up-keep of the churchyard where you may recognize the names of the original settlers whose names are engraved on the headstones found on the sides and rear of the church building. A perpetual care fund has been set up for the burial ground and the church building. An Agreement of Trust with officers of the First National Bank of South Jersey (Fidelity Bank), Pleasantville Branch was signed Sept. 17, 1970.

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Many of the descendents of the original settlers who founded the village have left for other pursuits. They have held reunions in the church at different times. Members of families from all parts of the country meet in the church to take part in the service which is part of their heritage. Two families who have held services in recent years are descendents of the Bernhardt family and Bernshouse families. Some come back to be married in the church of their ancestors. Some descendents of the original settlers still live in the village and participate in the services and up-keep of the church namely: the Beaser, Blazer, Eckhardt, and Hile families. They are devoted to the church and would like to have it remain as part of their German heritage and in remembrance of those early settlers who worked so hard to establish the church which has been of inspiration and service to the community ever since.

The settlement was called New Germany until the establishment of a Post Office in 1885. The name was changed to Folsom in honor of Frances Folsom who had recently married President Grover Cleveland. While the village is no longer called New Germany, the roots of the Borough of Folsom are to be found in this band of German immigrants who cleared the land, built their homes, their church and school. The church remains today, a tribute to a deeply religious people who settled the land and built their place of worship for all who would come and for those that would come after them. This church is a very important part of the heritage of this community, serving in its time as, church, school and community center.

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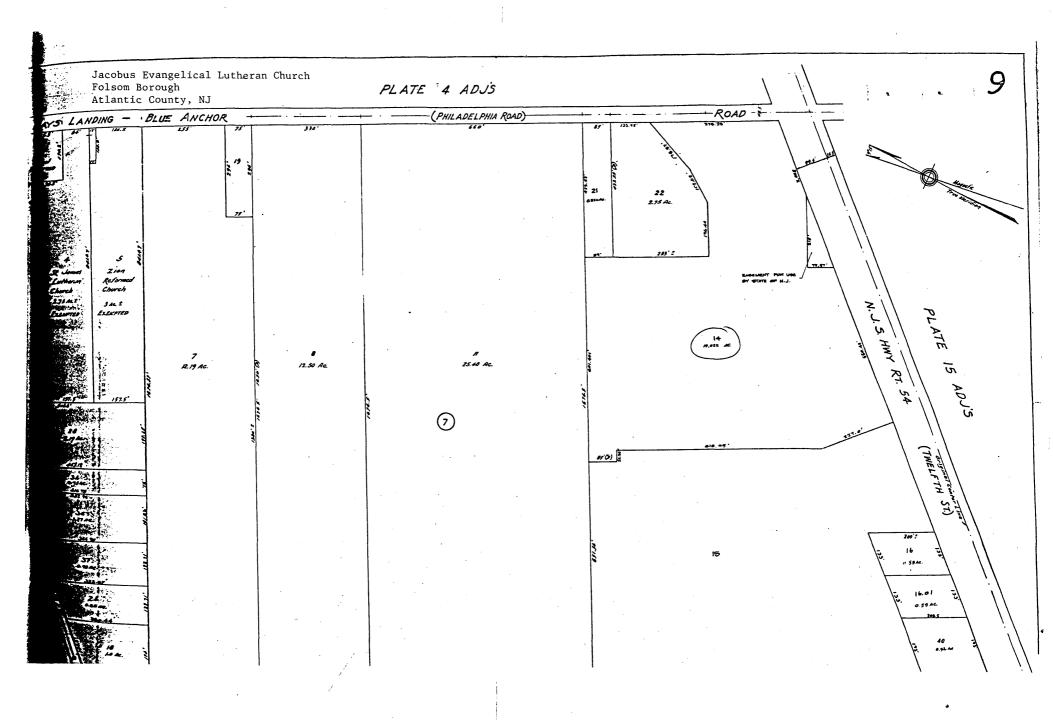
Section number9	Q	Page2	Jacobus	Evangelical	Lutheran	Church,	Fo1som	Borough,
			- Atlantio	County, Ne	w Jersey			

Bibliography

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- Eckhardt, Gertrude, M., Our 100th Year, Laureate Press, Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, 1970.
- Interview, Gertrude M. Eckhardt, conducted by Joan Gearren, August 1981.
- "New Folsom School is Dedicated", Hammonton News, November 21, 1967, Volume 109, Number 46, Section 1, page 1.
- Shelburt, Leo, <u>Background of Swiss Immigration</u>, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1974, pp. 441-2495.
- Survey of Cultural Resources of the Historic Era in the Watersheds of the Great Egg

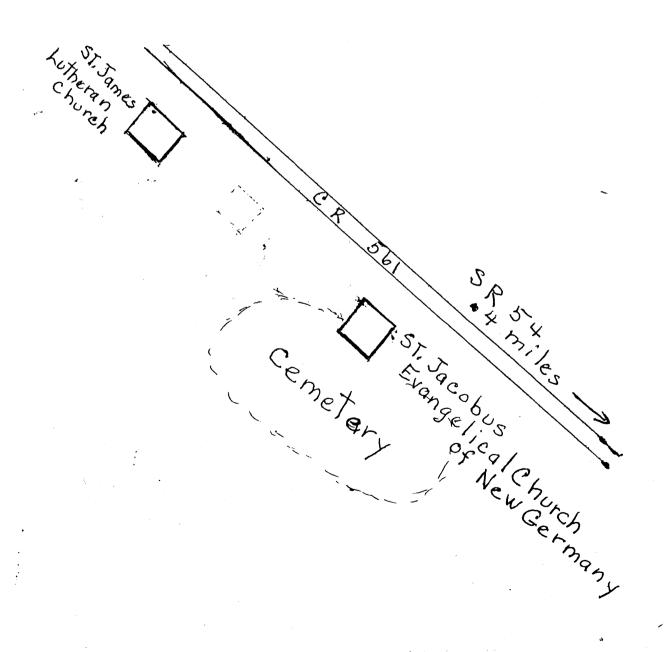
 Harbor and Tuckahoe Rivers, Volume II, Survey number 0110-37, Alan R. Mounier, editor, Department of Environmental Protection, 1981.

a mandalina kanada kanada



Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church Folsom Borough Atlantic County, New Jersey Not to scale.

Church of New Germany on the SW side of CR 561 Folsom Boro USGS Quad: Newtonville Block 7 Lot 5



ZION EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FOLSOM N.J. (Atlantic County) Altar Chair Pulpit 35 1 Chair. Chair Floor 51×5-1 STEPS