

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 7 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

413 South Second Street

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Watertown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Wisconsin

VICINITY OF

CODE

55

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

055

**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 RESIDENC RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rector, Wardens and Vestry of  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church; M. Fred Himmerich, Rector

STREET &amp; NUMBER

413 South Second Street

CITY, TOWN

Watertown

STATE

Wisconsin 53549

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

320 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson

STATE

Wisconsin 53549

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

July 12, 1974

 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 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      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Paul's Episcopal Church nomination includes four structures: the church, the rectory, the chapel, and the guildhall. These structures are situated at the northeast corner of Spring and Second Streets in Watertown.

THE CHURCH The church is an early Gothic Revival structure with a High Victorian Gothic tower. The nave has a steeply-pitched gable roof. Shed-roofed additions on either side of the nave provide aisles, and a nearly square apse with a slightly lower gabled roof projects at the east end of the nave. A square bell tower with a slender octagonal spire is situated at the southwest corner of the structure.

The walls of Watertown cream-colored brick are three courses thick. Buttresses with corbelled bricks forming the weatherings embellish the corners and side walls. The church is five bays long and has a full basement, excavated in 1955. Windows are lancet and have brick hoodmolds. Stained glass in the windows was made by the Milwaukee Art Glass Company (Watertown Daily Times, 9-19-09). These lights replaced the original, beginning in 1890. Doorways have pointed arches.

Interior walls of the church are plastered, with wooden wainscoting. The plaster ceiling of the nave is vaulted. Floors are of maple, and posts sheathed in walnut separate the aisles from the nave. The marble altar was made locally.

In 1968 a vestibule was added to the front gable end. The addition has a low-sloping gabled roof and a pointed arch entrance. Above a low brick wall the exposed framing members separate glazed panels.

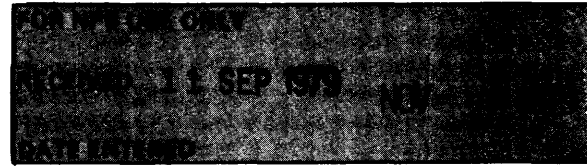
CHAPEL A passage at the northeast corner of the church leads from the church to the chapel, a Gothic Revival structure built in 1886. It is a gable-roofed structure with pointed arched windows and small gabled dormers with arched windows. A round, glazed opening at the gable end is over the small vestibule. Corner and side wall buttresses with concrete weatherings embellish the structure.

RECTORY The rectory, built in 1885, is situated north of the church. It is a 1-1/2 story cream-colored brick house with Gothic Revival stylisms. The roof is complex, with a cross gable and gabled wall dormers intersecting the gabled roof. Segmental arched windows with hoodmolds occur singly at the half-story and paired at the first story. Entrances are arched to match the windows. An entrance porch replaced the original veranda in about 1940.

continued

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 11 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION continued

GUILDHALL The guildhall, dating from 1931, is the newest structure of the complex. It was built adjacent to the chapel and intersects the chapel roof at right angles, with its ridge slightly above the ridge of the chapel. This eclectic structure is distinguished by its varied fenestration. Segmental arches dominate, but round arches appear in the gable window and at the main entry. A vestibule projects at the southeast corner.

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11. continued

Barbara Wyatt

State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division

March 19, 1979

816 State Street

(608) 262-8904

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD      | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|-------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| 1400-1499   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| 1500-1599   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| 1600-1699   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| 1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| 1800-1899   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| 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 1859, 1885-6, 1890, 1931<sup>1</sup> BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Douglas<sup>2</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is significant as the design of a regionally important architect. The church complex is a fine example of the variety of Gothic influences apparent in American architecture.

The church was built in 1859 by the Watertown congregation that had been formed in 1847. It replaced the original church on Third Street and has been in continuous use ever since. James Douglas, a prominent Milwaukee architect, designed the structure.

Douglas was born in Scotland in 1823 and emigrated to Canada in 1840. From Kingston, Ontario he came to Milwaukee in 1843. For several years he worked as a "carpenter and master workman" in Milwaukee (Evening Wisconsin, 9-1-94, p. 1). In this capacity he contributed to the construction of the old City Hall, St. Gall's Church, St. John's Cathedral, and the Holy Trinity Church. In 1847 he and his brother began designing and building structures, forming a partnership that lasted for 16 years. Douglas abandoned his practice from 1863 until 1872 to work for the Northwestern Life Insurance Company, then returned to architecture, concentrating on residential design. Among his most notable works are the North Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, and the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Nashotah. The latter two were entered in the National Register on 1 January 1976 and 2 February 1972, respectively.

The St. Paul's Church complex is a significant statement of the evolution of the Gothic style in the United States over a 72 year period. The simplicity and fragility of the Early Gothic church is offset by the High Victorian Gothic tower (1890) with its polychromatic effect and heavy features. The rectory and chapel, built in 1885 and 1886, illustrate the transition to later Gothic elements, while the 1931 guildhall illustrates a limited use of Gothic stylisms applied to an otherwise anonymous building.

St. Paul's Church is notable for its interior features and structural elements. The 19th century stained glass windows, vaulted ceiling in the nave, and the arcaded aisles lend a subtle charm and dignity to the church. A tracker-action pipe organ, built in about 1880, is complemented by the excellent acoustical qualities of the structure. This organ, with new pipes, replaced the original that was damaged by fire in 1968. The parish also preserves an excellent collection of documents, records, and letters concerning the history and construction of the buildings.

1. Vestry notes  
2. Ibid.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Flower, Frank A., History of Milwaukee, Part 2. Chicago, The Western Historical Co., 1881.
- Obituary, James Douglas. Evening Wisconsin, Vol. XLVIII, No. 53 (1 September 1894). p. 1.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church files: vestry minutes, parish register, anniversary booklets, letters.
- Watertown Daily Times, 19 September 1909.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25

QUADRANGLE NAME Watertown, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

|   |      |             |               |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 6  | 3 5 9 9 6 0 | 4 7 8 3 2 9 0 |
|   | ZONE | EASTING     | NORTHING      |
| C |      |             |               |
| E |      |             |               |
| G |      |             |               |

|   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B |      |         |          |
|   | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D |      |         |          |
| F |      |         |          |
| H |      |         |          |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6, 7, and 8 of Block 23, original plat, on the east side of Rock River in the city of Watertown, being in the first Ward of said city. Each lot is 100 x 54 feet.

## 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

M. Fred Himmerich, Rector

(continued)

ORGANIZATION

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

DATE

July 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

413 South Second Street P.O. Box 306

home:

(414) 261-2280

church:

(414) 261-115

CITY OR TOWN

Watertown

STATE

Wisconsin 53094

# 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

*Richard Murray*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/7/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles I. Skel*

DATE

11-7-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Emma Jane Sasa*

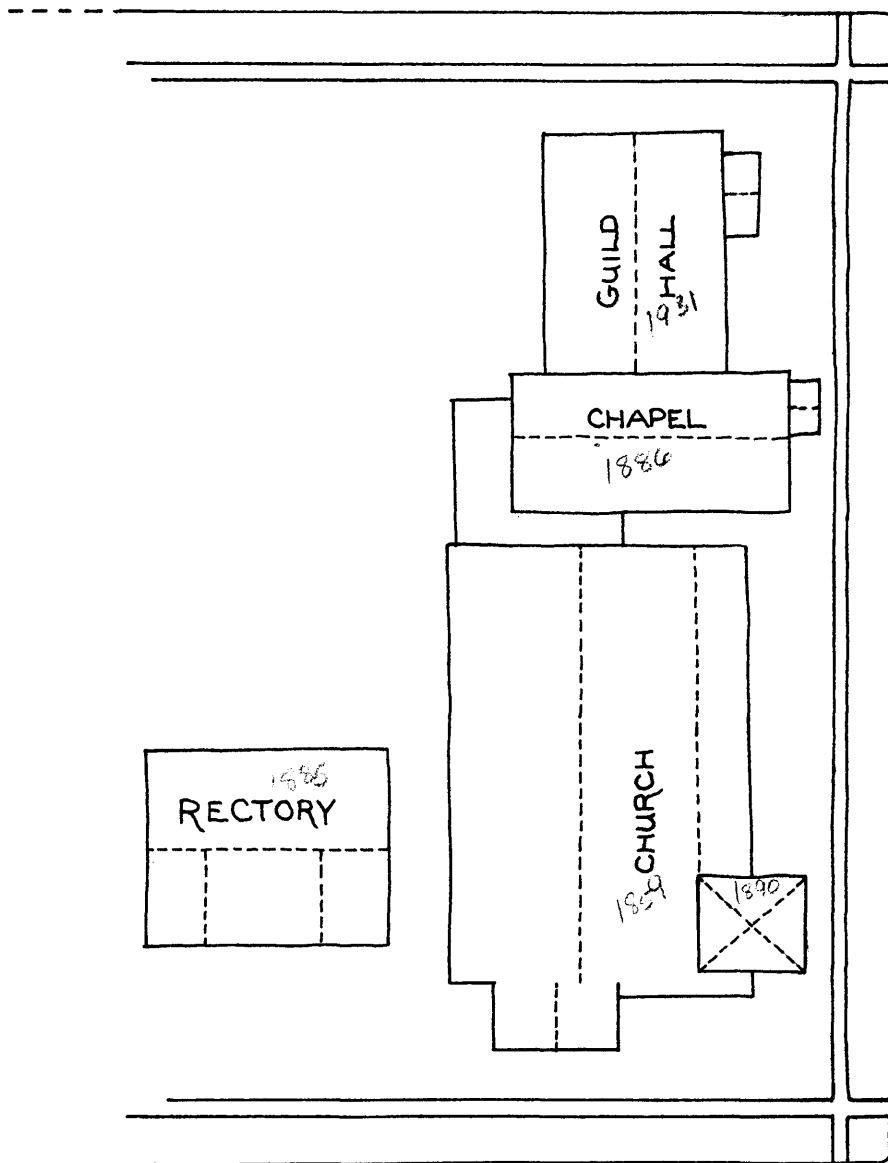
DATE 11-7-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*Regional Coordinator*



S. THIRD ST.



SPRING ST.

S. SECOND ST.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WATERTOWN, WI. SITE PLAN

