



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 St. John's Lutheran Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	312 South Third Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Evansville	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Rock	code 105
			zip code 53536

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

Rock

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:)*Edson H. Ball*

8-14-12

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as
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

1

noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

2

0 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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls

BRICK

WOOD

roof

SYNTHETICS

other

GLASS

Narrative Description

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Description:

The one-story-tall, free-standing St. John's Lutheran Church building is an excellent example of Wrightian Style church design. It was built in 1958 on what was then the south edge of the city of Evansville and it sits on a spacious six-acre parcel located at the southeast corner formed by the intersection of the east-west-running Lincoln Street and the north-south-running S. Third Street.¹ St. John's Lutheran congregation purchased this flat parcel was in 1956 and a year later the rapidly expanding congregation decided to build a new brick and wood-clad Contemporary Style church on the site. The architect was John W. Steinmann, a prominent southwest Wisconsin architect who practiced in the village of Monticello in neighboring Green County. The new church was completed in 1958 and its original portion is one-story-tall and it measures 107-feet-wide by 101-feet-deep and has an L-plan. The church's main façade faces west onto S. Third St. Its beautifully crafted exterior walls are clad in long tan-colored Roman bricks and these walls are pierced by groups of large windows. The church is sheltered by a nearly flat roof, and its sanctuary receives additional light from two raised, nearly flat roofed superimposed monitors that are placed above it and which have edges that consist of ribbons of clerestory windows. Twelve years after the construction of the church, in 1970, a 55-foot-wide by 65-foot-deep one-story addition (that also included a basement story) was built across the south-facing side elevation of the original church building using the same materials and design elements. Madison, Wisconsin architect Robert Torkelson designed the addition. The resulting irregular plan church is believed to be locally significant and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C (Architecture) for its architectural significance as a fine, highly intact example of the church designs of John W. Steinmann and as a very fine example of the Wrightian Style.

As is noted above, the church's parcel is situated on what was the southern edge of the city of Evansville when it was first built. This land is flat and the church is located towards the north end of its parcel and it is surrounded by mown lawns. Several large trees are located on this lawn, and carefully tended evergreen shrubs are grouped in places around the perimeter of the building. Both the Lincoln and S. Third streets sides of the church's parcel are edged by concrete curbs and gutters, by very wide mown grass terraces, and by concrete sidewalks that are placed along the inner edges of these terraces. An additional concrete sidewalk extends from the Lincoln St. sidewalk south along the rear (east) side of the church's parcel and it services two entrances that are located in the rear of the church. This same sidewalk then continues further south and encircles the south end of the church and then continues around to the main entrance on the west side of the church and still further west to the

¹ The population of Evansville in 2000 was 4039. Evansville is located 22 miles south of the capital city of Madison.

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S. Third St. sidewalk. The church's main entrance is also accessed from S. Third St. by an asphalt driveway that forms a circle around a free-standing campanile built in 1970. The campanile contains a large cross and the church's directory of opening hours and events. This same driveway also provides access to the very large asphalt-paved parking lot that covers most of the southern half of the parcel; this lot can also be accessed from S. Third St. by a second driveway that is located further south on S. Third Street.

The church's parcel is surrounded on its east, north, and west sides by residential development that is comprised of single family houses. Those houses that are located on the north side of Lincoln St., across from the church, predate the church but those on the west side of S. Third St. across from the church and on the east side of the church and are either contemporary with it or are perhaps somewhat newer.² The land south of the church's parcel is contiguous with some of the playing fields associated with Evansville's Levi Leonard Elementary School and the adjoining Theodore Robinson Intermediate School, both of which occupy a very large, many acre parcel located to the south and southwest of the church's parcel.

Exterior

The 1958 church building forms the principal portion of the irregular plan church we see today and its exterior is still almost completely intact; only its original south-facing side elevation has been altered with the construction of the addition built across this elevation in 1970. The original building was built at a cost of \$158,000 and it is an excellent example of Wrightian Style design. John W. Steinmann's original building had an L-plan whose principal room consisted of a sanctuary, which is the church's largest room and which constitutes the core of the building. A library and lounge room with a fireplace is placed on the west side of the west wall of this sanctuary and a large narthex, or entrance vestibule, is placed on the south side of the sanctuary's south wall. The main entrance to the church is placed at the left (west) end of the narthex while the church's kitchen and rest rooms are located in the small ell that is attached to the east end of the narthex. All of these rooms are still extant and are still intact. In essence, Steinmann's design is very like one of Wright's masonry construction Usonian design houses writ large. Like many of Frank Lloyd Wright's own buildings, this one was built without a full basement story. Instead, it has a poured concrete foundation and its only basement level spaces are occupied by the church's heating plant and some storage space, the walls of both are formed of poured concrete. The church's outer walls are clad in tan Roman bricks and groups of both large and small windows pierce these walls and provide light to rooms inside. The whole of the building is sheltered

² The houses on the east side of the church actually face east onto Longfield St. It is their backyards that face the church.

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Continuation Sheet

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by a nearly flat roof that is covered in synthetic membrane sheet material and this roof has very wide overhanging flat eaves that have plywood clad soffits and edges of wide wood boards that have since been covered over in identical width aluminum or steel siding. The roof over the sanctuary portion of the church is raised two feet higher than the main roof, and the roof of this rectilinear plan, monitor-like element is also nearly flat. Ribbons of stained glass clerestory windows form its east and west edges and provide light to the sanctuary's interior. Additional light is brought into the interior of the sanctuary by another, smaller, more shallow, nearly flat-roofed, rectilinear plan monitor-like element that is placed on top of the one below and all four of its sides also consist of ribbons of clerestory windows.

When the 1970 addition was built, its design used the same materials and design elements as the original building and its roof is also an extension of the roof of the original building. In addition, this wing also has a raised, nearly flat-roofed monitor placed on top of a portion of it which, in this case, provides light to the Fellowship Hall inside.

West-Facing Main Facade

The west-facing main façade of the church faces S. Third St. and it consists of two parts: the west-facing main façade of the 1958 church, and the west-facing side elevation of the 1970 addition.

The 55-foot-wide west-facing elevation of the 1970 wing comprises the right-hand (south) portion of the overall main façade and it is set back some twenty feet from the west-facing façade of the 1958 building. It is divided into five roughly equal-width bays by four tall, deep, brick-clad piers. The first bay from the right (south) contains no openings. The other four, however, each contain a large window opening that has a cut stone sill, below which is placed a tall brick-clad spandrel. Each of these openings contains a two-window group that consists of a large fixed single light picture window and a much narrower window of the same type. These windows light the church offices inside. In addition, the west-facing wall of the raised monitor that provides light to the Fellowship Hall in this wing is visible and it contains seven oblong fixed windows.³

The right-hand portion of the 100-foot-wide asymmetrical main façade of the 1958 church contains the church's main entrance. The paired main entrance doors of the church and a large sidelight that is placed to the left of them are all set into the brick-clad west wall of this portion of the church, which is stepped back some ten feet from the rest of the façade and whose south corner contains the church's

³ This wall is set back some thirty-feet from the west edge of the main roof.

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granite cornerstone, which bears the date "1958." This deeply recessed open entryway is completely sheltered by the church's main roof, which is supported at this point by a broad, brick-clad, rectilinear pier whose base blends seamlessly into a large, brick-clad two-foot-tall planter whose upper edge is protected by cut stone coping and which encircles three sides of the pier.⁴

An identical planter is placed on the opposite (north) side of this entryway as well, but this planter extends across the entire width of that portion of the main façade that is located to the left (north) of the entryway. This wall is associated with the library and lounge room inside. Three large window openings that each have a cut stone sill and that each contain a triple window group that is comprised of a large, fixed, one-light picture window that is flanked on either side by a much narrower fixed one-light window provide natural light to this room, and each of these groups is separated from one another by a deep, vertically positioned, brick-clad pier. A much larger brick-clad pier of similar design is located on the church's main roof just above the left-hand-most of these piers. It comprises the chimney mass that services the fireplace that is located inside at the north end of the lounge and also the church's main heating plant, which is located in the basement. This chimney mass bears a tall metal cross on its west edge, it is set back several feet from the piers that flank the windows below, and its width penetrates the west wall of the raised monitor that covers the church's sanctuary, which wall is positioned above and continues the east wall of the lounge below. This portion of the west wall of this monitor is divided into three triple window groups that line up directly above the larger window groups below and, although they are only two-feet-tall, these groups also each have a wide center window flanked on either side by a narrower window, and each of these groups is also separated from the next by a brick-clad pier. In addition, the west-facing wall of the much smaller raised monitor located on the roof of the larger monitor just described is visible here and it has eight identical oblong lights set into it.

The remaining left-hand-most portion of the main facade of the original church building is clad in brick, save for the uppermost part, which consists of a narrow band of oblong one-light windows located just below the eaves of the main roof. A continuous cut stone sill is placed just below these windows and both it and the windows themselves are carried around the northwest corner of the building and onto the church's north-facing side elevation.

⁴ The west-facing side of this pier has a bronze name plaque affixed to it that bears the words "John W. Steinmann, Architect AIA, Monticello, Wisconsin."

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North-Facing Side Elevation

The 101-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of the church consists of two parts: the 80-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of that portion of the 1958 church that houses the sanctuary, the narthex, and the library/lounge, and the 20-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of the ell that houses the kitchen and rest rooms. As noted above, the continuous cut stone sill and the narrow band of oblong one-light windows that is located just below the eaves of the main roof are both carried around the northwest corner of the building and across much of the width of the north-facing side elevation of the 80-foot-wide part of this elevation. These windows provide light to rooms inside that are now occupied by the choir and by storage space and other usages. These rooms can also be accessed by a single entrance door that is placed to the right (west) of center on this part of the elevation and which is now reached by climbing a flight of concrete steps that may not be original to the building. Located on the main roof above and set back from the roof's edge is the north-facing end wall of the large monitor that covers the sanctuary. This wall contains no openings. The same is not true for the north-facing end wall of the still smaller uppermost monitor, which consists of a ribbon of four fixed light oblong windows.

The 20-foot-wide north-facing side elevation of the bathroom/kitchen ell also features a narrow band of oblong one-light windows and they are located just below the eaves of the main roof and have a continuous stone sill. These windows are divided into two unequal groups by a brick pier; the one on the right contains four windows and lights the women's bathroom, while the one on the left contains two windows and lights the men's bathroom.

East-Facing Rear Elevation

Like the main façade, the east-facing rear elevation of the church also consists of two parts: the east-facing rear elevation of the 1958 church, and the east-facing rear elevation of the 1970 addition.

The 100-foot-wide rear elevation of the 1958 church is itself divided into two parts: the 80-foot-wide east-facing rear elevation of that portion of the 1958 church that houses the sanctuary, the narthex, and the library/lounge, and the 20-foot-wide east-facing rear elevation of the ell that houses the kitchen and rest rooms. The right-hand-most (north) section of the 80-foot-wide portion contains a rear entrance that consists of a single-light metal door that is surrounded by wood clapboard. The rest of this portion is taller, however, because it is actually the east wall of the sanctuary. It is entirely clad in brick with the exception of the topmost portion, which is also the east wall of the larger of the two monitors that provide light to the sanctuary. This topmost portion is divided into five equal-width bays by four

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brick-clad spandrels, each of which contains a wide, fixed, single-light oblong window that is flanked on either side by a much smaller fixed single-light window. In addition, the east-facing wall of the much smaller raised monitor that is located on the roof of the larger monitor is also visible here and it has eight identical oblong lights set into it.

The 20-foot-wide east-facing rear elevation of the ell that houses the kitchen and rest rooms contains a single opening, which also consists of a rear entrance containing a single-light metal door. A three-foot-tall, brick-clad L-plan wing wall that is topped with cut stone coping protects this entrance.

The 55-foot-wide east-facing elevation of the 1970 wing comprises the left-hand (south) portion of the overall main façade. It is set in the same plane as the east-facing wall of the kitchen ell and also contains just a single rear entrance opening. This opening contains a single flush metal door that is flanked by a single-light side light and it too is protected by a three-foot-tall, brick-clad L-plan wing wall that is topped with cut stone coping. In addition, the east-facing wall of the raised monitor that provides light to the Fellowship Hall in this wing is visible above and it contains seven oblong fixed windows.

South-Facing Side Elevation

The south-facing side elevation of the church is mostly comprised of the south-facing end elevation of the 1970 addition. This elevation is asymmetrical in design and six-bays-wide. The left-hand (west) bay consists of a single large window opening that has a cut stone sill and contains a single light picture window that provides light for the pastor's office. Placed to the right of this is the side entrance to the wing, which consists of a single-light metal entrance door that is flanked on the left by a very large single light sidelight and on the right by very narrow two-light sidelight. Placed in each of the four bays to the right of this are four large, evenly spaced four-light window groups, each of which contains two large fixed lights that are placed above two equally wide but shorter, operable oblong awning lights. Each of these bays is separated from the other by a narrow brick-clad pier and each of these window groups also has a clapboard-clad spandrel placed below it. These four window groups, however, are actually the upper stories of each of these bays because the basement story of this side of the wing is exposed and opens onto a large light well. As a result, each of these four bays also has a four-light window group in its basement story that consists of four equal-sized lights that are placed in a two-over-two-light configuration.

In addition, the south-facing wall of the raised monitor that provides light to the Fellowship Hall in this wing is visible and it contains four pairs of fixed light oblong windows.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Interior

As noted earlier, the interior spaces of the original 1958 church are still extant and intact today. These include the sanctuary, a library and lounge room that is located on the west side of the west wall of the sanctuary, and a large narthex, or entrance vestibule, which is placed on the south side of the sanctuary's south wall. The main entrance to the church is placed at the left (west) end of the narthex, while the church's kitchen and rest rooms are located in the small ell that is attached to the east end of the narthex.⁵

When the 1970 addition was built, the following description was printed in the local newspaper:

All in all, the addition provides 15 additional rooms with a possible six more by sliding divisions. The administrative area is a self-contained unit with its own furnace and air conditioning to add to the economy of operation. The addition contains a place for a chapel, which also can serve as a teaching area. The private chapel will be used for private baptisms, weddings, and by families in time of funerals. The downstairs basement area is void of windows on one side. Planned in this manner the area provides an immediate darkened area for audio visual purposes. The entrance has been remodeled to give more emphasis to the main entrance. Carpet and acoustical tile has been used to diminish noise and provide versatility to the rooms. The rooms are beautifully carpeted in blue-green or copper and gold combinations. Effective lighting adds much to the warmth of the rooms.

It is anticipated that the new addition will also provide a place for the entire community to use to minister to the needs of the area.⁶

One enters the church from S. Third Street through paired single-light wooden doors that are set into the west wall of the narthex. The narthex is a large rectilinear plan room that has carpeted floors and a ceiling that is divided into a grid by laminated wood beams. Four full-width wood light boxes that contain fluorescent lights placed above translucent plastic sheeting are suspended from these beams and cross the room at evenly spaced intervals and these throw softened light both up and down, while the rest of the ceiling between the beams is covered in acoustical tile. Three door openings set into the north wall of the narthex open into the library/lounge on the left (west) and into the sanctuary, and

⁵ The church's original offices were located just north of the library and lounge in the northwest corner of the church, but when the 1970 addition was built it included new and larger office spaces and the original ones were then assigned other uses.

⁶ *Evansville Review*. May 14, 1970, p. 7 (illustrated).

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each of these openings is flanked by broad floor-to-ceiling brick-clad piers and each one contains a pair of single-light wooden doors.⁷ Placed on the wall between the left and central door openings to the sanctuary is a single, very large picture window that has built-in varnished plywood-faced cabinets placed below it. The east, west, and south walls of the narthex are mostly covered in varnished plywood sheets as well, which in many cases covers doors for concealed cabinetry. Two more doors placed in the south wall of the narthex open into the Fellowship Hall in the 1970 wing, while an opening in the east wall of the narthex leads to a hallway that serves the two bathrooms on the left (north) side and the church's kitchen on the right.⁸

The rectilinear plan library/lounge occupies most of the west side of the 1958 church and it too has a carpeted floor and a ceiling that is composed of a grid of laminated beams and which is crossed over by three full-width light boxes. A brick fireplace is set into this room's north wall and brick is also used to frame the three large window openings that are set into the room's east wall as well as for the built-in planters that are placed below them. These window openings each contain a pair of large, fixed one-light windows and these windows all look into the sanctuary on the other side. Three more equally large window openings are placed opposite them in the room's west wall and these openings each contain a triple window group that looks towards S. Third Street.

Not surprisingly, the sanctuary is the largest room in the church and the most elaborate one. This rectilinear plan room is entered from the narthex, the floor is carpeted, and twelve rows of wood pews are placed on either side of the sanctuary's center aisle. These pews are original to the church. The sanctuary's west wall consists mostly of the three large window openings that also open into the library/lounge. The wall surface immediately above them, however, is spanned by several courses of varnished wood, above which is the band of stained glass windows that make up the west wall of the large clerestory that constitutes the roof of the sanctuary. The uppermost portion of the east wall of this room is similar in that it too is crowned by a band of stained glass windows that make up the east wall of the clerestory. But, the wall surface below it is all brick and four deep, full-height brick piers that cover supporting members of the building are arrayed across its width. The base of the wall is covered by a brick planter that spans the full-length of the wall. The south, or rear, wall of the sanctuary is also brick and has the door openings and the large window that were mentioned earlier. In addition, a rectilinear plan wood and glass audio visual booth is attached to this wall and projects out several feet into the room. The north end of the sanctuary is the chancel where the church's altar and lectern are located. Much of the wall at the back of the chancel is clad in brick, but the right-hand

⁷ All the exposed brick in the interior of the church is the same Roman brick that is used on the exterior.

⁸ Also set into the east wall of the narthex is a large pass-through that can be opened to permit food to be passed from the kitchen into the narthex.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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(east) third of it consists of a large wood and fabric screen that covers the organ pipes of the church's Schantz organ. The chancel portion of the sanctuary is set two steps higher than the rest of the sanctuary, its floor is carpeted, and it is separated from the rest of the sanctuary by a simple wood communion rail.

The most striking feature of the sanctuary is its ceiling. All of the same elements that make up the ceilings in the church's other major Steinmann-designed rooms are present in the sanctuary as well, but this room is much larger, the room is open to the ceiling, and its ceiling is much taller. In the sanctuary, the laminated wood beams that cross this space and support the roof are truly massive and the grid pattern that is created when these beams intersect with the other beams it is much more apparent and can be more fully appreciated. The same light boxes that are used in the other rooms are also found here, but in the sanctuary there are just two of them and they run the full length of the room on either side of the center aisle and make a much stronger statement. In addition, the ceiling in the center of the room is open all the way up to the roof of the smaller top rectilinear plan monitor, which means that the ceiling height in the center of this room is taller still. This extra height also allows more light to enter the room because of the continuous ribbon of windows that makes up the walls of the monitor.

One more room in the original church deserves special mention and this is the church's kitchen. This rectilinear plan room has a linoleum floor, a plastered ceiling, walls covered with first rate wooden cabinets, stainless steel countertops with cabinets below, a large centrally placed island that is also covered in stainless steel and which also has cabinet space placed below, and a sink island (a peninsula, actually) that contains two pairs of stainless steel sinks that are placed back-to-back. In addition, large pass-through doors in the room's west and south walls allow food to be served directly into the narthex and into the Fellowship Hall. Taken as a whole, this kitchen must have excited envy in everyone who used it and it is still in perfect condition today, as are all the church's other rooms.

The interior of the 1970 addition is also still intact, but since it is primarily an education wing and contains office spaces and multi-purpose meeting rooms, its interiors were given a more utilitarian treatment. For instance, these rooms have painted concrete block walls rather than brick and they contain much less built-in cabinetry. They do, however, have carpeted floors and beamed ceilings, the beams of which are made out of laminated wood, and large windows in both the walls and the ceilings also admit natural light into these rooms.

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Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Campanile (Contributing, 1970)

In addition to the church, a free-standing Contemporary Style campanile is positioned in the center of the turn-around located near the church's main entrance. This structure is built mostly of wood and it was constructed in 1970, along with the addition to the church, and it was described as follows in a contemporary newspaper article:

A new campanile has been placed near the entrance to the church. The cross on top of the globe symbolizes Christ for the World. It has electric conduits and could serve as a bell tower for chimes. The three beams signify the Trinity – forthcoming from the earth. The campanile which will be floodlighted at night, will include a directory.⁹

Three tall, thin wood posts that are each positioned on one of the vertices of an equilateral triangle rise up 12 to 15 feet and then expand and connect with each other to help support a metal armature that consists of pieces of metal that form the outline of a hollow sphere. A vertical metal shaft that acts as the axis of this sphere also serves as the lowest portion of a tall, thin metal cross that crowns the campanile. In addition, a vertical signboard located in the base of the campanile serves as the church's directory and provides passersby with the church's name, its pastor's name, and the hours of services. The combined height of the base and the cross is about twenty-five or thirty feet and it was probably designed by Robert Torkelson, the architect who designed the 1970 addition to the church.

⁹ *Evansville Review*. May 14, 1970, p. 7 (illustrated).

St. John's Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Rock
County and State

Wisconsin

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

1958-1970

Significant Dates

1958

1970

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Steinmann, John W./Droessler Construction Co.

Ames, Torkelson and Assoc./Dyson Construction, Inc.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Significance:

St. John's Lutheran Church was completed in 1958 and it was sensitively expanded in 1970. It is an excellent, highly intact example of Wrightian Style-influenced church design. The church was identified as a potentially eligible building having local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion C (Architecture) by the City of Evansville Intensive Survey, which was undertaken in 2005-2006.¹⁰ Research designed to assess the church's potential for eligibility was undertaken using the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the church by utilizing the Contemporary style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.¹¹ The results of this research are detailed below and demonstrate that the brick and wood-clad St. John's Lutheran Church is locally significant under NR Criterion C and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a very fine, highly intact example of Wrightian Style-influenced Contemporary style design.

The St. John's Lutheran Church was built to a design supplied by prominent Monticello, Wisconsin architect John W. Steinmann.¹² Steinmann was the son of John Clarence Steinmann, who began working in the Karlen & Steinmann lumberyard in Monticello owned by his father, John Casper Steinmann, in 1912 after working as an architectural designer in Ashland, Wisconsin. Over time, John Clarence's architectural work became a separate division of the yard and, after Steinmann was licensed as an architect in 1932, he took on increasingly complicated and larger scale projects. John Clarence Steinmann's son, John W. Steinmann, was born in Monticello in 1914 and attended the University of Illinois, studying architecture. After graduation, John W. worked as an architectural designer in several places before returning to Monticello in 1936 to work with his father, who died in 1944. After completing military service in World War II, John W. Steinmann took over the architecture division of the lumberyard once again and the work gradually expanded until 1960, when he sold his interests in the lumberyard and formed John W. Steinmann & Assoc., which later became known as Steinmann Architects. This firm completed numerous Contemporary Style design projects in Wisconsin, as well as in California, Texas, Michigan, and New York. Especially notable examples include the Karakahl

¹⁰ Heggland, Timothy F. *City of Evansville Intensive Survey*. Evansville, WI: City of Evansville, 2006. Copy on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

¹¹ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (3 vols.). Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation, 1986, Vol. 2, p. 2-37 (Architecture).

¹² "St. John's Lutheran Church Here Will Break Ground for New Building." *Evansville Review*, August 8, 1957, p. 1, (illustrated).

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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Inn and Gonstead Clinic in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin (both extant), and the Wisconsin State Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York, which is now located in Neillsville, Wisconsin.

Steinmann's client, the St. John's Lutheran Church congregation, was founded in Evansville in 1936 as the First Lutheran Church. Within a year the congregation had purchased the former St. John's Episcopal Church in that city, they renamed themselves, and occupied this church building for the next twenty years. By 1957, however, the congregation numbered 625 and the need for a new and larger church had become acute. This resulted in the construction of the excellent Steinmann-designed church that is the subject of this nomination, which was completed in 1958. By 1969, however, the church's membership had reached nearly 1000 and enlarged facilities were needed once again. As a result, a new wing using the same materials and the same design elements as the original building was designed by Madison, Wisconsin architect Robert Torkelson and was completed in 1970. The totally harmonious end result is still the home of St. John's Lutheran congregation today and it is Evansville's finest Contemporary style building.

History:

A detailed history of the city of Evansville and its built resources is embodied in the *City of Evansville Intensive Survey Report*, printed in 2006, and an excellent general history of Evansville up until 1920 is included in local historian Ruth Ann Montgomery's 1989 book *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*.¹³ Consequently, the historic context that follows deals just with the history of St. John's Lutheran Church.

In 1935, the officers of the Eastern District of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America realized that a church was needed in Evansville to satisfy the needs of their members in that city and in the surrounding area who were then without a church of their own. By 1936, funding to hire a minister and to acquire a church facility had been found and, on May 14, 1936, the new congregation was officially organized as the First Lutheran Church of Evansville. The first meetings of the new congregation were held in the Evansville City Hall but the member's desire for a church of their own was strong.

St. John's was originally founded in June of 1936 under the name of "First Lutheran." Within a year, the tiny congregation, led by Rev. Theodore Heimarck, pooled its resources to purchase the old St. John's Episcopal Church on First Street (the site of the current US Post Office).

¹³ Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

When they moved to the Episcopal church, the stained glass window over the door announced "St. John's"... so came the name of St. John's Lutheran Church.¹⁴

St. John's Lutheran Church was chartered with 74 members, but by the time of the congregation's fifth anniversary on June 18, 1941, the membership had increased to 286, and by its fifteenth anniversary, on June 24, 1951, it numbered 525.

As the years went by the congregation continued to grow in numbers and it soon became apparent that something had to be done to provide adequate facilities for worship, the work of the Sunday School and various organizations. At the annual congregational meeting in January, 1950, a step was taken towards the creation of a building fund. After considerable preliminary work a Building Fund campaign was launched in June, 1951.

The congregation had authorized the establishment of a Building Fund Committee in April, 1951, and a Building Committee in September, 1951. In due time an architect, Mr. John Steinman [sic] of Monticello, had been engaged to draw plans for remodeling and for a new church. Plans for a church of contemporary style architecture were adopted by a large majority of the congregation on November 30, 1954. A decision to start construction in the spring of 1956 was made at the annual meeting of the congregation.

Due to circumstances the program did not get into action until August 11, 1957, at which time ground breaking ceremonies were held on the newly purchased site on Lincoln street.¹⁵

These ground breaking ceremonies were especially notable for their participatory, inclusive nature.

Members of St. John's Lutheran church here broke ground for a new \$158,000 church Sunday. In a moving ceremony, members of the group ranging in age from toddlers to the very eldest simultaneously turned ground around the perimeter of the new building. Contracts for the construction were signed last Thursday night, and the builders expect to get started within the next two weeks. The building will be completed by early May.

A group that completely filled the present church building and forced some members to stand outside, met for worship services Sunday, and then marched together to the new church site on Lincoln Street. At the site, the outlines of the new building had been staked out. Members of

¹⁴ St. John's Lutheran Church website. < <http://www.stjohns-lc.org/our-church/history/> >

¹⁵ "Lay Corner Stone Sunday." *Evansville Review*, June 12, 1958, p. 1 (illustrated).

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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the congregation made a line which completely stretched around the outline. Following prayers of dedication, all present turned symbolic shovelfuls of ground, marking the actual physical start of the church.¹⁶

By June of 1958, the new church was complete and ready for use. The occasion was celebrated with a corner stone-laying ceremony on June 8, 1958, and a dedication ceremony took place on September 28, 1958.¹⁷ Finally, St. John's had a place of worship that was able to accommodate its congregation, but this was not to last. By 1965, the congregation had once again increased to the point where additional space was needed and, by 1969, it once again found itself in the midst of a major construction project.

The first spade full of earth was turned Sunday, Sept. 7, at the site of the new addition to St. John's Lutheran Church here in Evansville. The \$185,000 addition will be constructed on the south end of the church building.

The plans for the new wing have been in the talking stages for the past three years. Surveys were made among the members of the congregation and the University of Wisconsin was consulted to establish needs and the use of space.

According to Rev. Orlo Espeland, who has served the congregation at St. John's since 1964, there has been steady growth in the size of the congregation, which now stands at about 1,000 with about 600 confirmed members.¹⁸

The new addition was designed by Madison, Wisconsin architect Robert Torkelson and was completed in May of 1970.¹⁹ Fortunately, the addition to the church had been well thought out and in the forty years since its completion the church has proved adequate to the task of housing its large congregation. Today, this congregation has a membership of 1045 with 746 confirmed members and its members continues to take great pride in the Contemporary style church that has now housed it for more than 50 years.

¹⁶ "Lutherans Break Earth For New Church." *Evansville Review*, August 15, 1957, p. 1 (illustrated).

¹⁷ "Lay Corner Stone Sunday." *Evansville Review*, June 12, 1958, p. 1 (illustrated).

¹⁸ "Break Ground For New Addition." *Evansville Review*, September 11, 1969, p. 1 (illustrated).

¹⁹ *Evansville Review*, May 14, 1970, p. 7 (illustrated).

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Architecture:

The St. John's Lutheran Church building is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a very fine, highly intact Wrightian Style-influenced Contemporary Style church whose original portion was completed in 1958 and was designed by prominent Monticello, Wisconsin architect John W. Steinmann. Better definitions for both the Wrightian style and the many other different Contemporary styles are still being created by scholars today. As the CRMP itself states: "Contemporary architecture cannot be defined or described in the manner of other preceding stylistic movements. "Contemporary" can be used to designate any mid-twentieth century building of distinction and potential historic interest, whose identity or features cannot be ascribed to styles and forms discussed in this report."²⁰ The St. John's Lutheran Church building is an excellent example of such a "mid-twentieth century building of distinction" and it is also a fine example of the "Wrightian" style, which has also been accepted as a style by the NRHP.²¹ In addition, the St. John's Lutheran Church is also an excellent example of the ways in which the church as a resource type was changing in response to post-World War II needs.

"Wrightian" is an architectural style that was first described by Marcus Whiffen in his seminal book *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. In this book, Whiffen himself alludes to the fact that pinning down the precise characteristics that make a given building "Wrightian" can be difficult when they were not designed by Wright himself.

Fundamentally homogeneous though superficially varied, Wrightian architecture is more easily recognized than described. A prevailing horizontality is one characteristic of nearly all of it; another is the importance given to the roof as a character-giving feature, whether it is a flat slab or of some pitched or "folded" form. In many designs the plan form is echoed in the elevations and also in any ornament there may be; a building with a plan based on the hexagonal figure will have diagonal glazing bars and a sloping roof ridge, for example, and a circular building a series of segmental arches. Battered walls are much employed; balcony parapets are often inclined outward; piers frequently taper downward. Wood siding is most often horizontal, reinforcing the horizontality of the building as a whole; stone walling may imitate the natural

²⁰ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 2, p. 2-37 (architecture).

²¹ National Register Bulletin 16: Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms. Washington D.C.: National Register Branch, Interagency Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1991, pp. 25-26.

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stratification of the rock to the same effect. ... When two structural materials are used together, their textures are often strongly contrasted.²²

Steinmann's design for his St. John's Lutheran Church makes excellent use of the horizontality (one of the prime Wrightian characteristics noted by Whiffen) and his use of multiple flat or nearly flat roofs, all of which have wide, overhanging flat eaves, further emphasizes this horizontality. Additional horizontal emphasis was provided by his use of long, narrow, Roman brick for all the exterior walls and by the way he used wood to edge and emphasize the various roof elements throughout the church. Still other Wrightian touches included the placement of a massive chimney mass on the main façade and the use of multiple ribbons of clerestory windows to bring light into the interior of the building.

Steinmann's design also included elements that reflect the changes that were taking place in church design all across the country during this period and which reflected the transition that much of the country was making from an urban to a suburban, automobile-centered way of life. Previous to World War II, Evansville's churches were located within walking distance of many of their parishioners and all of them, including the old St. John's Episcopal Church (non-extant) that was the St. John's Lutheran Church's first official home, were located within one or two blocks of the city's historic downtown shopping district. All of these nineteenth century churches occupied one or perhaps two or three long, narrow, typical nineteenth century urban lots, and automobiles were usually parked on the adjacent streets. After World War II, however, the rapid increase in young families that occurred once the "Baby Boom" got under way resulted in increasingly crowded churches that were ill equipped to meet the multiple needs of their rapidly expanding multi-generational congregations.

It must be remembered that church congregations are "families" in the largest sense, and like regular families, they have memberships that span multiple generations, each of which has its own needs. Therefore, an ideal church should be readily accessible and user friendly for both the newest and the oldest members of its congregation. It should also have facilities that can readily accommodate both the regular and the special events that every church celebrates. The problems associated with having facilities that were inadequate and too small were especially acute for the St. John's Lutheran congregation, which by 1951 had one of Evansville's largest congregations and one of its oldest and smallest churches. The first important decision that the St. John's congregation made to address these problems was to acquire a large, flat, 6-acre parcel of land on what was then the edge of the city. The luxury of having enough land meant that the congregation could then contemplate the construction of a building that was large enough to handle the multiple needs that had to be served with plenty of room

²² Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: The MIT Press, 1969, pp. 263-264.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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left over to construct a large adjacent parking lot that could provide off-street parking for the entire congregation, most of whom were, by then, automobile owners.

Evansville's other existing churches, of course, were also working hard to meet the same new post-war needs, but the facilities that even the largest of them possessed were usually limited and few of them could comfortably handle the large numbers of young parishioners that, by the 1950s, were an increasing part of church life. Now, churches found that they needed more than just a single Sunday School room and the presence of the ever growing numbers of very young children at church services often proved disruptive. In addition, churches were being called upon to host an ever increasing number of family-like food-related events. While many of Evansville's late nineteenth century churches had been retrofitted with kitchen facilities by this time to cater to the many dinners that a church holds during a year, these facilities were usually located in basements and they were often cramped and poorly equipped. Building a new church offered a congregation the opportunity to remedy all of these deficiencies and this is exactly what the St. John's Lutheran congregation hoped to achieve when it contracted with architect John W. Steinmann for a design for a new church.

Once the new parcel of land had been acquired, the church's officers then set about securing a design and funding for a new church building. By mid-1957, a design supplied by Steinmann had been approved and contracts for the work were then awarded.

The contracts for construction will be signed at the office of Architect John W. Steinman [sic], Monticello, by the pastor, Myrold, and Patterson. Two local firms will be among the builders. Al's Electric Service was the winning bidder for the electrical work, and Bly Heating-Plumbing has the heating contract. General contractor is the Droessler Construction Co. of Kieler, and Charles H. Morgan, Madison has the plumbing contract.

The new church edifice will be 107 feet by 101 feet, with three elevations. The exterior will be of brick and wood. There are no stairs in the building which will provide seating for six hundred for worship services, and banquet facilities to handle up to 200 people.²³

This newspaper account of the groundbreaking ceremony is noteworthy because its description of the new building places emphasis on the facts that the facilities of the new church would be both readily accessible for the elderly (no stairs) and that the facilities could comfortably seat and feed almost a

²³ "St. John's Lutheran Church Here Will Break Ground For New Building." *Evansville Review*, August 8, 1957, p. 1, (illustrated). John Myrold and Lester Patterson were the co-chair and the secretary of the church council, respectively.

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third of the congregation's membership. By the time the church was completed and the corner stone was to be laid, another published account gave still more details about the new building.

The new church is constructed of Roman brick inside and out and is situated on a lot composed of 5.7 acres. The overall seating of the church will accommodate 650 people. A public address system has been installed and a splendid kitchen has been prepared to make it convenient to effectively serve all social functions and public dinners. About 172 people can be seated at banquet tables. Modernfold doors have been installed in Fellowship Hall to divide the rooms into classrooms for the Sunday School. The lounge has a lovely brick fireplace. There are private offices for the pastor and the church secretary. There is an oil-burning furnace, hot water heat through radiant and baseboard systems. There is a large parking lot on the south side of the church.²⁴

The new church was the largest one in Evansville when it was completed and Steinmann's design satisfied the needs of its congregation for almost ten years. As the congregation grew and matured, however, so too did its needs and, by September of 1969, plans for a new \$185,000 Christian Education wing had been prepared by Madison architect Robert Torkelson and construction started. Torkelson's new wing was carefully designed to blend in with Steinmann's design and its interior spaces reflected the growing role that teaching the large numbers of children that were affiliated with the church now played.

The two level addition will house administrative offices for the Sunday School superintendent, senior and assistant pastor and church office secretary. Large expandable rooms, an audio visual area, a lecture hall and a chapel are planned. A large open multiple use area will permit the concept of sight barrier use in a formal learning situation.²⁵

The new addition was completed in 1970 and the newly enlarged St. John's Lutheran Church emerged as a thoroughly up-to-date facility that met all the needs of its congregation, which by then numbered nearly 1,000 members. That this is still true today is a tribute to the architects who planned it, who clearly understood both the present and the future needs of their client and were able to clothe these needs in designs that are still considered to be notable examples of the Wrightian and Contemporary styles.

²⁴ "Lay Corner Stone Sunday." *Evansville Review*, June 12, 1958, p. 1 (illustrated). [The actual acreage total is 6.2 acres.]

²⁵ "Break Ground For New Addition." *Evansville Review*, September 11, 1969, p. 1 (illustrated).

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Architect:

The architect who designed the original portion of St. John's Lutheran Church, John W. Steinmann (1914-1987), was the son of John Clarence Steinmann (1889-1944), who was the son of John Casper Steinmann (1854-1942). All three of these men were closely associated with the Green County, Wisconsin village of Monticello and all three were also closely involved with the construction and design of buildings and the practice of architecture. Like many other Wisconsin communities, Monticello celebrated the nation's bicentennial in 1976 by publishing a book that recounted its history, and one of the articles in this book was written by John Colburn Steinmann, who is the son of John W. Steinmann and who is also an architect. In this article, Steinmann recounted the history of the three previous Steinmann men and especially that of his father, who left the largest and most important architectural legacy of the three.

John Clarence Steinmann, Jr. born February 28, 1889, youngest son of John Caspar and Barbara Legler Steinmann was a young architectural designer working in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1911. In 1912 he returned to Monticello to affiliate with the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company located at the east edge of Monticello, as "Architect" and Builder. This was actually the founding of what was to become three generations of Steinmann Architects that have prevailed through this bicentennial year of 1976.

The laws of the State of Wisconsin requiring registration and licensing of Architects were passed during 1918, and John C. Steinmann, Jr. became a licensed Architect on November 18, 1932. During the years 1912 through 1944, he was responsible for the design and construction of hundreds of buildings of all kinds, including farm buildings, residences, cheese factories, and civic buildings, in Green County, Madison, and elsewhere. Many of the finest residences in Monticello were designed and built by him. He passed away in the fall of 1944 at the age of 55.

John W. Steinmann, son of John Clarence and Martha Linehan Steinmann, was born January 29, 1914, received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1936. After graduation he worked as an architectural designer in various places and returned to Monticello to work in the architectural department of the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Company under the direction of his father, until 1941. During 1941 and part of 1942 he worked as an Architect-Engineer on design and construction of the Truax Military Air Base in Madison. He was drafted into the Corps. of Engineers during the fall of 1942 and separated from service 38 months later, January 1946.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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The architectural department of Karlen and Steinmann was re-activated under his direction, and gradually expanded over the years until 1960, and became known as John W. Steinmann and Associates, Architects and Engineers. In 1960, interests in the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co. were sold to the Karlen members of the firm, and John and Howard [Steinmann] moved to the present [1976] office at 311 Urban Road and the name became Steinmann Architects.

During the past 29 years the Architectural Firm has employed more than 30 architects, draftsmen, and clerical help, maintaining an average professional staff of 5 to 7. During the years the firm served as architect for more than 100 million dollars of buildings, and during the past 17 years has designed buildings in 12 states, including California, Texas, Michigan, and New York.

Projects designed by the firm include schools in Monticello, Monroe, Lancaster, Beloit, Darlington, Gratiot, South Wayne, New Glarus, Durand and River Falls. Churches in Monticello, and Evansville, the Wisconsin State Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, New York. The Saint Joseph Geriatric Hospital in River Falls and the Karmenta Nursing Home in Madison, the Karakahl Inn and its companion building, the Gonstead Clinic in Mount Horeb, the Timbers Supper Club, Platteville, The Voyageur at Reedsburg, and the Casino Lounge, Monticello; Banks in Monticello, Lodi, Sparta, Wonewoc, Portage, and Stoughton.

The work of Steinmann Architects has been noted by many authorities, and has been published in numerous nation-wide publications as innovative and noteworthy. Their philosophy has been and continues to be, "Leave something better than you found."²⁶

John W. Steinmann was the principal architect of Steinmann Architects, and earlier, of the architectural department of the Karlen and Steinmann Lumber Co., and his active professional life really began at the end of World War II and it continued until January of 1977, when the firm of Steinmann Architects was dissolved. Steinmann and his wife then moved to Bellevue, Washington and he continued to practice there for eight years before returning to Monroe, Wisconsin in 1983. He was living in Monroe when he died in 1987 at the age 73.²⁷

Because almost all of Steinmann's projects were designed after the end of World War II, only a handful of

²⁶ Monticello Historical Committee. *Monticello Past and Present*. Monticello: 1977, p. 57 (illustrated). John Colburn Steinmann, the third generation of licensed Steinmann architects, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1963, spent 24 months in Viet Nam, and returned to Monticello to work with Steinmann Architects in 1972. In 1973 he left the firm to accept a position as Assistant State Architect of the State of Alaska.

²⁷ *Monroe Evening Times*. January 3, 1987. Obituary of John W. Steinmann.

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them have so far been surveyed and entered into the computerized database (AHI) that is maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation and Public History. Of these, the author of this nomination has personally seen and surveyed the Timbers Restaurant in Platteville (demolished in 2008 for a Walgreen's), the Schreiner Memorial Library in Lancaster, the St. Clement's R. C. School in Lancaster, and the Clark Prudhon House, also in Evansville, which was built in 1967, four years after Steinmann and Prudhon had collaborated on the design and construction of the Wisconsin State Pavilion that was a part of the 1964 New York World's Fair. All of these buildings are distinctly Wrightian in inspiration and they all demonstrate a uniformly high standard of design and construction and are believed to individually eligible for NRHP listing.

No documentation has yet been found that helps explain why Steinmann's designs should have been so deeply influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. So far as is known, Steinmann had no connection with Wright and he is not known to have been associated with Taliesin or with the Taliesin Fellowship. Perhaps the answer is simply that he was a young architect who in 1936 was fresh out of architectural school and was then suddenly exposed to Wright's new Falling Water and his new S. C. Johnson Co. projects and realized that this was the architectural language he had been looking for. Certainly he could not have been unaware of Wright. Even though Steinmann was still very young, he was also a professional architect and can be presumed to have been familiar with at least some of the publications that celebrated Wright's work after Falling Water came to public attention in the late 1930s. It is also unlikely that he could have been unaware of the work of a man who, after all, lived just outside Spring Green in neighboring Iowa County, a mere hour away from Monticello. Whatever the answer may be, the fact remains that Steinmann's Wrightian inspired design were at least the equal of those produced by members of the Taliesin Fellowship, and in some instances, are actually superior.

Consequently, it is believed that the St. John's Lutheran Church is eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance for its associations with NR Criterion C, Architecture, because it is an excellent example of the ways in which the church resource type evolved after World War II in order to meet the new demands that this period placed on church design. The church is also an excellent example of the Wrightian style-influenced work of John W. Steinmann, who is now being recognized as one of Wisconsin's finest early Post-World War II architects. While more research is still needed in order to compile a truly comprehensive list of the works that Steinmann designed, those that have been identified to date clearly represent the work of a master architect as defined by the NRHP and his design for the St. John's Lutheran Church congregation is one of the most outstanding of his known projects. In addition, the significance of the brick and wood-clad St. John's Lutheran Church is considerably enhanced by its superb condition and by the high degree of integrity that is still present in the fabric of the church today.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Criteria Consideration A

Ordinarily, buildings belonging to religious institutions are not eligible for listing in the NRHP unless the building falls within NRHP Criteria Consideration A, which states that such resources must be: "A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction."²⁸ The St. John's Lutheran Church meets the requirements of Criterion A because it is a religious property that derives its significance from being a very fine example of the Wrightian Style and an especially fine example of the work of John W. Steinmann, the architect of the original portion.

Criteria Consideration G

Criteria Consideration G deals with properties that are less than fifty years old. Generally speaking, a property must be fifty years old or older in order to qualify for listing in the NRHP and since the original portion of the St. John's Lutheran Church was completed fifty-two-years ago in 1958, it thereby meets this requirement. The church's addition and its campanile, however, were both built in 1970, but it is believed that they do not need to meet Criteria Consideration G because the 1970 addition actually represents the completion of the church. National Register Bulletin 15 provides examples of properties that do not need to meet Criteria Consideration G, one of which is:

A resource that is significant for its plan or design, which is over fifty years old, but the actual completion of the project overlaps the fifty year period by a few years.²⁹

Great care was taken by both the architect and the congregation to ensure that the addition's design would be not just compatible with the original 1958 church but identical to it. The addition utilizes the same materials as the original and the same design elements and it blends seamlessly into the original building. In addition, the church has served its congregation without alteration ever since the addition was completed in 1970 and both the exterior and interior of the completed church still retain a very high degree of integrity.

²⁸ National Register Bulletin 16. Guidelines For Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms. Washington D.C: National Register Branch, Interagency Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1991, p. 37.

²⁹ National Register Bulletin 15. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington D.C: National Register Branch, Interagency Division, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, n.d., p. 41.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Name of Property

Rock
County and State

Wisconsin

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:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - ☒ Other
- Name of repository:
Eager Free Library, Evansville, WI

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.2 Acres

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

1 16 311350 4738330
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 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

name/title	Timothy F. Heggland/Consultant for the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission			date	December 23, 2010
organization				telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Rd.			zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI		

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Washington D.C: National Register Branch, Interagency Division, National Park Service, Department
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Longfield & Smith Addition to the City of Evansville, SW¼; Lots 11, 12, 13, and 20 (Exc. the West 33' of the North 369" for Street).

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with St. John's Lutheran Church.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Rock

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

name/title

organization

Street & number

city or town

state

date

telephone

zip code

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 42.

Photo 1

- a) St. John's Lutheran Church
- b) Evansville, Rock County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, July 13, 2010
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) Main Elevation, General View, View looking NE
- f) Photo 1 of 42

Photo 10

- e) East Elevation, General View, View looking NNW
- f) Photo 10 of 42

Photo 2

- e) 1958 Church, View looking NE
- f) Photo 2 of 42

Photo 11

- e) South Elevation Detail, View looking W
- f) Photo 11 of 42

Photo 3

- e) 1958 Church, View looking E
- f) Photo 3 of 42

Photo 12

- e) South Elevation, View looking N
- f) Photo 12 of 42

Photo 4

- e) 1958 Church Detail, View looking E
- f) Photo 4 of 42

Photo 13

- e) General View, View looking NE
- f) Photo 13 of 42

Photo 5

- e) 1958 Church Detail, View looking NE
- f) Photo 5 of 42

Photo 14

- e) 1970 Addition, View looking NE
- f) Photo 14 of 42

Photo 6

- e) General View, View looking SE
- f) Photo 6 of 42

Photo 15

- e) Entrance Detail, View Looking N
- f) Photo 15 of 42

Photo 7

- e) General View, View looking SW
- f) Photo 7 of 42

Photo 16

- e) Entrance Detail, View looking N
- f) Photo 16 of 42

Photo 8

- e) East Elevation Detail, View looking W
- f) Photo 8 of 42

Photo 17

- e) Entrance Detail, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 17 of 42

Photo 9

- e) East Elevation of Kitchen Wing, View looking W
- f) Photo 9 of 42

Photo 18

- e) Architect's Name Plaque, View looking E
- f) Photo 18 of 42

Photo 19

- e) Narthex, View looking N to Sanctuary
- f) Photo 19 of 42

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 2

Photo 20

- e) Narthex Ceiling Detail, View looking NE
- f) Photo 20 of 42

Photo 21

- e) Narthex Detail, View looking N
- f) Photo 21 of 42

Photo 22

- e) Library/Lounge, View looking N
- f) Photo 22 of 42

Photo 23

- e) Library/Lounge, View looking S
- f) Photo 23 of 42

Photo 24

- e) Narthex Detail, View looking N to Sanctuary
- f) Photo 24 of 42

Photo 25

- e) Sanctuary, View looking NE
- f) Photo 25 of 42

Photo 26

- e) Sanctuary, View looking N to Chancel
- f) Photo 26 of 42

Photo 27

- e) Sanctuary, View looking W
- f) Photo 27 of 42

Photo 28

- e) Sanctuary, View looking W
- f) Photo 28 of 42

Photo 29

- e) Sanctuary Detail, View looking SW
- f) Photo 29 of 42

Photo 30

- e) Sanctuary, View looking E
- f) Photo 30 of 42

Photo 31

- e) Sanctuary Detail, View looking NNE
- f) Photo 31 of 42

Photo 32

- e) Sanctuary, View looking S
- f) Photo 32 of 42

Photo 33

- e) Sanctuary South Wall, View looking E
- f) Photo 33 of 42

Photo 34

- e) Sanctuary Audio Visual Booth, View looking ESE
- f) Photo 34 of 42

Photo 35

- e) Kitchen, View looking SE
- f) Photo 35 of 42

Photo 36

- e) Kitchen, View looking W
- f) Photo 36 of 42

Photo 37

- e) Kitchen Detail, View looking SE
- f) Photo 37 of 42

Photo 38

- e) Fellowship Hall, View looking S
- f) Photo 38 of 42

Photo 39

- e) Fellowship Hall, View looking N
- f) Photo 39 of 42

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 3

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

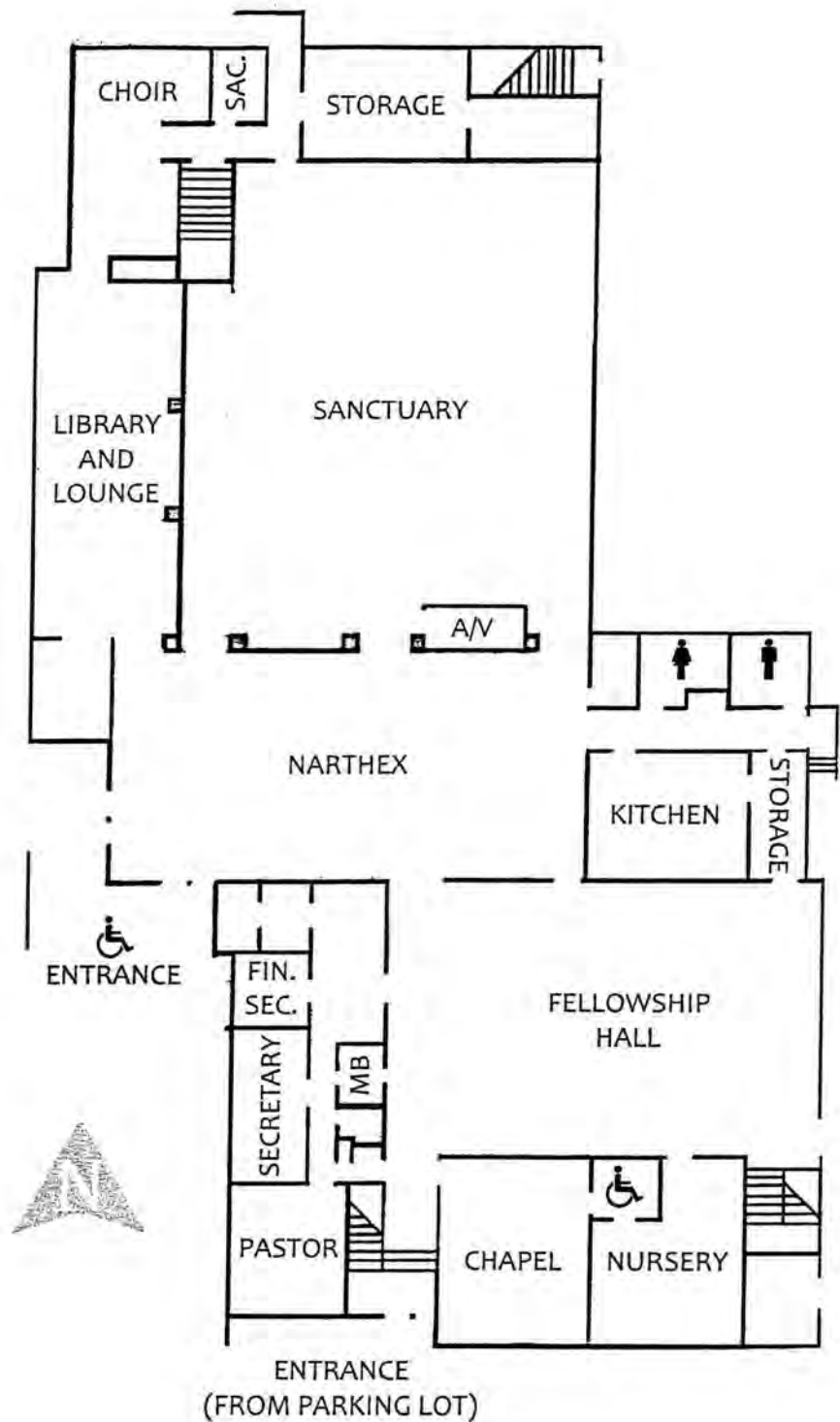
Photo 40
e) Chapel, View looking SE
f) Photo 40 of 42

Photo 41
e) Chapel Detail, View looking E
f) Photo 41 of 42

Photo 42
e) Campanile, View looking E
f) Photo 42 of 42

Figure #1:
St. John's Lutheran Church
312 South Third Street
Evansville, Rock County, Wisconsin

First Story



Not to Scale

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. John's Lutheran Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Rock

DATE RECEIVED: 6/29/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000521

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8.14.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co., WI

1 of 42

0228694, PH1# 140988 (41)-035

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/26/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Boone Co, IN

2 of 42

0228694, QHT# 140988 (37)-030

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co., WI

3 of 42

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 08-01-2006 BY 60321



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanville, Boone Co, WI

4 of 42



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co, WI
5 CT 42

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CAMERA CO. SQUARE 01100/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Eversville, Rock Co., WI

6 of 42

02286694, AHT# 140988 (4) 033

CAMERA CO. SQUARES 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co., WI
7 of 42

0028694, AHT# 140988 (5) 037

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co., WI
8 of 42

0228694, AHI# 140988 (6)-038

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01206/11



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN Church
Ebensville, Rock Co, WZ
9 c542

00785604: AHTW 140958 (7) 039

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/05/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Dec 12 Co., WI
10 of 42

0228694. AHI# 140988 (8)-040

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co., WZ
11 of 42

0228694, AIT# 140988 (9)-041

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lodge - Dec. 18

Evening, Deer Co, UT

12 of 42



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Reed Co., WI

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0228694, AHI# 140988 (39)-032

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co, WI
14 of 42



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Rock Co., WI

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St. John's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Rock Co., WI

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1958

St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co., WI

17 of 42

02286924 PHT# 140988 (12).003

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



JOHN W. STEINMANN

ARCHITECT AIA

MONTICELLO, WISCONSIN

St. John's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Reed Co., WI

18 of 42



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co., WI
19 42

Original with 10000 115 100

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, Rock Co., WI

20 of 42

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CAMERA CO. 000000 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, Rock Co, WI

2) of 42

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CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co, WI

22 of 42

0228694, AHI# 140988 (17) 008

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



ST. John's Lutheran Church
Evanville, Rock Co, WI
23 of 42

0028694. QHT# 140988 (19) 000

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



ST. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co, WI

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CAMERA CO. SOLUTIONS 01/06/11



ST. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co, WI
25 25 42

0228694, QHT# 140088 (28)-012

CAMERA CO. SOURCE. 01/05/11



ST. John's Lutheran Church
(Evanville, Rock Co, WI)

26 of 42

00206604, QHT# 140988 (21), 013

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/26/11



ST. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Boone Co, WI

27 05 42

0228694, AHI# 140988 (26)-018

CAMERA CO, SQUARE, 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co, WI
28 of 42

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CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01-22-21



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Barth Co, WI

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0228594. AHI# 140988 (23)-015

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Boone Co, WI

30 of 42

010 620 66001 4110 17055000

010620 010 66001 4110 17055000



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Reed Co, WI

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, Rock Co, WI

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co, WI

Evansville, Boeck Co, WI

33 25 42



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co, WI

34 45 42



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Ind Co, WI
35 of 42

0206694. PH1# 140989 (30) 023

CAMERA ON. SQUID. 01/05/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Rock Co, WI

36 -5 42

02286940 QHT# 140988 (31)-024

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Eau Claire, Rock Co, WI

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Rock Co, WI
38 25 42

0228694, AHT# 120988 (33) 026

CAMERA CO. SQUARE. 01/06/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Ind. Co., WI

39 of 42

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DATE 02-01-2001 BY SP-6 BJS/MS/



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evanston, Boone Co, WI

40 of 42

02286694, QHT# 140988 (35) 028

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/05/11



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evansville, Reeth Co, WI

41 c5 42

0228694, AHT# 140988 (36)-029

CAMERA CO. SQUARE, 01/06/11



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELMHURST, ILL.

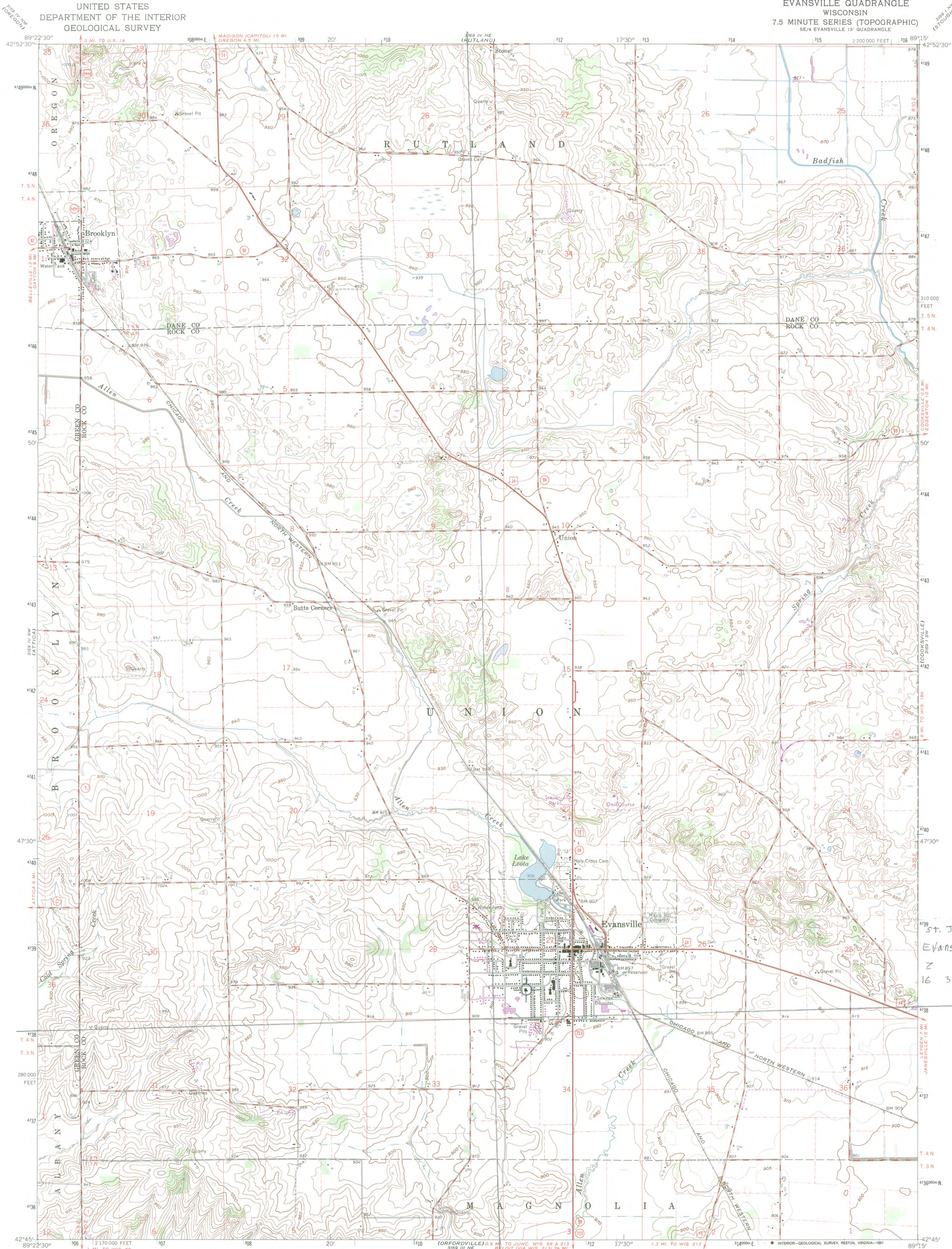
CONGREGATION

SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.
NATURAL SERVICE 10:00 A.M.
NATURAL SERVICE 10:00 P.M.
NATURAL SERVICE 10:00 P.M.
ALL ARE WELCOME

ST. JAMES LeTheray Church

Evansville, Rock Co, WI

42 of 42



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked

Map photoinspected 1981
No major culture or drainage changes observed

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks

EVANSVILLE, WIS.
SE/4 EVANSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
42089 G3-TF-024
PHOTOINSPECTED 1981
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1971
DMA 3169 IV SE-SERIES V861

St. John's Lutheran
Church
Evansville, Rock Co., W.
Z E N
16 311350 4738330



City of Evansville

www.ci.evansville.wi.gov

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2011

31 S Madison St
PO Box 76
Evansville, WI 53536
(608) 882-2266

DIV HIST PRES

July 19, 2011

Ms. Daina Penkiunas
National Register Coordinator
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Daina,

I am extremely pleased to recommend the proposed nominations of Leonard-Leota Park and St. John's Lutheran Church for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park and Church both are special to me.

I was confirmed at St. John's and as a youth I did not appreciate the building as wonderful Contemporary architecture. Evansville hosted the 2007 fall meeting of WAHPC and part of the conference was held at the Church. During the conference there was a program about Monticello, Wisconsin architect John Steinman and attendees toured the facility. Steinman's Wright-influenced Church design enriches the architectural resources of our community.

Leonard-Leota Park is the heart and soul of Evansville. The Rustic structures, dry stone creek walls, and landscaping are the results of the efforts of local citizens through the decades, with much of the work occurring as WPA and FERA projects during the Depression. Camping, fishing, boating, swimming, ice skating, bird-watching, picnicking, Scouting events, sports activities including football, baseball, tennis, and shuffleboard, concerts and festivals, and celebrations such as reunions, weddings, and birthdays—the Park is part of the fabric of the community.

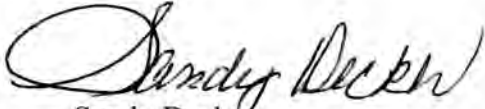
The Park has received new life with the recent restoration of Lake Leota. The Dry Stone Conservancy held a training session in the Park in 2007 to provide local knowledge of appropriate restoration of the stone walls along Allen Creek. There are more than 3,000 linear feet of creek wall in the Park, making wall restoration a multi-year project.

I am enclosing the June 16, 2011 meeting minutes from the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission unanimously approved recommending St.

John's Lutheran Church and Leonard-Leota Park for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Neither the Preservation Commission nor I have received any objections to the proposed nominations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (608) 882-2266 or sandy.decker@ci.evansville.wi.gov. John and I are planning to attend the Preservation Review Board meeting on August 19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Decker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sandy Decker
Mayor, City of Evansville

Enclosure

Evansville Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, June 16, 2011 6:30 P.M.
Evansville City Hall

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2011

DIV HIST PRES

Present: John Decker, Dennis Wessels, Steve Culbertson, Rick Schuch, Rich Modaff

Absent: Steve Christens, Betsy Ahner

Also Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair. Richard Modaff. *Motion by Wessels to waive the reading of the May 18, 2011 minutes and approve them as read. Second by Decker. Motion carried.*

Applications – Appearances

- a. 40 W. Liberty Street – *Motion by Culbertson to accept the application by Michael Batinich to remove the slate siding and replace the exterior with Vinyl Siding. Second by Wessels.* Neither the owner nor representatives were present to explain the work being completed on this house. The commission members discourage vinyl exterior siding. *Motion failed by a 0-5 vote.*
- b. 30 W. Church Street – *Motion by Decker to accept the application by Tony Ryerson to replace the current asphalt singing roof with a new asphalt shingle roof. Second by Schuch.* The owner was not present to explain the work being completed on this house but received an emergency approve by Building Inspector David Wartenweiler due to a leaking roof. *Motion passed on a voice count of 5-0.*
- c. 133 S. Fourth Street – *Motion by Wessels to accept the application by Greg Whitmore to construct a wrought iron fence in his front yard. Second by Culbertson.* The owner was not present to explain the work being completed. The Commission members stated they could approve application as long as the fence meets the current setback stated within the City of Evansville Ordinances. *Motion passed on a voice count of 3-2.*

Old Business

- a. Antes Cabin – The committee decided to move forward with physical moving of the cabin but we need to decide exactly where to place it and how high the elevation should be to avoid future flooding.
- b. National Register of Historic Places Nomination – *Motion by Wessels to recommend to the City of Evansville and the Wisconsin State Historical Preservation Review Board for the placement of St John's Lutheran Church and the Leonard-Leota Park in the National Register of Historic Places. Second by Culbertson. Motion carried by 5-0 voice count.*

There being no other business, *A motion to adjourn was made by Wessels. Second by Culbertson. Motion Carried by a 5-0 voice count.*

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2011.

