NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

052

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Churches Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Generally bounded by Erie Avenue, North 6th Street, Ontario Avenue, and North 7th Street — N/A **not for publication**
city or town Sheboygan — N/A **vicinity**
state Wisconsin **code** WI **county** Sheboygan **code** 117 **zip code** 53081

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally X statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 1/7/10

State Historic Preservation Officer – Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
X entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ removed from the National Register.
___ other, (explain:)

Barbara Wyatt — 3-1-10

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)
X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
building(s)
X district
structure
site
object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing	
6	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
6	3	total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.
N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/religious facility	RELIGION/religious facility
RELIGION/church-related residence	RELIGION/church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)	
Greek Revival	Foundation	Stone
Gothic	walls	Stone
Late Gothic Revival		Brick
Tudor Revival	roof	Asphalt
Modern Movement	other	Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ B removed from its original location.

_ C a birthplace or grave.

_ D a cemetery.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ F a commemorative property.

_G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

1871-1968
1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stubenrauch, Edgar A.
West, William Russell

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has 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
- _ Local government
- _ University
- X Other

Name of repository:
Sheboygan County Historical Research Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.4 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	442800	4844690
2	16	442860	4844650
3	16	442860	4844560
4	16	442800	4844500

☒ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Jennifer L. Lehrke / Consultant for City of Sheboygan Department of Planning & Development				
organization	LJM Architects, Inc.			**date**	March 31, 2009
street & number	813 Riverfront Drive			**telephone**	(920) 458-4800
city or town	Sheboygan	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53081

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Various, see separate listing
organization **date**
street & number **telephone**
city or town **state** WI **zip code**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

Situated between the downtown business district and a much larger late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential area, the Downtown Churches Historic District is a well defined cluster of religious buildings. The four congregations located in the district represent four distinct faiths, each with a medium-sized, well-designed, and well-maintained church building. The diversity of the churches in the district is representative of the prevailing architectural styles of their time, including High Victorian Gothic, Late Gothic Revival, elements of Tudor Revival, and Contemporary architectural styles, reflecting 100 years of religious architecture spanning from 1871 to 1968. The result is now one of Sheboygan's most architecturally intact historic religious areas.

This 9-building district is located just west of the northern portion of the 8th Street business district, bounded by Erie Avenue on the north, North 6th Street on the east, Ontario Avenue on the south, and North 7th Street on the west. All of this land is flat. The district's streets are laid out on a grid plan and have a tree lined grassy terrace separating the concrete curb and gutter from the concrete sidewalks. The churches in the district generally respect a uniform setback from the street. Their lots, however, are atypical of urban practice. Originally platted as typical 60 foot by 150 foot urban lots, all of the churches began with one or two lots and gained more property over a period of time by purchasing neighboring homes and demolishing them to provide space for additions. There is an east-west running alley in the main block of the district. Accessory garages for the churches are detached and are located at the rear of their respective sites and are reached by the alley.

The Downtown Churches Historic District's resources consist entirely of church owned property. The district's four contributing churches were built between 1871 and 1968. Many of the congregants were owners of businesses located in the adjacent downtown and lived in the developing late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential area to the north and east. Each distinguished in their own way, these church's styles reflect the era in which they were constructed. All of these churches are clad in brick, stone, or a combination thereof. Besides the churches, the district also contains two contributing rectories, one adjacent to its church of Greek Revival style and the other attached to its church and of Tudor Revival style. In addition, there are three non-contributing garages.

The churches in the district are similar in size and scale, ranging in footprint from 11,600 square feet to 17,700 square feet, and are considered medium-sized congregations within their local context. These buildings exhibit a considerable range of construction dates and styles, spanning just over 100 years. The earliest church dates to 1867-1871 and is a High Victorian Gothic style popular in Wisconsin from 1865 to 1900. The next two churches were built within a decade of one another,

1929 and 1937, and are of the Late Gothic Revival with Tudor Revival elements that were favored at the time. The last church was built in 1968 and displays a more contemporary, modern architecture.

Today, the churches within the Downtown Churches Historic District are well preserved and have much the same appearance today as they had during the historic period. Exterior alterations to the original, church proper have been minimal and have generally been limited to sympathetic, stained glass window additions to original openings. As can be expected with most religious structures, additions have been made throughout the years to accommodate expansion of services to the community, including religious education and social functions. For the most part, the construction and subsequent additions were done before 1968 and are in keeping with the original character of the churches in scale and materials.

Building Descriptions

The following are brief descriptions of the district's resources, listed in chronological order.

Grace Episcopal Church Rectory 630 Ontario Avenue mid-1850s (C)

The oldest and only active rectory in the district, Grace Episcopal Church Rectory is one of the oldest Greek Revival style houses in the City. It is located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 60 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at mid block. It fronts south onto Ontario Avenue and is set back 30 feet from the street. It is directly east of Grace Episcopal Church.

Grace Episcopal Church Rectory is believed to have been constructed in the mid-1850s. Although there have been several alterations since its construction, its original Greek Revival details are still discernable. It is a two story, balloon framed home with a modified rectangular plan, a pedimented front gable roof with raked cornice, and a front porch. The foundation is concrete, and the walls are currently finished with aluminum siding and trim. The porch has pilaster corner boards but has been enclosed. The westerly third contains a door with a 12 light window. The door is surrounded by 8 light sidelights and a transom above. The easterly 2/3 of the porch contains five evenly spaced cottage style double hung windows with 6 over 9 divided lights. Atop the porch is a low pitched hip roof with a low pitched gable over the westerly third. Above the porch are three evenly spaced double hung windows with 6 lights in the upper sash and shutters on either side of each window. The chimney is located on the east side of the building and is built of cream brick. The building was moved approximately 100 feet due east from its original location to make way for a new addition to the church in 1995.[1]

[1] *Amazing Grace A Sesquicentennial Remembrance 1847-1997*. Sheboygan, Wisconsin: Grace Episcopal Church, 1997, pp. 56-57 and "Grace Episcopal Church." *Churches General Information Files*. On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

Grace Episcopal Church Rectory is the most importantly associated rectory with Grace Episcopal Church, and it is the only remaining active rectory within the district. It maintains its south facing orientation and setting on a similarly sized lot of similar character immediately east of the church, recalling the basic qualities of its historic setting.

Grace Episcopal Church 1011 North 7th Street 1867-1871 (C)

Grace Episcopal Church is a fine smaller example of a High Victorian Gothic style church located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 120 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of North 7th Street and Ontario Avenue. It fronts south onto Ontario Avenue and is set back 30 feet from the street. It is directly west of Grace Episcopal Church Rectory.

Grace Episcopal Church was the first church to locate in the district. Land for Grace Episcopal Church was deeded to the congregation by Daniel and Emmeline Whitney, land speculators from Green Bay, stating the "2nd party shall build a church on said premise within 2 years for use of congregation and said lot shall not become appropriated for any other purpose..." In 1847, a 24- by 48-foot frame building was erected on the site for the church pursuant to the deed.

That church was later torn down to make way for the extant Grace Episcopal Church, which was begun in 1867. However, it was not until 1871 that it was completed. It was designed by Cincinnati, Ohio architect, William Russell West and was built by local contractor Jacob C. Hilpertshauser at a cost of $7,752. It is a brick, High Victorian Gothic style church with an irregular, u-shaped plan, and a series of shingled gable roofs. Its foundations are constructed of stone and its walls are constructed of cream brick and accented with red brick polychromatic banding, traditional Gothic pointed arch window and door openings, a tall, square tower, and a steeply pitched gable roof. The interior of the sanctuary contains ornately carved woodwork and numerous rich appointments which have been added over time, including four Swiss carved wooden statues of Saints Hilda, Benedict, Edward the Confessor, and Boniface behind in the reredos behind the altar from around 1910.[2]

Construction began on a new 34-foot by 83-foot parish hall addition in 1910. The addition was originally named the Robert W. Blow Parish Hall in honor of the 1862 to 1890 pastor of the congregation, but has since become more commonly known as the Guild Hall. It is located to the north of the church and oriented east-west along the northern property line and alley. It blends very well with the original structure. Its foundations are of stone, and the walls are made of local cream brick with red brick polychromatic banding. The north facade along the alley has six fairly evenly spaced bays, divided by

[2] *Amazing Grace* and "Grace Episcopal Church."

buttresses, with the westernmost bay being slightly wider. Generally, the bays each contain a single glass block window at the foundation and a pair of pointed arch windows trimmed in red brick at the first floor, with the exception of the two outer bays which contains a single pointed arch window at the first floor. Along the west facing façade on North 7th Street and south of the original tower, the addition contains a projecting, single story, gable roofed secondary entrance vestibule and new sacristy. The west wall of the addition contains three pointed arch windows trimmed in red brick at the first floor, all larger than the windows on the north side. The center of the three windows is taller than the two flanking. There is also a circular window high in the gable end facing the street. On the first floor it housed the first gymnasium in Sheboygan and was the only gym in the city for more than a decade. On the lower level was space for a dining room and kitchen. It was designed by local architect W.C. Weeks and was constructed at a cost of $8,000. In 1957, the first floor was converted into a parish office, library, and classrooms for the religious education program.[3]

Also of note is a shrine that was added to the west transept in 1930, called The Chapel of Our Lady of Walsingham. The shrine was inspired by Father Curtiss' visit to Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, England. It contains an altar which was hand carved by longtime member of the parish, C.E. Rudolph, and originally stood in the reredos. Upon the altar sits a replica of the original statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, a seated Madonna. Hand-carved in the Bavarian town of Oberammergau, Germany, the statue was polychromed at Walsingham before being sent to its final resting spot at Grace Episcopal Church. It is believed to be the first shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham in the United States and the only exact replica of the original statue. Above the altar are five paintings of the Blessed Virgin which were painted by T. Noyes Lewis of London. The shrine has become nationally known and hosts an annual pilgrimage from groups all across the nation.[4]

In October 1958, the church underwent another major expansion. The John Michael Kohler Family Memorial addition was begun; it was a gift of Lillie Babette and Herbert C. Kohler as a memorial to their father and other members of their family who worshipped there. The remodeling work was one of the last projects designed by Milwaukee architect Richard Philipp before his death. Philipp is credited with designing much of the Village of Kohler. Ralph E. Schaefer of Schneider & Schaefer of Milwaukee saw the project through to completion. Its foundations and walls are made of cream brick with red brick banding. The west façade facing North 7th Street contains a single, tall pointed arch window at the first floor. The south facing Ontario Avenue façade contains a central pair of wooden plank doors with black wrought iron hardware contained within a Gothic compound arch of red brick. On either side of the entrance doors is a single window with a red brick segmented arch. Over the entrance doors is a stone carving of Our Lady of Walsingham. Further up in the steeply pitched gable end is a crucifix. The work

[3] Ibid.
[4] *Amazing Grace*, pp. 18-19, 48, 54-55, and "Grace Episcopal Church."

added approximately 16 feet of length to the south of the main structure for a narthex and additional seating in the nave. It relocated the westerly North 7th Street entrance to the southerly Ontario Avenue side of the church. Over the entrance doors is a stone carving of Our Lady of Walsingham which was created by Ulrich Langenegger of Milwaukee. The former entry foyer was repurposed as a baptistry chapel and a new stained glass window, representing the baptism of Christ by St. John the Baptist, was installed in the former door opening. The choir was moved from the first floor east transept and relocated to a new second floor organ and choir gallery above the narthex. The east transept was then converted into the Chapel of Christ the King, and a new stained glass window was installed in the chapel depicting the Sermon on the Mount. It was around this time that bells were added to the tower. The first large bell, named Gabriel, was installed in 1960 and was joined by a pair of smaller bells, Michael and Raphael, in 1979. Also around this time began the installation of nine stained glass windows in the nave. They are the work of craftsman Erhardt Stoettner of Milwaukee, and they represent various stages of Christ's life.[5]

From 1995 to 1996, a new parish hall was constructed east of the main structure at a cost of $1.3 million. It was designed by Stubenrauch Associates, a firm which had a hand in every church in this district. First, a narthex connects the church proper to the main part of the addition, the extant fellowship hall. The narthex is a one and one-half story masonry structure with a side gable roof and an entry porch. The western two-thirds contains a series of modern, rectilinear, fixed windows at the first floor. An upper level contains four smaller clerestory windows in a masonry wall which is set back from the front face of the narthex. The eastern third is dominated by another set of entry doors and a front gabled porch of cream brick with red brick polychromatic banding. The fellowship hall is further east with massing similar to the church proper, with a large front gable roof, and more cream brick with red brick polychromatic banding. On the north wall of the hall stands a plaster statue of St. Nicholas which originally stood in the entrance of the former St. Nicholas Hospital building at 918 Huron Avenue in Sheboygan. The statue was of interest to the congregation because Grace Episcopal Church was incorporated on December 6, 1847, on the feast of St. Nicholas. Most notably, St. Nicholas' philanthropy includes gift to children, and the giving of gifts to children in celebration of St. Nicholas preceded the development of Santa Claus at Christmas time. In addition to the hall, the addition includes space for a kitchen, toilet rooms, additional classrooms, and an elevator to improve accessibility throughout the building. A courtyard garden, laced in biblical symbolism, was planted between the sanctuary and the parish hall.[6]

All of the additions are made of similar materials as the 1867 building. The church is still in active use and retains enough of its original historic character to be contributing. With the exception of the parish hall, other additions were made during the period of significance. Extensive information regarding the

[5] *Amazing Grace*, pp. 48-49, 52, and "Grace Episcopal Church."
[6] *Amazing Grace*, p. 53, and "Grace Episcopal Church."

history of Grace Episcopal Church can be found in its publication *Amazing Grace: A Sesquicentennial Remembrance, 1847-1997.*

First Methodist Episcopal Church 623 Ontario Avenue 1929-1930 (C)

The older of the district's two Neogothic Revival churches, First Methodist Episcopal Church set a standard by which future Late Gothic Revival churches in Sheboygan were designed. It is located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 180 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of North 7th Street and Ontario Avenue. It fronts north onto Ontario Avenue and is set back 40 feet from the street. It is directly south of Grace Episcopal Church.

First Methodist Episcopal Church was the second congregation to locate in the district. In 1849, a building was erected on the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and North 8th Street, which was moved to the district in 1880. Not only did they demolish their first building, but also a second, larger structure, which was built in 1903, to allow for the construction of the extant First Methodist Episcopal Church, which was begun in July of 1929.[7] Architect Hugo C. Haeuser of Milwaukee designed the church with many English Gothic design features. The exterior materials used were Lannon stone with Indiana limestone trimmings and red tile roofing. Similar to a spire, a fleche (French word for arrow) is situated at the juncture of the two wings of the building. This tower contains a stair which allows for access to other floors of the building. The nave is punctuated by a tall ceiling of dark wood trusses. Flanking the nave of the church are rows of arches, behind which are the side aisles. The main floor and balcony allow for a seating capacity of 500. It is quite amazing that such a beautiful church could be constructed and completed at the forefront of the Great Depression. However, it is reported that the building's design was not executed without great cuts to its program.[8]

In 1956, ground was broken on a new $200,000 educational wing. It is attached to the east side of the church and completed the original design intent. It was designed by Frederick Steinhaus of Edgar A. Stubenrauch and Associates and built by Jos. Schmitt & Sons of Sheboygan. It is a two story, masonry wing with 63 feet by 83 feet rectangular plan, and a front gabled roof. The walls are made of brick with corners accented in lannon stone. On the ground floor are educational spaces, church offices, and toilet rooms, and on the second floor is a new fellowship hall and kitchen. The original fellowship hall was converted to a youth center at this time.[9] The addition is made of similar materials as the church and is considered to be a contributing addition to the 1929 building.

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[7] "First Methodist Episcopal Church." *Churches General Information Files.* On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.
[8] "St. Paul Bishop Will Give Sermon; Former Pastor To Take Part." *The Sheboygan Press,* April 4, 1930.
[9] Ibid.

The name was eventually changed from First Methodist Episcopal Church to St. Luke United Methodist Church in 1968 at the national merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church.[10]

Subsequent, more minor alterations to the church include stained glass windows, carved woodwork, elevator service, and office remodeling. The church is still in active use and retains most of its original historic character.

Hope Reformed Church 612 Ontario Avenue 1937 (C)

The later of the district's two Neogothic Revival churches, Hope Reformed Church, follows the standard set by First Methodist Episcopal Church. It is located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 120 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of North 6th Street and Ontario Avenue. It fronts south onto Ontario Avenue and is set back 40 feet from the street. It is directly east of Grace Episcopal Church Rectory.

Hope Reformed Church was the last congregation to come to the district. While the congregation dates back to 1890, they occupied a building constructed in 1894 at the corner of Ontario Avenue and North 10th Street. They acquired a sizable residential lot within the district boundaries and cleared it. Unlike their neighbors, however, their first structure within the district is the extant Hope Reformed Church, which was begun in April 1937. It was designed by local architect Edgar A. Stubenrauch and was built by C. Voorhas at a cost of $70,000. On July 15, 1937, a cornerstone, demarcated "A.D. 1937 – Gloria in Excelsis," was laid at the southeast corner of the tower.[11] Stevens Point brown stone with Bedford stone trimming was used for the exterior facing of the church and parsonage. The large, well-lighted sanctuary has a ceiling built of heavy beam work and composition paneling. The walls have a rough texture plaster in deep cream color, the woodwork is finished in a dull brown, and windows are all stained glass. The stained glass is rich with dark shades of red and yellow to contract the deep blues, green and purple. The chancel is paneled with oak finish in a medium brown to match the rest of the church furniture. The balcony consists of raised platforms to allow for unobstructed views of the entire chancel. Kitchen and toilet rooms can be found in the basement.[12]

In 1982, an addition, called the Faith Center, was constructed on the west side of the church. It is a one story, masonry, contemporary style addition with an irregular 78 foot by 81 foot rectangular plan and flat roof. The walls of the addition are finished with a combination of stone to match the church as well

[10] Ibid.
[11] "Hope Reformed Church." *Churches General Information Files*. On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.
[12] "Church Is Formally Dedicated." *The Sheboygan Press*, February 18, 1938.

as an angled feature wall clad in red roof tiles. A large porte cochere opening is located on the westerly side. Between the porte cochere and the tiled wall is a modern, metal curtain wall of windows. Between the tiled wall and the original church is a new secondary entrance to the church, a modern storefront of doors and sidelights. The addition includes a library, office, pastor's study, choir, and Sunday school rooms. Due to its age and modern design, it is a non-contributing addition to the church.

Other than replacing the original rust colored clay tile roofing with new rust colored shingle roofing and some interior remodeling, very little has changed on the original church building. The church is still in active use and retains its original historic character, despite the modern addition.

Hope Reformed Church Rectory 1014 North 6th Street 1937 (C)

The later of the district's two rectories, Hope Reformed Church Rectory is attached to the northeast corner of Hope Reformed Church, located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 120 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of North 6th Street and Ontario Avenue. It fronts east onto North 6th Street and is set back 30 feet from the street.

Construction of the rectory was concurrent with the construction of the church in 1937. It was designed by local architect Edgar A. Stubenrauch and built by C. Voorhas. The Hope Reformed Church Rectory is a 1 and ½ story, Tudor Revival style home with a projecting rectangular plan that helps define the church's North 6th Street yard. Like the church, the walls of the rectory are constructed of Stevens Point brownstone with Bedford stone trim. The North 6th Street façade has a fairly central entrance door with a front gabled wooden porch with ornamental half timbering in the gable. To the south of the porch is a substantial brownstone chimney and beyond, a pair of casement windows. From the gabled porch, the roofline sweeps asymmetrically in Tudor fashion up and to the north, encompassing another pair of casement windows centered under the ridge on both the first and second floors. Between the chimney and the asymmetrical gable is a second floor shed dormer clad in half timbering and infilled with stucco and one casement window.

In 1999, the rectory was converted into the Wynveen Hope House, a meeting facility and Youth Center. Other than replacing the original rust colored clay tile roofing with new rust colored shingle roofing, very little has changed.[13] The building is still actively used by the church and is in excellent condition today.

[13] Ibid.

St. Mark Lutheran Church | 1019 North 7th Street | 1968 | (C)

The newest of the district's four church buildings, St. Mark Lutheran Church follows the architectural language set by the three proceeding churches in a contemporary, modern way. It is located in the original plat of the City of Sheboygan on a 260 foot wide by 150 foot deep lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of North 7th Street and Erie Avenue. It fronts west onto North 7th Street and is set back 30 feet from the street. It is directly north of Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mark Lutheran Church was the third congregation to locate in the district, but the last to replace their original facility. They organized as the city's first English speaking Lutheran church in 1910. Perhaps as a rejection of their German-speaking counterparts and their old world European style churches, they built a Neoclassical structure that looked more like a governmental or bank building on a single lot. Eventually, they acquired neighboring residential lots, tore down the houses and their original building, and were the last to replace their original structure when construction began on extant St. Mark Lutheran Church in December 1967.[14]

The new church was designed by local architect, Richard J. Jarvis of The Stubenrauch Associates, Inc. Edgar Stubenrauch, while believed to be retired at the time, oversaw construction because he was a longtime member of the church. The church was built by Scotty Smith Construction Co. at a cost of $669,000. St. Mark Lutheran Church is a masonry, contemporary style church with a nearly square plan. Local accounts accurately assess the church as "contemporary symbolism of the traditional orthodox Christianity." Its walls are constructed of similar materials as its older neighbors, including buff colored stone and brick. Stone carvings of the four Evangelists and the Chi Rho symbol of Christ adorn the front exterior of the church.

Its sanctuary has a high, steeply pitched roof, although modernized with a single, concave slope and paired with a flat roof over support spaces. The interior of the church also pays homage to its historic predecessors including wooden pews, stained glass windows, wooden chancel adornment, and a wooden ceiling done in contemporary fashion with laminated beams rather than heavy timbers. Four tall stained glass windows in the nave include symbols of the Christian church year. The organ is situated in the south transept to allow for full view of the chancel, choir, and nave. Located in the north transept, a small chapel, which can be closed off or used for overflow, contains pieces of the former church. East of the chancel is the pastor's study and church offices. Sunday school classrooms are located in two large multi-purpose rooms to the south of the sanctuary, with more classrooms and other various rooms in the basement.[15]

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[14] "St. Mark Lutheran Church." *Churches General Information Files*. On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.
[15] "Modern Symbolism Carries Orthodox Message." *The Sheboygan Press,* May 24, 1969.

Other than a 19 foot by 12 foot entrance foyer with elevator that was added to the building to provide accessibility to the basement in 1993, very little has been changed. The church is still in active use and retains its original modern character.

Grace Episcopal Church Garage 630 Ontario Avenue 1995 (NC)

There is a non-contributing garage on the north side of the Grace Episcopal Church Rectory property that is accessed by the east-west alley between North 6th and North 7th streets. The garage is a one story, frame, side gabled structure with a rectangular plan of approximately 24 feet by 24 feet. The walls are finished with tan vinyl siding, and there are two 9 feet by 7 foot dark brown sectional overhead doors in the eave end facing the alley. The fascia, soffits, gutters, and downspouts are all dark brown aluminum, and the roof is a brown, 3-tab shingle. This garage was built in 1995. Therefore, it is a non-contributing resource within the district.

Hope Reformed Church Garage 612 Ontario Avenue 1994 (NC)

There is a non-contributing garage on the northwest corner of the Hope Reformed Church property that is accessed by the east-west alley between North 6th and North 7th streets. The garage is a one story, frame, side gabled structure with a rectangular plan of approximately 34 feet by 24 feet. The walls are finished with tan vinyl siding, and there are a 16 foot by 7 foot and a 9 foot by 7 foot dark brown sectional overhead doors in the eave end facing the alley. The fascia, soffits, gutters, and downspouts are all dark brown aluminum, and the roof is a brown, 3-tab shingle. This garage was built in 1994. Therefore, it is considered a non-contributing resource within the district.

St. Mark Lutheran Church Garage 1019 North 7th Street 1997 (C)

There is a non-contributing garage on the southeast corner of the St. Mark Lutheran Church property that is accessed by the east-west alley between North 6th and North 7th streets. The garage is a one story, frame, front gabled structure with a rectangular plan of approximately 22 feet by 36 feet. The walls are finished with tan vinyl siding, and there are a 9 foot by 7 foot and a 9 foot by 8 foot dark brown sectional overhead doors in the gable end facing the alley. The fascia, soffits, gutters, and downspouts are all dark brown aluminum, and the roof is a brown, 3-tab shingle. This garage was built in 1997. Therefore, it is considered a non-contributing resource within the district.

Building Inventory

The following inventory lists every building in the district and includes the address of the property, the historic name, the date or circa date of construction, and the resource's contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) status.

Address of Property	Historic Name	Date of Construction	C or NC Status
1014 North 6th Street	Hope Reformed Church Rectory	1937	C
1011 North 7th Street	Grace Episcopal Church	1867-1871	C
1019 North 7th Street	St. Mark Lutheran Church	1968	C
	St. Mark Lutheran Church Garage	1997	NC
612 Ontario Avenue	Hope Reformed Church	1937	C
	Hope Reformed Church Garage	1994	NC
623 Ontario Avenue	First Methodist Episcopal Church	1929-1930	C
630 Ontario Avenue	Grace Episcopal Church Rectory	mid-1850s	C
	Grace Episcopal Church Garage	1995	NC

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Downtown Churches Historic District is evaluated in the context of a district which possesses a significant concentration and continuity of religious buildings united historically and aesthetically by plan and materials. One of the properties, Grace Episcopal Church, is nominated under Criterion A for social history for historical events that made an important contribution to the history of Scouting in the City of Sheboygan and the State of Wisconsin. The district as a whole is nominated under Criterion C as a fine local example of religious architecture in Sheboygan. While the district achieves significance as a grouping of functionally related properties, the churches themselves are individually distinctive and serve as a series of focal points, each contributing to the overall historic character of the area and defining a distinct geographic and historic entity.

The proposed Downtown Churches Historic District is an architecturally important district in the City of Sheboygan. The district is roughly bounded by Erie Avenue, North 6th Street, Ontario Avenue, and North 7th Street, enclosing roughly one city block. The district is located just to the east of the North 8th Street downtown business district, and just to the south and west of a potentially eligible residential historic district. The Downtown Churches Historic District was first identified by the City of Sheboygan Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report that was undertaken in 2002 as a potential historic district having local significance under National Register Criterion C with one of the structures having state significance under National Register Criterion A.

The district is comprised of six contributing resources and three non-contributing resources. Individually, the contributing resources include very fine representative examples of the most popular styles applied to religious architecture and one of the most popular styles applied to residential architecture in Wisconsin during the period of significance. Also, they represent four of Sheboygan's finest churches identified by the Sheboygan Intensive Survey. Collectively, these buildings are also notable because they typify the historic evolution of the district through their architecture.

Reflecting 100 years of religious architecture, the period of significance for the district begins in 1871 with the completion of the oldest extant church, Grace Episcopal Church. Through the years, three additional extant churches were constructed as well as several contributing alterations and additions to them. The period of significance ends in 1968 with the construction of the last church in the district, St. Mark Lutheran Church. Because St. Mark is an integral part of the district and reflects the end of the evolution of the collection of churches, and is the only building in the district constructed outside of the 50 year period, it is believed that the church and the district do not need to demonstrate the exceptional significance under Criteria Consideration G.

Historic Context

The City of Sheboygan is located where the Sheboygan River flows out into the western shore of Lake Michigan. Pioneer settlement of the area began in 1834 when William Paine erected a sawmill on the river. Between 1835 and 1836, William Trowbridge platted the area north of the river. Sheboygan was organized as a village in 1846, and was incorporated as a city in 1853. Within the next decade, Sheboygan's furniture making industry became firmly established. Beginning after the Civil War, the rapid growth of Sheboygan's chair making industry spurred the settlement of the area. In 1884, the City of Sheboygan had just 8,500 residents. Just six years later, the population boomed to 21,200. Sheboygan eventually became a major chair manufacturing center in Wisconsin, and grew to the state's eighth largest city by 1929.[16]

Not surprisingly, the formation and subsequent construction of religious properties is a reflection of the influx of immigrants to the City in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, lured by promise of Sheboygan's growing industrial base. A stream of Yankee settlers brought several Protestant denominations with them, including Episcopalian and Methodist, which are evident in the district. Grace Episcopal Church was first established in 1847. The current building, completed in 1871, replaced an earlier church built on the same site in 1847. Grace Episcopal Church was the first of a series of churches that were eventually built in the district. First Methodist Episcopal Church was first established in 1849. They came to the district in 1880, and the current building was constructed in 1929.

With the influx of European immigrants came a shift and broadening of Sheboygan's religious affiliations. From the late-1840s to 1900, thousands of German and Dutch immigrants flooded Sheboygan's port, which led to the eventual dominance of a handful of religious groups in the City, including Catholics, German Lutherans and Dutch Reformed. Hope Reformed Church was established in 1891 by a group of Dutch immigrants. The current building, constructed in 1937, replaced an earlier church built in 1894 at another location outside of the district. St. Mark Lutheran Church was founded in 1910 and quickly built a church in the district. As the City's first English speaking congregation, St. Mark was a sharp departure from Sheboygan's German speaking Lutheran churches. The congregation replaced their original building in 1968.

These religious properties reflect the continued affluence of this growing community, spurred by its geographic location and strong industrial base. Urban development and suburbanization are often a threat to church-related buildings. Yet, this cluster of religious buildings remains largely intact. While other communities struggled with the post World War II flight of the middle class out to the suburbs,

[16] Zillier, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County Wisconsin: Past and Present.* Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912, pp. 305-306.

Sheboygan maintained a strong middle and upper class population near its core, due largely to the appeal of Lake Michigan and the nice residential neighborhood which was built to the north and east of this district.

Architecture

The Downtown Churches Historic District is nominated under Criterion C for its fine concentration of religious buildings, united historically and aesthetically by massing and materials. The architectural styles reflect the development of churches in Sheboygan between 1867 and 1968. As a group, there is a distinct pattern of features that are common to all of the contributing church resources. They are all of similar scale with highly irregular, vertical, and picturesque massing. All of the churches' walls are constructed of masonry, whether it is brick, stone, or a combination thereof; and the walls are punctuated with numerous stained glass windows. The buildings are topped with steeply pitched roofs which are reflected on the interior with dramatically tall ceilings supported by heavy wooden timers or laminated beams. The sanctuaries are very well-preserved. Individually, there are variations of architectural style that occur within the district reflecting the prevailing ecclesiastical architecture styles at the time of each church's construction.

Grace Episcopal Church is fine example of a High Victorian Gothic church, a relatively rare style in Wisconsin which was popular between 1865 and 1900. As such, it is locally significant because it is the only extant High Victorian Gothic church in the City. The High Victorian Gothic style is most often associated with churches or with large public and institutional structures. As opposed to its earlier stylistic predecessors, this style is much more picturesque in its form with complex massing and heavy detailing. The characteristics of the style include stone or brick walls with buttresses and towers, large pointed fenestrations with tracery and colored glass, and steeply sloped roofs. Hallmark to the style is its polychromatic accents, achieved by the use of materials of differing color, in this case cream and red colored brick. In addition, it displays a high artistic value in the fine artwork from all over Europe. It is unique in the district because it is the only cream brick structure.

First Methodist Episcopal and Hope Reformed churches are fine examples of a Late Gothic design or Neogothic Revival design. The Neogothic style is most often associated with ecclesiastical, educational, and commercial structures in Wisconsin during the period revival between 1900 and 1940. Characteristics of the style include irregular massing with a vertical emphasis and steeply pitched roofs. The style is more subdued than its High Victorian Gothic counterpart, with color contrasts consisting of the subtle stone on stone variation between the random ashlar construction of the walls and smoother stone trim at window and door openings and parapets. First Methodist Episcopal Church

is unique in the district for it superbly designed and detailed heavy wooden timber structure and wooden ceiling finish.

St. Mark Lutheran Church is a fine example of contemporary church architecture. It is locally distinguished as the only modern church in downtown. Rather than associations with particular building uses or descriptions of past stylistic features, contemporary architecture is loosely used to describe modern buildings which are less than 50 years old. While the church's design rejects overt historic references, it does reflect its neighbors in its sweeping roof line and in the choice of materials. Rather than a tower, a tall crucifix with a vertical element on either side projects above the roof line. In this particular case, the juxtaposition of modern design and detailing carried out with reference to historic traditions displays a high artistic value. It is unique in the district because of its modern materials and age.

Sheboygan contains numerous churches. What most clearly distinguishes the Downtown Churches Historic District from other religious architecture in the area, however, is its historic arrangement of functionally related properties in close proximity to one another that exhibit similar scale, massing, and materials. The closest comparative example is the proposed Holy Name Church Historic District which was identified in the 2002 City of Sheboygan Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report. This potentially eligible district began with the formation of Holy Name Church, which was begun the same year as Grace Episcopal Church. In contrast to the Downtown Churches Historic District, the proposed Holy Name Church Historic District contains St. Nicholas Hospital (1893), the Anna M. Reiss Home for the Aged (1919), a nunnery, rectory, and a school. It is spread out across two and one-half city blocks, and the buildings are not unified in function, scale, massing, or style. The Downtown Churches Historic District derives its importance as a unified entity of interrelated religious resources.

Social History

Grace Episcopal Church is nominated under Criterion A at the state level in the area of social history. It is significant for its 1911 formation of Boy Scout Troop 1, the first Boy Scout troop in the State, just one year after the formation of the national Boy Scouts of America.

The scouting movement was started in England by Lord Baden-Powell and popularized by his book, *Scouting for Boys*. The movement first came to the United States in October 1910 as the National Organization of the Boy Scouts of America. On February 21, 1911, Wisconsin's first Boy Scout Troop 1 was founded in Sheboygan at Grace Episcopal Church. It was established with a total of nine boys by

Reverend A. Parker Curtiss who had visited England the previous summer and witnessed the Boy Scouts organization at work.[17]

It was the 1911 parish hall addition to the church that was so crucial to extending Grace's commitment to Scouting and overall the social and cultural life of the community.

Within two years, the Scouting membership in Sheboygan had reached 100 persons and Reverend Curtiss took on as assistant, Harold Whinfield, by 1913. Whinfield became the first paid director of the Sheboygan Boy Scout Council. In 1916, the numbers had risen to 200, and the group of boy was split to form a second troop. In that same year, about thirty boys participated in a primitive summer camp on Cedar Lake near Kiel, Wisconsin, which eventually led to the development of Camp Rokolio in the 1920s.[18]

In honor of the founding of Scouting in the City of Sheboygan, the Scout Window of St. Pancras was placed on the right side of the chancel by Troop 1 in 1927 "to commemorate the founding of Scouting in this town and parish on February 21, 1911."[19] One of three windows of English glass on the right side of the chancel of the church, it is the work of William Glasby of London. "The central figure of the window is St. Pancras, martyred in 304 A.D. at the age of fourteen. Also portrayed in the window are the Scout law and emblem, five distinctively American merit badges connected with the Lake Region, and a list of the names of the first nine scouts, of Fr. Curtiss, and of Mr. Whinfield."[20]

In commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of Troop 1, Reverend A. Parker Curtiss delivered a sermon on February 21, 1932 which gave a glimpse at life in Sheboygan at the time and clearly explains the reasons for its founding. He stated that when he began his work as a priest he wanted to engage the interest of the boys of the parish to his work. He wanted to make religion a factor in the youth, especially boys. When he heard of Scouting, he sent for the handbook and saw that it aligned with his goals for the youth of Sheboygan. He thought that urban life was robbing the boys of contact with nature, and that boys should have a rounded and rich experience with nature. They need to learn to become resourceful and be able to make and mend anything. Therefore, he strongly emphasized the outdoor part of Scouting. He wanted the boys to find pleasure out of the simple things in life and equip

[17] Whinfield, R. W. "Troop 1 Scouting in Wisconsin All Began in Sheboygan." *The Sheboygan Press*. February 9, 1992; Grace-Walsingham Episcopal Church website http://www.grace-walsingham.com/history.asp; "Grace Episcopal Church." *Churches General Information Files*. On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin; and *Amazing Grace A Sesquicentennial Remembrance 1847-1997*. Sheboygan, Wisconsin: Grace Episcopal Church, 1997, pp. 136-142.
[18] *Amazing Grace*, pp. 136-142 and "Grace Episcopal Church."
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.

them to be able to undertake the hard jobs they would face in their futures. He also stated that a faithful following of the Scout Law embodied that morality emanates from true religion. The boys should be disciplined and do their best to honor God and their country. Morality is a necessity of religion, and, through Scouting, the boys would promise to stay morally straight. The boys were to be patriots and to serve God and their country while making the most of their natural gifts.[21]

The Sheboygan scouting group started the Kettle Moraine Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which now includes all of Sheboygan County, most of Ozaukee County, and some of Manitowoc County. By 1948, this Council had grown to 3,000 scouts and 300 volunteers.[22]

Architects

Sheboygan attracted professional architects nearly since its founding as a city. From the late-1840s, at least one architect operated in the city and at least two from the 1880s onwards. Usually these were one man firms who practiced for decades and whose firms carried on either by successor generations within the family or by successor architects when firms grew to such a size. None of Sheboygan's architects achieved a national reputation, although many gained regional favor within the state, executing numerous commissions outside of the city.

Due to church histories and contemporary accounts of the time, all but four of the resources identified within the district could be attributed to a particular architect. Like other smaller cities in Wisconsin, many early, large commissions went to out of town architects. In fact, the designs of the first two extant churches in the district were done by an out of state architect and a Milwaukee area architect.

The earliest building in the district, Grace Episcopal Church, was designed by William Russell West of Cincinnati, Ohio. His "Design XXI: Villa in the Norman Style" was featured in Andrew Jackson Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses*. He is credited with the Italianate 1850-1853 Francis Bailey Hall and the Greek Revival 1852-1856 Oak Hall at Urbana University in Urbana, Ohio, and the 1854 George W. Campbell House in Delaware, Ohio, which is of Romanesque and Norman Revival styles. His most notable work is the 1848-1854 Greek Revival design of the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus, Ohio.

The situation changed somewhat for additions to the original churches. Grace Episcopal Church's first substantial addition was designed by William C. Weeks who was born on February 16, 1856 in Sheboygan. William C. Weeks studied under his father Arvin, who was a builder and architect. He

[21] *Amazing Grace*, pp. 136-138.
[22] Whinfield.

was a carpenter until his father's death in 1888 when he took over Arvin's architectural practice. In 1914 or 1915, William C. changed the firm's name to W. C. Weeks, Inc. He designed numerous commercial buildings throughout the city, including the Jung Shoe Co., the Sheboygan County Courthouse, and numerous residences. During and shortly after the Great Depression, the use of local architects became more prevalent; William C. Weeks was the assistant architect of First Methodist Episcopal Church in 1929. Upon William C.'s death in 1937, his son, William F., took charge of the family-run architectural firm, which came to a close in 1987 after nearly 140 years in operation. [23]

When Hope Reformed Church decided to build in the district, they called upon Edgar A. Stubenrauch, a native of Sheboygan who was born July 9, 1894. After earning his degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1918, he served in the U.S. Army in the European Theater for approximately one year. After which, he attended the University of London for six months before he returned to Sheboygan. Upon his return, he worked for his contractor father for several months. After passing the architect state board examination, he was employed as an intern with the State Architect of Wisconsin for approximately one year. After his internship he returned to his hometown. On August 31, 1921, he married Lillian Tasche of Sheboygan at the non-extant St. Mark Lutheran Church. They went on to have two daughters and one son. Stubenrauch opened his own office that same year. He served on the first City of Sheboygan Zoning Commission and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. During his career, he designed hundreds of large buildings in Wisconsin and in Upper Michigan, including the Sheboygan Clinic, Sheboygan Post Office, Sheboygan Armory & Auditorium, Rocky Knoll Sanatorium, University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan, Pine Hills Country Club, and numerous other churches, schools, residences, municipal buildings, health care facilities, industrial buildings, commercial buildings, and other miscellaneous facilities. In addition to Hope Reformed Church and Rectory, he assisted with the construction observation of the extant St. Mark Lutheran Church. Stubenrauch is known to have been practicing architecture as late as the late-1960s. He died July 20, 1988 in Sheboygan.[24] His successor firm did the contributing 1956 addition to the First Methodist Episcopal Church, the 1967 design of St. Mark Lutheran Church, and the 1995 addition and remodeling of Grace Episcopal Church, thereby touching every church in the district. After over eighty years in operation, The Stubenrauch Associates closed its doors early in 2004.

An exception to the use of local architects was the 1958 expansion and remodeling of Grace Episcopal Church by Milwaukee architect Richard W. Philipp. However, Mr. Philipp had a strong local connection in the nearby Village of Kohler and with the Kohler family who funded the construction

[23] Guequierre, Helga C. *Four Weeks: A Century of Design.* Sheboygan: American Associations of University Women. The Weeks files are held at LJM Architects, Inc. of Sheboygan.
[24] *General Information Files.* On file at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. The Stubenrauch files are held by Mr. Bob Jageman of Manitowoc.

work. In 1906, Mr. Philipp partnered with Peter Brust and formed the firm Brust & Philipp in Milwaukee. By the 1920s the firm had become the largest in Wisconsin and masters in the English influenced Tudor Revival style. Philipp was the principal architect for the Kohler Company from 1916 to 1951, responsible for most of the National Register listed buildings built within the complex during the time. In addition, he was responsible for many of the buildings and residences in the Kohler Company-sponsored Village of Kohler. It is no wonder why he was involved in the expansion and remodeling of Grace Episcopal Church in Sheboygan. However, he passed away on March 17, 1959 before the work was completed.[25]

Conclusion

The Downtown Churches Historic District is a well defined cluster of religious buildings. As a group, there is a distinct pattern of features that are common to all of the contributing church resources. They are all of similar size and scale, ranging in footprint from 11,600 square feet to 17,700 square feet. They are highly irregular, vertical, and picturesque in their massing. All of the churches' walls are constructed of masonry, whether it is brick, stone, or a combination thereof; and the walls are punctuated with numerous stained glass windows. The buildings are topped with steeply pitched roofs which are reflected on the interior with dramatically tall ceilings supported by heavy wooden timbers or laminated beams. The sanctuaries are very well-preserved. Individually, the diversity of the churches in the district are representative of the prevailing architectural styles of their time of construction, including High Victorian Gothic, Late Gothic Revival, elements of Tudor Revival, and Contemporary architectural styles, reflecting 100 years of religious architecture spanning from 1871 to 1968. The result is now one of Sheboygan's most architecturally intact historic religious areas.

Today, the churches within the Downtown Churches Historic District are well preserved and have much the same appearance today as they would have years ago. Exterior alterations to the original church proper have been minimal and have generally been limited to sympathetic, stained glass window additions to original openings. As can be expected with most religious structures, additions have been made throughout the years to accommodate expansion of services to the community, including religious education and social functions. For the most part, these additions were done before 1958 and are in keeping with the original character of the churches in scale and materials.

Criterion Consideration A

While buildings owned or used by religious institutions are usually not eligible for listing, an exception may be made if the significance of the building or district meets one of the criteria

[25] Brust, Peter. *Wikipedia.* April 1, 2009 and "Richard Philipp, Architect, Passes." *PEOPLE.* 1959.

considerations. The Downtown Churches Historic District meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A; this is a collection of religious properties that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction.

Statement of Archeological Potential

It is unlikely that any archeological remains exist in the district. Earlier residences are known to have existed within the district, which themselves would have disturbed any evidence of prehistoric or pre-European settlement. It is almost certain that the construction of the churches would have greatly disturbed or completely obliterated any remaining archeological artifacts.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

UTM References

5	16	442730	4844500
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6	16	442730	4844690
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The district consists of the legal parcels associated with the four congregations:

- Original Plat of the City of Sheboygan, the west 20.5' of Lot 2 and all of Lots 3, 4, 5 & 6, Block 96 (1019 North 7th Street).
- Original Plat of the City of Sheboygan, Lots 7, 8, & the west 52.5' of Lot 9, Block 96 (1011 North 7th Street & 630 Ontario Avenue).
- Original Plat of the City of Sheboygan, the east 7.5' of Lot 9 and all of Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 96 (1014 North 6th Street & 612 Ontario Avenue).
- Original Plat of the City of Sheboygan, Lots 4, 5 & 6, Block 104 and the north 1/2 of the vacant east-west alley adjacent to said Lots (623 Ontario Avenue).

The boundaries of the district may be defined by this general description: Beginning at the southeast corner of Erie Avenue and North 7th Street, proceed to the property line east of the garage associated with St. Mark Lutheran Church. Then turn south to the point on the opposite side of the alley running mid block. Follow the alley east to the curb line of North 6th Street. The boundary then turns south along North 6th Street to the southwest corner of the intersection of North 6th Street and Ontario Avenue, following the curb line west along Ontario Avenue to the point opposite the property line associated with the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The boundary the turns south, crossing Ontario Avenue and the said property line to the south property line associated with the church. Turning west along the First Methodist Church property, the boundary proceeds to the east curb line of North 7th Street. The boundary then turns north along the east curb line of North 7th Street to the point of beginning.

The boundaries enclose an area of approximately 4.4 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Downtown Churches Historic District enclose all the land historically associated with the district's resources. Adjacent areas to the north and east are residential in nature with commercial and institutional buildings to the south and the downtown business district to the west. The adjacent areas are of a different type of occupancy than the predominantly religious buildings in the Downtown Churches Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

All photographs were taken by Katie Derksen of LJM Architects, Inc. on April 28, 2009 and original negatives are located at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wisconsin.

Photo 1
Grace Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northeast
1 of 17

Photo 2
Grace Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southeast
2 of 17

Photo 3
Grace Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking North
3 of 17

Photo 4
Grace Episcopal Church Rectory, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northeast
4 of 17

Photo 5
First Methodist Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northeast
5 of 17

Photo 6
First Methodist Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southeast
6 of 17

Photo 7
First Methodist Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southwest
7 of 17

Photo 8
First Methodist Episcopal Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking South
8 of 17

Photo 9
Hope Reformed Church & Rectory, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northwest
9 of 17

Photo 10
Hope Reformed Church & Rectory, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southwest
10 of 17

Photo 11
Hope Reformed Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking North
11 of 17

Photo 12
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northeast
12 of 17

Photo 13
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southeast
13 of 17

Photo 14
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southwest
14 of 17

Photo 15
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking East
15 of 17

Photo 16
Hope Reformed & Grace Episcopal Churches Garages, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Southwest
16 of 17

Photo 17
St. Mark Lutheran Church Garage, Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin
Looking Northwest
17 of 17

Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

LEGEND
— · — Boundary
520 Address
Non-Contributing
North

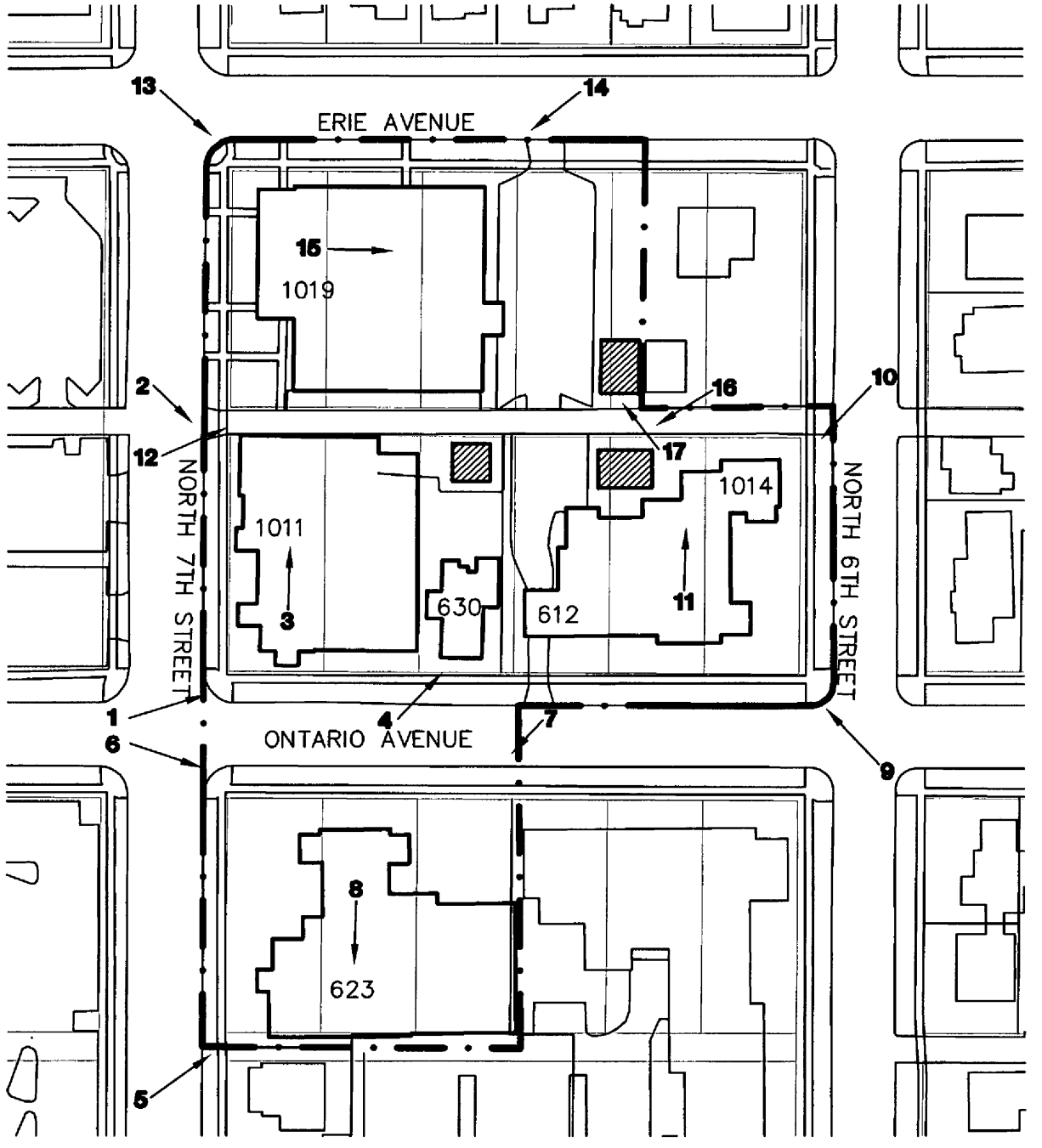
Scale 1" = 100'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

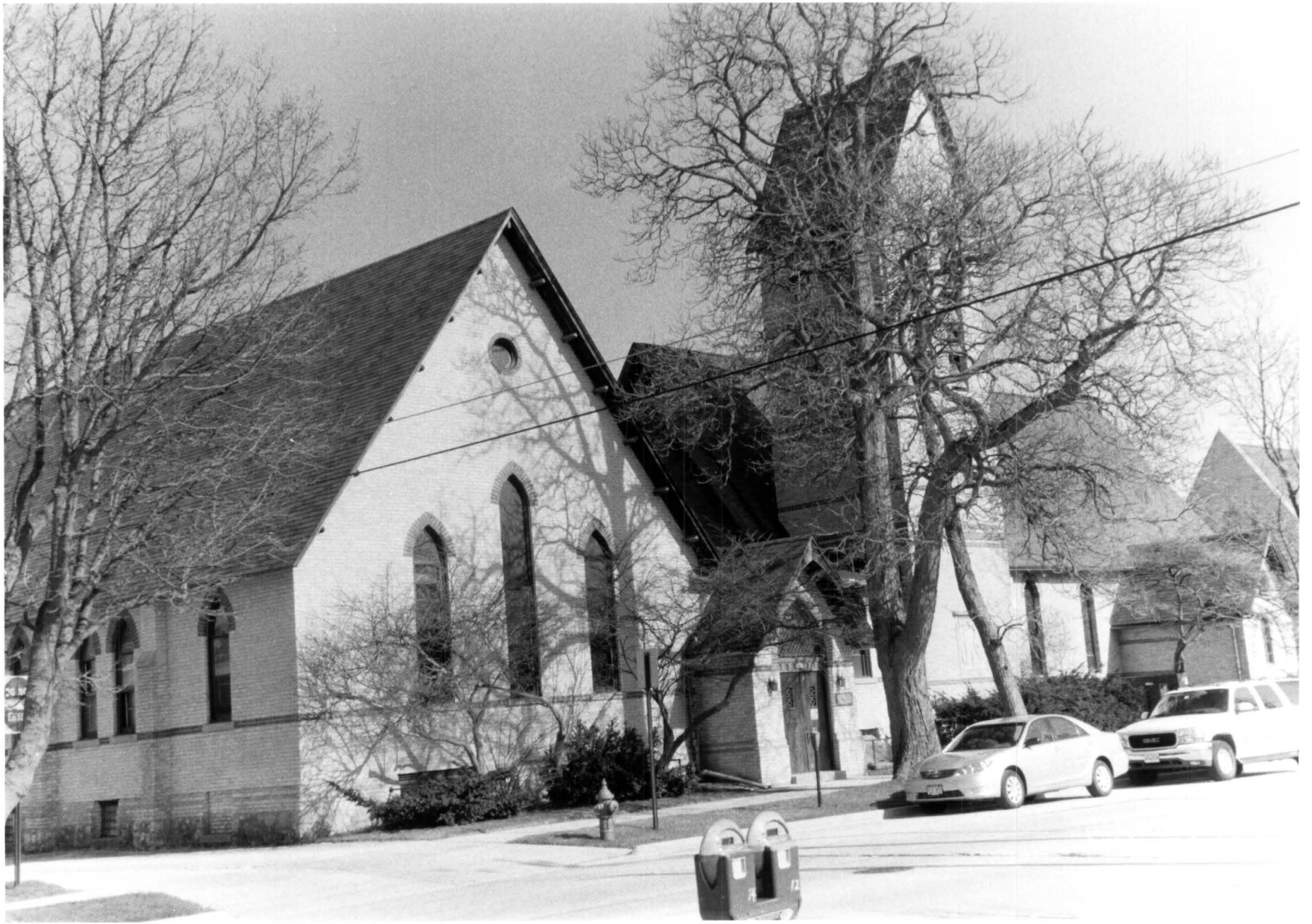
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section **Sketch Maps** Page 1

Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin



(Grace Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
1 of 17



(Grace Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
2 of 17

(Grace Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
3 of 17

(Grace Episcopal Church Rectory) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
4 of 17

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:30
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15

(First Methodist Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
5 of 17

(First Methodist Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
6 of 17

(First Methodist Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
7 of 17

(First Methodist Episcopal Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
8 of 17

(Hope Reformed Church & Rectory) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
9 of 17

(Hope Reformed Church & Rectory) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
10 of 17

HOPE
risen
indeed

(Hope Reformed Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
11 of 17

100 Years Of Blessings
1906 - 2006
St. Mark Lutheran Church
FREE CONCERT BY
MORNING STAR
DO NOT
ENTER

(St. Mark Lutheran Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
12 of 17

(St. Mark Lutheran Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
13 of 17

(St. Mark Lutheran Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
14 of 17

(St. Mark Lutheran Church) Downtown Churches Historic District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
15 of 17

(Hope Reformed & Grace Episcopal Churches Garages) Downtown Churches District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
16 of 17

NO
PARKING
IN
ALLEY

(St. Mark Lutheran Church Garage) Downtown Churches Hist. District
Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI
17 of 17