

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 3 1 1987

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name Salem Evangelical Church

other names/site number St. Michaels Ukranian Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number 1025 & 1037 South 11th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Milwaukee

N/A vicinity

state WI

code WI

county Milw.

code 079

zip code 53204

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources  
previously listed in the  
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this xx 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 xx meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.     See continuation sheet.

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

8/21/87  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.     See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

restored in the  
National Register

[Signature]

10-1-87

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Religion/Church related residence

Religion/religious structure

Social/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Gothic Revival	foundation Limestone
	walls Brick
	roof Asphalt
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description

The former Salem Evangelical Church and rectory (now St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church) are located on the northwest corner of South Eleventh and West Washington streets in a working-class neighborhood of nineteenth century, 1-1/2 to 2-1/2-story wooden houses and cottages. The complex is about 2-1/2 miles southwest of the city's central business district. The facade of the church faces West Washington Street and the rectory is located on the same lot directly behind the church to the north and faces South Eleventh Street.

The Church

The church is a small, simply composed, symmetrical, gabled, rectangular, cream brick, Victorian Gothic style building constructed in 1874. A square brick tower capped with a wooden belfry with a short spire is centered on the facade. The building has an unusually tall limestone foundation extending about one-third of the way up the wall.

The principal feature of the main south elevation facing West Washington Street is the square, projecting brick tower surmounted by an octagonal wooden belfry and short spire. The two-story brick tower contains a Gothic arched entry on the first story and a pair of Gothic windows on the second story. The small, wooden, octagonal belfry with four gables is surmounted by a short spire capped with an onion-shaped bulb and a Roman cross, both made of sheet metal. The onion shape is an architectural motif that has been used extensively in Russian and Ukrainian religious architecture since medieval times. A Gothic arched stained glass window is located on either side of the tower. The east and west side elevations are similar in design. A series of thin brick pilaster strips define four bays, each containing a Gothic stained glass window. A simple, projecting, stretcher brick molding frames each window opening. Segmentally-arched wooden sash windows are located directly below each stained glass window in the tall limestone basement walls. On the east elevation, a basement entry door provides access to the lower level from South Eleventh Street. The rear elevation is a gabled brick wall containing no windows, doors or ornament.

X See continuation sheet

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The exterior of the building is well maintained and appears to be in largely original condition. A concrete stoop was added to the front entrance, replacing an earlier wooden porch and double stairway. The flush entrance doors and composition roof are modern features.

The cream brick has been cleaned and the limestone foundation has been painted white. The building is entered through a small, square vestibule containing stairs to the nave. The pews are arranged around a wide center aisle and two narrower side aisles. The nave is covered by a flat plaster ceiling that is canted or beveled on each side where it follows the slope of the gable roof. A small choir loft is located at the rear of the church above the entry vestibule. At the front of the small nave, a screen of icons, an iconostasis, separates the nave from the altar area. Large icons are painted directly on the plaster walls around the sanctuary in the front of the church. All of the windows apparently have their original Victorian Gothic stained glass.

The interior is in excellent condition. Some of the interior fittings such as the liturgical furniture, pews and some of the woodwork are not original.

The Rectory

The rectory, located at 1025 South Eleventh Street, directly behind the church, is a two-story, L-shaped, gabled, cream brick, Italianate structure built in 1874. It has a limestone foundation.

The main elevation facing South Eleventh Street consists of a gabled block and a projecting end-gabled wing with an enclosed sunporch filling the space in the "L". The end gabled block facing the street features three bays of equal-sized, segmentally-arched, sash window on the first and second floors. Each window is framed by a projecting, brick enframingent. A small, round window centered in the gable is glazed in a quatrefoil design. There is an oval window on the second floor above the sunporch. The elevations of the remaining sides are simple in design with windows of various sizes placed to respond to the requirements of the floor plan. The windows have brick hood molds and stone sills.

The exterior appears to be in original condition except for the sun porch, which was added to the front in 1924 replacing an earlier porch. The rear porch was enlarged and enclosed in 1910. A composition roof has been substituted for the original wood shingles. The cream brick has been cleaned.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Architecture	1874	1874 <sup>1</sup>
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above.

**Significance**

The Salem Evangelical Church is being nominated to the National Register for its local architectural significance under criterion C. It is being nominated as an exception to the criteria as a religious structure deriving its primary significance from its architectural qualities. The former Salem Evangelical Church is architecturally significant as the south side's oldest and one of its most unusual surviving brick Gothic Revival church buildings. The period of significance is the date of construction of the church.

The Wisconsin Cultural Resource Management Plan identifies properties associated with German protestant religious institutions as worthy of study, although German Protestant churches in Milwaukee were not identified as a study priority. Salem is the oldest surviving church building in the near south side study area associated with a German congregation. Within the context of Milwaukee, Salem Church is the best surviving example of the modest churches built by pioneer congregations in the city's newly developing neighborhoods after the Civil War.

**Historical Background**

The near South Side is defined as the section of the City of Milwaukee that lies south of the Menomonee River Valley between Lake Michigan and the Village of West Milwaukee north of Burnham Street. The oldest settled portion

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is the eastern third known as the Walker's Point plat, much of which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Walker's Point Historic District on December 19, 1978. The nominated structure is located directly west of the old Walker's Point plat in a later developed area commonly known as West Walker's Point or simply as the near South Side. This area was always a modest working class neighborhood of small, detached, frame, worker's cottages. Its original residents were almost entirely European immigrants who worked in the heavily industrialized Menomonee Valley or maintained small commercial establishments. To a large extent, that is still true today. National Avenue is the principal traffic artery and commercial street in the area. Because of the modest character of the housing, churches, fraternal lodge halls and institutions are the principal architectural monuments on the near South Side.

The near South Side has always been one of Milwaukee's most dynamic melting pot neighborhoods. First settled by a mixture of German immigrants and Yankees from New York and New England in the early 1850s, the neighborhood evolved over the years into one of the most ethnically mixed areas of the city. Eventually communities of Irish, Swedes, Norwegians, Poles and Serbians came to occupy the compact area as well. Although the Germans remained the dominant group for years, the other minorities each developed their own religious and social institutions. The important wave of post World War II immigration from Eastern and Central Europe renewed Milwaukee's nationally known, but by then fading, multi-ethnic old world character by bringing significant numbers of European immigrants into the city. Many of the immigrants settled on the near South Side reviving its multi-ethnic character. The neighborhood has continued its historical role as the city's most important melting pot, but today is becoming home to Hispanic and Southeast Asian minorities rather than European immigrants.

**Salem Church History**

Salem was incorporated on January 14, 1867 to serve Milwaukee's South Side German population after operating since 1865 as a mission of Zion Evangelical Church which was located at 1418 West Greenfield Avenue. The parishioners bought the small frame church previously used by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church at North Eighth and West Scott streets and moved the building to 1138 South Eleventh Street.<sup>2</sup> The membership soon outgrew the small church and the larger, Gothic Revival building standing today at 1037 South Eleventh Street was built in 1874 at a cost of \$6,849.34 according to church records.<sup>3</sup> The old frame church still exists, but it has been converted

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to residential use and remodelled beyond recognition of its original appearance. The Italianate style parsonage was also built in 1874 at a cost of \$1,336.50 at 1025 South Eleventh Street to the rear of the church. Fifty years later, in 1925, Salem moved to a new church at South Thirtieth and West Mitchell streets where it is still located today. In 1968 Salem merged with Simpson Methodist and the name of the combined congregation was changed to Emmaus United Methodist. Salem sold its South Eleventh Street property to the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1924.

Augustana was organized in 1894 so that Milwaukee's Swedes could worship in their native language. In its first years, the congregation used facilities at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Milwaukee's west side. On October 25, 1900 the group formally incorporated as First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church and soon thereafter moved to their first church at 1316 South Second Street to be closer to the center of Swedish settlement on the near south side. In 1908 they moved a small frame church from South Tenth and West Orchard Streets to 1136 West Madison Street and enlarged the original structure. English language services were instituted after World War I and the congregation changed its name to Augustana Lutheran Church in 1924 when they purchased the former Salem church on South Eleventh Street. In 1933 Augustana relocated to 4360 North Twenty-first Street where they are still located today.<sup>4</sup>

After Augustana departed, the former Salem church was occupied by Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church from 1934 to 1953. The Polish National Catholic Church was composed of dissidents from the Roman Catholic Church that did not recognize the Pope as their leader. The congregation disbanded in 1953 with the retirement of its priest. The Milwaukee area still has three Polish National Catholic churches. Although the south side has long been known as an area of Polish settlement, the main center of the Polish community was located further to the south and Sacred Heart was the only known Polish-affiliated parish in the near south side area.

In 1953, the old Salem church became the permanent home of its present occupants, the Ukrainian St. Michael's Catholic Church. St. Michael's is Wisconsin's only Ukrainian Roman Catholic church and its origins date to World War I when both Byzantine Rite Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Ukrainians began worshipping together at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox church located at 1231 West Scott Street. The Roman Catholic Ukrainians were generally immigrants from the western Ukraine which, prior to World War I, had been ruled by the Austro-Hungarian empire, while the eastern Ukrainians had been ruled by Tsarist Russia and followed the Eastern Orthodox Church. Liturgically the two churches are similar, but the Roman Catholic Ukrainians recognize the Pope as their leader while the Orthodox do not.<sup>5</sup>

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St. Michael's was founded in 1949 after a wave of post-World War II Ukrainian immigration bolstered the area's Catholic Ukrainian population. Before they purchased old Salem church in 1953, they worshiped in a classroom at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church located at North Twenty-first and West Michigan streets. The congregation grew and in the early 1960s they purchased the former Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church at 808 West Washington Street for use as a recreation hall and credit union office. The parish presently numbers about 300 families. Because it is the only Ukrainian Roman Catholic Church in Wisconsin, members are scattered throughout the state. Services are conducted in both Ukrainian and English.<sup>6</sup>

Architecture

Although architecturally Salem Church is a fairly simple structure that does not display outstanding detailing or the sophisticated picturesqueness characteristic of high style Gothic Revival design, it is, nevertheless, an important part of the city's building inventory as a well-preserved example of the simple churches first built by the city's congregations after they had prospered enough to move up from the plain wooden buildings that invariably provided their first homes. Salem is unusual in that it has survived while most of the others like it in the city were subsequently razed and replaced by much grander churches in the 1880s, 1890s or early 1900's. In its straight forward design, Salem reflects an Americanized version of the village churches of central Europe that its builders knew from memory.

An unusual, architectural feature of the church is the tall limestone foundation that differentiates the social/educational hall on the street level from the church on the second level. This is not a Gothic characteristic and may reflect the influence of nineteenth century Protestant churches and meetinghouses in New England that often featured a similar two story arrangement to accommodate church and secular activities in the same compact structure. While a number of Milwaukee churches were raised on high foundations after they were built to make the basement more usable, Salem appears to have been built that way. Salem would have needed a large finished basement space because by 1881 the congregation had a Sunday school with 100 pupils. So while the two level plan isn't particularly remarkable, the striking differentiation of the two functions by using contrasting materials on the exterior wall surfaces is notable. Typically the entire church would have been built of one material, most commonly cream brick. The situation at Salem can probably be ascribed to the architectural naivete of the designer and builders, who may have been members of the congregation.



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The belfry and spire are believed to be original and unusual in design. While the church generally reflects no particular national version of the Gothic style, the octagonal drum could be a German-inspired feature reflecting the heritage of Salem's builders. An octagonal belfry stage was a common feature of many nineteenth century Gothic Revival and Zopfstil Style churches in Germany and Milwaukee. It appears to be a naive version of the similar belfries and spires found on some of the city's grander German churches, such as Old St. Mary's at 844 North Broadway (NRHP) whose upper tower was added in 1866-67.

The parsonage is a good example of the more modest type of Italianate brick residential architecture popular in Milwaukee during the 1870s. The house is constructed of the same materials as the church with cream brick walls and a plinth of rough-faced limestone blocks. Because the church and parsonage share the same materials, although they are different stylistically, the two buildings work together as a unit in defining the church complex.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Milwaukee Times, March 1, 1917, p.3.
- 2 History of Milwaukee. (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881) p. 941.
- 3 Salem Evangelical Church Anniversary Booklet, unidentified date, ca. early 20th c.
- 4 Milwaukee Sentinel, June 3, 1936, newspaper clipping from Box #309 at the Milwaukee County Historical Society.
- 5 Conversation with Father Gjdaz, February 8, 1987.
- 6 Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Books

History of Milwaukee. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881.

X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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:

X State Historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

X Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

DCD, 809 North Broadway

Milwaukee, WI 53202

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1/6 4/2/4/5/9/0 4/7/6/3/2/6/0 B / / / / / / / / / / /

C / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Walker's Point addition in the SW 1/4 Sec 32-7-22 Block 26 Lot 11 in the City of Milwaukee

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the entire original parcel purchased for Salem Evangelical Church. The site includes the church and parsonage and has housed each succeeding congregation.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Les Vollmert/Paul Jakubovich organization Deptment of City Development Date April 15, 1987 street & number 809 North Broadway telephone (414) 223-5705 city or town Milwaukee state WI zip code 53202

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Sinnott, Edmund Ware. Meetinghouse and Church in Early New England. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1963.

Periodical

Directory of Milwaukee, 1870-1956.

Milwaukee Times, March 1, 1917

Pamphlet

Salem Evangelical Church Anniversary Booklet. Unidentified date. Supplied by  
Emmaus United Methodist Church, 3001 West Mitchell Street, Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin.

Interview

Father Gidas, Pastor of Ukrainian St. Michael's Catholic Church. Sunday,  
February 8, 1987.