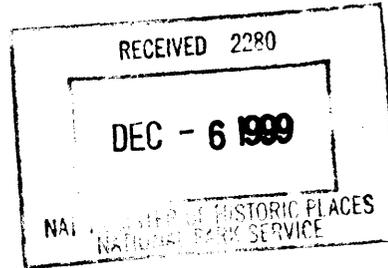


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



16601

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Edward's Chapel

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1129 Bellevue Avenue

not for publication N/A

city or town City of Eau Claire

vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alison J. Wells
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

12/1/99
Date

State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

St. Edward's Chapel
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain) _____

Joe
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall *1-7-00*

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(check as many as apply) (Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources in the count)

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)

Historic resources of Eau Claire

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

St. Edward's Chapel is a tall, one-story, Gothic Revival building. It was begun in 1889 and completed in 1896. The Chapel is constructed of rock-faced, granite and sandstone ashlar and has a basement of the same materials. It is composed of a front-gabled main block and a hip-roofed entry porch section. The roofs are finished with wood shingles.

DESCRIPTION

St. Edward's Chapel is located on the south side of Bellevue Avenue, north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa River. The narrow lot on which the Chapel sits slopes down hill from the street. A row of large, bushy evergreens screen the Chapel from the street. The area north and west of the Chapel is residential, with predominantly early twentieth century, single-family houses. South and east of the Chapel is an industrial area.

St. Edward's Chapel (see photo 1) was begun in May 1889, under the supervision of the rector of Christ Church, Reverend B. F. Cooley.¹ Reverend Cooley had also designed the building, which was intended to serve as a mission of Christ Church, Eau Claire's Episcopal parish. Cooley intended that the Chapel have a 40-foot stone bell tower, tile flooring, a granite altar, and that all the windows be leaded-glass.² Construction on St. Edward's Chapel ended when Reverend Cooley departed in August 1889, leaving the Chapel incomplete. When the Chapel was finished in 1896, the design and finishes were scaled back: it appears to have had a very slender, 30-foot tower (demolished); the flooring was wood; and it is uncertain whether either the granite altar or all leaded-glass windows were installed.

The footprint of the main block of the Chapel is rectangular, with the long axis oriented north-south and measuring 53 feet (north-south) by 23 feet. The main block houses the nave. The entry porch is set on the west-facing facade of the main block, close to the north-facing (front) end of the building, and has a hip-roofed extension to the south (rear). The Chapel is constructed of sandstone from Eau Claire and granite from nearby Chippewa Falls.³ The Chapel's steeply-pitched gable roof is enriched with narrow wood moldings with simple, classical profiles. The Chapel also has gothic-arched openings, and a round window in each gable end. Some, and possibly all, of the windows originally held leaded glass. All but two of the windows have been replaced with rectangular, wood, single-pane, casement or fixed windows. Most date from circa 1982.

¹"Imposing Ceremonies," Eau Claire Free Press, 27 May 1889, p. 2.

²"St. Edward's Mission," Eau Claire Free Press, 27 July 1889, p. 3.

³Ibid.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

The front facade of the Chapel faces north. The main block (east) and the entry porch (west) can be seen on this facade. The only opening on this facade in the main block (see photo 2) is the round window, deeply-recessed and set high in the gable end. This originally held a leaded-glass rose window, but now has a painted, fixed window that dates from circa 1982. There may have been a rectangular window below and to the east of the round window; it has been blocked and probably was not original. On the west end of the main block on this facade there is an area of patched stonework that may have been the original location of the cornerstone. The cornerstone (extant) was engraved with the name of the Chapel and the date of the cornerstone ceremony (26 May 1889). The cornerstone was actually laid in 1896. It was relocated to Christ Church in 1918, when St. Edward's function as a mission ended and the congregation began attending services at Christ Church.⁴ The north-facing facade of the entry porch section (see photo 3) features a gothic-arched opening with a steeply-pitched gable. There is a glass-and-wood door with sidelights and a gothic-arched transom recessed within this opening. This was installed circa 1996. The opening had no door originally.

On the south-facing (rear) facade of the main block (see photo 4), there is a centrally-placed, gothic-arched doorway; and a narrow, gothic-arched window opening on either side of the door. The door is paneled wood, with a pane of glass in the upper half. It leads into the basement. The windows are rectangular replacements that probably date from circa 1982. There is a round, fixed window in the gable end similar to the one on the north-facing (front) facade. The very bottom of the opening has been filled with rock-faced rubble that appears to match the original masonry of the Chapel. There are no openings on the south-facing (rear) facade of the entry porch section. A heavy, rock-faced, ashlar chimney is set inside the corner where the west-facing facade of the main block and the south-facing (rear) facade of the entry porch join.

Three heavy, rock-faced, ashlar buttresses divide the east-facing facade into two parts (see photo 5). On the north end, there is a gabled wall dormer with wood, pointed-arch, two-pane window (see photo 6). This is one of the two windows in the Chapel that appears to predate 1940 and may be original. South of the wall dormer on the north end of this facade, there is a rectangular replacement window (south). On the south end of this facade (see photo 7), there are three gothic-arched openings, each with a rectangular replacement window.

As on the east-facing facade, there are three regularly-spaced buttresses on the west-facing facade of the Chapel (see photo 8). On the north end of the west-facing facade, north of the entry porch section, there is a gabled wall dormer with a wood, pointed-arch, two-pane window matching the one on the east-facing facade. South of the entry porch section, there is one gothic-arched opening with a rectangular replacement window. The west-facing facade of the entry porch has two gothic-arched openings (see photo 9). The northern one is short and broad like a transom, with a wood, gothic-arched, single-pane window. This window probably dates from circa 1982. There is a rectangular replacement window in the southern opening. There may have originally been a doorway into a small bell tower

⁴History of Christ Church Cathedral (Eau Claire: n.p., 1958), p. 29.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

section where the southern opening is now located. According to the 1931 Sanborn map, there was a one-story masonry section, measuring approximately ten feet (north-south) by about six feet attached to the west-facing facade of the entry porch, covering over the southern window opening. On the northwest corner of this section, there was a 30-foot round tower, measuring about five feet in diameter.⁵ By 1953, the tower section had been demolished.⁶

On the interior, the main block of the Chapel was originally the nave. The nave was an open space with a central aisle, two groups of pews and an altar at the south end of the room. The wood board flooring, which has been retained, was laid to accent this layout; the boards run east-west where the pews sat and north-south down the aisle and beneath the altar site. The original pair of doors that separate the nave from the entry are also still in place. These doors are made up of narrow, vertical boards and together form a gothic arch. The Chapel closed in 1918, and the building was vacant until sometime between 1923 and 1926, when it became a residence.⁷ The current layout dates from circa 1982. There is a bathroom in the south end of the entry porch section. A bathroom probably was installed here when the Chapel was first converted into a residence. Within the nave, two walls form an L, with arms running north and east. These walls divide the nave into three spaces. There is a living room at the north end, office space at the south end, and a galley kitchen west of the L. The L walls also support a loft, which is used as a bedroom. The loft is reached by means of a metal ladder on the east-running wall. Most of the walls in the Chapel are finished with plaster, as is the central, flat part of the ceiling. The sloping sides of the ceiling are clad with wood boards. The roof and the loft are reinforced with exposed cross-braces. In the southwest corner of the nave, a circular opening has been cut into the floor. A metal ladder descends through the opening into the basement. Space for utilities, storage and laundry is located in the basement.

St. Edward's Chapel retains fair integrity. Exterior alterations are confined primarily to the loss of the leaded-glass windows and of the bell tower section. Most of the existing windows date from circa 1982. The impact of the loss of the original windows is not too great, as many of the original openings have been retained and the windows are deep-set, lending the openings more visual emphasis than the windows themselves. Even without a bell tower, the religious function of the Chapel remains evident. The circa 1996 exterior front door is a smaller alteration, and one that could be reversed easily. Interior alterations result from the Chapel's evolution as a residence, and primarily date from circa 1985. These alterations include a bathroom in the entry porch section; two walls and a loft dividing the space within the nave; and an opening in the nave floor providing access to the basement. Despite these interior

⁵Map of Eau Claire, Wisconsin (Pelham, New York: Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Company, 1931), p. 40.

⁶Photograph of St. Edward's Chapel as a residence, dated 1953, in possession of property owner, Michelle Johnsted.

⁷Wright's Eau Claire City Directory (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1923 and 1926).

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

changes, the Chapel's function as a religious space between 1896 and 1918 is still evident. Taken together, the alterations do not compromise the historic integrity of St. Edward's Chapel.

St. Edward's Chapel
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in our prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion

Period of Significance
1889-1918

Significant Dates
1889-1896

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Cooley, B. F., Reverend

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

St. Edward's Chapel is significant at the local level under Criterion A in religion. It represents one phase in the westward expansion of the Episcopal Church: the mission phase. St. Edward's Chapel retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic association and function. The period of significance coincides with the time it was used as a mission church, 1896 to 1918.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

The early history of the city of Eau Claire is closely associated with the development of the lumber industry in the Chippewa Valley, earning the community its nickname, the Sawdust City. Logs were rafted down the Chippewa River beginning in 1821, and a sawmill was built at Chippewa Falls in 1838. In 1846, Stephen McCann, Jeremiah Thomas, George Randall and Simon Randall erected a dam and a sawmill at the junction of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. The sawmill was washed away by heavy rains in 1847, but the Randalls, with new partners, were able to rebuild the mill. A second dam and mill complex was built for Jesse Gage and James Reed soon afterward.⁸

Lumbermen such as Daniel Shaw, Charles Bullen, Joseph G. Thorp, Orrin Ingram, Donald Kennedy, H. C. Putnam and George Buffington set up operations near the sawmills in the 1850s. Three small settlements grew up near the sawmills, separated by the rivers. The village of Eau Claire was located south of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River; Eau Claire City was located south of the Eau Claire and east of the Chippewa; and North Eau Claire was north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa. In 1856, plats for the Village of Eau Claire and Eau Claire City were recorded, and Eau Claire County was separated from Chippewa County. The village of Eau Claire was made county seat. In 1861, the population of the three settlements was 3,164.⁹

Following the Civil War, many Norwegian immigrants settled in Eau Claire, adding to an ethnic base of Germans, Irish, Canadians and Yankees. By this time, a fourth community had developed in the area. West Eau Claire was located north of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River. When Eau Claire incorporated as a city in 1872, the new city included what had been West Eau Claire, as well as the former communities of Eau Claire, Eau Claire City, and North Eau Claire. The population in 1880 was 9,771. By 1885, the booming lumber industry had caused the population to swell to 21,668, making Eau Claire the second-largest city in Wisconsin. During the late

⁸Jane Hieb, Eau Claire, Heartland of the Chippewa Valley: An Illustrated History (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc, 1988), pp. 20-22.

⁹Mary Taylor, "Final Report: Intensive Historic/Architectural Survey of the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin," Report Prepared for the City of Eau Claire, March 1983, pp. 6-7; and Lois Barland, Sawdust City (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1960), pp.12-20.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

1880s, the lumbering industry in Eau Claire declined sharply. The city's population fell twenty percent in response, dropping to 17,415 in 1890. Eau Claire's business community moved into wood-products manufacturing, with such enterprises as the Pioneer Furniture Company (1887), the Phoenix Furniture Company (1899), the Dells Pulp and Paper Company (1894), the Linderman Box and Veneer Company (1895) and the Kaiser Lumber Company Box Factory (1905). These concerns helped stabilize Eau Claire's population.¹⁰

After the turn of the century, the manufacturing sector expanded beyond wood-products, with the Gillette Safety Tire Company (later Uniroyal, Incorporated, and the city's largest employer until it closed in 1992), the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works (later National Presto Industries, producing small home appliances), and other companies. In 1916, the Wisconsin State Normal School for teacher-training opened in Eau Claire. This post-secondary institution, now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, drew students from all over west-central Wisconsin. Eau Claire's population, which had hovered around 17,500 from 1890 to 1910, began to grow again in the 1910s. This reflected the city's development as a regional economic and educational center for the surrounding rural counties.¹¹

In 1940, the population of Eau Claire was 30,745. It reached 44,619 in 1970.¹² Today the city of Eau Claire is a lively community with more than 55,000 residents and thriving institutional, commercial and industrial sectors.

HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN WISCONSIN

Early in the nineteenth century, the movement of phenomenal numbers of settlers into newly-opened western territories and the loss of communicants in the wake of the religious revivalism of the period inspired the Episcopal Church to organize a national missionary society. As an Episcopal priest traveling through Kentucky and Ohio observed at the time:

Throughout the western part of the United States there are multitudes who have been baptized and educated in the Episcopal Church. Yet by far the greater part of these, after waiting perhaps many years in hope of obtaining the services of a clergyman, have been swept away by prevailing current of popular sentiment and have united themselves with dissenting denominations.¹³

¹⁰Taylor, pp. 8-9.

¹¹Taylor, pp. 8-9; and Barland, Sawdust City, p. 112.

¹²Taylor, p. 9.

¹³James Thayer Addison, The Episcopal Church in the United States, 1789-1931 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1951), p. 127.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church (Society) in the United States of America formed in 1820. For its first 15 years, the Society languished for lack of funds and ineffective leadership. In 1835, Jackson Kemper was elected the first Missionary Bishop and assigned the task of establishing churches in the Missouri and Indiana territories. The Wisconsin Territory was added to his jurisdiction in 1838. The primary goal of the domestic mission was to minister to Episcopalians in areas where there was no established Episcopal church. Converting non-Christians ("heathens") was a secondary goal and one that received little attention in Wisconsin.¹⁴

Jackson Kemper was a tireless, effective leader. The westward expansion of domestic missions flourished under his direction. Kemper devoted particular attention to the faithful in Wisconsin throughout his life. The first Episcopal mission in the Wisconsin Territory was established among the Oneida near Green Bay in 1826. The Oneida had been relocated from New York state, where many had been raised in the Episcopal faith.¹⁵

European-American pioneers streamed into the Wisconsin Territory during the late 1830s and the 1840s, concentrating in the southeastern and southwestern corners of the future state. Realizing that the Wisconsin Territory desperately needed clergy, Kemper sent three young seminarians to southeastern Wisconsin in 1841. These men established St. John's in the Wilderness, near Waukesha (then called Prairieville), as the headquarters for their circuit-riding ministry. In 1842, Nashota House was founded nearby, as a training facility for clergy.¹⁶

When the Diocese of Wisconsin was formed in 1847, 25 congregations had been established. Jackson Kemper was named Bishop of Wisconsin in 1848. Kemper carried out this responsibility enthusiastically, while continuing his dedicated service as Missionary Bishop. By the time Kemper retired in 1859, there were 45 parishes and missions in Wisconsin. The Episcopal Church in Wisconsin continued to grow steadily, peaking in the 1920s with 138 parishes and missions, concentrated in urban areas and in the eastern part of the state. In 1947, the Episcopal Church counted 132 parishes and missions.¹⁷

¹⁴Ibid., pp. 129 and 140.

¹⁵Barbara Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), III:9-2.

¹⁶Ibid., III:9-3 through 9-4.

¹⁷Ibid., III:9-4 through 9-5; and Harold Wagner, The Episcopal Church in Wisconsin, 1847-1947 (Milwaukee: Diocese of Milwaukee, 1947), p. 23.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH AND ST. EDWARD'S CHAPEL

Many of the early settlers of Eau Claire were Episcopalian in faith. Although Episcopal services were first held in 1858, it was not until 1866 that these were regular and well-attended enough for the Episcopal Church to establish a mission in Eau Claire. The mission prospered and by 1870 had become Christ Church parish, with its own priest. The first Christ Church was begun in 1873 and completed in 1875. It was located at 508 South Farwell Street, at one end of the site of the current Christ Church Cathedral. Christ Church drew Episcopalians from the far reaches of Eau Claire, many of whom found the distance to the church was not conducive to regular attendance. This inspired Reverend B. F. Cooley, the rector of Christ Church, to initiate the formation of St. Edward's mission in 1889. Christ Church grew in membership and wealth through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This is reflected in the construction of the lavish, architect-designed Christ Church and Parish House (1908-16) and Christ Church Chapel (1935). This complex is an outstanding example of Neo-Gothic Revival design and was listed on the National Register in 1983. When the Diocese of Eau Claire was formed in 1930, Christ Church became a cathedral, with a resident bishop.¹⁸ This testifies to the continued growth and prominence of Christ Church among Episcopal congregations in western Wisconsin during the early twentieth century. Christ Church remains an active parish with a large congregation.

St. Edward's Chapel was initiated as a mission of Christ Church in 1889 to serve the growing number of parishioners who lived on the north side of the Eau Claire River. The Reverend B. F. Cooley, who was rector of Christ Church from November 1888 to August 1889, designed the Chapel and oversaw the beginning of its construction. A traditional Masonic cornerstone ceremony was held on 26 May 1889.¹⁹ The Chapel was named St. Edward's in honor of both the religious figure Edward the Confessor and Edward Randolph Welles, Bishop of Milwaukee from 1874 to 1888. Cooley's design for the Chapel was quite grand, calling for a 40-foot stone bell tower, tile flooring, a granite altar and all leaded-glass windows.²⁰ With Reverend Cooley's departure in August 1889, the Chapel was left unfinished.

In 1896, the Reverend Thomas C. Eglin, rector of Christ Church from 1895 until 1898, reactivated the Chapel's construction. Reverend Cooley's design was scaled back: the bell tower was only 30 feet high, the flooring was wood rather than tile, and it is uncertain whether either the granite altar or all leaded-glass windows were installed. On 5

¹⁸History of Christ Church Cathedral, p. 29.

¹⁹"Imposing Ceremonies."

²⁰"St. Edward's Mission."

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

June 1896, the Reverend I. L. Nicholson, Bishop of Milwaukee, laid the cornerstone. On 29 June 1896 (St. Peter's Day), St. Edward's Chapel was consecrated and formally opened.²¹

St. Edward's Chapel did not attract the attendance or the financial support to transform it into a self-sufficient parish with its own pastor. The lack of increase in membership may have been due to the availability of trolley service from Eau Claire's north side to the downtown, making it easier to attend services at Christ Church. Christ Church remained the mother church of St. Edward's Chapel throughout its use as a religious building. In 1918, the congregation of St. Edward's had declined to such an extent that the Chapel was closed, and the members began attending services at Christ Church.²² Symbolic of this move, the Chapel cornerstone was relocated to the northeast corner of Christ Church, which had been completed at 510 South Farwell Street in 1916.

Sometime between 1923 and 1926, St. Edward's Chapel was converted into a single family house. By 1931, the Chapel had become a duplex, with the second unit in the basement.²³ By 1953, the Chapel had lost its bell tower.²⁴ The Chapel became a single-family home once again around 1958.²⁵ Circa 1982, then-owner Matt Playter had the interior of the Chapel remodeled to its current appearance.²⁶

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: RELIGION

St. Edward's Chapel is significant at the local level under Criterion A in religion. It represents one phase in the westward expansion of the Episcopal Church: the mission phase.

The westward expansion of the Episcopal Church during the nineteenth century generally followed a specific, three-phase pattern: organization, mission, and parish. During the organization phase, a group of communicants begins holding services. The group either petitions for a visit from a clergyman, or a circuit-riding minister looking to expand

²¹"St. Edward's Chapel--The Episcopal Chapel on North Side Hill To Be Formally Opened Monday," Eau Claire Sunday Leader, 28 June 1896, p. 5.

²²History of Christ Church Cathedral, p. 29.

²³Wright's Eau Claire City Directory (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1923; 1926; 1931; 1935; 1939; 1943; and 1947).

²⁴Photograph of St. Edward's Chapel as a residence, dated 1953.

²⁵Wright's Eau Claire City Directory (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1957; and 1959).

²⁶Michelle Johnsted to Stacey Pilgrim, Personal Communication, 10 June 1998.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

his territory finds them and schedules occasional visits. When the group has regular attendance and sufficient membership, the Episcopal Church establishes a "mission" among the communicants. A circuit-riding minister, financially supported by the church, is assigned to that mission. The circuit-riding minister is responsible for several missions and will travel among them. Interestingly, the Episcopal Church took advantage of advances in transportation in setting up mission territories. Circuit riders began on horseback, but were later assigned by rail-lines, where rail-lines were available.²⁷ During the mission phase, if the congregation grows in membership and financial resources such that it can support a full-time priest, the mission becomes a "parish." This is the third phase. As the parish grows, with the permission of the Episcopal Church, the parish church may establish a mission to serve communicants who find regular attendance difficult, either because of distance from the church or some other isolating factor. For example, special Episcopal missions have been made to college students, orphans, the imprisoned and the poor. The parish church continues to "mother" the mission, providing pastoral and financial support, until the mission becomes self-sustaining. When the mission can support itself, it separates from the mother church and becomes its own parish. The new parish may also establish missions. However, if the mission does not become self-sustaining, the mission is closed and the membership is absorbed by the mother church.²⁸ This hierarchical and cyclical pattern in the expansion of the Episcopal Church continues today.

The establishment and development of the Episcopal Church in Eau Claire followed the pattern described above and St. Edward's Chapel is a good example of the mission phase in this pattern. The Episcopal Church in Eau Claire began with the organization phase, in which a small group met sporadically at the Eau Claire House Hotel beginning in 1858. In 1866, Eau Claire's Episcopalians entered the mission phase. By 1873, the Eau Claire mission could support its own priest and was named a parish. The first Christ Church was erected in 1873-75. St. Edward's Chapel was initiated as a mission of Christ Church in 1889, but was not officially opened until 1896. However, after 22 years, St. Edward's was still not able to support itself. In 1918, St. Edward's closed and its members were absorbed into Christ Church. While St. Edward's Chapel has been a residence since at least 1926, it retains sufficient integrity to convey its function as a mission church. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in religion.

ARCHITECTURE

St. Edward's Chapel was evaluated to determine whether it has architectural significance as a Neo-Gothic Revival building but found ineligible. St. Edward's has lost its 30-foot bell tower, its leaded glass windows, and some openings have been altered. These changes compromise the architectural integrity of St. Edward's, although the building retains enough integrity to convey its historic function as a mission chapel. Nevertheless, St. Edward's Chapel is an interesting example of Neo-Gothic Revival style, meriting discussion. The Neo-Gothic Revival style is

²⁷Wagner, p. 273.

²⁸Ibid., pp. 206-228.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

a part of the Period Revival movement of the early twentieth century and was popular primarily for churches and chapels. Neo-Gothic Revival buildings typically are of random ashlar or brick construction with irregular massing and steeply-pitched roofs. The Gothic-arched openings are the hallmark of the style. Ornamentation and other details are derived from European Gothic ecclesiastical precedents and can include tracery, pinnacles, battlements, buttresses, parapeted gables with finials, and square towers or keep-like entrances.²⁹ St. Edward's Chapel incorporates many of these features, such as the random ashlar construction, buttresses, gothic-arched openings, and rose windows.

The 1983 and 1997 intensive surveys of Eau Claire's historic resources identified eight pre-1950 Neo-Gothic Revival churches and chapels as potentially eligible for the National Register for their architecture. Four are large-scale churches, and four are smaller chapels. The four large-scale churches are Christ Church Cathedral, First Congregational Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and the First Methodist Church. The four Neo-Gothic Revival chapels are simpler, smaller-scale buildings than the four churches described above and, as such, are more similar to St. Edward's Chapel. St. Joseph's Chapel in Sacred Heart Cemetery was built in 1896 and was listed on the National Register in 1988. The Putnam Memorial Chapel in Forest Hill Cemetery was built in 1908. It is being nominated to the National Register. The final Neo-Gothic Revival chapel is the Hoover Memorial Chapel in Lakeview Cemetery, built in 1936. It is being nominated to the National Register.

While St. Edward's Chapel is a good example of a Neo-Gothic Revival religious building, its architectural integrity has been compromised. Therefore, it is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

CRITERION CONSIDERATION

Certain types of properties ordinarily are not eligible for listing on the National Register. One of these "criteria considerations" applies to St. Edward's Chapel. Under criterion consideration A, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not eligible for listing on the National Register. However, this criterion consideration also states that a property may be eligible if it is directly associated with a broad pattern in the history of a religion, such as the historic spread of a religious institution and it retains sufficient integrity to convey that function and association. St. Edward's Chapel is directly associated with the mission phase in the westward expansion of the Episcopal Church and its function as a church building is still evident in its appearance. Therefore, while criterion consideration A does apply, it does not bar St. Edward's Chapel from listing on the National Register.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, St. Edward's Chapel is significant at the local level under Criterion A in religion. It represents one phase in the westward expansion of the Episcopal Church: the mission phase. The Chapel was established in 1889 as

²⁹Wyatt, II:2-5 and II:2-30.

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St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

a mission church of Christ Church, Eau Claire. Mission churches were made necessary by the growing population and by the great distances many faithful needed to travel to attend services. The design of the Chapel, by Reverend B.F. Cooley, recalls, on a smaller scale, the larger churches and Cathedrals of the Episcopal faith, which favored Gothic inspired designs. While St. Edward's Chapel has been remodeled into a residence, it retains the integrity to convey its historic association and function. The period of significance, 1889 to 1918, spans the years from the founding and the beginning of construction of St. Edward's Chapel until it ceased to serve as a mission church.

St. Edward's Chapel
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/1/9/2/8/0</u>	<u>4/9/6/3/5/2/0</u>	3	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>	4	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Specialist
organization Mead & Hunt date 22 September 1998
street & number 6501 Watts Road telephone (608)273-6380
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53719-2700

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps A USGS map (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Section 10 Page 1

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

St. Edward's Chapel is located on Lot 4, Block B, in the Eau Claire Lumber Company's Fifth Addition to the City of Eau Claire, in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin. This lot encompasses less than one acre, and measure 65 feet east-west, 150 feet along the west boundary, and 180 feet along the east boundary.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of St. Edward's Chapel enclose all the resources historically associated with the Chapel, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the lot on which it sits.

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Section Photo Page 1

St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 of 9
St. Edward's Chapel
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
Photo by Stacey Pilgrim, Mead & Hunt, 10 June 1998
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of the north-facing (front) facade, looking southwest.

For the photographs listed below, the information is the same as the above, except as noted:

Photo 2 of 9
Closer view of north-facing (front) facade, looking southwest.

Photo 3 of 9
View of the north-facing (front) facade of the entry porch, looking south.

Photo 4 of 9
View of the south-facing (rear) facade, looking northeast.

Photo 5 of 9
View of the east-facing facade, looking southwest.

Photo 6 of 9
Closeup of gabled wall dormer on east-facing facade, looking west.

Photo 7 of 9
View of the east-facing facade, looking northwest.

Photo 8 of 9
View of the west- and south-facing facades, looking northeast.

Photo 9 of 9
View of the west-facing facade of the entry porch section, looking southeast.

St. Edward's Chapel
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

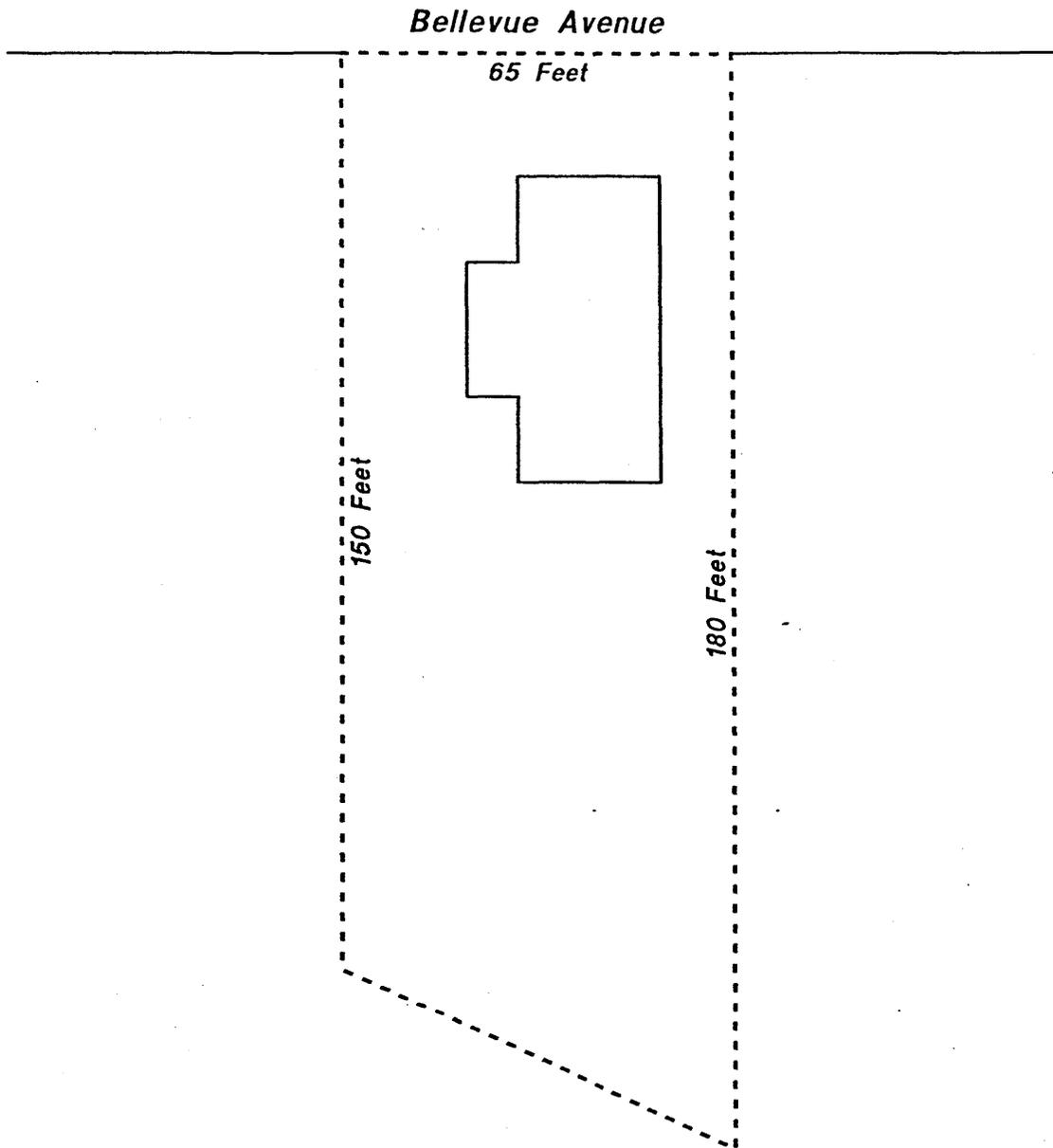
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Michelle Johnsted
street & number 1129 Bellevue Avenue telephone (715)833-7662
city or town Eau Claire state WI zip code 54703

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



ST. EDWARD'S CHAPEL

1129 Bellevue Avenue
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County
Wisconsin

Legend:

-  Contributing
-  Historic Boundary



Scale: 1" = 30'