

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

2. Location

Street & number: 307 Summit Avenue

City or town: Springer State: NM County: Colfax

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B X C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco, Metal, Wood, Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a small one-story church located at the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and 3rd Street in Springer, a small town in Colfax County in northeastern New Mexico. Built in 1938, the Gothic Revival-style church features a front-facing gable roof and a square entrance tower that contains the church bell. The tower features a decorative Gothic Revival-style parapet and wood louvers. The frame church is covered in stucco and rests on a concrete foundation. The steeply pitched roof and matching stoop above the main entrance are covered with ribbed-steel sheet metal. Pointed-arched windows are located on the main (east) façade and along the three-bay north and south sides of the church. The interior includes a small entrance vestibule in the tower and a large, open sanctuary. The walls are covered in wall board and lined with beaded wainscoting. The ceiling is clad in pressed tin. The interior is illuminated by windows, which include blue and yellow stained glass, and frosted chandeliers. The five handmade pews face the altarpiece on the west wall. The pulpit and pump organ are located in the southwest corner of the sanctuary. The property includes a nonhistoric mobile home, which was donated to the church in the 1980s and served as a parsonage.

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Narrative Description

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a small one-story Gothic Revival-style church located at the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and 3rd Street in Springer, a small town in Colfax County in northeast New Mexico. The church is situated on the southeast side of Springer, east of downtown and the BNSF Railway line.

Built in 1938, the church features a front-facing gable roof and a square entrance tower with a decorative Gothic Revival-style parapet and wood louvers for ventilation. A bell, donated by an Indiana congregation, hangs in the tower and could be seen from the street before the installation of the louvers to keep out pigeons.

The frame church is covered in stucco and rests on a concrete foundation. The stucco was added between 1946 and 1960. The steeply pitched roof and matching stoop over the main entrance are covered with ribbed-steel sheet metal. Pointed-arched windows are located on the main (east) façade and along the three-bay north and south sides of the church. An entrance to the basement is located at the rear of the church. The basement includes bathrooms, which are no longer used.

The interior includes a small entrance vestibule in the tower and a large, open sanctuary. The vestibule includes a pressed-tin ceiling and the rope used to ring the church bell. The sanctuary is an open space with walls covered in wall board and lined with beaded wainscoting. The church was heated by a wood-burning stove, which is no longer extant. The brick flue is located on the north wall. The ceiling is clad in pressed tin. The interior is illuminated by two frosted chandeliers and the Gothic-style windows, which include blue and yellow stained glass. The five handmade pews, which were built by congregation member Herman Kuhlman, face the altarpiece on the west wall. Metal folding chairs have been added at the ends of the pews and along the walls to increase seating capacity.

The tripartite altarpiece, above the altar, is constructed of lacquered plywood in the Gothic Revival style with trefoils, finials, crosses, and a painting in the center panel depicting Christ in the Garden. The west end of the church also includes the stone-and-metal altar rail and the free-standing octagonal font. The pulpit and pump organ are located in the southwest corner of the sanctuary.

The large, flat lot includes the historic church, nonhistoric parsonage, gravel parking in front, and several spruce trees on the south side of the grass lawn. The church occupies lots 3 and 3A on block 24. The dimension of each lot is 50 feet by 140 feet. The nonhistoric parsonage is a mobile home, which was donated to the church in the 1980s.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938-1964

Significant Dates

1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bockelman, Fred (builder)
Steinmeyer, Theo (builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer, Colfax County, New Mexico is a small, Gothic Revival-style church located on the southeast side of Springer. Built in 1938, the church is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of a small, rural Gothic Revival-style church, with its steeply pitched roof, corner tower, and pointed-arched windows. The Gothic Revival style was popular in New Mexico for ecclesiastical architecture from the 1870s through the early 1900s. Most examples, like Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer, are vernacular and not examples of high-style design. The stone Immanuel Lutheran Church in Carlsbad, New Mexico, built in c.1936, is another Gothic Revival-style Lutheran church. Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer is among the first Lutheran churches built in the state and among the earliest surviving Lutheran churches in New Mexico.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer, Colfax County, New Mexico is a small, Gothic Revival-style church located on the southeast side of Springer. Built in 1938, the church is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because it is an excellent example of a small, rural Gothic Revival-style church, with its steeply pitched roof, corner tower, and pointed-arched windows. This style was popular for Lutheran churches throughout the rural Midwest. In New Mexico, the Gothic Revival style remained popular for ecclesiastical architecture from the 1870s through the early 1900s. Most examples, like Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer, are vernacular and not examples of high-style design. The stone Immanuel Lutheran Church in Carlsbad, New Mexico, built in c.1936, is another Gothic Revival-style Lutheran church. Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer is among the first Lutheran churches built in the state and among the earliest surviving Lutheran churches in New Mexico.

The congregation of mostly German immigrants formed in Springer in 1933. The first meetings were held in the homes of congregation members and in other religious and public buildings in Springer. Optimo, a town 35 miles south of Springer, had an established Lutheran community beginning in the 1910s and built the small, frame St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran Church in the New Mexico. As Optimo failed as an agricultural community, the town's dwindling Lutheran population, in 1937, offered the Springer Lutherans the Classical Revival-style St. Paul's Lutheran Church, which they "took down. . . and trucked the lumber to use it for a church in Springer." Immanuel Lutheran Church, with its new corner tower, was dedicated in 1938.

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Lutheranism spread throughout New Mexico in the early 20th century. Immanuel Lutheran Church in Albuquerque was organized in 1914; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Las Vegas in 1921; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Carlsbad in 1936; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe in 1938; and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clovis in 1941.

Lutheranism is a major branch of Western Christianity that identifies with the theology of Martin Luther, a German monk and theologian. In the United States, Lutheran congregations are often affiliated with Synods and Synods include: Evangelical Lutheran Church of American (ELCA), the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), and the Augusta Catholic Church (ACC). Some Lutheran churches are independent and are not associated with a Synod organization.

Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and staff candidates. Synods vary in size, geography, membership, staffing, and program. The smallest synod has 30 congregations; the largest nearly 300.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). The settlers in Optimo had been associated with the Missouri Synod since arriving in Kansas from Germany. The LCMS currently has more than 2.3 million baptized members in more than 6,100 congregations. The LCMS is divided into 35 districts in the United States and Immanuel Lutheran is part of the Rocky Mountain District which has 183 congregations in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and El Paso County, Texas. Immanuel Lutheran Church is one of 40 Lutheran churches in New Mexico in 2014.

National Register Criterion Considerations: Immanuel Lutheran Church meets National Register Consideration A as a property owned by a religious institution and used for religious purposes because it derives its primary significance from architecture as an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style in northern New Mexico.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

The history of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springer has its origins in the Lutheran community in the small, rural whistle-stop town of Optimo in Mora County, 35 miles south of Springer. In April 1909, a small group of German-immigrants in Iowa received assurances of support from the Kansas District of the Missouri Synod for a Lutheran agricultural settlement in northern New Mexico. Four families in Iowa representing 20 farmers purchased land in Optimo, New Mexico. In April 1910, the settlers arrived and soon made plans to build a church. The first services were conducted on May 8, 1910, in the home of one of the settlers. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Optimo, which was dedicated in December 1910, was the first Lutheran Church built in New Mexico. A congregation in Indiana donated a bell for the new church in 1916. Reverend Paul Kretschmar served as the first pastor. Members included the Rolf, Fisher, Troeger, Krause, Hazemeier, Huddlesons, Klavon, Rope, Knuth, Schipman, and Modellmag families.

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Optimo in the early 20th century never materialized as a successful farming community because of limited sources of water and frequent droughts. Crop failures were common and families gradually moved away until the Lutheran congregation was supported by only a few families, who served by the pastor in Las Vegas, New Mexico. In 1930, the congregation deeded the church property to the Kansas District of the Missouri Synod and the remaining members joined the Las Vegas congregation. (Optimo appears on maps, but is no longer a functioning community.)

The Lutheran congregation in Springer, New Mexico formed in 1933. The congregation included the Goebels, Kuhlman, Coerber, Hansen, Bada, Schmidts, and Williams families and were assisted by Pastor Arnold Meyer from Las Vegas. The congregation first met in the homes of congregation members and, later, in the First Baptist Church and on the second floor of the Colfax County courthouse in Springer. In 1934, Pastor Reinhold Klathoff arrived in Raton in northern Colfax County, where he held services on Sunday mornings before traveling south to Springer to hold afternoon services.

In 1937, the unused St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Optimo was offered to the Springer Lutherans. *The Kansas Lutheran* reported in 1938 that "Last winter members of the Springer congregation took down the church at Optimo, New Mexico, and trucked the lumber to use it for a church in Springer where the congregation has been holding services in rented buildings so far." The congregation purchased a flat lot on the southwest corner of Summit Avenue and 3rd Street in the southwest corner of town. Members of the congregation erected the new church and constructed the pews, pulpit, and altar. St. Paul's in Optimo was a Classical Revival-style church with a temple-front porch. Immanuel Lutheran Church, with its new corner tower, was built in the Gothic Revival style and dedicated in 1938.

The earliest services at Optimo were in German, according to congregation member Judy Caldwell, but anti-German sentiment during World War I ensured that English was the vernacular of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Caldwell remembers the confirmation papers of Herman Kuhlman, one of the first members of the church, were written in German. Pastor Streeby sang in German in the mid-1960s. Bill Kuhlman, son of Herman Kuhlman, recalls "Dad came from Germany as a child. He could read German, speak German, but he didn't think it was right for us kids to speak anything but English. We were Americans, not Germans."

Immanuel Lutheran Church has been in continuous operation since its construction in 1938. Its original German- and Scandinavian-immigrant membership now includes Hispanic worshippers. At its peak in the mid-1960s, the church served as many as 50 families, but its membership has since declined.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Boone, Catherine. Review of Jaehn, Tomas, *Germans in New Mexico, 1850-1920*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005 in *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Vol. 26, No. 3 (Spring 2007): 105-107.

Caffey, David L. *Frank Springer and New Mexico: From the Colfax County War to the Emergence of Modern Santa Fe*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2007.

Caldwell, Judy. Interview with Chloe Reichelt. Springer, New Mexico, July 22, 2014.

Duffy, S. M. Review of Jaehn, Tomas, *Germans in New Mexico, 1850-1920*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005 in *Southwest Historical Quarterly* Vol. 110, No. 2 (October 2006): 298-299.

“Excerpts from a Historical Sketch of the Lutheran Church in New Mexico, 1892 to 1943.” Unpublished manuscript. n.d.

Jaehn, Tomas, *Germans in New Mexico, 1850-1920*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

Kuhlmann, Bill. Interview with Chloe Reichelt. Springer, New Mexico, July 22, 2014.

“The Little Church around the Corner.” Unpublished manuscript. March 22, 1991.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. “Locate a Church.” http://locator.lcms.org/nchurches_frm/church.asp. Accessed 19 September 2014.

Ngai, Mae M. “Nationalism, Immigration Control, and the Ethnoracial Remapping of America in the 1920s.” *OAH Magazine of History* 21.3 (July 2007): 11-15.

Meyer, Carl S. “Lutheran Immigrant Churches Face the Problems of the Frontier,” *Church History* 29.4 (Dec. 1960): 440-462.

“Mine Production in New Mexico for 2010.” *Cimarron Citizen* [Cimarron, NM] (January 7, 1911): 3. In *Chronicling America*. Accessed 26 June 2014.

“Missionfield.” *The Kansas Lutheran*. Kansas City, Missouri. 1938.

“Oldest in New Mexico.” *Springer News Bulletin*. Springer, New Mexico. 1991.

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Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Springer, NM: 1939. Pelham, N.Y.: Sanborn Map Company. 1867-1970.

Shipman, Rhoda (Steeve). "Excerpts from a Historical Sketch of the Lutheran Church in New Mexico, 1892-1943." Unpublished manuscript. n.d.

Wolniewicz, Richard. "Comparative Ethnic Church Architecture." *Polish American Studies* 54.1 (Spring 1997): 53-73.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 0.32 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.360123 | Longitude: -104.591880 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is indicated by a heavy black line on an attached map drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the intact parcel historically associated with Immanuel Lutheran Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Steven Moffson, State and National Register Coordinator
Chloe Reichelt , Governor Susana Martinez Intern

organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

street & number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236

city or town: Santa Fe state: New Mexico zip: 87501

e-mail steven.moffson@state.nm.us

telephone: 505.476.04444

date: September 30, 2014

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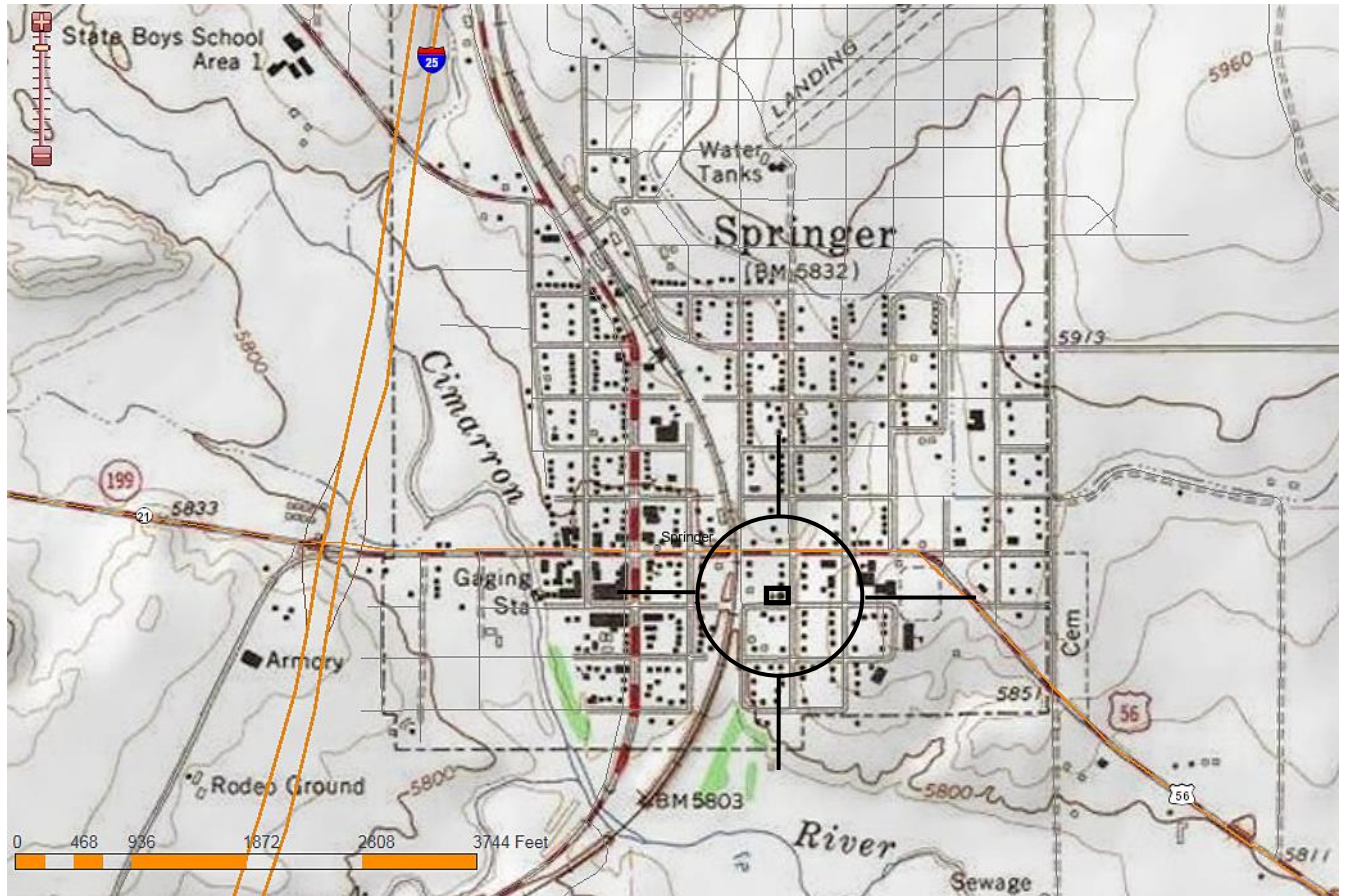
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Immanuel Lutheran Church
Springer, Colfax County, New Mexico

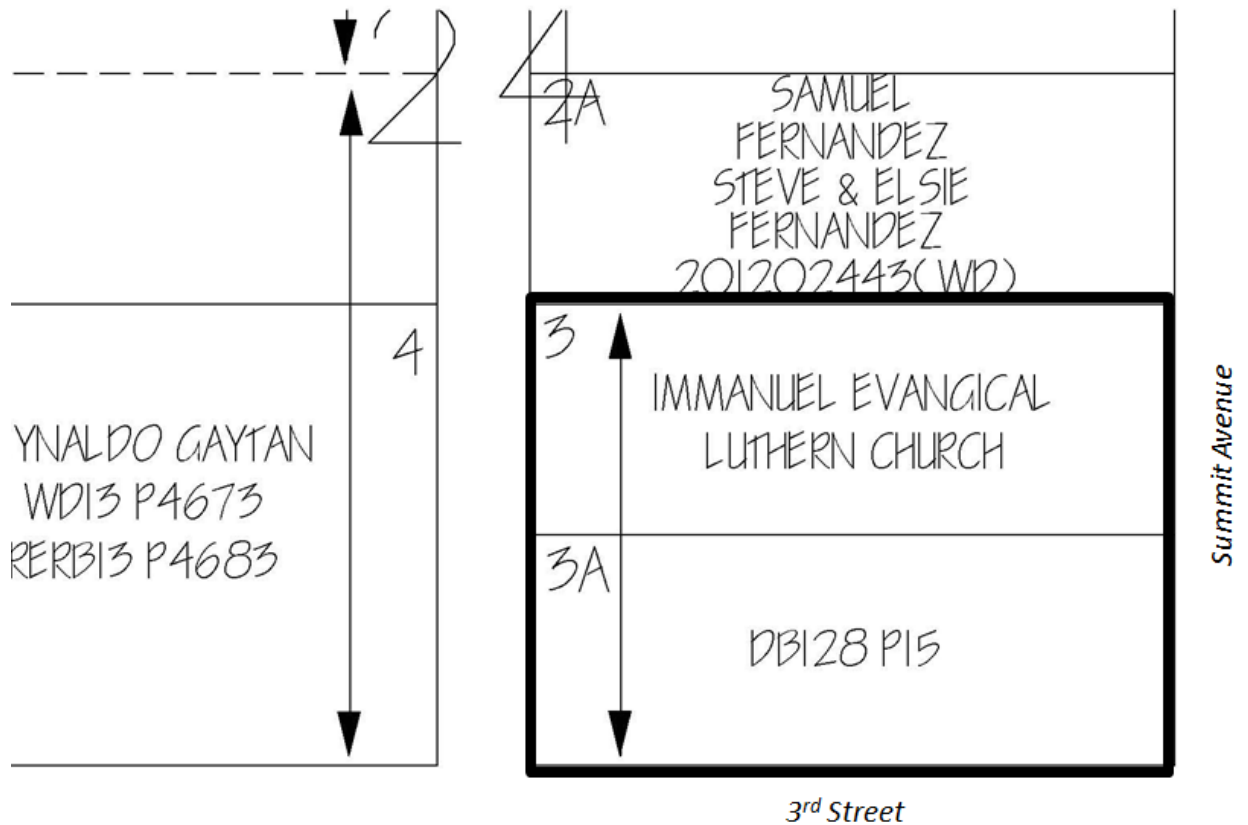
Springer, NM USGS Quadrangle NAD 83

National Register boundary —————



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Immanuel Lutheran Church

307 Summit Avenue, Springer, Colfax County, New Mexico

National Register boundary **—————**

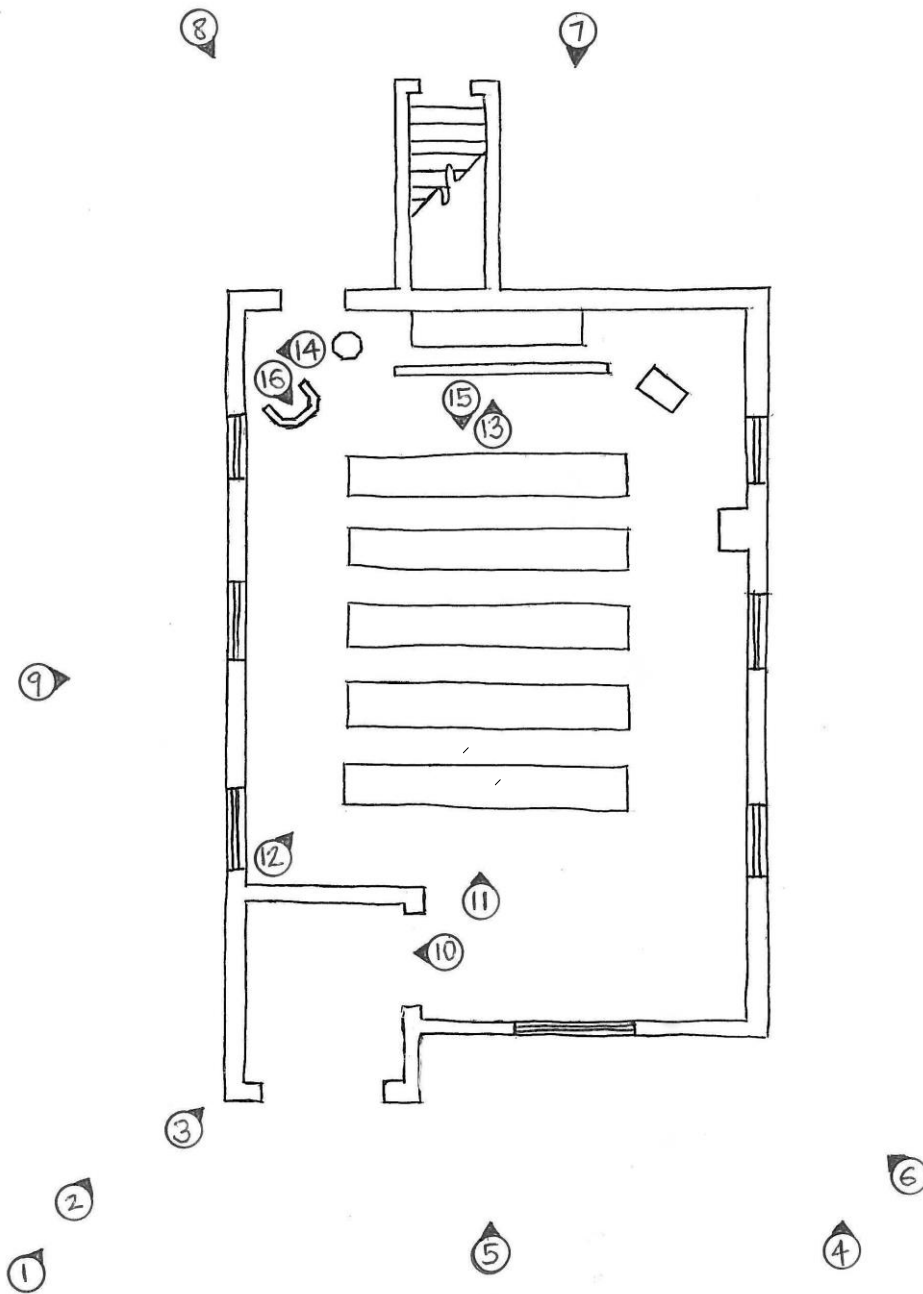
Approximate scale: 1 inch = 75 feet

(Map based on Colfax County Tax Assessor map)




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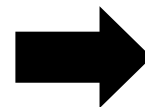


Immanuel Lutheran Church
307 Summit Avenue, Springer, Colfax County, New Mexico

Main Floor Plan

Photo number and direction of view 

No Scale



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Immanuel Lutheran Church

City or Vicinity: Springer

County: Colfax

State: New Mexico

Photographer: Steven Moffson

Date Photographed: July 22, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16. View from 3rd Street, photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 16. Main (east) and south facades, photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 16. Tower, detail, photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 16. Main elevation with parsonage (mobile home), photographer facing west.
- 5 of 16. Main elevation, photographer facing west.
- 6 of 16. Main and north side, photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 16. Rear (west) elevation, photographer facing east.
- 8 of 16. Rear and south side with parsonage, photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 16. South elevation, photographer facing north.
- 10 of 16. Interior, entrance vestibule below tower, photographer facing south.
- 11 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing west.
- 12 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing northwest.
- 13 of 16. Interior, altar, photographer facing west.
- 14 of 16. Interior, organ, photographer facing south.
- 15 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing east.
- 16 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing east.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Select Photographs



4 of 16. Main elevation with parsonage (mobile home), photographer facing west.



8 of 16. Rear and south side with parsonage, photographer facing northeast.

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11 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing west.



16 of 16. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing east.