


City, Village or Town: 1 Eau Claire		County: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11-18-81	S. Farwell Street 510
Street Address: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 510 S. Farwell Street		Legal Description: Lots 3&4 except part deeded to city for street.		Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Christ Church Cathedral and Parish House		Current Owner: Village of Eau Claire Christ Church Cathedral			
Film Roll No. EC 1P			Current Owner's Address: 510 S. Farwell Street		
Negative No. 30,31			Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: ZONE 15 Easting: 618880 Northing: 4962640 USGS Eau Claire East Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Facade Orient. E-W					

2 Original Name & Use: preferred Christ Church Cathedral and Parish House Dates of Construction / Alteration: 1910 (parish house and chancel); 1915 (nave); 1935 (chapel) Architect and/or Builder: Purcell & Feick; Purcell, Feick & Elmslie; Armstrong, Furst, & Tilton, Chgo.	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
	A (ESC MR)				
	B				
	Source				
	C				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A on building

B A Journey Through Christ Church Cathedral, 1978. church pamphlet available at Chippewa Valley Museum

C original plans located in church library; some plans for church also available at Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

D History of Christ Church Cathedral 1958, p. 31.

E see continuation sheet

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WHIP NRHP landmark
 other: _____

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing
 initials: _____ date: _____

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local initials: *met*

Plat Map #8
1P/30

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND PARISH HOUSE (510 S. Farwell Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet - (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Christ Church Cathedral occupies a prominent corner location within Eau Claire's central business area.

The buff Bedford stone church is a rectangular structure covered by a broad slate-covered gable roof. The nave, constructed five years after the chancel which forms the westernmost section of the composition, is taller than the chancel and is distinguished by prominent shouldered end walls. Crosses mark the gable peaks. Oriented east-west, the building is identified by a number of lancet openings which in most cases encompass additional lancet divisions. The most significant of these windows is that known as the Nativity window located on the east facade (facing S. Farwell Street). The large pointed arch frame includes four narrow lancet windows paired beneath two small round windows. A larger round window crowns the design. To either side of the opening are buttresses and small lancet windows defined by pronounced drip molds. On the south side of the church is the main entrance contained within a gabled projection. The position of the entrance allowed for the placement of the east window described above. A compound pointed arch portal frames the double door entrance that features a Latin cross design. The arches rest on slim marble columns with foliated capitals. Blocks of quatrefoil decoration and two small lancet windows on either side wall further ornament the entrance area. Also located on the south facade are three lancet windows composed of paired lancet openings surmounted by a round window characterized by a trefoil design. Buttresses separate the two windows located west of the entrance. Similar openings, four in number and also separated by buttresses, mark the north facade. The west facade, or the west wall of the chancel, is distinguished by another large lancet opening that lights the altar area. The Resurrection window contains three lancet divisions crowned by three round openings enclosing trefoil patterns.

At the southwest corner of the nave and chancel is the Chapel of the Ascension, a small rectangular addition (1935) covered by a slightly sloping roof and bounded by parapet end walls. The chapel continues the Gothic elements of its adjoining structures. The stone walls are pierced by paired lancet windows set within rectangular frames. Buttresses separating the three pairs are also present. At the chapel's west end is a rose window featuring again the trefoil design. The addition of the chapel obscured the clerestory windows which originally lined the upper portion of the south wall of the chancel.

The church's interior is also distinguished. Impressive scissor trusses (original features) support the roof of the structure. Dividing the nave from the chancel is a magnificent rood beam surmounted by the figure of Christ looking down from the cross. It was executed by one of the Oberammergau Langs and presented to the congregation in 1927. The sanctuary contains the Carrara marble altar and reredos that were in place in 1910.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND PARISH HOUSE (510 S. Farwell Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (2)

The choir area which has been altered contains three rows of pews on each side of the center axis of the church. The pews and the finely carved wainscoting that faces the walls of the sanctuary are of Appalachian oak. Generally, the woodwork throughout the rest of the church is Wisconsin-grown oak and maple.

As recorded in a church pamphlet, "the Cathedral windows are the glory of Christ Church. Of English design and execution, they are among some of the finest in the country in richness and ecclesiastical style" (B). Six of the windows including the Resurrection and Nativity windows were designed by Heaton, Butler, and Bayne of London. The Wippell Company of Exeter, England, provided the remaining windows.

Attached to the chancel on the north and constructed at the same time, the parish house is a two and a half story stone and stucco building capped by a hip roof with a gablet at the peak. The second story of the structure juts over the first story and is further differentiated by its stucco and decorative half timbered walls. A center gable interrupts the roof line and covers an opening composed of three rectangular windows capped by smaller square windows. These windows, diamond-paned like all those included in the building, are repeated beneath the gables on the north facade. Paired rectangular windows also mark the upper story of the main facade. Below, on the ground level, the smooth ashlar walls are pierced by three pairs of recessed openings identified by prominent sills. These windows contain the crests which document the history of the Episcopalian faith. Extending from the center portion of the parish house are wings that reach to the south, attaching the parish house to the chancel, and to the north. The southern extension contains the main entrance below a gabled hood supported by braces. The double doors of the entry feature the outlines of the Latin cross in wood and glass.

On the interior, the second story of the parish house is characterized by the same scissor truss support system that was used in the nave of the church. The first floor was extensively altered in 1965.

Significance: Christ Church Cathedral, designed by the distinguished Minneapolis architectural firm of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie (Purcell and Feick were primarily responsible for the chancel and the parish house.), is an architecturally significant resource in Eau Claire, providing an excellent example of early twentieth century Neo-Gothic church design. The smooth stone structure with its prominent lancet openings reflects the architects' use of English antecedents in the manner of the Arts and Crafts movement. In the words of William Purcell himself - "In all the study, there was a sincere effort to try to reproduce in myself the mental attitude with which a master mason architect of 1150 would have come to such a problem"(E). The design, too, furnishes another aspect of the architects' career for in this instance their more "radical" predilections were suppressed in the face of the desires of a conservative and traditionally-minded congregation.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND PARISH HOUSE (510 S. Farwell Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (3)

The adjoining parish house, constructed with the church chancel in 1910, is likewise architecturally significant, continuing the medieval flavor of the church structure. The parish house is reported to have been patterned after Benham Abbey in Norfolkshire, England (D).

The architectural firm of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie had its beginnings in 1906 when William Gray Purcell and George Feick joined together in an office in Minneapolis. Three years later George Grant Elmslie was added, establishing the prominent Midwest partnership whose practice exceeded even that of Frank Lloyd Wright. In Eau Claire the firm was also responsible for the J.D.R. Steven home (1909; NRHP 1982), the Community House of the First Congregational Church (1914; NRHP 1974), and a bungalow and church parsonage which have been substantially altered.

The original plans for the Christ Church Cathedral Parish House and chancel (the product of the Purcell and Feick office) were drawn in 1908. (These are available at the Northwest Architectural Archives in Minneapolis.) The buildings were then constructed in 1909-1910. Attached to the chancel was the old church building which originally stood on the parish house site. In May 1915 the frame church building was dismantled and construction of the nave, the design of Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, was begun. It was completed in April, 1916, and formally consecrated in May, 1920 (D). Another addition, a chapel erected in 1935 with funds donated by a church member, was built at the southwest corner of the building. Designed by the Chicago firm, Armstrong, Furst & Tilton, the Chapel of the Ascension is a fine, compatible continuation of the church structure.

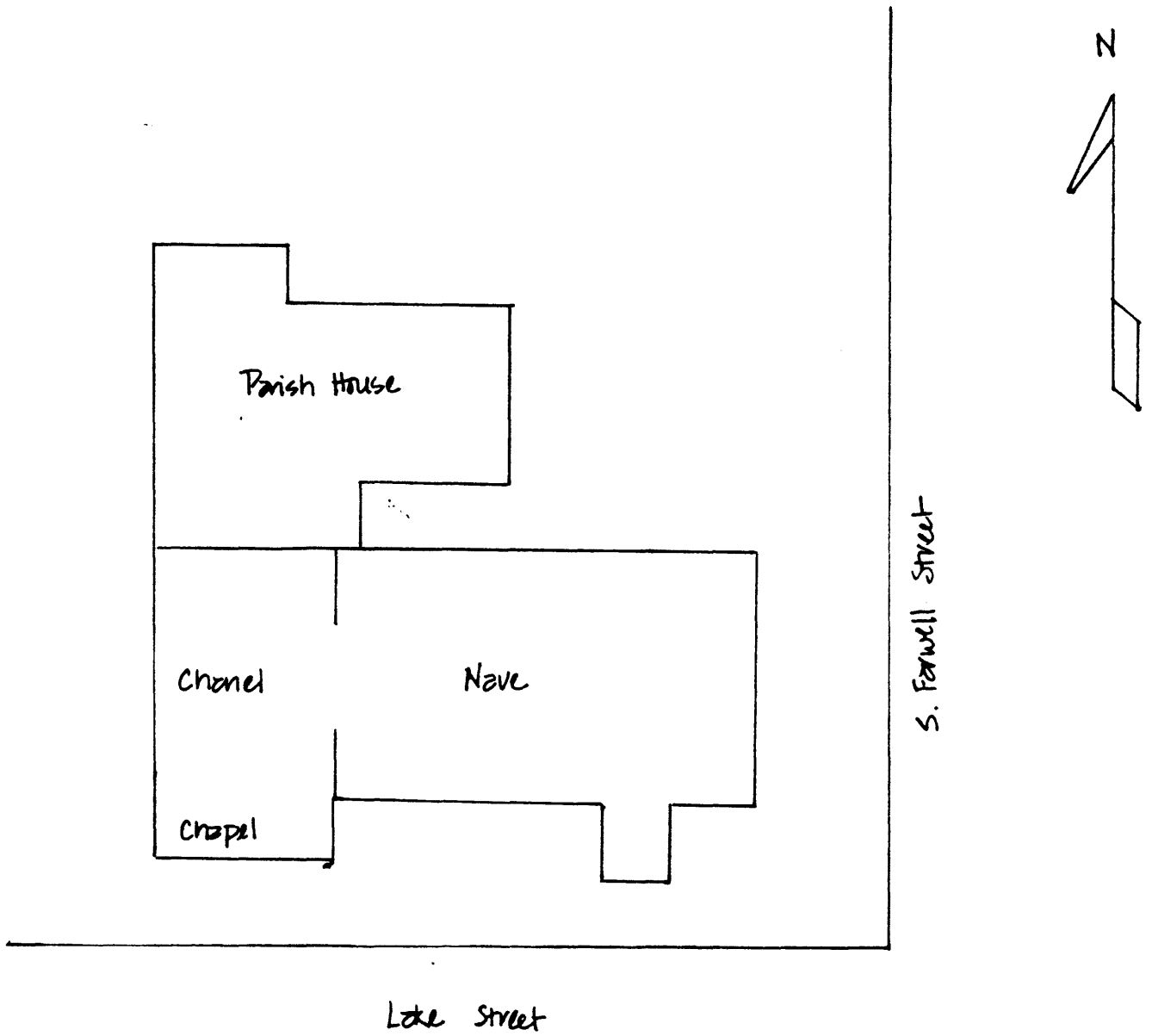
HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The Episcopalian congregation in Eau Claire was formed in the mid-1850's as the community began its prosperous lumber era. The first services were held in 1858, but not until after the Civil War were these regular and well-attended. A frame church structure, located on the site now occupied by the parish house, was begun in 1873 and completed in 1875. In 1904 a lot adjacent to the church was purchased and in 1908 plans for the construction of a parish house and chancel were presented to and approved by the congregation. Later in the twentieth century, the diocese of Eau Claire was established and in 1931 Christ Church was designated the Cathedral (D,F).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (cont.):

- E. Gebhard, D. 1957. "William Gray Purcell and George Grant Elmslie and the Early Progressive Movement in American Architecture from 1900 to 1920". PhD University of Minnesota, p. 117.
- F. History of Eau Claire County, 1914, pp. 525-531.

Christ Church Cathedral and Parish House



Approx. scale - 1" = 75'