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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**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 any 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** St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**other names/site number** N/A

**2. Location**

**street & number** 302 North Morrison Street **not for publication** N/A  
**city or town** Appleton **vicinity** N/A  
**state** Wisconsin **code** WI **county** Outagamie **code** 087 **zip code** 54911

**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 \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/20/08  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government  
In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ 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 this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

*Edson H. Beall*

*4.11.08*

*[Signature]*

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

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

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**RELIGION / Religious Facility**

**RELIGION / Religious Facility**

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete

Walls Brick

Roof Slate

Other Limestone

**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 National Register listing)

- 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.
- 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.

**Significant Dates**  
**Criteria Considerations**

- (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
  - B removed from its original location.
  - C a birthplace or a 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**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
**1907**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
**1907**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

**N/A**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
**N/A**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Leenhouts and Guthrie (architects)  
Hegner, John (carpenter)  
Greunke, August (mason)

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

**9. Major Bibliographical 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**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repositories: **-St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**-Outagamie County Historical Society**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**     less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>387939</u>	<u>4901973</u>	3	___	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____	_____

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     Todd R. Dvorak

organization     St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church     date     July 3, 2007

street & number     2115 North Morrison Street     telephone     920-882-7723

city or town     Appleton     state     Wisconsin     zip code     54911

**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

**Name**                    St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church                    **Date**            July 3, 2007

**Organization**                    \_\_\_\_\_

**Street & number**                    302 North Morrison Street                    **Telephone** 920-733-6701

**City or town**                    Appleton                    **State**    Wisconsin                    **Zip code** 54911

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

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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**Description**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1907 and located at 302 N. Morrison Street, is part of a larger parish campus located in downtown Appleton, Wisconsin. Buildings not included in this nomination are: the parsonage at 306 N. Morrison; the parsonage at 318 N. Morrison; the school and gymnasium, built in 1954; and a garage associated with the parsonage at 318 N. Morrison. The other buildings are not included in the nomination because of their later dates of construction.

The 1907 church, sits on land that was used for the first St. Paul church built in 1868. When the current building was built, it brought the building's perimeter much closer to the property lines and the right-of-way along both Morrison and Franklin streets. A new addition from 2002 brings full accessibility to the building, with direct access to parking along Morrison Street. Unlike the main entrance, which includes several steps before entering the main level, the new entrance is at grade and an elevator transitions between the upper level, entrance level, basement, and balcony.

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Campus – Historical Background**

St. Paul's first church structure was built in 1868 when the congregation voted to support the construction of a 36' wide x 52' long building. The church was built on land donated to the congregation by Anson Ballard, a prominent member of the Appleton's business community. The parcel of land was 60' wide along N. Morrison Street and 120' deep along Fisk (now Franklin Street). When the congregation decided to erect a much larger facility in 1905 (the current facility being nominated), the parish offered to purchase the property directly north of the church, owned by John Berg. Unfortunately, the congregation was not able to come to terms with Mr. Berg and decided to build on the same parcel of land. The congregation would worship in the school auditorium during the demolition and construction. Other parcels of land were purchased in 1935, directly north of the original school, which became the site of the new school erected in 1954 and still used today. During the 1950s, the parish purchased the remaining parcels of property located in the block. One additional home on North Morrison Street is used as a second parsonage. The remaining homes have been removed and the sites are used for church parking and playground areas.

The firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie from Milwaukee was hired to begin planning for the new facility. The construction of the facility was completed by John Hegner, carpentry, for \$9653; August Greunke, masonry, \$12,162; Wolff and Hegner, trim stones \$1000, including a \$500 gift from the firm. The church was dedicated on February 24, 1907. The total cost of the church was listed at \$33,944.71, and could seat up to 825 persons.

**Exterior of building**

The original design is Late Gothic Revival in style. The dominant west elevation has two asymmetrical towers. The south tower rises 127 feet from grade. The north tower rises 99'-6" from

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grade. In general, the size of the building is 51'-8" along the north/south axis and 100'-5" along the east/west axis, excluding buttresses. The building's base is of cut limestone, creating a water table approximately 5'-0" above grade. The chamfered limestone sill transitions to a red brick, standard in size and used throughout the building. Limestone is also used for small Tuscan-styled columns at the central entrance, and to cap the offsets of the buttresses at the towers and side elevations. Slate was used as the main roofing material (current roofing material is asphalt shingles), and wrought iron was used to detail the crosses located above the entrances and towers.

The west elevation along Morrison Street is the front of the building, with the pew orientation to the east, as is typical with period worship spaces. The building's façade is broken into an uneven A-B-A pattern, as the south tower dominates over the north tower. The door entrances repeat the hierarchical pattern, with a pair of doors located at the base of the south tower, but a single door located at the base of the north tower. Another entrance is centered on the front elevation and is aligned with the primary axis through the building. Above this center entrance is a large arched stained glass window with an image of Calvary and Jerusalem in the picture; above the window, a deep cornice transitions the façade's plane outward several inches, transitioning to a dominant fascia board defining the roof line. At the central entrance and tower entrances, a small eave extends about 2 feet from the building face, Gothic in profile, and includes a small cross at the eave's ridge. In each tower, two lancet windows face the street. The sizes of the lancet windows are proportional to the towers' sizes. At 47'-0" (north) and 57'-6" (south), the towers transition and the massing becomes much more open for the bells, currently located in the south tower. Each tower includes a pair of louvers below a circular opening, similar to a Greek cross in Romanesque style. Above the openings for the bells, the steeples for each tower begin. Each steeple has approximately a 96:12 pitch as they rise toward the sky. The steeples' bases are surrounded by octagonal-shaped turrets, allowing the exterior wall to recess inward at the openings for the bells. Both towers have similar design and detailing, but the south tower has these items designed on a larger scale. The steeple for the south tower has vent grilles located on the north, south, east, and west elevations. At the top of each tower is a galvanized cross, completing one of the most detailed elevations in Appleton.

The north and south elevations were mirror images of one another until the recent elevator addition in 2002. Originally, both elevations had six bays. Each bay is 14'-0" wide, center-line to center-line of the buttresses. The materials used for the buttress match those used for the walls as a whole, including a limestone base and brick veneer. The buttresses also use limestone caps to transition the depth of the buttresses at they rise in height. The cut limestone water table rises four courses; the fifth course is chamfered and transitions to the brick veneer. Each bay includes two 3'-0" x 3'-0" windows surrounded by the limestone base, allowing light into the basement. Centered in the brick façade are large Gothic-arched windows with stained glass patterns. A 3-panel lancet style frame closes near the height of the arch's springpoint and transitions to a diamond pattern at the top. The Gothic windows are framed by a limestone band that surrounds the window with a 1'-0" offset. At the east end of each elevation, the façade reduces to two shorter elevations for the sacristy (on the

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south elevation) and altar guild room (on the north elevation). Above each of these small rooms, a truncated arched window with limestone banding allows light into the chancel.

The east elevation's facade defines the chancel on the interior. Forming an octagon, the north, northeast, east, southeast, and south faces surround the chancel. No additional windows are located on this side of the chancel.

Overall Historical Review

In 1929, the congregation made several improvements to the building. They included: redecorating the interior, a more "modern" radiant heating system, purchasing a new organ, installing a new lighting system, adding a cement floor in the basement to make it a more useful space. These projects were completed in 1932.

More changes were proposed for the congregation's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1957. These alterations changed the way the building's architecture directed the method of worship and theology for the members. For example, the congregation lowered the pulpit and removed the schalldeckel. The entrance from the sacristy to the pulpit was removed and filled. The original "angel" murals, on the interior east elevations, were painted over with two images of Christ-- one as the "Good Shepherd," the other depicting Christ knocking on a door.

In 2002, the firm LJM Architects, from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, began working with St. Paul to develop an addition that would bring full accessibility to all three levels of church. To accomplish this, the new addition would be built on the north side of the building. The simple addition blends with the original building in several ways. First, one of the original stained glass windows on the north elevation was reinstalled on the new east elevation at the top of the stair/elevator landing. Cut limestone veneer was used to match the original building. A distinctive corbelled brick edge below the fascia panel matched the depth of the original elevations. The roof pitch matched the pitch of the nave. This new addition allowed parishioners to enter the church at grade and use the elevator to move from the basement, to the nave level, and up to the balcony. It has also been useful for funerals, as the elevator was sized to fit caskets.

One distinct characteristic about the church's exterior which has been lost since its construction is an interior gutter/downspout system that ran around the exterior on the north, west, and south elevations. The system included galvanized iron gutters supported by dentil-type brackets. Unfortunately the system did not work effectively. One can presume that the ice dams that can build up on a gutter and downspout system may have created too much pressure against both the gutters and the brick veneer, causing the wall to deteriorate. Today the church uses a more contemporary gutter and downspout system with direct connections to the city's storm water collection system.



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**Interior of Building**

Overall Historical Review

The traditional Gothic elements on the exterior of the building are also carried into the interior of the building. The nave ceiling is a typical groin vault system, using lath and plaster over miscellaneous framing, hung from steel roof trusses. The groin vault profile terminates with capitals at the north and south walls. In the chancel, the octagonal space also terminates with a groin along the east nave wall. Housed in the chancel is the powerful altar and reredos, placed on the bema (*bema: raised platform in chancel*). The pulpit with schalldeckel was located on the south side of the east wall, and required the pastor to walk up a set of stairs, enter through a door, and into the raised pulpit. Along the nave's north and south walls, the windows are centered on each vault bay. The edges of each groin had bands painted in an organic pattern. The east wall of the nave originally had matching angels painted on each side of the chancel. Two large chandeliers were located at the two bosses along the ceiling ridge. The pews were laid in a simple row pattern, facing perpendicularly to the chancel. A dominant center aisle, flanked by two secondary side aisles, defines the egress pattern for the assembly. The balcony, located in the rear of the sanctuary, has a curved rail edge that is concave in its overall shape. The organ is located at the rear center of the balcony. At the back of the building, split level stairs allow parishioners to descend to either the street level or continue down to the basement level.

Altar and Reredos

The altar and reredos, although physically conjoined, are liturgically considered two separate items for the two specific roles in Lutheran worship. The altar, also known as an altar table, is the location where the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The altar used at St. Paul is considered a sarcophagus table, since it does not have actual legs, but represents the tomb of Christ as His sacrifice. The function of the reredos is as a background panel used to define the chancel space and give distinction to the altar. However, the artistic qualities of the reredos at St. Paul are quite remarkable. In the center of the reredos is a statue of Christ as the "Good Shepherd," holding a staff and a sheep, representing the people. To the right of Christ is a statue of St. Paul. Although there is no definite indication as to the other statue, it is believed to represent St. Peter.

Pulpit

The original pulpit rose high in the nave, as it was raised on a chalice-shaped pedestal, and had a schalldeckel placed above the pulpit. The original purpose of the schalldeckel, which means "sounding board" in German, is to properly direct sound from the pastor's voice forward toward the congregation. In the 1950s, the pulpit and schalldeckel were changed during the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation. At that time, the schalldeckel was removed, the pedestal was removed, the pulpit was lowered, and the door opening from the sacristy was filled. In 1967, at the same time as the congregation's centennial celebration, four of the five statues attached to the pulpit were stolen from church. One statue, that of St. John, was recovered but too damaged to be reused. The statue of Martin Luther was not taken, but the other three statues were never found.

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Baptismal Font

This baptismal font was made in 1890 and was used in the previous building. The font is made of blue granite, including a stem with a hollowed bowl at the top, and a lid. This is the only known liturgical piece brought from the original building to the new building. No changes have been made to the font.

Communion Rail

The 1907 church did not have a communion rail. However, as a part of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary projects, a communion rail was added around the bema in the chancel. Later, this new railing was lowered from inside the chancel to at the bottom of the steps leading into the chancel. The congregation had determined that it had become too difficult for many older members to navigate the steps from the nave into the chancel. By relocating the communion rail forward, members receiving communion would be able to stay at the same level.

Other items

Several of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary depict scenes from Jesus' life. Overall there are twelve full-size stained glass windows. Two windows are partially obscured because of the balcony. One window is located in the expanded narthex; while another was relocated to an east wall of the elevator addition, and the original window opening was reused for the entrance to the elevator. Of the remaining four bays and eight windows on each wall that are completely visible in the nave, four windows have images depicting Christ. One image includes Jesus as the "Good Shepherd," rescuing the sheep from the thickets. Another image shows Christ rescuing Simon Peter while walking on water. A third image shows Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. A fourth image shows a person, representing the Christian church, clinging to the cross as the only path toward eternity in heaven, amid a sea of tribulation.

**Conclusion**

The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a prominent landmark in Appleton that has stood for over 100 years. The ornate detailing of the two towers, the beautiful stained glass windows, the original interior furnishings, the quality masonry—all these different components create a truly remarkable facility which has served this Lutheran congregation for over 100 years and is one of the most defining landmarks in the city of Appleton based on its quality, size, and age. Section 8 will discuss these characteristics in depth.

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**Statement of Significance**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is eligible for listing at the local level on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion "C" - Architecture. Regarding Criterion "C", the church is an excellent example of Late Gothic Revival style, with much of the original artwork and furnishings intact and still used today. In particular, the exterior buttresses, double towers, and large stained glass windows are indicative of typical Late Gothic Revival architecture. The period of significance coincides with the completion and dedication of the building on February 24, 1907. Other dates of importance include renovations completed in 1932 (celebration of building's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary), 1957 (celebration of congregation's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary), and 2002 (elevator addition).

**Brief History of Appleton**

The history of Appleton, Wisconsin, is directly linked to the development of the fur trading industry from the 1700s. Hippolyte (a.k.a. Paul) Grignon, a fur trader for the American Fur Company, set up his first residence and trading post in what is now known as Appleton.<sup>I</sup> Eventually, farmers began to move into the surrounding land, especially after the land survey was completed in 1844. In 1847, the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature granted a charter to the Lawrence Institute, later known as Lawrence University, six years before the Village of Appleton would be incorporated. The development of the college coincided with the dramatic influx of settlers to Outagamie County. By 1853, when the village was incorporated, it had a population of 1,500 citizens; by 1857, the population was over 2,000 people and the village was reincorporated as a city.<sup>II</sup> This base of residents exploded even more with the influx of German immigrant farmers who settled on the abundant lands surrounding the Appleton area. These German residents were primarily Lutheran, and their desire for a church to serve their needs increased.

**Brief History of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

During the mid-1860s, a group of German Lutherans began worshipping together, at first in their own homes. In 1867, the group had grown large enough to receive permission to meet in the Outagamie County Courthouse. The fourteen men and their families, on August 19, 1867, met in the courthouse to file papers officially chartering the congregation, known as the "German Evangelical St. Paul Congregation of Appleton."<sup>III</sup> After Anson Ballard's donation of land to the congregation in 1868, the first St. Paul church was erected-- a wood frame 36'W x 52'L x 20'H building. A brick veneer was added to the building in 1874, and another bay extended the length an additional 20 feet in 1884.<sup>IV</sup> In 1885, two lots east of the church were purchased and a new school was built. This was the status of the St. Paul campus for over twenty years, until the growth in membership, coinciding

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<sup>I</sup> Appleton Public Library: *Appleton History: Early European Settlement*, page 1.

<sup>II</sup> Appleton Public Library: *Appleton History: The Village of Appleton*, page 1.

<sup>III</sup> St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Centennial*, page 3.

<sup>IV</sup> *Centennial*, page 10.

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with the growth in the Appleton's German community, necessitated the building of a much larger facility.

In 1905, the members of the congregation began to seriously consider the need for a new facility. On April 30, the congregation voted "that a committee be established to make plans on where and how to build, and how we can in easiest fashion bring up the money."<sup>V</sup> Initially, the congregation began discussions with the owners of the property directly to the north of the church along Morrison Street. However, no price could be set, so the congregation decided to build the new facility on the same parcel as the existing church, since they believed the lot would be large enough to support a new building. The congregation hired the Milwaukee architecture firm of Leenhouts & Guthrie to develop plans for the new facility. During construction, the congregation would use the school auditorium for worship services.

**Leenhouts and Guthrie**

The firm of Leenhouts and Guthrie was commissioned by the members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1905 to begin designing a new facility located on the same site as their original facility. Cornelius Leenhouts was born in Milwaukee in 1865 to Dutch immigrants. He began his apprenticeship in the mid 1880s under the supervision of James Douglas, and in 1885 began working for the well-known Edward Townsend Mix.<sup>VI</sup> Leenhouts had worked on projects related to the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. In 1900, Leenhouts began working with Hugh Wilson Guthrie, who emigrated from Scotland early in his life. Leenhouts was the main partner, who appears to have been the lead designer on most of the projects the firm completed, while Guthrie focused primarily on the business and management side of the firm. The firm worked on a number of large commercial projects throughout Milwaukee, including the 9-story Blackstone Building in 1915, the 7-story National Warehouse building in 1926, St. Peter's Polish Methodist Episcopal Church in 1926, and other various projects until Guthrie passed away in 1945, ten years after Leenhouts' own death.<sup>VII</sup>

Interestingly, both men were Masons, and some of their more well-known projects were Masonic Temples. This included their own Kenwood Masonic Temple (now known as the Italian Community Center), built in 1916. Another such Masonic Temple included the Masonic Temple in Appleton, located on East College Avenue (currently used by the Outagamie County Historical Society), designed by Leenhouts and Guthrie and built soon after their partnership was formed in 1900. One might speculate that the completion of a major facility in Appleton, only a few blocks away, may have been the reason the members of St. Paul selected this firm to lead the development of their project.

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<sup>V</sup> *Centennial*, page 12.

<sup>VI</sup> Historic Preservation Commission, City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin: *Kenwood Masonic Temple*, page 4.

<sup>VII</sup> City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin: *Kenwood Masonic Temple*, page 4.

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**Architecture of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

The building that Leenhouts and Guthrie designed for the St. Paul congregation is remarkable for its *style, size, quality*, and today with regards to its historical integrity.

Style

Typical Late Gothic Revival style, in conjunction with other more traditional Gothic Revival styles, tries to bring the realm of the heavens down to earth. On the exterior, the churches would use massive towers that appeared to touch the sky. Often, two asymmetrical towers would be placed on the front elevation. Today, with a seven story parking garage across the street, the church's stature as a landmark is diminished. However, in 1907, this landmark would have towered over the neighborhood, and would have been one of the tallest, if not the tallest, structure in Appleton. The detailing of these towers is also typical Gothic Revival, including several pinnacles mounted on turret-styled corners for each tower.

Another characteristic of Gothic Revival architecture is the use of buttresses, which are designed to transfer roof loads to the ground, allowing as much light into the interior as possible. Although the stained glass windows do not fill the entire bay, they are quite large and would not be possible without the use of these buttresses. These attached buttresses are located at the bottom of the metal roof trusses, transferring the roof loads directly to the ground, allowing the interior of the church to remain open and without columns.

On the interior, a Gothic Revival styled church would use some pattern of vaulting on the ceiling. St. Paul's is no exception. Well-defined ribs cross from capitals built into the walls and define the traditional vaulting from east to west. The intersections of the ribs are defined with a boss detail, designed to be the center point for the original chandeliers. It should be noted, however, that these ribs are not structural but are simply made of plaster keyed into a miscellaneous wood frame and lath system. The true structural loads are transferred through the steel frame; the rib styling on the interior at St. Paul is merely decorative.

Elements of the Gothic Revival style are repeated in several of the original pieces of liturgical furnishings in the church. The reredos, a background panel to the altar, includes numerous pinnacles visually reaching toward the heavens. The panel's framed openings surrounding the sculptures of Christ and the apostles also have similar details.

Size

Regarding its size, the building was originally designed to hold 825 persons. To accomplish this, the building's interior width was 55 feet and no intermittent columns were inserted for support. This span was cleared using a clever combination of both metal and wood structural framing. Steel trusses were placed at each bay, aligned with the exterior buttresses. The top and bottom chords were made of two angles welded to a thick center plate. This form was then bent to follow a portion

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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of the shape used to create the groin-vaulted ceiling. Additional steel framing finished the curvature of the ceiling. Integrated into this newer technology, 10"x12" wood purlins were laid perpendicular to the trusses, and finally rafters were notched to sit on top of the purlins. This allowed the building to have such a large, open span with no additional support. On the exterior, buttresses helped transfer the loading from each truss.

In addition to the building's open width, the height of the building is very significant. Standing over 127 feet tall, the south tower would have been one of Appleton's tallest structures in 1907. The north tower, although smaller than the south tower, also rises over 93 feet. Although the nave is supported using a combination of wood and steel, the towers are almost exclusively made of wood, incorporating heavy timber rafters that are set at a sharp angle and fastened to a center king post using "spikes" and compression straps.

Quality

The building's quality of design is shown repeatedly in the materials used to ornament and accent the building. Wrought iron pinnacles were installed at several locations, including on each tower gable façade and above the front doors. In addition, wrought iron crosses were mounted on top of the king posts for both the north and south towers. Wrought iron was also used for the mid-height gutter system that was removed. Limestone was also used extensively as a detailing material. The limestone accents an otherwise monolithic color palette. You can find those accents as buttress caps, as an exterior cornice band surround above the lancet-style windows, as a rusticated stone base band below the windows, and in the sign band, in addition to other locations. Although many buildings have lost their exterior qualities over time, only the gutter and downspout system, along with a few pinnacles over the entrance doors, have been removed from the building's exterior. The other details are still original and in excellent condition.

Original Character – Historical Integrity

This quality of design has allowed the original character of St. Paul to remain over the past one hundred years. Stepping into the interior of the church, there are few noticeable changes. Those changes include removing the schalldeckel from the pulpit, lowering the pulpit, changing the lighting and chandeliers, and newer paint schemes. Other than those, the church looks and feels the same. The beauty and design of the altar and reredos has not changed, and the statues in the reredos are original. The pulpit, although altered and lowered, is still the original pulpit. The pews and floors are all original. All stained glass windows are original. When the elevator addition was planned in 2002, the location where the new entrance to the elevator would occur was at a window opening. The addition successfully moved the stained glass window to a new opening in the elevator addition. This commitment to quality has paid off over the past one hundred years, and the members of this storied congregation are diligent in maintaining and preserving this landmark for the entire community.

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**Additional historical background:**

Immigrant Germans were the dominant ethnic group in the development of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Like many Lutheran churches in eastern Wisconsin, the original name “German Evangelical St. Paul Congregation of Appleton” was not amended until many years later to read “St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Appleton, Wisconsin.” This German heritage is still visible today in Outagamie County, with 56% of residents still claiming a dominant German as their first ancestry.<sup>VIII</sup> The German Lutherans in Appleton began to take root with the conception and growth of St. Paul, as well as other Lutheran churches who can trace their beginnings to the congregation for many reasons listed below.

The conversion from a primarily German-speaking congregation to a primarily English-speaking congregation was difficult, and caused a split in the congregation in the early 1900s. Although St. Paul had initially tried to offer English-speaking services in 1898, those services were evidently poorly attended and the parish ended those services in 1900. However, after the new church was completed, the congregation had decided to offer all Sunday School programs and confirmation classes in English. The church also again offered a Sunday evening English speaking service at St. Paul. However, in 1914, the congregation decided to eliminate all English speaking Confirmation and Sunday School classes. This angered many English-speaking members, who were still in the distinct minority. Those members decided to form their own congregation, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, which is now the largest Lutheran congregation in Appleton.

In addition to Mount Olive, St. Matthew Lutheran Church began as a mission congregation supported by the Wisconsin Synod to serve Appleton’s west side. With assistance from St. Paul, the new St. Matthew Lutheran Church was organized in 1914.<sup>IX</sup> Besides ethnic and language differences, differences in theology also caused a new congregation to form. In 1883, a group of members in disagreement with the theological concept of “election by grace”<sup>X</sup> left St. Paul to form their own congregation, named Zion Lutheran Church.

Despite the theological and ethnic stresses that the congregation encountered earlier in its development, the church is now being used for Hmong worship services. Northeast Wisconsin is home to many Hmong families who have settled here from their native Laos. Today, St. Paul is home to a Hmong Lutheran mission congregation. Additional church services are conducted in the Hmong language, as well as some educational classes.

Members of the congregation are associated with the founding of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), now known as Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. It is a Fortune 500 company and is the world’s largest fraternal benefit organization. Before its merger with Lutheran Brotherhood in 2001

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<sup>VIII</sup> The Wisconsin Cartographer’s Guild: *Wisconsin Past and Present—A Historical Atlas*, pages 30-31.

<sup>IX</sup> *Centennial*, page 15.

<sup>X</sup> *Centennial*, page 10.

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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to become Thrivent, Aid Association for Lutherans was a truly grassroots organization that was started by members of St. Paul. Albert Voecks, along with fellow St. Paul members Gottlieb Ziegler and William Zuehlke, advocated for a Lutheran fraternal insurance organization. This core of St. Paul members canvassed congregations throughout eastern Wisconsin, determining the need for a fraternal benefit society. By 1902, the charter for Aid Association for Lutherans was granted.<sup>XI</sup> As the organization was based upon having consultants assigned to the various congregations, St. Paul became Branch #1. Although the corporate headquarters have moved to Minneapolis, the organization maintains a strong presence with its corporate offices in Appleton - a tribute to its origins at St. Paul.

**Conclusion**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion "C" as a fine example Late Gothic Revival architecture from the turn of the century. The building's size is representative of the growth of the Germans in Appleton and the need for a facility to serve over 800 persons in one worship service. In addition, the church was designed by the regionally prominent firm at the time of Leenhouts & Guthrie from Milwaukee, in a typical Late Gothic Revival style for the early 1900s. The building is an excellent example of quality, whose size makes it one of the most prominent landmarks in Appleton. Moreover, its retention of original character, seen on both the interior and exterior, is a true testament to the commitment of the members at St. Paul to preserve and protect this landmark facility.

**Criterion Consideration A:**

Ordinarily buildings that serve or have served a religious purpose are not eligible for the National Register. However, this property meets the consideration because it derives its primary significance from architecture.

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<sup>XI</sup> Thrivent Financial for Lutherans: *About Us—History*. [www.thrivent.com/aboutus/history](http://www.thrivent.com/aboutus/history).



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Continuation Sheet

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is in the city of Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. The boundary includes the southern 60 feet and western 120 feet of the Second Ward Plat, of Lots 1 and 2, in Block 43. The street address of the church is 302 North Morrison Street.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated property consists of the entire lot that has been historically associated with the property and excludes those portions of the church complex that are not included in this nomination.

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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Photo 1 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking northeast

Photo 2 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking southeast

Photo 3 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking east at center entrance and stained glass window

Photo 4 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking east at entrance detail

Photo 5 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking east at tower

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Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 2

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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Photo 6 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking north at elevation

Photo 7 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Exterior view looking northwest at elevation

Photo 8 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin State Historical Society  
Exterior view looking southwest at elevation

Photo 9 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of nave looking east

Photo 10 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of nave looking west

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Section Photos Page 3

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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Photo 11 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of nave looking at north wall

Photo 12 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of nave looking at south wall

Photo 13 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of pulpit

Photo 14 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of relocated stained glass window in elevator addition

Photo 15 of 16

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of altar and reredos

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Section Photos Page 4

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, WI

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Photo 16 of 16  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Outagamie County, Wisconsin  
Photo by T. Dvorak, June 2007  
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society  
Interior view of Luther Seal window over front entrance

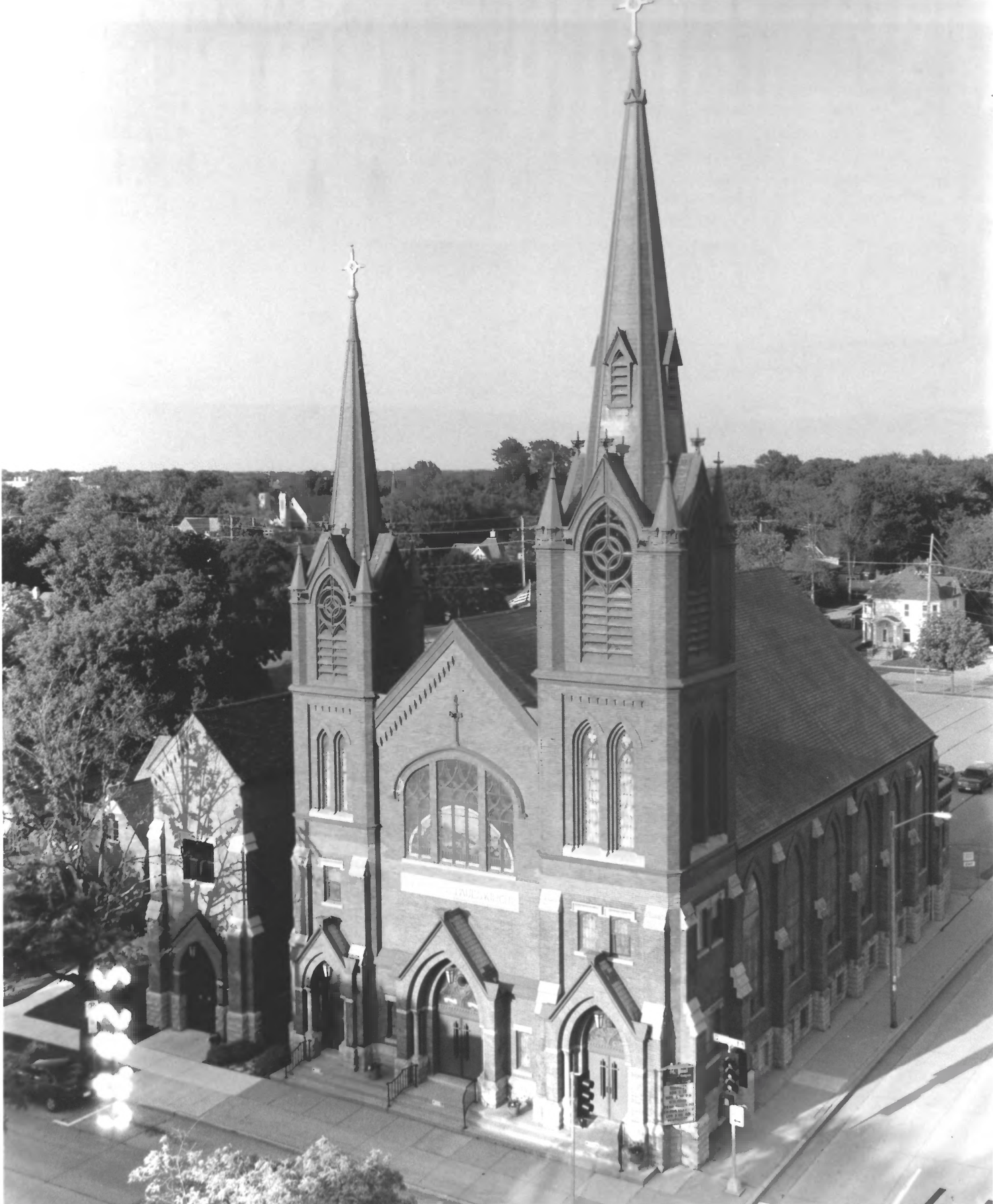


PHOTO 1 OF 10

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

VIEW LOOKING NORTH-EAST





PHOTO 2 OF 16  
ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007  
NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

EV. LUTH. ST. PAUL'S KIRCHE

5 28 07



PHOTO 3 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW LOOKING EAST

CHURCHE

50925

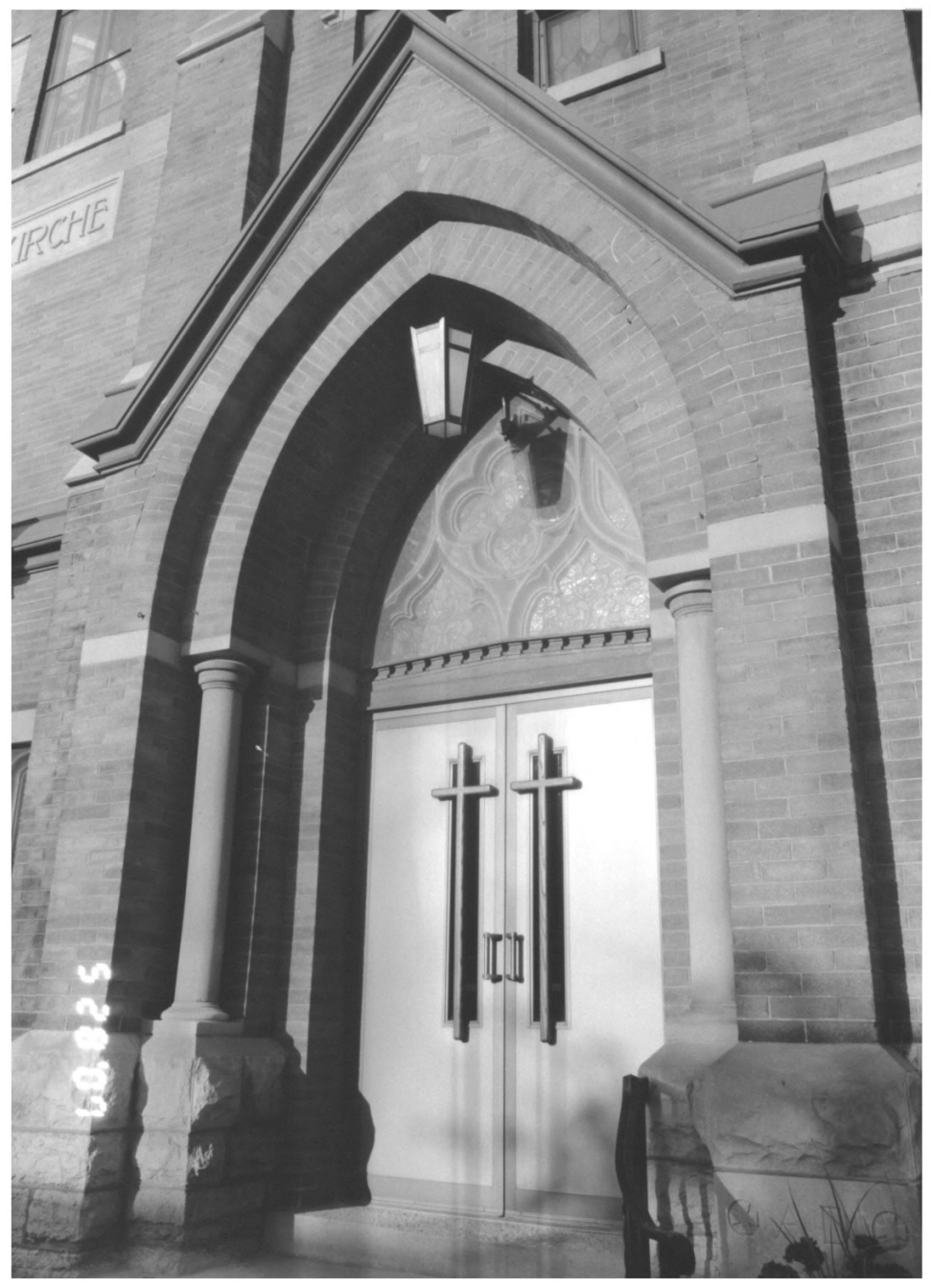


PHOTO 4 OF 16  
ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007  
NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
VIEW LOOKING EAST



PHOTO 5 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW LOOKING EAST





PHOTO 6 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DUORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VIEW LOOKING NORTH



PHOTO 7 OF 16  
ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007  
NEG AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST



PHOTO 8 OF 16  
ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
PHOTO BY T. DUBRAK, JUNE 2007.  
NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST



PHOTO 9 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAVE LOOKING EAST.





This is the day  
that the Lord  
has made

let us rejoice  
and be glad  
in it

52837

PHOTO 10 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAVE LOOKING WEST.



PHOTO 11 OF 16  
ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI  
PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007  
NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NAVE NORTH WALL

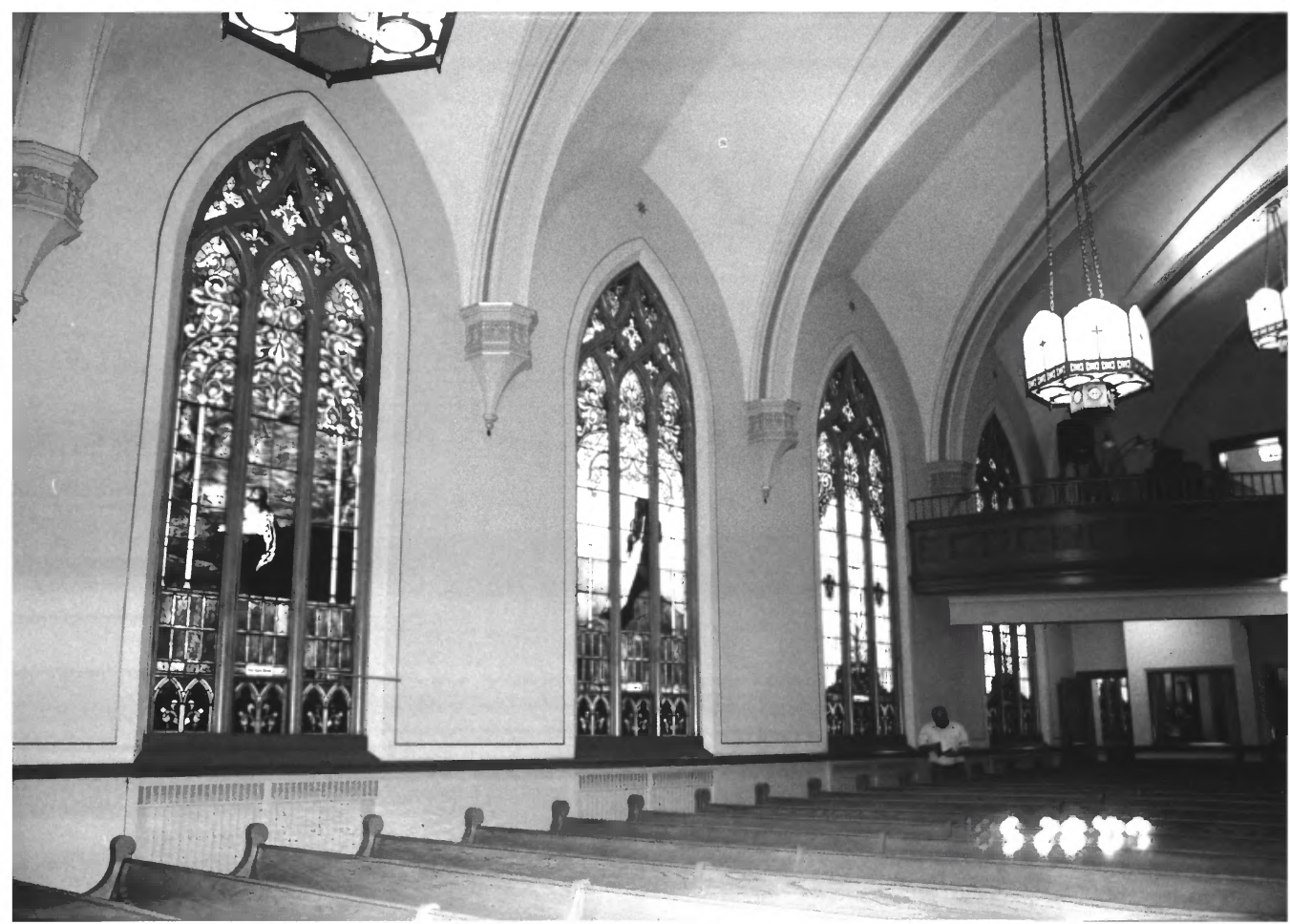


PHOTO 12 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OOUTASAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DUORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAVE SOUTH WALL



PHOTO 13 OF 10

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DUORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PULPIT





PHOTO 14 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH:

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RELOCATED WINDOW IN ELEVATOR ADDITION



PHOTO 15 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG. AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ALTAR AND REREDOS



10.825

PHOTO 16 OF 16

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLETON, OTOGAMIE COUNTY, WI

PHOTO BY T. DVORAK, JUNE 2007

NEG AT WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LUTHER SEAL WINDOW OVER ENTRANCE