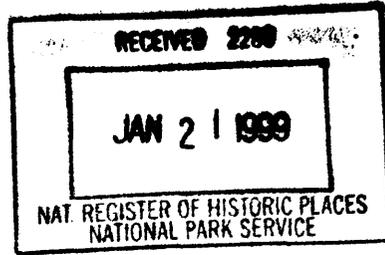


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



241

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 First Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Immanuel Lutheran Church/Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall

2. Location

street & number 421 South Farwell Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Eau Claire

vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alvina J. Gosh
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

12/29/98
Date

State or federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

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

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beal Date of Action 2/18/99

5. Classification

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

private building(s)
 public-local district
 public-state site
 public-federal structure
 object

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

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	0
sites		
structures		
objects		
total	1	0

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is 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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION - religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Immanuel Lutheran Church, built in 1911, is two-and-a-half stories high and displays elements of the Neo-Gothic Revival style. The building sits at the intersection of Farwell and Gray streets in downtown Eau Claire. The church possesses a cross-gabled plan with a roughly rectangular footprint. A three-story tower is located at the intersection of the main facade, which faces Farwell Street, and the south facade, which faces Gray Street. The north facade faces a building and the east (rear) facade faces an alley.

The building's asphalt shingled roof includes parapets at all four gables, a stone exterior chimney on the rear facade, and a chimney left of the main facade gable that has been covered with concrete. The entire building rests on a foundation of rock-faced limestone that extends above the ground to provide a base for the building walls. The base is capped with a thin stone water table. Exterior walls consist of smooth-cut limestone in alternating wide and thin courses. The stone walls are approximately 18 inches thick, as determined by the depth of the interior window openings. Mortar joints between stone blocks are flush with the facade.

The main (west) facade is composed of a center gable section flanked by two one-story vestibules and the corner tower on the south end. The main facade's center gable is topped with a cross and has protruding buttresses at the ends. Decorative exterior lights are mounted on the buttresses near the entryways. Projecting from the facade, they consist of a metal sconce support with a glass globe on top and a descending cone with a gargoyle at the bottom.

The north and south entrance vestibules are identical one-story corner blocks with gabled parapet roofs. Pointed-arch entryways include wood double doors and arched transoms of decorative stained glass in three parts. Keystones are included in each door surround. On the south entrance vestibule a new date stone has been inserted, where the old one was removed, reading "UNITARIAN 1889 1981."

Three levels of windows are included on the main facade. The upper level of windows includes an arched three-bay window flanked by one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacement windows. A continuous protruding sill and continuous flush lintel with a keystone are featured on the upper level. Four mid-level openings include one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacement windows that also display a continuous protruding stone sill and continuous flush lintel. The six openings in the base level have been filled with glass block.

The three-story corner tower is circumscribed by a thin protruding cornice and capped with a crenelated parapet. All corners of the tower are dominated by full-height buttresses that descend from the cornice. Four levels of openings, starting at the top include a series of three copper vents displaying green patina. The series of vents are arched at the top and include a protruding stone sill. Below the vents, at mid-level, is a small circular opening filled with stained glass that displays a flaming chalice – the universal symbol for the Unitarian church. A single, one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacement window is above a single opening filled with glass block in the base level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

The south (Gray Street) facade exhibits a center gable section flanked by the tower on the west end and a one-story corner room on the east end. Full-height buttresses descend from the parapet gable ends. A small vent in the gable is located above a former rose window opening now filled with clear glass.¹ Seven, one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacement windows are aligned below the round window. The windows have continuous protruding stone sills and flush lintels. In the base below, the seven openings are filled with glass block.

The east (rear) facade of the church displays a center gable section that is dominated by an exterior chimney and flanking one-story corner rooms. The entire rear facade has been covered with stucco. The center gable section contains two five-panel doors that lead into the corner rooms. Four windows on the rear facade, two on the gable section, and one each on the corner rooms are all one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacements. Two small additions at the north and south ends, constructed of rock-faced concrete block, have been attached to the rear of the corner rooms to provide additional stairs to the basement. The smaller north addition has a flat roof, while the larger south addition has a shed roof covered with rubber membrane.

The building's north facade features a center gable section flanked by two one-story corner rooms. Full-height buttresses descend from the parapet gable ends. From the upper level, openings consist of a metal vent in the gable over a large round opening filled with clear replacement glass. Seven, one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal-frame, replacement windows are below the round window. Of the seven openings in the basement level, the center five are filled with glass block and the two outside openings are one-over-one pane, double-hung sash, metal frame, replacement windows. No doors are included on this facade.

Exterior stone has suffered deterioration. The only alterations to the building's exterior have been the replacement windows and the two small additions in the rear.

Interior

The interior is divided into two upper floors and a basement. The upper floors include the sanctuary and offices, and a choir loft. Stairways extending from the main entryways lead to a landing outside the sanctuary and are decorated with wood newel posts and a wood balustrade. From each set of stairs, two large swinging wood doors with decorative molding and oak surrounds provide access into the sanctuary and reception area. A pair of wood doors that roll on a track separate the reception area from the sanctuary. These doors are stored by rolling into the side walls and are not original.

From the rear of the sanctuary, the floor gently slopes toward the altar. The three aisles, front, and altar areas have been carpeted. Original wood floors remain below the pews. Blond wood pews are fixed to the floor in a semicircular pattern facing the altar.² The altar is set on a raised platform above the main floor.

¹ The rose windows and smaller round stained glass windows in the tower were removed prior to the Unitarian Church's occupation of the building.

² Historic photographs show that the original pews were curved in shape.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

On the raised platform, recessed into the front of the sanctuary, is the church's original pneumatic action organ. The organ's air pipes are mounted on the wall above the organ body. It was built by W.W. Kimball Company of Chicago, but is currently nonfunctioning. Bench seats flank the organ that is decorated with recessed wood panels. The organ area is separated from the altar by a wall of oak decorated with recessed panels. Corner rooms that function as the Pastor's Office and Volunteer's Room flank the organ area and are in fair condition. Since the south entryway from the office to the organ area has been closed off, the organ area can only be reached by going through the Volunteer's Room in the opposite corner.

The sanctuary's rear wall includes metal wall sconces that have been painted white. The sconces are intricate in design with an extending arm that holds a small, glass globe. It is unknown whether these sconces are original. At the top of the rear wall, the original choir loft has been closed off from the sanctuary by inserting wallboard between the original wood-frame openings. The choir loft has a barrel vaulted ceiling and wood picture rail and interior sill. It now functions as a meeting room.

The vaulted ceiling in the sanctuary has been replastered, but retains its original form. The ceiling's original stencil pattern and original metal and glass fixtures can be seen in historic photographs.³

The basement is divided into numerous small rooms that are arranged around a large central meeting space. All rooms are divided by original walls of wood framework and wallboard. Large transom windows are included at the top of all the dividing walls. Though the basement originally contained a kitchen and one bathroom, one classroom has been modified to create a second bathroom.

Some alterations to the interior have been made and include enclosing of the choir loft, rearrangement of the basement rooms, and the addition of new carpeting, paint, and new pews. These changes have not altered the overall form and design of the interior of the church.

³ A historic photograph is located in the present church entry.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a
significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons
significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of
a type, period, or method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or
represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose
components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information
important in our prehistory or history

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1911

Significant Dates
1911

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

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance
within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Alban, William L. and Fisher, James E.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eau Claire is significant at the local level under *Criterion C: Architecture* applying *Criteria Consideration A* for religious properties. The church is significant as a good example of an early twentieth-century Neo-Gothic Revival style church building in the city of Eau Claire. The building retains a high degree of integrity of design, location, setting, and materials. The church retains the original stained glass Gothic arch transoms above the doors and the original Kimball and Company organ. Two minor additions have been made to the rear of the building, but neither affect the original form of the church. It is one of five churches in Eau Claire designed in the Neo-Gothic Revival style between 1911 and 1920 and is the earliest of these churches in this time period. The period of significance for the church is 1911, its construction date.

Historic Background

The architectural firm of Alban and Fisher from St. Paul, Minnesota, designed the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eau Claire. Constructed in 1911 by Samuel Converse and Company of Eau Claire, the church was built as a replacement for a frame church that burned in January of 1909. The 1911 structure, built at a cost of \$30,000, included a large Sunday-school room in the basement, a choir, reception room, pastor's study, main audience room, and the Young People's League Room on the first floor.⁴ Seating capacity for the church was estimated at 650 people. Other notable features at its construction included two Round Oak Furnaces, a Kimball and Company pipe organ, and birch floors and detailing.⁵ The entire building was constructed of solid stone with smooth cut facings known as Colfax Rock.

The congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church remained in the building until 1930 when the two Methodist congregations (the First Methodist Church and the Lake Street Methodist Church) in Eau Claire united. At this time, the church building at 421 South Farwell Street was sold to the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Lutheran congregation remained in the church for 50 years, the longest occupation of the church by any single congregation. In 1981, a new church was constructed and the old building was sold to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for use as a religious center. They remain the current owners.

⁴ All information regarding the original construction of the church compiled from "M.E. Church Dedication," Eau Claire Daily Leader, 30 April 1911, and "The New First Methodist Episcopal Church to be Dedicated on April 30," Eau Claire Daily Leader, 23 March 1911.

⁵ The Round Oak Furnaces have been replaced and the birch floors of the altar and aisles have been covered with carpeting. All other floors retain the birch floors.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

History of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Eau Claire⁶

The history of the Methodist Church in Eau Claire can be divided into the histories of two different congregations. The first congregation, that of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, began in 1857 when the first prayer meeting was held in the home of D.S. Hastings. The congregation steadily increased, and by 1863, plans for their first church building were begun. Construction of the church, located on South Barstow Street, was completed in 1868, and additions to the frame building were completed in 1891. The first church served the congregation until January of 1909, when the structure was destroyed by fire. As a result, a new church building was planned for the northeast corner of Gray and Farwell streets. From 1909 until April of 1911, services were conducted at the Masonic Temple in Eau Claire. On April 30, 1911, the new Neo-Gothic Revival style church was dedicated and the congregation moved to its new location.

About the same time that the First Methodist Congregation was forming in east Eau Claire, another congregation formed in west Eau Claire. In 1860 the congregation, known as the West Side Class, was led by Reverend W.A. Chambers and became the Second Methodist Episcopal Church of Eau Claire. Originally meeting in a school, the congregation moved services to the Eau Claire Wesleyan Seminary when it was built in 1862. The congregation soon outgrew its quarters and a new church was constructed on Lake Street and dedicated in 1872. This congregation became known as the Lake Street Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1915, the original building was razed for construction of a new church on the same site. The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1916, and the church was dedicated the following year.

In 1930, the congregations of the First Methodist Episcopal Church and the Lake Street Episcopal Church merged as a result of the Quarterly Conferences. The combined congregations retained the larger church on Lake Street and the name Lake Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The First Methodist Church building on Farwell Street was then sold to the Immanuel Lutheran Church who used the facility until 1981.

History of the Immanuel Lutheran Church⁷

The congregation of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation was founded in 1883 for and by the Swedish immigrants of Eau Claire. Prior to 1883, they worshiped with other Scandinavian churches in Eau Claire, but desired a church with services conducted in their own language. The first church of the congregation was constructed in 1887 at Oxford Avenue and Fulton Street. In 1927, the church name was changed to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, and by 1930, the congregation had grown too large for the original building. The congregation purchased the First Methodist Episcopal Church

⁶ The History of the First Methodist Church compiled from A Journey Through the Years: 100 Years of Methodism in Eau Claire Wisconsin, 1857-1957 (n.p.) and Judge William F. Bailey, History of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin (Chicago: C.F. Cooper and Company, 1914) 518 and 533.

⁷ History of the Immanuel Lutheran Church compiled from Fiftieth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1883-1933. (Pamphlet produced by the Immanuel Lutheran Church Congregation, 1933) and Leader Telegram Staff, "Immanuel Lutheran celebrates 110 years," (Leader Telegram, 6 February 1993, Eau Claire, Wisconsin).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

in 1931 and conducted services in the Neo-Gothic Revival structure until 1981. At this time, a new church was constructed and the original building was sold to the Unitarian Fellowship Hall.⁸

History of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship⁹

The first organization of Unitarians established a church in Eau Claire in 1889 on the southwest corner of Gray and Farwell streets across the street from the current church. Because of conflict within the membership of the church, the original fellowship of Unitarians left Eau Claire in the 1920s. The original church building was sold in the 1920s and it is currently occupied by the Christian Scientists. It was not until a Fellowship was established in Chippewa Valley in the 1960s that the Unitarians returned to the area.

A group of Universalists began congregating in Eau Claire around 1860. In the late 1800s, the Universalist Church lost influential support and the fellowship collapsed. In the period from the late 1800s until the 1960s, no organized meeting of Universalists took place in Eau Claire. Because of similar beliefs, the two churches, Unitarian and Universalist, merged in the 1960s and created the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The Eau Claire Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists was established by a group from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, in 1974. They met in various locations until 1981, when the church at 421 South Farwell Street was purchased from the Immanuel Lutheran Church congregation.

Architectural Significance¹⁰

Period Revival styles were popular in Wisconsin from 1900-1940. Using a wide range of past motifs and styles, an architect would provide a creative interpretation of such styles. The Neo-Gothic Revival is a Period Revival style that was popular in Wisconsin, particularly during the first few decades of the twentieth century. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Gothic Revival style was the most popular style of architecture used in the construction of churches. Like its predecessor, the Neo-Gothic Revival style was one of the most popular styles for many ecclesiastical buildings, as well as educational institutions and some commercial properties. Unlike some styles of the era, the Neo-Gothic style withstood the influence of Neo-Classicism and many buildings were still constructed in the style. A subdued form of the Gothic Revival and High Victorian Gothic styles, the Neo-Gothic Revival style features steeply pitched roofs, irregular massing, and random ashlar construction. All of these characteristics are found in the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eau Claire. The church also retains Gothic arch transoms above the windows, as well as buttresses, pinnacles, and battlements. The most prominent features of the Neo-Gothic Revival on the church are the oversized Gothic transoms over the entries.

⁸ Some of the original stained glass windows from the church at 421 South Farwell Street have been incorporated into the new structure.

⁹ Information compiled from Lois Barland, Sawdust City: A History of Eau Claire, Wisconsin from Earliest Time to 1910, (Stevens Point, Wis.: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1960) 122; Bailey, 517; and Tim Hirsch, telephone interview with author, 10 April 1997.

¹⁰ Information compiled from Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vol. 2: Architecture (Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society Wisconsin, 1986) 29-31.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

From the period 1911-1920 five Neo-Gothic Revival churches were constructed in the city of Eau Claire. These include: the First Methodist Episcopal Church (1911), Grace Lutheran Church at 202 West Grand Avenue (1915), Lake Street Methodist at 337 Lake Street (1916), the First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1005 Oxford Avenue (1919), and Christ Church Cathedral at 510 South Farwell (1915). Of these, the First Methodist Church and Christ Church Cathedral are the only two without modern additions. The First Methodist Episcopal Church is the earliest example of a Neo-Gothic Revival style church from this period in Eau Claire and it retains the majority of its Neo-Gothic architectural details.

The Grace Lutheran Church and the Lake Street Methodist Church are similar in plan to the First Methodist Episcopal Church, each having a square tower and large Gothic arch transoms over the doors and windows. The Grace Lutheran Church is larger in scale and has a central tower as opposed to a corner tower. The building is brick and two additions, one c. 1940 and the other 1972, have been added to the church, compromising its integrity. The Lake Street Methodist Church is similar to the First Methodist Church and also is historically associated with the First Methodist congregation. Larger in scale, the Lake Street Methodist Church has a corner tower, a main front gable, cross gables with parapets and pinnacles, and Gothic arch windows. Unlike the First Methodist Episcopal Church, the Lake Street Church displays brick construction. Although an impressive example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, this building has a large, modern, rear addition that compromises its integrity.

Two other Neo-Gothic Revival churches have different forms and vary in massing and scale. The First Norwegian Lutheran Church consists of a central gable between two towers with bulb crowns. This church is Neo-Gothic in form with some elements of the Tudor style, including Tudor arch windows and doors. A large modern addition has been added to the side of the building, which diminishes the integrity of the building. The Christ Church Cathedral is a stone structure with parapeted gable ends and large Gothic arch windows. Other Neo-Gothic features include buttresses and pinnacles. Designed by Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, this church reflects the architects' use of English antecedents, common in the Arts and Crafts movement. This church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1983. The First Methodist Episcopal Church compares favorably in integrity to Christ Church Cathedral. The First Methodist Church, however, is an earlier example that represents a different interpretation of the Gothic style. The forms of the two churches differ, but similar characteristics include Gothic arch windows and transoms, and smooth finish stone exteriors.

Alban and Fisher, Architects

The St. Paul, Minnesota, architectural firm of Alban and Fisher designed the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eau Claire. William Linley Alban and James E. Fisher were partners from 1905 until 1917.¹¹ From 1905 until 1908, the two were part of the firm of Thori, Alban and Fisher, and after 1908, they separated and became Alban and Fisher. Thori, Alban and Fisher designed several buildings throughout the state of Minnesota, including the Nerstrand City Hall in Nerstrand, Minnesota, in 1908. The firm of Alban and Fisher designed two buildings in 1909 in St. Paul: the Charles McCloud House, and the Olivet Methodist Episcopal Church. William Alban was born in Wisconsin and graduated from the Chicago School of Architecture

¹¹ Historic Site Survey Architect File, located at the Ramsey County Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

in 1897.¹² He worked in the St. Paul area for a number of years and retired in Albert Lea, Minnesota.¹³ He worked with several different partners until 1918 when he worked alone until his retirement. No biographical information is available for James E. Fisher.

Kimball and Company Organ

Also significant to the church is the original Kimball and Company organ manufactured in Chicago. The organ, which cost \$3,000 for construction and placement in the church, is a rare pneumatic action organ. This type of organ uses pressure to open air valves that operate the opening and closing of the stops. The majority of organs built at this time operated by levers and now modern organs are entirely electronic. Currently, the organ is inoperable, but the problem is repairable.

Conclusion

The First Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for NRHP listing under *Criterion C: Architecture* applying *Criteria Consideration A* for religious properties. It is significant at the local level as a fine example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style of architecture. The building retains integrity of design, setting, location, and workmanship. It retains its original form and numerous architectural details, including pinnacles, battlements, and buttresses.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church is a good, local example of the Late Gothic Revival Style. Because its primary significance is in its architectural distinction, the building meets the criteria consideration for a building owned by a religious institution. Elements of the style seen here include a tower terminated with a crenellated parapet, arched openings for the doors and round window openings, and the use of buttresses. Unlike the early Gothic Revival popular in the mid-nineteenth century, the later interpretation of the style is more massive and tends to use more straight-headed openings. The style's relatively late application, as in this example, indicates the Gothic Revival's continued popularity for ecclesiastical design in the early twentieth century. In fact, the First Methodist Episcopal Church is the earliest example of five Neo-Gothic Revival churches built in Eau Claire for the period 1911 to 1920. Compared with these other Neo-Gothic Revival churches in Eau Claire, the First Methodist Episcopal Church has had no intrusive additions and retains its overall form and interior configuration.

¹² Little Sketches of Big Folks Minnesota 1907, (St. Paul, Minn.: R.L. Polk & Co., 1907) 8.

¹³ Al Lathrop, Northwest Architectural Archives, telephone interview with author, 7 April 1997.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1 1/5 6/1/8/8/7/0 4/9/6/2/7/6/0 3 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1 4 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk R. Huffaker and Stacey C. Pilgrim, Architectural Historians

organization Mead & Hunt, Inc. date May 1997

street & number 6501 Watts Road, Suite 101 telephone (608) 273-6380

city or town Madison state WI zip code 53719

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A U.S. Geological Survey 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)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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- A Journey Through the Years: 100 Years of Methodism in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1857-1957. N.P. Methodist Church, Eau Claire Wisconsin.
- Fiftieth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 1883-1933. N.P. Pamphlet of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1933.
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NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South ½ of Lot 7, and all of Lot 6 in the Village of Eau Claire plat, in the city of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary was drawn to encompass the city lot on which the First Methodist Episcopal Church stands and to provide an appropriate historical setting for the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs Page 1

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common for all photographs:

First Methodist Episcopal Church
421 South Farwell Street
City of Eau Claire
Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
Photographs by Amy R. Squitieri, Mead & Hunt, Inc., April 1997
Negatives located at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin - Madison, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 16
Overview of church
View looking northeast

Photo 2 of 16
West (main) facade
View looking northeast

Photo 3 of 16
South (Gray Street) facade
View looking northeast

Photo 4 of 16
East (rear) facade
View looking northwest

Photo 5 of 16
North facade
View looking west

Photo 6 of 16
Exterior detail
View of entrance and Gothic arch transom

Photo 7 of 16
Exterior detail
View of exterior wall sconce

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

Section Photographs Page 2

Photo 8 of 16

Interior of the rear of the main meeting room
View looking west

Photo 9 of 16

Interior of main meeting room
View looking north

Photo 10 of 16

Interior
View of altar and organ

Photo 11 of 16

Interior
Detail view of Kimball and Company organ

Photo 12 of 16

Interior
Detail view of decorative newel post

COMPARISON PHOTO

Photo 13 of 16

Grace Lutheran Church
202 West Grand
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

COMPARISON PHOTO

Photo 14 of 16

Lake Street Methodist Church
337 Lake Street
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

COMPARISON PHOTO

Photo 15 of 16

First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church
1005 Oxford Avenue
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photographs Page 3

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County Wisconsin

COMPARISON PHOTO

Photo 16 of 16

Christ Church Cathedral
510 South Farwell Street
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Listed NRHP 1983

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

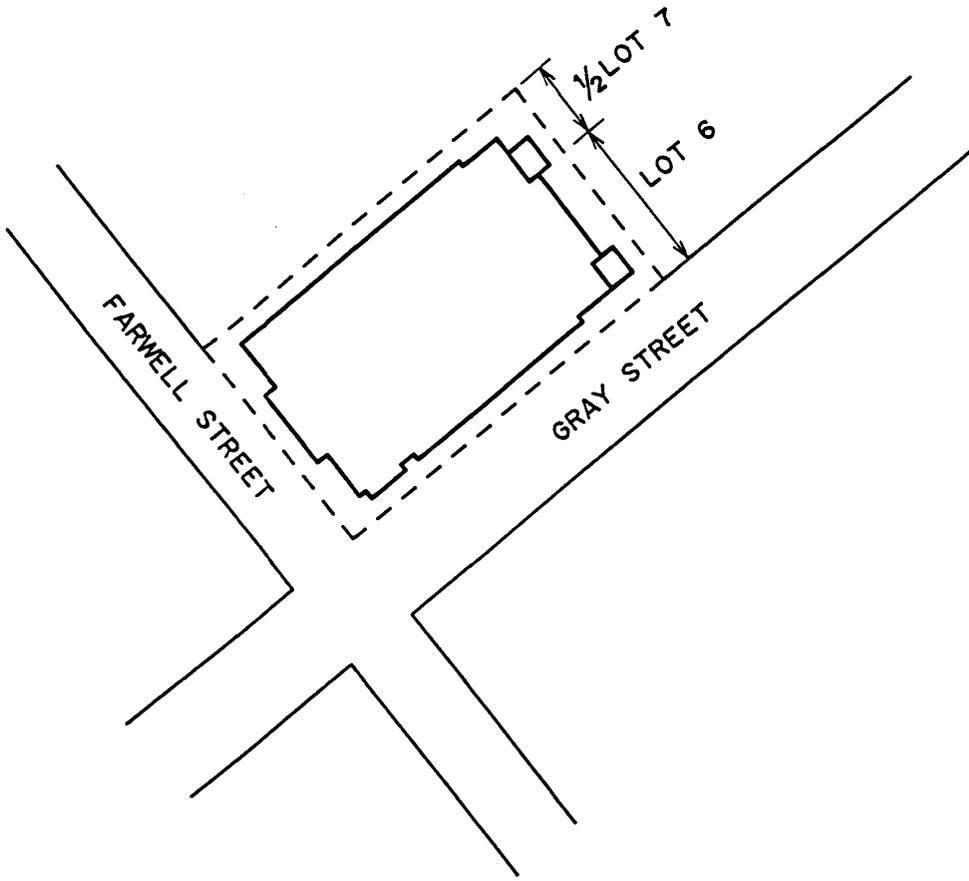
Property Owner

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

name Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
street & number 421 South Farwell Street telephone (715) 834-0690
city or town Eau Claire state WI zip code 54701

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

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



LEGEND:

--- HISTORIC BOUNDARY

NOT TO SCALE

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

421 S. FARWELL STREET

EAU CLAIRE, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

WISCONSIN