

PH0661228

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
JAN 27 1978  
DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1978

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

All Saints Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Chapel of Our Merciful Savior

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2222 West 32nd Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

VICINITY OF  
CODE

03

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

All Saints Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

3650 Yates

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Clerk and Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

City and County Building 14th and Bannock Streets

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Denver Inventory

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Denver Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE 1890

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

The All Saints Church or, as it is currently called, the Chapel of Our Merciful Savior, is a small brick church building located in the North Denver residential neighborhood of Highlands. It is sited on the southeast corner of West 32nd Avenue and Wyandot Street. The area is primarily residential dating back to the 1890's with a commercial strip along West 32nd Avenue made up of small local businesses.

The style of the church is Victorian German Gothic, rectangular in shape, with the front facing west onto Wyandot Street and a square tower on the northwest corner of the front facade.

There is a gabled narthex on the front, next to the tower, with the main entrance into the church in the center. The entrance is recessed within a Gothic arch which is outlined with light-colored rusticated stone. The wooden, double doors are paneled in the lower portion, and the upper half of each has two narrow rectangular lights. Above the doors is decorated by a trefoil within a circle.

Behind the narthex the west front of the main part of the church is gabled, which echoes the gable of the narthex. The focal point of the west front is the beautiful rose window, centered in the gable and outlined in rusticated stone similar to the main entrance. The rose window has the trefoil repeated around the perimeter. The predominate colors of the glass in the window are reds, yellows and blues. In the top portion of the gable there is decorative brick work in a pattern of recessed squares. The top of the gable is crowned by a simple cross.

The front facade of the tower has a narrow Gothic window in the center of the lower portion, above which is an inset of rusticated stone with a carved trefoil in the center. On both front corners of the tower are buttresses. The upper portion of the tower is separated from the lower by a plain cornice, under which is a course of decorative corbeling.

The front of the tower has a large recessed Gothic arched window which takes up most of the width of the tower. The pointed portion of the arch is outlined in rusticated stone above which is another course of corbeling. The tower is topped with a German style steeple faced with shingles and topped by a cross. There is a triangular decorative element approximately one third of the way above the eave line.

The side entrance into the church is on the West 32nd Avenue side (north side) of the tower. There are Gothic arched windows, with buttresses between, along the north side of the building.

The interior of the church is unaltered (pictures #2 & 3) with the original pews, floors, interior walls, unique hammer beams with wainscoted ceiling in herring-bone pattern and the lovely rose window. The original organ installed in late 1891 is still in use today.

# 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 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 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Murdoch

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapel of Our Merciful Savior, built in 1890 as All Saints Episcopal Church, the second oldest Episcopal Church structure erected in Denver, is significant both historically and architecturally. It stands today, virtually unaltered or changed since the day it was finished, as an excellent example of the small church designed to serve a parish of working class - lower middle class families. The building has added significance since it is the work of James Murdoch, an important architect in Denver in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

All Saints Episcopal parish traces its origins to 1874 when it was organized as a mission by Sister Eliza Barton under the auspices of Bishop John F. Spalding. For some 15 years the congregation of the mission met in buildings on the corner of 15th and Central Avenues, Highlands. On December 4, 1889, the parish was formally organized and early the following year the old church building was sold and new land purchased on the southeast corner of Fairview Avenue and Gray Street, now named West 32nd Avenue and Wyandot Street. The building permit was issued April 26, 1890, and listed J. Murdoch as architect and W. J. Frisk as builder. The church was completed on September 14, 1890, and was known as All Saints Parish Church until August 6, 1961, when a new, larger church was dedicated at West 37th Avenue and Yates Street. The old structure was renamed "The Chapel of Our Merciful Savior" and is still used for services.

After the Civil War there was a large influx of English, Germans, Scots, Welch, and Cornishmen, as well as those from the eastern and southern states into Colorado. Ruth Wiberg states in her recent book, Rediscovering Northwest Denver, "There were so many Germans that from 1877 to 1899 Colorado statutes required that laws be published in German as well as in English and Spanish. Many of these Germans settled in North Denver, possibly because of the large number of their nationality employed by Zang and the other breweries along the Platte." These large numbers of Germans probably explain in part the choice of architecture for All Saints Church.

In 1893 when silver was demonetized and many of the silver mines were closed, the parish experienced a large influx of Welsh and Cornish miners. Few of the new arrivals were wealthy, but they were proud and independent and worked at whatever was available to hold their families together. This "working class - lower middle class" economic profile seemed to set the pattern for the income levels of parishioners. All Saints Church was to have for the next fifty years or so. The parish itself numbered 150 communicants in 1894/95 and never exceeded 500 in its history at that location. Consequently the parish was never "rich" and funds were simply never available to alter or "modernize" the structure. The building remains today virtually the same as the day it was built - - with its original pews, floor, interior walls, unique hammer beam construction with wainscoted ceiling in herringbone pattern and lovely rose window. The original tracker-action organ, made by Farrand and Votey,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Art Annual. New York. v. V, 1905-06. p. 401.

Ballenger and Richards. City Directory for Denver. Denver. 1890-1914.

Bogart, Jean. The Story of All Saints Parish; 1874 - 1964. Denver, 1964.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 498835 4401120  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 & 2 except east 36 feet, Block 2, Union Addition.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carl Jacobsen

ORGANIZATION

Historic Denver, Inc.

DATE

10/17/1977

STREET & NUMBER

770 Pennsylvania Street

TELEPHONE

837-1858

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

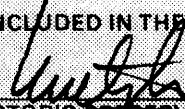
colo SHPO

DATE

1/14/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 6-23-78

ATTEST

Katherine G. Cole

DATE

6-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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(picture #4) was installed in 1891 and first used January 31, 1892, and is still in use today. The baptismal font is unique since it was carved from Carrara marble by a parishioner, Elsie Ward Herring, who was a pupil of St. Gauden. (picture #5)

The most prominent individual associated with this small parish was the Reverend Frederick W. Oakes, who was the second Rector of the church and the only man ever ordained deacon or priest at All Saints Church. In 1894 Reverend Oakes founded a home at West 32nd Avenue and Eliot Street for tubercular persons. It was the second tubercular "home" in the United States. In 1897 the "home" had grown so large that Reverend Oakes resigned as Rector of All Saints to devote full time to it. When Oakes retired in 1934 and the "home" was closed, it had treated over 20,000 patients during its forty years of operation. Reverend Oakes named the chapel at the "home", "The Chapel of Our Merciful Savior", and this name was used in memory of Oakes when the old structure at 32nd and Wyandot was renamed.

While a comprehensive history of architects practicing in Denver and in Colorado in the late 19th and early 20th centuries has yet to be written, information available about James Murdoch indicates that he was an important architect during that period. He was active in establishing the Rocky Mountain Association of Architects in 1890 and was elected its first treasurer. In May of 1891 the Colorado Association of Architects was formed out of this organization and Murdoch was again elected treasurer. This second organization became the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Murdoch is, in effect, a charter member of the chapter. From 1896 to 1898 Murdoch was the superintendent of the State Capitol with offices in the State Capitol Building, Room 18. This position meant that he was the architect in charge of the construction of the State Capitol building. Records show that Murdoch designed the following buildings: residence for John C. Gallup at 1763 Williams Street, completed in 1891, since demolished; the residence for T. E. Swarz, on Pearl Street between 10th and 11th Avenues, completed in 1890 and since demolished; Simon Guggenheim Hall at the Colorado School of Mines.

In July, 1977, the Denver City Council designated All Saints Episcopal Church, (The Chapel of Our Merciful Savior), the 100th Denver Landmark upon recommendation from the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission.

This attractive church is an important landmark in the neighborhood since it is situated on the corner of West 32nd Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares of North Denver. It appears very much as when it was built, with very few alterations except for the paint on the brick, a soft brick pink color, and the boarded up windows on the second level of the tower. It is intended that the church continue its present use as a place of worship for the neighborhood.

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Interview with Rev. Lycette, Rector of All Saints Parish, Denver. March 28, 1977.

The Western Architect and Building News. Denver. May 1890, p. 28; Nov. 1890, p. 33; Dec. 1890, p. 150; Feb. 1891, p. 194; April 1891, p. 9; Aug. 1891, p. 33.

Western History Collection; Denver Public Library. Colorado Portrait and Biography Index. v. II.

Wiberg, Ruth Eloise. Rediscovering Northwest Denver - Its History, Its People, Its Landmarks. Northwest Denver Books, Denver, 1976. p. 34.