

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 8 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 21 1975

## 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

~~Saint~~, James Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1315 S.W. Park Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd District, Rep. Robert Duncan

STATE

Oregon

VICINITY OF

CODE 41

COUNTY

Multnomah 97201

CODE

051

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Saint James Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

1315 S.W. Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97201

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S.W. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97205

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreation Branch, State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint James Lutheran Church is a complex of three buildings: The Chapel of St. James, built in 1891; the Main Church, dedicated in 1908; and the education-office complex, completed in 1958. The Chapel and Main Church are connected and compatible in style, Late Gothic Revival. The educational-office complex is also connected to the church and chapel but is different in style and materials.

The chapel is a masonry building with brick veneer on the west wall and sandstone veneer on the north wall. The interior ceiling is made of coppered wood and is nicely detailed. The original light fixtures were gas, then replaced with electrical fixtures with the construction of the main church in 1908. The stained glass windows in the north and west ends of the chapel are original.

The main church connects with the chapel on the east end of the latter. It is a wood frame building with a stone veneer faced of coursed Ashlar sandstone (split face). The veneer around the openings is of cut faced stone. Around the building, at about eye level, there is a belt course with detail carving on the stone. The stone veneer on both buildings is Tenino sandstone quarried in the state of Washington.

The wall in the interior of the main church is topped with a painted sheet metal and wood detail that recalls the Gothic motif. The roof structure is wood trussed with purlins that are unequally spaced, topped with a wood deck. The stained glass windows in the main church were completed by three different artists. The window over the altar, depicting the head of Christ, was done in 1907 by a Portland artist who was assisted by two Catholic priests. The two large windows on the east and north walls were created by another local artist in 1908. Other smaller commemorative windows were manufactured in the early 1950s. The interior light fixtures in the main church and chapel are of metal and opaque glass and were constructed in 1907. The furnishings inside the church were designed and built in the Portland area at the time of the church construction.

There have been two major alterations to the church since the construction in 1907-08. In the original main church there was a tower at the northeast corner. Because of carpenter ants and damage by natural elements, it was necessary to remove the tower in 1951. The congregation hopes to restore the tower with coursed Ashlar sandstone sometime in the future. The other major alteration is the education-office complex completed in 1958. This building is attached to the main church and chapel but does not conform to either in style or materials. The walls are of reinforced concrete with marble veneer on the east side.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" 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 1891, 1907-08, 1958 BUILDER/ARCHITECT P. Chappel-Browne

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. James Lutheran Church is architecturally significant for its Late Gothic Revival style and as one of several significant churches in the same locale in Portland. The architectural significance is not unique to Portland nor is this church necessarily the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in the city. St. James Church is a key architectural element in the Portland South Park Blocks area - a twelve-block park rim on the exterior of the downtown core. In this South Park Blocks area, the Portland Art Museum (across the street from St. James) is entered on the National Register. The Paramount Theater (three blocks to the north) and the First Congregational Church (two blocks to the north) have been nominated to the National Register, and four other churches and several other buildings are being considered for future nomination.

St. James Church is important religiously as the first English-speaking Lutheran Church in Oregon. It is also significant as the first headquarters for the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church and the first location of the Lutheran Seminary for the West Coast.

In the Pacific Northwest, the Lutheran Church was established relatively late. In March, 1889, Dr. G. H. Gerberding, representing the General Council and Dr. Samuel B. Barnitz, representing the General Synod of the United Lutheran Church met in Portland to organize the church. As a result of the meeting, the Rev. M. L. Zweizig was called to Portland that same year to establish St. James Lutheran Church. The congregation met in temporary quarters for two years, then the first permanent building was constructed and dedicated in 1891. This building is the chapel section of the present complex.

In 1901, the Rev. Dr. J. Allen Leas became the pastor of St. James - under his guidance the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church was organized in the Chapel of St. James, and he was elected the first Synod President (Bishop).

In 1907, the cornerstone was laid for the present church and the building was dedicated March 29, 1908. The church, including a furnace, solid oak pews, art glass windows, and an Esty pipe organ, cost less than \$15,000 at the time of construction.

Two years following the construction of the church, a seminary "to train men in the west to serve in the west" was organized under the leadership of St. James. The church provided the headquarters for the seminary for four years. At that time it was moved to Seattle. The west coast Lutheran seminary is presently located in Berkeley, California. Members of the St. James congregation have monetarily contributed to the establishment of several Lutheran congregations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Church Records, St. James Lutheran Church Records  
 Church Bulletins, Newsletters, Church Council Minutes in Church Archives  
The First Fifty Years of the Pacific Synod. Edwin Bracher Seattle, WA: United Lutheran Church, 1951.  
 Portland Oregonian, March 29, 1900, March 30, 1908, February 10, 1908, September 15, 1907  
 September 22, 1907, November 25, 1907.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .23

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   0	5   2   4   8   1   0	5   0   4 0   0   9   0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Reverend Joe E. Smith, St. James Church	Robert Sutton, S.H.P.O.
ORGANIZATION	DATE
1315 S.W. Park Avenue	Room 319B State Highway Building
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE 378-6118
Portland	Oregon
CITY OR TOWN	STATE

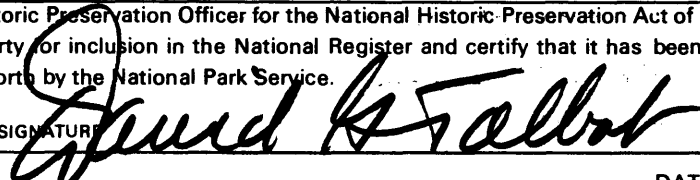
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

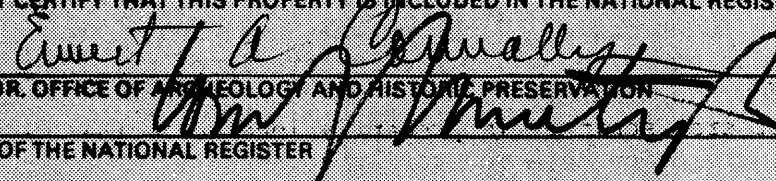
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 31, 1975

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:	DATE MAY 21 1975
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE MAY 14 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 8 1975

MAY 21 1975

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Portland, Its History & Building, VI Joseph Gaston, p. 422

Portland Original Constitution Corporate Offices of Oregon

April 25, 1914 The Oregon Directory Portland, Oregonian