

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. John's Lutheran Church

and/or common Old Dutch Church

2. Location

street & number Old Dutch Church Road N/A not for publication

city, town Ellettsville X vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Monroe code 105

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of the New Old Dutch Church

street & number Old Dutch Church Road

city, town Ellettsville X vicinity of state Indiana 47429

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monroe County Recorder

street & number Courthouse

city, town Bloomington state Indiana 47401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December, 1978 federal state county local

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Dutch Church is in a somewhat isolated, rural location about 3 miles north of Ellettsville. A dry stone fence borders the acre of ground on which stands the church, along with a small cemetery. Nearby, but outside the fence, is a newer church building (1956) constructed of concrete block.

The structure today appears as a one story building, with a tin gabled roof. There are two windows on each of the long sides, a door in the west end, and another window in the east end. The log structure is sheathed in yellow poplar siding, with a plain fascia board beneath the eaves. It rests on limestone piers.

Door and window jambs are fastened to the log ends with diamond-shaped trunnels. Window sash, now removed, most recently were four-over-four doublehung.

According to physical evidence in the structure, it originally had two stories, the second being a mezzanine at each end. At some point the upper floor was removed, the roof was lowered, and a fireplace in the center of the south wall was removed. At the same time, the first story windows were made taller, and the inside walls were sided with poplar. Over time, the logs on either side of the missing fireplace have sagged, and the northeast corner has dropped 22" below its original position. Despite these problems, the building is still square, and the dimensions of parallel walls are within a fraction of an inch of one another.

Joist pockets for the removed second floor are visible in the east and west end walls. The second to the top log is cut out directly above the existing windows, clearly indicating that second story windows once existed. The present top log is the original top log, suggesting that other logs between these two were removed, and the roof was lowered. The roof is supported by independent kingpost trusses, with no ridgepole.

It has been determined that the structure can only be preserved by disassembly, and re-assembly, replacing deteriorated parts. A sensitive restoration is planned, utilizing original methods and tools to form replacement parts. Most of the original fabric is in good condition and will be re-used.

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 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 C. 1836

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (~~in one paragraph~~)

The Old Dutch Church is believed to be one of the finest remaining examples of pioneer religious architecture in existence. Research and documentation indicate that it may well be the oldest known two-story log church still in its original location and never used for other purposes. The structure was built by German settlers as St. John's Lutheran Church.

Physical evidence clearly shows that the Old Dutch Church was originally constructed as a two-story building. Minutes from an 1836 assembly of the Lutheran Synod of the West discuss a two-story church being erected three miles from Mt. Tabor. These two facts add credence to the belief that the Old Dutch Church was erected in 1836 as a two-story structure.

Research has so far revealed only one other two-story log church in the nation, the Muskego Church, moved from Wisconsin to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1904. The Old Dutch Church is thus the only known two-story log church in its original location. If further research should reveal that others exist, the Old Dutch Church would still be significant as one of a rare breed, and probably the only one in Indiana.

Although the church is presently in a deteriorated state, a sensitive restoration is planned, utilizing original methods and tools to form replacement parts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rehmer, Rudolph F., "The Story of the Old Dutch Church," Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, Vol. 49, No. 3 (Fall, 1976).
 Defenderfer, C. R., Lutheranism at the Crossroads of America. Indianapolis: Indiana-Kentucky Synod Headquarters, Lutheran Church in America, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Gosport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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5	3	1	9	7	0
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4	3	4	6	3	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Township 10 North, Range 2 West, Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter Section 27.
 See continuation sheet

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 Pat Figg, Volunteer

organization Friends of Old Dutch Church date January 21, 1982

street & number 409 South Walnut telephone 812/333-5000

city or town Bloomington state Indiana 47401

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 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-22-82

For NPS use only

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

date

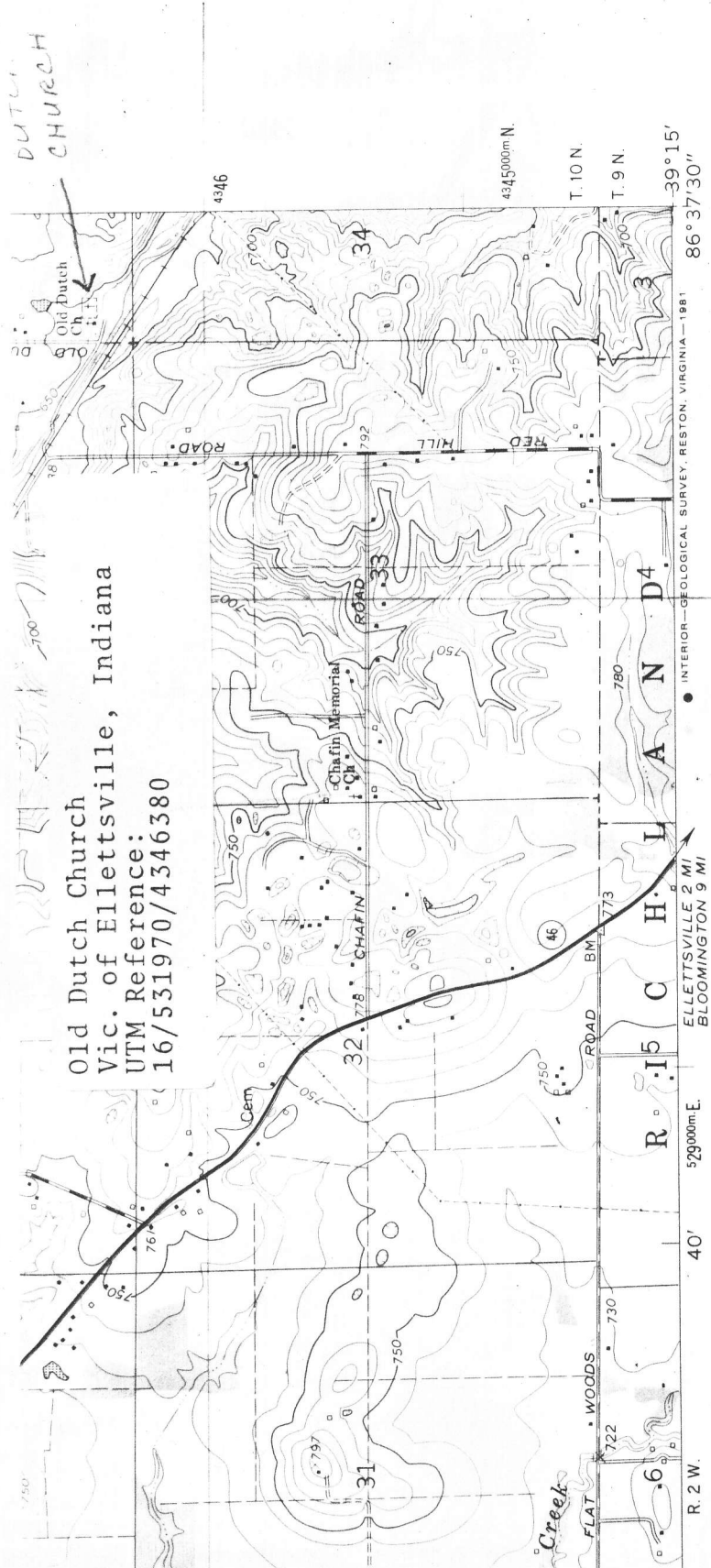
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Continuation sheet St. John's Lutheran Church Item number 10 Page 1

Beginning at a stone about 30 or 40 feet southwest from said house running thence east 12 rods and 11 feet, thence north 12 rods and 11 feet, thence west 12 rods and 11 feet, thence south 12 rods and 11 feet to the place of beginning, all in Section 27, Township 10 North, Range 2 West, containing one acre, more or less.



Old Dutch Church
 Vic. of Ellettsville, Indiana
 UTM Reference:
 16/531970/4346380

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

GOSPORT, IND.
 N3915—W8637.5/7.5

1965
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 DMA 3662 I SW—SERIES V851

STANDARDS
 VIRGINIA 22092
 INAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST