

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church

other names/site number Immanuel Congregational Church; Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ; 5MR.832

2. Location

street & number 209 Everett Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Brush [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Morgan code 087 zip code 80723

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 [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ State Historic Preservation Officer _____ Date _____

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: _____ Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- [] entered in the National Register [] See continuation sheet. _____
- [] determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet. _____
- [] determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
- [] removed from the National Register _____
- [] other, explain [] See continuation sheet. _____

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Name of Property

Morgan County/ Colorado
County/State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT
other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Name of Property

Morgan County/ Colorado
County/State

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

SIMON, WALTER A.

KENNEY, FRANK M.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Name of Property

Morgan County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 617338 4457284 (NAD 27)
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl McWilliams (Prepared for property owner)

organization Cultural Resource Historians date May 26, 2005

street & number 1607 Dogwood Court telephone (970) 493-5270

city or town Fort Collins state Colorado zip code 80525

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Immanuel Congregational Church (Mel Meininger, Trustee)

street & number 209 Everett Street telephone (970) 842-5337

city or town Brush state Colorado zip code 80723

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church is located at the northwest corner of Clifton and Everett Streets, in a residential neighborhood northeast of downtown Brush. Constructed in 1927, the brick Late Gothic Revival style church is oriented toward Everett Street to the south. Overall, the church measures fifty-five feet north-south, by fifty-five feet east-west. Included within these dimensions are a 14-foot by 14-foot bell tower which comprises the building's southeast corner, and a lower 15-foot by 15-foot gabled tower which comprises the southwest corner. The entire building is supported by a concrete foundation, which is faced with wire-cut red brick to approximately five feet above grade. The foundation is topped by a sloping brick water table, and there is a full basement, which gains natural light through one-over-one double-hung sash windows, with painted white wood frames and surrounds. Above the foundation, the church's exterior walls are faced with wire-cut red bricks laid in running bond, over concrete walls. A cornerstone is located at the lower east end of the façade wall, on the south elevation, and is inscribed:

**IMMANUEL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
ORGANIZED 1910
ERECTED 1927**

The church is covered by a steeply pitched cross gabled roof, covered with black asphalt shingles and featuring closed eaves. A large red brick chimney is centered on the exterior of the north (rear) elevation, and parapet walls extend slightly above the rooflines in the upper gable ends. The bell tower, at the east end of the façade, represents a visually impressive architectural feature. It is a tall brick edifice, with a crenellated parapet extending above the roofline, and with brick coping along the edges. The primary entry into the church leads into a vestibule located below the bell tower. Here, a set of paired painted white wood slab entry doors, with decorative strapwork, is set within a segmental arch entryway. These doors lead into the vestibule from a seven step concrete porch, with the stairs flanked by brick and concrete kneewalls, and by black pipe railings. A handicapped accessible entry leads into another vestibule beneath the gabled tower at the west end of the façade. A concrete sidewalk approaches this entry, with a curb cut at the street, and there is a set of painted white vertical wood slab doors set within a segmental brick arch. An elevator, meeting code requirements for handicapped accessibility, is located behind the doors. Both towers feature Gothic Revival style decorative details, including stepped brick pilasters with triangular concrete elements at the corners and large ornate Gothic-arch windows with tracery.

Large Gothic-arch windows, with stained glass lights and tracery, penetrate the brick walls on the church's east, south, and west elevations. The major Gothic-arch windows on the east and west elevations are flanked by flat-arched casement-style windows. However these casement-style windows feature false lancet-style arches, which are filled with brick rather than glass. On the building's north (rear) elevation, there are two one-over-one double-hung sash windows with flat arches. The Gothic-arch windows are highly decorative, and according to the architect's glazing specifications they all feature "amber cathedral glass set in flat lead cabs." Situated above each of the three large Gothic-arch windows is a metal star.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 2*Interior*

The main floor of the church's interior consists of the two vestibules beneath the towers, the sanctuary, the chancel, a small office, and men's and ladies' restrooms. A choir loft and a small storeroom overlook the sanctuary and the chancel, filling in the space between the two towers. A wooden staircase within the bell tower vestibule provides access to the choir loft, and also descends to the basement. A rear staircase, leading from the office, also descends to the basement. The sanctuary features stained wooden pews, separated by two center aisles. The chancel is slightly raised above the floor of the sanctuary. Its side walls are painted white, with stained dark brown wood trim and painted white columns with decorative capitals at the corners where the sanctuary and chancel meet. The chancel's rear wall features sections of stained dark brown wood paneling at either end, flanking a painted white center section where there is a large cross fastened to the wall.

The sanctuary floor is finished with tongue-and-groove oak flooring, covered with a relatively new Berber carpet. The perimeter and partition walls are both finished with painted white plaster, while the open ceiling is paneled "Celotex" with decorative stained dark brown wood strips. The interior woodwork - including door and window frames, moldings, and baseboards - is made of white or yellow pine, stained dark brown. The church basement consists of a large meeting room (known as the "Sunday School Room"), a fairly large kitchen, a boiler room, and men's and ladies' restrooms. The basement floor also features a relatively new Berber carpet, laid over tongue-and-groove fir flooring, which in turn is laid over a wooden sub floor and a four-inch thick concrete slab. The basement walls and ceiling are finished with painted white plaster.

Grounds

The church building occupies most of two lots, which measure 100 feet north-south by 90 feet east-west, at the northwest corner of Clifton and Everett Streets. The building is surrounded on all four sides by a well-cared-for planted grass lawn. A grass strip separates a concrete sidewalk from Clifton Street along the east property line, while the concrete sidewalk, along the south property line lies directly adjacent to Everett Street. Single-family homes are located north and west of the church. A gravel parking lot, utilized by the church's parishioners, is located across Everett Street to the south.



1935. Church seen in upper right hand corner. Image courtesy of Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, Photo X-7256.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 3**SIGNIFICANCE**

The German Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance.¹ The church embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture, including its brick construction, two corner towers with decorative corner pilasters, pointed arch windows, two slightly recessed entrances, and its steeply-pitched cross-gable roof. The building is also architecturally significant because it was designed by Denver architect, Walter H. Simon and to a lesser degree because it was constructed under the direction of Frank M. Kenney, a well-known Colorado building contractor.

Designed and built in 1927, the Immanuel Congregational Church is one of Simon's earliest works in Colorado, and it is the only church building which he is known to have designed.² Simon's career spanned more than a half century (1925-1976) during which time he designed numerous buildings in a variety of architectural styles. His commissions throughout Colorado included several apartment buildings, one courthouse (for Rio Grande County in Del Norte), two schools, several residences, and a handful of commercial buildings. Simon executed these buildings in a variety of styles, most notably in the Art Deco, International, Mediterranean Revival, Mission Revival, and Pueblo Revival styles. The Immanuel Congregational Church, however, is the only Late Gothic Revival style building he is known to have designed. The church represents Brush's best example of the Late Gothic Revival style. It displays excellent physical integrity, having had no additions to its original construction. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, Criteria Consideration A applies.

Historical Background*Early History 1910 – 1927*

Built in 1927, this church has served continuously as a house of worship for the region's German from Russia population, and their descendants, from that time to the present day. The church's congregation had been organized in November 1910, under the name German Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church, following the merger of two struggling congregations, the Immanuel Congregational Church and the German Evangelical Church. With their roots in the Lutheran and Reformed movements, when combined, these two denominations seemed to create a religious philosophy that was ideal for German Russians. It allowed them to embrace a renewed sense of their German heritage, while at the same time it encouraged them to adopt new freedoms of life in America.³

Many of the church's charter members came to America as young children, having been born in the Volga River Valley in Russia. Their ancestors were among some twenty-seven thousand German farmers and craftsmen who immigrated to the steppes of Russia between 1764 and 1767. In 1763, in an attempt to

¹ When it was built in 1927, the church's full name was "German Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church," though the cornerstone records the name as "Immanuel Congregational Church." Throughout its history, however, the church was commonly known as the "Immanuel Congregational Church." Today, the church's proper name is the "Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ."

² Simon did, however, design an addition to the Park Hill United Methodist Church at 5209 Montview Boulevard in Denver, in 1956. The Pencil Apartments at 504-518 E. Colfax Avenue in Denver is the first Colorado building which Simon is known to have designed. His next two earliest known commissions are this church and the Petteys Mansion, a Mediterranean Revival style dwelling also located in Brush at 726 Cameron Street. Both of these buildings were completed in 1927. Two other early Simon designed-buildings were the Aromor Apartments and the Casa Grande Apartments in Denver, both completed in 1928.

³ Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ, p. 1.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4

reform her economy, Catherine the Great had issued an invitation to people of other nations to come to Russia to work as farmers. Attracted by free land, exemption from military service, religious liberty, and other privileges, German colonists established more than one hundred settlements on both sides of the Volga River.

For more than a century, the Volga Germans enjoyed their adopted land. In 1866, however, Russia began to restrict the German Russians' freedom. In increasing attempts at Russification, edicts were issued concerning the colonists' rights to educate their children in German. In 1871, young German men were drafted into the military. These actions, combined with a lessening of religious liberty, and exacerbated by a famine, led many German Russians to come to America. Excellent farmers, many settled in the wheat growing areas of western Canada and the United States, and in the burgeoning sugar beet growing areas of the Great Plains.

After first settling in areas around Lincoln, Crete, McCook, and Scottsbluff, Nebraska, many German Russian families moved westward to Colorado, to work as beet laborers in the South Platte Valley. In this region, beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century, they helped establish such towns as Brush, Fort Morgan, Akron, and Hillrose. During these same years, German Russians helped Colorado become the nation's leading producer of sugar beets, and due in large part to their efforts, Brush could boast of having one of the state's early sugar beet factories, built in 1906.

At an organizational meeting held on November 6, 1910, leaders of the Immanuel Congregational and German Evangelical Churches discussed merging the two congregations. The union became official just over a month later, when on December 10, 1910 the German Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church was formed with eighty-eight charter members. Peter Befus, John Troutt, and G.G. Walter were elected as Deacons, while John Lebsock and J.G. Koehler were elected as the new congregation's first Trustees. Other offices were voted on as well, with David G. Ruhl elected Scribe, George Wiederspahn, Treasurer, G.P. Weber, Sunday School Superintendent, and David C. Rule, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.⁴

Between 1910 and 1927, the congregation worshipped in a wood frame church building, located on Bruse Street south of the railroad tracks.⁵ In these early years retaining and coming up with the funds to pay a minister, was a constant challenge. For a time, the church shared a minister with another church in Fort Morgan, with the two congregations splitting his \$850.00 annual salary. In addition, the Brush church contributed \$50.00 annually toward the cost of a parsonage, which was located in Fort Morgan.

In April 1917, the church Board of Trustees voted to no longer be "yoked" with Fort Morgan, and to offer an annual salary of \$1000.00 to attract a new minister who would exclusively serve their church. Carl Haemmelmann accepted the offer a few months later, becoming the church's first pastor who did not also serve Fort Morgan. Retaining a pastor proved to remain a challenge, however, as Haemmelmann stayed for little more than a year, and was likewise followed by George Hein, who also stayed for just over a year. Then, in 1920, with the arrival of Pastor Henry C. Zorn, the church began a period of sustained growth.

⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 3, 4.

⁵ This church had been built in 1891 in the 300 block of Clifton Street. It had served at that location as the first Rankin Presbyterian Church until 1907 when the Presbyterians built their new church at the southwest corner of Clayton and Emerson Streets. Two years later, in 1909, the old Presbyterian Church building was acquired by the German Congregationalists, who moved it to a lot on South Bruse Street which had been donated by the Lincoln Land Company. Following the 1910 merger, this building served as the German Evangelical Congregational Immanuel Church until the new church was built in 1927.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 5

Under Zorn's steady leadership, membership began to grow, the financial situation improved, and the church leaders gradually began to plan for the future.⁶

Construction History

By the mid-1920s, the need for a larger church had become increasingly apparent. Accordingly, in the fall of 1926, two lots were acquired at the corner of Everett and Clifton Street, as the church members overwhelmingly voted to build a new church at that location, rather than adding onto or building a new church at their old location on South Bruse Street. The Board of Trustees next contracted with Denver architect Walter H. Simon, requesting that he design a brick church for the approximate cost of \$23,000.00 to \$25,000.00. The Board held two meetings to discuss financing the new church, on April 18th and April 25th, 1927, voting to raise nearly \$12,000.00 by assessing each member \$50.00, and to seek a loan from the Congregational Church Building Society. An additional \$2400.00 was raised through pledges from business people in Brush.

Architect Walter H. Simon had been born in 1892 in Quincy, Illinois. After graduating from the Illinois School of Architecture in 1915, he began his professional career in Eldorado, Kansas, where he married Clara Johanna Loos. Mr. and Mrs. Simon moved to Denver circa 1920, and by 1922 Simon was employed as a draftsman in the architectural firm of William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher. Simon established his own architectural firm circa 1925, and soon after received his first known major commission, the design of the Pencil Apartment Building on East Colfax Avenue, in Denver. The next two buildings Simon is known to have designed are this church and a Mediterranean Revival dwelling, also located in Brush, built for the Alonzo Petteys family.⁷

Capitalizing on his early success, Simon then designed several other apartments in Denver, along with other notable buildings such as the Rio Grande County Courthouse in Del Norte, the Del Norte Grade School, the Ertel Funeral Home in Cortez, the Fort Morgan Police and Fire Building, the Stanley Arms Building in Denver, and KOA Radio Station in Denver. Simon executed these buildings in a variety of styles, most notably in the Art Deco, International, Mediterranean Revival, Mission Revival, and Pueblo Revival styles. The Immanuel Congregational Church, however, is the only Gothic Revival style building he is known to have designed. Although Simon's career was at its peak in the 1930s, he remained in practice until 1976, when he finally retired at the age of eighty-four. He passed away ten years later, on December 30, 1986, at the age of ninety-four.⁸

Simon prepared detailed plans for the church's construction in the spring of 1927, issuing separate sets of instructions to prospective bidders under the headings "General Work", "Electric Wiring", "Heating and Ventilating", and "Plumbing." On July 7, 1927, the Board of Trustees opened their meeting with a prayer and a verse from the bible, before getting down to the business of opening and discussing the bids. Six bids had been received for the general construction, including, Clifton Hamby of Brush, L.J. Brown of Brush, Jake Kleine of McCook, Nebraska, Frank Kenney of Denver, the Kutitzen Brothers of Denver, and Harvey Stenmark of Denver. Separate bids were received for the plumbing, heating and ventilating, and electric wiring. The Trustees took no action that day, but after reconvening the following week, on July 14th, they voted to accept the general contract bid of Frank M. Kenney, along with the bids of William Turpin (plumbing), and William Dowlen (electric wiring).⁹ Six days later, on July 20th, the Trustees

⁶Seventy-Fifth Anniversary..., p. 6.

⁷Located at 726 Cameron Street, the Petteys Mansion is still in existence in 2005.

⁸www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/guides/architecture/archindex/htm

⁹ Frank M. Kenney, who in 1927 resided with his wife Madeline at 832 Lafayette Street in Denver, was a

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number 8 Page 6

awarded the final contract, for the heating and ventilating system, to W.B. Hickerson of Denver.

Construction on the church began immediately, and within a month the cornerstone was ready to be laid, as reported by the *Brush News* in their edition of August 19, 1927:

Cornerstone of New German Congregational Church at Corner of Everett and Clifton Streets to be Laid August 21st. The cornerstone of the new \$28,000.00 church will contain a space 5 x 8 inches into which a copper box will contain a short history of the church, a bible, copies of the *Brush* newspaper, names of the pastor, donors, and congregation.¹⁰

Located at the base of the bell tower, the cornerstone was inscribed "Immanuel Congregational Church Organized 1910 Erected 1927."

Work on the new church was completed by September 18, 1927, as on that date Walter Simon submitted the following statement, addressed to the Building Committee of the German Congregational Church:

Dear Sirs,

I beg to submit the following report on the contracts award to date,

General Contract	\$22,999.00
Plumbing Contract	\$1051.00
Electric Contract	\$325.00
Heating Contract	<u>\$2050.00</u>
Total	\$26,425.00

Three percent of the above amount is \$792.75 of which \$731.25 has been received leaving a balance due of \$61.50.

In addition to the above amount there is now due \$42.00 for three trips as per the contract.

**Very truly yours
[signed] Walter H. Simon¹¹**

Three dedication services for the new church were held on December 4, 1927, and duly reported on by

prominent Colorado contractor. He was principally involved in the construction of at least two other historic structures: these were the Lutheran Hospital at 8300 W. 38th Avenue in Jefferson County (built by Kenney in 1932 in association with Frank W. Frewen Jr.); and the steel arch superstructure for the Red Cliff Bridge carrying U.S. Highway 24 over the Eagle River in Eagle County (constructed by Kenney in association with the Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company). (The Lutheran Hospital has been historically designated as a Jefferson County Centennial Site, and the Red Cliff Bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.)

¹⁰*Brush News*, August 19, 1927. See also, *Brush News-Tribune Centennial Issue 1896 – 1996*, sec. 2, p. 3.

¹¹Simon probably hand-delivered the statement when he inspected the church on September 19th, 1927, as the following handwritten notations appear at the bottom of the invoice: "Pd. 10/8/27", and "Including trip on Sept. 19, 1927." Simon visited the site again on November 1, 1927, when he submitted a final invoice "in the amount of \$56.00 being in full for four trips including the one on this date."

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 7

the *Brush News* and *Brush Tribune*. Attended by a combined crowd of two thousand people, who “filled the new building to capacity”, the services included sermons and psalms read by pastors from Brush and Fort Morgan, dedication prayers, hymns, and songs which were sung in Russian, Spanish, and “in a strange language.”¹² A total of \$5100.00 was raised during the day, either through pledges or direct contributions.¹³

The Immanuel Congregational Church 1927 – 2005

Since its construction in 1927, the Immanuel Congregational Church has remained as built, with only very minimal alterations. The most notable renovation occurred in 1988, when an elevator was installed in the west tower, to provide for handicapped accessibility. This work was carried out by Pastor Charles “Chuck” Rains, who was also an experienced building contractor. Otherwise, the building has seen only routine maintenance over the years. Such improvements have included the purchase of a Baldwin organ and a set of chimes in 1951, repairs to the roof in 1952, and converting the furnace to natural gas in 1953. Then, in the late 1960s, members of the Brush High School woodworking class made book racks to be installed in the pews, along with two walnut candle holders for the altar, and coat racks for each of the vestibules. More recently, the roof was re-shingled following a hailstorm in 1973 and the sanctuary and basement floors were carpeted in the 1980s.¹⁴

Membership in the church grew steadily during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. From the original eighty-eight charter members in 1910, the church had grown to more than 150 parishioners at the time the church was built in 1927 and by 1936 the membership rolls had risen to 250. Membership then peaked in the late 1940s and early 1950s at close to 300. After then holding steady for a time, by the mid-1980s, church membership had slipped to about 150, and it has continued to decline at a modest rate from that time to the present. Today, in 2005, there are approximately 120 members, of which about 40 are very active.¹⁵

In addition to attending regular Sunday services, many parishioners have also participated in important organizations within the church. Perhaps the best known of these is the “Martha Ladies Aid Society”, which was formed in 1921 under the leadership of Pastor Henry G. Zorn. The Society’s initial goodwill project was sewing clothes for loved ones in Russia, while later undertakings included providing aid to children’s homes in Germany, purchasing defense stamps, and sewing for the Red Cross. In 1963, the Martha Ladies Aid Society’s name was changed to the “Women’s Fellowship” and from that time to the present, the group has focused on mission work, bible study, and fellowship. Another women’s group has been the “Ladies Chorus” which was organized in 1939 by church pianist Mrs. Edward Hildebrand. Traditionally, the Ladies Chorus has sung at morning worship services at least once a month, and helped wherever needed at church functions.¹⁶

Other church organizations have included: “Congregating Couples”, organized in 1954 for the purpose of providing Christian fellowship for young couples; the “Youth Group”, which has focused on a variety of church and community activities; and the “Church School”, which has carried out “the mission of teaching bible stories and truths as they relate to present-day living.”

¹²Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ Brush, Colorado, 1910-1985, p. 13.

¹³*Ibid.*

¹⁴Seventy-Fifth Anniversary..., pp. 17-22.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*Ibid.*

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number 8 Page 8

Architect's Report/ Bill- September 1927

WALTER H. SIMON
ARCHITECT

Denver, Colorado.
September 18, 1927.

The Building Committee,
The German Congregational Church,
Brush, Colorado.

Dear Sirs,

I beg to submit the following report

on the contracts awarded to date,

- General Contract	\$ 22,999.00
Plumbing Contract	1,051.00
Electric Contract	325.00
Heating Contract	- 2,050.00
Total	\$ 26,425.00

Three per cent of the above amount is
\$792.75 of which \$731.25 has been received leaving
a balance due of \$61.50.

In addition to the above amount there
is now due \$42.00 for three trips as per the contract.

Very truly yours,



*Including trip
on Sept. 19, 1927
\$103.50
Pd 10/8/27*

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number 8 Page 9

Architect's Bill- November 1927

<p>1526 LINCOLN STREET DENVER, COLORADO</p>	<p>451 MAIN STREET GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO</p>
<p>WALTER H. SIMON ARCHITECT</p>	
<p><i>Denver, Colorado,</i> November 1, 1927.</p>	
<p>The German Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado.</p>	
<p>Gentlemen, I hereby submit my statement in the amount of \$56.00 being in full for four trips in cluding the one on this date.</p>	
<p>Sincerely, <i>Walter H. Simon</i></p>	
<p><i>Received Payment for \$56.00 Nov 1927 Walter H. Simon</i></p>	

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 9 Page 10**BIBLIOGRAPHY*****Published Sources***

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The History of East Morgan County, Colorado. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987, pp. 22-23.

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McWilliams, Carl. "Immanuel Congregational Church." (5MR.832) Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Architectural Inventory Form, May 12, 2003. On file at the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

"Plat of the Ninth Addition to Brush, Morgan County, Colorado." October 27, 1919. On file at the Morgan County Clerk's Office, Fort Morgan, Colorado.

"Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ Brush, Colorado, 1910-1985. On file at Immanuel Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado.

Simon, Walter H. Correspondence to "The Building Committee, The German Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado." September 18, 1927.

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Simon, Walter H. "General Work of a Church Building, German Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado, Job #157." n.d. (1927).

Simon, Walter H. "Specifications for Electric Wiring in a Church Building, German Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado, Job #157." n.d. (1927).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ ColoradoSection number 9 Page 11

Simon, Walter H. "Specifications for Heating and Ventilating in a Church Building, German Congregational Church, Brush, Colorado, Job #157." n.d. (1927).

www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/guides/architecture/archindex/htm

In addition to the above-listed sources, on January 27, 2005, a roundtable oral interview session was held with several long-time church members. Those who participated were Harry Rieger, Esther Walter, Esther Schudman, Mollie Bose, Edna Marcht, Wonna Funk, Glen W. Lawrence, Leroy and Eunice Needens, Florence and Bob Kauk, and Mel Meininger, Jr.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number 10 Page 12

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

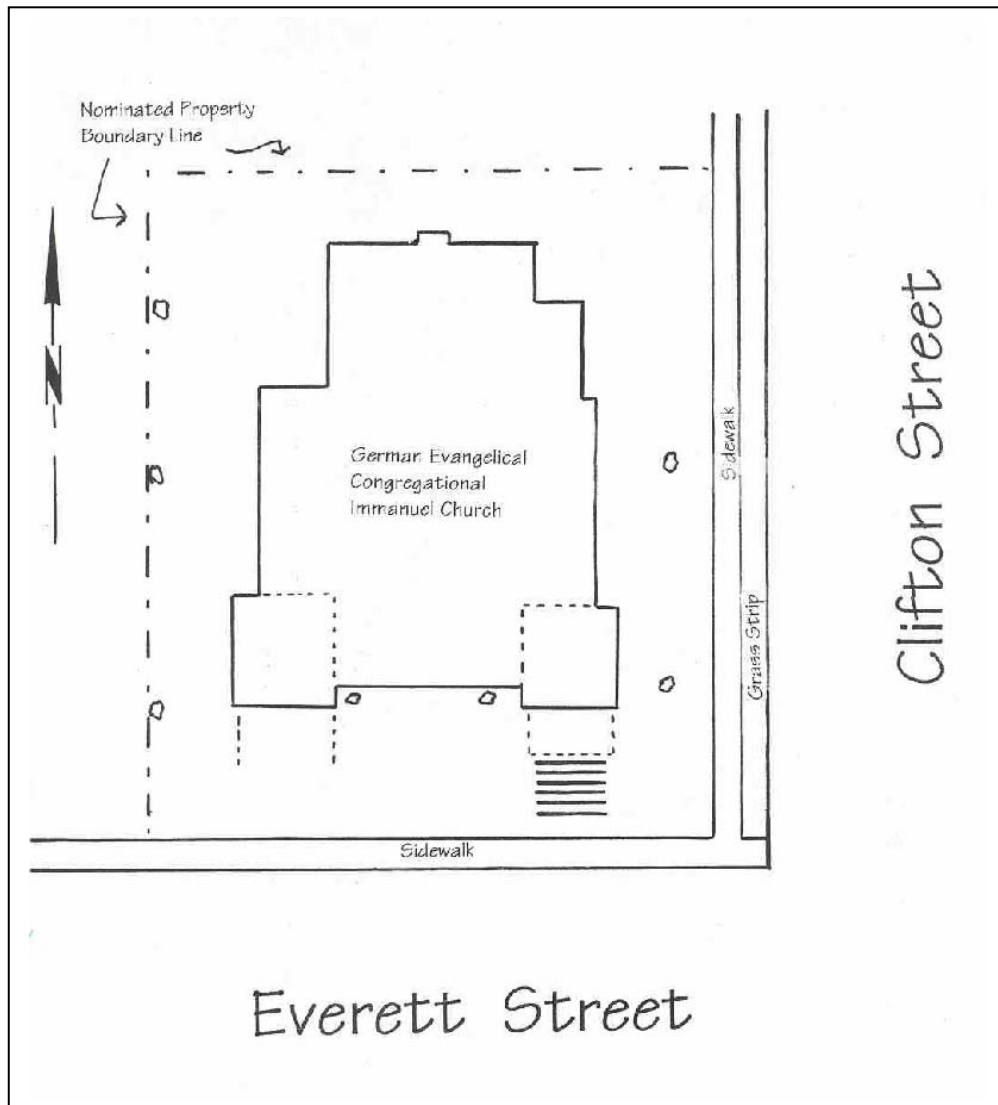
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The east ninety feet of Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Brush Ninth Addition, in the city of Brush, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above-described property is the specific parcel of land, which has been associated with the nominated building throughout its history.

Building Footprint



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number ___ Page 13

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 11-36 except as noted:

Name of Property: German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
 Location: Morgan County/ Colorado
 Photographer: Carl McWilliams
 Date of Photographs: February 18, 2005
 Negatives: Immanuel Congregational United Church of Christ

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
36	View to north, of the church's façade (south elevation)
35	View to north, of bell tower at east end of façade
34	View to north, of tower at west end of façade
33	View to northwest
32	View to west, of the east elevation
31	View to west, of bell tower
30	View to north, of window detail on façade
29	View to southwest, showing portions of the east and north elevations
28	View to southeast, showing the north elevation and a portion of the west elevation
27	View to east, of the west elevation
26	View to northeast
25	View to north, of handicapped-accessible entrance in tower at the west end of the façade
24	View to north, of main entrance in bell tower at the east end of the façade
23	View to north, of cornerstone at the east end of the façade
22	Interior view of sanctuary
21	Interior view of the sanctuary and chancel
20	Interior view of the sanctuary and chancel
19	Interior view, window detail
18	Interior view, window detail
17	Interior view, window detail
16	Interior view, window detail
15	Interior view of chancel
14	Interior view of staircase in bell tower
13	Interior view of choir loft and sanctuary
12	Interior view of Sunday School room in basement
11	Interior view of Sunday School room in basement

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

German Evangelical Immanuel Congregational Church
Morgan County/ Colorado

Section number ___ Page 14

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Brush East Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 617338E / 4457284N
PLSS: 6th PM, T3N, R56W, Sec. 2
NW¼, SW¼, NW¼, NW¼
Elevation: 4232 feet

