

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**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 Concordia Log Cabin College

AND/OR COMMON Concordia Log Cabin College

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Main Street (County Route A)

CITY, TOWN Altenburg \_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Missouri 63732 VICINITY OF #10 - Hon. William Burlison  
CODE 29 COUNTY Perry CODE 157

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trinity Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER Church Street

CITY, TOWN Altenburg STATE Missouri 63732  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Perry County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Perryville STATE Missouri 63732

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE 1. Missouri: A Guide to the "Show-Me" State (WPA project)

DATE 1941 \_ FEDERAL  STATE \_ COUNTY \_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS published: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., New York, New York

CITY, TOWN n.a. STATE n.a.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1912</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Concordia Log Cabin College is a log building under a protective shelter situated in the Trinity Lutheran Church maple grove. Facing north, it is located on the southwest corner of the junction of Main Street (County Route A) and Church Street in the center of Altenburg, Missouri.

## EXTERIOR

### Overall dimensions

The cabin measures 20' x 17' and has a ground floor and a loft.

### Construction Materials and Colors

The building rests on a concrete foundation which is approximately 1 1/2 feet tall. Floor joists consist of logs flattened on top to receive floor boards and notched where they rest on the foundation walls. They run east-west.

The building itself is constructed of logs which are crudely shaped and vary in diameter from 6" - 10". They show only slight notching--no attempt was made at dovetailing. The chinking between the logs is primarily mortar and bricks, with less use of stone and mortar.

The logs have suffered some deterioration over the years and the walls have been reinforced by pairs of oak 2" x 6"'s, one inside and one outside, which are placed vertically against the walls and bolted together. Two pairs are at either end on the north and west facades; the same is true for the other two facades, but with additional bracing which flanks the windows of those facades.

The cabin is ten logs high to the top log. Above the logs, the gable ends consist of unpainted clapboards. The medium pitched ridge roof is sheathed with shake shingles.

Openings. The cabin possesses one four panel door, located in the center of the north facade. The centers of the remaining facades are occupied by double-hung sash windows. Each window has six over six lights. Directly above the windows on the gable ends are two additional window openings. A six light fixed window fills the opening on the east end; a board and batten shutter closes the opposite opening. The cabin has no chimney, nor are decorative details of any kind present.

The small doll house-like attachment on the southeast end of the building is constructed of clapboards and roof tile salvaged from the parsonage of Altenburg's first pastor, Gotthold Loeber, when it collapsed in a 1929 storm.

## INTERIOR

An east-west running floor of random width tongue and groove oak boards occurs on the ground floor. The walls are not plastered, leaving the logs directly exposed

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Concordia Log Cabin College is significant as the first college and seminary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod educational system. It is also believed to be where the Altenburg Debates were held.

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is today the second largest Lutheran church in the United States. It has almost three million members, over 7,000 clergy and an educational system including two theological seminaries and several colleges. It is not odd, although it may initially seem so, that a religious institution represented in all the states and in the foreign field should have such a geographically limiting name; however, the church has consciously retained the Missouri association in its name because it is so intimately connected with the synod's origins and philosophy.<sup>1</sup>

Missouri was the destination of the Saxon or Stephanite Immigration of 1838. This unique migration was made up of Germans, principally from Saxony, who had embraced the teachings and leadership of Martin Stephan. From his pulpit in St. John's Church in Dresden, Stephan preached an orthodox brand of Lutheranism that ran counter to the trend towards rationalism that for various reasons was increasingly dominating the religious life of Saxony. Stephan was not a great pulpit orator, but he did possess an unusual sensitivity to the spiritual needs of people and between 1823-1837 he attracted a large following. His adherents included not only the rank and file, but also lawyers, teachers, merchants, high ranking government officials and clergy. These were men of considerable ability, and they were versatile and young--only two were over forty at the time of immigration, and most had been associated with Stephan for years. Evidence of Stephan's magnetism is suggested in the willingness of many of his followers to forsake families, parents, positions of influence and security in order to follow him to an uncertain destiny.<sup>2</sup>

Stephan's popularity and celebrity were also to have negative consequences. The liberalizing trend evolving in the government of Saxony and its corresponding impact on the religious establishment conspired to make Stephan's position in Dresden increasingly uncomfortable. Troubles with the civil authorities erupted in 1836 and culminated late in the following year with the removal of Stephan from his pastorate. This brought his career in Germany to an end and set into motion plans for a wholesale transplanting of Stephan and his following onto another land where they would be unmolested as they created the kind of church they desired.<sup>3</sup>

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Celebrating the Centennial of the Saxon Immigration. Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Missouriian Printing and Stationery Company, 1939.
2. Concordia Historical Institute. Personal correspondence between Rev. Marvin A. Huggins, Reference and Research, and the writer, March 2, 1977.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	27	17	8	5	4	1	5	7	7	6	7	B							
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING						
C													D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is the Church Grove of Trinity Lutheran Church, Altenburg, Missouri, excluding the parsonage, of approximately 1 1/2 acres in size, and bounded on the north by Main Street (County Route A) and on the east by Church Street

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James M. Denny, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65101

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources,  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue  
1963 state  
State Historical Society of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri 65201
  
3. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1977 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

on the inside. In the northeast corner, a two-step landing supports a stepladder-type stairway that provides access to the second floor.

The loft floor is similar to the ground floor and nailed to the joists with square headed machine cut nails. The loft floor forms the ceiling of the ground floor and rests on north-south running ceiling beams. These beams consist of logs stripped of their bark and squared on two sides. They are notched at each end and rest on the eighth log from the bottom on the cabin's north and south walls respectively. There are seven ceiling beams spaced three feet apart.

The log walls rise two feet above the loft floor where the roof rafters come to rest on them. These rafters consist of poles, approximately 4" in diameter, that have been manually shaped on two ends and joined at the peak by butt-joints. Hand riven stringers 3" - 4" wide are attached to the rafters to which shake shingles are nailed. The framework at the gable ends to which the clapboards are nailed is also made of hand riven poles.

#### CONTENTS

The Concorida Log Cabin College is presently furnished as a museum. Inside are artifacts relevant to the Saxon immigration era, such as home crafted simply made furniture from the Loeber parsonage or Martin Stephan's more elegant Bishop's chair. Two display cases contain 19th century family Bibles written in German and other memorabilia. The walls are decorated with engravings of Luther and other figures from the early history of Lutheranism. Also present are photographs of figures key to the Saxon migration and to the founding of the seminary--C.F.W. Walther, Theodor Brohm, Ottomar Furbringer, and Gotthold Loeber.

#### ALTERATIONS

The cabin has undergone relatively few alterations. It has been moved at least once, perhaps twice. The first time, if it could be agreed upon (refer to Item 8), in 1840-1841 from Dresden to Altenburg--a distance of approximately one mile, in order to be closer to Pastor Loeber's parsonage; the second time in 1912 when it was transported from there a few hundred yards to where it presently stands in the church grove of Trinity Lutheran Church in Altenburg. At that time, a chimney was removed and two oak beams were placed under the cabin to assist in transporting it; these remained to become the bottom logs of the cabin after it was permanently in place on the concrete foundation prepared for it in the church grove. It was also at this time that oak 2" x6" were vertically attached to the walls to stabilize the building during the move.<sup>1</sup>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Three years later, the shelter was constructed to provide protection from the elements. Since then the cabin has undergone no major alterations. It is not known if the doors and windows are original. Except for the replacement of shingles when necessary, the cabin contains essentially the fabric and materials from which it was initially constructed.

CONDITION

The cabin is in a fragile but stable condition. It has suffered some exterior deterioration over its long years of use, but since being placed under shelter, the process of decline has been somewhat neutralized, except for the wear and damage occurring because of tourist visitation to which it is subjected.

SHELTER

The shelter erected in 1915 to protect the Concordia Log Cabin College is an obvious visual intrusion, but it has permitted the cabin to persist with a large percentage of its original materials intact. The shelter is square in plan, measuring about 40 feet on each side. Its hip roof rests on 16 Tuscan columns made of metal pipe, painted silver, which stand on concrete pedestals. The heavy but simply decorated cornice is of wood and painted dark green.

Gabled dormers penetrate the centers of the planes on each of the four sides of the roof. The dormer faces are sheathed in clapboard and bordered by trim and are also painted dark green. Duplicating the triangular plan of the dormer faces on a smaller scale are windows bordered by wood trim accented by molding. The frosted glass panes of the windows are still smaller triangles surrounded on their upper sides by rows of small square panes of colored glass set in muntins.

Sawn shingles cover the roof; a pathway of fine gravel encircles the cabin under the shelter.

SITE

The cabin and shelter are located in the northwest corner near Main Street on the 1 1/2 acre Trinity Church maple grove. Picnic tables are set under the mature maple and occasional pine trees during warm months to accommodate the many visitors.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

PRESENT STATUS

Owned by the Trinity Lutheran Church, maintained by its congregation, the continued preservation of the Concordia Log Cabin College is assured.

FOOTNOTES

1. Based on personal examination of three photographs (in postcard format) taken in 1912 by Paul Lueders (on file with Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Beginning in November, 1838, five ships filled with immigrants departed Bremen for America. One was lost at sea, but the remaining four deposited 602 people safely in New Orleans from where they were transported by steamboat to St. Louis. Except for 120 who decided to remain there, the group spent only six weeks in St. Louis before departing for their permanent home some 100 miles south in Perry County. Better land close to St. Louis was passed up in favor of the 4,475.9 acre Perry County location where the hilly topography was reminiscent of Saxony and its remoteness promised isolation from distractions.<sup>4</sup>

Poverty and privation accompanied the group, and their abject state was worsened by financial mismanagement and poorly ordered priorities. More than half the colonists were obliged to camp in tents, booths or crude cabins. Their belongings spoiled for lack of protection from spring rains; malaria plagued them as did scarcity of food. They survived mainly on rice and bacon.<sup>5</sup>

Despite hardship, the Saxons managed to establish small settlements to which they gave Old World names: Frohna, Dresden, Altenburg, Wittenburg. They also founded an educational system. The very summer they arrived in Perry County in 1839, three candidates for the ministry--Johann F. Buenger, Ottomar Fuerbringer and Theodor Brohm, encouraged by C.F.W. Walther--commenced construction of a college. Being university graduates, none of them were accustomed to manual labor, nor did they have building experience. Still, by the onset of winter, they had succeeded in erecting their log cabin college, complete with a hand dug well, on a six acre plot of ground in the village of Dresden.<sup>6</sup>

December 9 was the first day of classes. The eleven students who reported that day--seven boys and four girls--were greeted with an ambitious and rich educational program. Their teachers received no compensation for the school had no finances, but they were well trained in European universities and deeply convinced of the importance and necessity of a sound education. Their institution was patterned after the gymnasium, the Latin grammar school of Saxony, and their program was that advocated for centuries by Christian humanists. The subjects taught were: Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, French, English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Natural History, Philosophy, Music and Drawing.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to having to endure straitened physical and economic circumstances, the fledgling college's existence was further complicated by the spiritual chaos brought on by the rejection of Stephan. The events that were to result in Stephan's downfall had already been set in motion back in Germany. As his ascendancy over his followers increased, the principles he stood for became obscured by a developing personality cult. Stephan at first allowed the growing adulation and veneration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

of his person to go unchecked, then came to accept it as his due, and finally to insist upon unqualified agreement with his views. By the time he had arrived in America, his craving for power and his extreme hierarchical views had caused him to miscalculate how far he could go before reaching the breaking point. Not only had he become brusque and capricious in his handling of people, but he was also guilty of sexual misconduct and of mismanaging group funds to satisfy his expensive tastes.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, on May 31, 1839, the entire colony gathered in Perry County and voted to depose Stephan. He was placed in a boat the next day and rowed across the Mississippi River to Illinois and permanent exile.<sup>9</sup>

Stephan's departure left a vacuum which no one was able to come forward and fill. A collective sense of guilt descended on the colony concerning the justifiability of the migration, the correctness or error in Stephanism, the nature of the church and ministry. The pastors lapsed into despondency, wondering whether they were a church or a mob--or even if they were still Christians. It was suggested by some that a public confession of sin be made followed by a return of the entire group to Germany.<sup>10</sup>

In late March, as the colony drifted towards disintegration, C.F.W. Walther suddenly emerged with a series of propositions that were to prove fundamental in saving the venture. Significant to the acceptance of his views was his opportunity to state them under dramatic circumstances. On April 15 and 21, 1841, a public debate took place in Altenburg that was to be a turning point in the development of church polity in the colony.<sup>11</sup>

The participants were F. A. Marbach and C.F.W. Walther. Marbach argued that the entire church polity rested on an indefinite, unclear and insecure foundation. He doubted that their local congregation was a true Christian church or that their ministry served the will of God. Walther replied that in spite of lingering Stephanistic errors the word of God was present. There were still Christians among them, so the church was represented in their midst. They therefore retained the privilege and duty of calling ministers whose official acts were valid in the eyes of God.<sup>12</sup>

Walther carried the day, uniting the clergy around him and convincing the majority that their objective must be reformation, not destruction. The leading student of the Saxon immigration, Walter O. Forster, has written: "If there was any single factor which saved the colonies from complete dissolution and from the corrosive forces of further internal controversy, it was the Altenburg Debate."<sup>13</sup>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Tradition holds that the setting for these momentous debates was the Concordia Log Cabin College. Contemporary accounts do not bolster this tradition, however, because none of them refer specifically to where the debates were held. It is not until 1885 that Christian Hochsetter wrote in a history of the synod that the debates took place in "the newly constructed college log cabin before many hearers." He does not document this statement, but eyewitnesses, including Walther himself, were still alive to take issue were it not true; no objection has been recorded.<sup>14</sup>

There is another factor which obscures the question, for the period of the Altenburg Debates--1840-1843--saw an event occur which has been the source of controversy: the moving of the college from Dresden to Altenburg. The traditional view is that Theodor Brohm was the principal instructor at the college until a serious illness curtailed his activities, leaving Pastor Loeber the only one left to instruct. The other candidates had, one after another, accepted calls to other locations. Pastor Loeber was in poor health himself, so the college was dismantled and reconstructed on a site near his parsonage in Altenburg to spare him the strain of the daily trip to Dresden.<sup>15</sup>

Around the time of the centennial of the immigration in 1939, a challenge to this interpretation was presented. The dispute was over whether the building had actually been moved, or simply abandoned in favor of a cabin already standing in Altenburg which had been vacated by the recent death of Pastor Loeber's sister, Christiane Loeber.<sup>16</sup>

Sentiment in Altenburg, as expressed by the Lutheran Historical Society of Perry County, was and is based on the conviction that there is but one log cabin college. They maintain in their files the sworn testimony of respected elderly men whose grandfathers or uncles had witnessed the dismantling, marking and moving of the logs of the Dresden cabin. An affidavit of Mr. Theodore Kramer, "father of three pastors," is also on file. In it, Kramer recalled asking his grandfather, Mr. Bergt, a Saxon immigrant, if the log cabin college resembled the cabin as depicted in the earliest known woodcut--obviously a different building from the one presently in Altenburg. Bergt responded that he didn't see where they got that picture, that the college never looked like that.<sup>17</sup>

The woodcut just referred to was executed prior to 1855 and portrays a cabin with a two bay plan on the entrance facade, a door and a window. There is no window on the entrance facade of the Altenburg cabin. There is also the testimony of other respected elderly men who recalled playing in the Dresden cabin on its original site as children, or on the logs of this cabin after it had been dismantled in the 1860's.<sup>18</sup>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The issue is further confused by references in the correspondence of Pastor Loeber, and in the minutes of Trinity Church in St. Louis, whose congregation comprised the Saxons remaining behind in that city. Some background: during the years 1841-1843, according to Loeber's correspondence, he and Brohm conducted the affairs of the school. Then Brohm was called to New York leaving Loeber to carry on alone for half a year. In 1841, the school's enrollment had dropped to eight pupils; two years later, it had dwindled to five. Loeber managed somehow to keep the school alive. It had become obvious by 1843 that the school must be placed on a sound financial basis if it was to survive. An agreement was made that the Trinity congregation and the Perry County congregations would assume joint responsibility for the maintenance of the school. Trinity was to pay the bills, Perry County would provide food and firewood. Seven dollars monthly was provided by St. Louis to sustain the college. Trinity also recommended John Goenner as a prospective teacher to relieve Loeber.<sup>19</sup>

It is in regard to the arrangements for Goenner's quarters in Perry County that references occur which confuse the "one cabin" view. In taking up the question of Goenner's housing, the minutes of the Trinity congregation call for the "erection" of a college in Perry County. In July, 1843, Loeber wrote of the local decision to house Goenner in the cabin of his deceased sister, Christiane Loeber, which the congregation intended to repair. Apparently, this project languished until mid-August, but it was finally accomplished and Loeber could proclaim the "college house" blocked. The presumption in this instance is that the Dresden cabin remained in situ. A letter from Loeber's brother in Germany written in 1840, five months after Christiane's death, spoke of their sister's cabin being used as a schoolhouse. So it is possible that the college continued functioning in that building, and that conceivably the Altenburg Debates were held there. But if this is the case, it is confusing to find discussion in 1843 of the need to erect a college, or of Christiane Loeber's cabin having to be "repaired, raised and improved" in order to be serviceable. There is another reference to the cabin which came later, years after Pastor Loeber's death and the removal of the seminary to St. Louis, in the form of a letter written in 1854 in which Loeber's son, Christoph, informed his sister that he had had the "former College" in Altenburg auctioned off. The implication is that the cabin had passed by inheritance through the Loeber family from Christiane Loeber.<sup>20</sup>

It is difficult for the neutral observer to conclude which theory of the origins of the Concordia Log Cabin College is correct; all factions can agree, however, that the years following John Goenner's installation as rector in 1843 are among the most momentous in the early history of Concordia Seminary. The setting after that time was definitely the log cabin presently in Altenburg.<sup>21</sup>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

Goenner was sent to Perry County backed by a resolution by the Trinity congregation that the college would henceforth function exclusively as a preparatory school for those entering the service of the church. By September, 1843, he and his wife had moved into the cramped quarters of the log cabin college--they lived in half of the ground floor and the loft, the other half was the classroom. There, he set about reorganizing the college along the lines laid down, keeping St. Louis informed in minute detail of seminary affairs. The educational system to prepare Lutheran church workers had begun.<sup>22</sup>

In late April, 1847, at a meeting in Chicago, the Missouri Synod - Lutheran Church was organized with C.F.W. Walther as its first president. Control of the seminary then passed to the synod, having been relinquished by the Trinity congregation, with the understanding that the school be moved to St. Louis. In Altenburg, Loeber and his congregation had no quarrel with synodical control of the college, but they were reluctant to see it taken away from them. At the synod's third convention in 1849, however, it was insisted that the transfer be made. Loeber did not live to see the move, for on August 19, 1849, he died. During his tenure in Perry County, he served the school longer than any other in its first decade of existence.<sup>23</sup>

While the college during these ten years was small and always on the verge of collapse, it persevered and produced five pastors. It was also a unifying factor, giving the ministers and congregations of St. Louis and Perry County a common objective and contributing to the formation of the Missouri Synod.<sup>24</sup>

As for the cabin, it was sold at auction in 1855 by the heirs of Gotthold Loeber. This sale was probably confirmed by an 1859 quit claim deed transferring the cabin and 4.3 acre lot from the Loeber heirs to Gottlieb Runke (Funke) for \$80.00. Funke lived there for the next 38 years. His will in 1893 provided that the cabin and lot be donated to the church in consideration of the Altenburg congregation's having cared for him during his illness. In 1912, at the suggestion of Rev. H. Schmidt, the cabin was moved to the church grove in Altenburg. A fund raising drive throughout the synod paid for the protective shelter erected three years later.<sup>25</sup>

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri History as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Concordia Log Cabin College is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Education" and "Exploration and Settlement."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

FOOTNOTES

1. Walter O. Forster, Zion on the Mississippi (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1953), p. 534.
2. Forster, pp. 10-22, 20-29, 59; Carl S. Mundinger, Government in the Missouri Synod (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1947), pp. 20-21, 41, 51-54; August R. Suelflow (ed.), "The Beginnings of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States in American," Moving Frontiers, Carl S. Meyer (ed.), (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1964), pp. 132-134.
3. Marcus Lee Hansen, The Atlantic Migration, 1607-1860 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1940), pp. 136-137; Forster, pp. 85-87, 90, 94, 103-104; Mundinger, p. 76.
4. P.E. Kretzmann, "The Voyage of the Saxons," Concordia Theological Monthly, IX (May, 1938), pp. 347-357; P.E. Kretzmann, "The Saxon Immigration to Missouri, 1838-1839," Missouri Historical Review, XXXIII (January, 1939), pp. 159-165; Lewis W. Spitz, "The Germans in Missouri" (unpublished Master's thesis, Washington University, 1930), pp. 60-62; Forster, pp. 375-378.
5. P.E. Kretzmann, "The Saxons Move to Perry County" Concordia Theological Monthly, X (May, 1939), pp. 362-367; Spitz, pp. 62-64; Kretzmann, "The Saxon Immigration to Missouri," p. 166.
6. Carl S. Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther Tower (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1965), pp. 1-2; Kretzmann, "The Saxons Move to Perry County," p. 361; Spitz, pp. 64-65; Kretzmann, "The Saxon Immigration to Missouri, 1838-1839," p. 168; Forster, pp. 457-458.
7. Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther Tower, pp. 4-5; Spitz, pp. 65-66; Forster, p. 503; Mundinger, p. 197.
8. Forster, pp. 29, 60, 62, 65-68, 282, 352-357, 363-365, 387; Mundinger, pp. 58-84.
9. Forster, pp. 391-397, 415-417, 422; Kretzmann, "The Saxons Move to Perry County," p. 364.
10. Mundinger, pp. 94-95, 110-111; Forster, pp. 508-509, 516-517, 519-520; Kretzmann, "The Saxons Move to Perry County," pp. 364-366.
11. Mundinger, p. 111; Forster, pp. 520, 523.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

12. Munding, pp. 113, 116-117, 124; Forster, pp. 523-525.
13. Munding, p. 124; Forster, pp. 522, 525.
14. Forster, p. 523; also based on personal correspondence between Rev. Marvin A. Huggins, Reference and Research, Concordia Historical Institute, and the writer, March 2, 1977; Christian Hochsetter, Die Geschichte Der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Missouri-Synode in Nordamerika, passage translated by Marvin A. Huggins (Dresden: 1885), p. 32.
15. Celebrating the Centennial of the Saxon Immigration (Cape Girardeau, Missouri: Missouriian Printing and Stationery Company, 1939), pp. 11-12; A. Vogel, "A Reply to 'That Log Cabin in Perry County,'" Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XX (July, 1947), pp. 107-110.
16. Centennial, p. 12; Karl Kretzmann, "That Log Cabin in Perry County," Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XIX (January, 1947), pp. 152-160.
17. Vogel, pp. 108-110; statement by Vernon Meyer, personal interview, March 29, 1977.
18. Karl Kretzmann, pp. 152-153.
19. Karl Kretzmann, pp. 154-155; Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther Tower, pp. 5-9, 14;
20. Karl Kretzmann, pp. 155-158; Munding, pp. 167, 169.
21. Karl Kretzmann, p. 160.
22. Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther College, pp. 9-11, 14; Munding, pp. 167-169; Karl Kretzmann, p. 158.
23. Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther College, pp. 15-19.
24. Meyer, Log Cabin to Luther College, pp. 14, 20; Forster, p. 501; Munding, p. 166.
25. Karl Kretzmann, pp. 157-158; Centennial, p. 12.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Forster, Walter O. Zion on the Mississippi. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1953.
4. Hansen, Marcus Lee. The Atlantic Migration. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1940.
5. Hochsetter, Christian. Die Geschichte Der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Missouri-Synode in Nordamerika, passage translated by Marvin A. Huggins. Dresden: 1885.
6. Kretzmann, Karl. "That Log Cabin in Perry County," Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XIX, (January, 1947).
7. Kretzmann, P.E. "The Voyage of the Saxons," Concordia Theological Monthly, IX (May, 1939).
8. Kretzmann, P.E. "The Saxon Immigration to Missouri, 1838-1839," Missouri Historical Review, XXXIII (January, 1939).
9. Kretzmann, P.E. "The Saxons Move to Perry County," Concordia Theological Monthly, X (May, 1939).
10. Lueders, Paul. Three photographs (in postcard format) taken in 1912 (on file with Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101).
11. Meyer, Carl S. (ed.). Moving Frontiers. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1964.
12. Meyer, Carl S. Log Cabin to Luther Tower. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1965.
13. Meyer, Vernon. Personal interview. March 29, 1977.
14. Mundinger, Carl S. Government in the Missouri Synod. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1947.
15. Spitz, Lewis W. "The Germans in Missouri." Unpublished Master's thesis, Washington University, 1930.
16. Vogel, A. "A Reply to 'That Log Cabin in Perry County,'" Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XX (July, 1947).

MAIN STREET

(COUNTY ROUTE A)

SITE SIGN

TURN-OFF

LOG CABIN COLLEGE

20'

17'

PROTECTIVE SHELTER

40'

40'

BOUNDARY OF AREA BEING NOMINATED

SUGAR MAPLE TREES

MAPLES

A FEW PINES

PARSONAGE

CHURCH STREET

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

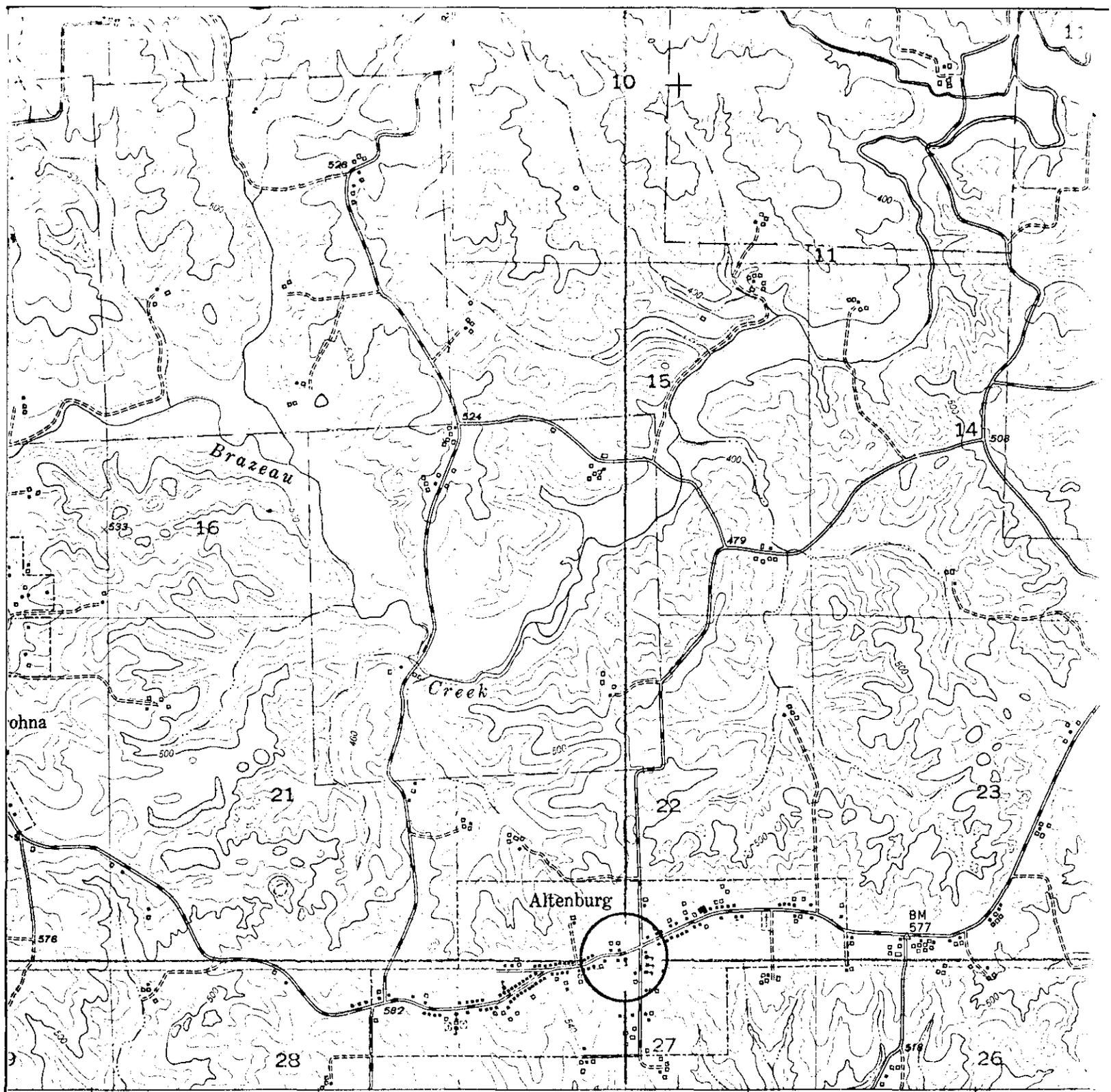
TRINITY CHURCH

OLD SCHOOL



RESIDENCE

SITE PLAN/PHOTO SKETCH MAP  
CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE  
ATTENBURG MISSOURI



760 000 FEET ( MO )

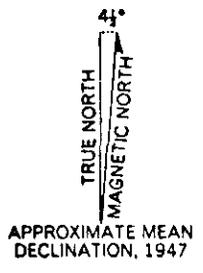
35'

(NEELYS LA

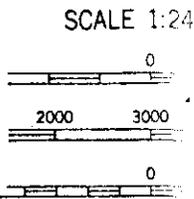
and published by the Geological Survey  
Mississippi River Commission,  
and USGS

aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
a surveys 1947  
is taken 1946

on. 1927 North American Datum  
based on Illinois Coordinate System,  
Missouri Coordinate System, East Zone



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Altenburg"  
Scale: 1:24,000  
Concordia Log Cabin College



UTM Reference  
16/271786/4167767  
Latitude 37° 37' 50" Longitude 89° 35' 10"

CONTOUR INTERVAL  
VES REPRESENT HA  
DATUM IS MEAN

IES WITH NATIONAL

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SUR

## CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE

COUNTY: Perry

LOCATION: Main Street (County Route A)  
Altenburg

OWNER: Trinity Lutheran Church

ADDRESS: Church Street  
Altenburg

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: July 15, 1977

DATE SENT TO D.C.: August 18, 1977

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: August 23, 1977

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: November 21, 1978

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Concordia Log Cabin College is significant as the first college and seminary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Educational system. It is also believed to be where the Altenburg Debates were held.





CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE #1

Altenburg, Missouri

photographer: James M. Denny  
March 28, 1977

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box  
176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101  
Log Cabin College and Shelter; view looking  
south. Doll house-like attachment on south-  
west end of cabin made of materials from  
Pastor Loeber parsonage.



CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE #2

Altenburg, Missouri

photographer: James M. Denny  
March 28, 1977

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box  
176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101  
Log Cabin College; view looking southwest.  
North (primary) facade and east facade are  
shown.



CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE #3

Altenburg, Missouri

photographer: James M. Denny

March 28, 1977

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box

176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Interior view looking east. Martin Stephan's  
Bishop's chair appears in foreground; the  
primitive rocking chair to the right is from  
the Pastor Loeber parsonage.



PLEASE  
KEEP OFF  
STAIRS

Photo

Missing

#4

CONCORDIA LOG CABIN COLLEGE #5

Altenburg, Missouri

photographer: James M. Denny

April 21, 1977

Copy Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Woodcut executed prior to 1865 by Teacher J. F.T. Winter purportedly depicting cabin erected in Dresden by the candidates in 1839,

and different in appearance from one presently in Altenburg. Reproduced in: Karl Kretzmann, "That Log Cabin in Perry County," Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, XIX, (January 1947), p. 153.

