

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0685232

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 26 1978
NOV 28 1978
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

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Lutheran Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Lutheran Church Congregation (Trustees) ✓

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Indianapolis-Marion County

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indianapolis Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran (now First Lutheran) Church is located in downtown Indianapolis at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Walnut Streets.

The existing rectangular brick structure was constructed in two sections. The original section was erected in 1875 and is now the rear (east) portion of the structure. This first portion was constructed as a chapel and is used as such today, although the congregation used it as their house of worship until the sanctuary was completed in 1886. Both sections rest on a raised foundation of limestone blocks. The original section has Gothic Revival features such as a high gabled slate roof and windows which are long and narrow with pointed Gothic arches; the windows are dressed with limestone trim. There are brick turret buttresses at the corners. A cross rests at the gable peak on top of a decorated cornice. The original entrance was through the double doors in the south facade. The transom above the entrance contains the letters, "Luther Chapel".

The sanctuary was started in 1885 and completed in 1886 on the limestone foundation laid in 1875. This section suggests a Romanesque Revival style of architecture. The four windows along each side of the nave have round arches and are set in recessed round-arched panels. The panels are divided by brick buttresses with limestone caps. The west elevation has a rose window above a large stained glass, round-arched window. This facade has two double door entrances with stained glass transoms. A gable roof over the south entrance is supported by brackets.

There is a stone cross on the gable peak at the west facade. The slate roof stops short on the sides at the west end to reveal round-arched vents supporting the roof over the nave; originally this may have been intended for bells. The north and south sides have brick bracketed corbel tables.

There have been few alterations to the church since 1886. In 1898 a pipe organ was installed behind the altar on a raised platform. The second major set of alterations occurred in 1915. An entrance to the basement was cut in the south side of the building next to the original entrance to the chapel. Plain glass windows along the sides of the sanctuary were replaced with stained glass, and the large window in the west elevation was replaced with stained glass portraying the Good Shepard. A false ceiling was also installed in the sanctuary to aid the acoustics and heating, and gas lights were replaced with electric fixtures. Restrooms, a new heating system, and a second floor in the Chapel were installed. A complete basement was excavated, and a poured concrete floor was added.

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 1875, 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter P. Cookingham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Lutheran Church of Indianapolis is significant primarily for architectural reasons. The two sections of the building represent Gothic and Romanesque Revival styles of architecture. The pointed-arched windows, gable ends, and corner buttresses indicate the Gothic Revival influence in the chapel. The round-arched windows, recessed panels, arched transoms, and corbel table reveal the Romanesque design used in the main sanctuary. The First Lutheran Church is especially notable in that it combines in one building the two architectural styles which late nineteenth century Americans most often associated with religious structures.

Peter P. Cookingham was the architect for the 1875 chapel, and he may have also drawn up plans at that time for the future sanctuary. Little is known about Cookingham other than the fact that he was practicing in Indianapolis in 1875; he was evidently not in the city in 1885-86 when the sanctuary was constructed.

The First Lutheran Church is also notable locally as the oldest Lutheran congregation in the area. Organized in 1837 as the Mount Pisgah Lutheran Church, the congregation has led to the organization of five area churches over the years (Zion United Church of Christ, 1841; Pleasant View Lutheran, 1844; Gethsemane Lutheran, 1921; Bethlehem Lutheran, 1923; and First Latvian Lutheran, 1947). In 1920 the convention to organize the Indiana Synod was held at First Lutheran; and the first Indiana-Kentucky Synod Office was located in the church.

The Church has been continually involved in the life of the surrounding neighborhood, meeting social and spiritual needs of the residents. The Indianapolis Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) was organized in the building in 1970.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod edited by Henry G. Waltman, published 1971.
 Greater Indianapolis compiled by Jacob P. Dunn, Secretary, Indiana Historical Society,
 published 1910.
 Railroad City edited by W. R. Holloway, published 1870
 Memoirs of Indianapolis and Marion County, published 1893
 Archives of First Lutheran Church, 1837-1891

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Indianapolis west

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 57,2 3,2,0 4,4 0,3 1,3,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

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

Mrs. Kate Roper and Mrs. Elsa Dierks

ORGANIZATION

First Lutheran Church

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

TELEPHONE

634-9502

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

John T. Coyle

TITLE

Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

9/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-28-78

ATTEST

W. C. Chubb
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.22.78

Wesley B. Franklin
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Indianapolis Star, December 3, 1922, May 16, 1937, November 2, 1975, May 15, 1977.