

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 16 1986
date entered JUN 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 912 North Oneida Street not for publication

city, town Appleton vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Outagamie code 087

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Zion Lutheran Church, c/o Pastor Donald Zelle

street & number 912 North Oneida Street

city, town Appleton vicinity of state Wisconsin 54911

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Outagamie County Courthouse

street & number 410 S. Walnut Street

city, town Appleton state Wisconsin 54911

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977, 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Zion Lutheran Church is located near the center of Appleton, just north of the Chicago & Northwestern tracks which diagonally bisect the city. The building is situated in an older residential neighborhood on the northeast corner of Oneida and Winnebago Streets. The plan configuration is rectangular with an apse and tower. The roof includes pavilion, gable, and hip forms. The roofing materials are asphalt shingles, the walls are yellow brick with a stretcher bond, and the foundations are quarry-cut ashlar limestone. The rectangular tower has a pinnacled steeple and is 163 feet high. Each face of the tower includes a six-foot clock. Other significant features include an octagonal roof louver, an arched corbel table, applied buttresses, and limestone amortizements, kneelers, and sills. The fenestration repeats the rhythm of the applied buttresses and consists of large Gothic arches, which are repeated in blind form on the apse and both forms on the tower. The windows consist of geometric tracery with stained glass. The sanctuary is accessed through a gabled, compound Gothic arch portal at the base of the tower on Oneida Street. This portal leads to the narthex, which in turn opens onto the sanctuary. The interior space of the sanctuary consists of a rectangular nave, choir loft, and semi-circular chancel. The ceiling is transverse ribbed from vaulting shafts with cherubic mascarons. The walls and ceiling are plaster with gilding and polychromatic colors accenting the ribbing. At the back of the chancel is a large Gothic altar crowned by crocketed pinnacles. To the left of the chancel is a matching raised pulpit and canopy, or schalkasten. All doors and windows are finished with heavily molded framing and stone trim, completing the rich use of materials in the interior.

The church is attached to a parish hall at two points along the north wall: at the narthex and at the pastor's chambers near the chancel. The windows on the north wall open onto a courtyard formed by the juncture of these buildings. The parish hall is in turn connected to the parsonage and school.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<u>x</u> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
___ 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<u>x</u> 1900-1936	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1902-1903¹ **Builder/Architect** Hoffman Bros, Carl Lange (Builders)
 Fredrick Velguth (Architect)²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1903 - 1935

Zion Lutheran Church is architecturally significant as a fine example of the late Victorian Gothic period of construction.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By the turn of the century Germans represented 15% of the local population and were well-established as merchants, bankers, manufacturers, and farmers.³ Their diverse religious beliefs were served by six churches, four of which are still standing: St. Joseph's Catholic Church (404 W. Lawrence Avenue) built in 1872; Zion Temple (320 N. Durkee Street, NRHP 1978) built in 1883; Zion Lutheran Church, built in 1903;⁴ and St. Paul's Lutheran Church (302 N. Morrison Street) built in 1907.⁴ German Evangelical and Methodist churches are no longer extant.

Established in 1883, Zion Lutheran Church was built to serve the larger of Appleton's two German Lutheran congregations.⁵ The congregation included members of the Brettschneider Furniture Store family, Outagamie County Bank founder George Wolf, "Volksfreund" publisher H. W. Meyer, and numerous farmers from the Towns of Harrison, Greenville, and Freedom.⁶ Designed by a German architect and built by local German contractors, Zion Lutheran Church housed a distinctly ethnic congregation in Appleton's tallest building. While proud of their heritage, the congregation was distinguished by its early acceptance of English. English was officially spoken at the dedication in 1903, English services were adopted in 1903, and an English mission was established in 1914 (now First English Lutheran Church).⁷ Zion Lutheran Church also installed four clocks in the church tower to serve the Sixth Ward in 1924, and rebuilt Zion School in 1929 to accomodate non-member enrollment.

Zion Lutheran Church was a social center for Appleton's German Lutheran community. Ladies of Die Frauen Verein (1883) kept their new church neat and clean, the Men's Missionary Club (1928) installed 2 bowling alleys in the school basement as part of their diverse recreational program, and the Relief Society (1933) used dues to help defray member burial costs. As part of this continuing vitality, Zion Lutheran Church organized a second mission church in 1946, constructed an expansive parish hall in 1962, and has a present membership of over 2,400.⁸

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Ryan, Thomas H. History of Outagamie County. Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911. Chicago, Illinois.
- Tock, Elizabeth. Zion Lutheran Church: A Brief Centennial Historical Review. Printed Privately, 1983. Appleton, Wisconsin.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .67 acres

Quadrangle name Appleton, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3, Block 12 of Kimball's Plat of the 6th Ward, including only that land associated with the church.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Neer and Peter Adams

organization Peter James Adams & Associates

date January 10, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 341

telephone 414/722-8963

city or town Neenah

state Wisconsin 54956

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title

date MAY 6, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

**Entered in the
National Register**

date 6-13-86

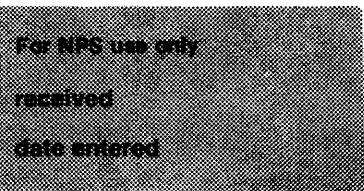

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

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ARCHITECTURE

Zion Lutheran Church is architecturally significant as a fine example of the late Victorian Gothic period of construction. It is one of two church structures in Appleton from this period, the other being St. Paul's Lutheran Church (302 N. Morrison Street) built in 1907.⁹ The two are distinguished from other area churches by their rich decorative features, subdued polychromy, and free interpretation of Gothic forms. Zion in particular is noteworthy for its heavy masonry, engaged buttressing piers, and crocketed pinnacles around a major tower, all of which are evidence of the German Gothic influence. Zion Lutheran Church was built from 1902 to 1903 at the cost of \$28,000 by local German contractors from designs by German architect Fredrick Velguth of Milwaukee. Some of the church line and detail can be traced to Velguth's Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (NRHP 1979) built in 1880. Zion echoes the bold design,¹⁰ dramatic use of materials, and detailed arches of its Milwaukee predecessors.¹⁰ Velguth's church for the Zion congregation, however, was distinguished as the tallest structure in Appleton until the construction of the AAL Building and Zuelke Building in the 1950's.¹¹ To this day Zion is an imposing visual landmark on the city's horizon, a compact yet soaring structure that towers above its modest environs.

In 1962 Zion Lutheran Church was joined to its 1929 school building by a parish hall, to which a contemporary parsonage was also attached. These buildings are clearly distinguished from the church by their low massing and flat roofs. The parish hall, directly attached to the church, is minimally disruptive of church line and function.

¹Ryan, Thomas H. History of Outagamie County. Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911. Chicago, Illinois, P. 512.

²Tock, Elizabeth. Zion Lutheran Church: A Brief Centennial Historical Review. Printed privately, 1983. Appleton, Wisconsin Pp. 13-14.

³Glaab, Charles N.; Larsen, Lawrence H. Factories in the Valley. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1969. Madison, Wisconsin. P. 200.

⁴"First Thot of City Pioneers Was Churches." Wisconsin File, Appleton Public Library.

⁵Ryan, p. 510.

⁶Tock, Elizabeth. Zion - Historical Notes. Printed privately, 1983. Appleton, Wisconsin. P. 7.

⁷Tock, Zion Lutheran Church. Pp. 4, 14, 17.

⁸Ibid., p. 4.

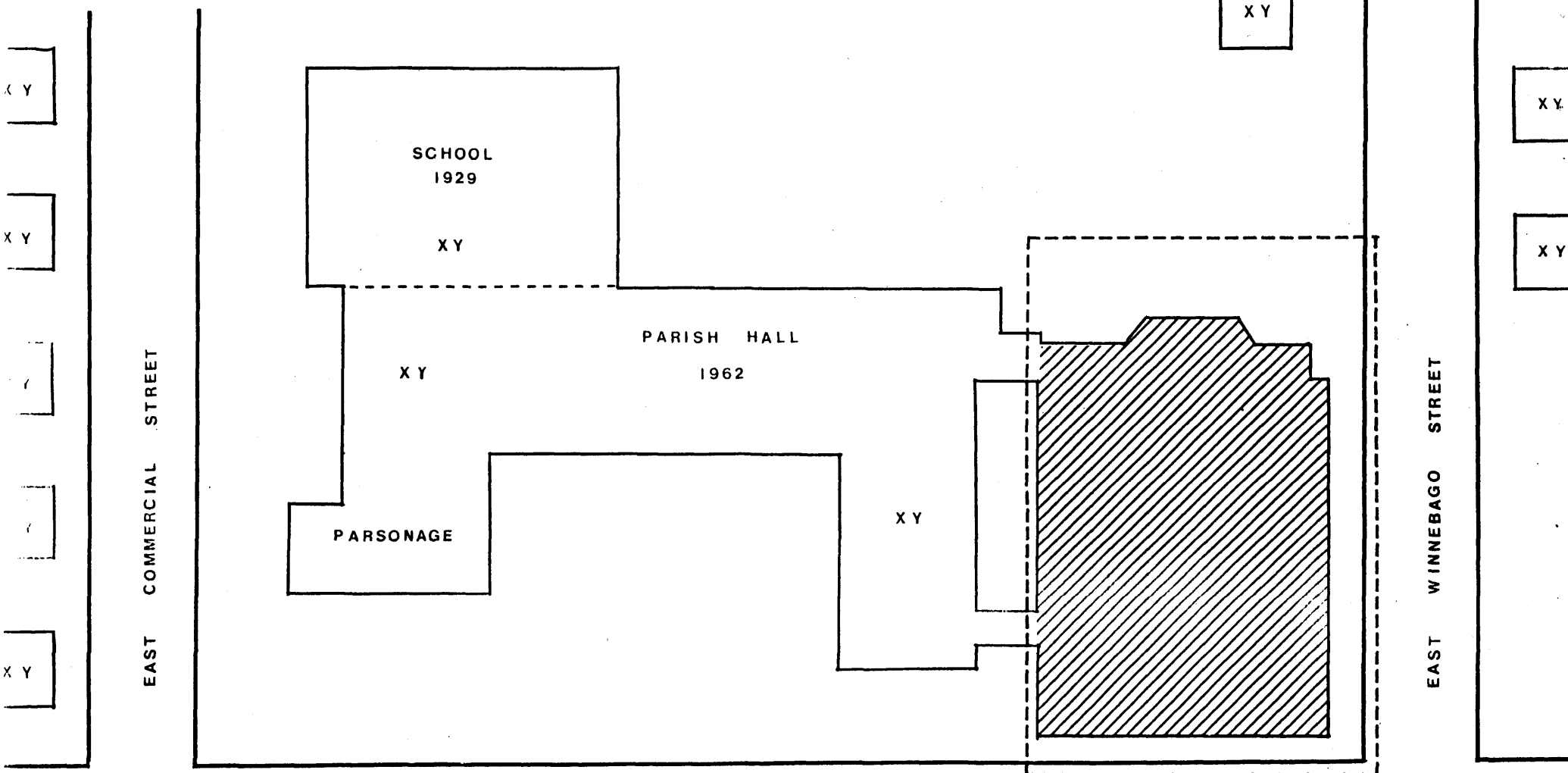
⁹Ryan, p. 513.

¹⁰Andreas, A. T. History of Milwaukee. Western Historical Publishing Co., 1881. Chicago, Illinois. P. 1501.



¹¹Tock, Zion - Historical Notes, p. 3; College Avenue Historic Distric Nomination, NRHP 1982.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, WISCONSIN



NORTH ONEIDA STREET

- BOUNDARIES
-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING

