Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries -- complete applicable sections)

STATE:
North Carolina
COUNTY:
Catawba
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

St. Paul's Church and Cemetery (Lutheran)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

junction of SR 1149 and SR 1164

CITY OR TOWN:

Newton vicinity   (Tenth Congressional District, Hon. James Broyhill)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
North Carolina	37	Catawba	035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY *(Check One)*	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural   ☐ Government   ☐ Park   ☐ Transportation   ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial   ☐ Industrial   ☐ Private Residence   ☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Educational   ☐ Military   ☒ Religious
☐ Entertainment   ☐ Museum   ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Trustees of Old St. Paul's Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

Rt. 3, Box 130

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Newton	North Carolina	37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Catawba County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Newton	North Carolina	37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:	☐ Federal	☐ State	☐ County	☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

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CONDITION	*(Check One)*					
	[x] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)			*(Check One)*		
	[ ] Altered	[x] Unaltered		[ ] Moved	[x] Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church, near Newton, is a rather unimpressive building from the outside, but within it is quite remarkable, for the original trim, plan, furniture, and overall appearance remain almost entirely as they were when the church was built.

Resting on low uncoursed stone foundation, the log church rises to two full stories covered by a low gable roof. The building is sided with plain lapped weatherboards which appear to be replacements. The earliest work to be seen on the exterior is the fine molded cornice.

The main (west) facade, which is three bays wide, has a tall central entrance containing a flat-paneled double door. The entrance is flanked by large windows with nine-over-nine sash while those on the second level are much smaller and contain six-over-six sash. The north and south gable ends are two bays long with a doorway in the west bay of each end. The rear facade is similar to the front except that in the central bay there is an extremely tall triple-hung window containing six-over-nine-over-nine sash. This window lights the pulpit area.

The interior, which has walls and ceiling finished with wide vertical beaded sheathing, retains essentially its original appearance. The arrangement is essentially a cross-aisle plan with the short main aisle running from west to east and the longer perpendicular aisles leading from the north and south entrances connecting with it in front of the pulpit area. The pulpit is possibly the only part of the interior that is not original to the church. Located in the center of the east wall on a raised platform, it consists of a high flat-paneled lectern reached by a narrow stair enclosed by a balustrade consisting of balusters square in section and a molded handrail. On three sides of the pulpit are rows of straight-backed benches with curvilinear sides. Above are side and rear galleries supported by slender wooden pillars situated on either side of each of the three aisles. Each pillar is divided into three sections separated by delicate horizontal molded bands. The lowest portion is unadorned and serves as a pedestal. The midsection is fluted and terminates in a molded necking. The upper portion of the pillar has wider fluting and is topped by a molded cap.

The gallery stairs located in the southwest and northwest corners ascend in two runs connected by winders. Both are enclosed with wide vertical beaded sheathing similar to the finish of the walls and ceiling. The gallery, which features large straight-backed pews set on graduated platforms, is enclosed by a flat-paneled balustrade with a heavy molded handrail and baseboard. Wide fluted stiles punctuate the balustrade. The paneling scheme of the balustrade is repeated in a decorative band of the same dimensions across the east wall, which is interrupted at the base by the high pulpit window. The window, which is framed by a handsome molded architrave and sill, is surmounted by a full entablature with fluted end blocks supported by small consoles adorned with fluting and pierced work. The molded cornice breaks above the end blocks and supports three fluted stiles which separate the flat panels of the balustrade motif.

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7.

    The most impressive feature of the interior is the sounding board. It consists of an octagonal drum with a flat-paneled soffit. The octagonal conical top is suspended from a slender wooden post which is affixed to the ceiling by curvilinear wrought-iron brackets. A band of sawnwork rings the base of the drum and a vernacular bas relief urn is applied to the center of each face. A guilloche band surrounds the top of the drum beneath a molded cornice which has a turned finial at each angle.

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal
☐ Prehistoric
☐ Historic
☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture
☐ Art
☐ Commerce
☐ Communications
☐ Conservation

☐ Education
☐ Engineering
☐ Industry
☐ Invention
☐ Landscape
    Architecture
☐ Literature
☐ Military
☐ Music

☐ Political
☒ Religion/Phi-
    losophy
☐ Science
☐ Sculpture
☐ Social/Human-
    itarian
☐ Theater
☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning
☐ Other (Specify)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

    Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church is said to have been built over a five month period during 1808 on property deeded to the church by Paul Anthony on May 20, 1771. Tradition has it that the principal carpenter, Henry Cline, included the sound timbers from an older log church known as the Dutch Meeting House, which was standing in the church yard when the present Old St. Paul's Church was built to replace it.

    The Dutch Meeting House may date from 1768 and was owned jointly by members of the Lutheran and German Reform Churches. The first services in the Dutch Meeting House were conducted by visiting ministers or by one or more of the laymen. Rev. Adolphus Nussman, first Lutheran minister to North Carolina, probably visited and ministered to these people soon after he came to America. Johann Gottfried Arends, however, is generally regarded as the first pastor of the Old St. Paul's congregation. Arends arrived with Nussman in Rowan County in 1773 as a school teacher, but in August, 1775, he was ordained a pastor at the Second Creek (Organ) Church by Joachim Beulow who was called "Missionary and Inspector over South and North Carolina." After serving for several years at Organ Church, Arends came to St. Paul's.

    The members of Old St. Paul's Congregation were a mixture of the Lutheran and Reformed denominations. Factions within the congregation aligned themselves at various times during the nineteenth century with the North Carolina and Tennessee Synods; in 1905 the Tennessee faction relocated in a new church as a continuation of St. Paul's. The remaining members eventually dispersed to unite with other Reformed and Lutheran congregations.

    The church (currently in the hands of the American Lutheran Church which is the successor of the Joint Synod of Ohio in that locality) has not been used regularly as a place of worship for over a decade, but during recent years it has been the custom to hold Easter services in the well-cared-for structure.

    The interior of the church is of particular significance because it contains the finest early nineteenth century ecclesiastical interiors in the Piedmont region and possibly in the entire state. Together with the churchyard, which contains numerous gravestones inscribed in German, some of which date from before the construction of the present building, it recalls the important influence of the German settlers in the North Carolina piedmont region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Catawba County Records, Catawba County Courthouse, Newton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Deeds)

Catawba County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroup: Deeds).

Morgan, Jacob L.; Brown, Bachman S.; Hall, John, eds. History of the Lutheran Church in North Carolina. n.p.: United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina, 1953, (?).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 40' 35"	81° 14' 38"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Six Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION	DATE
State Department of Archives and History	3 September 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Raleigh	North Carolina	37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION / NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐　　State ☒　　Local ☐

Name _____

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 3 September 1971

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

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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9.

North Carolina and Tennessee Synods. Life Sketches of Lutheran Ministers.
    Columbia, South Carolina: The State Printing Company, 1966.

Wilfong, Neal P. Tombstone Inscriptions of the Old St. Paul's Church Cemetery
    ? : Catawba County Historical Association.

Catawba County, North Carolina

This map product was prepared from the Catawba County, NC, Geographic Information System. Catawba County has made substantial efforts to ensure the accuracy of location and labeling information contained on this map. Catawba County promotes and recommends the independent verification of any data contained on this map product by the user. The County of Catawba, its employees, agents, and personnel, disclaim, and shall not be held liable for any and all damages, loss or liability, whether direct, indirect or consequential which arises or may arise from this map product or the use thereof by any person or entity.

NORTH

Selected Parcel Number: 3730-06-39-9706

Scale: 1 inch = 300 feet

Prepared For: Smyer

THIS IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT