

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 8 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 21 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

~~Saint~~, James Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1315 S.W. Park Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd District, Rep. Robert Duncan

STATE

Oregon

VICINITY OF

CODE 41

COUNTY

Multnomah 97201

CODE

051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Saint James Lutheran Church

STREET & NUMBER

1315 S.W. Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S.W. 4th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97205

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreation Branch, State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Saint James Lutheran Church is a complex of three buildings: The Chapel of St. James, built in 1891; the Main Church, dedicated in 1908; and the education-office complex, completed in 1958. The Chapel and Main Church are connected and compatible in style, Late Gothic Revival. The educational-office complex is also connected to the church and chapel but is different in style and materials.

The chapel is a masonry building with brick veneer on the west wall and sandstone veneer on the north wall. The interior ceiling is made of coppered wood and is nicely detailed. The original light fixtures were gas, then replaced with electrical fixtures with the construction of the main church in 1908. The stained glass windows in the north and west ends of the chapel are original.

The main church connects with the chapel on the east end of the latter. It is a wood frame building with a stone veneer faced of coursed Ashlar sandstone (split face). The veneer around the openings is of cut faced stone. Around the building, at about eye level, there is a belt course with detail carving on the stone. The stone veneer on both buildings is Tenino sandstone quarried in the state of Washington.

The wall in the interior of the main church is topped with a painted sheet metal and wood detail that recalls the Gothic motif. The roof structure is wood trussed with purlins that are unequally spaced, topped with a wood deck. The stained glass windows in the main church were completed by three different artists. The window over the altar, depicting the head of Christ, was done in 1907 by a Portland artist who was assisted by two Catholic priests. The two large windows on the east and north walls were created by another local artist in 1908. Other smaller commemorative windows were manufactured in the early 1950s. The interior light fixtures in the main church and chapel are of metal and opaque glass and were constructed in 1907. The furnishings inside the church were designed and built in the Portland area at the time of the church construction.

There have been two major alterations to the church since the construction in 1907-08. In the original main church there was a tower at the northeast corner. Because of carpenter ants and damage by natural elements, it was necessary to remove the tower in 1951. The congregation hopes to restore the tower with coursed Ashlar sandstone sometime in the future. The other major alteration is the education-office complex completed in 1958. This building is attached to the main church and chapel but does not conform to either in style or materials. The walls are of reinforced concrete with marble veneer on the east side.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891, 1907-08, 1958 BUILDER/ARCHITECT P. Chappel-Browne

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. James Lutheran Church is architecturally significant for its Late Gothic Revival style and as one of several significant churches in the same locale in Portland. The architectural significance is not unique to Portland nor is this church necessarily the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in the city. St. James Church is a key architectural element in the Portland South Park Blocks area - a twelve-block park rim on the exterior of the downtown core. In this South Park Blocks area, the Portland Art Museum (across the street from St. James) is entered on the National Register. The Paramount Theater (three blocks to the north) and the First Congregational Church (two blocks to the north) have been nominated to the National Register, and four other churches and several other buildings are being considered for future nomination.

St. James Church is important religiously as the first English-speaking Lutheran Church in Oregon. It is also significant as the first headquarters for the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church and the first location of the Lutheran Seminary for the West Coast.

In the Pacific Northwest, the Lutheran Church was established relatively late. In March, 1889, Dr. G. H. Gerberding, representing the General Council and Dr. Samuel B. Barnitz, representing the General Synod of the United Lutheran Church met in Portland to organize the church. As a result of the meeting, the Rev. M. L. Zweizig was called to Portland that same year to establish St. James Lutheran Church. The congregation met in temporary quarters for two years, then the first permanent building was constructed and dedicated in 1891. This building is the chapel section of the present complex.

In 1901, the Rev. Dr. J. Allen Leas became the pastor of St. James - under his guidance the Pacific Synod of the United Lutheran Church was organized in the Chapel of St. James, and he was elected the first Synod President (Bishop).

In 1907, the cornerstone was laid for the present church and the building was dedicated March 29, 1908. The church, including a furnace, solid oak pews, art glass windows, and an Esty pipe organ, cost less than \$15,000 at the time of construction.

Two years following the construction of the church, a seminary "to train men in the west to serve in the west" was organized under the leadership of St. James. The church provided the headquarters for the seminary for four years. At that time it was moved to Seattle. The west coast Lutheran seminary is presently located in Berkeley, California. Members of the St. James congregation have monetarily contributed to the establishment of several Lutheran congregations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	APR 8 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 21 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Portland, Its History & Building, VI Joseph Gaston, p. 422

Portland Original Constitution Corporate Offices of Oregon

April 25, 1914 The Oregon Directory Portland, Oregonian



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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MAY 21 1975

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saint James Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Multnomah

STATE

Oregon

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Saint James Lutheran Church

DATE OF PHOTO

March, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Portland

4 IDENTIFICATION

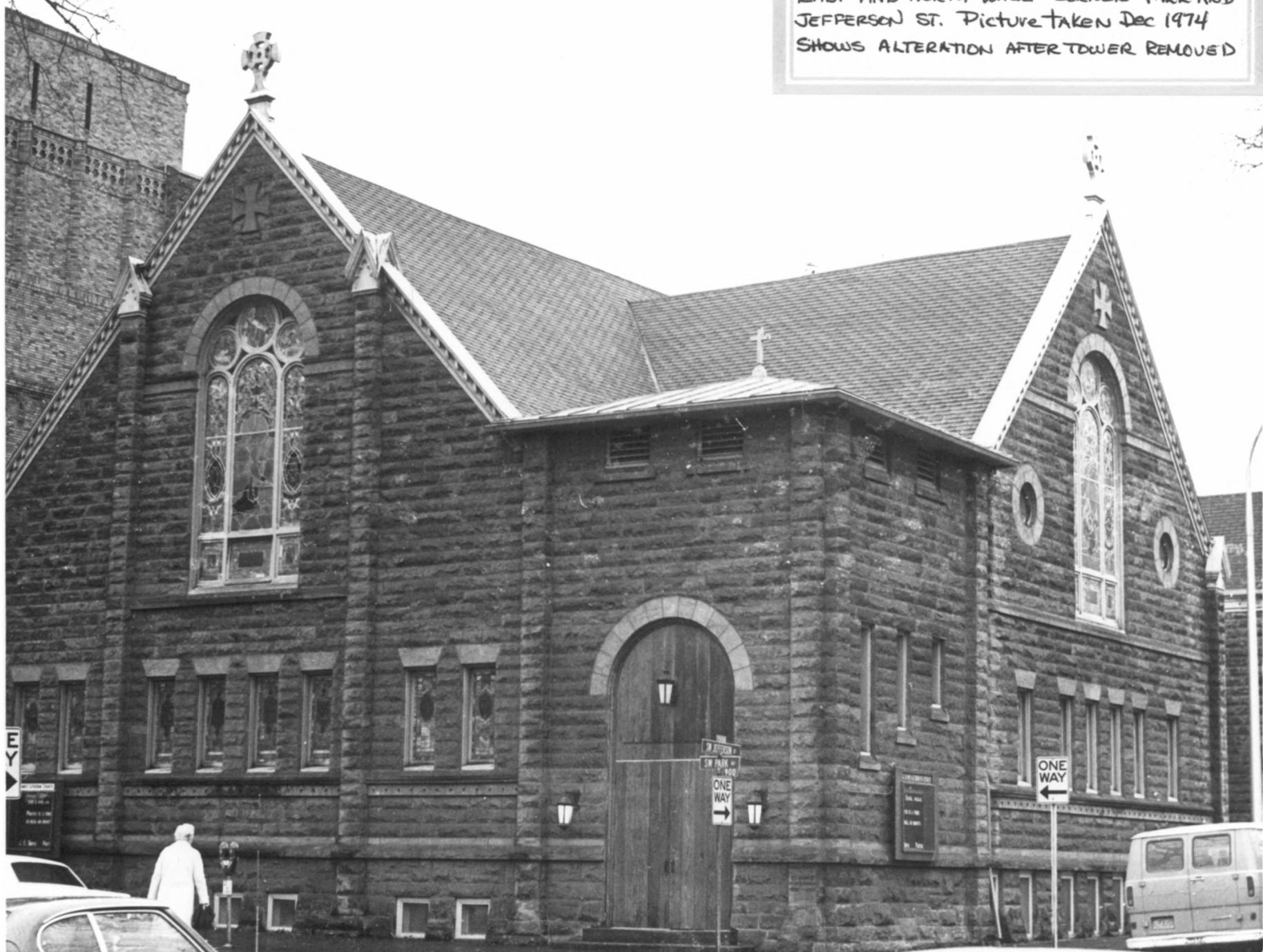
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Educational Unit and Main Church, looking west

1

EAST AND NORTH WALL - CORNER PARK AND
JEFFERSON ST. Picture taken Dec 1974
SHOWS ALTERATION AFTER TOWER REMOVED



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CITY, TOWN

Portland

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Multnomah

STATE

Oregon

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Saint James Lutheran

DATE OF PHOTO

December, 197

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Portland

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Front entrance of church, looking southwest

PHOTO NO.

2



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Portland

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COUNTY

Multnomah

STATE

Oregon

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Saint James Lutheran Church

DATE OF PHOTO

1950

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Portland

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Historic view of Tower before its removal in 1950s,
looking to southwest

3

3