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NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 10024-0018

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

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 Luther Memorial Church

other names/site number Luther Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church of Madison, Wisconsin

2. Location

|                 |                        |             |                     |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| street & number | 1021 University Avenue | N/A         | not for publication |
| city or town    | Madison                | N/A         | vicinity            |
| state Wisconsin | code WI                | county Dane | code 025            |
|                 |                        |             | zip code 53715-1041 |

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.)

*Nancy J. Lenkum*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/8/2018  
Date

Wisconsin SHPO  
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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Luther Memorial Church

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

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.

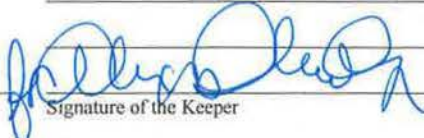
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

3-26-18  
Date of Action

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 structure  
 site  
 object

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

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| contributing | noncontributing |
| 1            | buildings       |
|              | sites           |
|              | structures      |
|              | 2 objects       |
| 1            | 2 total         |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: RELIGIOUS FACILITY

RELIGION: CHURCH SCHOOL

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: RELIGIOUS FACILITY

RELIGION: CHURCH SCHOOL

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation SANDSTONE

walls SANDSTONE

roof CERAMIC TILE

other LIMESTONE

### Narrative Description

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

Luther Memorial Church  
Name of Property

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County and State

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## 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 prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1923

1959

### Significant Dates

1923

1959

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Claude & Starck (1923 church)

Steher, Reginald (1959 education building addition)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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

**Previous Documentation on File** (National Park Service):

- 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
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- X State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - X Other
- Name of repository: Luther Memorial Church

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

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

1 16 304339 4771497  
 Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

|                            |   |                  |                |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| <b>name/title</b>          | Michael T. McQuillen, M.S. & Traci E. Schnell, M.A. | <b>date</b>      | September 2017 |
| <b>organization</b>        | Heritage Research, Ltd.                             | <b>telephone</b> | (262) 251-7792 |
| <b>street &amp; number</b> | N91 W17194 Appleton Avenue, Suite 203               | <b>zip code</b>  | 53051-2083     |
| <b>city or town</b>        | Menomonee Falls                                     | <b>state</b>     | WI             |

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### 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)

### Property Owner

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

|                            |                                      |                  |                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>name/title</b>          | Reverend Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor | <b>date</b>      | September 2017 |
| <b>organization</b>        | Luther Memorial Church               | <b>telephone</b> | (608) 258-3160 |
| <b>street &amp; number</b> | 1021 University Avenue               | <b>zip code</b>  | 53715-1041     |
| <b>city or town</b>        | Madison                              | <b>state</b>     | WI             |

**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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Luther Memorial Church  
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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**General Description**

Completed and dedicated in 1923, Luther Memorial Church was designed by the Madison architectural firm, Claude & Starck. The Neo-Gothic Revival style church features such stylistic elements as its steeply-pitched roof, projecting bays with parapeted gables, buttresses, pointed-arch openings with tracery, and prominent square tower exhibiting crenellation, finials, and tracery. As well, unlike many Neo-Gothic Revival style churches that exhibit a more horizontal form of Gothic architecture, Luther Memorial Church's verticality is pronounced as seen with its primary façade stained glass window, soaring tower, and overall massing. In 1959, an education building addition containing administrative offices, pastor's offices and Sunday school classrooms was constructed on the church's east elevation. Set back from the primary facade of the church, this addition was designed by Madison architect, Reginald Stehr. Luther Memorial Church retains excellent integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and location.

**Description**

Setting:

Luther Memorial Church is located on the south side of University Avenue in the middle of the block between N. Mills and N. Brooks streets. The setting is urban and the church is part of the wider University of Wisconsin campus with the Daniels (Chemistry) Building located across Mills Street and Grainger Hall/UW School of Business found across Brooks Street. Lathrop Hall and additional campus buildings are located opposite Luther Memorial Church across University Avenue. The church's immediate neighboring buildings are the two-and-one-half-story, St. Francis House Episcopal Student Center on the east and the two-story, Lutheran Campus Center on the west (although a partner in faith, this organization is a separate entity from Luther Memorial Church). Conklin Place borders the church on the rear (south) elevation and, beyond that, are modern, multi-story, residential buildings. Landscaping in the form of shrubbery is found on either side of the primary (north) elevation entrance steps and along the sidewalk of University Avenue, which is tree-lined.

**Church**

Constructed in 1923, this steeply pitched, Neo-Gothic Revival-style church is built of more than 7,000 tons of cream or buff-colored, Colfax (Wisconsin) cut stone and trimmed with Bedford stone from

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Bedford, Indiana. The roof is covered with green tile. Rising 100 feet in height, the church is patterned after European cathedrals, but is not a “cathedral” per se, as cathedrals are the official seat of the bishop, which this church is not; however, its cruciform floor plan generally follows the cathedral or basilica plan, which provides for (from rear to front) a narthex, nave with side aisles, a transept (or crossing) and an apse that encompasses the chancel (or sanctuary). The nave measures 150 feet long by 47 feet wide, and extends to a height of 82 feet from the floor to the peak of the arches. Ordinarily cruciform plan churches are oriented with the apse located to the east. Because of the congregation’s desire to build along University Avenue, that was not logistically feasible and, instead, the church is on a north/south axis, with the apse located at its south end.

Flanked by pier-like elements and terminating as a gabled parapet, the church’s primary (north) entrance facade includes a wood-and-glass, double-door entrance that is located atop a flight of eight concrete steps; metal railings with quatrefoil designs define the stair entry. Set within a compound Gothic arch that includes a carved foliated pattern, the entrance is topped with a stone tympanum with a bas-relief figure of Christ standing with his arms open in a field of lilies. The inscription behind Him reads “Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give ye rest.” (Matthew 11:28). The Greek letters that are set within the shields to either side of Him [Alpha (left) and Omega (right)] translate to Jesus saying “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:13). Above the entrance, but below the focal window and carved in stone is the name of the church, “Luther Memorial Church.” To either side of the door is a single, copper-finish, Gothic lantern light fixture, while Gothic stone tracery outlines the entrance overall.

The west (side) facade is vertically articulated with stone buttressing that delineates the wall into seven distinct bays, while the southernmost “bay” comprises the chime tower. Beginning from the north, the initial bay, which is trimmed with modest corner piers and terminates as a gabled parapet, projects slightly from the main block and comprises the side entrance. A short concrete staircase with metal railings fronts the wood-and-glass, double-door entry which is topped with a tympanum that includes the Greek letters IHS, which is the monogram for Jesus. Like the front, a pair of copper lantern fixtures flanks the doorway. Moving south, the next five bays reflect the interior nave and consist of a single, Gothic-arch window with stained glass and extensive tracery within each bay along the upper level. A short, tile-covered shed roof extends from beneath the nave’s windows and tops the side aisles; this level is entirely devoid of fenestration. At the basement level, each bay includes a pair of replacement sash windows that are protected by metal bars. Bay seven (or the second from the rear/south) comprises the transept end which also features corner piers and a gabled parapet. A large Gothic-arch

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window with tracery (not as large as the north window but larger than the nave windows) rests near the upper portion of this end wall, while a rectangular window with tracery is located along the main level. Like the central section, the basement level of the transept includes replacement double-hung windows. The southernmost end of the west facade of the church is the chime tower. Rising beyond the roofline of the church proper, the open belfry features Gothic stone tracery that is finished with a crenelated parapet and corner finials with crockets. Beneath the belfry and along all three of the tower's four sides is a pair of lancet windows with stone tracery. The tower alone reportedly required 1,000 tons of stone and was built at the rear of the church "to avoid giving an overbalanced appearance to the front."<sup>1</sup>

The rear (south) facade of the church is rather unremarkable and includes three non-public entrances, as well as sash windows along the ground level and first/main floor. The wall plane is flat with only the projecting stone first floor belt course, and parapet coping tiles breaking the flat surface. The wall steps up at varying heights, following the design of the interior spaces. The conical roof and back wall of the bell tower are visible at the back of the church.

As a result of the education building addition to the east, much of the church's east facade is obscured from view. Beginning at the rear (south), the initial bay of the 1923 church is the apsidal end of the building, which is devoid of fenestration. Thereafter, the transept end wall extends from the main block and carries a Gothic-arch window with stone tracery along its upper level. Like the west elevation, the central portion reflects the nave and consists of five bays delineated by stone buttressing, each bay of which includes a Gothic-arch, stained-glass window with tracery. The final bay, which originally looked exactly like the west side entrance, does continue to retain its parapet peak. However, an addition to that original side entrance now fronts the original doorway and will be described along with the educational building.

### **Church Interior Plan and General Finish**

As previously noted, the church floor plan is cruciform and includes a narthex, nave and side aisles,

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<sup>1</sup> "Interior of the New Luther Memorial Cathedral," including photo, *The Capital Times* (Madison), 27 October 1923, 3; Information regarding the tower's position included in the Luther Memorial Church description that was published in *The Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison), 27 October 1923, and which was reprinted in *Thirty-Fifth Anniversary, Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin*, June 1942, page 32.



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transept and apse/sanctuary; all of which are original spaces and features. The front (north) doors open into the narthex, which includes modern floor tile; two separate staircases access the choir from the narthex. The original staircase runs on an east/west axis along the front of the narthex, while a second, more recent staircase was added to the east end of the narthex. The original narthex was altered in 1966-67, when the choir balcony was expanded into the nave. The narthex was expanded and renovated in 1992. The choir balcony includes graduated seating arranged in a semi-circle facing the organ; the organ pipes occupy each corner and the floor and stairs are covered with linoleum.

The three sets of doors that separate the narthex from the nave are new and consist of wood and glass. Located at the rear of the nave is a red granite and limestone baptismal pool that was added in 1995. Entering into the nave, which consists of a center aisle and flanking side aisles, the floor largely consists of maple (which was refinished in 1973); however, the center and side aisles are finished with terrazzo. Wooden pews, set in two rows, are located within the nave and between the aisles. Originally, the church could accommodate 1,650 parishioners; however, seating pews were respaced in 1973, which resulted in a reduction of seating capacity. The single-story, side aisles are separated from the nave proper via a series of arches or, a continuous arcade. The walls of the church are finished with plaster, as are the spandrels of the arcade. Originally, the insides of the arches, as well as the entire spandrel space, were covered with stencil work. The plaster side walls are vertically articulated with engaged stone columns that alternate with the Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows. Additional stenciling originally trimmed each of the nave windows. The engaged columns terminate with composition brackets from which wood-veneered, steel trusses spring to support the wood-clad roof. An ornamental, double rope molding runs the perimeter of the interior and typical lantern fixtures hang from the ceiling in two rows over each row of pews (these were installed circa 1995 and reflect the design of the original lantern fixtures, which solely hung from the center of the church).

The chancel or sanctuary, which was originally contained within the apsidal end of the church, was extended in 1988 into the transept via a raised platform. The wooden platform is painted to appear as terrazzo, the material that comprises the original chancel floor and steps. The expanded sanctuary includes the lectern (at left) and pulpit (at right) [when the church was built, their original positions were reversed; they were switched in the 1990s], a cherry and granite, free-standing altar, as well as the highly ornate, carved stone (and original) high altar and reredos, the lattermost element of which is discussed separately to follow. All sanctuary stonework is carved from Colfax stone. The upper walls of the sanctuary are covered with stencil work done, in part, in the 1990s, to simulate the original stencil finish of the space.

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The east transept includes a restored 1893 Steere & Sons organ, while a portion of the west transept now houses a columbarium, which includes sections of the original carved stone communion railing. Both the east and west transepts originally had full lofts/balconies but they were removed in 1997 and each space now contains a small wooden aria balcony. Although the original organ was removed (and was sold to Alex Jordan Jr. and is now located in the Organ Room at the House on the Rock in Spring Green, Wisconsin) the façade pipes remain along the upper south wall space of both the east and west transepts. Rooms to either side of the sanctuary include the sacristy (east) and the original choir director's room (west).

Originally, the basement level was dominated by a large, central space (that measured 35 feet by 100 feet and 14 feet high<sup>2</sup>) that could serve as a gymnasium, banquet room, or auditorium, the lattermost function of which was enhanced by the 1930s addition of a raised stage. Per the original 1920 plans for the church, a total of eight Sunday school rooms were located along the east and west sides of the lower level, four on each side. At the southwest corner of the building was an apartment for the church's janitor/maintenance man, next to which was the pastor's office (which was remodeled for use as a chapel in the 1930s; the space is now part of the kitchen). Beneath the sanctuary, in a subbasement, was the boiler room. Men's and women's bathrooms, which included showers, were located at the north end, beneath the narthex. The following is among the number of lower level descriptions at the time of the church's dedication:

The basement of the building is fitted with the most modern of equipment. The banquet hall which will seat nearly 1,000 persons can be used as a basket ball (sic) floor. There are dressing rooms for men and women. These rooms are furnished with showers. The pipe organ from the old church was moved into the basement of the new structure. The kitchen is equipped with all modern furnishings, including coffee warmer and dish washers. In the rear of the basement is an apartment for the janitor of the church.<sup>3</sup>

The lower level of the church has since been entirely remodeled beginning in 1993. Today, the lower level, which is carpeted, includes a library, publishing office (including the church archives), a kitchen, dining space and a variety of smaller rooms (utilized as a nursery, as well as choir practice), and both

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<sup>2</sup> Room dimensions were identified in *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 27 October 1923 reprinted in *Thirty-Fifth Anniversary, Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin*.

<sup>3</sup> "2,500 at Dedication of Lutheran Cathedral; Speaker Praises Edifice," *The Capital Times* (Madison), 29 October 1923, 7.

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men's and women's bathrooms.

**Significant Interior Features**

***Stained, Painted and Leaded Glass Window Above the Entrance/Over Choir***

Measuring 16 feet wide and 40 feet high, this large focal window of made of Munich glass contains twenty-four full figures in the four rows within the lower three quarters of its overall design, while the upper portion is detailed with trefoil and quatrefoil patterns, along with three Trinity symbols (from left to right): a dove (the holy spirit); a lamb (Christ) and a globe (God the creator). Regarding the figures, the twelve disciples are depicted in rows one and three and are as follows: Row 1 (top, left to right): Peter, James the less, Andrew, James the greater, John, and Thomas; Row 3 (left to right): Jude, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Matthias (who took the place of Judas). Row 4 includes archangels Michael and Gabriel on the outer edges, with the gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the center. Row 2 consists of two groupings of three figures, with Christ at the center of each and they include (left to right): Moses, Jesus at his baptism, and John the Baptist, with the other three depict Melchizedek, Jesus at his Last Supper, and Aaron. The stone window is detailed with original painted stenciling.<sup>4</sup>

***Nave Windows***

Outlined with stone tracery, these large stained-glass windows reflect largely geometric patterns. Although secondary sources suggest that the windows were designed and manufactured by Thomas J. Gaytee of Minneapolis, Minnesota, he had not yet established his own factory for the manufacture of stained glass (See biographical information for Gaytee in Section 8). Church records from the 1920s are scant and do not include specific reference to the manufacture of windows. All original references to Gaytee's association with the entrance/choir balcony window come from published newspapers at the time of the church's dedication.

***Reredos/Altar Screen***

Rife with crocket detailing and carved by Walter Scott Sutton in association with the Bay View Stone Company, the reredos (or altar screen) rises 38 feet at its center, while the wings extend a total of 54

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<sup>4</sup> Window description included in Bonnie Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future* (Madison, WI: Luther Memorial Church, 1997), 7. Further descriptive material can be found in "Guide to the Symbolism at Luther Memorial," Typescript, Reformation Day 1973, On file in the Luther Memorial Archives, Madison, WI.

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feet in width. At the center of the tall panel is an 8-foot statue of Christ, a replica of Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen's "Christus," the 1839 marble version of which is located in the Church of Our Lady in Copenhagen, Denmark. A single Gothic-arched opening within each wing, both measuring approximately 9 feet high, include painted tapestries executed by Minneapolis artist Thomas J. Gaytee, who produced six sets (one for each season of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost).<sup>5</sup>

**Church Alterations Quantified:<sup>6</sup>**

1966-67: The choir balcony and narthex were expanded into the nave. The choir expansion accommodated the new organ that was built by Austin Organs specifically for Luther Memorial Church and includes 3,273 pipes.

1970: Repairs were made to stained glass windows along the west side of the nave, which were damaged in the bombing of nearby Sterling Hall in August 1970.

1973: The nave floor was refinished and the two rows of wooden pews were respaced. The west transept space was transformed into the Chapel of the Resurrection.

1983-1985: Storm windows were added to the nave windows and stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired. Electrical and mechanical systems were also upgraded and the exterior was cleaned. Ground was broken in October 1984 for a new entrance set at a 45-degree angle to the street, which improved circulation between the church and education building addition and provided space for an elevator.

1988: A wooden platform, painted to resemble terrazzo, was added in front of the original chancel space, expanding it into the transept. A wooden altar was placed on the platform.

1992-93: Narthex expanded and renovated with modern flooring installed. Original stone communion railing relocated to the columbarium situated within the west transept. Pulpit and lectern locations

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<sup>5</sup> "2,500 at Dedication of Lutheran Cathedral; Speaker Praises Edifice," 7, the tapestries and altar vestments, which were noted to be valued at \$2,500, were purchased by the Dorcas Society and donated to the church; Thorvaldsen's "Christus" (designed 1821; 1839 marble version) is often referred to as "Come Unto Me" Christ figure, the original version of which includes the words "Come Unto Me" on the platform upon which the figure sits, Information regarding the development and history gleaned from [www.thorvaldsensmuseum.dk/en/collections/work/A82/details](http://www.thorvaldsensmuseum.dk/en/collections/work/A82/details), Accessed September 2017.

<sup>6</sup> This list of alterations draws significantly from the Luther Memorial Church, Madison Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form prepared by Gary Tipler ["Luther Memorial Church," City of Madison Landmarks Commission, Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form, Prepared by Gary Tipler (May 2011)]. It also utilizes information contained in *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future* (1997).

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reversed. Large banners added to the front of the church.

1993: The church basement was entirely remodeled to include updated spaces for the following: kitchen, library, choir room, music office and a children's space. The former apartment was remodeled for use as a publishing office, the space of which now serves as the church archives.

1997: The transept balconies were removed and replaced with smaller aria balconies. The church acquired the restored, 1893 Steere & Sons Organ that is located in the east transept.

Winter 2011: The nave walls, columns and detailing were covered with fiberglass mesh and painted to prevent plaster from falling to the floor. The original paint colors and stencil patterns were documented by Anthony Kartsonas (of Historic Surfaces LLC in Chicago<sup>7</sup>) for possible future restoration.

**Educational Building Addition**

Projecting from the east elevation of the church, the education building addition consists of three stories (basement level and two above-ground). Built in 1959, this flat-roofed, steel-framed building is faced with Bedford limestone and is comprised of alternating bays of windows and sections of solid stone "piers." Because of the topography, only two floors are seen along University Avenue, while the full three floors are evident from the east and along the rear. All three elevations of this building – including the four window bays along the north elevation, the eight bays to the east, as well as the rear elevation – consist of replacement (1984) casement windows along each floor. Along the north and east, window bays alternate with carved limestone panels with Gothic tracery, including quatrefoils and arching that reflects the pattern of the wood-and-glass front door, while the rear (south) elevation is without any Gothic detailing. Indeed, this addition is an excellent example of contemporary design that simultaneously reflects the Neo-Gothic design of the church utilizing the Gothic vocabulary in a complimentary, yet restrained manner that is modern in its interpretation of the style. As such, this addition contributes to the overall architectural significance of the church.

The education building addition is accessed via a one-story entrance addition that physically connects it with the church proper and which is set at a 45-degree angle. This addition included an elevator which provides service to both the main and lower levels of the church. The design of the addition, which includes a modernized Gothic arch, glass doors and a gabled parapet, picks up on the Gothic character of both buildings, but does not mimic one or the other.

When built, the structure included offices, classrooms and a nursery, as well as rooms for choir, youth,

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<sup>7</sup> Kartsonas' business continues to be known as Historic Surfaces; however, he is now (2017) based in Milwaukee.

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Boy Scouts. Although some of the interior spaces have since been divided and modernized, much of the building's original layout remains intact.

**Limestone Signage** (Non-Contributing, circa 1995)

A modern limestone sign is located to the east of the church and in front (north) of the educational building addition. It was built as a result of the 1993 capital campaign.

**Fence** (Non-Contributing, Modern)

Modern fencing is located along the east side of the educational building addition, as well as along the church's west elevation.

**Integrity**

Luther Memorial Church maintains a high degree of integrity on both the exterior and interior. On the exterior, it retains its original form and exterior materials. Significant as an excellent example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, its stylistic features, including its buttresses, pointed-arch openings with tracery, and prominent square tower exhibiting crenellation, finials, and tracery, are intact. As well, the church retains its stained glass windows and carved stonework. The education building addition similarly features stone exterior sheathing and utilizes Gothic detailing in its design. It is small in scale and set back from the primary elevation of Luther Memorial, thereby, not detracting from the grandeur of the church. On the interior, the church retains its historic finishes and features, including its stone altar, reredos and pulpit. More extensive renovations were confined to secondary spaces, such as the lower level. A rehabilitation project utilizing the State of Wisconsin historic preservation tax credits will replace the modern casement windows on the education building addition with windows that resemble its original fenestration. A Wisconsin Historical Society *Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1 – Evaluation of Significance* (WI 170002) was approved on 11 January 2017. A *Part 2 – Description of Rehabilitation* also has been submitted and approved.

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**Statement of Significance**

Luther Memorial Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C: Architecture. Dedicated in 1923, it is locally significant as an excellent example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, also referred to as the Late Gothic Revival style. It exhibits such stylistic characteristics as its steeply-pitched roof, projecting bays with parapeted gables, buttresses, pointed-arch openings with tracery, and prominent square tower exhibiting crenellation, finials, and tracery. As well, the Gothic verticality of the church is pronounced as seen with its primary façade stained glass window, soaring tower, and overall massing. On the interior, notable elements include the stained glass windows and outstanding carved stone altar. The design of Luther Memorial Church was executed by the renowned Madison architectural firm, Claude & Starck. Established in 1896, their partnership lasted until 1929 during which period they were one of the most prolific and prominent architectural firms in the city. In 1959, an education building addition was constructed on the east elevation of the church. Designed by Madison architect Reginald Stehr, the addition is an excellent example of design which reflects the Neo-Gothic style of the church utilizing the Gothic vocabulary in a complimentary, yet restrained, manner that is modern in its interpretation of the style. As such, this addition contributes to the overall architectural significance of the church. Luther Memorial Church was designated a local landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission on 2 August 2011 (Madison Landmark #179). The period of significance reflects the church's date of completion, 1923, and the date of completion of its education building addition, 1959.

**General Historical Background**

The original plat of Madison was completed in 1836. The community grew slowly during its first decade featuring a population of 625 at the time it incorporated as a village in 1846. Two years later, in 1848, Wisconsin became the thirtieth state with Madison named as its capital. That same year, the University of Wisconsin was established. The arrival of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad along with other rail lines spurred growth and, in 1856, Madison was incorporated as a city with a population of 6,864 residents. In addition to serving as the seat of government, regional commercial center, and college town, industrial interests including agricultural implement and machine tool manufacturers established themselves in the city in the late-nineteenth century. The development of manufacturing interests and increasing student enrollment at the University of Wisconsin spurred

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Madison's growth in the early-twentieth century when it increased from the seventh largest city in the state in 1910 to the third largest by 1930. Madison is currently the second largest city in Wisconsin.<sup>8</sup>

**Luther Memorial Church**

Madison Lutheran churches were conducting services in German or Norwegian when, in 1905, the Reverend William K. Frick held an English language service in the city. From this start, a small congregation formed holding services in a hall over the College Book Store on State Street. On 23 May 1907, this 35-member faith group, referred to as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, was chartered as a congregation of the English Lutheran Synod of the Northwest of the General Council of Lutheran Churches. The Reverend Howard R. Gold was called as the first pastor with the dual responsibility of increasing the number of congregants and serving University of Wisconsin students. That fall, the growing church rented the Gates of Heaven Synagogue at 214 West Washington Avenue.<sup>9</sup>

The congregation later bought a lot near the corner of Lake Street and University Avenue and started a building fund campaign. A chapel was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$18,500.<sup>10</sup> Designed by the Madison architectural firm, Claude & Starck, the chapel seated 350 individuals. When the congregation moved into the chapel, it changed its name to "Luther Memorial" to commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation, as well as avoid confusion with Trinity Lutheran Church located on Madison's east side. At the time, Luther Memorial was the only Lutheran congregation in Madison with services exclusively in English. It also continued its mission to serve university students of the Lutheran faith.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> David Mollenhoff, *Madison: A History of the Formative Years* (Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1982), 19-20, 32, 45, 49-50, 67-68, 124-127, 178-183, 195, 264-270.

<sup>9</sup> *Mission in Christ: Luther Memorial Church, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1907-1982*, Publication in possession of Luther Memorial Church, 4-5; Bonnie Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future* (Madison, WI: Luther Memorial Church, 1997), 8-9.

<sup>10</sup> Located at 626 University Avenue, Madison, this building has been repurposed for commercial use (Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database record #113368). It was designated a local landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission on 15 October 2002 (Madison Landmark #149).

<sup>11</sup> *Mission in Christ: Luther Memorial Church, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 5; Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future*, 10.



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Luther Memorial quickly outgrew their chapel and the congregation bought land at 1021 University Avenue. In May 1921, ground was broken for the subject church designed by Claude & Starck. The cost was estimated at \$400,000, which included a parsonage immediately to the west (no longer extant). Standing one hundred feet in height, Luther Memorial Church was built of more than 7,000 tons of stone quarried at Colfax, Wisconsin. Trimmed in Bedford limestone, the church originally featured seating for 1,650 worshippers. John Petersen was the builder of Luther Memorial Church; he also owned the Colfax Stone Company and its quarries, which provided the building stone. Petersen presented the high altar and surrounding stonework (reredos) as a gift to the church. Composed of Colfax stone, these were made in Madison by the Bay View Stone Company and were the work of Walter S. Sutton. The pulpit, lectern, and baptismal font also were carved from Colfax stone (the existing red granite baptismal pool was installed in 1995). Artist Thomas J. Gaytee designed the tapestries within the reredos, as well as the entrance/choir balcony window and, presumably, the other stained glass windows within the Luther Memorial Church. The church's lower level featured a large room used as a banquet hall, gymnasium, and Sunday school space, in addition to smaller classrooms, a kitchen and an apartment for the church caretaker.<sup>12</sup>

On 28 October 1923, Reverend A. J. Soldan led a procession of the congregation from their former chapel to their new church for dedication services. Featuring 1,500 members by 1929, Luther Memorial Church initiated a campaign to raise \$100,000 toward paying down its mortgage. The ensuing stock market crash and Depression thwarted this effort and the church faced significant financial challenges. These culminated in the United Lutheran Church Board of American Missions purchasing the property for approximately \$53,000 at a bankruptcy sale in July 1937. They in turn sold Luther Memorial back to the congregation for payment of \$3,000 with a \$50,000 mortgage.<sup>13</sup>

Crisis averted, Luther Memorial Church prospered over the ensuing years. In the decade following the bankruptcy sale, church membership tripled and benevolent giving likewise significantly increased. Church finances had improved to the point that the mortgage was retired in 1948. The house to the

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<sup>12</sup> Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future*, 6-7; *Thirty-Fifth Anniversary, Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin*, June 1942, Publication in possession of Luther Memorial Church, pgs. 28-32.

<sup>13</sup> *Mission in Christ: Luther Memorial Church, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 6-7; Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future*, 12.

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east of Luther Memorial was purchased in 1944 and ultimately razed in 1951. It was on this lot that the education building addition was constructed. Dedicated in November 1959, the addition contained church offices, Sunday school classrooms, a nursery, and rooms for the choir, youth groups, and Boy Scouts. It was fully paid for by 1961.<sup>14</sup>

In the 1960s, Luther Memorial faced pressures in the form of an expanding University of Wisconsin campus and suburbanization, which drew some younger families away. Child membership dropped from 1,053 to 184 during the years from 1962 to 1976. On 24 August 1970, the church suffered damage to its west side nave windows and roof tile from a bomb that exploded by Sterling Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus. In general, renovations to the building during the latter part of the twentieth century included expansion of the balcony to accommodate a new organ in 1966; new fenestration installed on the education building, in addition to a new entrance constructed in 1984; exterior cleaning of the church in the mid-1980s; and an expansion and renovation of the narthex in 1992. In 1990, an analysis of the congregation noted four things that characterized the congregation; two were its location as a university church and its focus on traditional liturgical worship, centered on the Eucharist and reinforced by an excellent choir and the church's design. During the 1990s, more than four hundred adults were received into church membership, a sign of the continually thriving nature of this faith community.<sup>15</sup>

**Area of Significance: Architecture**

Locally significant in the area of Architecture, Luther Memorial Church is an excellent and distinctive design executed in the Neo-Gothic Revival style by a well-regarded architectural firm. Along with the National Register-listed University Presbyterian Church and Student Center (NRIS 02011185), it is the best example of Neo-Gothic Revival architecture in the City of Madison.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> *Mission in Christ: Luther Memorial Church, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 7-8; Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future*, 13-14.

<sup>15</sup> Gruber, ed., *Luther Memorial Church: a firm foundation, a faithful future*, 15-21.

<sup>16</sup> University Presbyterian Church and Student Center, National Register #02001185, listed 16 October 2002.

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In Wisconsin, Gothic architectural motifs have been utilized for churches for 150 years beginning with the popularity of the Gothic Revival style in the mid-nineteenth century. Stylistic elements include pointed-arch openings and steeply pitched roofs. As the style evolved into the twentieth century, it was referred to as “Late Gothic Revival,” or, as noted in Wisconsin’s *Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP)*, “Neo-Gothic Revival.” Differences between the eras include less emphasis on vertical height with twentieth-century Gothic-style churches compared to their nineteenth-century precedents. Indeed, the Neo-Gothic Revival style is one of the “Period Revival” styles – a term used to describe a wide range of past motifs and styles that architects utilized during the first four decades of the twentieth century. Period Revival buildings often are not historically accurate copies of antecedents of an architectural style; instead, they are an architect’s creative interpretation of a style liberally using its architectural features and characteristics. During this period, many architects – including the firm Claude & Starck – advertised their expertise in executing designs from a broad stylistic range.<sup>17</sup>

In terms of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, its characteristic architectural features include a stone or brick exterior, irregular massing, and steeply pitched roofs. Gothic pointed-arch openings, buttresses, tracery, parapeted gables, and square towers also are employed in Neo-Gothic Revival design. According to *CRMP*, Gothic architectural motifs remained popular for churches and religious buildings into the twentieth century since it was seen as a particularly appropriate style for these types of buildings, withstanding the popularity of the Classical Revival style for public and institutional buildings during the first decades of the twentieth century.<sup>18</sup>

Luther Memorial Church is an excellent example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style. Characteristics of the style exhibited on Luther Memorial Church include its steeply-pitched roof, projecting bays with parapeted gables, buttresses, pointed-arch openings with tracery, and prominent square tower exhibiting crenellation, finials, and tracery. As well, unlike many Neo-Gothic Revival style churches that exhibit a more horizontal form of Gothic architecture, Luther Memorial Church’s verticality is pronounced as seen with its primary façade stained glass window, soaring tower, and overall

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<sup>17</sup> Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 3 vols. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986), Vol. 2, Architecture, 2/28, 2/30, 2/31.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, Architecture, 2/30, 2/31; National Register of Historic Places, Seventh Day Baptist Church, Milton, Rock County, Wisconsin, National Register #16000569.

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massing.<sup>19</sup> The addition, by Madison architect Reginald Stehr, is an excellent example of design which reflects the Neo-Gothic style of the church utilizing the Gothic vocabulary in a complimentary, yet restrained, manner that is modern in its interpretation of the style. As such, this addition contributes to the overall architectural significance of the church.

Luther Memorial Church is a preeminent example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style in Madison given its scale and stylistic detailing. The Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD) identifies thirteen Neo-Gothic Revival style churches in Madison.<sup>20</sup> Including Luther Memorial Church, eight are stone-veneered, while the others are brick. In general, the stone-finished churches are larger and more stylistically elaborate than the brick examples.

Designed by Claude & Starck, the earliest of Madison's Neo-Gothic Revival churches was the former Luther Memorial Chapel located at 626 University Avenue (AHI #113368). Built in 1915, this two-story structure abuts commercial buildings on its block. Lacking the grandeur of its successor, the building has been repurposed for commercial use and its original windows have been replaced. This former church was designated a local landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission on 15 October 2002 (Madison Landmark #149). Two other examples – Trinity Lutheran Church (AHI #105885, 1904 Winnebago Street) and Wesley Foundation Chapel (AHI #113374, 1127 University Avenue) – are good examples of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, albeit less grandiose than Luther Memorial Church. Specifically, neither has a bell tower and they are more restrained in their stylistic expression lacking the window tracery, decorative elements, and scale of Luther Memorial Church.<sup>21</sup>

The other four stone-veneered, Neo-Gothic Revival style churches are either locally designated or listed in the National Register. Built in 1926, St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church (AHI #94857, 2450 Atwood Avenue) is a fine example of the style featuring a sandstone exterior. Exhibiting Gothic-arched windows with tracery and a square corner bell tower, St. Bernard's is a smaller and more

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<sup>19</sup> Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Vol. 2, Architecture, 2/30, 2/31; Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994), 197-201.

<sup>20</sup> WHPD also identifies a single, Neo-Gothic Revival style, non-church building in Madison: a Wisconsin National Guard Armory (AHI #108344). This building is restrained in its stylistic expression compared to the Neo-Gothic church examples.

<sup>21</sup> Property records, Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD), Maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society – Division of Historic Preservation, 816 State Street, Madison, WI.

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modestly detailed example of the style than Luther Memorial as exemplified with the finer tracery and decorative finials seen on Luther Memorial's chime tower. St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church was locally designated by the City of Madison on 16 March 1981 (Madison Landmark #66). Similarly, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (AHI #38632, 1827-33 Regent Street) is a more modest example of the style lacking a bell tower. Built in 1927, it is a contributing building in the National Register-listed West Lawn Heights Historic District (NRIS 98000223). Another good example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style is Memorial Reformed Church (currently, Bethel Lutheran Church) built in 1930 (AHI #37134, 312 Wisconsin Avenue). It exhibits stylistic elements such as Gothic-arched windows, buttresses, and a crenellated tower; however, a large, visually prominent, 1963 hall addition lacking a setback negatively affects the integrity of the historic church. Memorial Reformed Church is a contributing building in the National Register-listed Mansion Hill Historic District (NRIS 97000552). A final example, University Presbyterian Church and Student Center (AHI #113143, 731 State Street), is the best stylistic comparison to Luther Memorial Church. Built in 1931, it was individually listed on the National Register on 16 October 2002 as "an outstanding local example of early twentieth century Neo-Gothic Revival design with Collegiate Gothic elements" featuring a rock-faced, random ashlar exterior, steeply pitched gable roofs, Gothic-arched windows with tracery, and an elaborate, entrance tower exhibiting tracery and finials.<sup>22</sup> The nomination for University Presbyterian Church and Student Center cited it and Luther Memorial Church as the finest examples of Neo-Gothic Revival style architecture in the City of Madison. Indeed, the nomination stated, "... Luther Memorial Church is probably the most comparable to the Pres House [University Presbyterian] among Madison's Neo-Gothic Revival churches. It is a grand composition... of Madison's Neo-Gothic Revival churches, only the second Luther Memorial Church approaches the Pres House in architectural distinction."<sup>23</sup>

The brick Neo-Gothic Revival style churches in Madison are not comparable to Luther Memorial Church in either scale or architectural detail.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> National Register of Historic Places, University Presbyterian Church and Student Center, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, National Register #02001185, 8/1. This building was designated a local landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission on 15 October 2002 (Madison Landmark #145).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 8/12, 8/13; Property records, Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD), Maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society – Division of Historic Preservation.

<sup>24</sup> Neo-Gothic Revival style brick churches in Madison: Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church (AHI #81006, 402 E. Mifflin Street); Parkside Presbyterian Church (AHI #97174, 116 N. Few Street); Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (AHI #112492, 2121 Rowley Avenue); First Baptist Church (AHI #151802, 518 N. Franklin Avenue); and St. John's Lutheran

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**Luther Memorial Church: Architects; Builder; Sculptor & Tapestry/Stained Glass Artist**

Luther Memorial Church was designed by the noted Madison architectural firm, Claude & Starck. The principles of the firm were Louis W. Claude (1868-1951), who served as the principal designer, and Edward F. Starck (1868-1947), the managing partner. Established in 1896, their partnership lasted until 1929, during which time they designed numerous residences, schools, banks, commercial buildings, factories, and many libraries (twenty-five Claude & Starck-designed libraries have been surveyed and included within the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database). The firm was adept at executing designs in a variety of architectural styles including the Neo-Gothic Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Prairie School, Colonial Revival, and Spanish Colonial styles.<sup>25</sup>

***Louis W. Claude***

Born in 1868, Louis Claude was educated in public schools in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin from 1887 through 1889 studying civil engineering and, at the same time, worked in the architectural firm of Conover & Porter. In 1890, Claude relocated to Chicago and was initially employed in the firm of Burnham & Root. After a period, he apprenticed in the architectural office of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan under the supervision of their chief draftsman, Frank Lloyd Wright who also trained with the Conover & Porter firm. Remaining in Adler & Sullivan's office until November 1891, Claude then worked for Schlacks & Ottenheimer, architects. In 1895, he opened his own architectural practice in Madison and also lectured at the University of Wisconsin. A year later, he partnered with Edward F. Starck forming the firm, Claude & Starck, Architects. Of the two, Louis Claude was more often cited in newspapers and interviews as firm spokesman.<sup>26</sup>

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Church (AHI #114884, 322 E. Washington Avenue).

<sup>25</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Jenifer-Spaight Historic District, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, National Register #04001153, 8/10-8/11; Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD), Maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society – Division of Historic Preservation.

<sup>26</sup> "Luther Memorial Church," City of Madison Landmarks Commission, Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form, Prepared by Gary Tipler (May 2011), 12-13; Betty Cass, "Madison Day-by-Day," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, 14 January 1942, section 2, pg. 13.

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***Edward F. Starck***

Born in Milwaukee in 1868, Edward Starck moved to Madison with his family when he was ten years old. Prior to forming his partnership with Louis Claude, Starck had apprenticed with architects David R. Jones of Madison, Edward Townsend Mix of Milwaukee, and Handy & Cady of Chicago. His father was a builder and, presumably, Starck's family and work relationships led to some of Claude & Starck's early commissions in their fledgling partnership. Following the dissolution of the Claude & Starck firm in 1929, Edward Starck partnered with their chief draftsman, Hubert A. Schneider.<sup>27</sup>

***Reginald W. Stehr***

Containing administrative offices, pastor's offices and Sunday school classrooms, Luther Memorial's education building addition was designed by Madison architect, Reginald Stehr. Deferring to the architectural grandeur of the church, Stehr utilized the Gothic vocabulary in a complimentary, yet restrained, manner in his design. Born in Madison in 1910, Reginald Stehr studied architecture at the University of Illinois graduating in 1932. Little information is known regarding his career prior to opening his own office in July 1948 in Madison. In 1950, Stehr designed a social and educational addition for St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Middleton, Wisconsin. He also designed the aquarium for Henry Vilas Park Zoo (Madison) in 1962. Becoming a member of Luther Memorial Church, Stehr was the architect for the church's balcony and narthex expansion in 1966. WHPD identifies six residential buildings designed by Reginald Stehr.<sup>28</sup>

***John Petersen***

John Petersen was the builder of Luther Memorial Church. He owned the quarries that provided the building stone and presented the high altar and surrounding stonework to the church as a gift. Born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany on 31 July 1878, Petersen emigrated from Hamburg, Germany to the United States in 1901. From 1901 through much of 1912, Petersen resided in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa County, Wisconsin. In 1908, Petersen, a building contractor, became a partner with William

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<sup>27</sup> "Luther Memorial Church," City of Madison Landmarks Commission, Nomination Form, 13-14.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 14; "Middleton Church Plans Social, School Unit," *The Capital Times* (Madison), 10 August 1950, pg. 10; Reginald W. Stehr, Obituary, *The Capital Times*, 22 January 1968, pg. 18.

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Lister and Sam Conway (of Eau Claire) in the operation of the Colfax Stone Company. Established by Lister circa 1900, the stone quarry was known for its high quality, buff-gray sandstone. Petersen and his family (wife Helena and two children: Alfred and Sylvia) moved to Madison around late 1912. In 1916, Lister and Conway both died and Petersen bought out the heirs of each family, after which he operated the stone company in conjunction with his Madison contracting business, the Wisconsin Construction Company. Under Petersen's direction, distribution of the stone was expanded and included shipments as far away as New York. The stone was largely utilized for the construction of schools, churches, and other public buildings – both locally (in Colfax) and beyond. Not only was the exterior of Luther Memorial Church built of Colfax stone, but also its intricately carved altar furniture and reredos, which was a gift of Petersen (approximated to cost \$25,000). All told, the church reportedly required thirty carloads of stone for its construction.<sup>29</sup>

Stone cutting was mechanized in the 1920s; however, it was found that Colfax sandstone was not particularly amenable to mechanization. By that time, cutting the stone by hand had become cost prohibitive and the firm began to import stone from Bedford, Indiana and cut it in Colfax. This practice continued through the 1930s, at which time demand for the stone dropped to the point that Petersen ceased quarry operations in 1940. Along with continuing to work as a general contractor, Petersen was also the president of the John Petersen Company, which began making water softeners and developed to become a manufacturer of steel storage tanks. Also of note, the 1931 city directory specifically identifies Petersen as the president of the Bay View Stone Company (dealers in Bedford, Colfax, and Madison stone), the cut stone contracting firm that executed the altar stonework (and employed sculptor Walter S. Sutton). John Petersen died on 2 December 1958.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> U.S. Passport Application for John Petersen, dated 23 December 1912, issued on 26 December 1912 (Certificate #85923), Available online at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), Accessed September 2017; F. Curtiss-Wedge and George O. Jones, et. al., comp., *The History of Dunn County, Wisconsin* (Minneapolis, MN: H.C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1925), 175, the short write-up on Colfax Stone Company specifically called out the subject church (albeit incorrectly referenced as the “Memorial Lutheran Church in Madison,”) as constructed of Colfax stone; National Register of Historic Places, Colfax Municipal Building, Village of Colfax, Dunn County, Wisconsin, National Register #03001542.

<sup>30</sup> NRHP, Colfax Municipal Building; *Madison City Directory*, 1927, 1931, 1943, 1952; U.S., World War II Draft Registration Card, 1942 (for John Petersen); Death date for Peterson found via “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” the latter two sources are available online at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), Accessed September 2017.



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***Walter Sutton***

Walter Sutton was the stone sculptor that created Luther Memorial Church's altar stonework. Born in England in March 1881, Sutton arrived in the United States with his parents the following month. No definitive record of him could be found until 1905, at which time a legal notice in *The Chicago Tribune* announces the dissolution of the firm of Youngblood & Sutton, cited as "architectural sculptors in stone, marble, and granite." Partner Albert Youngblood would finish all contracted work in Tate, Georgia, and Chicago, while Sutton was to complete work in Iowa and Elgin, Illinois. In April 1903, Sutton wed (the presumably widowed) Anne (Knudsen) Tobin and, as of 1910, they resided in Chicago along with Anne's two children Gertrude (13) and Harry (12), as well as their daughter Florence (age 6). Sutton's occupation is identified as stone carver. By 1920, the Suttons had another child, Harold (age 6). That same year, *The Stone Cutters Journal* reported that "Brother Sutton," had done the carving for the Edith Cavell Memorial Building in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Four years later, in January 1924, the same journal featured a photograph of the Luther Memorial Church altar, along with a caption that, in part, read, ". . . a masterpiece of artistic stonecutting and carving which is a credit to the stone industry." It went on to cite the names of all of the stone cutters involved (all of whom are believed to have been employed by the Bay View Stone Company), as well as noting that "The modeling and carving was done by Brother Walter S. Sutton." The cost of the altar alone was cited in the caption as approximately \$35,000; however, all other secondary sources noted a \$25,000 figure. The 1930 census identifies that the Suttons resided in Blooming Grove, Dane County. As of 1942, Walter was identified as unemployed and residing in Madison (at 1109 Whittier Street, along with Lyle Livesay); however, as of 1943, records indicate that he and Anna again resided in Chicago.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Legal notice, *Chicago Tribune*, 23 February 1905, 12; U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1910, 1920, 1930, Available online at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Accessed September 2017; "Carving for Edith Cavell Memorial," photo and caption, *The Stone Cutters Journal* (April 1920), 10; "Stone Altar-Madison, Wisconsin," photo and caption, *The Stone Cutters Journal* (January 1924), 7. The list of stone cutters included T.J. Quigley, A. Pue, J. Roley, C. Livesay, R. Wishart, Wm. St. John, Ed. St. John, Frank Williams and D. MacGregor and the "laying out of the work" was done by Lyle Livesay, a son of stone cutter Charles Livesay; U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 (for Walter Scott Sutton); Illinois, Federal Naturalization Records, 1856-1991 for Walter Scott Sutton, Petition for Naturalization (#287936), 1943, This and the 1942 Draft Registration Card available online at Ancestry.com; A search for Sutton's death date (which is provided in a Symonds [Sutton] family tree) indicates that he died in Alabama in 1965, at which time he was married to Lucy Holcomb; however, no further information was found to verify that it is the subject Walter Scott Sutton, Available online at [www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/21122744/person/1043145943/facts](http://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/21122744/person/1043145943/facts), Accessed September 2017.

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***Thomas J. Gaytee***

Artist Thomas J. Gaytee designed the tapestries within the altar reredos, as well as the entrance/choir balcony window and, presumably, the other stained glass windows within Luther Memorial Church. He was born in New York in June 1871. In 1895, he wed Grace Smith and, shortly thereafter, he is identified in city directories as an artist and/or designer; as of 1897, he is specifically cited as an artist of stained glass. At some point between 1902 and 1905, Gaytee moved to Philadelphia. By no later than 1907, he was the general manager and designer for the Pittsburgh Art Glass & Mosaic Decorative Company, the office, salesroom and factory of which was located in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. It was in a 1907 newspaper ad for that firm that Gaytee was cited specifically as “formerly with the Tiffany Studios of New York City.” By no later than 1916, however, the Gaytees moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he would join the Ford Bros. which, by 1896, was noted as leading the local stained glass industry. In 1917, the Ford Bros. would join with John G. McNutt, after which the firm would be known as Ford-McNutt. While planning the design of the entrance/choir window for Luther Memorial Church, as well as the tapestries for the reredos (as well as the reredos itself and, perhaps, also the stenciling throughout the church), Gaytee was still associated with the Ford-McNutt firm. Secondary references suggest that the entrance window was manufactured by Gaytee’s own stained glass firm; however, he is not believed to have established his company until 1924, the year a fire damaged the Ford-McNutt facility. Gaytee then reportedly purchased the company’s remaining materials associated with the production of art and stained glass (after which Ford-McNutt focused solely on plate glass) and he then established his own company, which included interior designers and decorators, specializing in church decoration and leaded and stained glass church windows. Gaytee’s sole enterprise did not last long under his direction, for he died in 1936. His obituary cites that he had installed decoration and designed windows in a significant number of churches including The Basilica of St. Mary and Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, as was as St. Mary’s Chapel at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Gaytee’s firm continues in Minneapolis today under the name of Gaytee-Palmer Stained Glass Studio.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1900, 1920, 1930 (note, he was not found in the 1910 census), Available online at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), Accessed September 2017; *New York City Directory*, 1897, 1898, 1902; *Philadelphia City Directory*, 1905; Advertisement for Pittsburgh Art Glass & Mosaic Decorative Co., *Pittsburgh Press*, 1 September 1907, 13; Biographical sketch for John G. McNutt in Rev. Marion Daniel Shutter, ed., *History of Minneapolis: Gateway to the Northwest*, 3 vols. (Minneapolis: the S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1923), III/277-78; “T. J. Gaytee,” obituary, *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN), 30 December 1936, 6, his obituary also notes that he wrote a book entitled, “Christian Symbols, Emblems and Attributes,” however, a quick search of that title did not produce any confirmatory information; A 1923 newspaper references that Gaytee “had worked for years” for Cox Sons & Buckley (originally in England with an office in

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**Conclusion**

Luther Memorial Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent and intact example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style. Indeed, it is one of the finest examples of Neo-Gothic Revival style architecture in the entire city of Madison. As well, its architectural design is a product of the renowned and prolific architectural firm, Claude & Starck. The addition by Madison architect Reginald Stehr, contributes to the architectural significance as an excellent example of design which reflects the Neo-Gothic style of the church utilizing the Gothic vocabulary in a complimentary, yet restrained, manner that is modern in its interpretation of the style. As such, this addition contributes to the overall architectural significance of the church. Luther Memorial Church is significant at the local level.

**Criterion Consideration A**

While properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are typically not eligible for National Register listing, an exception may be made if significance meets one of the criteria considerations. Luther Memorial Church meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A; a religious property that derives its primary significance for its architectural distinction.

**Preservation Activities**

The City of Madison has had a historic preservation ordinance and landmarks commission for many years. Luther Memorial Church was designated a local landmark by the City of Madison Landmarks Commission on 2 August 2011 (Madison Landmark #179). Luther Memorial Church was formally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) on 11 January 2007. Finally, a WHS *Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1* –

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New York), however, no further source material was found to substantiate that information, "Christ Shown As High Priest," *Wausau (WI) Daily Herald*, 13 March 1923, 1; *Minneapolis City Directory*, 1924, 1925; Ford-McNutt continued in the glass business after 1924 but focused on plate glass, National Register of Historic Places, Lake Harriet Methodist Episcopal Church, Hennepin County, Minnesota, National Register #14000217; The Gaytee-Palmer Studio website would suggest that Gaytee founded the stained glass component of the business in 1918 which, based on his employment with Ford-McNutt, would not seem to be correct, "Gaytee-Palmer Stained Glass Studio," website available online at <http://gaytee-palmerstainedglass.com/about/?nggpage=6>, Accessed September 2017.

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*Evaluation of Significance* (WI 170002) was approved on 11 January 2017.

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Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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Petersen, John, (builder of Luther Memorial Church), biographical information, see footnote for specific citations.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The historic boundary reflects the property's current lot lines, the parcel of which is otherwise known as: UNIVERSITY ADDN TO MADISON, 2 AND THE W 71.02 FT OF LOT 3, BLOCK 1 AND LOT 1, BLOCK 1 EXCEPT THAT PART DESC AS FLWS: COM AT THE SW COR OF SD LOT 1; TH N E, 6.11 FT TO THE POB; TH CONT N E, 44.35 FT; TH S 88 DEG 23 MIN 54 SEC E, 85.89 FT; TH S 01 DEG 36 MIN 06 SEC W, 44.33 FT; TH N 88 DEG 23 MIN 54 SEC W, 84.6T FT TO THE POB. [City of Madison Parcel #070923206035]

**Boundary Justification:**

The historic boundary of Luther Memorial Church coincides with the legal boundary of the property.



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**Luther Memorial Church**

**City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin**

**Photo by Michael T. McQuillen, September 2017**

**Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, Madison, Wisconsin**

Photo 1 of 17

Context view looking east along University Avenue

**The information for the following photographs is the same as above, except as noted:**

Photo 2 of 17, August 2017

Primary (north) facade, view looking south

Photo 3 of 17

Primary (north) & west facades, view looking southeast

Photo 4 of 17, August 2017

West facade, view looking southeast

Photo 5 of 17

Primary (north) & west facades, view looking southeast

Photo 6 of 17, August 2017

West & rear (south) facades, view looking northeast

Photo 7 of 17

Rear (south) facade, view looking northwest

Photo 8 of 17, December 2016

Rear (south) & east facades, view looking northwest

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Photo 9 of 17, December 2016  
East facade, view looking northwest

Photo 10 of 17, August 2017  
Primary (north) & east facades, view looking southwest

Photo 11 of 17, August 2017  
Primary (north) & east facades, view looking southwest

Photo 12 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, nave, view looking south

Photo 13 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, nave, view looking south

Photo 14 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, sanctuary, view looking south

Photo 15 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, east transept, view looking east

Photo 16 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, narthex, view looking west

Photo 17 of 17, December 2016  
Interior, education building addition, view looking southwest

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Figure 1: Existing lower level plan

Figure 2: Existing first floor plan

Figure 3: Existing second floor plan

Figure 4: Undated rendering of Luther Memorial Church

Figure 5: 1923 photograph of Luther Memorial Church

Figure 6: Undated photograph of Luther Memorial Church

Figure 7: Undated photograph of Luther Memorial Church

Figure 8: 1923 interior photograph of Luther Memorial Church

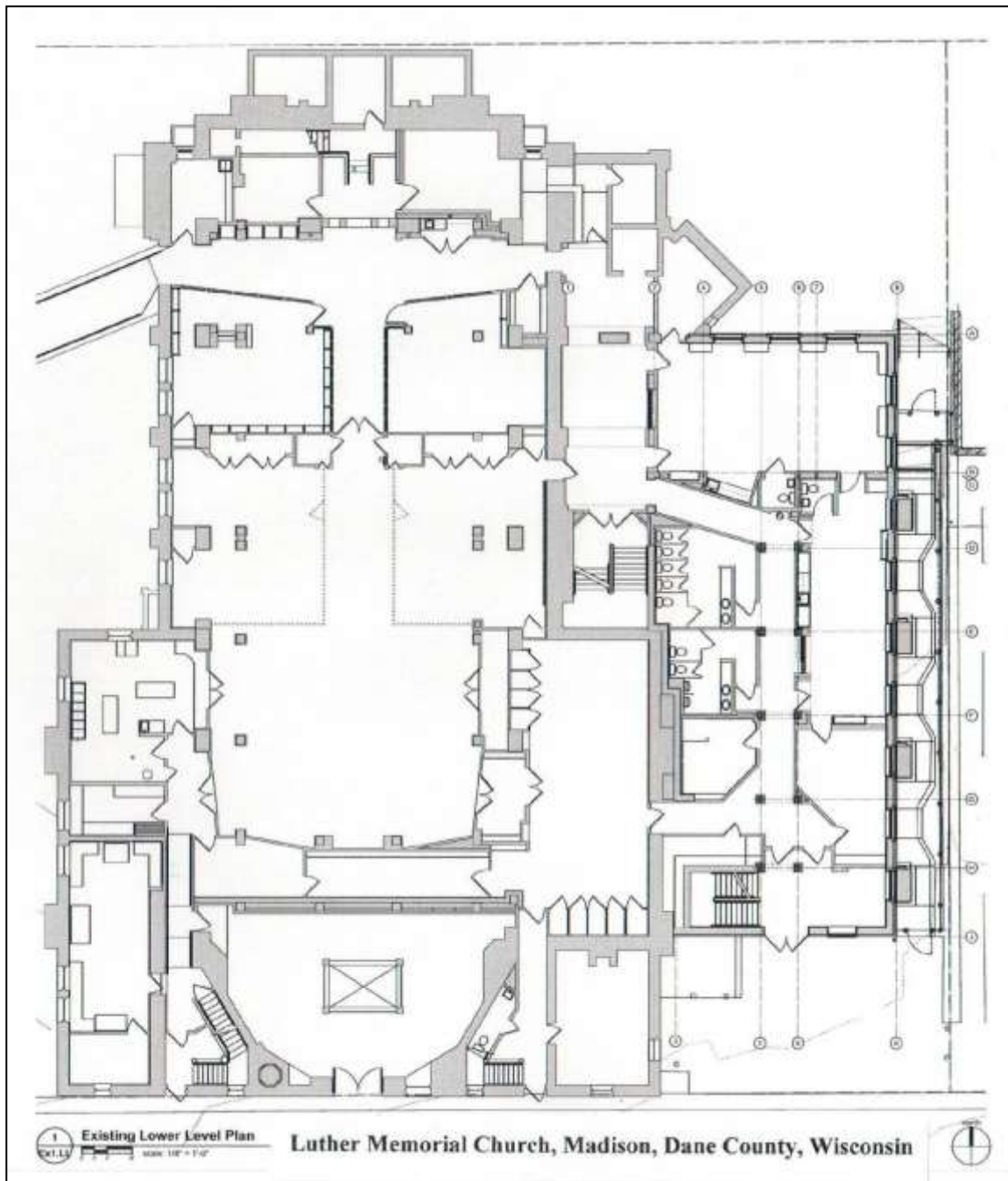
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Figure 1: Existing lower level plan



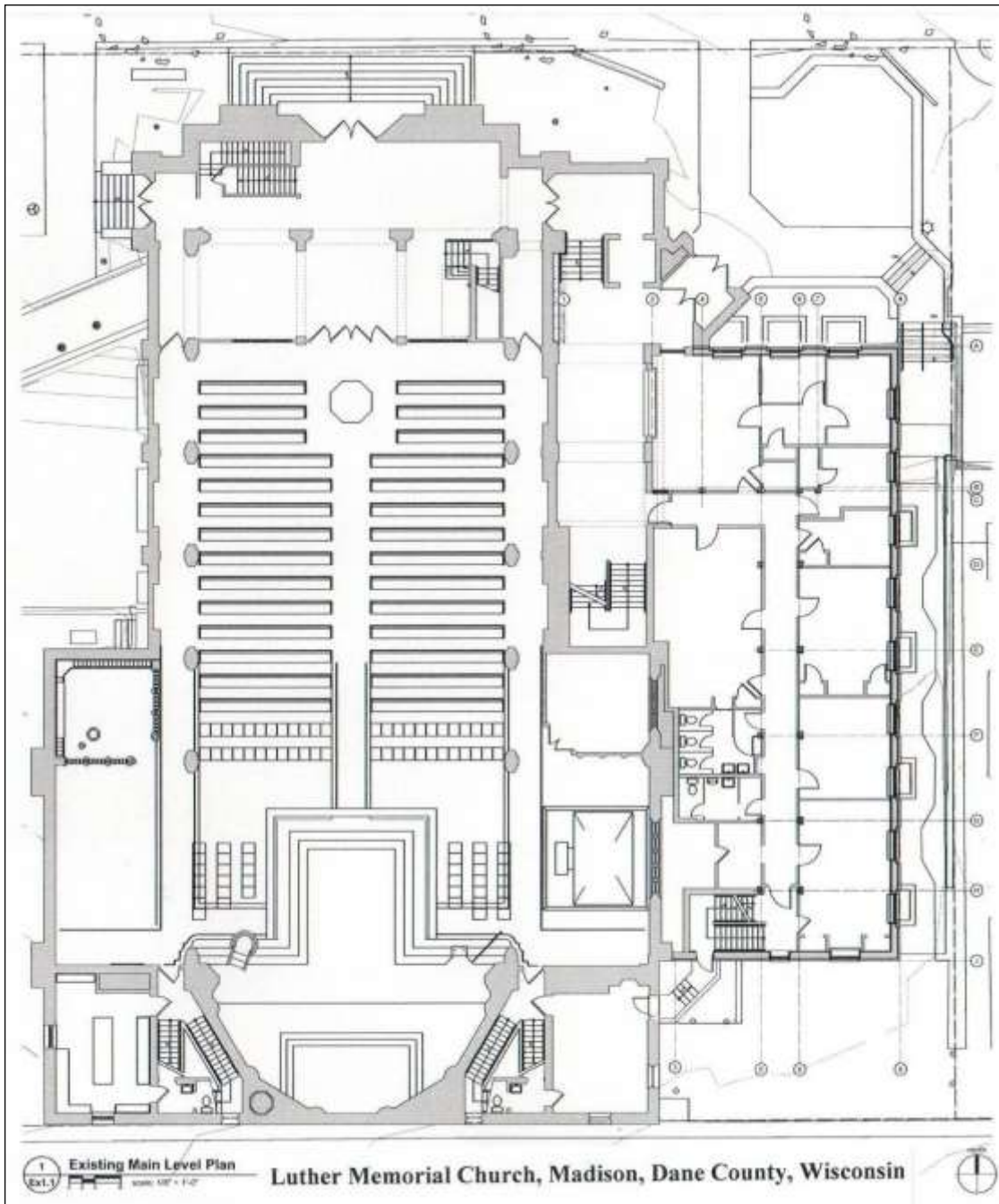
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Figure 2: Existing first floor plan



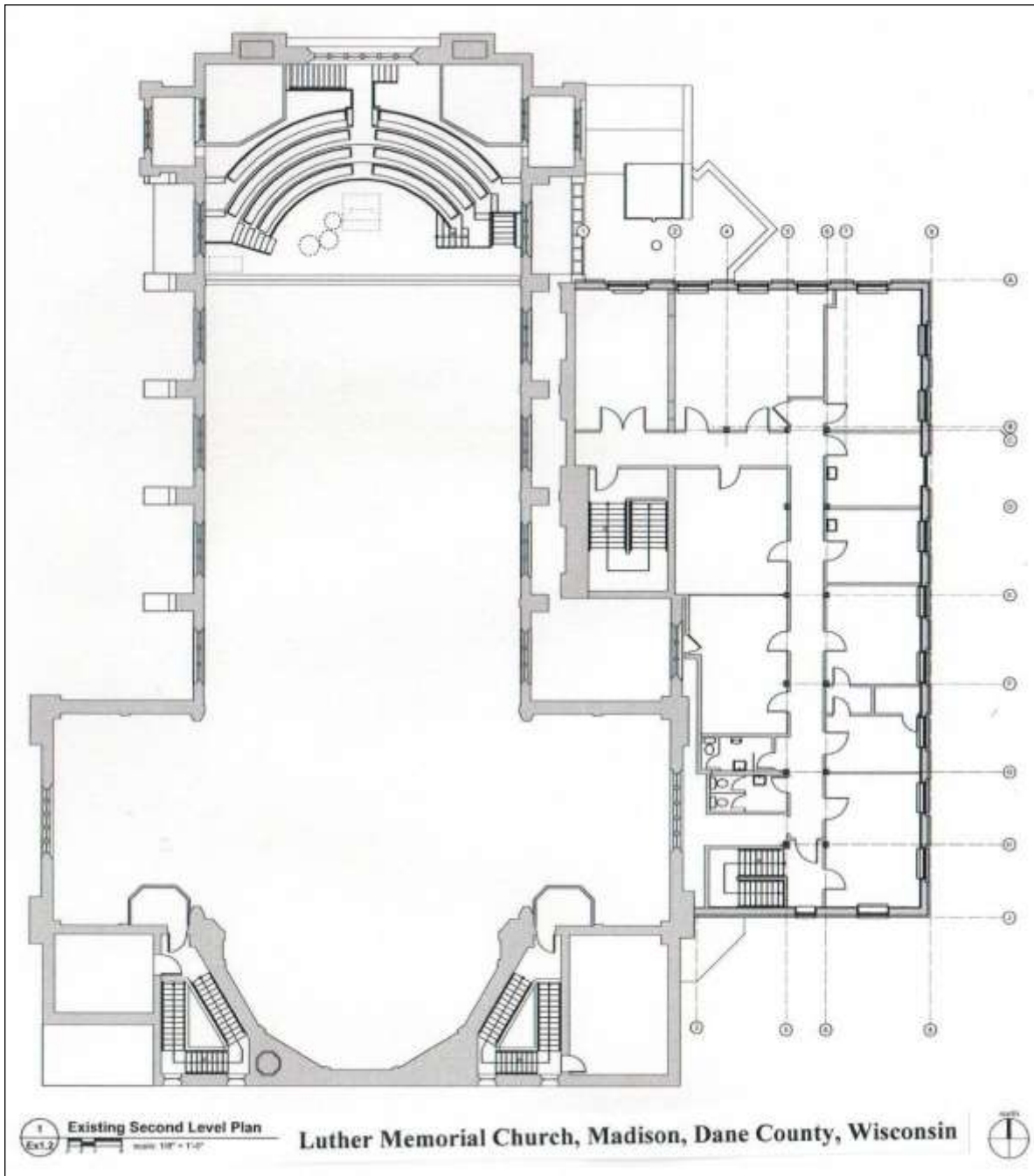
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Luther Memorial Church  
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Figure 3: Existing second floor plan



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Figure 4: Undated rendering of Luther Memorial Church



Rendering property of Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin

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Figure 5: 1923 photograph of Luther Memorial Church



Digital photograph held by Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin



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Figure 6: Undated photograph of Luther Memorial Church



Photograph property of Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin

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Figure 7: Undated photograph of Luther Memorial Church



Photograph property of Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin

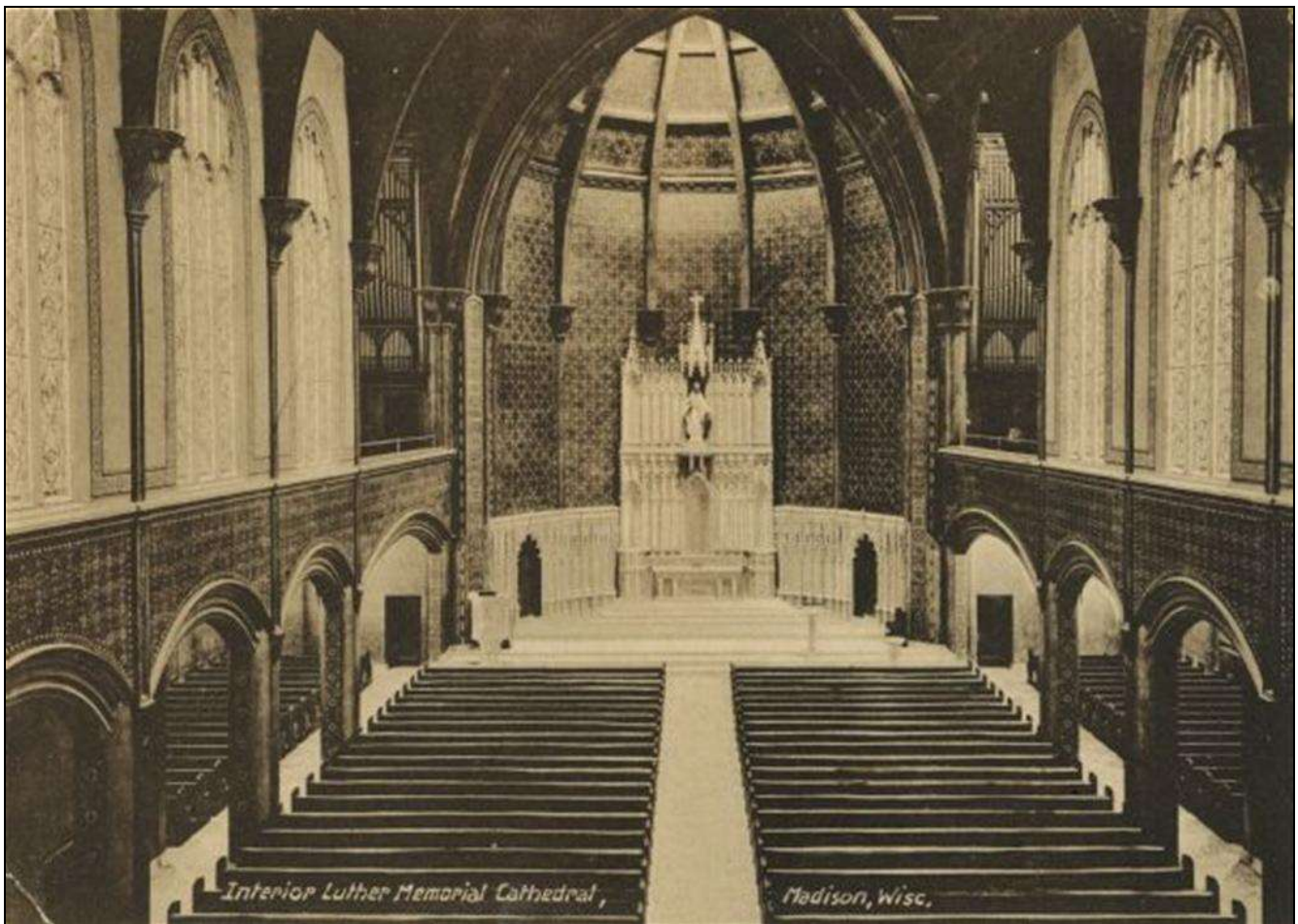
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Figure 8: 1923 interior photograph of Luther Memorial Church



Photograph property of Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin







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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 2/16/2018      Date of Pending List: 3/9/2018      Date of 16th Day: 3/26/2018      Date of 45th Day: 4/2/2018      Date of Weekly List: 3/30/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      3/26/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit      Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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FEB 16 2018

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Fifteenth day of February 2018, for the nomination of the Luther Memorial Church to the National Register of Historic Places:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form |
| 1  | CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF                              |
|    | Multiple Property Nomination form                             |
| 17 | Photograph(s)   |
| 1  | CD with image files   |
| 1  | Map(s)  |
| 8  | Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)                           |
|    | Piece(s) of correspondence                                    |
|    | Other:  |

COMMENTS:

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed  |
|  | This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67                                      |
|  | The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners |
|  | Other:  |