

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 12 1985**

date entered

**APR 11 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic German Reformed Church

and/or common St. Peter's United Church of Christ

**2. Location**

street & number 202 Etna Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Huntington N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Huntington code 069

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name St. Peter's United Church of Christ

street & number 202 Etna Ave.

city, town Huntington N/A vicinity of state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Huntington County Court House

street & number North Jefferson St.

city, town Huntington state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1903 of red brick and native buff limestone, the German Reformed Church is an interesting combination of styles from the late 19th century. The plan of the building is a complicated collision of masses with varying shapes and sizes. The main block of the building is made up of several intersecting gables, each with a flared roof and decorative Eastlake style bargeboard. At the southwest corner of the gabled section is a tall, square tower, its massing and steeply pitched bell-cast, pyramidal roof and equally steep dormers reminiscent of the Richardsonian Romanesque. Also reflecting the Richardsonian is the rock-faced limestone that forms the ground level of the entire structure, as well as the arcaded original main entrance. The angled buttresses and corbeling on the other, rectangular sections of the building reflect a late Gothic revival influence. Openings throughout the structure have Tudor arches, and half-timbering appears on a polygonal clerestory section on the west.

The church's most outstanding feature is the central tower, located on the main (south) elevation. (Photo 1.) A one-story street level projecting gabled entrance of limestone was added onto the tower in 1954. The four-sided tower is built of red brick, and has two tiers. The large lower tier features angled buttresses at each corner, two rows of tall, narrow windows above the entrance, and brick corbeling along the upper edge of the tier. The upper tier is smaller, and features a central louvered opening on each face, which is tall and narrow and capped by a rounded arch. Flanking this opening are recessed blind arches, with slit openings. The brick surface of the upper tier is dotted with projecting header bricks. The steep pyramidal roof is bell-cast, featuring on each side a dormer with a steep bell-cast roof. Dormers and tower are topped with finials.

The 1954 entrance features two sets of paired wood and glass doors, which have lancet-arched transoms of stained glass, grouped together under a stone Tudor arch. The gabled roof of the projecting entrance is finished in a parapet.

East of the tower is the original main entrance, located at the top of a flight of steps. The entrance is accessed through an arcade of three Tudor arches of stone, which are outlined by voussoirs and supported by stone buttresses. Rising above the porch is the main gable section of the church. This gable displays a large, round, stained-glass window with tracery. The steeply pitched gable roof features a flared Eastlake bargeboard supported by brackets. Cornice and brackets are all painted white. The roof is shingle.

East of the main entrance is a second, smaller, four-sided tower of red brick, with limestone at the basement level. Buttresses project from each corner of the tower. On its south facade, the tower features a pair of arched windows in a Tudor arched opening. Above this window, a row of three slit windows appears. Brick corbels provide detailing beneath a stone cornice. A brick stepped parapet rises above the cornice. Curiously, a shingled, conical roof with a finial is centered on the roof of this square tower.

West of the tower on the south elevation is a section of the structure consisting of a basement and two upper floors. This section is constructed of limestone at the basement level, with red brick on the first story. It is three bays wide on the south side, with projecting buttresses at the center and the west edge. Basement windows have Tudor arches, while first-story windows consist of a pair of windows in an opening with a Tudor arch and stone sill. Each window displays trefoil tracery. A stone belt course provides detailing beneath the first-story windows. Above the windows, brick corbels support the cornice and parapet.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1904

**Builder/Architect** Robert V. Lamont/Will A. Stevens

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The German Reformed Church is significant primarily for its association with Drover Town and its founder, Henry Drover. It is also a significant example of eclectic, turn-of-the-century architecture designed by Will A. Stevens, an architect who came from Huntington but worked in the offices of two nationally prominent architectural firms.

Henry Drover, a Prussian immigrant, arrived in Huntington in 1856, and by 1857 he was elected mayor. A canal boat captain and owner of a fleet, Drover purchased 160 acres of dense woods south of Huntington across from the Little River where, in 1857, he platted Drover Town, which was quickly settled by Germans. In 1856 he donated land for St. Peter's German Reformed Church and was one of the founders of the congregation. Today's church stands on that site. In 1874, the prosperous settlement of Drover Town was annexed to the city of Huntington, despite the strenuous objections of Drover Town residents. Today the Drover Town area is almost entirely residential, with only a school, a handful of churches, and even fewer commercial buildings. The German Reformed Church is thus the most important institutional structure associated with the origins of the area.

The present building, a combination of Eastlake, Richardsonian, and Tudor elements, was designed by Will A. Stevens. Stevens was a Huntington native, and graduated from Cornell University in 1890. He first worked for the firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst and White, and then was with Burnham and Root of Chicago until his untimely death in 1921. Stevens made the first design for the Hotel Lafontaine in Huntington, and drew plans for at least two homes on the north side. He also designed the gardens for the Enos Taylor house (National Register, 1982), most of which were destroyed when a church was built on the site. Stevens was buried in the church cemetery west of Huntington.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Huntington, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	6	2	6	9	1	0	4	5	2	6	0	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert H. Diffenbaugh

organization St. Peter's United Church of Christ

date May 10, 1982

street & number 1325 Guilford St.

telephone 219/356-8131

city or town Huntington

state Indiana 46750

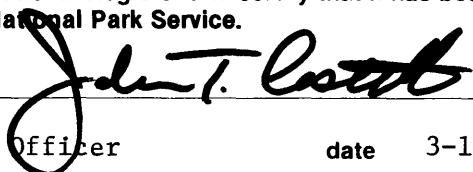
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-1-85

For NPS use only

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



for Keeper of the National Register

date 4-11-85

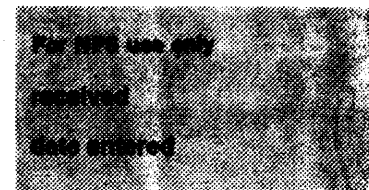
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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The upper level of the west section is six-sided, with a hipped shingle roof. An imitation of the English Tudor style, it is covered with stucco and has half-timbering which is painted white. Window openings are Tudor arches, each containing a pair of arched windows.

The east elevation features the east facade of the small tower and a second large gable. (Photo 2.) The tower projects slightly from the building, and its east facade is identical to its south facade. The gable section is three bays wide, with buttresses between the bays and on the north edge. As on the south elevation, limestone appears at the basement level, with bricks on the levels above. A stone belt course separates the brick and limestone sections. The gable section features a large stained-glass window, flanked by two smaller windows. Each of the three windows appears in a Tudor arched opening and features complex tracery design in the upper third of the window. The gable features a flared bargeboard like that seen on the south facade. The rear north gable section and a one-story projecting wing are visible on this elevation.

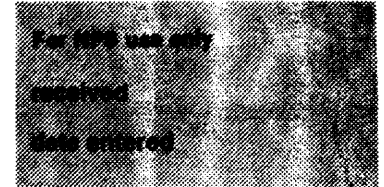
The rear north elevation (photo 3) consists of a central gable, with a small attached projecting section at the second story level, capped by a hipped roof. A large, one-story brick addition, added in 1979, extends north from the building. This section contains the fellowship hall.

The sanctuary and main worship area are the most notable areas inside the church. The ceiling is perhaps the most outstanding feature. (Photo 4.) Dark oak arched trusses support the roof, with the spaces between the framing members paneled with narrow tongue and groove. Pendants and piers emulate those found in Gothic cathedrals. Other woodwork in the building is dark oak below and Georgia pine, stained to match, above. Tudor arches frame the sanctuary, and the door and window openings. The altar, lecturn, and tympanums above the doorways feature intricately carved wood, with quatrefoils throughout. Stained glass windows are a mixture of opalescent glass and painted glass. A small rose window is positioned above the altar, and a large rose window is located at the south end above the original main entrance.

New pews were installed in 1968.

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Item Number 9

Bash, Frank Sumner, History of Huntington County Indiana, Vol. I, p. 333, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1914 ed.

Combination Atlas Map of Huntington County, p. 19, Kingman Bros., Publishers (no address listed). 1879 ed.

Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Huntington County, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, December, 1982, p. 57.

Item No. 10

Beginning at a point where Charles Street and Henry Street intersect; thence southeast along the southwest right-of-way of Henry Street; thence southwest along the northwest right-of-way of Etna Avenue to a point 10 feet beyond the southwest wall of the church; thence northwest along that line to its intersection with Charles Street; thence north along the east right-of-way of Charles Street to the place of beginning.