

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Immanuel Lutheran Church is a red brick structure of stretcher bond construction and limestone trim. It was built by J.M.F. Riedel, a Ft. Wayne church architect, in 1891, and is a good local example of the Victorian Gothic style of architecture. The parish hall, added to the church in 1930, was built to harmonize with the architectural style of the church and thus contributes to a structural stylistic whole.

The church and parish hall combine to form an L-shaped plan. The east-west wing contains the church; the north-south wing contains the parish hall. Both church and parish hall wings are covered by gabled roofs, although the parish hall has a lower, flat-roofed section along its west side.

The entire church wing is supported by a rock-faced limestone foundation, separated from the brick superstructure by a dressed limestone water table. The west or main facade of the east-west wing which faces Washington Street is divided by multiple buttresses into three bays, with the entrance in the center bay. A limestone stairway leads to the projecting, one-story entrance bay which contains an arched opening with double wooden doors and leaded glass windows. Above the rectangular doors is a pointed, arched transom which contains a stained glass window with leaded tracery. The window is surrounded by wooden tracery and a wooden molding.

On each side of the doorway are massive brick piers with heavy limestone bases and capitals. The square capitals are carved with elaborate leaf designs. A decorative volute is placed on top of each capital, flanking the polychromatic voussoirs of the pointed Gothic arch. The polychromatic quality is achieved by alternating voussoirs of red brick and limestone. Surmounting the polychrome arch is a steep but shallow gable which culminates with molded limestone coping. At the apex of the gable is a limestone rosette.

The entrance bay is superimposed upon the building's two story central bay, which advances slightly from the plane of the facade, and is edged by corner buttresses with limestone weathering, strategically placed to emphasize the most important elements of the central bay. Above the gabled entrance, an arched window with polychromatic voussoirs and wooden tracery echos the doorway of the entrance. A corbel table placed below the bell tower resembles an arcade with pointed arches.

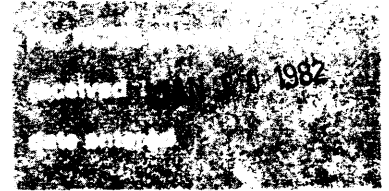
The aluminum bell tower, which was part of the new steeple added after the 1975 fire, contains arch-shaped louvers capped by pointed arches with rectangular stops. Wooden tracery adorns the louvers. This pointed arch shape is repeated throughout the church. A polygonal copper spire culminates into a cross at the top. Four small steeples are placed at each corner of the bell tower. The bell tower and steeple closely resemble the originals, which were removed sometime before the 1975 fire.

On each side of the two story central bay are two lower bays, which are identical to each other. The center of each bay has a pointed arched window with a limestone band course at the sill line. Wooden tracery enhances the stained glass windows. A limestone band course located near the top of the window serves as a base from which springs the pointed brick rowlock arch made of three header courses with a limestone keystone. A corbel table decorates the rake of the gabled bays. At the apex of the gable is a triangular brick panel. Brick buttresses with limestone weathering appear to help support the outer-most corners of the bays.

The north and south elevations of the east-west church wing are divided by five brick buttresses with limestone weathering in the middle and at the top. Each bay has a pointed arched window with brick rowlock arches, limestone keystones, wooden tracery, and limestone sills and belt courses. A corbel table extends the length of the building just under the eaves of the gabled roof.

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The 1930 north-south wing, or parish hall, is a gable-roofed, one story structure above a raised foundation story. The main entrance is at ground level on the north end of the hall. The double doors and transom are flanked by one-story brick buttresses with limestone weathering. Above the doorway is a limestone plaque which says "Lutheran Parish Hall". An arched doublehung sash window flanked by brick, Palladian-style rectangular panels is located directly above the name plaque.

Flanking the doorway on the basement level are two pairs of six over six doublehung sash windows. East of the easternmost window is a limestone plaque inscribed with the date, 1930. On the upper story are two sets of paired six over six doublehung sash windows with limestone sills, surmounted by another set of six-light windows. A corbel table with a truncated apex trims the gabled parapet. The apex of the gabled parapet is accentuated by a recessed brick triangle.

The west facade of the parish hall faces a courtyard. A small entrance to the church is wedged between the south facade of the church and the end of the parish hall. Concrete steps terminate at the limestone water table of the church building on which rests the single-leaf door. A narrow limestone course on each side of the lintel of the door serves as a base from which springs a pointed, rowlock arch with a limestone keystone. This arch surrounds the pointed transom above the door. Farther up, the cornice fascia which follows the sloped line of the roof is attached to a corbelled buttress.

This sloped roof empties onto the flat roofed section of the parish hall, which butts up against the church entrance just described. The two story west facade of the parish hall is divided into five bays, without the buttresses used on the church building. The northernmost bay consists of double doors with small windows on the ground level and a multi-light circular window on the upper level. The remaining bays have three over three doublehung sash windows on the lower level and six over six doublehung sash windows on the upper level.

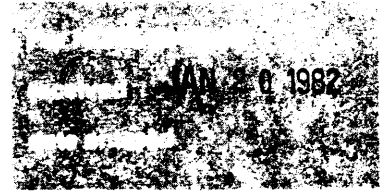
A corbel table placed under the gutter extends the length of the flat roofed section of the parish hall. Directly behind and parallel to this section is the gabled roof of the main section of the parish hall. Under the eaves of the gabled roofline is another corbel table. A brick chimney is located toward the south end of the parish wing.

The courtyard which is enclosed on two sides by the south facade of the church and the west facade of the parish hall has a circular walkway with a wooden cross in the center surrounded by shrubs. A series of straight walkways radiates from the circular one.

The east facade of the parish hall, which faces the alley, is divided into six bays but uses only four brick pilasters. These pilasters are simpler than the pilasters on the remainder of the church and parish hall complex, in that they are perfectly straight with weathering only at the top.

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The bottom story contains one pair of four over four doublehung sash windows per bay. The upper story contains twelve over twelve doublehung sash windows in all but the northernmost bay, which has eight over eight sash surmounted by eight-light windows. The windows of both stories have limestone sills. A corbel table extends the length of the wing under the gutter. of the church.

A fire in August, 1975, destroyed much of the interior. The congregation of the church is attempting to restore the interior as closely as possible to its appearance before the fire. The steeple, removed sometime before the fire, has been rebuilt to closely resemble its original configuration.

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/ 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** J.M.F. Riedel, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Immanuel Lutheran Church is significant because it is an outstanding local example of the Victorian Gothic style of architecture. The church was built in 1891 by J.M.F. Riedel, a church architect from Fort Wayne, Indiana, and was dedicated on November 15, 1891.

The most distinguishing features of the Immanuel Lutheran Church are the polychromatic voussoirs which highlight the arches. This polychromatic effect is formed by the alternation of red brick and limestone voussoirs. The use of polychromy is the most distinctive element of the Victorian Gothic style. The effective combination of polychromy and tracery surrounding the stained glass windows distinguishes the church as a noteworthy example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Northern Indiana.

Most of Valparaiso's downtown congregations have moved to the outskirts of the city and demolished their downtown buildings. As a result, the Immanuel Lutheran Church remains the oldest downtown church in its original location.

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1912
"History of Porter County, Indiana", Volume I, Page 310

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Valparaiso, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	9	4	9	5	0	4	5	9	0	3	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Washington Street on west to alley on the east.
Institute Street on north to lot line on the south.
Lot #4 of Powell's Addition to the City of Valparaiso

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 Bertha Stalbaum, Porter County Historical Curator, for Heritage Lutheran Church
Porter County Museum and Historical Society

organization Porter County, Inc. date 1977

street & number 153 Franklin Street telephone 219/462-2233 or 462-2937

city or town Valparaiso state Indiana 46383

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title 51110 date 1-8-82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Braunham</u>	date <u>2-19-82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>James McClelland</u>	date <u>2/18/82</u>
Chief of Registration	