

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **OCT 12 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic ~~ST. PAULUS DEUTSCHE EVANGELISCHE LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE~~

and/or common ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2. Location

street & number 602 Garfield _____ not for publication

city, town Laramie _____ vicinity of N/A

state Wyoming code 56 county Albany code 001

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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. Paul's United Church of Christ

street & number 602 Garfield

city, town Laramie _____ vicinity of N/A state Wyoming 82070

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albany County Courthouse—County Clerk's Office

street & number Sixth Street and Grand Avenue

city, town Laramie _____ state Wyoming 82070

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Albany County Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1980 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission, 1920 Thomas Cheyenne

city, town Wyoming _____ state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

(addition)

Check one

original site

n/a moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Pauls is located on the corner of 6th and Garfield. The boundary for the nomination includes the original lot and landscaping and looks much the same as it has since construction. It is a 1½ story rectangular brick structure with a square bell tower set into the gable end on the northwest corner. Windows and doors are lancet shaped with raised brick lancet arched heads which end in a cross, sills are finished stone, they are evenly spaced 3 on each side, the double door at the base of the bell tower has a lancet transom with paired lancet tracery. The bell tower features circular stained glass windows on three sides with a circular brick arch ending in a cross. The gable end features a circular window on the ½ story repeated in the opposite end of a traditional grouping of three lancet windows all the same size with brick arch head. The bell tower on this side also features a lancet window. The bell tower features a stepped brick and graded belt course with large lancet louvers above. The roof is a tall witches cap topped by a simple cross. There are gablets on four sides of the tower roof joined to flared hipped corners.

There was a sensitive one-story gabled addition constructed on the east end in 1922. The addition is brick with a radiating brick arch surround on the basement door and paired lancet windows on the east side. Apart from interior to the basement the church looks much as it did when constructed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 1890–1930 **Builder/Architect** George Berner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Paul's Church is the oldest remaining church structure in Laramie and is representative of the conservative influences exerted by religious groups in isolated western communities which made significant contributions to a trend toward permanent well ordered civic minded communities in temporary boom towns. St. Paul's is associated with German immigrants who made significant contributions to patterns of settlement and growth by providing technical skills, business ability and cultural traditions which have enriched our diverse social, cultural and economic heritage and widely affected the broad patterns of American History. St. Paul's was important within the community as a social and emotional outlet by providing members with a means of maintaining traditions and language well into the 20th century. The building itself embodies the distinctive characteristics of type period and method of construction as a substantial representation of Lutheran Church architecture adapted to one community's needs and wants. In comparison with other Lutheran Churches in Wyoming it is unique because of its many simplified Gothic elements and elaborately stained glass windows, an unusual feature for the usually more basic architectural preferences of Lutheran Church construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum, Item #9, page one

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one-quarter acre

Quadrangle name Laramie, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>13</u>	<u>450700</u>	<u>4573100</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lot 5, Block 213 of the original town plat of Laramie City. Justification is that the church occupies most all lot 5, with minimal landscaping on the rest.

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

state n/a	code n/a	county n/a	code n/a
state n/a	code n/a	county n/a	code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emma Wahl Rice/Mike Gorman

organization St. Paul's United Church of Christ

date March 20, 1982

street & number 602 Garfield 1920 Thomes

telephone 307-742-7733

city or town Laramie

Cheyenne

state Wyoming

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 Alvin J. Bustrom

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/28/83

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

Kevin MacDougal
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/25/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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German immigrants constituted the second largest European group to enter Wyoming; census figures of 1910 showed about 2,600 German born Wyomingites.¹ These people had left their native country for various reasons; political unrest, a desire to avoid military service, a spirit of adventure. Nearly all who came to Wyoming were drawn by the economic opportunities offered by the sprawling region.

Wyoming's Germans were engaged in a variety of occupations; most were involved in ranching and/or farming, business, or a combination of both. In Laramie, Germans organized the city's rolling mills, so essential to the town's early commercial success, a brewery, and helped form the city's first fire department. German immigrants also played an important role in the cattle industry of the surrounding area.

In their native country, the church was an important fact of life for most Germans; after emigrating to America, they found the church to be of even greater importance. In addition to spiritual guidance the church offered an element of stability in a new, and often confusing, world. For many Germans in Wyoming, the church was the social as well as religious center of their lives. Church gatherings gave the immigrants an opportunity to use their native tongue, as services were conducted in the German language, and this provided a heightened awareness of ethnic identity, which was being eroded by the process of assimilation.

In July of 1885, members of Laramie's German community, which numbered about four hundred persons, met to discuss the possibility of forming a congregation, and "securing the services of a minister to preach to them in their own language."² The services of a minister, Rev. Johann Frank, were engaged, and the congregation took the name "St. Paulus Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Kirche." Laramie's Presbyterian Church was used as a meeting place until 1890, Wyoming's year of statehood, when the cornerstone was laid for a new German church. The building was designed and constructed by a member of the congregation, George Berner. Completed a year later, at a cost of \$5,000, St. Paul's was the seventh church erected in Laramie, and the first German church in the state of Wyoming.

St. Paul's, with its traditional stained glass windows and heavy oak furnishings, was reminiscent of rural German churches. In the church's early years services were conducted exclusively in the German language, but as time passed and the congregation became more assimilated, services were increasingly given in English. The last German-language service at St. Paul's was offered in 1932.

In its 95 year history, the congregation has undergone several changes of name and church affiliation. In 1957, the church took its present name of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

St. Paul's Church is a notable example of the architecture of early Laramie. Historically, it is significant for its role in the religious and social development of the

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city; as Wyoming's first German church, St. Paul's emphasizes the heritage of German immigrants in the early history of the West.

¹Thirteenth Census, Table 14.

²Laramie Boomerang, July 23, 1885, p. 4.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910: Abstract of the Census with Supplement for Wyoming (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913)

Hodgson, Donald and Viven Hills, "Dreams and Fulfillment: Germans in Wyoming," in Gordon Olaf Hendrickson (ed.), Peopling the High Plains: Wyoming's European Heritage (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1977).

Laramie Boomerang: July 23, 1885

Ibid. May 3, 1886. Page 4, Col 3.

Ibid. July 5, 1888

Ibid. July 17, 1890

Ibid. January 19, 1891

Ibid. October 20, 1893. Page 3.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1968).