

PHO 35066X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 9 1977
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

German Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Paul's German Methodist Episcopal Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Seventh and Washington Streets

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Des Moines

CODE

37

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- __ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- __ STRUCTURE
- __ SITE
- __ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- __ PUBLIC
- __ PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- __ IN PROCESS
- __ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- __ OCCUPIED
- __ UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- __ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- __ NO

PRESENT USE

- __ AGRICULTURE
- __ MUSEUM
- __ COMMERCIAL
- __ PARK
- __ EDUCATIONAL
- __ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- __ ENTERTAINMENT
- __ RELIGIOUS
- __ GOVERNMENT
- __ SCIENTIFIC
- __ INDUSTRIAL
- __ TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Art Guild

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Art Guild of Burlington, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 5

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Iowa 52601

__ VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Des Moines County Courthouse, Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Heritage Hill Historic District (proposed) survey

DATE

1976

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Des Moines County Historical Society, Burlington, Iowa

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

Episcopal

St. Paul's German Methodist Church is a Victorian Gothic structure with Romanesque variations, built 1868-69. It is located in an old section of Burlington, and is set into a hillside which rises from the main business district. The "niche" into which the church is set was the quarry from which much of the limestone used in its construction was obtained. The rock wall at the rear of the quarry, is about 18' high, and only about 12' from the back wall of the church. 19th-century residential structures in a variety of vernacular styles surround the church and are an important part of the historical setting. The limestone walls of the church are 30 inches thick, the light gray stone roughly cut and laid in regular courses in the front facade, rubble with struck flush joints on the other walls. Trim is a buff sandstone.

The church has a basilican plan, with one tower and the base of another flanking the front facade. It is built with the first floor level completely above the ground, making the sanctuary in effect an upper story. The main tower, at the southwest corner, is 15' square at the base and rises in three stages to a height of 105 feet, with corners buttressed at the lowest stage. The eight-sided spire rises from four pointed, bracketted gables. At the southeast corner is the lower stage of a second tower, the spire having been removed sometime after 1896 and replaced with a gable roof. Bracketting is found here, and on each gable end of the main block. Immediately to the left of the lower tower is a wall buttress, the top rising above the roofline, which attempts to balance the overall design of the front elevation, and lessen the extreme contrast between the heights of the two flanking towers. Fenestration has the round arch predominating, with variation provided by oculus windows in the main tower.

The first floor level is approximately 20' above the street sidewalk, and is reached by two curved exterior stone staircases. The second floor is the original sanctuary, with altar and choir at the south end, and the main stained glass window at the north. Construction of this floor is with center joists, supported at midspan by cast iron columns and beams running north and south. The roof construction uses five scissor trusses of 8" x 12" wood members.

The Art Guild of Burlington, Inc., has received a National Trust for Historic Preservation Consultant Services Grant, which they have used to fund a study of the church for future adaptive use.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL XXXXXXXXXX		
<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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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 1868-9

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Episcopal

St. Paul's German Methodist Church is a local example of vernacular Gothic architecture, whose primary significance lies in its striking, hillside setting, which gives it a landmark status in Burlington. It is also one of the older church structures in the city, and is closely associated with the 19th-century German community there.

St. Paul's was the second of eight German churches of varying denominations, established in Burlington from 1841 to 1879. Its origins lay in a general missionary movement of German Methodism in the U.S., developed in the early 19th century as a response to spiritual and cultural needs of German immigrants. This congregation was organized in 1845, twelve years after the city was founded, and its subsequent history reflects the experience of the German population as a whole. Early meetings under the Reverend Sebastian Barth, were held in a small frame house, later in the basement of another church. The congregation's first permanent home was a small brick chapel, built in 1848.

The erection of the present structure (1868-9) coincided with a tremendous increase in the population of Burlington. From 1865 to 1875, the city grew from about 8,000 to nearly 20,000, one-third to one-half of which was foreign-born, and largely German in origin. The Germans soon became a dominant force in the city, particularly in the mercantile business which was an important part of Burlington's commercial development. During this period, too, the St. Paul church (and the earlier German Evangelical church) were joined by six other German churches, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, and Catholic, reflecting not only the increase in the German population generally, but also its religious diversity.

In company with other "ethnic" churches in Burlington, St. Paul's offered a focus for the maintenance of a particular culture and tradition by its members. Not until 1905 were services conducted in English, and then only in addition to the traditional German services. The 20th century, however, brought new influences to bear upon Germans throughout the U.S., reflected in microcosm at St. Paul's. First, the original German-born population was giving way to second and third generations, each increasingly less distinctively "German" as they succumbed to the influences of American society. This gradual Americanization was accelerated by the pressure of World War I, with anti-German sentiment nationally, and Iowa's 1918 prohibition against the use of foreign (meaning German) language almost anywhere but in the home. Perhaps in anticipation of this act, St. Paul's reluctantly converted entirely to English in 1916.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bovell, T.S., "Church History of Burlington," newspaper article, ca. 1868.
 "Burlington Was in Its Infancy When St. Paul's M.E. Church Was Organized," Burlington Gazette, ca. 1929.
 History of Des Moines County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879.
 Muelder, Walter G. Methodism and Society in the Twentieth Century. New York: Abingdon Press, 1961, pp. 85-89, 112-116. See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	659695	4519380	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property bounded by Washington Street on the south, 7th Street vacated right-of-way on the west, the Del Miller property on the east, and the First United Church of Christ (parsonage) property on the north.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steven R. Brower, Kathleen R. Brower; William Wagner, F.A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION

Art Guild of Burlington, Inc.

DATE

November 1976

STREET & NUMBER

406 Snake Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Iowa

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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

4/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles H. ...

DATE

9.22.77

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9.22.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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St. Paul's German Methodist Church, Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

In 1925, the German and American branches of Methodism in the U.S. officially merged, in response to wartime pressures and to the realization that the two groups now had more similarities than differences. In Burlington, this resulted in the disbanding of the St. Paul congregation, and the assimilation of its members into other Methodist churches in the city. A small group, however, in 1930 organized the German Methodist Episcopal Church at St. Paul's, in a last, unsuccessful attempt to revive traditional German Methodist. In 1938 the building was sold to the Church of the Nazarene, which occupied it until 1968. In 1973 it was purchased by the Art Guild of Burlington, Inc.

Item 9, Page 1 (Bibliography, cont.)

- Portrait and Biographical Album of Des Moines County, Iowa. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co., 1888, p. 740.
- Watkins, Hamilton Kirck (comp.). A Souvenir of Burlington. Burlington: The Journal Co., 1896, p. 29.
- Historic Sites Survey: Burlington, Iowa. Conducted by Division of Historic Preservation, Iowa City, Iowa (Mss.)