

LANDMARK DESIGNATION PETITION
CULTURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
ST. LOUIS PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN AGENCY

PROPERTY NAME

1. Present Name of Site **New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral**
2. Other Name(s) **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

LOCATION

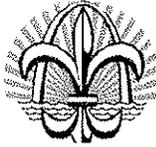
1. Street Name and Number **2047 E. Grand Avenue**
2. City Block Number **2478**
3. Ward **3**
4. Structure is on original site: YES NO

If structure has been moved, please indicate the date of the move and the location of the original site

N/A

OWNERSHIP

1. Owner (s) of Record (Owner(s) of Fee-Simple Interest)
Name **Elder Solomon L. Williams**
Address **2047 E. Grand Avenue**
City & State **St. Louis, MO**
Telephone **314 330-8872**
2. Owner (s) of Ground Lease (if any – Lease-Hold Interest)
Name
Address
City & State
Telephone



3. Has owner (s) been contacted concerning proposal to nominate property for landmark designation? YES NO

4. If so, please indicate method, date and name of owner (s) contacted.

The owner initiated the landmark petition process.

A. PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

1. A general location map (i.e., a USGS Quadrangle map is suitable).
2. Legal Description of Property (by metes and bounds or other legal description that readily identifies the site)

C.B.E. Grand Boulevard

See P#247800002206 & 2207

185 Ft x 142 Ft 6 1/2 IN

J G BRYANS EST 2nd SUBD

Block 46 Lot 18 to 20 7 W 17

3. If there is more than one structure on the site, please describe specifically which structure(s) are under nomination.

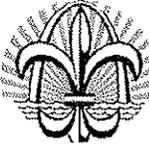
The church, tower, and administration building (former rectory) are included in the under nomination. The garage and parking lot on the property are not considered significant.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

A Landmark is a natural site or improvement (including any park, cemetery, street or right-of-way) that has a significant historical interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, state or nation.

1. Please check the criteria of significance that are relevant and explain further in #2 below:

A) Has significant character or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, state or nation;



- B) Is the site of a significant historic event;
 - C) Is the work of a master whose individual work has significantly influenced the development of the City, state or nation;
 - D) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;
 - E) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City;
 - F) Has yielded, or is likely to yield, according to the best available scholarship, archaeological artifacts important in prehistory or history;
2. Statement of significance, documenting the historic, architectural, cultural, archeological or aesthetic significance of proposed nomination (please footnote to bibliographic references): plus an architectural survey map that evaluates the significance of each Improvement and/or topographic feature within the proposed site.

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral property is a cultural resource of the City of St. Louis. It has been home to two congregations and part of the city's social and religious fabric for over 95 years. Its architectural presence makes it a prominent visual landmark in the East Grand Avenue streetscape. The 125-foot campanile, or bell tower, rises less than a block from the Grand Avenue (White) Water Tower and the Bissell Street Water Tower, its prominence standing as a religious counterpart to the two historic towers. The property is eligible under Criteria A and E.

History and Discussion

The Most Holy Name of Jesus Era

Most Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Name) was one of four new parishes established in the city of St. Louis between 1865 and 1870. The former "College Farm" of St. Louis University, laid out as a subdivision of the city in 1865, became the geographical territory for both Holy Name and its German counterpart, the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor. A church building and a rectory were built near the intersection of Grand and Florissant avenues in 1875 for Holy Name. During the 1880s, a school building was constructed and the parish served more than 400 families.¹

The Rev. Christopher E. Byrne led the parish at the time the current building was erected in 1916. The architectural firm of Lee & Rush provided the design and

¹ Rev. John Rothensteiner, *History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis* (1928), pp. 461-463.



contractor George T. Barry erected the church in brick, stone and terra cotta. The Rectory, immediately west of the church, was completed just before excavation for the church foundation began.

The Holy Name congregation flourished during its first decades in the new building. A resurgence of activity occurred after World War II and the parish erected a new school building on Bissell Street in 1953; this building remains standing today but is not part of this Landmark designation. During the 1970s, the demographics of the neighborhood shifted from Irish and German families to African American ones. Because of declining membership, as was characteristic of many Catholic parishes throughout the City due to population loss, Holy Name parish was closed in 1992.²

Built to serve a thriving parish in the College Hill neighborhood, the former Holy Name church has architectural significance as an example of what was termed by many at the time the “modern Romanesque style” — in reality a variant of the Beaux Arts style, which was based upon Classic or early Medieval architectural models, their simpler forms augmented by elaborate decorative detailing. The parish history notes that the church’s architectural expression had been used in larger cities in the East, but few examples of the style had appeared west of the Mississippi River by the mid-1910s. The 125-foot campanile rising from the northeast corner of the building is a prominent visual feature in a neighborhood that boasts two stand pipe water towers; the Grand Avenue (White) Water Tower is quite close to the church.

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral Era

In 1977, Elder Solomon L. Williams founded the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ (New Jerusalem) congregation, which occupied a building at 1909 E. Grand Avenue. When the former Holy Name church was placed on the market after the parish closed, Reverend Williams acquired the property as the first step towards fulfillment of his vision of preaching to a fully-occupied cathedral. The addition of the phrase “at the cathedral” to the church’s name acknowledges the importance of the building to the congregation. The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral offers a full program of small group and social service opportunities. Several times, congregants have left New Jerusalem to form sister churches, but their loss was quickly restored by new members and converts.

Under Reverend William’s guidance, the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral has made the former parish church its own while retaining many interior features that are the church’s legacy from its Catholic period. The stained

² *Souvenir of Holy Name Parish and Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Louis, Missouri* (1918).



glass windows and baldachin with crucifix at the front of the sanctuary remain in place. New Jerusalem constructed a platform that accommodates a central pulpit flanked by areas occupied by the band and the leaders of the church, risers for the choir, and a baptismal pool. In this way, important elements of worship – reading of the Bible, preaching, and immersion baptism – have a presence unified with the church’s original religious elements.

The main volume of the sanctuary also represents a blending of worship and religious traditions. The architectural setting – from the octagonal ceramic tile on the floor of the aisles, to the free-standing columns painted to appear as marble and terminated with prominent Corinthian capitals and the rich glazed red brick installed on the lower portions of the interior walls – remains intact. Terra cotta plaques of the Stations of the Cross are inset in the upper walls between the windows filled with traditional pictorial stained glass sash. Historic light fixtures hang from the high ceiling. The confessionals inset into the side walls remain in place, though they are no longer used for their original purpose. Though the organ was removed, the organ pipes continue to rise above the balcony at the rear of the church. The interior paint scheme on the upper walls and decorative architectural elements highlight the interior detailing of the church.

The transformation of the former Holy Name parish church into the Cathedral of the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ perpetuates the use of the building as a place of worship. Minor changes in interior elements are balanced by the continued use of the building as a church and by the activities supporting the community that are housed in the former Rectory, now New Jerusalem’s Administration Building.

3. Major Bibliographical References

Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Hackensack, N.J.: Custombooks, Inc., 1976. Collection of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives.

Rothensteiner, Rev. John Rothensteiner. *History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis* (1928). Vol. 2, pp. 461-463.

Souvenir of the Holy Name Parish, 1875-1918, on the Consecration of Rev. C. E. Byrne, Bishop of Galveston, November 10, 1918. Collection of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Archives.

4. Statement of current economic conditions and environs of the site; and description of advantages for adjacent property owners and to the City which may be anticipated as a consequence of designations:

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral remains as one of the strong components of the historic character of East Grand Avenue, which was a



mix of churches, institutions, and commercial properties in the vicinity of the Grand Avenue (White) Water Tower. The residential area nearby has experienced loss of buildings and is in need of reinvestment. The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral hopes to be a symbol of endurance and looking to the future and play a role in the revitalization of the neighborhood.

C. SITE PLAN

Please attach a site plan of existing conditions at an appropriate scale but not less than 1" = 50'.

D. LANDMARK PLAN

Please indicate below the general plan of development for the subject property, indicating (1) uses, (2) planned or proposed public or private restoration, additions or alterations and/or (3) any planned demolition. (Attach exhibits as desirable).

- (1) Continued use as church
- (2) Maintenance and repair
- (3) None

E. LANDMARK STANDARDS

Proposed Applicable Landmark Standards pertaining to the site, but not limited to design and construction standards for building facades, setbacks, height, scale, material, color, texture, trim, roof details, landscaping, fencing, street, street furniture, signs, and/or demolition of exterior architectural features.

See attached.

F. ZONING AMENDMENTS

1. Present Zoning Classification **Zone F Neighborhood commercial**
2. Recommended amendment (if any) to the existing zoning classification(s):
None

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Original Use | parish church and rectory |
| Present Use | church and administration building |



2. Percent Occupied and list of Tenant(s) names (if applicable)

100 percent

3. Architect(s) for original structure; and additions or major alterations (as applicable).

Lee & Rush, architects

4. Builder/Contractor for original structure; and additions or major alterations (as applicable).

George T. Barry, contractor

5. Date(s) of original erection, additions or major alterations (as applicable).

1915 (Administration Building) and 1916 (Church)

Please indicate if architectural plans for any of the above cited work are available, type of plans (i.e. structural, mechanical, etc.) and the name and address of persons having possession of plans.

6. Condition of structure(s) nominated and as evaluated by (check):

Applicant Architect Engineer Other

Exterior: Sound Deteriorating Derelict

Interior: Sound Deteriorating Derelict

(Please attach any reports in this regard).

7. Please describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral, the former Most Holy Name of Jesus parish church, is located on the north side of East Grand Avenue at the corner of Emily Street. The church building is quite prominent due to the set-back position of the administration building on the west side of the church and a parking lot on the east side. Both the church and the administration building, the former rectory, have dark red brick walls with contrasting ornamental terra-cotta and stone elements.

The church presents a massive tripartite entry block to East Grand Avenue, modeled upon the basilica form of a tall center aisle or nave flanked by lower roofed side aisles. The central portion features three sets of entrance doors separated by engaged columns that support a heavy entablature. To either side, paired fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals carry a projecting bracketed cornice that continues across the shorter flanking bays, each of



which display stone quoining and a tall stacked window with decorative terra cotta tympanum and spandrel panels. Religious symbolism includes a pair of sculpted angels on the lower spandrel. One angel holds a shaft of wheat and the other a bunch of grapes, symbols of the bread and wine of the Last Supper.

A rose window above a tripartite arched window is set in an ornate terra cotta surround that rests on the entrance entablature. It is the central feature of the façade. Flanking paneled pilasters rise to an intermediate cornice and terminate in a projecting parapet and low pinnacle. Above, a truncated gable presents triangular insets and crenellation, with a center projecting element marked by terra cotta pilasters, a small rose window and a projecting cornice. The parapet ends with a flattened terminus on which a crucifix flanked by figures was once positioned.

The church's main block is a traditional front-gabled sanctuary. Secondary elevations present six tall, narrow bays filled with large, multi-light windows under recessed composed semi-circular arches that are filled with multi-light art glass windows. Decorative terra cotta roundels are placed between each bay. Doors are positioned mid-way in each side wall of the church; they open directly into the sanctuary. A shallow apse extends from the north end wall.

The brick campanile tower that rises at the northeast corner has an overtly Italian character. Its entrance facing Grand Avenue displays a Gibbs surround composed of compound arches. The door is set beneath a semi-circular transom; the door and transom are outlined with a decorative terra-cotta enframingent. A similar treatment decorates the small, irregularly-spaced window openings in the walls that follow the line of the interior staircase. The tower terminates in a corbeled belfry composed of brick piers with stone banding supporting terra cotta arches filled with tracery, and a pyramidal roof. A copper cross is set at the roof's apex. Angel sculptures similar to those on the church façade are placed at the belfry's intermediate cornice.

Major changes to the exterior of the church are limited to the removal of the crucifix and sculptural group at the top of the main pediment and a pair of lions from the cheek walls flanking the front steps. The bell was removed from the tower before the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral acquired the property.

The original rectory, now the administration building, is a three-story dwelling. It is connected to the north end of the church. Its dark red brick walls are capped by a hipped roof with projecting eaves. The four-bay front façade presents a centered entrance with terra cotta enframingent has a semi-circular



tympantum above the inset door flanked by narrow sidelights. Adjacent first-story windows are crowned by recessed semi-circular blind arches with stone impost detail. The top story, which presents four regularly-spaced windows, is set off from the lower walls by a projecting terra cotta stringcourse and capped parapet and may be an addition.

A parking lot at the east side of the church is enclosed with an iron fence. A frame garage is located on the east side of the tower with its door facing east.

8. Does the subject nomination have any existing City Historic District or Federal (i.e., National Register) preservation status? If so, please give date and description.

No

G. PETITIONER AND AUTHOR

Name of Petitioner	Elder Solomon L. Williams
Organization	New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral
Author of Petition	Betsy H. Bradley, Director, Cultural Resources Office
Address	2047 East Grand Avenue
City/State	St. Louis, MO
Telephone	314 330-8872

Date November 15, 2011

(Signature of person submitting petition)



TYPICAL ORDER OF ATTACHMENTS

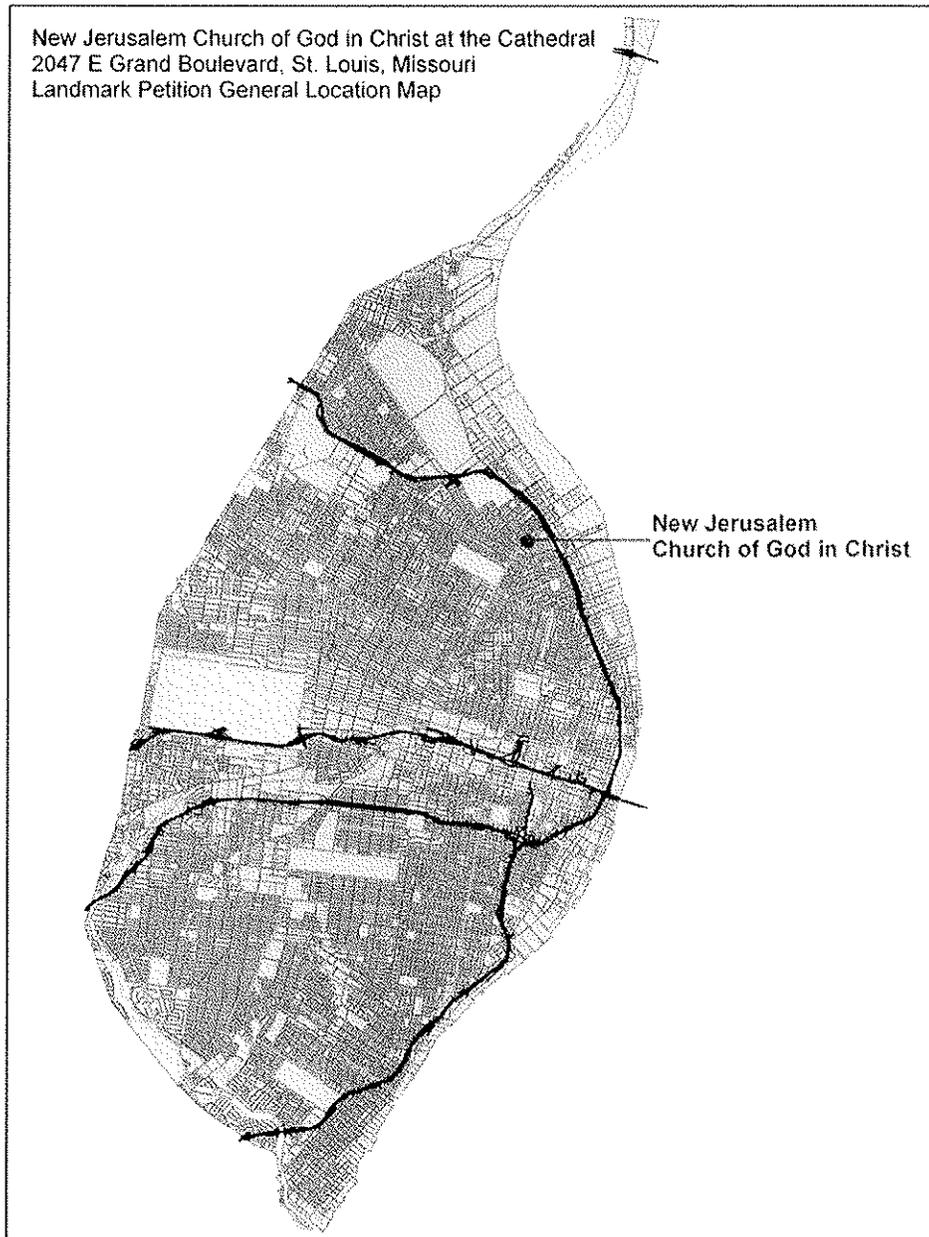
1. Location Map (required)
2. Legal Description (if not previously cited)
3. Structural Reports (if any)
4. Photographs of all sides of site or elevations (as the case might be)
5. Site plan of existing boundaries and improvements with adjacent uses
7. Miscellaneous Documentation



Attachment 1: Landmark Location Map
New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral



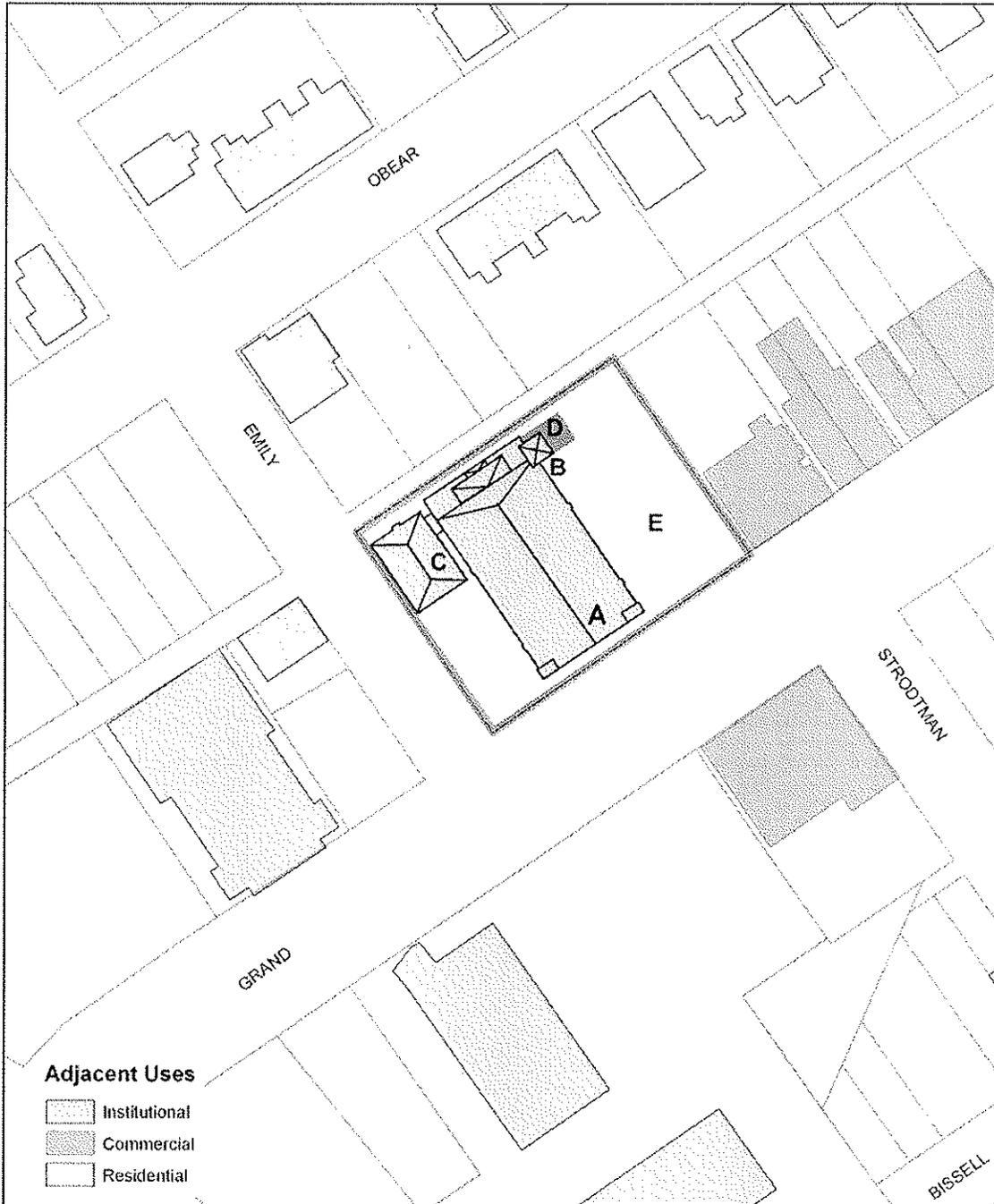
Attachment 2: Landmark Site Plan
New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral





New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral
2047 E Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri
Landmark Petition Site Plan

- A - Church
- B - Bell Tower
- C - Administration Building (former Rectory)
- D - Garage (non-contributing)
- E - Parking Lot (non-contributing)





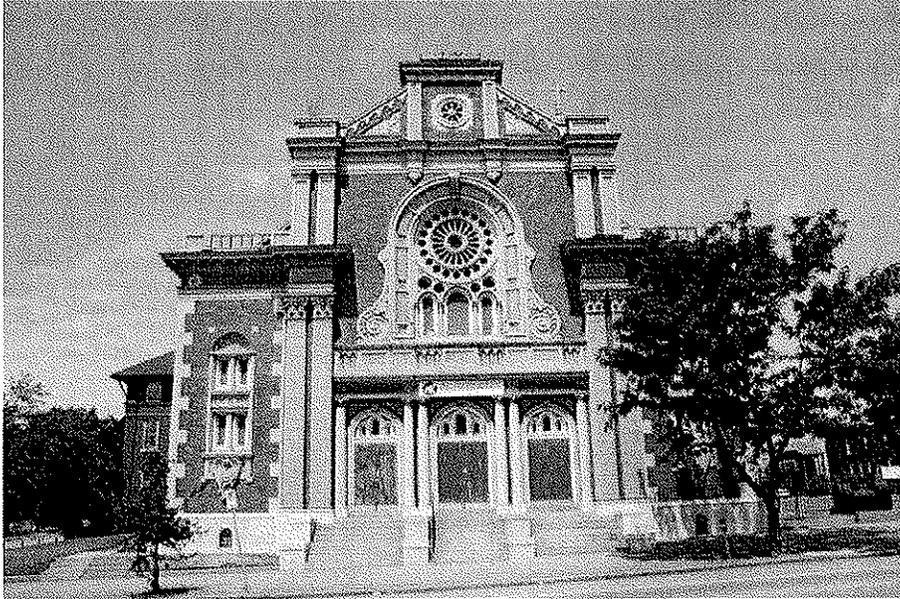
**Attachment 3: Photographs of the Landmark
New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral**



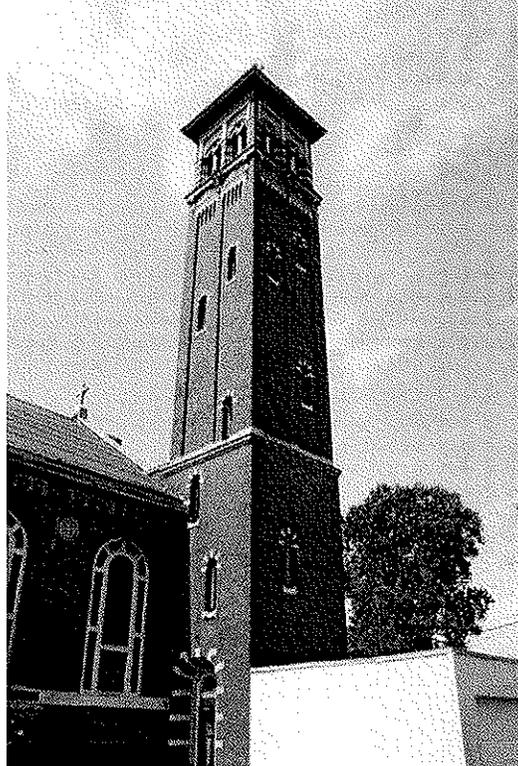
NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST AT THE CATHEDRAL, FACING WEST



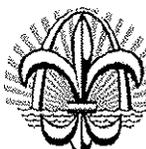
NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST AT THE CATHEDRAL AND
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, FACING NORTH



NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST AT THE CATHEDRAL FAÇADE, FACING NORTHWEST



NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST AT THE CATHEDRAL TOWER, FACING NORTHWEST



Attachment 4: Landmark Standards

New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral

These standards are the National Park Service's Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation supplemented with guidance that reflects the conditions found at this property.

The historic components of the property include the church, campanile tower, and the administration building. The garage at the rear of the parking lot is an addition to the property and is not considered to be historic.

Character-defining features and aspects of the property addressed by these standards are those that strongly convey its architectural style and history. When these components of an historic property are altered, the building or structure can no longer convey its association with the past. Character-defining features vary from property to property, but generally include original building materials, decorative architectural elements, and features such as doors and windows. Character-defining features are likely to be located on the façade and other portions of the property visible from the street.

Standard #1. The property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

Standard #2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

Façade and building exterior:

All character-defining aspects of the exterior of the building shall be maintained in place and not be altered through removal, paint, covering with other materials, or other physical changes.

New components that change the character of the building shall be avoided, but if needed for functional reasons, shall be designed with care.

Masonry components – brick, cast stone and terra cotta – will not be painted.

Features and materials that must be replaced periodically, such as roofing, shall be the same as the historic or existing, or an appropriate replacement.

Windows and their glazing are important character-defining features of the church and shall not be blocked or be filled with sash that does not replicate the original sash.



Original and historic exterior doors shall be kept in use and protected with stain or paint. The three main doors on Grand Avenue appear to be replacement doors; if the doors are replaced again, they shall be selected to be compatible with the historic building.

Interior:

The historic architectural character of the interior of the sanctuary is established by these elements that shall not be significantly altered:

- the ceramic tile on portions of the floor;
- the glazed red brick on the lower walls;
- the niches for the confessionals inset into the lower walls;
- the columns painted to appear as marble and their Corinthian style capitals;
- the rear balcony and organ pipes rising behind it;
- the stained glass windows;
- the terra-cotta "Stations of the Cross" inset into the exterior walls; and
- the baldachin with crucifix.

Other interior areas of the church and administration building are secondary spaces that can be altered as the owner wishes.

Landscaping:

The general extent and type of landscaping of the church property that includes a parking lot to the east and a lawn on the west side between Grand Avenue and the rectory/administration building shall be maintained. Replacement or additional fencing shall be wrought-iron.

Signs:

Any signs applied to the building or installed on the grounds shall be compatible with the historic architectural character of the property. The following types of signs are not compatible:

- Roof-top signs, billboards, flashing or animated signs, signs with changing text, back-lighted signs, wall signs above the side wall window sills, large projecting signs that block windows, and loudspeaker music or speed for advertising purposes.

Standard #3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

Features removed by the Catholic Church or since the Most Holy Name of Jesus parish occupied the church, include the prominent crucifix at the apex of the pediment and



lions on the main step cheek walls. The further loss of components of the building will be avoided.

The New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at the Cathedral and subsequent congregations may add discreet features that relate to its identification and religious iconography. Such new elements shall appear appropriate in material, scale, and overall feeling for the existing building.

Standard #4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

At the time of designation, there are no components of the property that have acquired significance. Subsequent owners of this church property are not required to restore it to any condition that existed prior to landmark designation.

Standard #5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

The masonry exterior materials – brick, cast stone and terra cotta – shall be maintained in good condition. The masonry will not be painted or changed in any way that changes its visual character.

Standard #6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

The windows and doors (other than the main façade doors) of the church are important historic character-defining features. If they deteriorate to the point of needing replacement, replacement units shall be carefully selected to replicate the design and other attributes of the historic elements.

Standard #7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.



The masonry materials of the exterior shall not be sandblasted or cleaned with harsh chemicals. Any cleaning project shall be approved by the Cultural Resources Office.

Standard #8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

The property owners shall consult with the Cultural Resources Office before undertaking a project that would include below-grade disturbance.

Standard #9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

Any new construction shall be compatible with the existing buildings on the property in terms of materials and shall be secondary to the church and administration buildings in terms of size, scale, height, and architectural prominence. All plans for new construction shall be reviewed by the Cultural Resources Office.

Standard #10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.