

PH0501786

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
AUG 2 1977
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JAN 31 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Hope Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

310 South Third

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Westcliffe

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Colorado

VICINITY OF

CODE

08

COUNTY

Custer

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Hope Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

310 South Third

CITY, TOWN

Westcliffe

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Custer County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Westcliffe

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Colorado, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver,

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hope Lutheran Church is basically a rectangular structure with a large tower. Designed by the then current pastor, the Reverend J. Reininga, the exterior is composed of hand made concrete blocks. The only ornamentation is supplied by brick quoins on the corners of the building and the tower. The church measures thirty-five by seventy-five feet and faces east. There is a full basement. In addition to the main entrance on the east side, there is a small door on both the north and south sides and a third door in the rear. The church has a cross-gabled roof, and there is a brick chimney at the west end.

The most notable exterior feature is the tower which, soaring to a height of ninety-six feet above the ground, is visible for miles in every direction. Constructed of the same blocks as the rest of the church, it has a small circular stained glass window immediately above the main entrance. The belfry, enclosed by bars, contains the original church bell hung in 1917, which is still in use. The belfry has a small cross-gabled roof highlighted by an ornamental design reminiscent of a trefoil and is topped by a simple cross.

There are fourteen stained-glass windows in the church. On the east facade there are two long rectangular windows and a third square one immediately above the entrance. On both the north and south sides are found three rectangular stained-glass windows and a large stained-glass window made up of three rectangular panels. This large window portrays a Biblical scene. Above this large and striking picture there is a small horizontal rectangular window also made of stained glass.

The interior, which is very plain, is highlighted by its altar which was designed and carved by Pastor Reininga. With its eleven ornate spires, Gothic arch, and life-size figure of Christ, it is the focal point of the entire sanctuary.

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 checked="" 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT The Reverend John Reininga

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hope Lutheran Church is one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Colorado. From its inception, this group has played and is continuing to play an important role in the history of Custer County.

In 1870 a group of settlers, 367 strong, came west from Chicago and settled in the fertile Wet Mountain Valley high in the central Sangre de Cristo Mountains. They were interested in settling on land suitable for agriculture, as the colony's leader was Captain Carl Wulsten, a civil engineer and a specialist in agriculture.

The new settlers located in Westcliffe. Since they had determined to be self sufficient, various items such as a small flour mill had been brought along. This, however, did not include a pastor to see to the religious needs of the community. It wasn't until 1872 that the Reverend J. Hilgendorf, a Lutheran pastor from Nebraska, was prevailed to come west by Mrs. Gottlieb Ograske, one of the leaders among the settlers.

After some discussion, Reverend Hilgendorf formed one of the first Lutheran congregations in Colorado. The original church, nothing more than a simple shelter made out of aspen poles, was built about seven miles west of town. The current church, the fourth to be occupied by the congregation was designed and built in 1917 by the then pastor, the Reverend John Reininga.

The congregation had numerous problems due in large part to its location in such a remote spot. In the first twenty years six pastors served the church, but there were long periods of time when the pulpit was vacant. Yet the congregation did survive due, it may be suggested, to the determination of its members who maintained services. In addition to providing a church school which in some years -- e.g. 1882 -- also served as the community school, the church was, from the early 1880s, the only formalized place in some distance for marriages and burials.

With the decline of the mining industry in the 1890s, the emphasis of the county's activities began to shift toward agriculture. Hope Lutheran Church became an increasingly important focal point for the tiny community of Westcliffe in the harsh economic times that followed. In a very real sense it can be said that it was the importance of the church which resulted in the town being named the county seat of Custer County in 1923.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Memorial Booklet Committee, Hope Lutheran Church Hundredth Anniversary 1872-1972, Westcliffe, Colorado: 1972
 Parker, Harold M., Faith on the Frontier, Denver: Colorado Council of Churches, 1976.
 Turk, Gayle, Wet Mountain Valley, Colorado Springs: Little London Press, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	459040	4220410	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on the west side of Third Street at 310 South Third.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Teresa A. Walker

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Colorado

DATE

March, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1300 Broadway

TELEPHONE

892-3394

CITY OR TOWN

Denver,

STATE

Colorado 80203

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 7/19/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

1/31/78

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/31/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Today the church continues its role in the life of the community of Westcliffe through such groups as the Ladies Aid and the Lutheran's Women Missionary League. Proud of its past, the church is not only a monument to the small band of German settlers led west by Carl Wulsten, but an important part of the community of Westcliffe today.