

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register
Listed
January 5, 2018**

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name German Evangelical Church

Other names/site number Church of Christ; Rock Creek Valley Historical Museum; KHRI #149-5770-00006

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number Northeast corner of 6th and State Streets not for publication

City or town Westmoreland vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Pottawatomie Code 149 Zip code 66549

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 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 local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

See file.

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date _____

Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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 _____

German Evangelical Church
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion / religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture / museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate

Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Limestone

walls: Limestone

roof: Asphalt shingle

other: _____

German Evangelical Church
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Narrative Description

Summary

Built in 1887, the single-story stone German Evangelical Church is located at the northeast corner of 6th and State Streets in Pottawatomie County, Kansas' county seat, Westmoreland (*Figures 1 & 2*). The vernacular structure features Italianate ornament at all masonry openings, featuring half-round hood moulds with prominent keystones. The simple building is approximately 36'-5" long and 26'-2" wide with a single entry on the west elevation, three windows on both the north and south sides, and a steeply pitched gable roof. There are no other structures on the lot. It is believed that the exterior of the church appears today much as it did when it was built, although the doors and roof have been replaced.

Elaboration

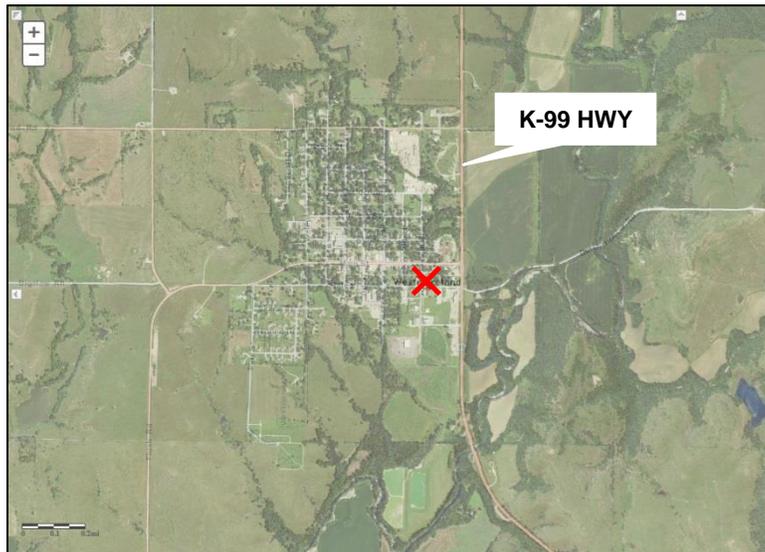


Figure 1: Contextual map, showing location of church within Westmoreland and surrounding area (KHRI).

and the screens are in poor condition and one of the limestone sills has begun to flake.

The sole entrance to the building is centered in the west elevation and has an arched stone lintel transom with prominent keystone over the door. There are two steps, part limestone and part concrete, with hand rails leading to the entrance. Other than the arches over the windows and doors, the building lacks any other ornamentation. These arched stone lintels with keystones are repeated in at least two other limestone buildings in Westmoreland built in the 1880s – the Pottawatomie County Courthouse at 106 Main and the G.A.R. building at the southeast corner of 5th and Main (*Figure 3*). The east elevation of the church has no windows or doors.

In an old, dark photograph from the "Railroad Edition" printed by *The Westmoreland Recorder* in November 1899, there was a chimney on the east end of the roof that is not apparent now.¹ There is also now a disconnected stovepipe in the north half of the roof. This stovepipe is also visible in the interior. Modern changes made to the building include an electrical line to the building, a gas meter, and a window air-conditioner. Also, there are two concrete benches in front, in addition to some signage placed by the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society. A water hydrant is in the yard south of the building near the street.

¹ Photo is too grainy to include here, but it is on file with both the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Society.

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Figure 2: Boundary map, showing the church on lot 9 and west 1' of lot 10 (Google).

The roof was replaced in 1992. The double front doors were replaced in 2010 with metal doors and a dead bolt lock. The wooden doors used prior to that replacement are still in the museum's possession. Inside the front doors, there are historic double screen doors that open inward. There are also metal screens installed in the interior over the windows and the screen doors. It is unknown when these were added.

Interior

The interior of the church is a single open space. There is a chancel area toward the east end of the church—a raised area with a pulpit and a chair on each side of the pulpit. The chancel has wooden railing around two sides. This wooden railing came from the McComas House, a hotel in operation in Westmoreland in 1885. There are also some chairs hooked together to the side of the pulpit. The floor is of wood and there is a historic painted metal ceiling which is vaulted, following the line of the gabled roof.

The interior of the building has seen some changes. There is a window air conditioner installed in 1995 and a heater of unknown origin near the ceiling. The remainder of the interior has displays of various artifacts depicting the history of the local area that have been developed by the Historical Society. Most of these items are to be moved to a newer, larger museum space to better preserve them as the church does not have adequate climate control.

The windows and floors seem to be original. After the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society obtained the building in 1977, the walls were insulated and sheet rock installed. The interior lights may have been added at the same time, as well as the brackets to display flags to commemorate the nation's bicentennial in 1976. These flags are replicas of flags that were important in American history and were purchased by local businesses for that celebration. Wallpaper and paint added to the walls were used to enhance the displays when the church was first purchased by the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society.

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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.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

Period of Significance

1887 - 1914

Significant Dates

September 1887

May 1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

Westmoreland's German Evangelical Church was built in 1887 and continued to serve the German settlers in the area until the building was sold in 1914.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

The German Evangelical Church meets Criteria Consideration A as it derives primary significance from its architecture and its association with the earliest settlers of the area not its religious doctrine.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

Westmoreland's 1887 German Evangelical Church represents a common building type and construction method of ordinary people who settled in Pottawatomie County during the late 1800s. Primarily of German extraction, these settlers worked with whatever materials were readily available and did not require expensive transportation costs, professional services, specialized training, or tools difficult to obtain. Many German emigrants settled in Kansas in the second half of the 19th century and brought their customs and traditions with them. One of the ways to continue those in their new home was through their religion. In belonging to the Evangelical Association, they were able to hear sermons in their native language and congregate with fellow German emigrants, but as their children assimilated into the local community, there was no longer a need for a separate church and membership declined; the building was sold in 1914. This simple stone building is significant for its local associations with the early settlers of Westmoreland and as an example of an early public building found in the area.

Elaboration

The German Evangelical Church in Kansas

The Evangelical Discipline was first adopted in the United States at the Annual Conference in 1809. It was organized as the "German translation of the Methodist Discipline and Articles of Faith."² The permanent name of The Evangelical Association was adopted in 1816. John Seybert was elected bishop in 1839 and promoted the idea of German-only churches. He said that "The English people are already amply provided for by other churches."³ This policy stayed in place until the early 20th century when anti-German feelings were prevalent due to World War I. Those younger members who spoke English preferred churches where English was used in the services and this led to the lack of growth in church membership, including in Westmoreland.

The Evangelicals did not come to Kansas until 1858 when ministers arrived in Leavenworth. In 1860 the Iowa conference was organized, and its territory included all of the country west of the Mississippi. In May 1864, the Kansas conference was organized, and its first session was held in Leavenworth in 1865. At that time there were three church buildings and total membership was 176.⁴ The maximum tenure for a minister in one church was three years from 1871 until 1895 and was gradually increased to seven years in 1915. Preaching was the fundamental part of the services. The congregations met in whatever building was available – homes, schools or churches. The bishop, John Seybert, spoke against the use of choirs and instrumental music. In 1914 the membership of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Association totaled 7,949 with 83 preachers and 107 churches.

In 1881, the Kansas Conference of the German Evangelical Church at their meeting in Holton, Kansas, unanimously adopted temperance principles and advocated the prohibition of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors.⁵ In March 1890 the Kansas Evangelical Association had its annual conference again at Holton and adopted a resolution endorsing prohibition and pledging they would teach total abstinence and use their influence to see that the then-current laws prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages were enforced. At this same conference J. K. Elmer was appointed minister at the church in Westmoreland.

² Don W. Holter, *The Lure of Kansas: The Story of Evangelicals and United Brethren 1853 - 1968* (Baldwin City, Kansas: Kansas West Commission on Archives and History, 1990), 11.

³ *Ibid.*, 13.

⁴ Evangelical Association of North America, *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference, 1864-1914* (Cleveland, Ohio: C. Hauser, ca. 1915), 51.

⁵ *Manhattan [Kansas] Nationalist* (April 11, 1881): 2.

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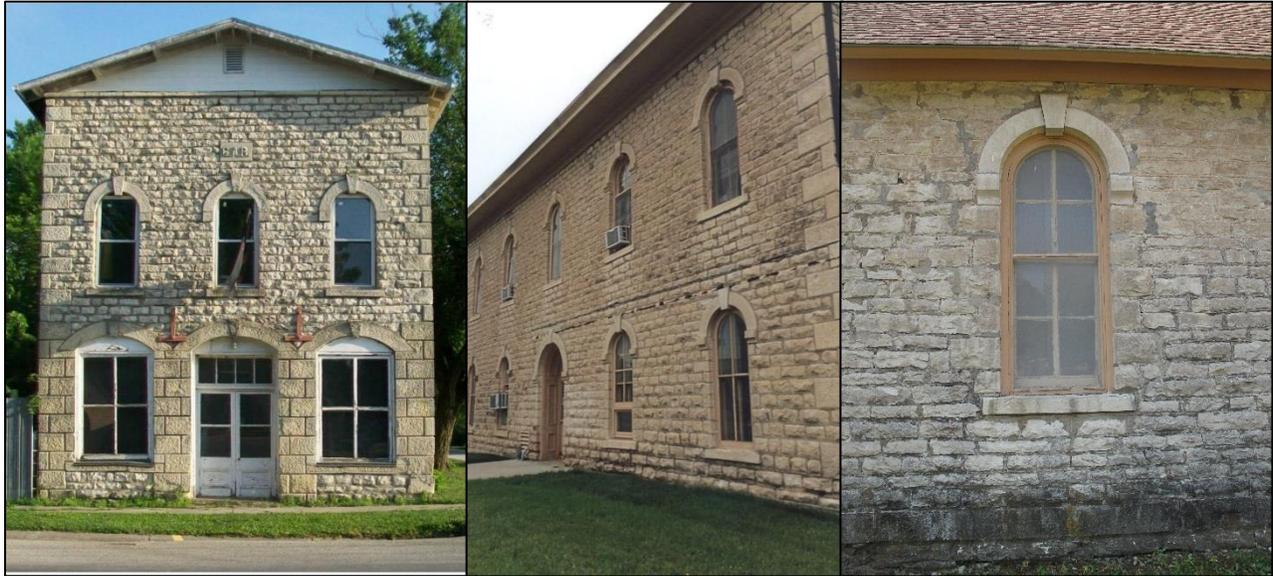


Figure 3: At left, G.A.R. Building (c. 1885); Center, Pottawatomie County Courthouse (1884); Right, Window Detail of German Evangelical Church (1887). All photos from the KHRI.

Other communities included in the Holton District of the Kansas Evangelical conference were Holton, Leavenworth, Atchison, Preston, Berne, Leonardville, Swede Creek, Eudora, Osage and Topeka.⁶ The Evangelical Association split in 1891 over differences among the leaders of the churches but eventually joined back together in 1922 under the name The Evangelical Church. In 1946 the group combined with the United Brethren to become Evangelical United Brethren, and in 1968 joined with the Methodist church to become United Methodist as it remains today.⁷

Westmoreland Community

The Westmoreland area was one of the main camping grounds on the Oregon Trail in Pottawatomie County. One camping area was three-quarters of a mile southeast of Westmoreland on Rock Creek near Scott Spring. There was another large spring just west of the present courthouse in Westmoreland that was used as a camping area. In 1842 Elijah White and John Fremont, with his scout Kit Carson, passed along the trail. In 1844 over 7,000 people passed through Pottawatomie County on their way to Oregon. Others using the trail were Mormons on their way to Utah and gold seekers headed to Colorado. As late as 1871, people who were headed west to buy land were still using the trail, but the railroad was becoming the preferred method of travel.⁸

Pottawatomie County was organized in February 1857 by the Territorial Legislature and is bounded by the Blue River on the west, the Kansas River on the south, Nemaha and Marshall counties on the north and Shawnee and Jackson counties on the east.⁹ The first Pottawatomie County Commissioner's court convened

⁶ "A Firm Stand," *Topeka Daily Capital* (March 25, 1890): 8.

⁷ Holter, 129, 131, 139.

⁸ William E. Smith, "The Oregon Trail through Pottawatomie County," *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society 1926-1928* 17, ed. by William E. Connelly (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 1928): 435-464; Historic Preservation Department, "Study Unit on the Period of Exploration and Settlement (1820s-1880s)," *Kansas Preservation Plan* (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 1987): 13.

⁹ William G. Cutler, "Pottawatomie County," *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), Part 2 [transcription on-line] *Kansas Collections Books* http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/pottawatomie/pottawatomie-co-p2.html#COUNTY_ORGANIZATION (accessed October 25, 2017).

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in the town of St. George on March 21, 1857 and county officers were appointed shortly thereafter. In 1862 the county seat was moved to Louisville.¹⁰

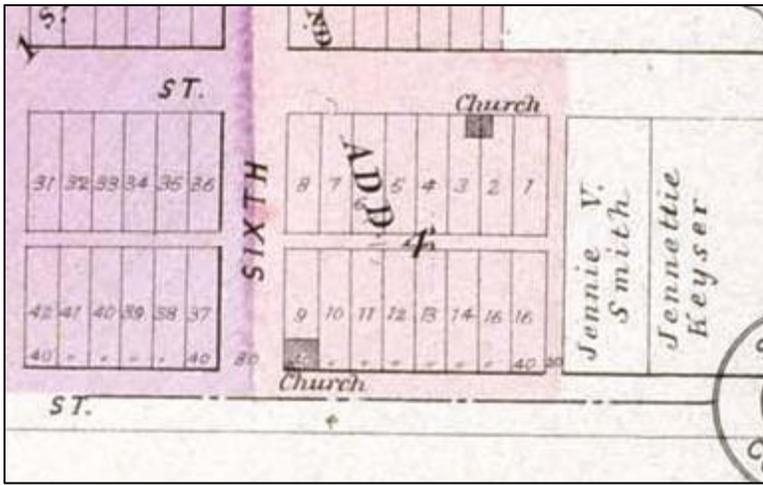


Figure 4: 1905 Atlas view of Westmoreland, showing German Evangelical Church at the northeast corner of Sixth and State streets (*Kansas Memory*).

In the second half of the nineteenth century, almost 90 percent of the Germans who emigrated chose the United States, and many of these people found their way to Kansas. The impetus for this emigration was a desire for religious freedom and an improvement in their economic status. Another factor may have been Germany's adoption of a policy of compulsory military service. In the United States there was the opportunity to own land, the ability to live without oppression and the prospect of a better future for their children.¹¹

The original town plat of Westmoreland, located in Rock Creek Township, was recorded in April 1871, and in 1882, after a contentious election, Westmoreland became the county seat, where it remains today.¹² In 1882 Westmoreland had only

a dozen homes with about 100 people, but tremendous growth was seen after the county seat was moved.¹³ The Westmoreland Post, G. A. R. organized in 1883 and a building had been constructed by 1886.¹⁴ The courthouse was constructed in 1884, and by 1887 the population of Westmoreland was 446.¹⁵ A commercial lot in 1882 sold for \$50, but by 1890 they were selling for about \$800. In March 1890, there were five churches in Westmoreland – Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Congregational and German Evangelical – and a population of 700.¹⁶

Westmoreland's German Evangelical Church

In 1869, William Grutzmacher emigrated from Germany with his wife and children to Pottawatomie County, Kansas.¹⁷ The following year, Grutzmacher purchased land in Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 9 East and Section 27, Township 7 South, Range 10 East in Pottawatomie County, Kansas.¹⁸ The Evangelical Association in Westmoreland was organized at the home of William Grutzmacher in 1871, and services were held there until the church building was finished in 1887.¹⁹

Land for a new church building was purchased in March of 1885 when Grutzmacher entered into a contract to purchase Lots 9 and 10 in Block 4 in Cochrun's Second Addition. The sale was finalized in April 1886 by order of the Pottawatomie County Probate Court after the death of the previous owner, A.C. Cochrun. The agreed upon purchase price was \$65.²⁰

¹⁰ Frank Blackmar, ed., *Kansas: A Cyclopaedia* Vol II (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 490.

¹¹ Marilyn A. Wellauer, *German Immigration to America in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogist's Guide* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Roots International, 1985), 12, 16, 18.

¹² Cutler, "Pottawatomie County," n.p.; Blackmar, 490.

¹³ *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 6, 1890): 4.

¹⁴ *Westmoreland Recorder* (April 1, 1886): 5

¹⁵ *Sixth Biennial Report*, 383.

¹⁶ *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 6, 1890): 4.

¹⁷ *Westmoreland Recorder* (November 10, 1910): 1.

¹⁸ Pottawatomie County Deed Index, January 27 and June 9, 1870.

¹⁹ W.F. Hill, *The Westmoreland [Kansas] Recorder, Railroad Edition* (November 2, 1899): 39.

²⁰ Pottawatomie County Deed Book 9, page 205.

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In March 1887, the *Westmoreland Recorder* announced, "We understand that the members of the German Evangelical Association have commenced hauling rock for the foundation of their new church building."²¹ Work on the building was again reported in the April 14, 1887 paper and again in July when it was nearly completed, "It will be a neat, cozy building – a credit to the society engaged in its erection."²² By the end of September, the building was complete and ready for use.²³

On October 9, 1887, the newly completed German Evangelical Church was dedicated. As Pastor R.R. Brand stated in the October 13, 1887, *Westmoreland Recorder*:

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, the German Evangelical church of Westmoreland, was dedicated to the worship of God, last Sunday Oct. 9, 1887. Money to cover the debt still remaining, was secured in cash and subscription. To the friends and brethren, of Westmoreland and vicinity, who favored us with donations and assisted us in the erecting of this church, we express our sincerest gratitude.²⁴

In June of 1888 the Grutzmachers sold their property in Cochrun's Second Addition—whereon the new stone building was erected—for \$75 to the Board of Trustees of the Evangelican Association in trust for the use and benefit of the Ministry and membership of the Evangelican Association of North America.²⁵

The minister who completed the longest tenure at the German Evangelical church in Westmoreland is Rev. H.S. Bower. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1847 and was admitted to the Pennsylvania conference of the Evangelical Association church at the age of 23 in 1870. He came to Kansas about 1875.²⁶ In 1878, at the 14th session of the Conference held at Willow Springs, Douglas County, Kansas, Bower was received into the itinerancy.²⁷

In March 1881 Bower married Eliza Maria, daughter of William Grutzmacher, a founder of the Westmoreland German Evangelical Church. Rev. Bower was appointed to serve various churches in Missouri and Kansas before coming back to Westmoreland in 1898.²⁸ He was re-appointed to the Westmoreland church in each year between 1899 to 1901, 1904 to 1907, and 1909 to 1911.²⁹ In 1902 he was elected as president of the Sunday school and Tract Union at the 38th annual conference of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Association held that year in Hiawatha. At this same conference, he was appointed an official press representative.³⁰ In 1912 Rev. Bower, at his request, was given a "superannuated relation to the conference" at

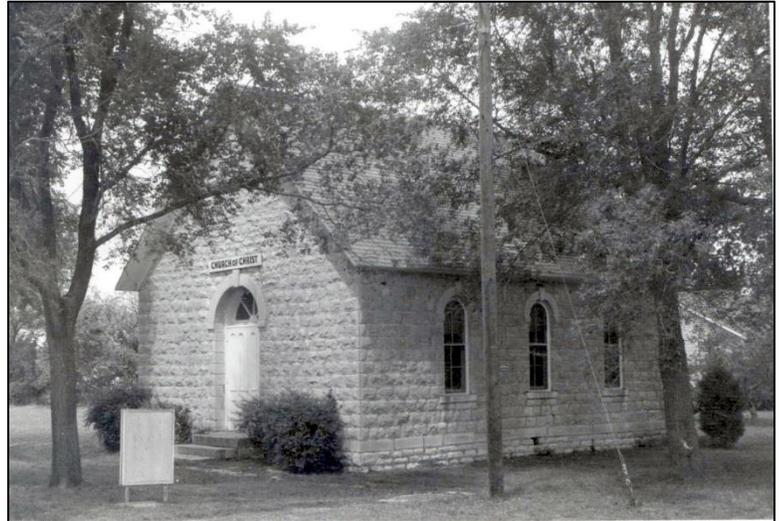


Figure 5: German Evangelical Church in 1977 shortly after its sale to the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society (KHRI).

²¹ *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 17, 1887): 8.

²² *Westmoreland Recorder* (July 28, 1887): 8.

²³ *Westmoreland Recorder* (September 22, 1887): 8.

²⁴ *Westmoreland Recorder* (October 13, 1887): 1.

²⁵ *Westmoreland Recorder* (June 28, 1888): 8; Pottawatomie County Deed Book 14, page 211.

²⁶ "Rev. H.S. Bower Dead," *Westmoreland Recorder* (November 4, 1915): 1.

²⁷ *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference*, 119-120.

²⁸ "Rev. H.S. Bower Dead," 1; *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference*, 259.

²⁹ *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference*, 264, 269, 272, 278, 285, 293, 300, 305, 311, 315, 321, 327, 333.

³⁰ "The Evangelical Conference," *Brown County World [Hiawatha, Kansas]* (March 21, 1902): 13.

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the annual Evangelical Association conference held in St. Joseph Missouri. Since the church in Westmoreland did not have a pastor at the time, he continued to preach there.³¹ He remained an integral part of the Westmoreland church ministry through at least 1914 when he attended the annual conference of the Evangelical Association in Newton.³² He was also active in the Sunday School Association by 1907 and was the opening speaker at the annual convention of the Pottawatomie County Sunday School Association in 1913.³³ Rev. Bower died at Westmoreland October 29, 1915. He was described as “a splendid pastor and was gifted as a plain preacher of the saving truths contained in Holy Scripture.”³⁴ He preached his plain sermons in German at least through 1910.³⁵

On May 12, 1914, the German Evangelical Church was sold to the Church of Christ of Westmoreland with the following provisions in the deed of sale

...no organ nor other musical instrument be used, nor advocated, nor kept; and that no fair, festival, nor other practices, unauthorized in the New Testament, be held, had nor conducted, in, upon, nor about said premises, nor in any building constructed thereon; and in case any such said conduct, acts or unauthorized practices are committed or performed in, upon or about such said premises, or any organ or musical instrument, be introduced into or advocated in any house or edifice erected on said premises, then said premises to become the property of such persons or person of said Church of Christ, who may be opposed to the organ or other musical instruments, festivals or other things, hereinbefore named, being used, kept or advocated on said edifice or house erected on said lot of parcel of ground.³⁶

The deed was signed by J.H. Tobias, D. Swart, C.F. Erffmeyer, M.C. Platz and J.J. Kliphardt as the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Association of North America.³⁷ According to the local newspaper, the *Westmoreland Recorder*, the Evangelical church was “never a strong organization at Westmoreland. It was composed of some splendid German families about here.” Many of the older members had died or moved away; thus, after just 27 years, this building’s associations with some of the area’s early German settlers ended.³⁸

The Church’s Architecture

The exterior of this church reflects a vernacular form of architecture with touches of the Italianate style. Vernacular architecture is defined as, “Architecture that makes use of common regional forms and materials at a particular place and time; sometimes includes strong ethnic influences of an immigrant population.”³⁹ Vernacular architecture is usually modest, not complicated, and often a mixture of styles. It is sometimes also called “folk architecture.”⁴⁰ Local resources include building materials and tools and local labor familiar with the use of these items.

³¹ “Rev. H.S. Bower Superannuated,” *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 28, 1912): 1; *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference*, 336.

³² *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 26, 1914): 5.

³³ *Wamego [Kansas] Times* (April 25, 1907): 3 & (August 7, 1913): 6.

³⁴ C.R. Findley, *History of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Church: Volume II, 1914 – 1939* (Evangelical Church, Kansas Conference Historical Committee, ca. 1940), 24.

³⁵ *Westmoreland Recorder* (June 2, 1910): 1.

³⁶ Pottawatomie County Deed Book 46, page 529. Erffmeyer wrote an autobiography about his experience as a minister.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Westmoreland Recorder* (May 21, 1914): 1.

³⁹ Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1998), 350.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

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Features of the Italianate style of architecture include windows and doors topped with arched or curved window crowns as seen in this church. This style was very popular in the Midwest between 1850 and 1880.⁴¹ Other characteristics of this style often include a gable roof, a belt course around the building and tall, relatively narrow double-hung window sashes.⁴²

Often churches were built by the people of the congregation. Although congregants may not have had much money, many had skills they could use to help with the construction. Using limestone provided a free building material; whereas, wood framing would have to have been purchased. Even those who had few skills could donate wagons, oxen, materials and tools. Women would also get involved by such tasks as providing meals for the builders or helping to mix mortar.⁴³ Rev. Brand's 1887 note of thanks concerning this church indicates it was erected by local labor.⁴⁴

One of the most common building materials in northeast Kansas in the early days of the state was native limestone. There were no forests to provide a large quantity of lumber, but there was a good quantity of limestone close to the surface. Churches built of wood were the exception rather than the rule in most Kansas communities like Westmoreland.⁴⁵ In 1887 Pottawatomie County was the home of fine quality limestone quarries in almost every part of the county not located in a valley, and limestone was thought to be one of the best building materials available.⁴⁶ Since Westmoreland was not near a river and did not have railway service, any materials not obtained locally would have to be transported by wagon from Wamego (14 miles) or from Blaine, also called Butler City, (8 miles) over dirt roads or trails.

The use of limestone gave a sense of permanence to a town. In 1886, the local newspaper applauded the growth of the town:

The town of Westmoreland is started on a substantial boom, is [sic] evidenced by the fact that her merchants and leading citizens are feeling the necessity of erecting substantial buildings for business purposes. In 1885 the stone block on the south side of Main street was erected by C. E. Rose, J. L. Rogers and Jackson & Brown. Their stores are one story, so arranged that when the necessity arises, a second story can be added. They are well built and nicely finished and add much to the appearance of the main street. The three stores together cost something like \$6,000.⁴⁷

In April 1886 the *Westmoreland Recorder* went on to say, in regard to improving the streets of the city, "thicker rock can be had at any of the numerous quarries near the city, more than this, our grandchildren will never see the day when it will be destroyed or out of repair."⁴⁸ And in 1890 "Fine limestone quarries, excellent building material, abound in all portions of the county. The better buildings are constructed from this material."⁴⁹ Another advantage of building with limestone was its resistance to fire.

Although the builder of this church is unknown, we do know there was a German stone mason by the name of Knitter who was constructing stone buildings in Westmoreland in 1886.⁵⁰ F.V. Knitter died in 1895, and his

⁴¹ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, revised edition (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013), 286.

⁴² Harris, 185; McAlester, 283-286.

⁴³ E.R. DeZurko, "Early Kansas Churches," *Kansas State College Bulletin* Vol. XXXIII, (April 1, 1949): 17.

⁴⁴ *Westmoreland Recorder* (October 13, 1887): 1.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 14-15.

⁴⁶ *Sixth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State for the Years 1887-88* (Topeka: Kansas Publishing House, 1889), 383.

⁴⁷ *Westmoreland Recorder* (January 7, 1886): 8. Some of these buildings are still in use on Main Street.

⁴⁸ *Westmoreland Recorder* (November 3, 1887): 8.

⁴⁹ *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 6, 1890): n.p.

⁵⁰ *Westmoreland Recorder* (April 15, 1886): 8.

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funeral service was held at the German Evangelical Church in Westmoreland.⁵¹ He may well have been the skilled craftsman who helped supervise the building of the church.

The Church Building Today

On September 1, 1977, the building and land on which it sits was donated to the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society with the stipulation that if it ceased to be used as a museum it would be given to closest local Church of Christ. The deed was signed by Cecelia Parks and Flora Lee, acting Trustees for the Church of Christ.⁵² In May 1978 Cecelia Parks donated these items to the museum: a pulpit, Bible, four chairs, communion table, cloth, glass and saucer and Church of Christ song book.⁵³

The Rock Creek Valley Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit 501c(3) entity in 1977 with the purpose of preserving and promoting the history of our community. The museum is charged with collecting and preserving artifacts and documents which reflect the history, culture, and/or traditions of the Rock Creek Valley area. The 1887 church building is integral to the museum by being a place where some of the earliest settlers of the Rock Creek Valley congregated from 1887 to 1914. As one of the oldest structures in Westmoreland, the building continues to communicate its significance for this association, and in its relatively unaltered state, it continues to communicate its significance as an excellent example of local building techniques in the 1880s.

⁵¹ *Westmoreland Recorder* (March 14, 1895): 8.

⁵² Pottawatomie County Deed Book 168, page 81.

⁵³ Museum donation forms on file with the Rock Creek Valley Historical Society.

German Evangelical Church
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Blackmar, Frank W., editor. *Kansas A Cyclopedia of State History, Embracing Events, Institutions, Industries, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, Etc.* Vol. II Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.
- Cutler, William G. *History of the State of Kansas.* Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883.
- DeZurko, E.R. "Early Kansas Churches." *Kansas State College Bulletin* Vol. XXXIII, (April 1, 1949).
- Evangelical Association of North America. *Fifty years in the Kansas Conference, 1864-1914: A Record of the Origin and Development of the Work of the Evangelical Association in the territory covered by the Kansas Conference.* Cleveland, Ohio: Press of Evangelical Association, C. Hauser, ca. 1915.
- Findley, C.R. *History of the Kansas Conference of the Evangelical Church: Volume II, 1914 – 1939.* Evangelical Church, Kansas Conference Historical Committee, ca. 1940.
- Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia.* New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1998.
- Hill, W.F. *The Westmoreland [Kansas] Recorder, Railroad Edition* (November 2, 1899): n.p.
- Holter, Don. *The Lure of Kansas: The Story of Evangelicals and United Brethren 1853-1968.* Baldwin City, Kansas: Kansas West Commission on Archives and History: 1990.
- Kansas. Pottawatomie County. Deed Records. Pottawatomie County Register of Deeds, Westmoreland.
- Kansas. Westmoreland. *Westmoreland Recorder.*
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* Revised edition. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2013.
- Rock Creek Valley Historical Society records.
- Sixth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State for the Years 1887-88.* Topeka: Kansas Publishing House, 1889.
- Wellauer, Marilyn A. *German Immigration to America in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogist's Guide.* Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Roots International, 1985.

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: Rock Creek Valley Historical Society

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

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.392060 -96.409880 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property is bound by State Street on the south, 6th Street on the west, and is described as Lot 9 and the west 1 foot of Lot 10 in Block 4 in Cochrun's Second Addition on the south side of the city of Westmoreland, Pottawatomie County, Kansas.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

This is the legal description of the property on which the church is located as identified in the deed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Parker
organization Rock Creek Valley Historical Society date Fall 2017
street & number 507 Burkman, P O Box 13 telephone 785-313-0695
city or town Westmoreland state Kansas zip code 66549
e-mail mjp@bluevalley.net

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Rock Creek Valley Historical Society
street & number 507 Burkman, P O Box 13 telephone 785-457-0100
city or town Westmoreland state Kansas zip code 66549

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.

German Evangelical Church
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: German Evangelical Church
City or Vicinity: Westmoreland
County: Pottawatomie State: Kansas
Photographer: Amanda K. Loughlin (KSHS)
Date Photographed: September 2017

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

- 01 of 06:** Looking SE at north and west facades
- 02 of 06:** North façade, looking south
- 03 of 06:** Looking SW at east and north facades
- 04 of 06:** Looking NW at south façade
- 05 of 06:** Interior, looking ESE from entry
- 06 of 06:** Interior, looking NW from altar area

Figures Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

- 01 of 05:** Contextual map, showing location of church within Westmoreland and surrounding area. Kansas Historic Resources Inventory. www.kshs.org/khri
- 02 of 05:** Boundary map, showing the church on lot 9 and part of lot 10. Google Earth, 2014 image.
- 03 of 05:** At left, G.A.R. Building (c. 1885); Center, Pottawatomie County Courthouse (1884); Right, Window Detail of German Evangelical Church (1887). All photos from Kansas Historic Resources Inventory. www.kshs.org/khri
- 04 of 05:** Atlas view of Westmoreland, showing German Evangelical Church at the northeast corner of Sixth and State streets. *Standard Atlas of Pottawatomie County, Kansas*. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1905, 67. Available from *Kansas Memory* <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209420>.
- 05 of 05:** Looking NE at the west and south facades of the church. July 1977. Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Historic Resources Inventory. www.kshs.org/khri