

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 7 1985
date entered APR 4 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. John's Lutheran Church

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 544 Broadway, NW N/A not for publication

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. John's Lutheran Church

street & number 544 Broadway, NW

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37917

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

street & number City-County Building

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37902

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Knox County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982-1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state TN 37203

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John's Lutheran Church, located at Broadway and Emory Place, Knoxville, Tennessee, was built in 1913 in the late Gothic Revival style of architecture. Designed by a local architect, R.F. Graf, and constructed of random-coursed Indiana sandstone set on a stone foundation, the rectangular building measures 90 feet by 100 feet. Three corners are defined by square towers, which also mark entrances into the church. A focal point of the building is the bell tower with its four tapering pinnacles and covered corner portico. The steeply-pitched red tile roof has a central gable which runs north to south, changing to a hip construction at the south end. A stone chimney projects from the roof's southeast edge. To the east of the central gable, a mansard roof accommodates a second chimney. The structure of the building (foundation, roof, masonry walls) is in excellent repair, with maintenance ongoing. In recent years several exterior stained-glass windows have been protected with plexiglass. A two-story addition of concrete block finished with smooth stucco is attached at the southeast corner of the original building which was completed in 1968. Designed with a low, flat roofline that does not attempt to compete visually with the original structure, this addition is considered to be non-contributing. The church building and addition sit on a 1.2 acre tract surrounded by small shrubs with the rest of the acreage being a parking lot and an area along Broadway which is informally landscaped. Despite the addition, St. John's Lutheran Church retains its architectural integrity.

The north (front) elevation of the church building is three bays wide with corner towers on either end. The northwest bell tower, the larger of the two, is the focal point of the facade. The tower is three stories tall with distinctive decorative treatments at each level. The base has a covered, compound-arched portico which is accessible from both Emory Place and Broadway. From each side, at right angles, eight steps of Tennessee marble lead to the tiled porch. A recessed door faces Broadway. Two small windows with pointed arches and surrounding architraves define the center section of the tower. As a strong horizontal element, a row of crenelles separates this section from the one above. In the upper tower, two lancet windows with a pronounced elongated shape are decorated with inflected tracery arches. Above the tower's cornice, a ballustrade of quatrefoil tracery connects the four spires. The tapering pinnacles are embellished with crockets and finials.

A large stained-glass window of several sections dominates the building's north facade on Emory Place. Stone tracery separates the various sections. A horizontal course of solid stone spandrel panels divides upper and lower portions of the window and designates the position of the interior balcony. Each spandrel panel is embellished with a decorative stone ogee in relief. A molded architrave surrounds the entire window, unifying its various elements. At the peak of the gable is a celtic stone cross.

The tower at the northeast corner is two stories tall. The upper section is characterized by a divided lancet window, and the lower section which includes a recessed doorway. Six stone steps lead to the entrance which is surrounded by a molded stone archivolt above which are two rows of crenelles. The tower windows have pointed arches and ogee arches of tracery. At the top of the tower is a ballustrade with quatrefoil stone tracery. Corner buttresses are capped with gabled pinnacles extending just above the ballustrade.

The west elevation is distinguished by four large stained-glass windows, each comprised of several panels of leaded glass. Molded stone architraves surround the windows. Three buttresses with slanted coping extend from base to cornice in a stepped-back formation. A stone ballustrade of tracery runs across the top between the southwest and northwest corner towers. The southwest corner tower displays identical treatment to the northeast tower.

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Continuation sheet St. John's Lutheran Church Item number 7 Page 2

The south (rear) elevation of the church is six bays wide. The fenestration is symmetrical with double hung sash stained glass windows and flat stone lintels occurring on the first floor and pointed arched stained-glass windows with undecorated surrounds on the second floor. The hip roof at this south elevation features a skylight (above the altar). The new addition to the church attaches to the southeast corner and continues to the south and east of the original building. To provide for a passage into the addition, a portion of the church's southeast outer wall, including a stained-glass trap window, was removed. The glass was left intact and stored. The alteration also involved the removal of restroom facilities in the southeast corner.

Distinguishing the east elevation are three large stained-glass windows surrounded by molded architraves. Two smaller windows are asymetrically placed adjacent to the northeast tower. A chimney marks the parlor fireplace.

The church's main floor accommodates a nave with adjacent parlor, a narthex, and three small rooms at the south end (behind the altar). A balcony located directly above the narthex is accessible by a stairway adjacent to the north entrance. The building rests on a full basement which is not in general use by the congregation. Select dark-oak wainscot paneling, carved with trefoil ogee arches line the nave, narthex, parlor and balcony. The carved ogees are repeated on the pews and pulpit as well as on the organ console and parlor fireplace. Two sets of oak doors divide the nave from the narthex as do several panels of stained glass. Original church furnishings include the pews, altar, two oak altar chairs and a sculptured brass lectern. Original organ pipes are located in chambers on either side of the altar. The sanctuary is vaulted with dark-oak hammerhead beams springing from octagonal corbels, which in turn are supported by beams and arches attached to wall brackets. Above the side aisles, oak tracery circles rest on the beams, with smaller circles of the same trefoil tracery repeated higher in the vaulting. The entire ceiling is of quartered dark oak.

Each of the nine stained-glass windows in the sanctuary depicts a scene from the Holy Bible. Art glass of intricate shapes and colors set in lead comprises the several panels of each window. Just as a painter might have used oil on a canvas, the stained-glass craftsman has painted a picture in glass with a Romantic realism characteristic of nineteenth-century art. These memorial windows add a dimension of their own to the church's interior and date from ca. 1894 to 1932.

The original teardrop luminaires in the nave remain intact. In recent years, spotlights have been placed close to the ceiling beams to illuminate the windows at night, and new fixtures have been installed in the parlor and narthex. The sanctuary, narthex and parlor have been carpeted in a plush red and the pews refurbished in the original dark-oak finish. The additions and alterations have been sensitively handled; and as a result, the interior has retained the integrity of its original character.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1913 **Builder/Architect** R.F. Graf, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. John's Lutheran Church, located in Knoxville, Tennessee is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its local architectural significance as a fine early-twentieth century example of the popular Gothic Revival style in ecclesiastical architecture. The church is located at the intersection of Broadway and Emory Place, just three blocks south of the Fourth and Gill Historic District which is in the process of being nominated to the National Register. Designed by local architect Richard Franklin Graf, the church building remained unchanged until 1968 when the rear addition was constructed. This addition was built as to minimize its impact on the older structure so therefore St. John's Lutheran Church retains its architectural integrity.

The organization which was to build the nominated structure was formed in 1888 with twenty-one members as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. These people split with the German Lutheran Church which was established in Knoxville in 1845. Known as an English Lutheran Church, the congregants worshipped on Sunday evenings in the German Lutheran Church building on Asylum Street where the Louisville and Nashville Passenger Railroad Station (NR 1982) now stands. In 1892, the congregation purchased the Broad Street Methodist Episcopal Church (non-extant) at the corner of Fifth Street and Broadway which they occupied into the twentieth century.

By 1910 the congregation had grown to sufficient size to warrant a larger facility and through a large donation by a wealthy congregant, two lots were purchased at the corner of Broadway and Emory Place and the local architect R.F. Graf was retained to design the new building. Richard Franklin Graf (1865-1929) began his architectural career in Knoxville in 1894 by joining the prominent pattern book architect George F. Barber in the firm of Barber and Kluttz. He started his own firm in 1907 under the name of R.F. Graf and Sons, architects and structural engineers. Ground was broken for the new church in August, 1911. The completed building was dedicated on May 25, 1913.

St. John's Lutheran Church displays some high-style Gothic Revival detailing both on the interior and exterior of the structure. Executed in coursed gray rusticated stone, the major facades of the building (north and east elevations) exhibit gothic windows in a variety of sizes detailed tracery and filled with stained glass. Buttresses capped with decorative coping occur on all sides of the corner towers on these elevations and along the east and west elevations to distinguish the bays. The focal point of the exterior of the building is the northeast corner tower which is capped with four stone pinnacles decorated with crockets and finials and stone balustrades with a repeated quatrefoil motif.

The sanctuary of the church contains all of the important decorative treatment on the interior of this building. Outstanding features of the sanctuary the fine stained glass windows, dark stained window surrounds, tracery, wainscoting with an ogee arch motif, balcony balustrade, pulpit woodwork and pews. The most dramatic feature of the interior is the elaborate hammer beam trusswork which supports a narrowly grooved panel ceiling, all stained in dark finish. Trefoil designs occur in the open trusswork which springs from decorative wooden corbels which occur three quarters of the way up the walls of the sanctuary. There

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archives, St. John's Lutheran Church.
 Graf, R.F. Brochure, McClung Historical Collection, Customs House, Knoxville, Tennessee.
 Knoxville Journal; May 24, 1913, May 25, 1913.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.2 acres
 Quadrangle name Knoxville, Tennessee Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				D				
E				F				
G				H				

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the west by Broadway, on the north by Emory Place and adjoining property lines, on the east by Gay Street, and on the south by adjoining property lines. This is all the property that is historically associated with St. John's Lutheran Church.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Valerie A. Anderson			
	Robin L. Krawitz, Historic Preservation Specialist			
organization	N/A	date	July 29, 1984	
	Tennessee Historical Commission	date	January 6, 1985	
street & number	1505 Cherokee Blvd.	telephone	(615) 525-8025	
	701 Broadway	telephone	(615) 742-6722	
city or town	Knoxville	state	Tennessee	37919
	Nashville	state	Tennessee	37203

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays date 2/28/85

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Valerie Byers Entered in the National Register date 4/4/85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet St. John's Lutheran Church Item number 8

Page 2

appear to have been no serious alterations to the interior or exterior of the structure except for the two story addition which was attached to the south elevation by means of a one-story enclosed walkway. This structure is included in the nomination because it is attached to the main building however it is considered a non-contributing element.

