

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 9 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church

and/or common

2. Location

N of Waterville

street & number County A-52, northeast corner Sec. 35, Center Twp. not for publication

city, town vicinity of Waterville

state Iowa code 019 county Allamakee code 005

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

4. Owner of Property

name Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church

street & number R.R.#1,

city, town Waterville vicinity of state Iowa 52170

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Allamakee County Courthouse

city, town Waukon state Iowa 52172

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church is significant as a unusual combination of a stone building and a frame steeple with some Gothic style elements. Alterations of the building have been consistently sympathetic, and the original edifice is respected in the present day building.

The original church sanctuary is rectangular on plan, measuring 64 by 44 feet. The 100 foot tall steeple, a structural element of Gothic origin, rises from both the projecting central pavilion (8 by 16 feet) as well as from the central mass of the church. The spire is eight sided and terminates with a cross. A plain cornice distinguished the junction of pavilion and steeple base. Five tall thin lancet windows are symmetrically distributed on each side. Single identical windows flank the front pavilion. Stone arches with keystones and projecting stone sills form each window at top and bottom. A double front door is placed within an elliptical arch beneath a large fanlight. Above this door a very graceful frame gothic portico projects from two wooden shoulders. A bulls eye window, with eight segmental lights is centered above this portico. Several types of cast iron tie rod rosettes are paired along the cornice line on the front, sides, and rear facades.

The building material was limestone, having its origin in a quarry only a few hundred feet south of the church. The stone walls measure 39 inches in width at their base. Sometime following the original construction, a 23 by 27 foot gabled vestry was added to the rear of the church. The walls of this addition indicate perhaps the original appearance of the main church exterior prior to the addition of stucco. Random coursed ashlar construction with a dark cross shaped insert in the gable indicates the vernacular origins of this building.

Inside the church retains its original wooden altar, pulpit, baptismal fount, pews, semi-circular communion rail, and a converted two tier brass chandelier that retains ten of its twelve original glass globes. The ceiling is coved in pressed metal along each side wall. The ceiling itself consists of pressed tin encircled by a rectangular decorative border. While the interior walls are newly repainted, they retain a stenciled band design along the window sill level.

In 1906, a slate roof replaced the original metal roof and the steeple appears to have been totally rebuilt. The roof ridge and steeple decorative cresting was lost along with an ornate steeple cap (refer to original photo). The building was entirely stuccoed and scored to produce a regular 'block' coursing appearance. This was done because the stone was weathering. During the years 1949-52 a new basement and foundation was placed beneath the church and vestry. In 1957 new stained glass windows replaced the double hung 5/4 sash. In 1967 two matching shed-roofed side additions (12 by 24 feet) broadened the vestry on each side. This work matched the original vestry in materials and in workmanship. New balcony stairs were added in 1970.

The church is surrounded by a cemetery which predates the church. It occupies a high elevation in a rural setting just east of the Dalby crossroads and a few miles northeast of Waterville. County Road A52 passes in front of the church.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 1868–1944 **Builder/Architect** W. A. Eriksen, builder.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old East Creek Paint Lutheran Church (1869-70) is a fine example of a Gothic style church, incorporating a stone building and a frame steeple. Additions and alterations to the church, reflecting the changing and growing needs of the congregation, have been executed in a sympathetic manner. This is the oldest church built locally by the Norwegian Lutherans.

The Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church congregation observed its 130th anniversary in 1980. Norwegian immigrants who first settled in Luther Valley, Rock County, Wisconsin, came to the area and organized the East Paint Creek Lutheran Church in 1850. The area attracted the original eight Norwegian families because it resembled their native Norway. By the late 1850's the initial the Norwegian influx had ceased but the cultural identification was to persist through the 1930's when the services were finally conducted only in English. The earliest pastors were Norwegian born.

The original congregation met in a log school house (built 1851), then in a log church after 1855. The congregation split in 1857 and the East Paint Creek congregation retained the log church, using it until the present church was constructed 1868-9. W. A. Erikson of Lansing quarried the limestone and built the church for \$5,350. The cornerstone was dedicated on May 24, 1869 and the church on August 24, 1870. Rev. Ove Hjort (1827-1879) was the first full time pastor and superintended the construction of the church. Five pastors have since served the congregation. J. D. Daly and Hans Sorensen contracted the 1906 repairs.

The West Paint Creek congregation built their frame church to the west in 1858. Losing it to fire in 1880, a replacement church took many years to complete. The predestination controversy which split the church in 1887 spawned two new congregations, one from each of the original churches and were called East Paint Creek Synod and West Paint Creek Synod Churches. At this time the prefix "Old" was adopted by the original congregation in order to distinguish theirs from these new churches and these names are in use today. The Old East Paint Creek Church congregation remained affiliated with the "anti-Missouri" synod of the church until 1890 when it merged into the "broad middle way" which was represented by the majoritarian United Lutheran Church. A local split in 1907 divided the congregation and resulted in the formation of the Waterville Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church which affiliated with the Utenom faction. In 1909 the Waterville church became affiliated with the United Church and in 1917 the subject congregation affiliated with the unified Evangelical Lutheran Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to continuation sheet 9-2.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Church Iowa

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at southside of County Road A52 at point where road crosses the east boundary line of Section 35, thence south 200 feet, thence west 150 feet, thence north 200 feet, thence east along the southern edge of A52 to place of beginning. This parcel excludes the cemetery.

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 James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 25 May 1983

Historical Building

street & number East 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 John A. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date May 25, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 7/7/83

John A. Anderson
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

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