

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ^{5.1}
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PHO 674 044
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 1 1979

DATE ENTERED 27 1979

**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

St. James Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

833 W. Wisconsin Avenue

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milwaukee

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Wisconsin 53203

— VICINITY OF

CODE

55

COUNTY

Milwaukee

CODE

079

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 The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church
c/o Rev. Charles C. Lynch

STREET & NUMBER

833 W. Wisconsin Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Milwaukee

— VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin

53202

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Milwaukee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

901 N. 9th Street

CITY, TOWN

Milwaukee

STATE

Wisconsin

53209

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE
Wisconsin

53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. James is probably the oldest stone church in Milwaukee; it was designed by Gordon William Lloyd of Detroit and erected 1867-68. The tower was added in 1870-71, but the building was burned 31 December 1872. The church was re-opened in April 1874 with the full plans of Lloyd carried to completion, including the Chancel which had been planned, but not built, in 1867.

St. James is a well-proportioned Gothic Revival building, with a square tower with a broach spire occupying the north-east corner of the building and a low spire defining the northwest corner. Overall dimensions of the building are "T" shaped with no transepts. A limestone and brick parish house built in 1899, and designed by John Moller of Milwaukee, occupies the east wing of the "T." An entrance to a chapel forms the west wing. The main church is 124'-0" x 53'- 0". The parish house addition built in 1899 is 70' - 0" x 100' - 0". The foundation is of Wauwatosa limestone. The wall construction is of Wauwatosa limestone trimmed with dressed stone from the Bridgeport quarries. Framing consists of masonry bearing wall construction. Attached buttresses divide the side aisles into six bays. A clerestory is formed between the roof planes of the side aisles and the nave.

The main entrance is on the north facade. The original doors have been replaced by two modern glass doors set in the Gothic arch. Two other entrances lead into the vestibule. One is located at a 45 degree angle on the northwest corner of the building and the other on the east side of the square tower. These entries have two paneled oak doors with wood transoms. Similar doors lead into the additions -- the parish house and chapel entrance -- each set in a Gothic arch.

The front (north) facade has two tall stained glass windows set in stone tracery. Above these is a wheel window; the tower has a similar wheel window on the north. The aisle walls have two stained glass windows per bay. Of particular note are two Tiffany windows dated 1918 in the fourth bay of the east aisle. The first bay of the east aisle has leaded stained glass of a non-representational pattern -- this may be an original window, possibly from before the fire of 1872. Round-headed small clerestory windows pierce the nave walls. The windows in the parish house are clear glass units. Those in the added chapel are modern stained glass units. The chancel, added after the fire, has stained glass windows in its apsidal end.

The roof, covered in black slate, is gabled with a shed roof over the side aisles. The tower has a broached spire. A small steep gable roof covers the north-west entry to the vestibule. The gable parapets have stone copings.

The basement of the main church is actually a cemetery, one of Milwaukee's oldest. Burial mounds and some tombstones may be seen. In the basement of the parish house and chapel additions are the kitchen dining room and Sunday School rooms.

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Historic American Buildings Survey Data Report

1969

Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, D.C. 20240

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The interior is in excellent condition. The vestibule of the church was extensively remodeled in 1913. The staircase above the vestibule to the choir loft was changed at this time. From the vestibule three entrances lead into the church -- one for each of the side aisles and one for the nave. At the south end of the nave's west aisle is the Nativity chapel built in 1945. The baptistry, built in 1957, is located in a like position at the east end of the east aisle. The woodwork (oak) is from a 16th century private chapel outside Brussels, Belgium. The font is of stone donated by the masons who worked on the building. The aisles are separated from the nave by large pointed arches resting upon double cast iron columns having a common stone base. The columns remain but have since been encased in rectangular plastered sheaths. The flooring is of Terrazzo and carpeting in the main church, and of carpets and vinyl covering elsewhere. Walls and ceiling are painted plaster trimmed with gilt. Originally the color scheme was lively with polychromy, but this has been changed to a more muted scheme. The trim is of ornately moulded oak and electric lighting is used. The ceiling is supported by corbelled wooden arches with square panels between, outlined in wood. The apse features an ornately carved altarpiece and pews, stained glass windows and a pipe organ. The interior of the parish house was much altered after a costly fire in 1963.

The site fronts on Wisconsin Avenue, the major east-west street of Milwaukee. A tall apartment building, St. James' Court, is built up to the property line east of the church. West of the church is the Y.M.C.A. A stone wall fences in the greensward which is landscaped.

Both the baptistry and the nativity chapel were assigned by the Ossit Company of Janesville, Wisconsin.

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 1867-1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Gordon William Lloyd²

1872-1874 with later additions¹

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded in 1850, St. James is the fourth oldest Episcopal parish in the city of Milwaukee. The building is probably the first stone church erected in the city and the oldest surviving Episcopal church in Milwaukee, as the other parishes replaced their original structures in the late nineteenth century. It is a sophisticated and accomplished early example of the English Gothic Revival style in the midwest and has suffered fewer alterations than most mid-Victorian churches. Historically, it is connected with the Yankee community, which dominated early Milwaukee. The parish continues to be influential to the present day.

Architecture

St. James Church was designed in 1867 by Gordon William Lloyd of Detroit. Born and educated in England, Lloyd began to practice architecture in Detroit in 1863, at the age of 23. He designed many noteworthy churches in the midwest, including Central Methodist Church in Detroit (1867) the design of which is a mirror image of St. James, and Trinity Church in Columbus, Ohio (1866). By the time he died, he had become the dean of Michigan architects.³ According to Perrin, St. James is "typically English in design" and an outstanding example of the "use of native limestone worked into [an expression] of English perpendicular Gothic."⁴ A contemporary newspaper praised the architecture of St. James, saying, "No church of the Northwest compares with the interior of this new building and it is said that few, if any, churches in the United States surpass it."⁵ The church has a notable set of stained glass windows, including two Tiffany windows. The nativity and baptismal chapels are paneled with well executed woodwork taken from a 16th century Belgian chapel.

History

St. James parish was formed in 1850 as the official Episcopal church for Kilbourntown, the west part of early Milwaukee. St. Paul's served Juneautown to the east and St. John's was organized in Walker's Point.

A major proportion of the early settlers of Milwaukee were Yankees, and many of these were Episcopalians. In early decades of the city's development, Yankees, many of them St. James' parishioners, dominated Milwaukee's economic and political life. The first Episcopal services in Kilbourntown were held in the store of Increase A. Lapham, Wisconsin's pioneer scientist. James Kneeland, an early settler and real estate developer, donated a parcel of land so that the church could be erected to face north into Ninth Street. Alexander Mitchell, one of the state's most important early entrepreneurs, was an early member of the parish, served on the building committee, and donated one-third of the cost of erecting the church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .837

QUADRANGLE NAME Milwaukee, Wis.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 424820 4765240

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot No. 1, Block No. 64, Section 29, N.W. 1/4 T. 7, N.R. 22 E.

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

Robert G. Carroon, Curator of Research Collections

ORGANIZATION

Milwaukee County Historical Society

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

910 N. 3rd Street

TELEPHONE

(414) 273-8288

CITY OR TOWN

Milwaukee

STATE

Wisconsin

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

Rebecca M. Mearns

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

4/23/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-23-79

ATTEST: *William H. Bradman*

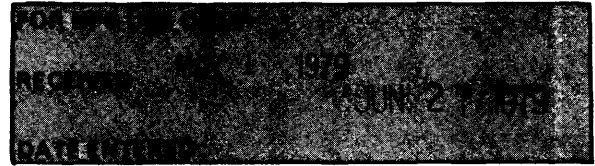
DATE

6-21-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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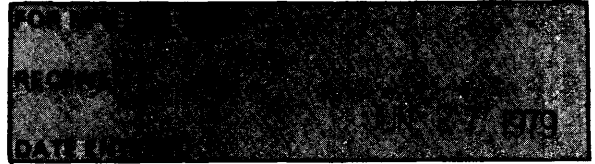
During the Civil War the church was a center of activity with a number of funerals of Milwaukee's most illustrious Civil War dead taking place there. The rector was given a leave of absence to serve as a chaplain in the Union Army. The parish has been, and to some extent continues to be, a center for English, Scottish and Welsh ethnic groups. In the 1890s the course of instruction in Home Economics later used by the Milwaukee Public School system was developed at St. James and classes in the relevant subjects were actually held as part of the public school system. The pilot projects in homemaking sponsored by the parish continued for a number of years.

For many years St. James has maintained a ministry to downtown Milwaukee with a special deaf congregation, chaplaincy work in the County Court system and chaplaincy work among the students at Marquette University.

1. Frank Flower, History of Milwaukee (Chicago, 1881), pg. 863.
2. Evening Wisconsin, Milwaukee, April 1, 1974.
3. Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles, 1956).
4. Perrin, Richard W. E. The Architecture of Wisconsin (Madison, 1967), pg. 79.
5. Evening Wisconsin, April 1, 1874.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Sept., 1978

(608) 262-2970

Wisconsin 53706