RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

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Religious

Historic Sites Survey
1989
Appleton Department of Planning & Development
320 N. Durkee St.- Temple Zion was the first synagogue building in the City of Appleton. It was planned by Rabbi Mayer Weiss, father of Harry Houdini, but he was replaced before it opened. Appleton native Edna Ferber was a member of this congregation. The building was built with the help of the entire community, even those who were not Jewish and later became home to a Baptist church. This building along with the school house in the back were entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

302 N. Morrison St.- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran Church in Appleton, was founded in 1867 by 14 German Families in the old County Courthouse. St. Paul's first church was donated to the congregation by Appleton pioneer Anson Ballard. The wooden building was completed in 1868 and was used until the congregation built their present church in 1906. St. Paul's was also the home of Aid Association for Lutherans. The members of the St. Paul congregation were among AAL's first members.
303 N. Oneida St. - This building was the original home of the Mt. Olive Lutheran Congregation. When some members of St. Paul’s Congregation objected to services in German, the Mt. Olive church was founded to hold services in English. When St. Paul’s converted to English services the Mt. Olive building was turned into offices for St. Paul’s. The building has been home to many churches since. It is currently the home to the Christ the Rock Community Church.

912 N. Oneida St. - Zion Lutheran Church was established in 1883 with 47 charter members. It, like St. Paul’s Church, held services in German. Their first building was completed in 1884 and was removed in 1902 when the size of the congregation required that a new building be built. The current building was completed in 1903 and has served as the home of Zion Congregation ever since. In 1909 the first English service was held. By 1951 German services were held only one Sunday a month and were discontinued in 1957. The steeple of the church is a very elegant and ornate one. The clock that is mounted in it was placed there in 1924. In 1986 the Zion Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
312 S. State St.- The church which now houses St. Mary's Parish was built in the 1870's. St. Mary's is the oldest Catholic church in Appleton. It was founded in the 1850's and was the only Catholic church in Appleton until St. Joseph's was built. The original wooden church building was moved to the property of Humphrey Pierce at what is now Pierce Park. The present building was built with two steeples but storms in 1923 and 1930 destroyed them. The steeples were replaced with square towers to give it the appearance of Norman architecture.
404 W. Lawrence St.- St. Joseph's congregation began as a split of the German and Irish Catholic members of St. Mary's Church in Appleton in 1867. The Irish-speaking Catholics remained at the mother church (St. Mary parish) while the German Catholics with the guidance of Father Louis Dael founded St. Joseph's parish. On the feast day of St. Joseph, March 19, 1867, Bishop Henni sanctioned the foundation of the new parish.

The original church building was the old Third Ward wood school house, purchased for $150, and moved to the property on Elm Street. The first Mass celebrated by the Rev. Francis Uhlemayr was held on October 18, 1868, with the formal dedication on December 13, 1868. On December 4, 1870, a building committee was formed to consider plans for a new church building which began construction in 1871. The present building was erected at a cost of $21,140 and was dedicated on the first Sunday in November, 1872, by Bishop Melchoir. The old church building was transformed into a home for the sisters and into two school rooms.

After Fr. Stern was transferred from the parish on April 15, 1877, the Capuchin fathers came to take charge on April 26, 1877. The church was remodeled in 1889 and two pillars were installed to support the vaulted Gothic ceiling. The sanctuary was extended, slate shingles replaced the wooden ones and new pews were installed. The present Friary except for the front wing was built in 1890 and St. Joseph's Hall was built in 1894. The church was redecorated in 1897 and the St. Anthony Chapel was built to match the baptistery.

The addition of the new wing on the south of the Friary was completed in 1915 and in 1936 the vestibule to the church was added. The Church sanctuary was converted to its present contemporary style in 1980 and a Marian Shrine replace the baptistery in the rear of the church.