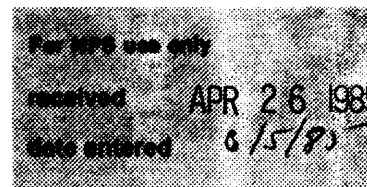


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Historic Resources of
Downtown South Bend

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 29

Former First Presbyterian Church
now Peoples' Church
101 S. Lafayette
141-56119-598
d. 1888

OWNER: Rev. James Campbell
Peoples' Church
302 W. Washington St.
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #33; Building #17

The Peoples' Church is located on the southeast corner of Lafayette and Washington Streets and is in the West Washington National Register Historic District.

The Richardsonian Romanesque structure is of multi-colored fieldstone with rock-faced limestone trim. The main block of the church has a cross gable roof with a square tower located at the northeast corner. A variety of roof and dormer shapes contribute to the irregular silhouette of the roofline. The church has four entrances, two on Washington and two on Lafayette. The southernmost entrance on Lafayette is recessed behind a Syrian arch and stone screen impost return; the porch has been enclosed with a wooden door and wall. Both the Lafayette and Washington Street entrances in the tower are surrounded by round arches supported by paired columns. The second entrance on Washington at the northwest corner is a one-story crenelated porch.

There are several stained glass windows, all in a purple and blue color scheme, of which the most notable is the massive, Palladian-like window of the main auditorium (east facade). The window on the Lafayette Street side contains the likeness of a man, reportedly Rev. George Keller, the first pastor.

Significance:

The former First Presbyterian Church was designed by J. P. Bailey and built by Christopher Fassnacht, a local contractor who also built the Romanesque style house of Clement Studebaker (Tippecanoe Place, National Historic Landmark). Built in 1888, the church is the only Richardsonian Romanesque ecclesiastical structure in South Bend.

The church was organized in 1834 with the aid of Horatio Chapin, one of South Bend's earliest settlers. Two other church buildings preceded the 1888 building, which cost approximately \$35,000. One-third was to be paid by the congregation, one-third by James Oliver (Oliver Chilled Plow Co.), and one-third by J. M. Studebaker (Studebaker Manufacturing Company). The church organ was donated by the children of James Oliver and The Tiffany Cross by Mrs. Grace Studebaker.

UTM Reference: 16/562120/4613860

Acreage: Less than one acre

Legal:

Lots 391-392, East 105 feet each, Original Plat of South Bend
Parcel #18-3009-0286