

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Lutheran Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

— VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                                   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY             |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE    |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:               |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

First Lutheran Church Congregation (Trustees)

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Indianapolis-Marion County

DATE

1977

— FEDERAL — STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Indianapolis Preservation Commission



# 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 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 1875, 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter P. Cookingham

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

. First Lutheran Church of Indianapolis is significant primarily for architectural reasons. The two sections of the building represent Gothic and Romanesque Revival styles of architecture. The pointed-arched windows, gable ends, and corner buttresses indicate the Gothic Revival influence in the chapel. The round-arched windows, recessed panels, arched transoms, and corbel table reveal the Romanesque design used in the main sanctuary. The First Lutheran Church is especially notable in that it combines in one building the two architectural styles which late nineteenth century Americans most often associated with religious structures.

Peter P. Cookingham was the architect for the 1875 chapel, and he may have also drawn up plans at that time for the future sanctuary. Little is known about Cookingham other than the fact that he was practicing in Indianapolis in 1875; he was evidently not in the city in 1885-86 when the sanctuary was constructed.

The First Lutheran Church is also notable locally as the oldest Lutheran congregation in the area. Organized in 1837 as the Mount Pisgah Lutheran Church, the congregation has led to the organization of five area churches over the years (Zion United Church of Christ, 1841; Pleasant View Lutheran, 1844; Gethsemane Lutheran, 1921; Bethlehem Lutheran, 1923; and First Latvian Lutheran, 1947). In 1920 the convention to organize the Indiana Synod was held at First Lutheran; and the first Indiana-Kentucky Synod Office was located in the church.

The Church has been continually involved in the life of the surrounding neighborhood, meeting social and spiritual needs of the residents. The Indianapolis Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) was organized in the building in 1970.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod edited by Henry G. Waltman, published 1971.  
 Greater Indianapolis compiled by Jacob P. Dunn, Secretary, Indiana Historical Society, published 1910.  
 Railroad City edited by W. R. Holloway, published 1870  
 Memoirs of Indianapolis and Marion County, published 1893  
 Archives of First Lutheran Church, 1837-1891

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Indianapolis west

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 572320 4403130

B               

    ZONE EASTING NORTHING

    ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Kate Roper and Mrs. Elsa Dierks

ORGANIZATION

First Lutheran Church

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

701 North Pennsylvania Street

TELEPHONE

634-9502

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Indianapolis Star, December 3, 1922, May 16, 1937, November 2, 1975, May 15, 1977.



*Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church (First Lutheran)  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
U.T.M. Reference  
16/572320/4403130*

4.2 MI. TO IND. 100 GREENFIELD 19 MI.  
4402000m.N.  
5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 465 SHELBYVILLE 26 MI.

10' MARTINSVILLE 29 MI. 572 573 3.8 MI. TO INTERSTATE 465 FRANKLIN 20 MI. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.—1970 R. 3 E. R. 4 E. 574000m.E. 39°45' 86°07'30"

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
 Primary highway, all weather, hard surface Light-duty road, all weather improved surface   
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.**  
N3945—W8607.5/7.5