

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Second Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

Second Presbyterian Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

4501 Westminster Place

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

VICINITY OF

#1 - Hon. William L. Clay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Missouri 63108

CODE  
29

COUNTY

St. Louis City

CODE  
510

**3 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
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Church U.S.A. in St. Louis, Missouri Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

4501 Westminster Place

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Missouri 63108

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

12th and Market streets

CITY, TOWN

St. Louis

STATE  
Missouri 63103

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture

DATE

1928

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

published: St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

- 
2. Significant Historic Buildings and Sites in the City of St. Louis  
1964, revised 1967 local  
American Institute of Architects, St. Louis Chapter,  
Committee for Preservation of Historic Buildings
  
  3. The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries  
1967 local  
published: St. Louis: American Institute of Architects,  
St. Louis Chapter
  
  4. Heritage/St. Louis Survey  
1969 local  
Heritage/St. Louis  
722 Chestnut Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
  
  5. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1975 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Missouri, is a late nineteenth century, Richardsonian Romanesque building designed by the architectural firms of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge and LaBeaume and Klein of St. Louis and local architect Theodore C. Link. Basically rectangular in plan, the church is composed of four major sections: the chapel, the sanctuary, the educational building, and the annexes.

### Chapel

Built in 1896, the white limestone (laid in alternating narrow and wide courses of rusticated blocks) chapel is L-shaped with two stories plus basement and attic. The main axis of this section runs parallel to Westminster Place; the primary (south-southwest) facade is divided into four bays.

Windows: The basement windows, positioned two per bay, are rectangular in shape and are filled by multi-light, double-hung sash.

Each of the five first-story window openings is filled by a set of three, multi-light, casement sash. Each sash is topped by a rectangular, multi-light transom. Bands of smooth-cut stone ornamented by modified quoin and dentil motifs frame each primary facade opening at the side and top edges respectively; a smooth-cut stone lintel trims the rear, fifth window.

Upper-story windows are positioned one per gable-roofed dormer on the primary (south-southwest) facade. A pair of rectangular, multi-light, single-sash windows, each topped by a semi-circular transom, and bar tracery fill each round-arched opening. A single colonnette separates the two sash. Each window opening is framed by an arch of smooth-cut stone vousoirs supported by pilasters; most are barred. A fifth window consisting of a pair of rectangular-shaped, multi-light sash is approximately centered on the rear (north-northeast) facade of the ell.

A single attic window in the east-southeast gable end is composed of a series of three, rectangular openings and is topped by a smooth-cut stone lintel.

The chapel windows are the work of the St. Louis glassmaker, Emil Frei.<sup>1</sup>

Doorways: The entrance to the chapel section is centered in the east-southeasternmost bay of the primary facade. Recessed into the building under a porch, the doorway is filled by double-leaf, wood and glass doors. The front of the porch is dominated by an archway opening composed of a series of receding arches supported by pilasters. The arches and pilaster capitals are ornamented by incised geometric and foliated motifs. The side wall of the porch is pierced by a series of round-arched openings supported by colonnettes.

Roofs: A red tile, steeply pitched gable roof is over the front (south-southwest) portion of the chapel; a hip roof, also of red tile, covers the rear ell.

Chimneys: Two, single-stack, stone chimneys service the chapel: one is centered along what was prior to 1930 the exterior west-northwest facade and the other is attached to

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

the east-northeast corner of the rear ell. A brick extension has been added to the latter chimney.

Decorative details: Stringcourses between the basement and first story and the first and second stories form continuous sills for the windows. Carved stone gutters along the roof line of the primary facade continue the use of geometric-motif detailing; metal guttering is used on the rear (north-northeast) facade of the ell. Fleur-de-lis and Celtic-cross finials top the apex and flanking circular columns of the dormers and the apex of the east-southeast gable facade respectively.

Interior: This portion of Second Presbyterian Church not only houses the chapel proper, but also the church offices, kitchen facilities, and choir room.

Sanctuary

Begun in 1899 and completed in 1900, the cruciform sanctuary, like the adjoining chapel, is of white limestone. The main axis of this section runs parallel to Taylor Avenue; the primary (south-southwest) facade is parallel to Westminster Place. A central tower (lantern) surmounts the sanctuary at the intersection of the wings. Other features include flanking primary-facade towers and a porte cochere.

Windows: south-southwest wing: Three, round-arched windows line the east-southeast and west-northwest facades. Each is filled by an almost-square sash topped by a semi-circular transom. Trim consists of bands of smooth-cut stone vousoirs and quoin motifs framing the top and sides of each opening respectively. Paired clerestory windows, three to each side facade, are round-arched, each pair consisting of two, single-light sash separated by a colonnette. Stone vousoirs and quoin-motif bands frame each opening on the top and side edges. A single rose window dominates the south-southwest gable facade. Various carved stone moldings enclose the circular opening.

west-northwest and east-southeast wings: Each wing has five, round-arched windows: three to the gable end and one per each remaining side facade. These openings are filled by almost-square sash topped by semi-circular transoms. Bands of smooth-cut stone vousoirs and quoin motifs frame each window. A rose window accents the gable end; carved stone moldings frame the window. Additionally, the east-southeast wing has two, rectangular-shaped, barred basement windows.

north-northeast wing: All windows are on the rear (north-northeast) facade. An oriel window with rose window above and two, rectangular-shaped windows to each side dominates the center section of the facade. Five, rectangular, multi-light basement windows are randomly positioned across the facade at ground level. A thirteenth window, positioned above the west-northwesternmost windows, is also rectangular in shape and has a three-light sash.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Lantern: The lantern has four dormer windows. Each round-arched opening is filled by a pair of round-arched, multi-light sash separated by a colonnette. Each sash is capped by stone vousoirs and a hood molding; the outer window openings are framed by an arch of smooth-cut stone vousoirs supported by pilasters.

All stained-glass windows are the work of Tiffany Studios of New York City or of Emil Frei of St. Louis; the majority are by Tiffany.<sup>2</sup>

Doorways: The main entrance is centered on the south-southwest facade of the south-southwest wing. Twin doorways are recessed within the round-arched entrance opening, each being filled by double-leaf, metal and plate glass doors topped by a three-light, semi-circular transom. Each doorway is trimmed by a series of arches supported by pilasters; carving in the form of geometric and foliated motifs decorates the arches and pilaster capitals. The main, outer archway is also composed of a series of receding arches supported by pilasters; the arches and pilaster capitals are ornamented in a manner similar to the individual doorway frames. A tympanum with incised foliated and Celtic-cross motifs completes the entrance.

Secondary entrances provide access to the narthex from the porte cochere and entry to the chancel area from the exterior. Both are on the east-southeast facade, south-southwest and north-northeast wings respectively.

Roofs: Steeply pitched gable roofs nearly intersecting at the base of the lantern cover each wing of the sanctuary. The lantern and primary-facade towers have eight and four-sided pyramidal roofs respectively.

Other roofs include: a shed roof over the chancel entrance porch, conical roofs capping the lantern's circular towers, and a five-sided half-dome roof over the west-northwest primary-facade tower extension.

All roof coverings are of red tile.

Chimneys: A single-stack, stone chimney serves the sanctuary portion of the church. On the east-southeast slope of the north-northeast wing, the chimney is flush with the north-northeast gable facade.

Lantern: An eight-sided lantern, supported by a four-sided base, caps the sanctuary section. Gabled dormers pierced by round-arched window openings alternate with colonnetted circular towers around the lantern. A slender column topped by a finial carved in a leaf motif occurs between each dormer and its neighboring towers.

Towers: A square-plan tower flanks each side of the primary (south-southwest) facade. The shorter, west-northwest tower is pierced by three narrow windows, two which are

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

round-arched and trimmed by stone bands of quoins and vousoirs with a hood molding and one which is rectangular and trimmed by a stone dentil-motif band across the top. Attached to the west-northwest side of the tower is a five-sided bay extension, also pierced by rectangular and round-arched openings with similar detailing. A cornice with decorated frieze caps the bay walls. The east-southeast tower also has round-arched and rectangular openings; they are treated in a manner similar to the other tower. Additionally, each side of the upper portion of the tower is pierced by a series of round-arched openings supported by colonnettes. A dentil-trimmed sill finishes the lower edge of each opening. Both towers are capped by a modified cornice with decorated frieze and gargoyles.

Porte Cochere: The almost-square-plan porte cochere is attached to the east-southeast facade of the south-southwest wing. Each end (south-southwest and north-northeast) facade has a round-arched opening trimmed by an arch of smooth-cut stone vousoirs supported by pilasters with carved capitals through which the cars pass. The east-southeast facade is pierced by a series of round-arched openings supported by columned piers and trimmed by a band of smooth-cut stone vousoirs; a rose window is centered above. A modified cornice with carved returns trims the roof line on the end facades only.

Terrace: A walled terrace extends across the primary (south-southwest) facade of the sanctuary from the porte cochere on the east-southeast to just past the chapel entrance on the west-northwest. Three flights of steps provide access to the terrace: one on the east-southeast from Taylor Avenue and two on the west-northwest from Westminster Place; wrought-iron railings and/or handrails flank each flight.

Decorative details: Decorative features not previously described include fleur-de-lis and Celtic-cross gable finials, modified cornices with decorated friezes along the roof line of each wing and around the upper edge of the lantern base, and a cross atop the lantern roof.

Educational Building

The modified T-plan educational building, added in 1930 to the west-northwest facade of the chapel, is three stories plus basement in height. As with the chapel, the main axis of this section runs parallel to Westminster Place. The primary (south-southwest) facade is divided into four bays, the three, east-southeasternmost bays being projected forward several feet to form the cross-bar of the "T." The use of white limestone is continued, although the blocks of the west-northwest facade are now smooth-cut.

Windows: All basement windows are on the south-southwest facade; they are identical to those of the chapel section.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

There are four first-story windows. Those on the primary facade, positioned one per bay, are similar to those of the chapel, but are now one casement sash narrower in width; identical trim frames each opening. The fourth window is centered on the west-northwest facade and is filled by a pair of multi-light, casement sash. A stone band of dentils trims the upper edge of the opening.

Second-story windows are positioned one per bay: three on the primary facade and one on the west-northwest facade. Those on the south-southwest facade are round-arched, filled by pairs of rectangular, multi-light sash, each topped by a semi-circular transom, and bar tracery; a single colonnette separates the two sash. Smooth-cut stone arches of vousoirs and a hood molding trim each opening. The west-northwest window is identical to the first-story window directly below.

A series of five, rectangular, multi-light sash forms the third-story ribbon window of the primary facade. Its only trim is a stone band of dentils across the upper edge of the opening. A second, third-story window is centered in the gable of the west-northwest facade. Trimmed only by the usual stone dentil band, the opening is filled by a single, rectangular-shaped, multi-light sash.

One miscellaneous window occurs midway between the first and second stories. Centered above the entrance in the west-northwesternmost bay of the primary facade, this window matches those of the first story.

Doorways: Access to the educational building is by an entrance centered in the west-northwesternmost bay of the south-southwest facade at ground level (approximately midway between the basement and first story). The round-arched opening is filled by four-panel, wood, double-leaf doors topped by a semi-circular, multi-light transom and framed by pilasters supporting a series of receding arches. Ornamentation of the pilaster capitals and arches is similar to that of other entrances (chapel and sanctuary).

Roofs: Steeply pitched, red tile gable roofs cover the educational building.

Decorative details: Stringcourses, identical in design and placement to those of the chapel, serve as sills for the first and second-story windows. Celtic-cross finials top each gable apex. Geometrically carved stone gutters run along the primary-facade roof line.

Interior: The educational building houses meeting rooms, classrooms, the nursery, and a gymnasium.

Annexes

Red brick annexes (dates of construction unknown) complete the church. These struc-

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

tures do not continue the architectural style of the main sections of the building or employ their construction materials. The smaller, L-shaped annex, two-story in height, is attached to the rear (north-northeast) and west-northwest wings of the sanctuary. A larger, essentially rectangular-plan annex is four stories in height. It is attached to the rear (north-northeast) facade of the educational building by a third annex, two-story in height.

Interior: The larger annex serves as a neighborhood school facility.

ALTERATIONS

The exterior of Second Presbyterian Church is in near original condition as are the interiors of the chapel and the educational building. The interior of the sanctuary, however, has undergone numerous renovations since its completion in 1900. These renovations include:

1. prior to 1915:
  - a. removal of the three bull's-eye windows behind the semi-circular chancel
  - b. painted highlighting of the plaster detail of the columns, arches, and cornices
  - c. painting of the walls of the central tower (lantern) and below a darker shade than the ceiling areas
2. 1920's:
  - a. replacement of the original semi-circular chancel with half dome of art glass panels over it by a square-plan chancel topped by a barrel vault
  - b. installation of a stained-glass rose window on the rear wall of the chancel
  - c. replacement of the centrally positioned pulpit and communion table by an altar and relocation of the pulpit to one side of the chancel
  - d. removal of the choir benches from the rear balcony (over the narthex) and their placement to either side of the new altar
  - e. relocation of the organ from the rear balcony to the front of the church and the addition of openings in the side walls of the chancel to accommodate the organ
  - f. addition of an oak railing along the top step of the chancel
  - g. rearrangement of the pews from a semi-circular plan to a plan of parallel rows at right angles to the main axis of the room
  - h. replacement of the glass paneling separating the sanctuary proper and the narthex by a plaster wall broken by wooden doors
  - i. painting of the walls a light shade and the decorative plaster-work detail a darker shade for emphasis
  - j. removal of the elaborate designs above the four arches of the central tower (lantern)



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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

3. 1940's:
  - a. removal of the words "To Him Be Glory and Dominion Forever and Ever, Amen" from the chancel arch
4. 1950's:
  - a. removal of the oak chancel railing
  - b. replacement of the choir benches with chairs facing the congregation
  - c. removal of the forward organ openings, although the side openings remained intact
  - d. suspension of a gold cross over the altar at the center of the chancel platform
  - e. painting of all walls, ceilings, and plaster details an identical shade of green
5. 1963:
  - a. mounting of the gold cross on the rear wall of the chancel
  - b. installation of a new organ in the rear balcony (newly extended)
  - c. return of the choir to the rear balcony
6. unknown date:
  - a. removal of the original gas wall brackets from the sanctuary proper and narthex.<sup>3</sup>

CONDITION

Second Presbyterian Church is in excellent condition, having received regular maintenance over the years.

SITE

Facing south-southwest, Second Presbyterian Church is located on the north-northwest corner of the intersection of Westminster Place and Taylor Avenue. This predominantly residential area is included within that part of St. Louis known as the Central West End. Westminster Place, which is lined with multiple and single-family dwellings, acts as a boundary between a commercial area centered along Olive Street on the north-northeast and the residential neighborhoods to the south-southwest. Portions of Westminster Place (particularly those blocks to the east-southeast of Taylor Avenue) still retain a degree of their original private-place integrity.

The church's immediate surroundings include: a paved area to the west-northwest of the educational building and brick annexes, a dead-end alley paralleling the church on the north-northeast, and commercial parking lots to the north-northeast, across the alley. Sidewalks run alongside the church on the east-southeast and south-southwest parallel to Taylor Avenue and Westminster Place respectively. All landscaping is restricted to the south-southwest and east-southeast sides of the church; trees line the

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DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

curb of Westminster Place.

PRESENT STATUS

On September 25, 1973, Second Presbyterian Church was officially designated a Landmark of the City of St. Louis by the St. Louis Landmarks and Urban Design Commission.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the congregation hopes to completely restore the main church building (sanctuary) in celebration of its 140th anniversary in 1978.<sup>5</sup>

FOOTNOTES

1. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Heritage/St. Louis (a sub-survey of the State Historical Survey and Planning Office).
2. Ibid.; Tiffany Studios, A Partial List of Tiffany Windows (New York: Tiffany Press, 1910), pp. 78-79; and correspondence concerning the Jordan and Johnson Memorial Windows (in the church archives).
3. Barbara Pathe, "Historical Notes," Part II, 1963, p. 39 (mimeographed, compiled for the church's 125th anniversary); Photograph Collection (in the church archives); The Church Record, Vol. II, No. 8 (St. Louis: Second Presbyterian Church, November, 1908), p. 114; and correspondence concerning the Jordan and Johnson Memorial Windows (in the church archives).
4. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Heritage/St. Louis.
5. Ibid.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 b/t. 1896, 1899-1900, 1930 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge; Theodore C. Link; LaBeaume & Klein

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Missouri, which survives in near original condition, is one of the distinguished examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in the United States and a major monument to the turn-of-the-century arts and crafts movement. The church is also noteworthy for its contributions to the furthering of the Presbyterian denomination and its role in the local community.

Second Presbyterian Church is a skilled adaptation of H.H. Richardson's best building in Boston, Massachusetts, Trinity Church (1872-77), considered by some to be one of the four greatest modern churches.<sup>1</sup>

"Even before Trinity was finished others were producing crude imitations of it; and over the next twenty years many prominent churches, particularly in the Middle West, followed in some degree the paradigm that it provided."<sup>2</sup>

It is possible that when the major monuments of the Richardsonian Romanesque in the United States are carefully surveyed that Second Presbyterian Church will rank as one of the most obvious attempts to pattern ecclesiastical architecture after Trinity Church. Although the entrance portico and the variations of stone color are missing, Second Presbyterian Church does have a monumental lantern which very closely follows that designed by Richardson and Stanford White for Trinity. The lesser towers flanking the entrance have some of the same simplicity that marked Richardson's final designs for the smaller Trinity Church towers.

With the destruction of the Potter House in the 1950's, the City of St. Louis lost its major monument to the skill and influence of H.H. Richardson, but the survival of the Second Presbyterian Church does make it possible to understand the combination of strength and beauty of detail that marked Richardson's genius.

The church is also a fine example of the blending of various crafts. The iron lamp standards on the front steps almost equal the superb decorations of the St. Louis [Missouri] Union Station (a property already enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places). The stained-glass windows are the equal of those installed in the best urban churches of America in the 1890's. All of them are the work either of Tiffany Studios of New York City or of Emil Frei of St. Louis. The majority are by Tiffany; one, "Christ, the Light of the World," is signed by Louis C. Tiffany. These latter windows are unique because of the process employed in creating them. (Tiffany devised a process whereby actual folds of glass were produced to represent folds of drapery in a figure's clothing. No other glass maker has been able to duplicate this technique, and it remains an exclusive trademark of Tiffany.)<sup>3</sup> Finally, the wealth

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

of finely sculptured detail found throughout the church is particularly noteworthy.

It is important to note that the integrity of the architects' (Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge [chapel] and Theodore C. Link [sanctuary]) original designs remains intact with one exception. Only the interior of the sanctuary has undergone alteration.

History of Second Presbyterian Church

The congregation of Second Presbyterian Church was organized on October 10, 1838. It consisted of 62 members, the majority having been members of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis.<sup>4</sup>

The new congregation, after its first services in Shepard's [Shepherd's] School House on 4th Street, worshiped temporarily at 5th and Pine streets (1838), moving into the lecture room of their first permanent church building at 5th and Walnut streets in January, 1840.<sup>5</sup> The completed structure, "the most attractive church building of its type [Classic Revival] in Missouri,"<sup>6</sup> was dedicated the following October. The lot cost \$10,800, the building \$42,000.<sup>7</sup>

Services were held at this location until June 28, 1868.<sup>8</sup> For the remainder of the year, members worshiped with the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, moving to the chapel of their new church at 17th Street and Lucas Place on the last Sunday in 1868. The completed edifice of rough, unhewn stone in the Gothic Revival style was dedicated Christmas Day, 1870.<sup>9</sup> This building cost \$160,000; the lot cost \$30,000.<sup>10</sup>

Again, in response to the westward movement of its members, the Second Presbyterian Church changed location. On November 15, 1896, the chapel of the present building was completed, although Sunday evening services continued to be held at 17th Street and Lucas Place for another year. The cornerstone of the new sanctuary was laid on June 24, 1899, and the dedication of the completed church took place November 25, 1900. The total cost of the structure was about \$200,000.<sup>11</sup>

A chronology of pastors includes:

1. William S. Potts --- 1839-1852
2. Robert P. Farris [Faris] --- 1852
3. Nathan L. Rice --- 1853-1857
4. James H. Brooks --- 1858-1864
5. Samuel J. Niccolls --- 1865-1915
6. John W. MacIvor --- ca.1915-ca.1955
7. W. Sherman Skinner --- ca.1955-?
8. Orville L. Brotherton --- ?-present.<sup>12</sup>

Of these, only the last four have served the congregation of the Second Presby-

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

terian Church at its present location. Each has brought recognition, not only to themselves, but to the church through their leadership in various national and local activities.

It was during Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls' pastorate that the church moved twice, the second time being to the present Westminster Place location. Niccolls supervised the establishment of many colony churches throughout the St. Louis area during the latter third of the 19th century.<sup>13</sup> At the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Michigan, in May, 1872, Niccolls was chosen moderator; he was the youngest man to hold that responsible position up to that time.<sup>14</sup> Repeatedly, Rev. Niccolls represented his Presbytery in the General Assembly, serving upon its most prominent committees, notably those on reunion with the Presbyterian Church South and on revision of the Confession of Faith.<sup>15</sup>

Upon Niccolls' death, Rev. John W. MacIvor took over the pastorate. He was a member of the General Council of the General Assembly and had twice served as president of the Board of the Church Federation. During his pastorate, the educational building was built (1930), and the church was honored by being chosen to host the 153rd General Assembly in May, 1941.<sup>16</sup>

Rev. W. Sherman Skinner served as president of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. prior to coming to Second Presbyterian Church as its pastor. Following in the footsteps of one of his predecessors, Skinner helped draft a new Confession of Faith in 1967. During his pastorate, the church again faced the question of once more moving in order to be nearer the homes of the majority of its members and to escape what some regarded as an undesirable neighborhood; the decision was to stay.<sup>17</sup>

Under the guidance of the current pastor, Orville L. Brotherton, Second Presbyterian Church, through its Christian Neighbors Program, has restored the apartment building at 4631-33 Westminster Place where Tennessee Williams lived as a youth and which is reputed to be the setting for his play, The Glass Menagerie.<sup>18</sup> The church has also inaugurated a housing rehabilitation/preservation program in the 4500-4700 blocks of Westminster Place and is presently restoring a three-story townhouse for resale.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in the "Missouri State Historic Preservation Plan." Second Presbyterian Church is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Fine Arts and Humanities," and "Society."

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

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1. Walter H. Kilham, Boston After Bulfinch: An Account of Its Architecture (1800-1900) (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1946), p. 81.
2. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore: Penguin Books, Inc., 1958), p. 222.
3. Tiffany Studios, A Partial List of Tiffany Windows (New York: Tiffany Press, 1910), pp. 78-79; and correspondence concerning the Jordan and Johnson Memorial Windows (in the church archives).
4. The St. Louis Presbyterian Blue Book (1902), pp. 19, 25; Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate: 1865-1915 (St. Louis: Second Presbyterian Church, March 5, 1915), p. 79; J. Thomas Scharf, History of St. Louis City and County, Vol. II (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), p. 1704; Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 33, No. 2 (January, 1939), p. 271; and John DeVoy (comp.), History of the City of St. Louis and Vicinity (St. Louis: John DeVoy, 1898), p. 176.
5. The Church Record, Vol. II, No. 8 (St. Louis: Second Presbyterian Church, November, 1908), p. 109; and Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 85.
6. Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 16, No. 4 (July, 1922), p. 495.
7. Scharf, p. 1704; and Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 85.
8. Ibid.
9. Scharf, p. 1704; The St. Louis Presbyterian Blue Book, p. 17; New Century Dinner Program Given in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Church, October 28, 1938; Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 88; and The Church Record, p. 112.
10. Scharf, p. 1704; James Cox, Old and New St. Louis (St. Louis: Central Biographical Publishing Co., 1894), p. 124; and Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 88.
11. Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 88.
12. Ibid., pp. 78, 80; Scharf, p. 1704; The Church Record, pp. 106, 107, 109, 116; and data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Heritage/St. Louis (a sub-survey of the State Historical Survey

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

and Planning Office).

13. Walter E. Orthwein, "Grandmother of Many Churches: Second Presbyterian Celebrates 125th Anniversary of Founding," St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat, October 5-6, 1963, p. 1F; Scharf, p. 1704; and Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 85.
14. DeVoy, p. 187; Orthwein, p. 1F; and The Book of St. Louisians (St. Louis: The St. Louis Republic, 1912), p. 441.
15. DeVoy, p. 187; Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate, p. 59; and The Book of St. Louisians, p. 441.
16. Edith Souther, "Ten Decades," 1938, p. 59 (scrapbook compiled for the church's centennial).
17. John Brod Peters, "Reaching Out From the River Bank," St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat, February 29, 1968, p. 1W; and "Minutes of General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.," Journal, Vol. IX, Part I (Philadelphia: Office of General Assembly, 1966), p. 245.
18. Associates of St. Louis University Libraries and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Literary St. Louis: Noted Authors and St. Louis Landmarks Associated With Them (St. Louis: Associates of St. Louis University Libraries and Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1969), p. 27.

1. Andrews, Wayne. Architecture in America: Photographic History From the Colonial Period to the Present. New York: Antheneum Publishers, 1960, p. 81.
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## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than ten acres

UTM REFERENCES

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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

1. Nancy B. Breme, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Survey and Planning Office

DATE

July 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

TELEPHONE

314-449-0725

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65101

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE     

LOCAL     

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

Director, Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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  4. The Church Record. Vol. I, No. 11. St. Louis: Second Presbyterian Church, November, 1907.
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  7. Cox, James. Old and New St. Louis. St. Louis: Central Biographical Publishing Co., 1894, p. 124.
  8. \_\_\_\_\_ (ed.). Notable St. Louisians in 1900. St. Louis: The Benesch Art Publishing Co., Publishers, 1900, p. 5.
  9. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Heritage/St. Louis (a sub-survey of the State Historical Survey and Planning Office).
  10. DeVoy, John (comp.). History of the City of St. Louis and Vicinity. St. Louis: John DeVoy, 1898, pp. 176, 187-188.
  11. Fiftieth Anniversary of Dr. Niccolls' Pastorate: 1865-1915. St. Louis: Second Presbyterian Church, March 5, 1915.
  12. Gill, McCune. The St. Louis Story. St. Louis: Historical Record Association, 1952, p. 233.
  13. Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Baltimore: Penguin Books, Inc., 1958, pp. 222-223.
  14. Kellerman Contracting Co. Contract. March 3, 1930. (In the church archives.)
  15. Kilham, Walter H. Boston After Bulfinch: An Account of Its Architecture (1800-1900). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1946, pp. 80-81.
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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18. "Minutes of General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.," Journal, Vol. IX, Part I. Philadelphia: Office of General Assembly, 1966, p. 245.
19. Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 16, No. 4 (July, 1922), pp. 494-496.
20. \_\_\_\_\_, Vol. 33, No. 2 (January, 1939), p. 271.
21. New Century Dinner Program Given in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Church, October 28, 1938.
22. Orthwein, Walter E. "Grandmother of Many Churches: Second Presbyterian Celebrates 125th Anniversary of Founding," St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat, October 5-6, 1963, p. 1F.
23. Pathe, Barbara. "Historical Notes." Part II. 1963. (Mimeographed, compiled for the church's 125th anniversary.)
24. Peters, John Brod. "Reaching Out From the River Bank," St. Louis [Missouri] Globe-Democrat, February 29, 1968, p. 1W.
25. Photograph Collection. (In the church archives.)
26. Program of the Church's 75th Anniversary. 1913.
27. The St. Louis Presbyterian Blue Book. 1902, pp. 13, 15, 17, 23, 25.
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30. Souther, Edith. "Ten Decades." 1938. (Scrapbook compiled for the church's centennial.)
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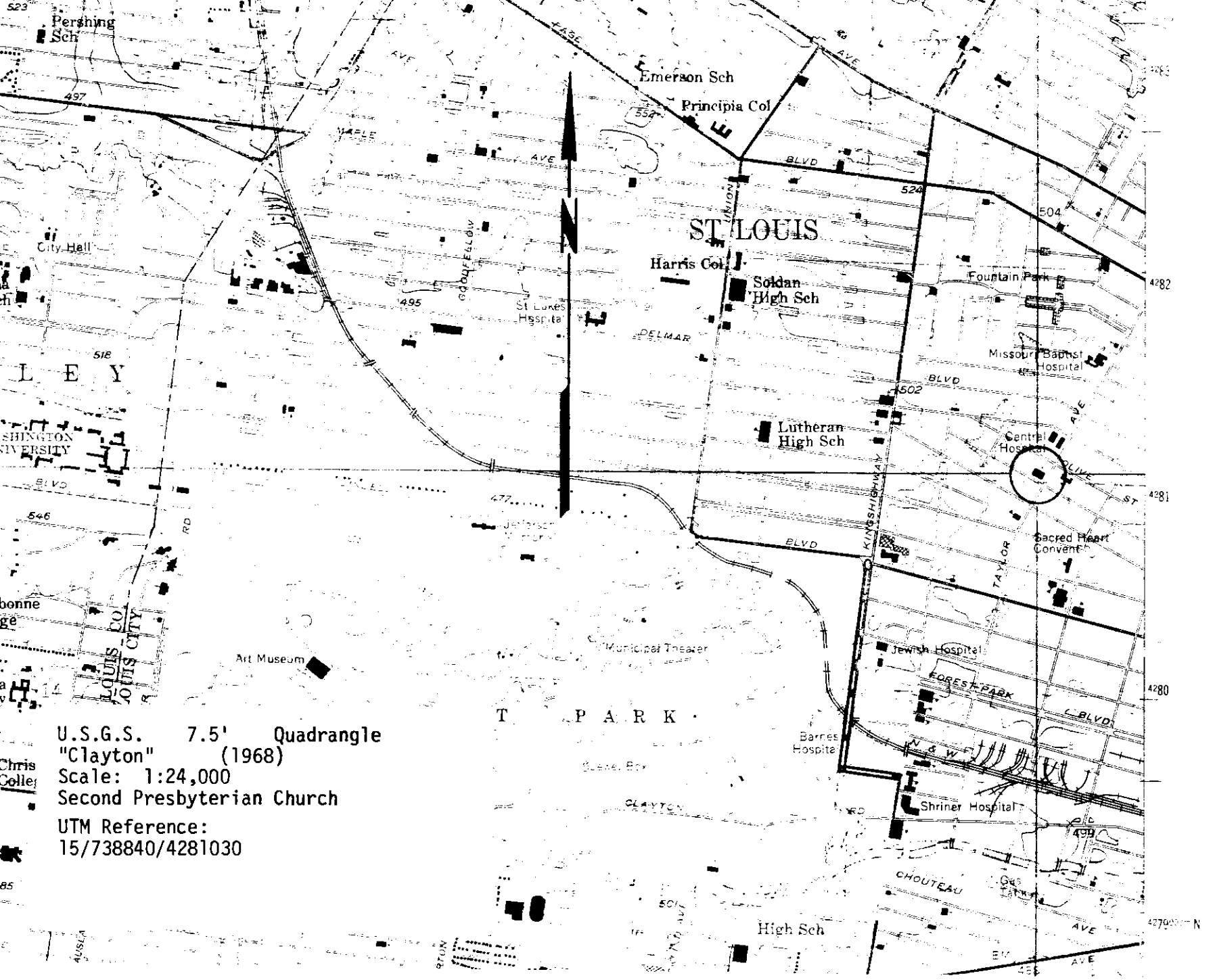
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ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Jane Piper, Research Assistant  
Heritage/St. Louis Survey (sub-survey of the State  
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3. William G. Seibert, Research Assistant  
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Historical Survey and Planning Office)  
722 Chestnut Street - Room 221  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Telephone: -----

Telephone: -----



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle

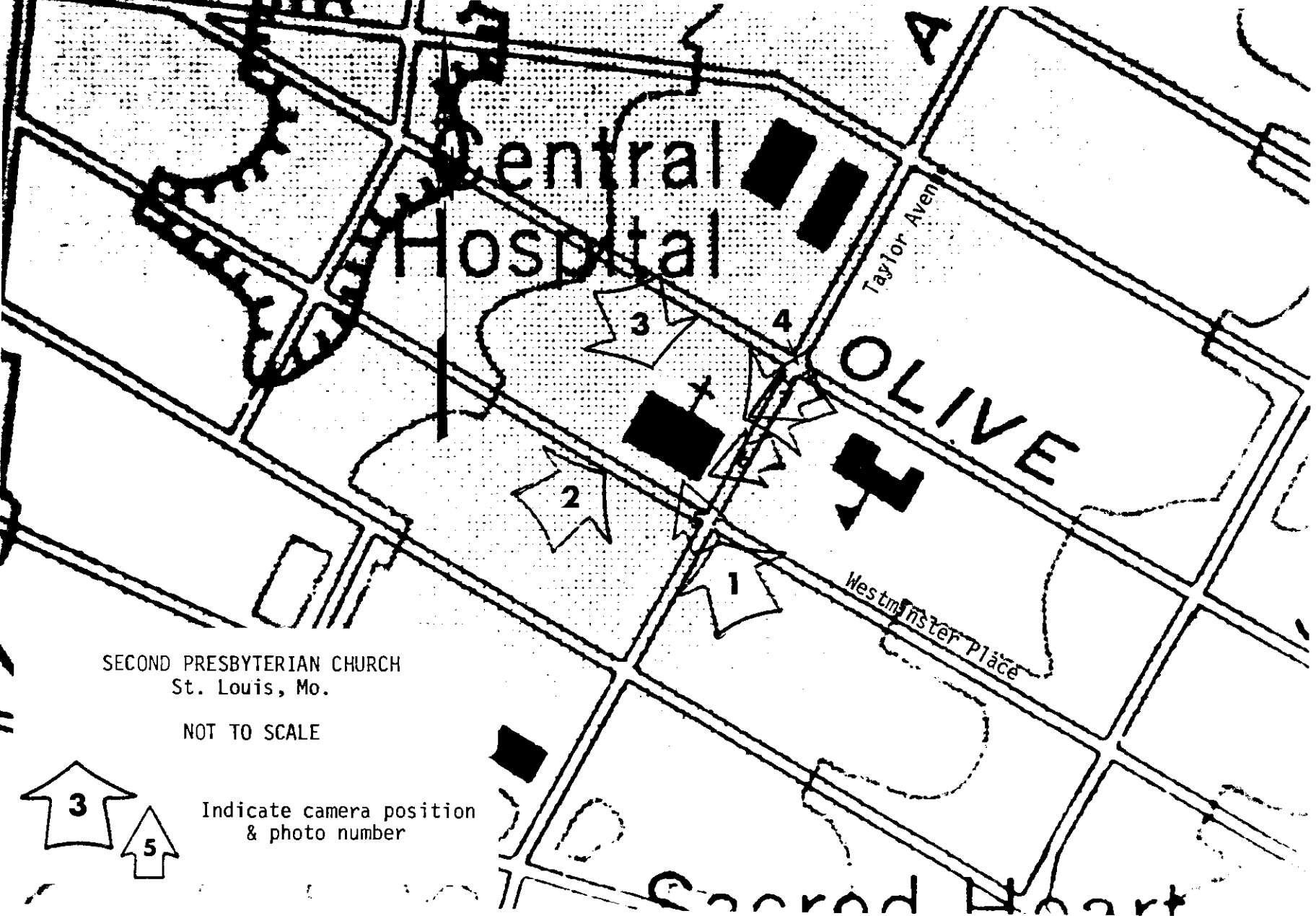
"Clayton" (1968)

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Second Presbyterian Church

UTM Reference:

15/738840/4281030



Central  
Hospital

Taylor Avenue

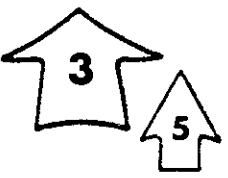
OLIVE

Westminster Place

Sacred Heart

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, Mo.

NOT TO SCALE



Indicate camera position  
& photo number

**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Second Presbyterian Church**

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City or Vicinity: **St. Louis [Independent City]**

---

County: **St. Louis [Independent City]** State: **MO**

---

Photographer: **Frederick Breme**

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Date

Photographed: **May 1975**

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8. S-SE corner; view facing N-NW with the sanctuary's S-SW façade on the left and the E-SE façade on the right. The chapel is to the left of the sanctuary, partially hidden behind the trees; the porte cochere is in the foreground.

2 of 8. W-SW corner; view facing NE with the S-SW façade on the right and the W-NW façade on the left. The educational building (1930) is in the foreground, the chapel (1896) is at mid ground, and the sanctuary (1899-1900) is in the background.

3 of 8. N-NW corner; view facing S-SE with the N-NE façade on the left and the W-NW façade on the right. The brick annexes (date unknown) are in the foreground; the sanctuary (1899-1900) is in the background.

4 of 8. E-NE corner; view looking W-SW with the sanctuary's E-SE façade on the left and the N-NE façade on the right. Brick annexes are immediately to the right of the sanctuary.

5 of 8. Main (S-SW) entrance; view looking N-NW. The carved detailing of the arches, pilaster capitals, and tympanum is typical of the architectural elaboration employed throughout the church.

6 of 8. Interior view of the porte cochere; view looking W-SW. The structural system supporting the roof is visible.

7 of 8. Detail of the N-NW corner of the sanctuary's central tower (lantern); view looking W-SW.

8 of 8. Interior view of the N-NW corner of the sanctuary.

















