United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church  

and/or common  

2. Location  

street & number 15 Hayes Street  

congressional district #2  

state Rhode Island  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>X occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N.A. in process</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property  

name Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title Smith Hill, Providence  

has this property been determined eligible? yes no  

date June 1980  

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  

150 Benefit Street  

state Rhode Island  

02903
7. Description

Condition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>moved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>date</td>
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</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church is a monumental brick edifice unique in its marriage of vernacular Swedish forms to a traditional ecclesiastical format. The patterned-brick superstructure, on a high, one-story limestone basement, is simply and symmetrically massed save for the tall, stepped-gable bell tower near the front on the building's east side. The facade centers on a tall, rusticated, round-head arch: double-leaf entrance doors at basement level fill the lower part of the arch, and a window on the principal floor fills the upper section. Centered above this arch is a round window. The corners of the facade are turreted, but the spires atop these turrets are not identical: the western one is lantern-like and culminates in a weathervane; the eastern one, a needle spire.

The interior parallels the exterior's juxtaposition of broad, simple, unarticulated areas and picturesque, highly inflected detail. The entrance opens to a series of low-ceiling passages and stairs that lead to the narthex on the principal floor. A handsome wrought-iron-and-glass screen separates this space from the nave. The nave has a broad, flattened-arch ceiling, and the windows are set in shallow curved bays. The walls are simply finished in stucco and painted grey; the ceiling is white, with a range of large, square panels over the center aisle. At the north end, the altar is set within an apse and below a mural depicting the Resurrection, by Newport artist Benny Collins. The pews, chancel rail, and octagonal, goblet-shape pulpit are all of limed oak. The chandeliers are inverted, elongated pyramids, embellished with projecting brass reflectors. The radiator covers beneath the stained-glass windows are crenellated and decorated with wave motifs.
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is significant to the history of architecture as a unique, ethnocentric expression of early twentieth-century ecclesiastical architecture. Built for a primarily Scandinavian congregation, the church evokes forms from these emigrants' native land in a remarkable, early modern composition.

Swedes, who began to emigrate in the 1880s because of droughts in their homeland, settled in Providence on Smith Hill and formed this church in 1890. The first sanctuary was here on Hayes Street. The congregation expanded rapidly, and by the mid-1920s was able to begin construction on this edifice. Both the continuation well into this century of conducting the liturgy in the native tongue and the selection of Hedmark, a Swede, as architect suggest a strong and enduring ethnic consciousness, an attitude physically realized in this building.

In fact, the ethnic identification of this building is so strong that it is probably best understood as well within the mainstream of contemporary Scandinavian architecture. Like most buildings designed by European first-generation modernist architects, it is "modern"—or "European half-modern"—but drawing on traditional design sources in an elegant, stylized fashion; its stylistic parallel in this country is the classicizing phase of Art Deco. Hedmark designed several other churches in this country under similar circumstances, and each is, like this, a full-fledged statement of contemporary Scandinavian architecture of the 1920s.

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9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than one

Quad range name: Providence, R.I.

UTM References

A Zone 1 Easting 299250 Northing 41633450

B Zone 1 Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

E Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

G Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

VerbalBoundary Description and Justification

The boundary for the Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church coincides with that of Providence Tax Assessor's Plat 4, Lot 196. This boundary represents the limit of land historically associated with the property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William McKenzie Woodward, Principal Historic Preservation Planner

organization: R.I. Historical Preservation Comm.
date: November 15, 1983

street & number: 150 Benefit Street

telephone: 401-277-2678

city or town: Providence

state: Rhode Island

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Providence, Rhode Island

Photographer: Warren Jagger
Date: 1983
Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI

View: Nave and altar.

Photo #2