

Johnson Co.  
Lamar  
Lutherville School

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED  
MAR 05 1999  
AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lutherville School

Other Name/Site Number: J00099

2. Location

Street & Number: County Road 418

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Lamar

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Johnson Code: 071 Zip Code 72846

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

1  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
0

Buildings  
Sites  
Structures  
Objects  
Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Carlynn A. Slaton  
Signature of certifying official

1-7-99  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
Of action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: Education Sub: School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Social Sub: Meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Vernacular  
Plain/Traditional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal  
walls Weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Lutherville School in Johnson County, is located on rural County road 418 nine miles east of Lamar. The building sits just off the dirt road at the edge of a field and follows the typical rectangular, gable-roofed plan of rural one-room schoolhouses. Lutherville School has been largely unaltered since its construction in circa 1904 and still retains its original weatherboard sheathing and continuous stacked stone foundation. The only changes to the exterior of the building are the removal of a brick chimney from the roof to the rear of the school at an unknown date and replacement of a shingled roof with tin, also at an unknown date. The school building has been maintained in excellent condition by the current owner.

**Elaboration**

The turn-of-the-century Lutherville School was constructed in circa 1904 on County road 418 in the vicinity of Lamar. The schoolhouse is a vernacular weatherboard structure on a stacked stone foundation with a tin gabled roof. Lutherville School is a remnant of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century German settlement in western Arkansas, known before the turn of the century as Lutheran Colony. The only other extant structures dating from the time of the settlement are a chicken house and garage associated with the parsonage building for St. Paul's Church, which stood to the west of the school. The church was torn down in 1965, but St. Paul's cemetery to the southeast of the school remains.

The southern, or front, elevation of the schoolhouse contains the entry in the gable end. It consists of a single wooden paneled door reached by one stone step with a plain metal handrail to the west of the entrance. A small sign above the door reads, "ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1904-1951." The door is flanked by a pair of two-over-two wooden windows.

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The eastern elevation is simply a row of four evenly spaced two-over-two windows. The rear, or northern facade contains a single batten door at the eastern corner of the building. Two concrete steps reach the door on this elevation. The western facade mirrors the eastern.

The interior walls and ceiling are sheathed in beaded board. A raised stage runs the length of the north end of the room and a blackboard remains on the wall above the stage. Sockets for bare bulbs provided light in later years; however, hooks for kerosene lanterns are still present in the ceiling. The original desks were sold, but picnic tables are stored inside for use during special picnics and homecoming events.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C.A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Ethnic Heritage - German  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-1951

Significant Dates: 1904

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

Lutherville School is a remainder of a once thriving German community on Colony Mountain in the Lamar vicinity. Missouri Pacific Railroad offered a parcel of land on the mountain for sale in the early 1880s which attracted families from the German provinces of Hanover, Baden, Bavaria, Schwabia, Saxony, Prussia and Schleswig. One hundred German families had immigrated to Lutherville, then known as Lutheran Colony by 1883. As the only extant

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building related to the early social life of the German community in Lutherville, the schoolhouse is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion A. It is also being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C as an intact example of a turn-of-the-century Plain/Traditional one-room schoolhouse.

### Historical Background

After the Civil War Arkansas had to face the burden of righting itself and filling the economic void left by death and dislocation. The labor force and the voting population had been decimated so political leaders in the state hit upon the idea of attracting immigrants to work the plantations and grow food for those who were left. Efforts to attract immigrants were concentrated on Germans because there was already a large German population in Little Rock. Several immigrant aid societies were formed by private organizations, American and German, during the 1860s to offer aid and assistance. In 1867 state newspapers, which had been heavily in favor of increased immigration since the end of the war, pushed for the creation of a state bureau of immigration. Various bills were introduced, some passed, that would provide incentives and encouragement to immigrants during and after Reconstruction. With a new governor and clear legislative status in 1868, the General Assembly pushed for a bill to create an immigration bureau. However, interest in immigration waned due to other pressing factors such as the Brooks-Baxter war and incompetency on the part of the commissioners of immigration and state lands until 1873 when rail routes were completed in the state. The railroads desired to encourage immigration in order to sell grants of land. Just through making travel to the interior of Arkansas easier, they promoted settlement. To make land offers more attractive, the railroads would deduct the cost of a train ticket from any area along the rail route that was purchased. Arrangements could be made for payments over a number of years at a low interest rate on the price of land. The push to bring foreign settlers into Arkansas had its effect, but most influx between 1860 and 1880 was from within the States.

Lutherville, in western Arkansas, was first settled by Germans in the early 1880s when the Missouri Pacific Railroad placed a tract of land on Colony Mountain up for sale. In 1883 the area was known as Lutheran Colony and there was a population of one hundred families from Germany. Some of the residents had come to America before the 1880s to other states like Kansas, Missouri, Maryland and Nebraska before moving to Arkansas.

The town was still small, but was growing by 1883 when Gustav Hentschel, a German resident of Lutherville wrote home to his brother August. Gustav wrote that the town consisted of thirteen buildings including a church, a steam powered sawmill and plank houses where just a year and a half ago there was only a log farm building. The community was sustained by farming, growing crops of corn, cotton, potatoes and tobacco. Mr. Hentschel described the hunting as bounteous despite the tendency of the Americans to overhunt. The Hentschels lived on one hundred twenty acres outside of Lutherville but he wrote that they wanted to build a house in town so his children could go to school. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, one of two in the community was built in 1882 and was located west of the school house on County Road 418. The church was active until the 1960s when membership began to decline due to a lack of work in the community. The building was torn down in 1965, but the original

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handmade font and altar were moved to Grace Lutheran Church in Clarksville. The school building was utilized until 1951, when student attendance had decreased so much that classes were consolidated with Lamar public schools. Gustav describes the church and school in 1883 as being 600 paces from his building site; however, the recorded construction date of the Lutherville School building being nominated is c. 1904. It is not clear whether another building on the site was destroyed prior to the construction of the current one, or whether there were two schools as well as two churches as stated by Gustav Hentschel in his letter.

Lutherville School is an intact example of vernacular one-room construction dedicated to social activities in the rural German town of Lutherville. The building's simple lines have not been altered with any additions since its c. 1904 construction. The architectural type seen in the schoolhouse is one that is rapidly disappearing in rural areas of the state, so as an excellently maintained example of a Plain/Traditional one-room rural schoolhouse, the Lutherville School is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C. The building is also being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion A as the only extant structure related to the early influx of German settlers to the area known as the Lutheran Colony during the 1880s. The Germanic colony was the result of a larger statewide effort by the railroads and political leaders to buoy up the economy of Arkansas after the devastation of the Civil War.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hentschel, Gustav, to August Hentschel, November 1883. Translated by Ruby Hentschel Hahn, Denver, Colorado, October 1977.

Information submitted by Edmund Drittler, Lamar, September 1998.

Wolfe, Jonathan James. "Background of German Immigration, Part I." Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXV, No. 2 (Summer 1966): 151-182.

Park, Sue. "Lutheran Colony, Home of St. Paul's Church," The GRAPHIC June 4, 1997.

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data: \_\_\_\_\_

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency

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- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>474940</u>	<u>3925980</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at a point on the east side of County Road 418 diagonally 80' from the southeast corner of the Lutherville School, proceed north 150' along the eastern wall of the school building to the rear property line. Then proceed west 75' along the rear property line of the Lutherville School, turning south 150' along the north curb of County Road 418. Then proceed east to the point of origin.

**Boundary Justification:**

This nomination includes property historically associated with the Lutherville School and sufficient setting to convey its rural character.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 11/02/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201









