

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

Grace Episcopal Church

(2) Historic (if applicable)

Same

II. Location The corner of North Carroll Street and West Washington Avenue

(1) Street Address

6 North Carroll Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)

4th ward

III. Classification Church

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

Building

(2) Zoning District

Commercial

(3) Present Use

Church

IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Name(s)

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church of Madison, Wisconsin

(2) Street Address

116 West Washington Avenue

(3) Telephone Number

255-5147

V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Parcel Number

0709-231-0901-5

(2) Legal Description

Original Plat Lots 5, 6 & 7 Block 75

VI. Condition of Property

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

Excellent

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Altered (somewhat)

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original Site

(4) Wall Construction

Dressed buff colored Madison sandstone

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

VII. Significance

<p>(1) Original Owner Grace Episcopal Church</p>	<p>(2) Original Use Same</p>
<p>(3) Architect or Builder Architect: James Douglas Builder: James Livesey</p>	<p>(4) Architectural Style Gothic Revival</p>
<p>(5) Date of Construction Begun 1855 finished 1858 & later additions</p>	<p>(6) Indigenous Materials Used Buff colored dressed madison sandstone</p>
<p>(7) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the significance of the nominated property and its conformance to the designation criteria of the Landmarks Commission Ordinance (33.01), limit of 500 words.</p>	

VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used

1. Centennial Celebration of founding of Grace Church Congregation 1938
2. History of GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Madison, Wisconsin 1958 (copy enclosed)
3. The Memorial Windows of Grace Church, Madison, Wisconsin Sept 1958 (copy enclosed)
4. Pamphlets and archives collection, Vance Memorial Library of Grace Church
5. The Dedication of Three New Bells.... Jan 12th, 1975 Historical notes on pages 6 and 7 (copy enclosed)
6. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Iconography collection (photos enclosed)
7. The National Register of Historic Places, Inventory--Nomination Form
8. Father Paul Z. Hoornstra, parish newsletters (vol. 1973)

IX. Form Prepared By:

<p>(1) Name and Title Jerry Fladen, representing Madison Landmarks research committee and</p>	
<p>(2) Organization Represented (if any) Bi-Centennial activities committee of Grace Episcopal Church</p>	
<p>(3) Address 854 Jenifer Street, Madison, Wis.</p>	<p>(4) Telephone Number 257-0568</p>

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared
March 15th 1976

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:

To begin with....What is an Episcopalian?.....

We are the Catholics who flunked the latin exam!well, not quite, but the Protestant Episcopal Church in America is both protestant and catholic, primitive and reformed--all at the same time. I mention this because as early as the third century Christianity was introduced in England, and by the sixteenth century the Church of England divorced the Pope and threw out his architects. Anglican churches were to be Gothic, (a style originating in France and further developed in England) and they were not to be Roman.

It is not hard to understand then why Gothic has been traditionally the prominent architectural style of the Anglican Church. And so it is in America. Trinity Church in New York City is an outstanding example of Gothic Revival, and there are many others.

Grace Episcopal Church was designed by Milwaukee Architect, James Douglas. Douglas, a noted architect, was a promoter in Wisconsin of the Gothic Revival in both domestic and ecclesiastic architecture. In 1847, with his brother Andrew, he founded the firm of J. & A. Douglas of Milwaukee. In 1863 he worked elsewhere and then returned to architectural practice in 1872. His domestic designs gained acceptance as far south as Florida and as far west as California. In Milwaukee he designed the North Presbyterian Church (1854-55) and supervised the construction of St. John's Cathedral.

The architectural dignity which characterizes this church is due partly to Douglas' skillful arrangement of its forms, and to the beauty of the memorial windows, where color, design and symbolism form an integral part of the total composition. Its architectural significance and the history of the parish form a significant part of the history of Madison.

Grace Episcopal Church exhibits simple, yet gracefully articulated Gothic lines. Built with massive blocks of tooled, cream-colored sandstone which harmonize with the design, the buttressed nave has lancet windows containing wooden tracery and stained glass. At the east corner is a square, stone entrance tower supporting an octagonal wooden spire. The tower contains a full carillon of 23 memorial bells. The doors and windows are accentuated with sandstone trim. The simple, honest, rectangular plan is inspired by early English Gothic designs. The open-timber roof and two-bayed sanctuary with plaster vaults show similar restraint in the interior.

The nave, chancel, and tower were constructed between 1855 and completed in 1858. In 1868 the basement was floored and finished to handle evening services and Sunday school classes. The tower and spire were completed in 1870. In 1866 the first pipe organ in Madison was installed at a cost of \$2,500.00. In 1855, Madison architect David R. Jones, in collaboration with the Chicago firm of Burling and Whitehouse made repairs to the building and constructed a new ceiling beneath the original vaulting. In the 1920's a second bay was added to the chancel and a chapel was built on the Carroll Street side facing the Square. Additional changes were made within the chancel in the 1940's to provide a more direct relationship between the clergy and congregation. All these additions were made in the original style of the building. In 1893 the old rectory was built, and in 1894 the Cornelia Vilas Memorial Guild Hall was built.

The stained glass windows were made possible by individual donors. A pamphlet giving the history of each of the many windows accompanies this nomination form.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

A brief history of Grace Church.

In July of 1838 the Right Reverend Jackson Kemper, Bishop of the Northwest and founder of Grace Church held the first church service in Madison.

There were fifty people and six houses in the settlement. He had been here once before, in 1837 when he found only the cabin of Ebin Peck.

Bishop Kemper was the first missionary bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, with a diocese extending from Indiana to the Pacific Ocean.

At first the parish was called St. Lukes, then it was changed to the Apostolic Episcopal Church, but in 1845 the Rev. Stephen McHugh took charge of the parish and his first step was to change the name to Grace Episcopal Church.

Lots 5 and 6 on Block 75 were purchased in 1847 for \$150.00 which was exactly their assessed value at the time.

In 1850 the brick chapel was built in what is now the court yard. In 1855 construction was begun on the foundation, of the present church.

Additional changes and additions are included in the 1958 centennial history included with this nomination.

Since 1855 Grace Church has been a center of life in Madison, both for worship and recreation.

What Grace Church Parish has meant in the life of Madison and the State of Wis. is impossible to say. Men and women who have done valiant civic service in the city and in the state, high officials, humble citizens, and countless visitors-- a long procession of men, women and children have passed in and out of these portals during these hundred plus years.

Over the years numerous offers have been made to purchase the site for some commercial use. In 1923 the Lorraine Hotel Company offered 350.00 for the same property which was bought in 1847 for \$150.00.

It has always been felt that Madison Needs a Downtown Church, in the heart of the Government and business center where decisions are made daily which affect the lives of thousands. There is a need for a downtown church to keep in touch with some 40,000 students whos lives are being lived outside our doors.

It was all summed ~~in~~ up in a note left recently by a visitor:

"Dear Pastor, I had the privilege of praying in your church this beautiful day, my heart is heavy this day with my having to make decisions that involve my future life, thank you for leaving the door open just for me"

