

**City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)**

Name of Building or Site:

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Historic Name (if applicable)</i>
St. Paul's A.M.E. Church	Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church

Location:

<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Aldermanic District</i>
<u>402 East Mifflin Street</u>	Two

Classification:

Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)
Building

<i>Zoning District</i>	<i>Present Use</i>
R5	Condominiums

Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's Office):

Name(s)
The Blue Condominium Unit Owners Association, John Weiss, contact

<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>
402 East Mifflin Street Madison WI 53703	unlisted

Legal Description (available at City Assessor's Office):

<i>Parcel Number</i>	<i>Legal Description</i>
0709-133-2118-2	SW 66.0 feet of Lot 9, Block 265, Original Plat

Condition of Property:

Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)
Excellent

<i>Altered or Unaltered?</i>	<i>Moved or Original Site?</i>
Mostly Unaltered	Original site

Wall Construction
Masonry

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Historical Data:

Original Owner

Swedish Lutheran Church

Original Use

Church

Architect or Builder

Original section unknown, addition by
Grover Lippert

Architectural Style

Neo-Gothic Revival

Date of Construction

1922; 1957; 1997

Indigenous Materials Used

None

List of Bibliographical References Used:

Mollenhoff, David V. *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1982.

Rankin, Katherine H. *Intensive Survey of the Historic Resources of Madison*, prepared for the Madison Department of Planning and Development and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1994.

Wright's Madison City Directory. Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1923; 1925; 1927; 1929; 1931; 1937; 1943; 1946; 1950; 1954; and 1958.

Wright's Madison City Directory. St. Paul, Minnesota: Wright Directory Company, 1963; 1964; and 1966.

Form Prepared By:

Name and Title

Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization Represented (if any)

City of Madison, Department of Planning and Development

Address

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53701

Telephone Number

266-6552

Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

March, 2001

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Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:

The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church is located just northeast of the Capitol Square on the northeast corner of East Mifflin and North Hancock Streets. Large residences dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century surround it. Most of these were erected as single-family houses, but have been subdivided into several rental residential units.

The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church was erected in 1922.¹ It is a front-gabled, Neo-Gothic Revival structure faced with red brick and trimmed with stone. It rests on a raised, concrete basement that has been covered with stucco. The church is embellished with a watertable of brick soldiers accented with stone blocks, a simple cornice board and brick buttresses with stone caps. In 1957, a brick-veneered addition constructed of concrete block was appended to the east-facing (side) façade. Designed by Madison architect, Grover Lippert, the addition accommodated two rooms for Sunday school.² The building was converted into two condominiums, with offices in the addition, in 1997.³

The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church faces south, overlooking East Mifflin Street. The front façade is composed of the broad, front-gabled church (west) and the narrow, two-story Sunday school addition (east). A square tower with brick buttresses, stepped parapets and stone copings stands, like a medieval keep, on the southwest corner of the building. The entrance is located at the base of the tower and consists of a pair of modern steel-and-glass doors (predating 1974), surmounted by a Gothic-arched, leaded-glass transom and recessed in a stone, Gothic-arched surround with compound moldings. A cornerstone west of the door reads: "St. Paul AME Church 1902-1971" and lists the bishop, elder and ministers of the time (1971). Above the entrance portal, a pair of leaded-glass lancet windows with continuous stone lintels and sill can be seen, surmounted by a stepped parapet. The tower narrows at the belfry, displaying a lancet framed by buttresses and a multi-stepped parapet.

A two-story, Gothic arch of brick headers with a stone sill is centered within the gable on the south-facing (front) façade. Recessed within this arch is a group of four leaded-glass windows with stone tracery and a stone cornice at the first story, and a group of three leaded-glass lancet windows with continuous stone lintels and sill. The south-facing façade of the addition exhibits an off-center entrance holding a modern, steel-and-glass door (predating 1974). A cross of raised brick headers appears above the door. Decorative brickwork around and above the entrance suggests an entrance portal. Above the entrance, a pair of two-over-two windows with lintel and

¹ *Map of Madison*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1942).

² Building permit, 1957, on file, Department of Planning and Development.

³ Notice to Zoning Board of Appeals, 1997, on file, Department of Planning and Zoning.

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sill of brick headers is found. East of the entrance, a single window appears at basement level, while a pair of windows matching those above the entrance is set at each of the first and second stories. Brick pilasters with stone caps appear at the east corner of the addition. The building terminates in a cornice of decorative brickwork and a deep parapet topped with a stone coping. The coping is embellished with a classically-styled cap.

The north-facing (rear) façade is set very close to neighboring residences on North Butler Street. The church displays brick buttresses with stone caps. A door in a plain surround opens onto a metal "jump basket" type of fire escape. Although the door is set at the first story, the lot slopes down from the front of the church such that the door is five feet or more above the ground. Just west of the door, a leaded-glass lancet appears. The north-facing façade of the addition is of concrete block, painted red.

On the east-facing façade, only the addition can be seen. It is of concrete block, painted red. Openings appear only at basement level and consist of three windows and one door, all located toward the back of the building.

The west-facing façade overlooks North Butler Street. Four brick buttresses divide the façade into three parts. In each of the southern and central parts, two Gothic-arched windows light the nave, while two square openings filled with glass block appear at basement level. The glass block predates 1974 but is not original to the structure. There are no openings in the northern part.

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Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church is eligible for Madison Landmark designation because it meets criterion 3 of the Landmarks and Landmarks Sites Designation Criteria. Specifically, it is a good and intact local example of a Neo-Gothic Revival church. The building is also eligible historically for its long association with St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, here from 1965 until 1997.

History Of The Property

This building was erected for the congregation of the Swedish Lutheran Church in 1922. The group had formed in 1902, meeting at Our Savior's Norwegian Lutheran Church at 1 South Hancock Street (extant) until relocating to this site in 1909.⁴ The Swedish Lutheran Church became a part of the Central Lutheran Church in 1927. This building housed the congregation of the Central Lutheran Church through 1963. In 1964, the Wisconsin Rescue Mission occupied the building. In 1965, St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church moved in. The parishioners of St. Paul's worshipped at 631 East Dayton Street from 1939 until 1964, and in this building from 1965 until 1997.⁵ In 1997, the Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church was converted into condominiums.⁶

Architectural Significance

The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church is a good and intact local example of a Neo-Gothic Revival church.

The Neo-Gothic Revival style is considered a part of the Period Revival movement of the early twentieth century and was used primarily in the design of churches and chapels between about 1915 and 1945. Neo-Gothic Revival religious buildings typically exhibit either a rock-faced stone or brick exterior finish, irregular massing and steeply-pitched roofs. Gothic-arched openings are characteristic of the style. Elements drawn from European Gothic churches and cathedrals are often employed, including buttresses, tracery, parapeted gables and square towers or keep-like entrances.⁷ The Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church incorporates a stone-trimmed brick finish, Gothic-arched openings with leaded glass windows, buttresses, and a square corner tower that evokes a medieval keep and contains both the entrance and the belfry.

⁴ Historic Preservation file, Department of Planning and Development.

⁵ *Wright's Madison City Directory*, (Milwaukee: Wright Directory Company, 1923; 1925; 1927; 1931; 1937; 1943; 1946; 1950; 1954; and 1958); and *Wright's Madison City Directory*, (St. Paul, Minnesota: Wright Directory Company, 1963; 1964; and 1966).

⁶ Notice to Zoning Board of Appeals.

⁷ Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of

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The document, "Report of the Intensive Survey of the Historic Resources of Madison," identified nine Neo-Gothic Revival churches, built between 1921 and 1945. Six are finished with stone and three display brick exteriors. Generally, the stone-finished churches are more elaborate and much larger than the brick examples. The three brick Neo-Gothic Revival churches are the Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church, Parkside Presbyterian Church at 116 North Few Street (1923) and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 2121 Rowley Avenue (1937). All three are small buildings. Parkside Presbyterian Church is not a fully-developed example of the Neo-Gothic Revival style. It displays front-gabled form with shouldered parapets, but the openings are segmentally-arched and Craftsman-style brackets appear beneath the eaves of the roof. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, designed by the Madison architectural firm of (Frank) Riley and (Lewis) Siberz, exhibits a simplified version of the Neo-Gothic Revival style, characteristic of the 1930s. Minimal or stripped-down ornamentation is typical of that era, reflecting the influence of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. In contrast, the Swedish Lutheran Gloria Dei Church is the most elaborate brick example of a Neo-Gothic Revival church in Madison. The church retains excellent integrity.

402 E MIFFLIN ST



