

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Montgomery County
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Augustus Lutheran Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Augustus Lutheran Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East Seventh Avenue and Main Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Trappe		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th	
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Montgomery County	CODE 091

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Augustus Lutheran Church		
STREET AND NUMBER: 717 Main Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Trappe	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorder of Deeds, Montgomery County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER: Airy and Swede Streets		
CITY OR TOWN: Norristown	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (10 photos, 1935)		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex		
STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania	COUNTRY: Montgomery	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Augustus Lutheran Church is a plain sandstone structure with a polygonal apse and gambrel roof. The building has undergone several renewals since its erection in 1743. Five new roofs have been put on since 1814, the most recent one being done in 1974. In 1814 plaster was put on the sandstone walls which were eroding. At this time the interior was painted in a style typical for German or Pennsylvania Dutch in the manner common in Germany. There is an asymmetrical placement of windows on the side which is in keeping with the older building tradition of vernacular architecture, unconcerned with Georgian formality.

In 1968 efforts were made to remove the plaster and find an alternative method of preservation, but all of these proved unsatisfactory. Only the cornerstone has been left uncovered. All the window sash and frames were replaced in 1968.

Very few changes have been made on the interior as well. There are galleries on three sides, two of which date from 1743. The northeast loft was built in 1752 for the new organ imported from Europe, parts of which can still be seen in the church. The imposing paneled walnut pulpit, which serves as the focal point of the interior, was received in 1745 as a gift from English church members.

All of the pews are original. Those beneath the organ loft were for the elders; those beneath the western gallery, with carved doors and elaborate locks were for the wealthier members of the congregation. As was customary in the colonial period, the sexes were separated. Here, the women sat on the northeast side and the men opposite. Servants and boys used plain high backed benches in the gallery.

In 1928, the building underwent a major restoration. At this time, wooden floorboards were removed from over the original flagstone and old stoves were taken out. The interior paint was restored to the 1814 design, with a section of one pillar left exposed to reveal the sources for the restoration. At this time the balustrade, carved with its heartshapes, was painted light blue and the pillars were decorated with a wavy black and white pattern.

BOUNDARIES

Augustus Lutheran Church is located on a large area of land owned by the church for use as a cemetery. The boundary is drawn to include the original cemetery property indicated by the old sandstone wall along 7th Street and to exclude the new church buildings; beginning at the northeast corner of the wall and continuing along 7th Street in a straight line until it intersects with the wall along main street at the southeast corner, then along Main Street, past the old gate to the beginning of the path to the new church at the southwest corner, then along the path on the east side, following it around the new church to its east side and continuing in a straight line until reaching a point directly in line with the

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1743

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Augustus Lutheran Church, located in Trappe Pennsylvania, exemplifies early German rural construction in this country and as such, serves as an excellent example of the regional type of church built in the early Pennsylvania German manner. The exterior walls, originally of local sandstone, have been plastered and the gambrel roof of wooden shingles has undergone several needed renewals, but the integrity of the structure is incredibly intact. Original hand hewn timbers, hand-forged nails, and hinges and door latches, the 1745 pulpit, the 1795 altar, and original pews, some with carved wooden doors and elaborately forged hinges, are still in place. Another interesting Pennsylvania German feature is the church's cut-out gallery railing with heart-shaped figures. Augustus Lutheran Church remains today one of the best examples of the vernacular architecture of America's German settlement with a high degree of integrity that is relatively undisturbed by the later church buildings.

HISTORY

Augustus Lutheran Church is the oldest extant Lutheran church building in the United States. It was built by Dr. Heinrich Melchior Muhlenburg, one of four Pietists who were pioneers in the religious life of America. Work on the building began in 1743, the year after his arrival. The building was dedicated in September, 1745 and services were held regularly for more than a century. In 1852 a new, larger church was built, but the old building is still used for summer services.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Raymond, Eleanor, Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania, New York, 1931, plates 11-13.  
 Wallace, Philip B., and Dunn, William, Colonial Churches and Meeting-Houses, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, New York, 1931, plates 99-114.  
Pennsylvania--A Guide to the Keystone State, American Guide Series, New York, 1946, p. 429.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	UTM 18.459100.4450160	' "		' "	' "	
NE	° 18.459170.4450060	' "		' "	' "	
SE	° 18.459040.4449930	' "		' "	' "	
SW	° 18.458970.4449970	' "		' "	' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmark Review Project; original forms prepared by Charles Snell, 1967

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service  
 DATE: 8/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street

CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
 STATE: D.C.  
 CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Landmark

Designated: Dec 31, 1967  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Boundary Certified:  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: Chief, Dist. & Arch. Surveys  
 date

Boundary Assessed:  
 Keeper of The \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Director, OHP date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

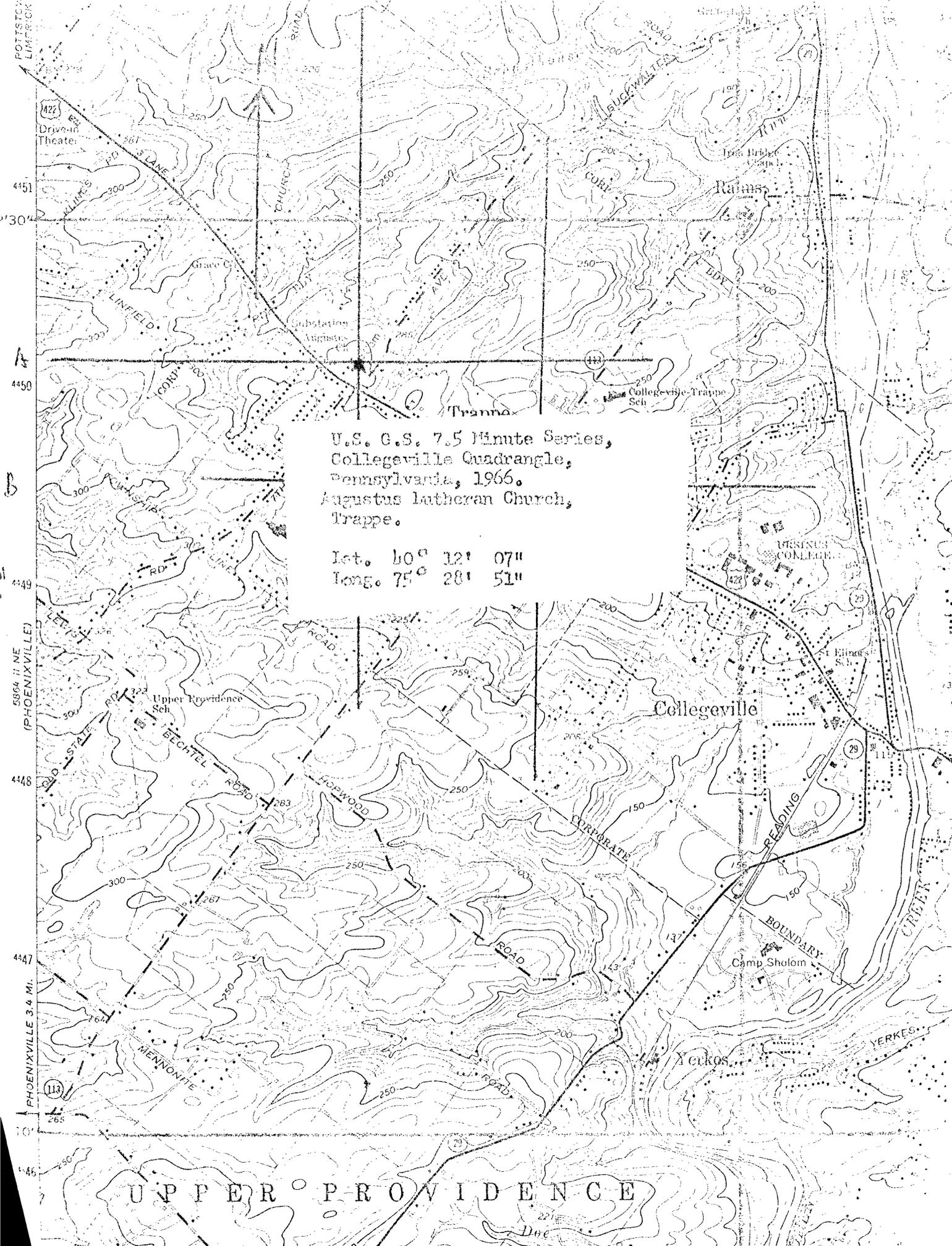
STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1)

Augustus Lutheran Church

beginning point at the old wall, then from this northeast point in a straight line to the point of beginning at the old wall, as shown on the sketch map.



U.S. G.S. 7.5 Minute Series,  
Collegewille Quadrangle,  
Pennsylvania, 1966.  
Augustus Lutheran Church,  
Trappe.

Lat.  $40^{\circ} 32' 07''$   
Long.  $75^{\circ} 28' 51''$

POTTSDAM LIMERIC  
4451  
30  
A  
4450  
B  
4449  
5864 (NE (PHOENIXVILLE)  
4448  
4447  
PHOENIXVILLE 3.4 MI.  
10  
4446

UPPER PROVIDENCE

