

15-52-A135-55

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED 6/10/83
DATE ENTERED

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 Trinity Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON First German Lutheran Church of Wittenburg

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1/4 mile north of Highway 154

CITY, TOWN Petit Jean Mountain

STATE Arkansas

VICINITY OF CODE 05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second
COUNTY Conway CODE 029

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Henry L. Westphal, Chairman

STREET & NUMBER Trinity Lutheran Church

CITY, TOWN Petit Jean Mountain

VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER Conway County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Morrilton

STATE Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> _GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> _RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Trinity Lutheran Church is a quaint frame building constructed in 1886. Measuring approximately 21 feet by 30 feet, the small church is almost as tall as it is long. Its dimensions give it an unusual and very interesting appearance.

The foundation of the church is of native stone, cut and mortared. The pine walls are three layers thick with clapboard and cornerboards on the outside, rough sawed planks in the middle, and flush board on the inside. A high-pitch gable roof, now with composition shingles, covers the structures and is surmounted by a small wooden cross at the south end.

The main entry is centered under the gable end on the south facade of the church. Opening onto circular stone steps added in the 1940's, this entry is set in a simple rectangular frame and is uncovered. A second entry is located on the west end of the north elevation. The windows on both the east and west elevations, three per side, are double-hung, four-over-four-light sash with simple trim.

The extremely simple style is continued on the interior of Trinity Church. The original hand-planed pews are quite unusual in that one end abuts the wall while the other end terminates in a scroll-cut piece along the center aisle. Though the floors were covered with tile about 1960, the horizontal flush-board walls retain their original appearance. The 15 foot ceiling and the wall space above the picture mold were covered with accoustical tile about 1960. Though the original pulpit was situated about seven feet above the floor, this was removed in the 1930's and replaced with a small pulpit at floor level.

Alterations to the church have been minimal, leaving the building little changed from its 1886 construction. The church rests on its original location, atop Petit Jean Mountain, one of Arkansas' most scenic spots.

SIGNIFICANCE

100 HISTORIC ___ 1400-1499 ___ 1500-1599 ___ 1600-1699 ___ 1700-1799 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 ___ 1900-	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW ___ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ___ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ___ AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE ___ ART ___ COMMERCE ___ COMMUNICATIONS ___ COMMUNITY PLANNING ___ CONSERVATION ___ ECONOMICS ___ EDUCATION ___ ENGINEERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___ INDUSTRY ___ INVENTION ___ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___ LAW ___ LITERATURE ___ MILITARY ___ MUSIC ___ PHILOSOPHY ___ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION ___ SCIENCE ___ SCULPTURE ___ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ___ THEATER ___ TRANSPORTATION ___ OTHER (SPECIFY)
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SPECIFIC DATES April 21, 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trinity Lutheran Church on Petit Jean Mountain is one of Arkansas' oldest Lutheran churches. This quaint white frame structure is still used for worship services by a small congregation.

Traditionally, Trinity Lutheran Church is believed to have been built in 1886; however, the deed transferring the land from the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway to the church trustees is dated April 21, 1887. Present church officials believe that the frame building was constructed immediately after the 1886 organization of the congregation, but before the official land conveyance in 1887.

Like a number of settlements in west central Arkansas, this small community on Petit Jean Mountain was settled by German immigrants who came to take advantage of the railroad's offers of inexpensive land. (A similar group of German immigrants built St. Mary's Church at Altus, added to the National Register on May 3, 1976.) This farming community was originally named Wittenburg, an indication of its German and Lutheran origins. For the token sum of one dollar, the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway conveyed a twenty-acre church and cemetery site atop Petit Jean Mountain to "H. Schnake and H. Jones, Trustees of First German Lutheran Trinity Church of Wittenburg, Arkansas."*

The church erected by these German Lutheran's is a one-storey white frame structure with a high-pitch gable roof. Both the exterior and the interior, which features the original hand-planed pews, are in a very plain style and devoid of ornamentation. This simple clapboard church has remained basically unaltered since its 1880's construction.

Though the congregation of Trinity Lutheran has never been large, it has always been active. Weekly services are still held by the present members, most of whom are descendants of Petit Jean's early German settlers.

Architecturally interesting for its simple, unadorned style, the church is representative of rural Arkansas churches built in the late 19th century. Trinity Lutheran Church is also significant as the last structure surviving from the Wittenburg community.

* Warranty Deed. Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway to Trinity Lutheran Church, April 21, 1887.

3 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

75th Anniversary Bulletin, Trinity Lutheran Church, Petit Jean Mountain, Ark., July 16, 1961.
 Morrilton Headlight (Morrilton, Arkansas), July 26, 1961.
 Warranty Deed. Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway to Trinity Lutheran Church, Apr. 21, 1867.
 Westphal, Henry L. Personal interview (July 14, 1976) and personal files. Trinity Lutheran Church, Petit Jean Mountain, Arkansas.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	5, 1, 1, 8, 0, 0	3, 3, 8, 7, 5, 7, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

9-14-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 Anne Bartley

Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

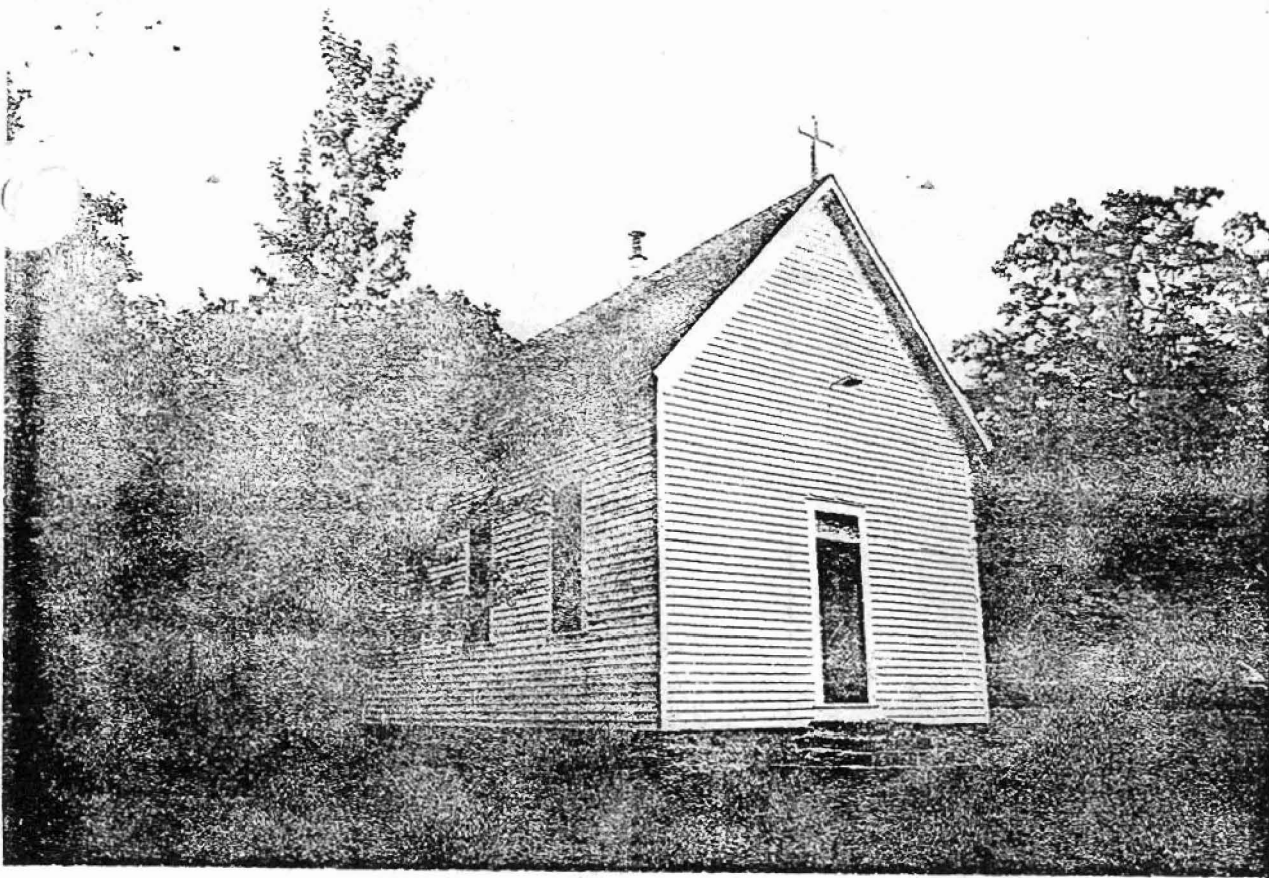
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



0-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

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AND/OR COMMON

First German Lutheran Church of Wittenburg

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Petit Jean Mountain VICINITY OF COUNTY Conway STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

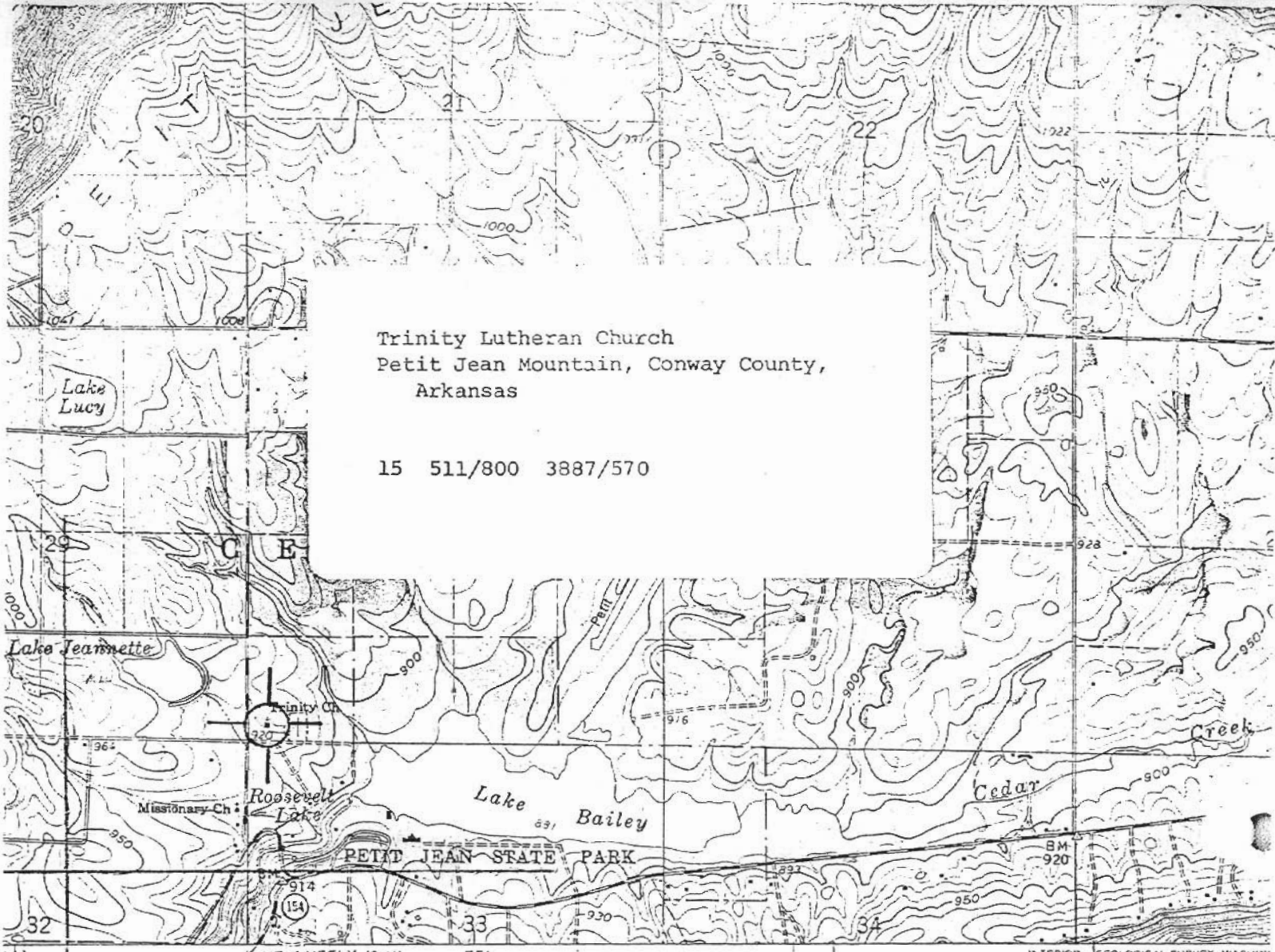
DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

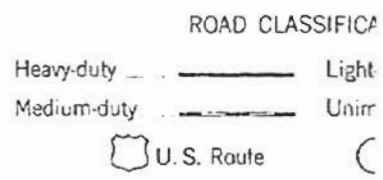
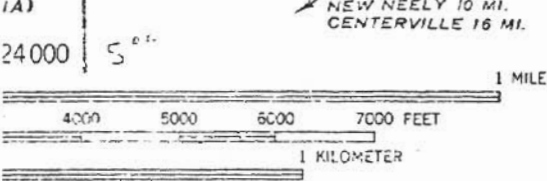
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
viewed from the southwest

PHOTO NO.
1



Trinity Lutheran Church
 Petit Jean Mountain, Conway County,
 Arkansas

15 511/800 3887/570



NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SERIES 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 SURVEYING COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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CITY, TOWN Petit Jean Mountain VICINITY OF COUNTY Conway STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. Atkins Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
TELEPHONE - 501 371

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, HENRY L. WESTPHAL, am the ~~legal~~ CHAIRMAN
~~owner~~ of the TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
located at PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN, MORRILTON, ARK.

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Henry L. Westphal
CHAIRMAN

7-14-76
Date