

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

6.21.

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	4.27.79

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

**1 NAME**

*Church building eligible 12/1/78*

HISTORIC

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chapel, Guildhall and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Chapel, Parish Hall and Parish Center

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

614 S. Main Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Racine

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Racine

CODE

101

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

— PUBLIC

PRIVATE

— BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Rev. James A. Kaestner, Rector, and Wardens and Vestry of St. Luke's Episcopal / Church

STREET & NUMBER

614 S. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Racine

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Racine County Register of Deeds, Racine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

730 Wisconsin Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Racine Architectural Survey by Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc.

DATE

April 1974

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Urban Aesthetics Commission

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

(continued)

# 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. Luke's Episcopal Church complex is situated on the northwest corner of Main and Seventh streets in downtown Racine. A church in the Gothic Revival style dominates the lot at the corner, with a rectory (now the Parish Center) adjacent on Main Street and a parish hall and chapel at the back of the church on Seventh Street.

THE CHURCH The Church was designed by the Milwaukee architect, Edward Townsend Mix, and built in 1866-67. It is built of cream brick, probably made in Racine brickyards, and is trimmed with limestone. A 150-foot-high entrance tower is situated at the southeast corner of the structure. The tower is eighteen feet square, while the church measures 100 feet by 50 feet. At the east gable end of the church is the central entrance, slightly projecting, with a pointed gothic arch. Above the entry are two groups of three lancet windows under a rose window. The gable is articulated with a corbel table with a cross at its crest. A tall lancet window and a corner pier lend verticality to the north end of the gable.

The tower at the south end of the gable faces the corner at a 45° angle to the church. It features lancet windows, louvered at the third level, brick corbelling, and corner piers with stone weatherings. An arched door in the tower matches the main entrance. The steeple is octagonal, with four gablets at the base sheltering clocks and supporting small crosses. In 1888 the clocks and bells were installed by the Seth Thomas Clock Co. and the Meneely Co. respectively. In 1946 the bells were converted to electric operation. A recent aluminum cross is mounted on top of the steeple.

The south wall of the church features six small buttresses with limestone weatherings separating six lancet windows. A brick corbel table finishes the eave line. The north wall is identical, but has been obscured by the Parish Center.

Originally, the windows of the church were of painted glass, but in 1966 nine of them were replaced with stained glass by Conrad Schmidt Studios of Milwaukee. Windows on the north wall feature scenes from the nativity, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, while the Virgin Mary and the Apostles are pictured in the south windows. The church is unchanged on the exterior except for the replacement of the stairs, the windows, and the cross and shingles on the steeple.

THE CHAPEL The Chapel of the Holy Spirit was originally one of Racine's earliest fire houses. It was built in 1849 as Engine House No. 3 and is sited to the rear of the church. In 1899 it was donated to the church by Dr. John G. Meachem, Sr. It was converted to chapel between 1911 and 1919. In 1930 the chapel was given its present appearance. The Chapel has characteristics of the Gothic Revival style. Its center arched door is flanked by two lancet windows in the gable end. Brick corbelling accentuates the cornice, and three crosses in the gable are formed by inset bricks. The doors appear to be more recent.

(CONTINUED)

# 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 1866-67, 1869, 1906, 1915<sup>1</sup> BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edward Townsend Mix<sup>2</sup>  
 Corse, Gallien and Moon (masons)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Luke's Church complex is an important part of the urban landscape of Racine, lending Gothic elegance to the downtown area. St. Luke's Church is one of two structures in Racine designed by Edward Townsend Mix, one of the major mid-nineteenth century Wisconsin architects. The church is notable as one of the oldest Episcopal congregations in Wisconsin, whose parishioners founded Racine's first hospital and whose fifth rector, Roswell Park, founded Racine College.

ARCHITECTURE

Edward Townsend Mix (1831-1890) was born and studied architecture in New Haven, Connecticut. There he worked for Major Stone for seven years, before moving to Chicago where he worked for a while with William Boyington. In 1856 he moved to Milwaukee where he established his own office. Mix used elements of several post-Civil War styles in his designs, including the late Gothic Revival, High Victorian Romanesque. Several of his buildings are already on the National Register of Historic Places. They include the Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, the First Methodist Church at Monroe, and in Milwaukee the Mitchell Building, the Mackie Building, All Saint's Cathedral, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Iron Block. Mix practiced architecture for more than thirty years in Wisconsin and is one of the state's foremost nineteenth century architects. His tasteful and well-executed designs are significant contributions to the architecture of Wisconsin.

St. Luke's Church has excellent late Gothic Revival styling, and is nearly a mirror image of the First Methodist Church executed by Mix in Monroe, Wisconsin. Later architects' attempts to apply Gothic stylisms on the auxilliary buildings may be commendable, but were insignificant in comparison to the church. These structures complete the complex and provide an appropriate context for the Gothic church.

1. Sturtevant, A History of 80 Years, pages unnumbered.
2. Ibid.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burckel, Nicholas Ed., Racine Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County,  
 Racine: Racine County Board of Supervisors, 1977.

Butterfield, C.W., History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin.  
 Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.6

QUADRANGLE NAME Racine South, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 435895 | 4730500

B    |    |   

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The St. Luke's Church complex occupies lots 4 and 5 and parts of lots 3,6, and 7 in Block 33 of the original plat of Racine.

## 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

Barbara Wyatt, Nominations Specialist, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

February 26, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-8904

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Richard M. Mery*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Richard M. Mery*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-27-79

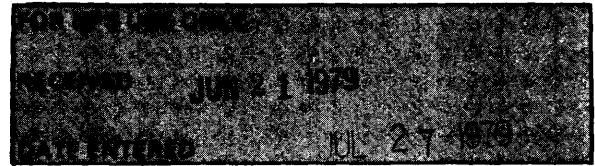
ATTEST: *Conna Pine Saxe*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION  
 Regional Coordinator

DATE

7-27-79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

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6. continued

Wisconsin Historical and Architectural Resources Survey

October 1975

X State

Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

"St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Chapel/Parish House" was determined eligible by the city of Racine (H.U.D.) on 11 December 1978, for the National Register of Historic Places.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

PARISH HALL In 1898 the Guildhall (Parish Hall) was built on a lot purchased adjacent to the west of the firehouse (chapel). Similar to the Gothic Revival styling of the chapel, the Parish Hall is composed of a slightly projecting center bay that contains the arched entrance and three lancet windows. A cross is recessed in the brickwork above the windows. Paired lancet windows at the first and second stories flank the center bay.

PARISH CENTER The rectory was built between 1905 and 1910 and is now used as the Parish Center. This two-story and attic building, constructed of cream Racine brick, contains some Gothic Revival stylisms. It features short horizontal bands of windows incorporated by Gothic labels and is finished by a corbel table at the gable and eave line. The covered entry arch projects from the facade. It leads to the cloister, between the church and Parish Center, that turns south towards an entrance to the rear of the church. In 1956 an auditorium was added to the rear of the Parish Center, connecting to the Parish Hall on Seventh Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

RELIGION

St. Luke's is the ninth oldest Episcopal parish in Wisconsin, established in 1842. In 1845 the first church of the congregation was completed, but in 1866 it was destroyed by fire. The first service was held in the new church on September 8, 1876.

The parishioners of the church have been closely associated with St. Luke's Hospital and Racine College. Roswell Park, rector of the church from 1856 until 1863, was first president of the college, which was established in 1852 as a preparatory college of sorts for Nashotah House, an Episcopalian seminary in Waukesha County. The Diocesan Council decided that "the city which raised six thousand dollars and acquired property of not less than six acres would be given the school."<sup>1</sup> Due largely to the efforts of the Rev. Joseph H. Nichols, Rector of St. Luke's, the college was located at Racine.

St. Luke's Hospital was inaugurated by parishioners in 1871. Members of the church donated money for the rental of a house to be used as a small hospital. The hospital was chartered in 1872 by the State Legislature to carry out charitable work. Four years later funds were donated for a larger building and Mrs. Julia F. Porter, wife of the rector, donated lots on College Avenue for the hospital. For several years the hospital committee of St. Luke's Guild raised funds to meet annual expenses.

1. History of the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin, p. 160

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER <sup>See</sup> below PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Centennial, 1842-1942, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1942.

Drummond, Margo and Mary Schuchman, Renewing Our Roots. Racine: Preservation, 1977.

Racine Journal-Times, "St. Luke's Church to Celebrate 90th Birthday," October 20, 1932.

Racine Journal-Times, "Racine Church 100 Years Old," October 10, 1942.

Racine Journal-Times, "Dedication, Open House Mark St. Luke's...Expansion," October 21, 1956.

Racine Journal-Times, "St. Luke's Bells to Chime Again," November 8, 1943.

Racine Journal-Times, "Bells of St. Luke's Chime for 75th Easter Sunday," April 14, 1963.

Racine Journal-Times, "St. Luke's ...to Dedicate Nine Stained Glass Windows," September 28, 1966.

Sturtevant, Harwood, A History of Eighty Years, St. Luke's Parish, Racine, Wisconsin 1842-1922, Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1879.

Withey, Henry and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Zimmerman, Russell, The Heritage Guidebook, Milwaukee: Inland Heritage Corporation, 1976.

11. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

Marjorie Perlham and Susan E. Carr  
Architectural Conservation Program  
730 Washington Avenue - City Hall  
Racine

November 3, 1978  
414/636-9280  
Wisconsin 53403