

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000282

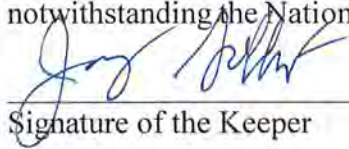
Date Listed: 5/27/2015

Property Name: First Lutheran Church

County: Garland

State: AR

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-  
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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

5-27-2015  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria Considerations

Criteria Consideration A is hereby checked

The First Lutheran Church, located in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, derives its significance from its architectural design. Criteria Consideration A is hereby met.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Lutheran Church  
Other names/site number: SS. Peter and Paul Mission (Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America), GA0416

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1700 Central Avenue  
City or town: Hot Springs State: Arkansas County: Garland  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center; margin: 0;"><i>Steph Hunt</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b><br/><u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>           | <p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center; margin: 0;">4-3-15</p> <hr/> <p><b>Date</b></p> |
| <p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b> _____ <b>Date</b> _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>Title :</b> _____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p> |   |

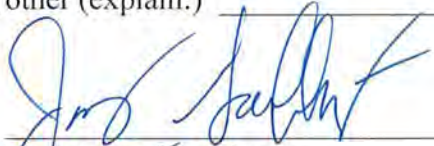
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

5-27-2015  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing      | Noncontributing   |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>          | <u>1</u>          | buildings  |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | sites      |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | structures |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | objects    |
| <u>1</u>          | <u>1</u>          | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO, CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has

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### Summary Paragraph

The former First Lutheran Church building is located at 1700 Central Avenue near the intersection of Watt Street. The church building was designed and constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style and features a bell tower above the main entrance, decorative iron grill work, an arched entry and arched windows, a low pitched roof and a stucco exterior. The building is simple in ornamentation and is a good surviving example of late revival style architecture. A small rectangular garage structure is located to the southwest of the main church. A similarly styled residence was also built next door. This structure was built at the same time as the church to serve as the pastor's residence. It has since been torn-down.

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### Narrative Description

The church was designed with a rectangular sanctuary, oriented with its long axis running from east to west. The main entrance is located along the east façade and is surrounded by an ornamental arch. The original structure extends to the west of the sanctuary and to the south to create an ell form. An addition composed of several rooms was added to the west of the original building sometime around 1950. The entire structure is topped by a long gable roof with cross gables over the ell form to the south and the western addition. The roof is composed of asphalt shingles. The foundation of the church is composed of continuous concrete. The partially in-ground crawlspace is vented toward the front of the structure with small, rectangular vents.

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### **Front Elevation – East Façade**

The front façade is dominated by a pair of wooden doors surrounded by an arched portal. The arched ornamental door surround is composed of a set of two, stepped-back arches. A possibly original electric light is located directly above the top of the door, within the arched ornamentation. A narrow, rectangular wooden window is located on either side of the central doorway. The windows are topped by a decorative oversized lintel and covered by ornamental iron grillwork. A small ornamental roundel with a central diamond ornament is centered above the doorway. This façade is topped by a gabled, ornamental bell tower at the apex of the main roof gable. The ornamental bell tower is topped by a metal cross. A flight of four concrete steps leads to the main entrance. The steps create a rectangular platform in front of the entrance. The existing pair of metal handrails are not original to the building.

### **North Façade**

The north façade faces onto Watt Street. At the eastern edge of the façade, a small gable extends a few inches from the main plane of the façade. This small gable section includes a single small rectangular window with an ornamental lintel. This window echoes the windows on the front façade without the decorative metal grillwork. To the west of the small gabled section, the exterior wall of the original sanctuary is divided into three bays by two truncated buttresses. The roof plane is pierced by two buttress piers directly above the lower exterior buttresses. Each bay includes a pair of windows topped by a shared ornamental lintel. The rectangular wooden windows include an arched insert of stained-glass. To the west of these sanctuary windows, the north façade extends to the north. The narrow east façade of this bump-out includes a narrow, rectangular window with an ornamental lintel. The north façade of the extended section includes four wide, rectangular windows with arched insets of stained glass. The tops of these windows are set just under the eave of the roof. Continuing to the west, another section is extended even further to the north. The narrow north-facing façade created by this further extension of the façade includes a narrow, rectangular window. This small window does not include an ornamental lintel. This extended section's north facade features a central pair of windows that are topped by a decorative lintel. These windows are replacements of the original windows and the original window openings have been shortened and in-filled.

The façade then turns a corner. The rear of the last extended section, which faces west, includes a truncated, replacement window to the north and an original size, rectangular, replacement window to the south. Turning the inside corner back to the north façade, there is a doorway, with a new door. A small electric light is located just to the west at the top corner of the door. This doorway is protected by an extension of the eave overhang that creates a small porch. The last portion of the north facing façade has no fenestration.

### **West Façade**

The west façade is composed of two main sections, the main gabled section and the rear of the cross gable to the south. The main gabled section includes five windows. There is one small

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window to the north and two pairs of windows to the south. The paired windows have recently been truncated and replaced. Above the windows there are three arched attic vents with wooden louvers. The central vent is taller than the two side vents.

The southern section of the west façade includes six windows; two wide windows to the north and two pairs of windows to the south. The pairs of windows have again been recently truncated and replaced. This façade also includes the exterior utility meters and utility lines for the structure.

### **South Façade**

Turning the corner from the west façade, the south façade starts with a section that extends the farthest from the main sanctuary space at the front of the church. This extended section includes two, truncated replacement windows. The original window openings have been in-filled. A rectangular attic vent is located below the apex of the gable. Turning the eastern corner of this section, the front wall of this extended addition is pierced only by a door at the northern corner. The wall then turns again to the east. This section of the south façade includes three windows. One pair of windows, which has been recently replaced, is located to the west. Two rectangular windows, topped by decorative lintels are equally spaced below a large gable to the east. This gable also includes a large, rectangular attic vent with wooden louvers below the apex of the gable.

The eastern edge of this section of the south façade turns a corner to an east facing façade. This façade section includes four narrow windows with a decorative lintel set above the windows in pairs. A doorway is located toward the north. This doorway has been recently replaced and the opening has been reduced in size. A small flight of three concrete steps leads to this doorway. The corner then turns again to the east. This last section of the south façade is the exterior of the original sanctuary. It matches the exterior of the sanctuary on the north façade. The three bays are punctuated by pairs of wooden windows with inset arched stained-glass and topped by ornamental lintels. The bays are divided by low buttresses. The easternmost bay has only one narrow window with a decorative lintel and an arched stained-glass inset.

### **Ancillary Structure (non-contributing):**

A rectangular garage/storage structure is located to the southwest of the structure. A garage door is located on the north façade of the ancillary building. The ancillary structure is stuccoed like the main church building and is topped by a gable asphalt-shingle roof with shallow, overhanging eaves. This garage is a later addition to the site.

### **Integrity:**

The roof of the main structure has most likely always been composed of composite shingles. According to an early postcard, it appears that the original multicolored shingles mimicked multicolored tile. The First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs has undergone a few changes over its lifetime. An addition was added to the west end of the church sometime around 1950. A

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map completed in 1950 shows what may be a proposed addition or a never executed large addition to the west of the building. The structure as it stands today includes a smaller addition to the west that matched the original style of the building with fewer windows and different window openings. This addition included a classroom and kitchen area. Most of the original wooden windows on the west façade have been recently replaced with vinyl windows, many of drastically different size, requiring window opening to be reduced through the use of infill. Windows have also been reduced and replaced on the rear portion of the south facing facades. The original front of the building has been maintained, although a new door on the east façade of the southern ell of the original building has installed and the original doorway height reduced. One set of gable vents along the south façade have also been replaced.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1937  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

July 4 1937  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Carl T. Schloemann  
Contractor: J. D. Johnson  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Lutheran Church of Hot Springs is an important, late example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture in southern Arkansas. The church was designed in 1937 by St. Louis Architect Carl E. Scholemann. The building was designed in the popular Mission Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival Style and includes several stylistic characteristics including stucco walls, arched windows, decorative window grills and a bell-tower above the front entrance. The First Lutheran Church of Hot Springs is being nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a late example of Mission Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture in Arkansas.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **The City of Hot Springs**

The town of Hot Springs was incorporated in 1851 as a health spa and resort area, catering to invalids and leisure seekers who hoped to find relief in the area's thermal springs at the local bathhouses.<sup>1</sup> The current city of Hot Springs National Park, not to be confused with the federally administrated Hot Springs National Park area, extends from Central Avenue, across from Bathhouse Row, and away from the springs in the narrow valley and over the open plain to the south and east as well as into the valley to the north. Before the town was officially established, the area surrounding the springs was reserved for federal use by the United States Congress in 1832.<sup>2</sup>

The land around Hot Springs had previously been settled or visited by generations of Caddo, Choctaw, Cherokee and other Native American tribes. After early European exploration, the land surrounding the springs was used mostly by travelers and early settlers as a source of healing thermal water. In 1804, a four-week expedition by George Hunter and William Dunbar was undertaken to the thermal springs.<sup>3</sup> These early explorers were unable to discover the source of springs, but they did note the few rudimentary shelters that had been built for visitors to the springs and the area's interesting geology. In 1807, local planter Emmanuel Prudhomme became the first settler of modern Hot Springs National Park.<sup>4</sup> Over the next few decades, new homes and even a few early hotels started to draw new residents and travelers to the area.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Guy Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)", *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, November 12, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Shugart Sharon, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

<sup>3</sup> Isabel Burton Anthony, *Garland County, Arkansas: Our History and Heritage* (Hot Springs National Park: Garland County Historical Society, 2009), 13-14.

<sup>4</sup> Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)".

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

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In 1820, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature requested that the springs and adjoining mountains be set aside as a federal reservation.<sup>6</sup> In 1832, the 22<sup>nd</sup> United States Congress formed the national reservation at Hot Springs, granting federal protection to the local thermal springs.<sup>7</sup> The Hot Springs Reservation was designated for public use as a park in 1880. In 1921, an act of Congress changed the name officially to Hot Springs National Park with its designation as the 18<sup>th</sup> National Park.<sup>8</sup>

The first bathhouses to utilize the thermal springs along Hot Springs Mountain were small cabins and frame buildings.<sup>9</sup> After the federal government began controlling the springs in the 1870s, major improvements were made to the area. This included the covering the nearby Hot Springs Creek with stone arches and a wide park area, cleaning up rubbish, and starting a centralized plumbing system to provide water to the bathhouses.<sup>10</sup>

As the popularity of thermal water treatments for various ills and afflictions grew during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Hot Springs came to depend on the tourists and patients attracted by the springs. After 1877, when Benjamin F. Kelley was appointed by Congress as the first superintendent of the Hot Springs Reservation, new engineering projects and the construction of a rail connection from the Rock Island Railroad transformed the area into a major resort destination that would continue to grow for decades.<sup>11</sup>

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Hot Springs had grown out of the small valley between Hot Springs Mountain to the east and West Mountain to the west. The bathhouses, now all situated along Bathhouse Row, running along the eastern side of Central Avenue were improved, remodeled and rebuilt through the 1930s. Their placement allowed them to easily cater to the tourist trade while taking advantage of the spring water that flowed through the National Park's water supply system. By the end of the 1930s all of the major bathhouses had been transformed into large palaces for healing and relaxation.

Through the 1950s, several bathhouses and spas successfully enticed new and return visitors to sample the thermal waters of the springs. With its elaborate ornamentation and unique Spanish motifs, one of the most visually sticking of the bathhouses is the Quapaw Bathhouse, which was completed in 1922 (NHL 5.28.1987). This bathhouse was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and may have served as an inspiration for the later First Lutheran Church building. Although this structure is very elaborate, with many intricate ornaments, this building has been an important landmark in Hot Springs since its completion in 1922. Although the Great Depression years of the 1930s did affect the profitability of the bathhouses and park, a cut in the general hours of operation for the bathhouses helped to divert too heavy a financial blow.<sup>12</sup> The

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<sup>6</sup> Sharon Shugart, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)".

<sup>12</sup> "1933: ... Park concession business dropped off because of the Great Depression, but

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tourist trade, however, began to diminish in the 1960s and 1970s. The great bathhouses that had been constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century closed one by one. By 1985, only the Buckstaff Bathhouse was still operating on Bathhouse Row.<sup>13</sup> By the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, new interest in heritage tourism and the listing of Bathhouse Row as a National Historic Landmark in 1987 led to a revival in Hot Springs National Park and the surrounding city of Hot Springs.

As the city of Hot Springs National Park grew during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new residential and commercial developments were built along Central Avenue, the main thoroughfare through the center of the city. New residential districts grew to the south and east. Even during the depression years, continued new development along Central Avenue showed that the city was still enjoying a surprisingly robust economy. In a July 1937 newspaper article in the local *New Era* newspaper, over \$150,000 in recent construction investment was announced as a new peak in the Hot Springs business district.<sup>14</sup>

### The Lutheran Church in Arkansas

Lutheranism has existed in Arkansas since the arrival of German immigrants near Arkansas Post in the 1790s. During the 1830s, there were sixty known German-Lutheran families that had settled near Little Rock in the preceding decades.<sup>15</sup> Although these early settlers were identified as Lutheran, there were no known early Lutheran church buildings or organized congregations in Arkansas until after the Civil War.<sup>16</sup>

The Lutheran community of Fort Smith chartered the first formal congregation under the leadership of Pastor Martin L. Wyneken in 1868.<sup>17</sup> While traveling to Fort Smith in 1868, Pastor Wyneken also led services for Lutherans in Little Rock. The Little Rock congregation started First Lutheran Church by the end of 1868.<sup>18</sup> By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 14 formal Lutheran congregations had been formed in Arkansas.<sup>19</sup> These early Lutheran church services were held mostly in German, as was customary for the denomination. It wasn't until the few years before World War I that most of the Lutheran Churches in the United States, including those in Arkansas, switched to the English language for their services. This was, in part, a reaction to the hostility seen across the county towards anything perceived to have German connections. The language switch was also seen as an important way to increase the reach of their mission work

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early closing to decrease operating costs stopped the decline.” Sharon Shurgart, *The Hot Springs of Arkansas the Years: A Chronology of Events* (Hot Springs National Park: Department of the Interior: National Park Service, 2004).

<sup>13</sup> Sharon Shurgart, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

<sup>14</sup> “\$150,000 in Construction,” *Hot Springs New Era*, July 24, 1937. p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> Steven Teske, “Lutherans”, *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, November 12, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> These included Salem Lutheran Church in Springdale, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Stuttgart, St. John Lutheran Church in Ulm, Hope Colony (Avill) in Saline County, Zion Lutheran Church in Saline County. Teske, “Lutherans”.

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by offering a more welcoming environment within the services for newcomers who were not necessarily of German decent.<sup>20</sup>

As the population of Arkansas continued to grow during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, First Lutheran Church in Little Rock helped to establish several of the new congregations around the state. This included Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexander in 1880, First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs in 1915, Grace Lutheran of Little Rock in 1914 and Trinity Lutheran of North Little Rock in 1943.<sup>21</sup>

### Lutherans in Hot Springs

The First Lutheran congregation of Hot Springs was formally founded in 1915 when Pastor Rev. Adolph H. Poppe from Little Rock's First Lutheran held services for the local Lutheran population on December 31, 1915.<sup>22</sup> This was the first formal Lutheran sermon in Hot Springs and was held in the council chamber of city hall. After this first service, Pastor Poppe continued a schedule of regular services for the Lutherans of Hot Springs and Garland County.<sup>23</sup> Rev. Poppe served as director of mission work in Hot Springs for 15 years.<sup>24</sup> In 1930, Rev. George Kuechenmeister was hired to be the full time pastor for the Hot Springs Lutheran Congregation.<sup>25</sup> In July of 1934 the First Lutheran Church was officially organized by the Missouri Synod.<sup>26</sup> Mr. George Kuechenmeister was born in St. Louis in 1904 and attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.<sup>27</sup> According to census records, it appears that Rev. Kuechenmeister married Ruth Reynolds of St. Louis in 1930. While the Pastor for First Lutheran of Hot Springs, the Kuechenmeister's had two children, Rachael Ann and George Paul. Although both had been born after the Kuechenmeister's had moved to Hot Springs, the 1940 Census lists both children as having been born in Missouri.

It was under Rev. Kuechenmeister's leadership that First Lutheran Church of Hot Springs finally built its own worship space along Central Avenue. The congregation had been meeting in various places since its foundation in 1915, including city hall and various church and civic halls. In the years directly preceding the construction of the new church in 1937, the Lutheran section of the Saturday afternoon *New Era* newspaper states that they most often met at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Orange Street either before or after the regular Presbyterian services.<sup>28</sup> Rev. Kuechenmeister continued to lead the congregation in Hot Springs until 1954, when he was

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Delbert Schmand, *Heritage of the First Lutheran Church, Little Rock, Arkansas* (North Little Rock: Horton Brothers Printing Company, 1988), 50.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Schmand, *Heritage of the First Lutheran Church*, 71.

<sup>25</sup> City Directories of Hot Springs, 1928-1932.

<sup>26</sup> Anthony, *Garland County, Arkansas*, 279.

<sup>27</sup> 1930 Census Rolls. "Local Lutherans To Dedicate New Church Sunday," *Hot Springs New Era*, July 3, 1937, p. 10.

<sup>28</sup> *Hot Springs New Era*, Saturday Editions, Local Church News Section, Lutheran Announcements, 1936-1937.

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called to work at a Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri. He eventually retired from ministry and moved back to Hot Springs before his death in 1978.<sup>29</sup>

The Mission style or Spanish Colonial Revival style First Lutheran Church building of Hot Springs was completed at the end of June, 1937. An article in the *New Era* on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1937 announced that “its doors will be thrown open to public worship for the first time” on the following Sunday. The Rev. R. Prang, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Little Rock preached the dedicatory service at 11am and a 3pm service was led by the Rev. M. Schaefer of St. Louis, the director of Lutheran Missions for the district. The construction and style of the church is also noted in a special article in the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1937 *New Era* newspaper:

“Presenting an attractive appearance, the First Lutheran church is built in the Spanish Mission style. It is located at Central avenue and Watt Street. The one-story structure was built at the estimated cost of \$10,000. exclusive of the grounds and furnishings.

The church building is an el-shaped structure, including a chapel, 60 by 25 feet and a Sunday school room, 22 feet square. ...

Simple in style, the interior of the church, presents a dignified atmosphere. There are two rows of pews seating 100 persons with the center aisle leading to the chancel. ...

Carl F. Schloeman, St. Louis, was architect for the building: J. D. Johnson was the local contractor and all building supplies were furnished by the E. R. Boll Lumber company.”<sup>30</sup>

## Mission Style and Spanish Colonial Revival Style Architecture

The Mission Style of Architecture grew out of an early experimentation with Spanish Revival forms in California during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>31</sup> During the early 1900s, the Mission Style spread east as popular architects and building magazines promoted the style as one of the many revival styles available during the new home building boom across much of the United States.<sup>32</sup> The Mission Style was a popular choice for new building designs and featured elaborate dormer and roof parapets, red tile roofs, widely overhanging eaves, open porches supported by large square piers and smooth stucco walls. This style continued to be popular until after World War I “as architectural fashion shifted from, simplified adaptation of earlier prototypes to more precise, correct copies.”<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Ancestry.com. *U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA.

<sup>30</sup> “Local Lutherans To Dedicate New Church Sunday,” *Hot Springs New Era*, July 3, 1937, p. 10.

<sup>31</sup> Virginia McAlester and A. Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. First ed. Knopf, 1984. 409-410.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

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The Mission Style was eventually subsumed under the Spanish Eclectic or Spanish Colonial Revival style. This style drew inspiration from a much broader spectrum of Spanish sources, including examples in Europe as well as early colonial California, Mexico and the Caribbean. The various forms of Spanish revival styles were popularized by several 20<sup>th</sup> century expositions, including Spanish Revival style pavilions at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, Illinois and the Electric Tower of the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1900. These examples and the early adoption of the style in California led to residential, civic and institutional examples across the county by the 1920s. The success of the San Diego Panama-California Exposition in 1915 and especially the popular California Quadrangle, which included the California Building and California Tower, further popularized the Spanish Revival style across the United States.<sup>34</sup>

The Spanish Eclectic or Spanish Colonial Revival style featured lower pitched roofs than the Mission style, little or no overhanging eaves, prominent arches above windows or doorways, asymmetrical massing and the use of stucco on wall surfaces.<sup>35</sup> Other common features include decorative window grills of wood or iron and decorative chimney tops and bell towers. The small bell tower, above the main entrance portal of the First Lutheran Church building and the iron grill work over the windows on the front façade are common characteristic of the revival interpretation of colonial Spanish missions in California.

The former First Lutheran Church building in the city of Hot Springs is a late example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style with heavy influence from the earlier Mission style. Although the structure lacks the elaborate detailing of a high-style example, it does exhibit many common characteristics. It is also one of the last surviving Spanish Mission Revival style churches in the area. Two other Mission Revival style churches in Arkansas have been previously listed individually to the National Register; Christ the King Church in Fort Smith (NR 12.22.1982) and St. Agnes Catholic Church in Mena (NR 6.5.1991). The former First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs is an important late example of this style and served as an important community center for the Lutheran population of Garland County from its construction until it was sold into private ownership in c. 1985. This church building exhibits the low-pitched gable roof, short overhanging eaves, arched doorway and windows, bell-tower and stucco exterior. The shallow buttresses and extended buttress piers that pierce the roof plane along the sides of the sanctuary add to the revival styling of the building, even though the structure is actually frame, rather than stone or brick.

### **Carl E. Schloemann**

The architect of the former First Lutheran Church building in Hot Springs was Mr. Carl E Schloeman (alternatively spelled Schloemann). Mr. Schloemann was born in Borgholzhausen,

<sup>34</sup> The California Quadrangle was built as the grand entrance to the Panama-California Exposition and still exists in Balboa Park, San Diego as the San Diego Museum of Man. The California Quadrangle buildings were designed by Architect Bertram Goodhue. National Historic Landmark Nomination, Balboa Park, San Diego, 12.22.1977.

<sup>35</sup> McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 417.



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Germany, on March 21, 1898.<sup>36</sup> He was trained in Architecture and Engineering at a technical college in Germany before immigrating to the United States with his wife Henriette in 1923. Carl and Henriette Schloemann arrived in New York from Bremen, Germany, aboard the ship *S.S. Sierra Ventana* in October of 1923. They were bound for St. Louis under the sponsorship of an uncle who already lived in the St. Louis area.<sup>37</sup>

After arriving in St. Louis, Carl Schloemann started to work as an architect, an engineer and a draftsman. By 1930, he had designed and built at least two structures in St. Louis's Hi-Pointe and De Mun neighborhoods. One is a Tudor Revival style home designed for a Mrs. Goldberg at 6341 Alamo Avenue in 1928 (NR 2005). The other is also a Tudor Revival style residence he designed for his own family at 6329 San Bonita Avenue around 1930 (NR 2005). Also, the Schloemann's had a son, Carl T. Schloemann, in February of 1925.<sup>38</sup> During the 1920s and 1930s, Schloemann worked for the St. Louis San Francisco Railway as a draftsman. He also worked as an engineer for a company called Menges Mange, Inc., also known as the Missouri Chromium Plating Company.<sup>39</sup>

In 1934, Schloemann applied for membership in the American Institute of Architects. In his application, he noted that he had practiced architecture in the United States for nearly 12 years and had been registered or licensed as an architect in Illinois, Georgia and Colorado.<sup>40</sup> In 1934, Missouri did not have a law that required licensure or registration as an architect. In 1937, Schloemann was hired to design the First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs.<sup>41</sup> He may have been hired due to the Arkansas Lutheran community's ties to St. Louis. The Missouri Synod, which is headquartered in St. Louis, is the larger administrative region similar to a diocese in other denominations, for many of the Lutheran Churches in Arkansas, including the congregation of First Lutheran in Hot Springs. In the *New Era* newspaper, it is often noted that Rev. Kuechenmeister was travelling to St. Louis to attend district meetings.<sup>42</sup>

Carl Schloemann, from the few surviving examples of his work, was able to produce architectural designs in many of the popular revival styles of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century ranging from Tudor Revival to Neo-classical. The Spanish Colonial Revival style church in Hot Springs is a late example of this style. Carl Schloemann is also known to have designed a Christian Science Reading Room for the Second Church of Christ Scientist at the Northwest corner of Sulphur and Murdoch streets in the St. Louis Hills area around 1940.<sup>43</sup> This building was designed in a

<sup>36</sup> Immigration Records from the S.S. Sierra Ventana in 1923 Recorded Mr. Schloemann's place of birth as "Bergholehausen (sic. Borgholzhausen)" and his place of previous residence as "Dakeln (sic. Datteln)". Both of these sites are in Northwest Germany.

<sup>37</sup> Immigration Records from the S.S. Sierra Ventana, October 11, 1923. Ancestry.com

<sup>38</sup> Census Rolls, 1930. "Schloemann, Carl T." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, January 4, 2001, Obituaries sec.

<sup>39</sup> City Directories of St. Louis, 1920-1930.

<sup>40</sup> Application for Membership to the American Institute of Architects for Carl F. Schloemann.

<sup>41</sup> "Local Lutherans To Dedicate New Church Sunday," *Hot Springs New Era*, July 3, 1937, p. 10.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> "Additions to Our Dictionary of Missouri Biography." *Society of Architectural Historians, St. Louis Chapter VII*, no. No. 4 (2001).

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Garland, Arkansas

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simplified neo-classical style and is still in use today as a local bank. Mr. Schloemann died in St. Louis in 1942.<sup>44</sup>

The First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs has undergone a few changes over its lifetime. An addition was added to the west end of the church sometime around 1950. A Sanborn Fire Insurance Map completed in 1950 shows what may be a proposed addition or a never executed large addition to the west of the building. The structure as it stands today includes a smaller addition to the west that matched the original style of the building with fewer windows and different window openings. Most of the original wooden windows on the west façade have been recently replaced with vinyl windows, many of drastically different size, requiring window opening to be reduced through the use of infill. Windows have also been reduced and replaced on the rear portion of the south facing facades. The original front of the building has been maintained, although a new door on the east façade of the southern ell of the original building has installed and the original doorway height reduced. One set of gable vents along the south façade have also been replaced.

The church building was also part of a larger building campaign, which included the construction of a pastor's residence or parsonage on the adjacent lot to the south. This property was also designed and built in the Mission Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival style at the same time as the church. The parsonage was previously moved off of the site, possibly to a lot in Hot Springs Village.<sup>45</sup>

The First Lutheran Church of Hot Springs is an important, late example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture in southern Arkansas. The church was designed in 1937 by St. Louis Architect Carl E. Scholemann in the popular Mission Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival Style. The First Lutheran Church of Hot Springs is being nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a late example of Mission Revival or Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture in Arkansas.

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<sup>44</sup> "Schloemann, Carl T." *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, January 4, 2001, Obituaries sec.

<sup>45</sup> Marie Shelkey, Interview by author, email, January 23, 2015.

First Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Garland, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Additions to Our Dictionary of Missouri Biography." *Society of Architectural Historians, St. Louis Chapter* VII, no. No. 4 (2001).

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Teske, Steven. *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Little Rock: Butler Center, Arkansas Studies Institute, 2014. Accessed January 9, 2015. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=4124>.

First Lutheran Church  
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Garland, Arkansas  
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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** GA0416

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** <1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

First Lutheran Church  
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**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 494696 | Northing: 3817162 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

R. L. Gilliam Subdivision, Block 001, Lot 001.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated the main church structure.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500, Tower Building  
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201  
e-mail calliew@arkansasheritage.org  
telephone: 501-324-9880  
date: October 10, 2014

First Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Garland, Arkansas  
County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: First Lutheran Church

City or Vicinity: Hot Springs

County: Garland

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams, National Register Historian, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date Photographed: January 8, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0001)  
East (front) elevation, camera facing southwest.

2 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0002)  
East (front) elevation, detail of entry and windows, camera facing northwest.

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3 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0003)  
North elevation, camera facing southwest.

4 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0004)  
North elevation, camera facing southeast.

5 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0005)  
Northwest corner, camera facing southeast.

6 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0006)  
West (rear) elevation, camera facing southeast.

7 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0007)  
South elevation detail, camera facing northwest.

8 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0008)  
South elevation detail and garage, camera facing west.

9 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0009)  
South elevation detail, camera facing north.

10 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0010)  
South and east elevation detail, camera facing west.

11 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0011)  
South and east elevation detail, camera facing northwest.

12 of 12: (AR\_GarlandCounty\_FirstLutheranChurch\_0012)  
East elevation of garage structure, camera facing west.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas



Google earth



UTM

Z: 15

Easting: 494696

Northing: 3817162

NAD83



First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas



Google earth



UTM

Z: 15

Easting: 494696

Northing: 3817162

NAD83





1700























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Lutheran Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Garland

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/08/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/02/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000282

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5-28 2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Nice, local example of Mission Revival*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gabber      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N see attached

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

January 29, 2015

Rick Stauder, Planning Coordinator  
City of Hot Springs  
PO Box 700  
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

Re: First Lutheran Church – Hot Springs, Garland County

Dear Mr. Stauder: *rick*

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced property will be considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of the preservation. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of the federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The federal government will not attach covenants to the property or seek to acquire it.

We have enclosed a copy of the National Register nomination for your review. If you have any comments on the proposed nomination, please submit a letter with your comments, concerns, or concurrence to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at least 24 hours prior to the date of the State Review Board meeting.

You are invited to attend the State Review Board meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The board will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2015 in Room 170 of the Tower Building at 323 Center Street in Little Rock.

If you have any questions regarding the State Review Board meeting feel free to call Ralph Wilcox, Callie Williams or Travis Ratermann at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

Frances McSwain  
Director

- 
- Arkansas Arts Council
  - \*
  - Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
  - \*
  - Delta Cultural Center
  - \*
  - Historic Arkansas Museum
  - \*
  - Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
  - \*
  - Old State House Museum
- 



**Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program**



323 Center Street, Suite 1500  
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website:  
[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

April 1, 2015



Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

---

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

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RE: First Lutheran Church – Hot Springs, Garland County,  
Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosure



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program



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Little Rock, AR 72201

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website:  
[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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