

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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

Propst Lutheran Church; Old Propst Church

AND/OR COMMON

Old Propst Church Building and Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21

County Route 9 at Propstburg

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brandywine

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Pendleton

CODE

071

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Lutheran Churches - Mountain Parish Area

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pendleton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The congregation that was to be known as the Propst Lutheran Church was in existence by 1760. Although this congregation held church services at this time, it is not known if a church building actually existed or when the first one was constructed. It is known that the first building was located a bit to the south-east of the present church on the perpetually deeded 3½ acre lot. Constructed of round logs with clay chinking, it had a wooden chimney with a clay lining to prevent the logs from catching fire.

The second church building was of hewn-log construction. This church was located in what is today a corner of the old cemetery. This building served the community as a place of worship until about 1885, when it was dismantled, transported and reassembled on a new site and used as a dwelling for many years before being converted to a barn.

The third (present) building was constructed around 1887 and was in fairly regular use until its abandonment in 1920. The church stood vacant and deteriorated greatly until 1968 when restoration work was begun. By 1974 the church and adjoining land (the 3½ acres of the original grant) had been improved, and the site was once again of service to the community as a park or community center.

The present Propst Church is a rectangular building of frame construction which rests on a foundation of cut stone. Exterior walls are covered with clap-board siding and have been painted white. There are three windows on each of the two longer sides, all 6/6 double-hung sash and very plain in appearance. The front and rear walls have no windows. There are two symmetrically placed entrance doors at the front elevation, the steps for which are cut stones taken from the foundation of the second church building. The exterior is very simple and unadorned except for a small Victorian-type decoration located under the eaves at each corner. The roof is metal and has been painted red. There is a chimney located near the center of the building, but it is not in use.

As with the exterior, the interior of the church is very plain and simple. A raised, goblet-shaped pulpit is attached to the front wall, access to which is by way of five steps leading up its side. A small, plain stand takes the place of an altar and is located in front of the pulpit. The pews are original and were handmade. In one corner near the pulpit is located the first organ used in the church.

The church was abandoned in 1920 and was in badly deteriorated condition in 1968 when the Men of the Lutheran Church of the Mountain began restoration work. Siding was removed and the framing straightened in places by the use of new wood and metal reinforcing. New weatherboarding, similar to the old, was placed and the building painted white. The restoration work has returned the church to the appearance it probably had at the turn of the century.

81 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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. 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Engel K. K. K.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It was in about 1760 that German immigrants had first established strong community ties in the valleys of what is now Pendleton County, West Virginia. The fertile plains between the mountains were inviting to the industrious people who began to farm here. An outgrowth of their activity in the form of a formal Lutheran congregation seemed only natural, and they carried their ambitions a little further when making additional use of quarters and pastors for the education of their children. The name of the Propst Church is fitting, also, for it was constructed on land deeded by John Michael Propst for perpetual use of the Lutheran immigrants.

The architecture of the Propst Church is very plain and simple, but even in its simplicity the building is of interest, for it is a link with the pioneer beginnings of its congregation, a group which was in existence within a few years after the first settlement within present Pendleton County, West Virginia. Early establishment of religious institutions by German immigrants indicates that the church was a great influence in the settlement of the area.

One Roger Dyer probably made the first permanent settlement in what is now Pendleton County in 1747. Soon after, others followed, among whom was John Michael Propst. Propst located in the South Fork region sometime before 1749 when, it is recorded, he entertained in his home a group of Moravian missionaries from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The first legal record of John Propst in then Augusta County, Virginia, was a deed for 110 acres of land along the South Fork, dated 1753.

A congregation was in existence in 1760, but the first church building was probably not constructed until a few years later. The land that John Michael Propst sold to the congregation (for the nominal sum of 5 shillings) and on which the first church house was erected was not bought by Propst until 1761. He sold 3½ acres to the church commissioners for "the members of the congregation of the Lutheran church at the South Fork of Potowmack" in 1769. The first building may have been in existence at the time John Propst sold the land to the congregation in 1769, but it is unlikely that it was there when he bought the land in 1761.

The first church was of round-log construction with clay chinking between the logs and a log chimney with a clay lining. When the second church was built, the first was relocated to the opposite end of the property and used as a German public school where children of members were taught by the minister or others.

The first resident minister of the Propst Church was one Peter Mischler who emigrated from Germany in 1761. In 1769 Mischler appeared before the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to gain admission to that body as a preacher. He was not accepted by the Ministerium because he did not meet the qualifications, and it was claimed that he had been involved in church disturbances and revolts in the past. Mischler was told to reappear before the Ministerium the following year, but there are no indications that he did so. It is known that

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Mischler was preaching in the South Fork area in the early 1770s, as he sued the congregation for non-payment for his reading in church and teaching the children. This would make Mischler one of the first teachers as well as ministers and the Propst congregation one of the oldest religious and educational groups in the area. Peter Mischler served the congregation for almost forty years until his death in 1812.

The second church was built of hewn logs and was located where the corner of the cemetery is at present. It was used until about 1885. At that time the home of the area resident by the name of Jack Hoover burned. Since there were plans being made to build a new church, Hoover requested the logs from the old building for use in constructing a new house. The church was dismantled and the logs marked and transported to Broad Run where they were reassembled. The building was later made into a barn and was still in use a few years ago.

The third church building was erected about 1887. It is a simple frame building painted white. Rectangular in shape, there are three windows on each of the two longer sides. The front of the church retains some of the features of the earlier churches, for it has two separate entrances, possibly indicating a stringent separation of the sexes during worship. The steps for the entrance doors are cut stones taken from the foundation of the second building. The raised, goblet-shaped pulpit was also an influence from the earlier church. Abandoned in 1920, it remained vacant and deteriorating until restoration work was started in the late 1960s. By 1974 the structure had been refurbished with minimal effort, and the church and its surrounding land were once more an important part of the community which it had helped to found and watched grow over two centuries.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Morton, Oren F. A History of Pendleton County, West Virginia. Franklin, W.Va.: by the author, 1910. (pp. 339 & 359)

Tappert, Theodore G. and John W. Doberstein, trans. The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. 3 vols. Philadelphia: The Muhlenberg Press, 1945. (II, 405-09)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Chalkley, Lyman. Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia. 3 vols. Rosslyn, Va.: The Commonwealth Company. (III, 502)
- Hively, Earl, comp. History (of the) Old Propst Church. N.p., n.d. Pamphlet on file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown, W.Va.
- Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library. A & M 1667, Churches, West Virginia (Centennial church reports).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3½ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	6, 5, 1, 7, 8, 0	4, 2, 7, 3, 9, 1, 5
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C			

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Phillip Pitts, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

October 3, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

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

Leonard M. Davis

TITLE

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11/25/75

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:

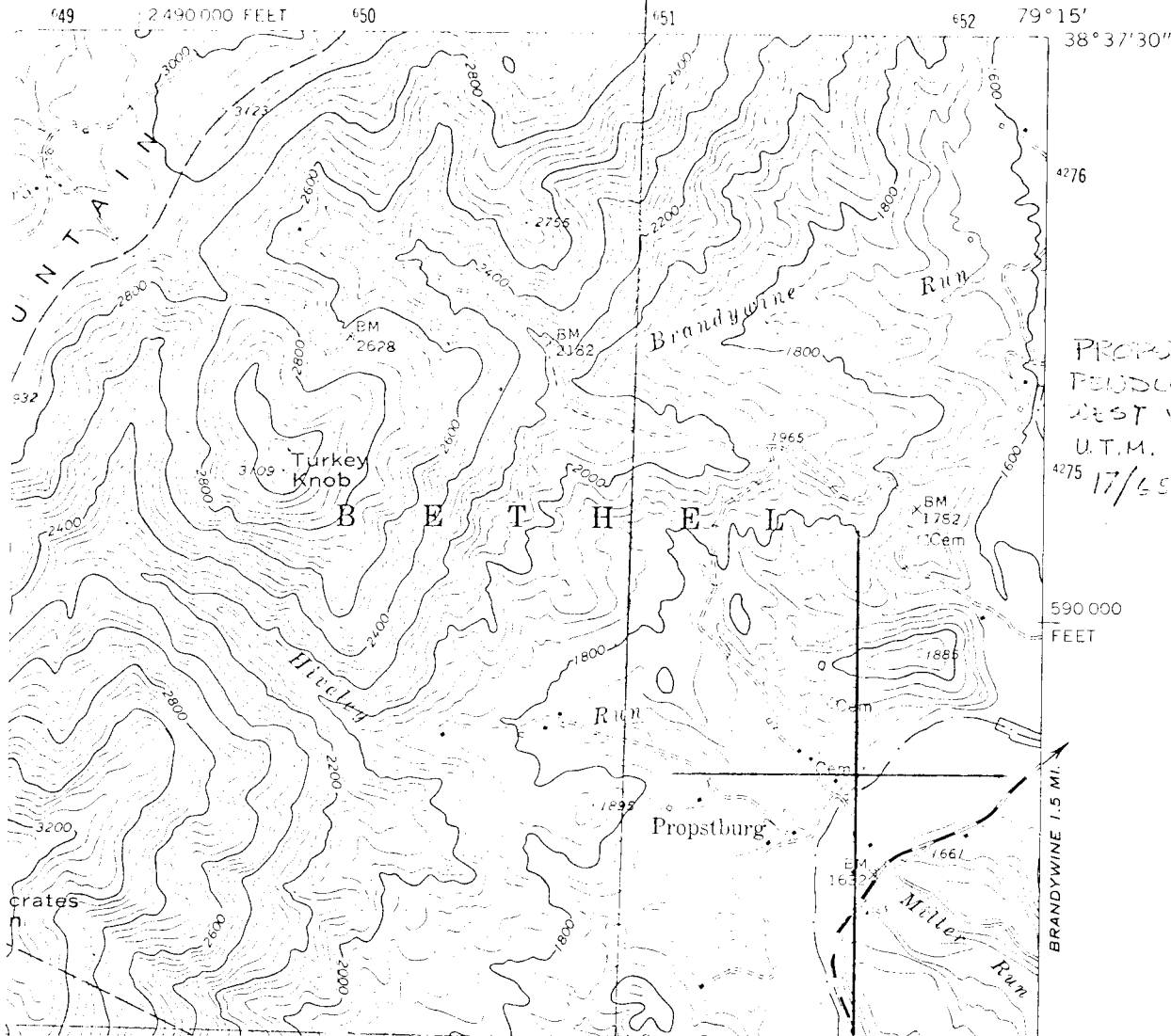
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

WEST VIRGINIA—PENDLETON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE 1/4 CIRCLEVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

516111
(FORT SEYD)



Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

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

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Propst Lutheran Church; Old Propst Church

AND/OR COMMON Old Propst Church Building and Site

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Brandywine

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pendleton

STATE West Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey (Sugar Grove, W.Va., 7.5' Quadrangle)

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1969

