

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Paulus Evangelisch Lutherischen Gemeinde

and/or common Kornthal Church, or Kornthal Union County Memorial

2. Location

street & number Rt. 2 _____ not for publication

city, town Jonesboro _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 25

state Illinois _____ code _____ county Union _____ code _____

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"/> DORN	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kornthal Union County Memorial Board of Trustees

street & number Rt. 2

city, town Jonesboro _____ vicinity of _____ state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Union County Courthouse

street & number 309 W. Market St.

city, town Jonesboro, IL _____ state 62952

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1975 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Sites - IDOC
405 E. Washington St.

city, town Springfield _____ state IL

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Paulus Evangelisch Lutherischen Gemeinde, a white weatherboarded structure, sets facing south next to a stream in a valley known as Kornthal - "valley of grain" - in the Shawnee National Forest. Begun in 1853, the native yellow poplar framework rests on a 30' x 50' foundation of limestone. The original structure is the simple rectangular part of the building without the bell tower or gable entrance. On the south gable end the two lower level windows, 9/6 lights and symmetrically spaced, are separated from the upper windows by articulated spandrels. These upper windows, 6/6, are capped by semi-circular fan design lunettes reminiscent of renaissance pediments. This window design, sans lunettes, is repeated on the east and west facades of the church on either side of the original entrance doors, forming a three bay facade. The fan design is, however, repeated as a tympanum over the doors. These large, double three-paneled doors feature diamond patterned panels and a simplified pilaster at the closing. Centered above each door on the upper level is another of the 6/6 windows. On the rear, or north end of the building, there are no lower level windows, but two 6/6 windows on the upper level. Above and between them is a small semi-circular window which forms a fanlight over the pulpit in the interior.

In 1889 money was donated for the casting of a bell for the church. This necessitated the construction of a bell tower, which was designed and proportioned to be a very sympathetic addition. Rising to a height of eighty-five feet at the top of the spire, it provided a central gable end entrance to the sanctuary, as well as a home for the eight hundred pound bell. The double four-paneled doors of this entrance are surmounted by a segmental arched transom, upon which is the name of the church in German script. Centered above this is a window at the upper level, 6/6 lights but of a more elongated proportion, reflecting the changed tastes of that time. This window is, however, also topped with a fan lunette. Three and a half feet above that is a small circular louvred vent. The tower roof features slightly overhanging eaves with small single brackets. Atop this roof sets the belfry, of smaller dimensions. Instead of windows, mouldings and fan lunettes surround louvres on all four sides of the belfry. The belfry roof repeats the eaves and brackets of the tower, and is surmounted by a polygonal needle spire, of wood frame sheathed with metal. A cross finial tops the spire.

The two dominating features of the simple rectangular interior are the balcony and the alter with the pulpit rising above it, exhibiting unique features and fine detailing. The second floor balcony covers more than half the floor area of the church, forming a U shape encircling the pulpit. The simple diamond paneling of the balcony rail, repeating the pattern on the doors, is also found on the wainscoting around the ground floor. From the floor - originally poplar but now replaced with pine - a three step dias leads to the carved alter. Painted on the alter in German script are the words, "Halte Im Gedächtnis Jesum Christum." From the side of the alter twelve steps symbolic of the twelve apostles lead to the pulpit, which presents the preacher at an eye level with those in the balcony. The pulpit, which is embellished with panels, pilasters and mouldings, is capped by a beautifully carved wooden canopy, above which is the fanlight. The overall construction of the alter-pulpit is heavy, but the proportions of the paneling and mouldings and the filigree carvings on the alter panels and stair rail combine to create an impression of delicacy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

On either side of the altar are tiny rooms, originally used as confessionals. The doors and "windows" of these rooms are framed in graceful mouldings with very low classical pediments. The pews are the original hand made yellow poplar.

The unadorned, softly curving barrel vault of the ceiling contributes to the overall feeling of simplicity and elegant craftsmanship that the building presents. The only alterations since the addition of the bell tower in 1889 are the replacement of the floor boards, the replacement of the four posts on the ground floor, and the addition of electricity for lighting.

Also within the boundaries of the nomination is the parsonage, built sometime between 1905 and 1910. It is a charming house, exhibiting details and composition of the Queen Anne Style. It is two stories, white clapboard, with turned porch posts and other details.

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 checked="" 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 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 1860 (completed) Builder/Architect Charles Theodore Fettinger

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The primary significance of the Kornthal Lutheran Church lies in its design and in the high quality of the craftsmanship and detailing. The distinctive characteristics of its design are those of the central European cultural group that created it, and these features are represented with a remarkable degree of integrity. The artistic values of the workmanship attest to the time and care that went into the building and the skills and knowledge of the immigrant artisan. As the last vestige of the once thriving German speaking culture in Southern Illinois, the church, as an artifact, embodies the cultural influences that shaped its design and reveals valuable information on immigrant folk architecture. Not only does the building itself remain as it was built - (even the glass panes are the original) - but its rural setting in a wooded grove in the "valley of grain" is unchanged.

The church documents from which most of the following information was taken are in German script, but have been translated by a church member.

In 1852 a number of Lutheran families emigrated from Austria, arriving in this country at the Port of New Orleans and then traveling north by the Mississippi river. On July 4, 1852, a contingent of these settlers landed at Willard's Landing, just north of the present Cape Girardeau, Missouri. An advance scout named Lichtenwagner had indicated that Union county would be a desirable place to settle, and had located the valley that became known as Kornthal. In preparation for the arrival of the group, Lichtenwagner had begun construction of a sawmill so that, upon their arrival, they would be able to cut timbers for their new buildings.

Charles Fettinger, one of the immigrants, designed the edifice. The following is quoted from an historical sketch of the church written in 1958 by Rev. Edward Johnson, from the records of the church:

"The church was built in the Betsaal (House of Prayer) architectural style which is still the pattern for many of the rural and village churches of central Europe. Roman Catholic Austria forbade Protestant churches to have entrances along front streets, or to have bells or bell towers; the Betsaal design therefore featured side entrances and spireless white frame church buildings."

Construction began with the laying of a 30' x 50' foundation of limestone blocks. While the other men of the community proceeded with the raising of the native yellow poplar framework, Fettinger carved the wainscoting, the fans over the windows, the doors, alter, pulpit, etc. As soon as the walls were up and the roof on, blocks of wood were placed inside and planks laid across to make a temporary floor so that services could be held. The work progressed slowly but steadily so

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

that by 1860 it was finished, complete with the gallery and carvings of the alter and pulpit. The church was dedicated in 1861. At that time, and until the gable entrance was installed, the men entered on one side of the church and the women on the other, remaining segregated inside.

In 1889 a widow willed her estate to the congregation for the purchase of a bell. The bell was cast in that year by H. Stuckstede and Company of St. Louis. Ernest Kellehner of the Kornthal community designed the bell tower, which was dedicated in November of 1889 and had cost \$435.23 to build.

Though never officially incorporated as a village, the Kornthal community was for many years a thriving German speaking settlement. In addition to the sawmill, it had a box factory, a country store, a shoe factory, a grist mill, and a distillery, all located north of the church. All that remains today other than the church are a few stones from the mill.

Services, business meetings and other activities at the church were always held in German. For this reason, and the general decline in rural population, the membership dwindled to the point that services were ended in 1949. In 1951 the Kornthal Congregation and Historical Society was formed to care for the church. In 1960 the church was deeded to the State of Illinois and was called the Kornthal Church State Memorial. The state began repairs in 1963 to the church and parsonage. When these were completed, in 1965, the church was deeded back to the Kornthal Congregation and Historical Society, now the Kornthal Union County Memorial Board.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #1 in Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 2 West.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Seibert, Survey Coordinator

organization Historic Sites Division, IDOC

date August 15, 1980

street & number 405 E. Washington St.

telephone 782-3340

city or town Springfield

state Illinois

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

_____ date _____

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

_____ date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

_____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page

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Baumann, Karl W. "Kornthal Church", Carbondale: Greater Egypt Association, n.d.

"Historic Southern Illinois Church Now a State Shrine," St. Louis Globe Democrat,
 July 19, 1959.

Johnson, Rev. Edward A. "A Brief Historical Sketch of the Old St. Paulus Evangelisch
 Lutherischen Gemeinde near Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois." unpublished
 paper, November, 1958.

"Kornthal - A Union County Landmark," Jamup. Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative
 January, 1966.

"Kornthal Church Title Transfer Voted by House," St. Louis Post Dispatch, June 7, 1965

Reischauer, Edward. "Historic Kornthal Church," Jonesboro: The Kornthal Union County
 Memorial, Inc., n.d.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered NOV 24 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller, Joseph, House	Rochester vicinity Sangamon County
Willits, Ward Winfield, House	Highland Park Lake County
St. Paulus Evangelisch Lutherischen Gemeinde	Jonesboro vicinity Union County
Campton Town Hall	Wasco vicinity Kane County
Halderman, Nathaniel, House	Mount Carroll Carroll County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Philip M. Crane
Honorable Paul Simon
Honorable Robert McClory
Honorable Tom Railsback

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

1. Name of Site:

Common

Historic

YOANTHAL CHURCH
AND PARSONAGE

2. Location:

Street and Number

City or Town

DUTCH MILLS

County

UNION

Zip Code

Township

135

Range

2W

Section

1
1/4 Section

NE

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

- District
- Building
- Site
- Structure

Integrity (check one)

- Altered
- Unaltered
- Moved
- Original Site

4. Ownership:

- Private
- Public

Status (check one)

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

- Yes
- Restricted
- Unrestricted
- No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other

RELIGION

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

- Excellent
- Good
- Ruins
- Unexposed
- Fair
- Deteriorated

Is there a program of preservation underway?

- Yes
- No

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: 1860

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. BUILT BY LUTHERANS WHO IMMIGRATED FROM AUSTRIA IN 1852 AND DONE IN AUSTRIAN STYLE

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title:

Date:

Organization:

Phone:

Street and Number:

City or Town:

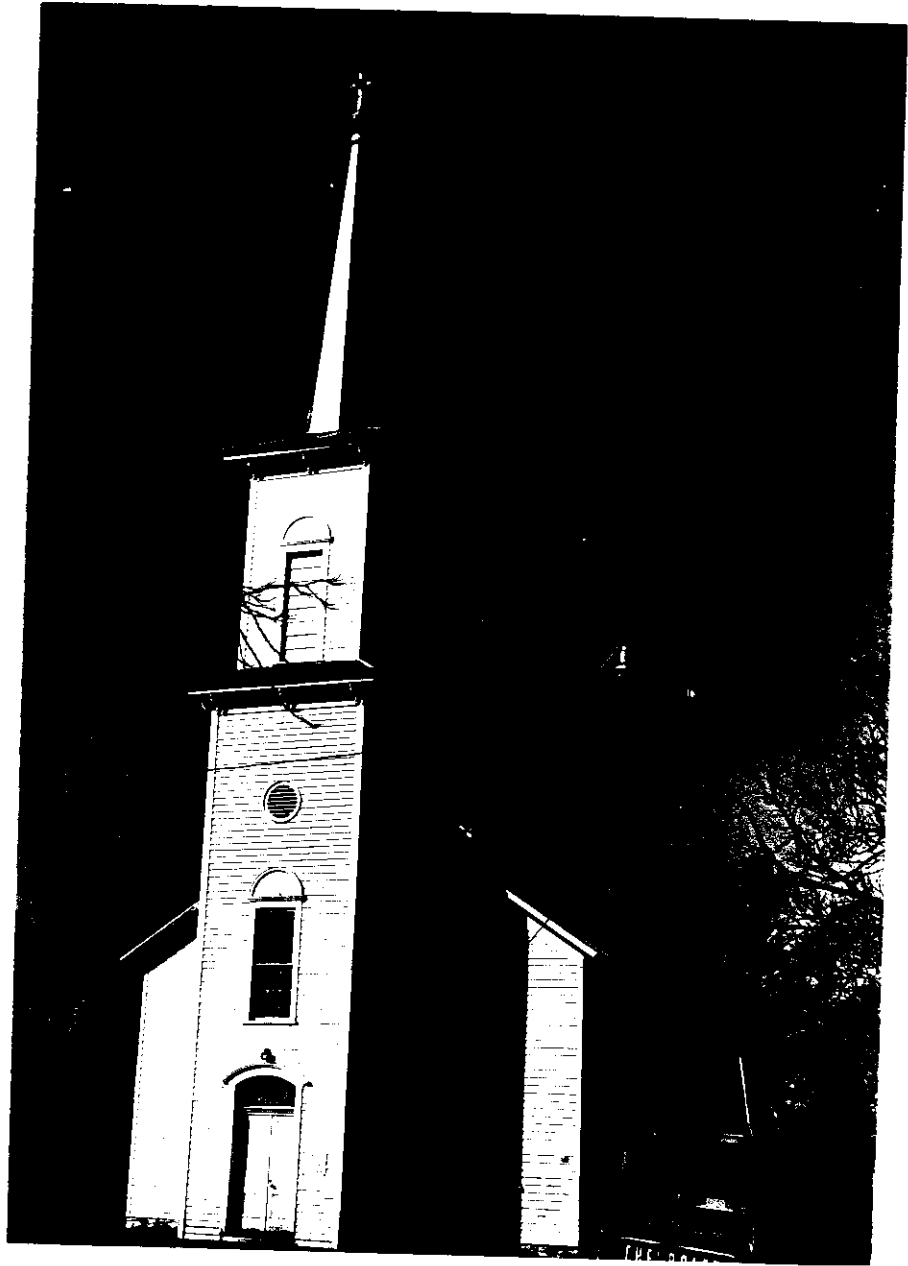
County:

Zip Code

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.





Circ. Union
AUG -17-69

DOWNSTATE VALLEY IS LIKE OASIS OF PEACE

Austrian Immigrants Named It Kornthal

Another article in a series by a team of TRIBUNE reporters on Chicago land cities, their problems, their accomplishments, and their failures.

BY RICHARD KOZIOL AND RICHARD PHILLIPS

(Chicago Tribune Press Service) Jonesboro, Ill., Aug. 16—Less than 40 miles north of racially scarred Cairo lies a serene setting that is a startling contrast to the bitterness and frustration to the south.

Some people in this area call it the valley of peace, others by its real name of Kornthal, which in German means valley Here in the rolling hills of southern Illinois, Kornthal stands out as an oasis for a few

Action Express Special

moments of quiet meditation and thought of a bygone era. To reach Kornthal, a visitor must cross a shallow creek just off Illinois highway 127, 2 1/2 miles south of here.

Church Comes Into View A short walk up a dirt road and the historic Kornthal church—built in 1869—with its gleaming white steeple comes into view. A feeling of peace and tranquility sets in almost immediately. And if voices singing "there is peace in the valley," should drift from the church, it would come as no surprise.

Besides the church, all that remains of Kornthal is a parsonage building now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Alsip, custodians of the historic site.

The church was built by Protestant families of the Lutheran faith who immigrated from Austria in 1852. The small group landed at New Orleans, then came up the Mississippi by flatboat to a spot called Willard's Landing near the present town of Ware.

Settled a few miles eastward, the immigrants settled in the fertile valley and named it Kornthal. Altho the community was never incorporated as a village, at one time it consisted of a church school and a box factory.

Balconies were built the full length of the building on both sides. A high pulpit placed the minister on a level with the balconies.

Represent 12 Apostles The stairway leading to the pulpit consists of 12 steps, each representing one of the 12 apostles. A legend maintains that should any one of the steps collapse, then that is the step symbolizing Judas Iscariot. Much of the interior design, including a canopy over the pulpit and the baptismal font, was hand-carved by the settlers.

All services were conducted in the German language until 1923, and many area residents have contributed to the decline in church membership. Many of the large families moved away, and some of the younger members began attending the English Lutheran church here.

The church closed in 1949, but in 1953 the Kornthal Congregational and Historical society reopened it and services were held four times each summer.

Appeal to Legislature But with no money to keep the church repaired, it appeared the church might have to be torn down. However, a group of residents appealed to the state legislature to save the structure.

Legislators allocated money to acquire the property and repair and decorate the building. In 1965, it was turned over to the newly-formed Kornthal Memorial, Inc.

The church is used for Sunday services, religious services late in May, and Thanksgiving services. The scene of social last week, is planned for October. Since the church has been...