

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 St. John's Lutheran Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner County Roads 15 and 32 N/A not for publication
city or town Goshen vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Elkhart code 039 zip code 46526

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 entered in the National Register. _____
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

St. John's Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Elkhart Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility
Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall
Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof WOOD: shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

St. John's Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Elkhart Co., IN
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1853-1894

Significant Dates

1853

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Galentine, Albert

Apple, George

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: National Register files

St. John's Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Elkhart Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	5 9 1 2 4 0	4 6 0 3 5 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Howard S. Pletcher/Retired Architect

organization Elkhart County Historical Society date June 6, 1994

street & number 715 S. Third telephone 219-533-3451

city or town Goshen state IN zip code 46526

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name St. John's Lutheran Church

street & number 22829 Condor Court telephone _____

city or town Goshen state IN zip code 46526

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 1

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St. John's Lutheran Church is a wood frame clapboard siding structure located in Harrison Township, Elkhart County, Indiana. The church, located on a high elevation amid open fertile farming fields, has remained relatively unchanged (Photo #1). It was built in 1852-53 by Albert Galentine in the quaint Midwest county meeting house style of the mid-nineteenth century. The structure is characterized by clean, well-balanced symmetrical lines and Greek Revival details. The building rests on a foundation of split-face course granite fieldstone collected from the site. All windows are 4 over 4 double-hung sash, symmetrically spaced on the east and west sides alike. On the north, rear side, are two windows symmetrically spaced at the end of the interior aisles in alignment with the front entrance doors. All eight windows are shuttered. The church's main facade faces south on Berkey Avenue Road, Elkhart County Road #32 (Photo #2). The two entrances, for men and women, are identically embellished with ectasis pilasters supporting the Greek Revival pediments (Photo #3). The solid doors have two vertical panels with wide bottom rails. An interesting feature of the frontal name and date plaque is the carved script lettering, the same style found on the 1850 headstones in the adjoining cemetery (Photo #4). The edges of the wood shingled roof are characterized by the use of 20-inch wide frieze and soffit boards. The four corners of the building are embellished with a pilaster-like element. The capitals follow the frieze line and are parallel to the clapboards on the sides and angled on the gable ends.

The dimensions of the rectangular plan church are thirty-one feet by thirty-five feet with twelve foot high sidewalls and a gabled roof of approximately 5-12 pitch. A heavy eight-inch wide water table covers the perimeter of the structure, above which starts the clapboard yellow "tulip poplar" four-inch exposure horizontal siding.

In lieu of conventional studding, the church is constructed of solid 2½-inch thick random-width planes set vertically. The exterior clapboard horizontal siding was applied over these. On the interior, hand-split white oak lath was nailed to furring over which plaster was applied. The original roofing was hand-split white oak shingles of which fragments are still found in the attic. Records show re-roofing was done in 1886 with Michigan white pine shingles, followed in 1913, 1951 and 1987 with western cedar shingles.

The interior is simple with only flat wood trim. The flooring is random width yellow poplar with the ceiling of the same material, tongue and groove, random width painted gray matching the pews. Another unusual feature is the cluttered interior by three six-inch square columns set in a triangle (Photo #5) to support the roof structure. The pews are one board straight back seat and ends, yellow poplar of various thicknesses. The hand plane marks are plainly visible on the pews. All interior trim and the pews were the work of George Apple, a local undertaker, who made his own coffins. Galentine died before the church was completed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 2

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All building materials, except for nails and window glass came from the Rarick Farm. Lime for plastering and mortar was burned from a limestone bluff protruding from a hillside about 1½ miles southwest of the church. The bricks for the chimney were made from on-site clay.

The original heating stove in photo 5 was patented in 1853 by New York Stove Works. Other original furnishings include the altar, pulpit and reed organ, which was purchased in 1863. These items are currently on loan at Rush Memorial Elkhart County Historical Society.

The church and cemetery together count as one contributing building and one contributing site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 3

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The St. John's Lutheran Church has local significance under Criteria A and C. Under Criteria A, the church is significant for its contribution to the exploration and settlement of Harrison Township in Elkhart County. It also has significance under the ethnic heritage of Europeans. Under Criteria C, the architecture is significant.

Under Criteria A, the church is significant for its contribution in the exploration and settlement of Harrison Township and its ethnic heritage of Europeans, specifically, Germans. In 1835, township 35 north and range 5 east was formally made Harrison Township. The township was settled from 1840-1860. 1860 is the approximate cut-off date for early construction techniques and early 19th century styles, including Greek Revival. The population included many Germans, probably from the Pennsylvania area. It is likely they were unable to afford to construct a church building. John Rarick, Jr. who moved to Harrison Township in 1845, was followed by his parents, John and Barbara Rarick, Sr. in 1848. Between 1852 and 1853, Rarick, Sr. had a church built on 1½ acres of his farm. The land surrounding the building was to be used for a cemetery. On May 18, 1855, he deeded this property to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. After this generous donation, little is known about John and Barbara Rarick, Sr. Their son John Rarick Jr. became the dominant family member of this church.

The church was a typical country church whose members were not well-to-do. The first service was a funeral in the fall of 1853 for Eliza Walmer, John Rarick Sr.'s granddaughter. From 1854-1861, services were only occasionally held by a horseback-riding minister from Syracuse, Indiana. It was not until 1861, that services were held regularly each week. The Goshen Trinity Lutheran Church had been organized, and a minister was shared between the two congregations.

The church was also important to the ethnic heritage of these people. Their language was a strong link to their native country. Using only the German language in the services was very important to the older members. German was used in the services until 1876. The younger generation had learned English in school and the German language was less important to them. They preferred to use English in the services. To try and meet their needs, German and English were used on alternating Sunday services. The German language was so important to the older members, that they chose to attend another church service on the Sundays English was used.

The nucleus of St. John's membership during the forty years as a Lutheran congregation were mostly descendants of the Rarick family and affiliated through marriage with them. The support of the Rarick family, especially financially, was essential to the existence of the church. In 1880, when John Rarick moved to the Elkhart prairie south of Goshen, the congregation had to reduce the minister's salary from \$20 to \$18 per month for four sermons. This

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 4

amount also proved to be too much for the rural congregation to pay. Attendance dropped and in 1894, services were discontinued.

St. John's played an important role in the lives of the people in the community, many of them German immigrants. At a time when the residents could not afford to build a church, the land and building were donated by a wealthier local family during the settlement of the community. For forty years, the church served as a strong tie for the people through the German church services.

Under Criteria C, the architecture of St. John's is also significant. The gable-front church was built in 1852-53 by Albert Galentine. Except for the addition of electricity, the structure has remained unchanged. The church was constructed during the settlement of Harrison Township when early construction methods and early 19th century styles, including Greek Revival were used.

This church employs an unusual method of construction. Instead of conventional studding, the walls are 2½-inch thick random-width vertical planks. The exterior clapboards and interior furring and lath were applied to this. Typical of Protestant churches during this time period, are two separate entrances for men and women.

These entrances are ornamented with Greek Revival detailing of pilasters and pediments. These elements are simple, but well-made with clean crisp lines. The Greek Revival detailing is somewhat unusual with pilaster-like elements forming the corners of the building. The capitals on these elements follow the twenty-inch frieze on the exterior, being parallel to the clapboards on the sides and angled on the gable-ends. The window and door placement is symmetrical on all four sides, typical of Greek Revival architecture.

The simplistic nature of the Greek Revival is carried through to the interior with only flat wood trim as ornamentation. The interior trim was done by George Apple, the local undertaker who also made his own coffins. Galentine died before finishing the project.

All the materials for the church, except for the nails and window glass, were obtained locally. The bricks were made on site and the lime came from a hillside 1½ miles southwest of the church. The church is believed to be the first frame structure built in Harrison Township because it was not until 1852 that the community received a sawmill and the settlers were still residing in log cabins.

The pews in the church are original and were also built by Apple. They consist of a straight back seat and ends of yellow poplar. The boards are found in various thicknesses and the hand plane-marks are still visible. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 5
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altar, heating stone and reed organ are also original. The heating stove was patented in 1853 by New York Stove Works and the reed organ was purchased in 1863.

St. John's is one of about 4 remaining one-room gable-front clapboard churches left in Elkhart. Only one other, also German and found in Harrison Township, has two front entrances. It is located southwest of St. John's.

The church is currently owned by the St. John's Cemetery Association. The cemetery has been restored and a trust has been established for its perpetual care. An elected board of church and cemetery officers meets annually in the church in an open meeting. In recent years, the church has been featured in numerous northern Indiana Sunday newspaper additions as an example of a surviving structure unchanged since its was erected over 140 years ago.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

St. John's Lutheran Church Page 6

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Bibliography

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Historical Memories, Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties, Indiana. Chicago:
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An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Elkhart County, Indiana. Chicago: Higgins,
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Pletcher, Howard. "History of St. John's Lutheran Church, Harrison Township
Elkhart County, Indiana." date unknown.

Records of St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Church, Goshen, Indiana. 1861-1894.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

St. John's Lutheran Church Page # 7

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located in Harrison Township and commencing at a point twenty-five feet north of Elkhart County Road 32, Berkey Avenue Road and twenty-five feet east of Elkhart County Road 15; running thence north one hundred and seventy-seven feet; running thence east two hundred and eighty-nine feet; running thence south one hundred and seventy-seven feet; and running thence west two hundred and eighty-nine feet to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries encompass the plot of land on which the church and cemetery nominated to the Register are found and are the original 1½ acres donated for the church and cemetery.

