

1 City, Village or Town: New Richmond	County: St. Croix	Surveyor: Stager Roberts	Date: 1983 1986	Third Street North 354
Street Address: 354 Third Street North		USGS Quad and UTM Reference: New Richmond North, Wisc. 15/536028/4997140	Acreege: less than 1 acre	
Current Name & Use: St. Thomas Episcopal Church		Current Owner: The Right Reverend William Wantland Diocese of Eau Claire		
Film Roll No. SC33	Affix Contact Prints	Current Owner's Address: 510 S. Farwell Street Eau Claire, WI. 54701		
Negative No. 13		Legal Description: Outlot 287 of the Outlot map of the City of New Richmond		
Facade Orient. S				

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 First English Lutheran Church	A-C	First English Lutheran Church	1906-46	church	C
Dates of Construction /Alteration 1906	Source A-C, D	St. Thomas Episc.	1946-pres.	church	C
Architect and/or Builder: contractor: B & W Concrete Stone Co.	Source E				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Engineering
 None

Architectural Description and Significance:

See Attached

Interior visited? Yes No

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: Ethnic (Swedish) association
 None

Period of significance: 1906 -

Historical Background and Significance: 1938

See Attached

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A First Lutheran Church Pamphlet
New Richmond News and Republican Voice 1/5/07

B Republican Voice 7/7/06; 7/25/06

C Abstract of Title

D Date block

E Souvenir of New Richmond (1910) n.p.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS LDMK WIHP NRHP
 other:

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District:

pivotal contributing non-contributing

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

date: 7/21/86 initials: WR

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local

TOWN
 RANGE
 SECTION
 MAP NAME
 MAP CODE
 New Richmond Intensive Survey
 City Map
 33-13

Record No. A

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of Property: First English Lutheran Church Owner: Diocese of Eau Claire Date: 1/11/88
Address: 354 Third Street North Owner's address: 510 S. Farwell Steet, Eau Claire, WI
City: New Richmond County: St. Croix (Code #109)

*160 NRHP Certification

(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

165 NRHP Certification Date

(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

*170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name

Historic Resources of New Richmond

180 NRHP List Name First English Lutheran Church

*200 Level of Significance Local

*190 District Classification N/A

*210 Applicable Criteria A

*215 Criteria Considerations

A Religious Property

*220 Area of Significance

Ethnic Heritage - European

230 Period of Significance 1906-1938

60 Verbal Boundary Description _____

Outlot 287 of the Outlot map of the City
of New Richmond.

70 USGS Quad Map New Richmond North, WI

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99/999999/9999999)
15 / 536028 / 4997140

85 Listed Acreage less than one

340 Review Board Date _____

Number of Resources:
ONE Contributing Building.

*use code tables for response

DESCRIPTION

The First English Lutheran Church is a one and a half story concrete brick structure with a raised basement of rusticated stone block. The plan is rectangular on this 1906 Gothic Revival building. The raised foundation and concrete brick walls are separated by a stone running course. The gabled roof is front-facing and covered with asphalt shingles. Windows have stone sills. "Stone" sills and running courses are precast concrete. The concrete brick was originally cream-colored, but has been painted red in recent years.

At the front of the structure is a two and a half story steeple of wood on a masonry bell-tower. The steeple is square and centered on the front facade. The bottom two stories are brick with a stone running course at the level of the side eaves of the roof. The first story of the tower contains the front entry into the church. The frame is lancet shaped with the top in-filled with wood. The door has narrow sidelights. Above the door is a lancet window with arched mullions (or tracery). The top of the tower is corniced with a clapboard bell-tower (the bell is gone and organ pipes are in this area today). Lancet shaped openings in the bell-tower are in-filled with louvers. The tower is topped by a bellcast steeply pitched roof with a cross. The front facade of the church has identical lancet windows flanking the front tower. The east corner of the front facade has a carved cornerstone with "By C. G. (or G. D.) 1906".

The east and west facades are identical. Each has three one-over-one basement windows and three lancet windows symmetrically placed. The rear has a small one story addition with a gable roof and a door.

The church sits on a corner lot. Landscaping consists of evergreens placed close to the front entry. This obstructs some of the front facade.

This structure is the only old church remaining in the city still used for religious purposes. Only two others remain and they have been altered for other uses (152 East Fourth Street and 405 Dakota Avenue S.) This church appears to be in excellent condition. It has retained its architectural integrity on the exterior. The style suggests a patternbook plan of modest cost and the architectural style is of no significance.

The interior of this church has been altered to conform to Anglican traditions. The Swedish congregation removed everything from the interior in 1946 except the alter rail. The interior now has acoustical tile ceilings and white plaster walls. Windows are stained glass. Window trim is oak. The floor has wide pine floorboards. The oak pews are not original. According to The Reverend Al Shephard (Interview, 4/7/86), the original alter was tightly curved and the ceiling was pressed metal. The present alter comes from the Star Prairie Church as does the Bishop's Chair, baptismal font, and possibly the pulpit. The Star Prairie Episcopalian congregation moved to Menominee and these items ended up in New Richmond. The Bible Stand is inscribed "Nativity Church, North Milwaukee, Wisc., presented by Wm. A. Gasden or Aljasden". The Christus Rex came from Italy. The oak pews are from a Greek Orthodox church in St. Paul. In 1968, the steeple and roof were repaired, and the cream-colored concrete brick was painted red by a member of the congregation who was a paint dealer (Ibid.).

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Record: A

Address: 354 North Third Street

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The First English Lutheran Church congregation was begun around 1892 by Swedish settlers living on the north side of New Richmond. Pastor J. T. Kjollgren was the organizer. Church services were held in the Norwegian Lutheran Church (razed) on North Third Street. Rent was \$1.00 a service. In 1906, the congregation decided to build a church a block west on North Third Street (First Lutheran Church Pamphlet). An 1897 plat map of New Richmond shows that the Norwegian Church was a block east on North Third on the same side of the street. It also shows a Swedish Mission directly across North Third St. from the present building on the north side of the street. According to The Reverend Al Shephard, current vicar of the Lutheran congregation which now owns this building, "English" in the name of the Swedish Lutheran congregation stood for English language church services (Interview, 6/10/86).

Plans to raise money for a church were begun in 1906 and involved obtaining a permanent pastor. The Swedish Lutherans of New Richmond, Star Prairie, and Glenwood were to put on a benefit. Ward Three in New Richmond, which was picked for the site of the new church, was heavily populated by Norwegian and Swedish immigrants, most of whom worked in the lumber mills on the north side along the Willow River and principally the Willow River Lumber Company.

The new city building had been built out of concrete block and it was decided to use this for the church as well. The Reverend J. A. Gustafson of Amery was hired as the new pastor. The Arpi Quartette of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, gave a benefit concert for the church (The Republican Voice, 7/7/06; 7/25/06). The benefit was held at Hagan's Opera House. Tickets were 35¢, 50¢ reserved or 25¢ for children. Work on the "modern style" church began in August, 1906 (First Lutheran Church Pamphlet). The B & W Concrete Stone Company of New Richmond had the contract to provide the large concrete bricks. Ten thousand were ordered for the foundation and 20,000 for the building itself. Although the roof was not complete, the first services were held in the basement on January 5, 1907. The sermons were in Swedish and English (New Richmond News and Republican Voice, 1/5/1907). B & W was owned by E. J. Bell and E. C. Webster, sole managers of the business. E. J. Bell was the son of Marcus Sears Bell. This company had their own sand pit and were a fast-growing corporation in the first decade of this century (Souvenir of New Richmond by The Industrial Club, ca. 1910, n.p.).

The First English Lutheran Church congregation of Swedish New Richmond residents changed their name to the First Lutheran Church on March 1, 1945. On March 16, 1945, the First Lutheran Church (Augustana Synod) and the Norwegian Lutheran Church (Evangelical) merged and became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, but the certificate of consolidation is dated February 23, 1946 (Abstract of Title). A new church was begun in 1947 which is still in use by this merged congregation.

On June 3, 1946, the Evangelical Lutheran Church sold the building to the St. Thomas Episcopal Lutheran church congregation. This congregation is under the

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Record: _____

Address: 354 North Third Street

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, continued

Dioceses of Eau Claire, which paid \$3,300 for the building. The Episcopal church was originally part of the Hudson parish around 1858. Around 1867, the New Richmond parish was in existence. In 1881, there were 20 members, but no church building. The early history of the Episcopalians in New Richmond is sketchy, but the small congregation met sporadically in members' homes in New Richmond. A church building was built, but destroyed in the 1899 tornado. Meetings were again held in members' homes until a permanent home was found in 1946. This building has been the home of St. Thomas Lutheran congregation since 1946 (Interview, The Rev. Al Shephard, 4/7/86).

SIGNIFICANCE

This church is historically significant for its associations with the Scandinavian community which lived on the north side of New Richmond and worked in the lumber mills. The Scandia House, the Willow River Lumber Company, the Norwegian church and other buildings associated with this northern European ethnic community are all gone. This building, although a church, is the last tangible link to an important ethnic minority in New Richmond and a group who contributed as laborers to the lumber business in New Richmond.

Criteria Consideration/Exceptions

The First English Lutheran Church is significant as a religious property deriving its primary significance from its historical importance, representing a major social and cultural focus to the Swedish ethnic population which made up the northside area of the community of New Richmond. All other major "public" facilities have been severely altered or destroyed.

The period of significance represents the date of construction to a point 50 years from the present. No "exceptional significance" could be provided.