

DEC 12 1985

JAN 16 1986

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Calvary Presbyterian Church

Owner: Calvary Presbyterian Church

Address: 935 West Wisconsin Avenue

Owner's address: 628 North 10th Street

City: Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI 53233

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- 160 NRHP Certification (date)
- Listed in NRHP (LI)
 - Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
 - Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
 - Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
 - Boundary increased (BI)
 - Boundary decreased (BD)
 - Delisted (DL)

- 215 Criteria Considerations
- religious property (A)
 - moved property (B)
 - birthplace or grave (C)
 - cemetery (D)
 - reconstructed property (E)
 - commemorative property (F)
 - less than 50 years old (G)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code) _____

220 Area of Significance (code)

180 NRHP List Name Calvary Presbyterian

Architecture

- 190 Level of Significance
- national (NA)
 - state (ST)
 - local (LO)

- 200 District Classification
- pivotal (P)
 - contributing (C)
 - non-contributing (NC)

230 Period of Significance
The date of construction is 1870.

- 210 Applicable Criteria
- event (A)
 - person (B)
 - architecture/engineering (C)
 - information potential (D)

340 Review Board Date _____

70 USGS Quad Map
SW/4 Milwaukee 7.5 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)
16-424710-4765260

85 Listed Acreage Less than one acre

60 Verbal Boundary Description Kneeland's Subdivision (James) in west one-half of southwest quarter section 29-7-22 block 245 west 100 feet of north 153 feet.

STREET:

NUMBER:

**SHSW INTENSIVE
SURVEY FORM**

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee
20 City or Village Milwaukee
30 Civil Town _____
35 Unincorporated Community _____
40 Location 935 West Wisconsin Avenue

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____
60 Verbal Boundary Description Kneeland's Subdivision (James)
in west one-half of southwest quarter section 29-7-22
block 245 west 100 feet of north 153 feet.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____
260 Compliance Case Number _____
270 A or D Grant Yes No
275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____
320 Ownership:
 private (P)
 local-public (L)
 state-public (S)
 federal-public (F)
 mixed, private-public (M)
330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 98-18, 19
100 Survey Map 398
110 Map Code 98-18
120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979
130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen
140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside
150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala
155 Intensive Survey FY 1983
235 Survey Evaluation
 eligible (E) not eligible (N)
237 Survey District Classification
 pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)
 contributing (C)
240 Survey Level of Significance
 national (NA) local (LO)
 state (ST)
243 Survey Evaluation Criteria
 event (A) architectural/engineering (C)
 person (B) information potential (D)
245 Proposed District _____
280 NHL Date _____
290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____
310 Local Landmark (code) _____
315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

Street**Address** 935 West Wisconsin Avenue**ARCHITECTURE**

570 Number of Stories

580 Roof Shape (code)

450 Date of Construction (source)

2Gable1870-72 (HABS Report, 1968)

590 Additional Description

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1910, 1947, 1957-58 (HABS Report, 1969)480 Builder (source) Simeon Babcock (HABS Report, 1969)

620 Condition

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

 excellent good fair poor ruinsHenry C. Koch & Julius Hess (1870)(HABS Rpt., 1968) architect: Fritz Von Grossmann (1957-58) (HABS Rpt., 1968) 650 Related Buildings (code) artist: (Frescoes) John H. Harding (1870)(HABS Report, 1968) engineer: _____ interior designer: _____ landscape architect: _____ other: (Mason) Hiram R. Bond (1870) (HABS Report, 1968)
(Ironwork) Wm. Bayley & Wm. Greenslade (1870)

510 Style or Form (code)

Victorian Gothic**HISTORY**430 Common/Current Name Calvary Presbyterian Church440 Historic Names (source) Same (B)

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)

Church

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

530 Building Materials (code) Slate (roof)Brick-Primary Bldg. Mat. Cut Stone (foundation)

670 Associated Event (source)

(trim)540 Interior Visited Yes No

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

550 Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) Rectangular with Additions

Street

Address 935 West Wisconsin Avenue

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source)

1870-72 (HABS Report, 1968)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1910, 1947, 1957-58 (HABS Report, 1969)

480 Builder (source) Simeon Babcock (HABS Report, 1969)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

Henry C. Koch & Julius Hess (1870)(HABS Rpt., 1968)

architect: Fritz Von Grossmann (1957-58) (HABS Rpt., 1968)

artist: (Frescoes) John H. Harding (1870)(HABS Report, 1968)

engineer: _____

interior designer: _____

landscape architect: _____

other: (Mason) Hiram R. Bond (1870) (HABS Report, 1968)
(Ironwork) Wm. Bayley & Wm. Greenslade (1870)

510 Style or Form (code)

Victorian Gothic

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)

Church

530 Building Materials (code) Slate (roof)

Brick-Primary Bldg. Mat. Cut Stone (foundation)

(trim)

540 Interior Visited Yes No

550 Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) Rectangular with Additions

570 Number of Stories

2

580 Roof Shape (code)

Gable

590 Additional Description _____

620 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

650 Related Buildings (code) _____

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name Calvary Presbyterian Church

440 Historic Names (source) Same (B)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source) _____

670 Associated Event (source) _____

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source) _____

DESCRIPTION

Calvary Presbyterian is a Victorian Gothic church building. It is a rectangular structure with the church proper measuring 70 feet wide and 150 feet long. It sits on a raised foundation of rock-faced, coursed ashlar limestone. The nave is one continuous space that rises 85 feet and is topped with a steeply pitched gable roof that is intersected with shallow gable transepts. Pressed metal copings and Gothic corbelling accent the parapets.

The church is constructed of Milwaukee cream brick and is trimmed with Ohio sandstone. All masonry surfaces have been painted red. The main facade is dominated by two towers that terminate in slender spires. The larger one at the northwest corner rises 202 feet. The tower is framed with buttresses which terminate in pinnacles with crockets. The slate clad spire is trimmed with pressed metal ribbing and crowned with a Latin cross. The smaller tower at the northeast corner rises 105 feet and is also framed with buttresses and has a spire sheathed with pressed metal.

The windows have pointed arches and are inset with leaded and/or stained glass. The most decorative of these is the rose window on the main facade. It is inset within a larger arched window that is trimmed with a heavy sandstone hood mold and embellished with crockets. Below the rose window is the main entry. Reached by a double-flight of stairs, the double doors are trimmed with wrought-iron strap-work hinges and deeply recessed under a gabled brick porch that is framed by buttresses that terminate in crocketed finials. The arched porch portal is emblazoned with "Calvary Presbyterian" in raised letters. The side walls of the church are divided into bays by buttresses similar to those on the towers and entry porch.

Calvary Presbyterian is located at the western edge of Milwaukee's central business district on W. Wisconsin Avenue in what was once an exclusive residential area.
(continued)

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Normally religious properties are excluded from listing in the National Register, but Calvary Presbyterian Church is locally significant as an important example of Victorian Gothic religious architecture. Built in 1870, it is one of the best preserved Gothic churches in the city from the period immediately following the Civil War. It is the second oldest extant church building on the West Side and one of Milwaukee's oldest in continuous use. The church was designed by master Milwaukee architect, Henry C. Koch, in association with Julius Hess. Koch had been under the tutorship of G.W. Mygatt, the most prolific of the city's pre-Civil War architects, from 1856 to 1862. Koch enlisted in the Union Army and served as a topographical engineer. After the war he returned to Mygatt's office in 1866 as his partner and remained there until 1870. (Continued)

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Milwaukee City Building Permits
- B. Pagel, Mary Ellen. "Calvary Presbyterian Church," unpublished Historic American Buildings Survey Report, Milwaukee, 1968.
- C. Flowers, Frank. History of Milwaukee, Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881 pp. 829-832, 1500-01.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

_____	_____
_____	_____

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

_____ Yes _____ No

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Cont.

It is likely that Calvary was Koch's first major independent work. Koch employed not only the best available craftsmen of the period, but also used the highest quality materials to produce a structure that ranks among Milwaukee's best churches (C).

DESCRIPTION Cont.

The former Alexander Mitchell House, located across the street, attests to the past elegance of the neighborhood. The church occupies almost all of its site and there is no landscaping.

Changes to the main body of the church have been minimal. To the rear of the building several additions have been made. In 1910 a one-story brick addition was made to the southwest corner. This housed the pastor's study and church office. In 1947 a fire did considerable damage to the south end of the church. This necessitated the rebuilding of the sanctuary and extensive repairs to the nave and nave roof. In 1957-58 a two-story classroom wing was added on the southeast corner of the building and an elevator shaft was built near the north-east corner.

The interiors were not visited.

Historical Background

The West Side's only Presbyterian congregation, Calvary, was established to serve the needs of the areas early Yankee settlers. The first Presbyterian church in Milwaukee had been founded by the Reverend Cutting Marsh in 1837. Services were held for the 18 members in the county courthouse for a few years until the congregation was declared illegal because it failed to comply with the State statutes. The congregation reorganized in 1840 and met briefly as the First Presbyterian Society at 2nd and Wells Street before building a permanent structure at the corner of East State & Milwaukee streets on the East Side in 1842. By 1849 Milwaukee's burgeoning population necessitated the establishment of a second church, North Presbyterian, at North Milwaukee and East State streets.

By 1869, the West Side residents wanted their own church. As a result, John Plankinton, H.H. West, Joseph B. Bradford and A.B. Cleaver resigned from the original First Presbyterian Church to form a new church. At a meeting held in March of 1869, a new Presbyterian society was established with the name of Calvary. Its initial membership included 51 persons originally from First Presbyterian and 12 from North Presbyterian. John Plankinton, James B. Bradford and Samuel C. West, all wealthy businessmen, were elected the first officers.

Calvary first met in the old Greek Revival style structure previously used by St. James Episcopal Church. The building was sold back to St. James when the current Calvary was completed in 1870 at a cost of \$60,000. The size and opulence of the new Gothic style structure was a testament to the affluence of the fledgling congregation, which was drawn from the city's Yankee elite. The church continues to house the much reduced in size descendent of its original congregation.(C)

Historical Statement of Significance

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN SITE PLAN
935 W. WEST WISCONSIN AVE.

