NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8/86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D) (Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

AUG 2 4 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in <u>Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms</u> (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property			
historic name St. Mar	tini Evangelical Luther	an Church	
other names/site number	N/A		
2. Location			
street & number 1557 Wes	t Orchard Street	<u>N/</u>	A not for publication
city, town Milwauke	e		vicinity N/A
state WI code	WI county Milw.	<u>code 079</u>	zip code 53204
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resou	rces within Property
X private	X building(s)	contributing	g noncontributing
public-local	district	2	1 buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
<del></del>	object		objects
		2	1 Total
Name of related multiple p	roperty listing:	No. of conta	ributing resources
N/A			listed in the

4. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the Nat 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that t determination of eligibility meets the do properties in the National Register of Hi procedural and professional requirements opinion, the property xx meets does no criteria. See continuation sheet.	this <u>**</u> nomination <u>reques</u> ocumentation standards for istoric Places and meets th set forth in 36 CFR Part 6 ot meet the National Regist	est for registering ne 50. In my
Signature of certifying official	Date /	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER		
State or Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property meets criteria. See continuation sheet.	loes not meet the National	Register
Signature of commenting or other official	Date	
	3435	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
5. National Park Service Certification	<del></del>	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:  _entered in the National Register.	National Registra	
See continuation sheet	HeloresBegra	9.25.87
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet		
determined not eligible for the		
National Register.		
removed from the National Registerother, (explain:)		
	Signature of the Keeper	Date
6. Functions or Use		
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from in	etructions\
(enter categories from instructions)	tenter categories from in	13 CT UC CT UHS )
Religion/religious structure	Religion/religious stru	
Religion/church-related residence	Religion/church related	residence

7. Description		
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Material (enter c	s ategories from instructions
	foundat	
Gothic	walls	Brick
Bungalow		
	roof	Asbestos
	other	Stucco
	_	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

# Description

St. Martini Evangelical Lutheran Church complex is located about four miles southwest of the city's central business district on the southeast corner of South Sixteenth and West Orchard streets. It is surrounded by a working-class neighborhood of modest late nineteenth and early twentieth century cottages at the south end of the South Sixteenth Street business district, a neighborhood retail strip. The church complex is clustered on one 120'x 212' parcel of land and includes two contributing structures, the church (1887) and the rectory (1929), and one non-contributing building, the school building (1883). The latter structure has been so unsympathetically altered that it retains little historic architectural integrity. A large modern parish hall (1954) is located to the south of the parsonage on a different lot at 1520 South Sixteenth Street and is not being nominated.

### Church

The church is located at the corner of South Sixteenth and West Orchard Streets. It is a symmetrical, gable-roofed, cream brick, High Victorian Gothic style, rectangular structure with shallow gabled transepts and a tall tower centered on the facade. The central tower is flanked by two, low, square corner towers gabled on each side and capped with pyramidal roofs. The church has rusticated limestone foundations and is trimmed with dressed limestone and extensive ornamental sheet metal. Herman Paul Schnetzky of Milwaukee was the architect for the church, which was dedicated in 1887.

The facade facing South Sixteenth Street has as its principal feature a projecting square tower topped with a faceted spire that terminates in a sheet metal cross. It consists of three lower stages topped with a louvered belfry surmounted by the spire. Square, open pinnacles abut the corners of the belfry. The main entrance portal at the base of the tower is framed by compound arches and surmounted by paired, stained-glass lancet windows. A large circular stained glass window is centered in the third stage of the tower below the belfry. Flanking the central tower are two identical, small, projecting, square, gabled corner towers capped with pyramidal roofs. Each of these towers, has corner buttresses that terminate in tall sheet metal pinnacles. Brick corbelling ornaments the eaves and gables of the church.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	7	Page	1	St. Martini Church
					Mīlwaukee, Mīlwaukee, Wl

The north and south elevations are similar to each other. The main feature of each side is a very shallow gabled transept with three, tall, narrow lancet windows of stained glass surmounted by a large circular window centered in the gable. A projecting entrance vestibule is centered on the north transept. The symmetrical fenestration flanking the transept consists of two bays of tall, narrow, lancet windows of stained glass framed by brick buttresses.

The main feature of the rear elevation is a five-sided apse. A chimney rises from the peak of the nave roof above the apse. The chimney is located directly above an open area of the church interior and is supported by two brick flues which curve to form an arch framing the entrance to the apse on the interior. This odd feature is one of the trademarks of the church work of architect Schnetzky.

A small, square, pyramid-roofed cupola ventilator is centered on the ridge of the nave roof at the crossing.

The exterior is in nearly its original state and is in good condition. Asbestos shingles have been substituted for the original slate roofing. A small wood awning has been erected over the South Sixteenth Street entrance and concrete steps have been added to the north transept entrance.

The church is entered through a small, square vestibule containing a staircase to the gallery. A narthex the width of the church buffers the vestibule from the nave. The pews in the nave are arranged on either side of a wide center aisle and two narrower side aisles. A semi-octagonal apse with plaster vaulting is located at the front of the church.

The most outstanding feature of the interior is its vaulted plaster ceiling. Round cast iron piers with Gothic crocket capitals support barrel vaults that span the central portion of the nave and the transept wings. Lower groin vaults cover the side aisles and a domical Angevin Gothic ribbed vault spans the crossing. The vaulting defines the spatial arrangement of a nave, side aisles, transepts and crossing found in a large, cathedral-scale Gothic church, but without the complex exterior elevations usually associated with a big church.

A large choir loft with tiered seating and an undulating parapet railing occupies the rear third of the church. A pipe organ with a Gothic style oak case is located at the rear of the balcony. All windows visible in the nave are glazed with the original, pastel-colored, Gothic design, stained glass. Two large oil paintings are afixed to the walls on either side of the apse.

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	7	Page	2	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

The interior has recently been redecorated in a very sensitive manner and is in excellent condition. Although there have been alterations, the remodelings were done long ago and preserve much of the original Victorian Gothic flavor of the interior. A new pulpit and reredos were added in 1931 and new pews were installed in 1927, all in the Gothic style. The most extensive alterations were those made to the original U-shaped balcony that extended across the rear of the church and along the side walls as far forward as the transepts. In 1931 the side portions of the balcony were removed and the rear balcony was extended forward. The undulating parapet of the altered balcony blends well with the original interior. At that time, a wall was constructed below part of the balcony to create the narthex.

# **Parsonage**

The parsonage is located at 1512 South Sixteenth Street, directly south of the church building. It is a 1-1/2 story, bungalow style, gabled, brick veneer and stucco, rectangular residence built in 1929. It was built by Christian Greve, a Milwaukee contractor, and cost \$9,000.

The main elevation of the house faces South Sixteenth Street across a narrow lawn. It consists of a large open entry porch, half the width of the facade, abutting a gabled sun porch. The first story is sienna-colored fired brick trimmed with cast concrete. The gables are stuccoed. The fenestration consists of windows of various sizes and types placed assymmetrically to respond to floor plan requirements.

The north elevation has as its principal feature a large stuccoed gable roughly the same size as the front gable. A projecting brick bay window is the main feature of the first story. The fenestration on this side and the remaining elevations is utilitarian in character with windows of various types and sizes placed according to the demands of the floor plan. All first story surfaces are brick veneer and all gable areas are stuccoed.

The exterior appears to be in original condition except for the asbestos tile roof.

#### St. Martini School

The school is located on West Orchard Street directly east and to the rear of the church and parsonage. It is a two-story, cream brick, gable-roofed structure with limestone foundations built in 1883. The building retains little historic architectural integrity as a result of the bricking-in

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	7	Page	3	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wl

of the windows, the insertion of unsympathetic modern window units, the rebuilding of the roof in a different form and the removal of all ornamental features. Today the school is little more than a brick box of patched brick that bears little resemblence to its original appearance. It is a non-contributing structure.

8. Statement of Significance							
Certifying official has considered the tion to other properties:nation.	e signi ally	fican	ce of statew	this ; ide	roper X_1	ty in ocally	rela-
Applicable National Register Criteria	A	В	<u>x</u> c	D			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	<u> </u>	В	C	D	E	F	G
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)					Signi	ficant	Dates
Architecture	1887	-1929		1887;1929 <sup>2</sup>			
		<del></del>					
	Cultura N/A	al Af	filiat	ion			
Significant Person	Archite						2
N/A	Architect: Schnetzky, Herman Paul <sup>3</sup> Builder: Greve, Christian						
	Builde	er: G	reve,	Christ	tian		

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above.

# Significance

The St. Martini Evangelical Church complex is being nominated to the National Register for its local significance in the area of architecture under criterion C. It is being nominated as an exception to the criteria as a religious property deriving its primary significance from its architectural qualities. The church complex is architecturally significant primarily because of its outstanding High Victorian Gothic church building.

The Wisconsin Cultural Resource Management Plan notes that the number of Lutheran, congregations in Wisconsin between 1870 and 1890 increased 422 percent. St. Martini was one of the congregations that resulted from this expansion. Research indicates that St. Martini does not meet the plan's requirements for historical significance in the areas of German immigration, religion, social services or education, since the history of St. Martini is typical of many German Lutheran congregations in the city and was not the site of important innovations in any of these areas. However, St. Martini Church is architecturally significant to the south side survey area and to the city of Milwaukee for its fine design and as a reflection of the late nineteenth century heyday of the near south side as a maturing immigrant community. The period of significance is the period from the church's date of construction, 1887, to the completion of the last contributing element in the complex, the new parsonage built in 1929.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number	8	Page	1	St. Martini Church
				Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

# Historical Background

The near South Side is defined as the section of the City of Milwaukee that lies south of the Menomonee River Valley between Lake Michigan and the Village of West Milwaukee. The oldest settled portion is the eastern third known as the Walker's Point plat, much of which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Walker's Point Historic District on December 19, 1978. The nominated structure is located directly west of the old Walker's Point plat in a later developed area commonly known as West Walker's Point or simply as the near South Side. The neighborhood's principal period of development was from 1870 to 1900. This area was always a modest working class neighborhood of small, detached, frame, worker's cottages. original residents were almost entirely European immigrants who worked in the heavily industrialized Menomonee Valley or maintained small commercial establishments. To a large extent, that is still true today. National Avenue is the principal traffic artery and commercial street in the area. Because of the modest character of the housing, churches, fraternal lodge halls and institutions are the principal architectural monuments on the near South Side.

The near South Side has always been one of Milwaukee's most dynamic melting pot neighborhoods. First settled by a mixture of German immigrants and Yankees from New York and New England in the early 1850s, the neighborhood evolved over the years into one of the most ethnically mixed areas of the city. Eventually communities of Irish, Swedes, Norwegians, Poles and Serbians came to occupy the compact area as well. Although the Germans remained the dominant group for years, the other minorities each developed their own religious and social institutions. The important wave of post World War II immigration from Eastern and Central Europe renewed Milwaukee's nationally known, but by then fading, multi-ethnic old world character by bringing significant numbers of European immigrants into the city. Many of the immigrants settled on the near South Side reviving its multi-ethnic character. The neighborhood has continued its historical role as the city's most important melting pot, but today is becoming home to Hispanic and Southeast Asian minorities rather than European immigrants.

# St. Martini Church History

St. Martini parish, founded in 1884 to serve the growing south side German population, was an offshoot of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 1126 South Fifth Street, about 1-1/2 miles to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	8	Page	2	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

In 1882, a group of St. Stephen's members purchased the present St. Martini property at South Sixteenth and West Orchard Streets. They laid the cornerstone for a school on September 2, 1883 and dedicated the building on December 3, 1883. The building at the corner of South Fifteenth and Orchard Streets is still used as a school. In 1884 St. Stephen's released 146 voting members and their families to incorporate as the St. Martini Congregation. Church services were held in the school building until the present church was built in 1887. 6

The large High Victorian Gothic church building was designed by Herman Paul Schnetzky, a Milwaukeean who designed many other churches throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. The cost of the building was \$14,327.

The present bungalow style parsonage was built at 1520 South Sixteenth Street next to the church in 1929.8 A large, 2-story, brick, flat-roofed parish hall directly south of the parsonage was built in 1954.9

St. Martini still houses the descendant of its original congregation. It has become very social service oriented in recent years and provides counseling and referral services for residents in need. A large portion of its members are of German descent, but the parish is located in one of the city's most multi-ethnic neighborhoods.

#### Architecture

St. Martini church is an outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic architecture designed by prominent Milwaukee architect, Herman Paul Schnetzky. The quality, detail, size and condition of the building make it one of the most prominent structures in the survey area. The bungalow style parsonage, although not itself an extraordinary structure, contributes to the significance of the church, with which it shares its lot, in that a parsonage is a type of accessory structure historically associated with German Lutheran church complexes.

The architect, Herman Paul Schnetzky (1850-1916), was born in Wriezen, Germany and came to Milwaukee in 1868. He became a draftsman for Mygatt and Koch, architects, in 1869. Mygatt was one of Milwaukee's first architects. In 1870 Mygatt and Koch dissolved their partnership and H.C. Koch, who had been an apprentice to Mygatt before becoming a partner, took on Julius Hess as a partner. They retained Schnetzky as a draftsman.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	8	Page	3	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

In 1878, Koch took on Schnetzky, his brother-in-law, as a partner and the firm name became H.C. Koch and Co., Hess having left the firm in 1873. H.C. Koch and Co., E.T. Mix, and Ferry and Clas made up Milwaukee's "big three" architectural firms during the period from 1860 to 1900. Together, they received perhaps 75 percent of the city's important architectural commissions. 10

Koch and Schnetzky designed most of Milwaukee's public school buildings during the 1880s and many important buildings for Milwaukee's burgeoning German community including Turner Hall at 1034 North Fourth Street, built in 1882 and listed in the National Register.

Schnetzky left the partnership to set up his own practice in 1887, the same year he designed St. Martini. He took a draftsman, Eugene R. Liebert, with him. Liebert became a partner in 1891 and the firm of Schnetzky and Liebert continued until 1897. A sampling of the remaining examples of the Schnetzky firm's extensive work includes: St. John's Lutheran Church (1889) 804 West Vliet Street, the Val Blatz Office Building (1892) 1120 North Broadway, the McGeoch Building (1890) 322 East Michigan Street, St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church (1892) 1453 North 24th Street, and the Germania Building (1896) at 135 West Wells Street. St. Martini is a fine example of Schnetzky's church work.

At St. Martini, Schnetzky employed a three towered scheme for the facade making it one of the most unique of Milwaukee's Victorian Gothic churches. The detail of the facade is particularly interesting. Schnetzky combined the strong central tower, that is so typical of German Gothic churches, with stubby flanking towers and twelve prominent pinnacles, a traditionally French Gothic detail. In fact, the open pinnacles on the main tower are strikingly similar to the stone examples found on the lower elevations of the main facade of the twelfth century Gothic cathedral at Laon in France. I Typical of architects at the time, Schnetzky eclectically used a variety of Gothic forms of differing origins, rather than directly copying an actual antique example of a regional Gothic style. The result is a highly original and picturesque Victorian Gothic composition. The use of an abundance of miniature turrets and pinnacles is a hallmark of Schnetzky's ecclesiastical work.

Another Schnetzky trademark is the chimney stack that rises from the peak of the gable over the apse opening in the end nave wall. Since the area below the chimney is an open part of the church interior the two chimney flues are actually located on each side of the apse arch in the nave wall. They rise straight up until they reach the attic area where they converge in an arch over the apse opening and then continue vertically as the single stack seen on

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	8	Page	4	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

the exterior. Aside from being an interesting piece of engineering, by locating the stack in this position the church's exterior symmetry is preserved and the difficult problem of where to locate the furnace chimney - a feature that didn't exist on actual medieval churches - is solved. This arrangement also provides two widely separated flues in the basement allowing for the installation of the two separate hot air furnaces typically needed at the time to heat such a large volume. Schnetzky's St. John's Lutheran Church in Racine Wisconsin (1896) has a similar chimney stack.

The other elevations of the building are less ornamented than the main facade facing South Sixteenth Street. A bold corbel table frieze in brick elegantly lines the eaves and gables of the north and south side elevations. The brick buttresses with their dressed dripstones reinforce the medieval character of these otherwise fairly plain elevations.

St. Martini's is a visually important landmark on the south side urban landscape. The massive brick and stone building with its 150 foot tall steeple soars above the 1-1/2 to 2-story wooden houses and commercial buildings in the surrounding neighborhood. By its stature, the building stresses the importance of religion in nineteenth century Milwaukee immigrant neighborhoods. Their commitment to build a lasting edifice that future generations would inherit and use reflects their prosperity and confidence in the future. In working class neighborhood's like the near south side, the only structures of architectural pretension are the churches and fraternal structures. Unlike many other Victorian neighborhoods in Milwaukee, the people devoted their resources to building monumental church structures and lodge halls and contented themselves with dwelling in modest houses and shopping in generally undistinguished commercial structures.

important is the church's location at three-point the intersection of South Sixteenth, West Orchard and South Pearl streets. This convergence of three streets, an unusual feature in Milwaukee's rigid grid plan street layout, made the site an important urban space on the south side. The church is sited to take advantage of the visual possibilities. granite public horse watering trough located across the street from the church in the triangular plot created by the intersecting streets reinforces the sense of place. This point, with the monumental church facade as a backdrop, became the terminus of the once important South Sixteenth Street commercial strip, which was, in a sense, the main street of this part of the south side. Beyond St. Martini, South Sixteenth Street became a residential street. St. Martini Church "triangle" was and, still is, an important landmark on the south side and for years marked the entrance to the city from the rural area that lay to the south.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8 Page 5 St. Martini Church
Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

# **FOOTNOTES**

Perrin, Richard W.E. Milwaukee Landmarks, Revised and enlarged. (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1979). p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Building Permit #5856, City of Milwaukee, dated April 6, 1929.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Perrin, Milwaukee Lankmarks, . 23.

<sup>4</sup> Cultural Resource Managm ent in Wisconsin, Volume 3 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Chapter 13, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>100th Anniversary, St. Martini Lutheran Church, commemorative bulletin published by St. Martini congregation in 1982, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Building Permit #5856, City of Milwaukee, dated April 6, 1929.

<sup>9</sup> Building Permit #80337A, City of Milwaukee, dated June 15, 1954.

Perrin, <u>Milwaukee Landmarks</u>, p. 102.

Grodecki, Louis. Gothic Architecture. (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1977), plate 187.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference						
Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36) CFR 67) 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 #	X See continuation sheetrecorded by Historic AmericanEngineering Record #  Primary location of additional data:X State Historic preservation officeOther State agencyFederal agencyX Local governmentUniversityOtherSpecify repository:					
	DCD, 809 North Broadway					
	Milwaukee, WI 53202					
10. Geographical Data  Acreage of property Less than one ac	re					
horouge of property						
UTM References A 1/6 4/2/4/0/0/0 4/7/6/2/7/8/0 Zone Easting Northing	B / //// Zone Easting ///// Northing					
C / ///// /////	D / ////					
	See continuation sheet					
Verbal Boundary Description						
D.G. Rogers' & Geo. Burnham's Subd. in NE 1/4 SEC 6-6-22, Block 5 Lots 1, 2 & 3 and Lots 4 to 7 exc. alley in the City of Milwaukee						
	See continuation sheet					
Boundary Justification						
The boundaries include the entire origin Congregation containing the historic conchurch, school and parsonage.	nal parcel purchased by the St. Martini oponents of the church complex; the					
	See continuation sheet					
11. Form Prepared By						
name/title Les Vollmert/Paul Jakubovic						
organization Dept. of City Development						
street & number 809 North Broadway	telephone (414) 223-5705					
city or town <u>Milwaukee</u>	state WI zip code 53202					

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	Number	9	Page	1	St. Martini Church
					Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

Cultural Resource Managment in Wisconsin, Volume 3. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

Grodecki, Louis. Gothic Architecture. New York: Harry N. Abrahms, Inc., 1977.

Perrin, Richard W.E. <u>Milwaukee Lankmarks</u>. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1979.

# Periodicals

Milwaukee City Directory, 1868-1898 (all years).

# Booklets

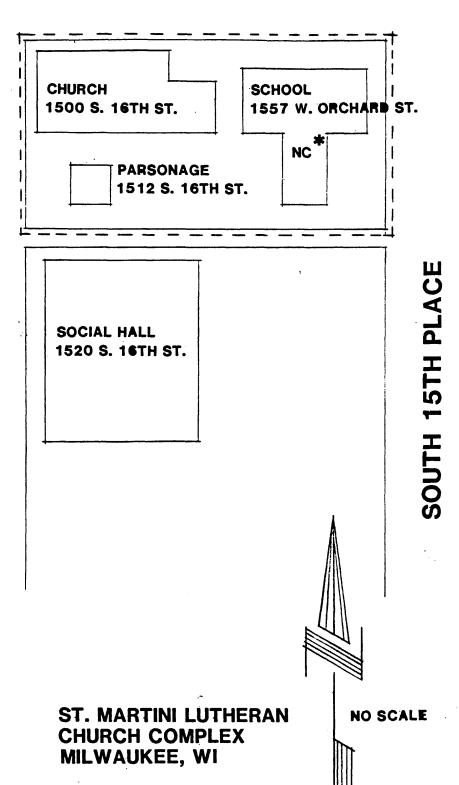
100th Anniversary, St. Martini Lutheran Congregation. Church anniversary publication, 1984.

### Miscellaneous Sources

Building Permit #5856, City of Milwaukee, dated April 6, 1929.

Building Permit #80337A, City of Milwaukee, dated June 15, 1954.

# **WEST ORCHARD STREET**



SOUTH 16TH STREET

\*
NON-CONTRIBUTING