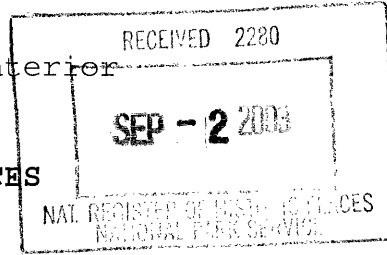


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



AUG 27 2003

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A).

Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Pine Mill German Methodist Church

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 180th Street and Verde Ave not for publication N/A
city or town Muscatine vicinity X
state Iowa code IA county Muscatine code 139
zip code 52761

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowell A. Sorko

Signature of certifying official

August 27, 2003

Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u> 1 </u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof METAL

walls STONE

other WOOD

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE, EUROPEAN

Period of Significance 1867-1910

Significant Dates 1867

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
NA

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder KEMPER, HEINRICH

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- 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 # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====
Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>676940</u>	<u>4594048</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Schoenig

organization _____ date February 24, 2003

street & number 2712 Adobe Drive telephone 970-407-3510

city or town Fort Collins state CO zip code 80525

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Paul Kemper

street & number 1956 Wildcat Den Road telephone 563-263-1712

city or town Muscatine state IA zip code 52761

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Description

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church is a small, single story church building located at the intersection of two country roads in Montpelier Township, Muscatine County, Iowa. The building is constructed of native stone from a nearby quarry and consists of one rectangular room for services and Sunday school. Three windows are set in each side of the building. The ends of the structure do not have windows. A single entry faces south. Originally, the interior walls and ceiling of the church were plastered. The floor is of wood. The church's gable roof is constructed of wood as is the fascia. The foundation is of stone and mortar construction, similar in appearance to the walls of the church. The church property is located just outside Wildcat Den State Park and retains its rural character. There are no additional buildings on the site, which is elevated above the two roads that bound the property. The church grounds are no longer landscaped, do not have a maintained driveway for access, and are largely undelineated from adjoining farm fields, pasture lands and areas with tree and shrub growth.

An account written in 1930 indicates the church was "neatly and simply appointed". The church never had electricity or modern plumbing. No additions were made to the church during its period of use. Except for changes in vegetation and evidence of prolonged neglect, the exterior of the church looks virtually unchanged in basic structure when compared to an early day photograph. The church's original shake shingles were eventually replaced with rubberoid/asphalt shingles. In 1948, the replacement shingles were covered with sheet metal, which remains in place today. The wooden fascia remains, but is in a state of deterioration. There is no cemetery associated with the church.

The church was used by a rural congregation from completion of its construction in the summer of 1867 until it disbanded in 1910. The church structure then passed into private hands. In the years since, it has been used for the storage of agricultural products and as a workshop. In 1947-48, it was purchased by Edgar Kemper, grandson of the man who

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7,8 Page 2

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Description (continued)

superintended construction of the church. The building is presently unused and suffers from neglect and deterioration. The six windows no longer have glass and are covered with plywood. The original door appears to have been replaced and there are no longer steps at the entry.

The interior of the church shows years of disuse. Its plaster walls are in a state of deterioration as is the original wood plank floor. The plaster ceiling is no more, leaving the interior space open to the roof boards and exposing the roof joists. A significant crack runs between the stones above the entry. Extensive interior and exterior restoration work is needed. No interior church furnishings remain.

Statement of Significance

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church is significant in that it preserves one aspect of the larger phenomenon of 19th Century settlement of eastern Iowa. Further, it captures a piece of history involving the spread of religious belief and practice among an immigrant population and the role of language in that spread. It also reflects the spiritual longings of immigrants and their desire to create the structures necessary to preserve and perpetuate religious aspects of culture. As was common in the settlement of the American frontier, construction of the church demonstrates the use of readily available resources such as volunteer labor and native stone as well as the use of skills resident in the local population. The short history of the church is significant in providing evidence of the effects of ongoing patterns of migration and settlement as the frontier moved westward in the 19th Century. Finally, Pine Mills Church is significant in the present due to its rural location and proximity to other historically significant sites in nearby Wildcat Den State Park.

In the second half of the 19th Century, eastern Iowa received many immigrants from Germany. Davenport and Muscatine became important centers of German settlement as word of opportunities in the New World spread

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

among those seeking to be free of the entanglements of the Old World. During this time, a number of German immigrants settled in the Pine Creek area, located about 10 miles north and east of Muscatine. By 1870, a significant portion of the population of the three townships in proximity to the church listed birthplaces with recognizable German place names as the following figures demonstrate:

<u>Township</u>	<u>Census</u>	<u>Residents Born in Germany</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Fulton	335	63	19
Montpelier	193	66	34
Sweetland	374	72	19

In contrast, the 1860 U.S. Census lists six percent of the population of Iowa as having emigrated from Germany. These figures demonstrate the significance of German emigration in the local history of the area around the church.

Pine Mills Church was one of four German speaking congregations in this area. In addition to these four churches, a German Methodist church was located five miles northwest of Sweetland. It was with the establishment of Zeigler Memorial Lutheran Church (New Era) in 1910 that services in English were first made available to area residents. The Pine Mills structure preserves a significant piece of local history that not only includes the German Methodist tradition, but that of other German speaking congregations as well, congregations transitional to the founding of a larger, English speaking church.

From a broader perspective, the influence of German emigration to Scott and Muscatine counties is notable and continues to this day. The Davenport landing on the Mississippi became a gateway to the west for German immigrants. Those that stayed in the area established several German societies, the largest of which was the Turner Society, well known for its education, music, dancing and gymnastic pursuits. Several societies dedicated to the preservation of German history and culture are located today in Davenport. Nineteenth Century Muscatine is perhaps best known for its pearl button industry, largely the result of an enterprising German immigrant, J.F. Boepple.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

As with many immigrants, Germans in the rural area to the north and west of Muscatine soon sensed the need to establish organized religious services and the structures necessary to pass elements of culture on to their children. The Methodist movement in America, with its history of camp meetings, circuit riding preachers, and Sunday school evangelism was well equipped and motivated to meet the felt needs of these immigrants. Reverend Peter Helwig of Muscatine's German Methodist Church, began a rural ministry in the Pine Mills area in 1861-63. The infancy of Pine Mills Church is accurately described by this general observation from *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*: "Local churches and classes could spring up wherever a few women and men were gathered under the direction of a class leader and were visited regularly by the circuit preacher, one who had a circuit of preaching under his care. This system effectively served the needs of city, town, village, or frontier outpost. The churches were able to go to the people wherever they settled."

In addition to Reverend Helwig's efforts, Sunday schools in the Pine Mills area were conducted by Henry Biederbach and Nicholas Bohl. Both of these men became instrumental in establishing and building Pine Mills Church. Eventually these religious activities led to the formation of a small Methodist congregation under the leadership of J. P. Faust of the Wilton, Iowa circuit. By this time, Methodism in America was well-experienced in membership expansion among German immigrants. In 1836, a mission was undertaken in Cincinnati by a young German minister who could preach and write in both German and English. This work spread in both Ohio and Pennsylvania, so that by 1840, six German missionaries were employed among several circuits with a total membership of more than 400. It is significant to note that two German immigrant, founding members of the church, Heinrich Kemper and Nicholas Bohl, both came to Iowa after having spent several years in Ohio.

During the time of its association with Wilton, several members of the congregation went to work to build Pine Mills Church in close proximity to Pine Creek. Area residents quarried rock for construction during the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

religious belief systems. Undoubtedly, a German speaking congregation and the rural location of the church would have been an attractive influence on later immigrant arrivals in the area. In short, the mission emphasis of the Methodist Church, the German language capabilities of circuit ministers (it can be assumed that both Helwig and Faust spoke German), and the vernacular of the church membership had its effect. Thus Pine Mills Church was Methodist Episcopal rather than Lutheran or Catholic. In this it portrays a significant historical pattern of immigrants embracing new religious practices.

The physical structure of the church is significant in showing how immigrants applied skills brought from Europe to establish themselves in America. Heinrich Kemper was a stone mason by trade and used the native materials in the construction of a simple church building. As such, the church is representative of the pioneer experience in the settlement of America - the skillful use of Old World knowledge and New World materials. Further study of early structures in Muscatine County would be instructive in determining if the church is representative of construction practices during this era or notably unique.

The church is representative of frontier American settlement in the application of collective neighborhood muscle to accomplish a goal. The immigrants generally had little in the way of wealth to apply to the goal of establishing themselves and building community. What they typically had and used was their physical labor and the skills they possessed.

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church also demonstrates a second phase of immigrant settlement in America. Upon arriving in the New World, immigrants often came to areas populated by peoples with whom they shared common European cultural and geographic origins. As the immigrants established themselves and the countryside became settled, it was common for families to split, with members heading west for new opportunities in settling the frontier. The demise of the Pine Mills congregation is representative of this phenomenon. As settlement became established and farms grew larger, people moved on to other states, the population density

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

decreased and the ability to continue as a small rural congregation diminished. Some church members became part of an outward migration of German families bound for Kansas and Nebraska. Another historically significant factor in declining church membership has to do with the sale of land holdings and consolidation of farm properties, resulting in a lower population density in the area. Reflective of these trends, by 1905 the church had seven members and regular services had been discontinued. The church stands tribute to these significant historical patterns of initial settlement followed by an eventual outward migration as the frontier moved westward and as established agriculture became more mechanized.

Through its stark simplicity and stone construction, the church demonstrates several historically significant traits: (1) An approach to construction using readily available resources, namely, volunteer labor and easily procured building materials; (2) Construction skills and trades brought from the Old World and applied in the New World; (3) A simple interior reflective of a small, rural congregation with limited resources.

The church is significant in its location. Its immediate surroundings are rural, making it easy to picture the church as it looked during its years of use. Aside from two modern gravel roads, which run past the church much below the grade of the property, the site is unchanged from its period of significance.

The location of the church adds to its significance in that it is just outside the boundary of Wild Cat Den State Park. The Park has a restored grist mill (Pine Creek; listed on the National Register 12/10/1979) which dates back to 1848, a cemetery of early settlers, and a preserved schoolhouse (Melpine). A preserved and restored Pine Mills Church would add to the educational experience of those who visit the Park and enrich what is already preserved of the area's history. All these pieces taken together make a significant contribution to our knowledge of and ability to experience the settlement of this area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Pine Mills Church is the story of ordinary folk banding together to establish themselves in a new life. As such, its history does not involve the spectacular or outstanding. Rather, it is representative of the very fabric of the experience of many emigrants to America. In this sense, it is significant in that it captures and portrays a slice of our shared American heritage.

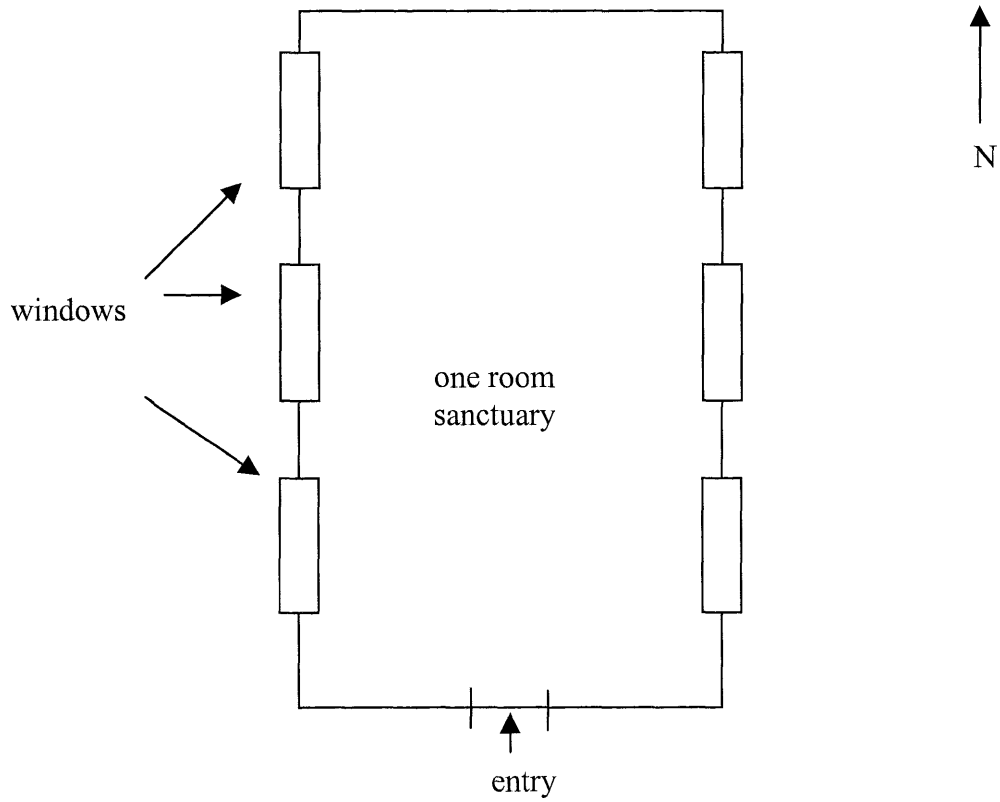
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 9

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA

Floor Plan Sketch Map



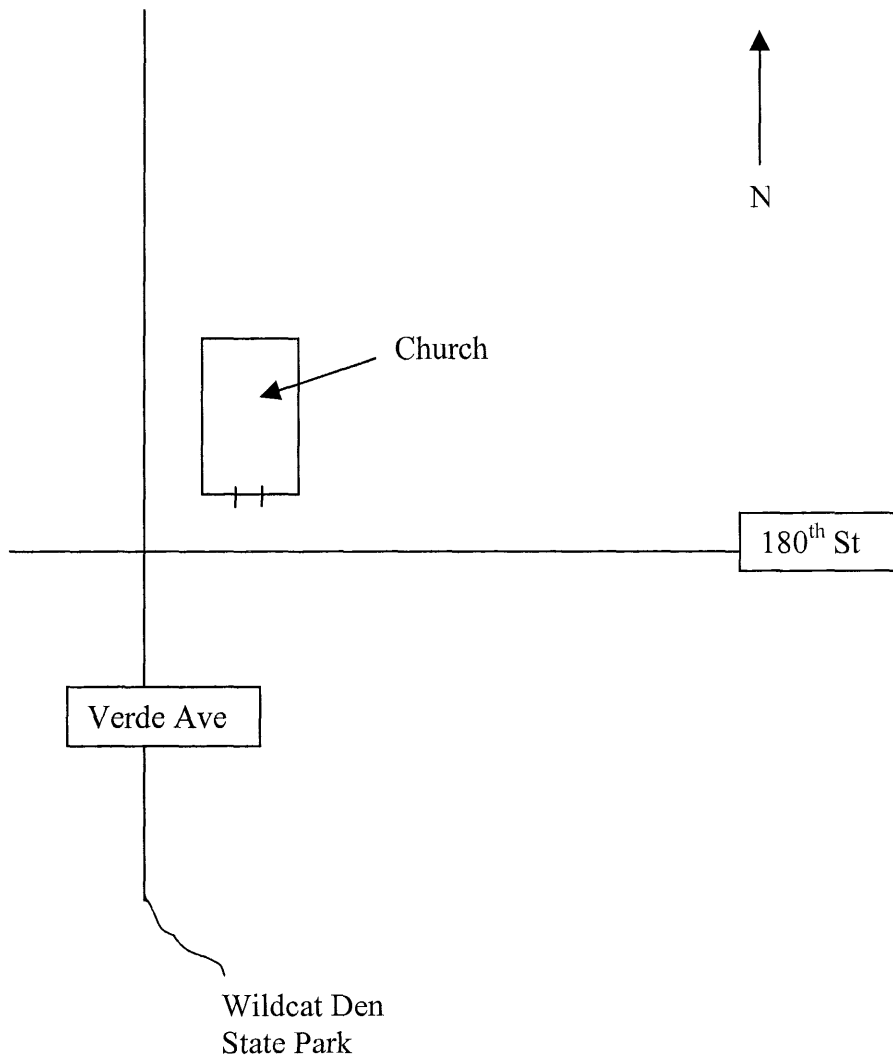
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA

Site Plan Sketch Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Bibliography

Bangs, Nathan. A History of the Methodist Episcopal Church. New York:
T. Mason and G. Lane Publishers, 1840.

Batchelor, James. "St. Peter's Lutheran Church Montpelier Township
Muscatine County Iowa."
www.rootsweb.com/~iamusca2/stpeters_intro.htm, 6 May 1976.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church - 2000.
Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2000.

Kemper, Paul. Great-grandson of Heinrich Kemper, Muscatine,
Iowa. Interview, 8 February, 2003.

Kreimer, Susan. "Iowa's Roots; A Historical Perspective." Des Moines
Register, 27 March 2000, www.desmoinesregister.com.

Lack, Ernest. "History of the 'Old Stone Church'". History compiled from
records of the St. Louis District German Methodist Church and from
John Kemper, charter member of the church, 12 December 1930.

Mittman, Gladys. Great-granddaughter of Heinrich Kemper, Muscatine,
Iowa. Interview, 24 March, 2003.

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. 1870 U.S. Census.
Washington, D.C.

Author unknown. German Methodist Conference Book of 1904. 1904.

Author unknown. The History of Muscatine County, Iowa. Chicago:
Western Historical Company, 1879.

Author unknown. "Pine Mills, German M.E. Church". May 1916.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 12

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

Verbal boundary description

The property is bounded on the south side by 180th Street and on the west side by Verde Avenue. From the intersection of 180th Street and Verde Avenue, the property stretches for 165 feet to the east along 180th Street. From the same intersection, the property stretches 264 feet to the north along Verde Avenue. The north boundary of the property begins 264 feet from the intersection of 180th and Verde, and continues east 165 feet. The east boundary begins 165 feet east from the intersection of 180th and Verde and continues north for 264 feet, ending where such line intersects at 90 degrees with the north boundary line just described.

Verbal boundary justification

The boundary as described fully encompasses the church structure, includes sufficient land area for ingress/egress, and approximates the area anticipated to be donated by the present owner as preservation and restoration efforts continue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 13

**Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
Muscatine County, IA**

The following information is common to photographs 1-4:

1. Pine Mills German Methodist Episcopal Church
2. Muscatine County, Iowa
3. Steven Schoenig (photographs 1-3); Paul Kemper (photograph 4)
4. September 2000 (photographs 1-3); August 15, 2003 (photograph 4)
5. Steven Schoenig, 2712 Adobe Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80525
6. Views:
 1. South side of building, camera facing north/northwest
 2. West side and portion of south side of church, camera facing northeast
 3. North side of building, camera facing south
 4. East side of building, camera facing west; portion of building obscured by vegetation