

HISTORIC DESIGNATION STUDY REPORT

SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

(Written Spring, 1998)

I. NAME

Historic: Second Church of Christ, Scientist

Common: St. Luke Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church

II. LOCATION

2722 W. Highland Boulevard

Tax Key Number: 388-1820-000-2

Legal Description: Subdivision of lots 10 to 19 Inc. in Dousman's Subdivision NE ¼ section 25-7-21, Block 1 W150 26' of S225' Lot 2.

Fourth Aldermanic District – Alderman Paul Henningsen

III. CLASSIFICATION

Structure

IV. OWNER

St. Luke Emmanuel Missionary Baptist church
2722 W. Highland Boulevard
Milwaukee, WI 53708

V. YEAR BUILT

1913

Architect: Carl Barkhausen

VI. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist lies at what was once the entrance to an exclusive residential neighborhood that bordered a broad thoroughfare known as Highland Boulevard. The Boulevard plan was an intentional effort by the Milwaukee Common Council to create public thruways that would prohibit undesirable traffic and create links to parks and other parkways. Originally the Boulevard began at North 27th Street and ended at North 35th Street. However, in the 1960's the part of Highland east of North 27th Street to North 12th Street was significantly widened and a similar landscaped esplanade was constructed down the middle of the roadway.

The original section of Highland boulevard was an exclusive neighborhood of wealthy single-family homes that belonged to prosperous German-Americans, giving rise to the nickname Sauerkraut Boulevard. Today, almost all the extant mansions have been converted to other uses including rooming houses, office buildings, institutions, and fraternity houses. While there is still a residential feel to the Boulevard, there have been many unsympathetic changes, particularly near the Second Church of Christ, Scientist. In the 1960's a number of the largest mansions between North 27th and North 29th Streets were demolished to make way for modern apartment buildings. Therefore, most of this building's neighbors detract from its impressive neoclassical presence.

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist is located on the northwest corner of North 27th and West Highland Boulevard. The structure is set back from Highland and is fronted by a wide two-level concrete stairway. This stairway has ornamental railings and light fixtures. The iron hand rails are of a Victorian Gothic style and the Corinthian column light fixtures are topped with a globe lamp. The building itself can be classified as Neoclassical and it is modeled after one of Rome's most well known landmarks, the Pantheon. Like its ancient predecessor, it features a monumental portico on its primary elevation and a dome topped with a copper lantern.

The three double-leafed paneled entry doors are centered on the façade and flanked on either side by large window openings with elaborate surrounds. Five large windows are situated above on the second story.

Unlike the Pantheon, however, this building is not circular in shape. Behind the portico is a rectangular two-story vestibule with short one-story wings, which is joined to the tall auditorium block that is crowned with a dome. Shallow pedimented wings extend from the auditorium block on the east and west elevations and feature three arched stain glass windows. At the rear are various one and two story wings that house service areas and face an alley. Windows of various sizes are located at the basement level and along the side and rear elevations to conform to the interior functions of the building.

In addition to the staircase railings and globe lamps, ornament is limited to the six fluted, limestone Corinthian columns, the glazed terra cotta tiles in the tympanum of the pediment, the terra cotta embellished cornices and the enriched jabs of the entrances. The bright terra cotta cornices with their sky blue and yellow-gold colors complement the tan-faced brick used throughout the building.

The interior of the building consists of a large vestibule that opens to the main auditorium of the church. The square auditorium space has chambered corners that support a cylindrical drum on which rests a low dome with leaded glass. True to the tenets of Christian Science, the interior was designed to be relatively plain with unadorned walls. Emphasis was given to the north wall, which featured a coffered apse flanked by two shallow alcoves and framed by paired Ionic columns supporting a rich entablature. Pews were arranged in concentric arcs facing the pulpit at the north wall.

Alterations to the building have been minimal. A 60-foot high brick chimney, located at the rear, was built in 1955 to accommodate the installation of a steam boiler. The letters that spelled out Second Church of Christ Scientist on the entablature of the portico have been covered over or chiseled off the building and replaced with the name of the current congregation, St. Luke Emmanuel Church.

VII. SIGNIFICANCE

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist is significant as one of the few examples of Neoclassical domed church architecture in Milwaukee. Extant Neoclassical buildings in Milwaukee are essentially the product of early 20th century design and rely heavily on Roman prototypes. Examples of this are the Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Building (Marshall and Fox 1914), Gimbel's east façade remodeling (Herman J. Esser 1925), and the Milwaukee County Court House (Albert R. Ross 1929-31), which feature monumental colonnades on raised basement stories and are essentially cubic or geometric in form. Neoclassical church structures are even fewer in number. Other than Second Church, other examples include First Church of Christ, Scientist (S.S. Beman 1907-1909), Third Church of Christ Scientist (Frank Howend 1922-24), and Immanuel Baptist (Leiser & Holst 1919). More common at this time was the continued use of simplified Gothic forms and Georgian Revival style for ecclesiastical buildings.

Ultimately descended from the second century A.D. Roman Pantheon as interpreted by Andrea Palladio (Villa Capri, Vercenza c. 1550), Second Church owes much to such well-known American buildings as McKim, Mead and White's Madison Square Presbyterian Church in New York City (1906). Second Church's interpretation of classical forms sets it apart from the more abstracted and cubic First Church and Third Church.

Second Church is also significant as an important work by local architect Carl Barkhausen, whose earlier projects gave Milwaukee its distinctive Germanic character.

In recognition of its architectural significance, Second Church of Christ, Scientist was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 16, 1986.

VIII. HISTORY

Milwaukee's contributions to establishing the Christian Science Church as a national denomination are recorded in the archives of the Mother Church in Boston. The records state that Milwaukee was the first city after the original organizations were founded in Lynn and Boston, Massachusetts to establish a Christian Scientist Association. The origins of the Christian Scientist movement can be traced to 1866 when its founder, Mary Baker Eddy, experienced a miraculous physical healing.

Mrs. Eddy had a long history of physical problems dating to her childhood. To obtain some relief she initially studied the philosophy of Phineas Quimby who promoted the healing powers of the mind by techniques that involved a form of hypnosis and mental suggestion. While Mrs. Eddy experienced some benefit from his teachings, the efforts wore off with time and all of her complaints returned.

Shortly after Quimby's death in January of 1866, Mary Baker Eddy fell on ice, sustaining a severe injury considered by her attending doctor to be fatal. Her miraculous recovery was credited to her reading of and pondering a healing performed by Jesus. She saw behind his healing the operation of Divine Law and realized that if God worked by law, the healing work of Jesus could be duplicated on the basis of understanding and practicing the rules of His Law.

The incident was actually Mrs. Eddy's point of departure from Quimbyism rather than a confirmation of it. For a time Mrs. Eddy still employed some of the techniques used by Quimby, but slowly she dropped them. She had a growing conviction that the answer to healing physical disease must be a purely spiritual and Christian one. She spent three years

investigating healings in the Bible and especially those of Jesus Christ. The result of her research and writing was her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, published in 1875.

Mrs. Eddy had been raised a staunch Christian and remained one to the end of her days. She felt, however, that Christianity had lost an important element when Christian disciples stopped healing around 300 A.D. Her conclusion about Jesus' healing work was that it was not an example of the control of one powerful human mind over another or over itself, but an example of the supreme power of God, Spirit, whom she referred to as the divine Mind - - the creative, governing intelligence of the universe - - over both the human body and the mind.

She learned that it was a correct understanding of the nature of God that produced healings in Biblical times and that with the same understanding this healing work could be repeated throughout time. What Christ Jesus, the Son of God, so naturally understood of his Father, Mrs. Eddy discovered as a disciple of Christ, and it became her life work to establish the scientific or practical, provable nature of Christianity in modern times.

As part of her discovery, she learned that the use of mental manipulation, human will or mental suggestion, which was the essence of Quimby's practice, was the opposite of Christian Science. She wrote an entire chapter in her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, on the dangers of relying on the human mind to manipulate and control matter.

News of Mrs. Eddy's healing powers spread quickly resulting in a following eager to learn from her. In response to this, Mrs. Eddy established, in her home, the first school of instruction for metaphysical healers in 1870. In 1879, the school was chartered by the State of Massachusetts as the first such institution of its kind anywhere.

She also established the first Christian Scientist Association in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1876. Although the original concept of her doctrine did not include an organized church, she was prompted by her growing number of followers and practitioners to establish a Mother Church in Boston in 1879.

In 1883, Dr. Silas J. Sawyer, a Milwaukee dentist, and his wife, Jenny, were trained under Mrs. Eddy as metaphysical healers and instructors of the religion. The Sawyers returned to Milwaukee in 1884 and started the Wisconsin Metaphysical Institute under a charter granted by the State. Sessions were held in Dr. Sawyer's office on East Wisconsin Avenue. In October of 1884 the Sawyers established the Christian Scientists Association of Wisconsin. It was the only association of its kind in the United States other than the original ones in Lynn and Boston. The Association, which met in a rented hall, was reorganized as the Church of Christ, Scientist in 1889. Subsequently, the name was changed to Students Christian Scientists Association, No. 11. In 1901-1902 a church edifice was constructed as the first permanent home of the congregation at 1036 North Van Buren Street. That building now houses the Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist.

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist building under consideration here was not the first Christian Science group to be called the Second Church. Several earlier congregations had taken that name, only to be disbanded or merge with other Christian Science congregations. In December 1887, Mrs. JG Clark and Miss Emelyn M. Toby, who were students of Mrs. Eddy, formed the Christian Science Public Service Society. In January 1892, this society became a corporate body under the name of Milwaukee Church of Christ, Scientist. Their name was later changed to Second Church of Christ, Scientist in October 1899.

In April 1904, the Second and First Churches came together as the First Church of Christ, Scientist and were joined in worship at the North Van Buren edifice. In 1906, another Second Church of Christ, Scientist was organized and held services at 470 Farwell Avenue (today's 2324 N. Farwell, the former Century Hall). This church was a fledgling community and in 1910 relinquished its title as a branch to the Mother Church. Soon after, however, the group was revived by an influx of members who were leaving the First Church. The Christian Science Board of Directors in Boston renamed this group the Fourth Church. This renewed congregation met at various rented halls until late 1918 when it acquired a parcel of land at the southeast corner of North Stowell Avenue and East Kenwood Boulevard. The group renamed itself Third Church only to dissolve its organization and surrender its charter on January 21, 1919.

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist congregation whose name is associated with the building under consideration, began as an overflow congregation from the First Church congregation on Van Buren Street. The First Church became too large for the edifice on Van Buren and began holding Sunday Services in the Pabst Theater and its Wednesday evening testimonials at the Old Plymouth church. To meet the need of this large congregation, the First Church began construction of a new church on the corner of Prospect Avenue and Curtis Place on May 27, 1907. After a majority of the building was completed, it was destroyed by fire in February 1908. The following year the building was finally finished and was dedicated on March 4, 1909.

While their building was under construction, the First Church congregation experienced rapid growth and when their new church was completed in 1909 it was already too small to hold all its members. Therefore, in May 1909, church committee members secured the use of Plankinton Hall in the Auditorium Building as an overflow site.

Meeting in Plankinton Hall, this group organized itself as the Third Church of Christ, Scientist. On September 24, 1913 this group renamed themselves the Second Church and purchased the site where the Second Church of Christ, Scientist building now stands. Securing funds from other Christian Science Churches, the Second Church congregation was able to construct the church at 2722 West Highland Boulevard for \$135,000. The first service was held on Sunday, June 7, 1914.

While the seating capacity of the new church was 1,450, by early 1917, the building was already too small to accommodate the growing Second Church congregation. As a result, three congregations broke away from the Second Church on Highland Boulevard. The first group, which came to be known as the Third Church, severed its relationship on March 15, 1920 and erected a church on the corner of Locust Street and Sherman Boulevard. The second group withdrew in 1922 to form the Christian Science Society of Wauwatosa. Finally, as the Second Church on Highland continued to grow, a third group broke off in June 1926 to form the Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist located on South 30th Street.

While once a denomination that had 4,035 members in Wisconsin in the mid-1920's according to the US Census Bureau, this thousands on non-members attending readings and lectures, Christian Science declined after World War II. Congregations by the 1980's often found themselves financially strapped by such large, substantial and costly to maintain structures as the one occupied by Second Church. Some congregations as First Church on Prospect Avenue continue to meet in smaller quarters after having sold off their large building which today is a banquet facility known as Renaissance Place. Some like Second Church voted to sell their building and continue meeting at a Grand Avenue Congregation Church. Current information seems to indicate that members of Second Church have dispersed to other

congregations. Newspaper accounts indicate that Second Church was sold to St. Luke's Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in February of 1985.

St. Luke's Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church dates back to around 1966 when the congregation met on 12th Street. From 1971 to 1984 St. Luke's worshipped at quarters at 2614 West Center Street. Since 1985 the congregation has occupied the former Second Church building.

The Architect

Carl C. Barkhausen was born in Thiensville, Wisconsin on November 6, 1860. He was the son of August and Mary Barkhausen who immigrated to America from Cassel, Germany in 1848. The Barkhausens had seven children and were considered a successful farm family in the community. Carl received his early education at a district school in Thiensville and in 1872 moved to Milwaukee to attend the prestigious German-English Academy. At the age of 16, Carl left Milwaukee and went to Germany to study architecture at a technical school and when he was 21 went to Berlin to finish his architectural degree.

Barkhausen returned to Milwaukee in 1883 and secured a position in the office of Edward Townsend Mix where he met his future business partner Charles D. Crane. After working with Mix for five years, Barkhausen formed a partnership with Crane in 1888 and located their offices at 219-221 East Wisconsin Avenue. The two men became quite popular among the wealthy German-Americans of Milwaukee. Barkhausen's German Architectural training served him well in this community and soon their firm came to specialize in designing unique one of a kind mansions in a German-Renaissance style, which was popular with prosperous German-Americans in Milwaukee. Among the most notable Crane and Barkhausen residential works are:

(1891) The Fred Kraus House (razed)	1617 N. Prospect Avenue
(1892) The Ferdinand Schlesinger House	1444 N. Prospect Avenue
(1895) The Herman Luedke House (razed)	965 N. 11 th Street
(1899) The John F. Kern House	2569 N. Wahl Avenue
(1897) The Joseph Breslauer Doublehouse	1425 W. Kilbourn Avenue
(1897) The George J. Schuster House	3209 W. Wells Street
(1899) The Abram Esbenshade House	3119 W. Wells Street

Barkhausen and Crane's experiences with the Mix firm, which handled most of the technically complicated projects in Milwaukee in the 1870's and 1880's, enabled them to secure many commercial projects. These included numerous industrial buildings in the city's Third Ward and Milwaukee's earliest luxury apartment building, the Martin Hotel on East Wisconsin Avenue. Crane and Barkhausen dissolved their partnership in 1900 and three years later Barkhausen left Milwaukee to work for the George A. Fullerton Construction Company in New York City, known for its work on large skyscrapers.

Barkhausen returned to Milwaukee in 1912 and remained here for the remainder of his career. After a brief resumption of his partnership with Crane, Barkhausen set up an office for himself at 329 East Wisconsin Avenue. During these years, Barkhausen primarily designed in the period revival style. In 1913, Barkhausen received the commission to build the Second Church of Christ, Scientist church more than likely as a result of his period revival work and the fact that he was himself a Christian Scientist. The only other church that he was known to have designed was the Annunciation Greek Orthodox church at 1300 North Broadway (razed-1914) a Byzantine style structure.

Carl Barkhausen was an active member of community life in Milwaukee. He belonged to several Masonic circles: Wisconsin Lodge No. 13; F&A.M.; RAM Milwaukee Chapter; Henry Palmer Commandery No. 14 K.T.; Wisconsin Consistory, and Tripoli Temple. Barkhausen died at his home at 215 West Wright Street on December 12, 1934. He was 74 years old and survived by his wife Minnie Hinkel Barkhausen, his daughter, Margaret, and his son, Paul. Barkhausen's remains were cremated and interred at Valhalla Cemetery.

IX. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Second Church of Christ, Scientist building at 2722 West Highland Avenue, be studied for possible designation as a City of Milwaukee Historic Structure as a result of its possible fulfillment of criteria

- e-1. Its exemplification of the development of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.
- e-5. Its embodiment of the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
- e-6. Its identification as the work of an artist, architect, interior designer, craftsman or master builder whose individual works have influenced the development of the City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin or of the United States.

of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Section 30-81(2)(e), of the Milwaukee Code or Ordinances.

XI. PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

The following preservation guidelines represent the principal concerns of the Historic Preservation Commission regarding this historic designation. However, the Commission reserves the right to make final decisions based upon particular design submissions. Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to prevent ordinary maintenance or the restoration and/or replacement of documented original elements.

A. Roofs

Retain the roof shape and cladding including the copper cladding of the lantern on top of the dome. Skylights may be added to roof surfaces if they are not visible from the street. Avoid making changes to the roof shape that would alter the building height, roofline or pitch. If replacement of the roofing is necessary, duplicate the appearance of the original roofing as closely as possible.

B. Materials

1. Masonry

- a. Unpainted brick, terra cotta or stone should not be painted or covered. This is historically incorrect and could cause irreversible damage if it was decided to remove the paint at a later date.

- b. Repoint defective mortar by duplicating the original in color, style, texture and strength. Avoid using mortar colors and pointing styles that were unavailable or were not used when the building was constructed.
- c. Clean masonry only when necessary to halt deterioration and with the gentlest method possible. Sandblasting limestone, terra cotta or brick surfaces is prohibited. This method of cleaning erodes the surface of the material and accelerates deterioration. Avoid the indiscriminate use of chemical products that could have an adverse reaction with the masonry materials, such as the use of acid on limestone.
- d. Repair or replace deteriorated material with new material that duplicates the old as closely as possible. Avoid using new material that is inappropriate or was unavailable when the building was constructed.

2. Wood/Metal

- a. Retain original material, whenever possible. Avoid removing architectural features that are essential to maintaining the building's character and appearance.
- b. Retain or replace deteriorated material, whenever possible. Avoid removing architectural features that are essential to maintaining the building's character and appearance.

C. Windows and Doors

- 1. Retain existing window and door openings. Retain the existing configuration of panes, sash, surrounds and sills, except as necessary to restore to the original condition. Avoid making additional openings or changes in existing fenestration by enlarging or reducing window or door openings to fit new stock window sash or new stock door sizes. Avoid replacing the original doors that were designed to complement the style of the building. Avoid changing the size or configuration of window panes or sash. Use storm windows or protective glazing that have glazing configurations similar to the prime windows and that obscure the prime windows as little as possible.
- 2. Respect the building's stylistic period. If the replacement of doors or window sash is necessary, the replacement should duplicate the appearance and design of the original window sash or door. Avoid using inappropriate sash and door replacements. Avoid the filling-in or covering of original openings with inappropriate materials such as glass block. Avoid using modern style window units, such as horizontal sliding sash or casements, in place of double-hung sash or the substitution of units with glazing configurations not appropriate to the style of the building. Vinyl or metal clad prime window units are not permitted. Glass block basement windows are not permitted, except on the rear elevation, where they may be allowed in locations where they will not be readily visible from the street.
- 3. Exterior mounted steel bar security doors and window guards are generally not allowed. If permitted, the doors or grates shall be of the simplest design and installed so as to be as unobtrusive as possible.

D. Trim and Ornamentation

There should be no changes to the existing trim or ornamentation except as necessary to restore the building to its original condition. Replacement features shall match the original member in scale, design, color and appearance.

E. Additions

No additions will be permitted on the south, west or east elevations. Any other addition requires the approval of the Commission. Approval shall be based upon the addition's design compatibility with the building in terms of height, roof configuration, fenestration, scale, design, color, and materials, and the degree to which it visually intrudes upon the principal elevations or is visible from the public right-of-way.

F. Signs/Exterior Lighting

The installation of any permanent exterior sign or light fixture shall require the approval of the Commission. Approval will be based on the compatibility of the proposed sign or light fixture with the historic and architectural character of the building.

G. Site Features

New plant materials, paving, fencing, or accessory structures shall be compatible with the historic architectural character of the building, if visible from the public right-of-way.