

St. Paul's Evangelical Church  
(John Tegeler Barn)  
U.S. Route 50  
Gerald Vicinity  
Franklin County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1286

HABS  
MO  
36-GER.V,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

ST PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
(John Tegeler Barn)

HABS  
MO  
36-GER.V,  
2-

Location: U.S. Route 50  
1.0 Mile East of Gerald  
Gerald Vicinity  
Franklin County  
Missouri

Present Owner: Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of  
Significance:

This structure is an example of late 19th Century German Vernacular, half-timbered ("Fachwerk") architecture in the Gerald vicinity. Fachwerk construction is an uncommon 19th Century vernacular building tradition introduced into central Missouri by German immigrants of the mid 19th Century. It was never popular in central Missouri, and existing examples of this type of structure are rare, although its Old World origins were long-standing. This structure is the only known example of the use of this technique in the construction of a church in Missouri. The structure is also remarkable for the relatively late example (1885) of the continuation of this building tradition. The structure derives its significance from the rarity of its construction technique, the uniqueness of this building technique in the construction of 19th Century rural churches and its date of construction, which indicates a remarkable persistence of long-standing Old World traditions within the German populated areas of central Missouri.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of Erection: ca. 1885/1886

Architect: Unknown

Historical Narrative

The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Tegeler Barn) was constructed sometime before its dedication on August 29, 1886. Presumably, it was built in 1885-1886. It was the second actual church building erected by the German

Evangelical Lutheran church of Franklin County. The German Lutheran parish at Shotwell was organized sometime before January, 1856, when the first entry was made in the existing church records.

The original log church was dedicated on April 9, 1860. It stood on the site of the church cemetery, some three hundred feet south of the 1886 church building. A parsonage was built in 1863. It still stands, between the 1886 structure and the cemetery. The 1886 half-timbered building served as a church from its dedication in 1886 until sometime in 1904, when it and the land it was on was sold by the church trustees. A new church was built in 1904-1905 and dedicated on July 16, 1905. The new structure was built in the town of Gerald, which was founded in 1900; the move reflected the changes occurring in population centers and transportation and communication nexus.

When formed, the German Evangelical congregation of Shotwell was presumably quite small. When the 1886 structure was dedicated, the parish membership was 25. The earliest reference to the congregation's name is a deed from 1866 which refers to the trustees of "St. Paulus Church". On September 4, 1899 the church was incorporated as the German Evangelical Church of Shotwell. The parish retained the name German Evangelical St. Paul's Church following its move into the incorporated town of Gerald in 1905. It retained this name until 1934, subsequent to the merger of Congregational, German Presbyterian and Evangelical groups. In 1957 it adopted the name United Church of Christ.

The 1886 church was converted to a barn for agricultural use sometime after its abandonment by the German Evangelical St. Paul's Church congregation, in 1904. It was at this time that a loft, or second floor was added, as well the two lean-to sheds, interior cribs, mangers, and stalls. Use of the structure as a barn accelerated the building's deterioration. The property was purchased by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department on July 24, 1984, since which time the structure has been abandoned.

As a community building and activity center, St. Paul's served as a nucleus for community activities from 1886-1904 for the rural, unincorporated agricultural community of Shotwell, which no longer exists.

#### ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: The St. Paul's Church building is of architectural interest because of the rarity of its construction technique, and its example of the persistence of an archaic building tradition.
2. Condition of Fabric: Poor (to be demolished).
3. Summary Description: The St. Paul's Church building is a 1-story hewn log and masonry half-timbered (Fachwerk) structure with a gabled roof and no basement. The exterior walls are constructed of hand-hewn vertical and horizontal logs which are joined by pegged, mortise and tenon joints. The interstices between these structural members are filled with semi-dressed sandstone blocks that are loosely cemented and faced with a low grade mortar. The stonework provides partitioning and some insulation; it does not bear any of the weight of the structure. The exterior of the building is sided with beveled edged cedar. The siding appears to have been applied when the structure was built. Original exits and entrances and windows to the structure include a double

doorway in the front (south) wall, 2 square windows in the gable end of the front (south) wall, 3 rectangular double sash windows on each sidewall (east and west walls), and a door or window opening in the back (north) wall. The building rests on a footing or unmortared sandstone blocks, varying from 3-4 courses high. The interior of the structure is one large open room. The interior walls were finished with lath and plaster. An arched ceiling originally separated the upper portion of the gable from the single, main room. The support for this ceiling was achieved by cutting 1" x 12" lumber to the desired shape and attaching these pieces from the top wall plate to the center of each stringer connecting pairs of rafters. A chimney flue on the rear (north) wall indicates that some form of free-standing stove provided heat to the building. Portions of an original tongue and groove flooring remain in the center aisle. The rest of the flooring has been removed. A poured concrete footing has been built to stabilize the building's footing.

#### Detailed Description of Exterior

1. Foundation: Dry-laid, semi-dressed sandstone blocks, 3-4 courses.
2. Wall Construction: The exterior walls are hand-hewn 6" x 6" walnut logs, consisting of vertical and horizontal members. Spaces between structural members are filled with semi-dressed, mortared sandstone blocks. The sandstone is locally available from the Jefferson City Formation. The mortar consists of sand, apparently derived from crushed sandstone of the same source materials, mixed with water to form a weak, sandy, mud mortar. Chemical and particle size analysis indicate that there is no lime in this mortar and that the sand particles are consistent with Jefferson City Formation Sandstones. The walls are covered with beveled edged horizontal cedar siding.
3. Structural Systems: Half-timbered ("Fachwerk").
4. Porches, Stoops, Etc.: Not applicable.
5. Openings, Doorways and Windows: One central double bay entrance is located on the south (front) side. The original four-panelled doors are attached, but deteriorated. Two single sash, fixed, square window openings are located in the gable end of the south wall, symmetrically placed to either side and above the original door opening. A single, central plank door opening immediately above the original doorway is a modification made for entrance into the left area after conversion of the building from a church to a barn. One central bay entrance (or window) is located on the north (rear) wall. It has been altered from its original form and is too deteriorated to tell certainly whether it was door or window. Three symmetrically placed single pane, double sash, rectangular windows are set in a flat wall plane on the side walls (east and west walls). These appear to have been 2 over 2 sash from the remaining sash fragments. All other doors and openings are modifications made to the original structure after its conversion to a barn.
6. Roof-Shape and Covering: The roof is gabled with corrugated tin roofing. This appears to be replacement roofing, since some original rafters have been replaced. Original rafters are hewn on one side and the ends only. The original roof is likely to have been tin also, since this was common in this area during the era the building was constructed.

### Detailed Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans: The interior of the building consists of a single, large open room, 28'7" x 34'7" providing a total of 988.3 square feet.
2. Stairways: Not applicable.
3. Flooring: Originally the floor is presumed to have been tongue and groove pine flooring. Today, only a small portion of what appears to be original flooring remains down the central aisle. The remainder of the flooring has been ripped out.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls were finished with plaster over lath and painted. Fragments of the plaster and much of the lath remain intact. One small section of plaster retains some paint, a dark sky blue color. There appears to have been an arched ceiling separating the main room from the upper portion of the gable, judging from manner in which the front (south) and north walls were lathed and plastered and the peculiar, arched stringers joining the rafters. No traces of the actual ceiling material remain, however.
5. Doorways, Doors and Windows: There are no interior doors or doorways. Viewed from the interior, the side windows were recessed, with the interior corner of the window openings bevelled and plastered like the interior walls.
6. Interior Trim: None remains.
7. Hardware: None Remains.
8. Mechanical and Electrical Equipment: There was no original electrical equipment in the building. Heat was provided by a free-standing stove of some kind, with a chimney flue in the center of the rear (north) wall. The chimney opens through the peak of the north (rear) gable.

### Site and Surroundings

1. Orientation and General Setting: The St. Paul's Church Building faces south, toward the church cemetery. The former parsonage faces west, 100 feet south of the church. The cemetery is located approximately 300 feet south of the church. These buildings are located in a rural portion of Franklin County, approximately 1 mile north of the unincorporated hamlet of Shotwell, the settlement with which the church was originally associated which no longer exists, and 1 mile east of the present incorporated town of Gerald, established in 1900.

### SOURCES OF PROJECT INFORMATION

Plans call for the demolition of the St. Paul's Church Building in the summer of 1987 in conjunction with an improvement of U.S. Route 50. This historical documentation has been completed in July, 1987, by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Surveys and Plans Division. It is one portion of the historical/architectural recordation of the St. Paul's Church Building prepared for the Missouri Office of Historic Preservation that also includes photo documentation and measured drawings of the original and existing structure. The recordation conforms with the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Bibliography

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