RESOLUTION - EXHIBIT I
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH
LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, the Reverend Frank Steven Walinski is the representative of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours; and,

WHEREAS, this representative, on September 14, 1981, requested that St. Martin of Tours Church be designated as a Landmark under the City of Omaha's Landmarks Heritage Preservation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, St. Martin of Tours Church was built in 1899; and

WHEREAS, St. Martin of Tours Church is a fine example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture prevalent in the late 19th century; and

WHEREAS, St. Martin of Tours Church represents the Ecclesiological movement within the Episcopal Church which stressed the purity of worship through a return to the historically Christian architecture of the Middle Ages; and

WHEREAS, St. Martin of Tours was founded, along with most Episcopalian churches in Omaha, by the Very Reverend Frank Millspaugh, dean of Trinity Cathedral in 1876, and his successor George Worthington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

THAT, St. Martin of Tours Church, 2312 "J" Street, be designated as a Landmark of the City of Omaha.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTION DATE
September 9, 1981

REQUEST
- Landmark Designation
- Landmark Heritage
- District Designation
- Certificate of Approval to Perform Work

CATEGORY
- District
- Building
- Structure
- Site
- Object

APPLICANT
The Parish of Saint Martin of Tours

LOCATION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OR WORK
2312 "J." Street

PRESENT USE
Religious/Church

CONFORMANCE WITH MASTER PLAN
Conforms to A Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Omaha, shown as potential landmark.
Conforms to the 1977 Community Development Master Plan's Conservation areas.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
Existing:
Located in a multi-use area with both old and new structures used for commercial, residential and educational purposes.

Probable future effect on neighborhood if designation is granted or work is approved.
Designation could increase the awareness of historically and architecturally significant structures in the South Omaha area and help insure their continued use.

PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION
Approval

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION
Approval

ADDITIONAL DATA
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE
Historic
Parish Church of Saint Martin of Tours (Episcopal)
and/or Common

St. Martin's Church

LOCATION
Street and Number
2312 J Street, Omaha 62801

CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>Object</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
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OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name
The Parish Church of Saint Martin of Tours

Street and Number
2312 J Street

City, State and Zip Code
Omaha, Nebraska 62801

Representative
The Reverend Frank Stephen Walinski

Street and Number
2312 J Street

City, State and Zip Code
Omaha, Nebraska 62801

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots eight (8) and nine (9), Block Ninety-one (91) in the City of Omaha (in the section once South Omaha), Douglas County, Nebraska
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title An Inventory of Historic Omaha Buildings, Landmarks, Inc.
Date 1980

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title Historic Omaha Building Survey, Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
Date 1977

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
Title A Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Omaha, Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
Date 1981

DESCRIPTION
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Specific Dates
Architect
Builder

Date 14 September 1980
Signature of Owner/Representative
Architectural Significance

St. Martin of Tours Church represents a fine small-scale example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture prevalent in the late 19th century, through its use of the pointed arch, cruciform plan, square corner tower, stone tracery and leaded stained glass. In massing, the 1899 structure is related to the earlier and much larger Trinity Cathedral. In scale and proportion it bears a kinship with the 1899 St. Matthias Church. The latter, also a parish church, fused the Romanesque and Gothic revivals, whereas St. Martin's demonstrates a return to stricter interpretation of English gothicism. St. Martin of Tours speaks well of the Ecclesiological movement within the Episcopal Church, an effort commenced in England in the 1830's (consequently spreading to the American continent) which stressed the purity of worship through a return to the historically Christian architecture of the Middle Ages.

Architectural Description

St. Martin of Tours Church, 2312 "J" Street, constructed in 1899; light grey limestone walls, laid in coursed ashlar; cruciform plan (60' x 80') with appurtenances and polygonal apse; intersecting gable roof; two story square corner tower with two louvered lancet openings in the second story of each side; two lancet openings of equal size, with small circular windows above rectangular panelled doors, serve as the main entrances at the street facing sides of the corner tower; stone porch with simple stone balusters and stairs encircles the corner of the tower; large lancet west window featuring stone tracery is subdivided by a pair of double lancet windows with a rose window above, all containing leaded, stained glass; lancet windows in rectangular shaped recesses occur throughout except for simple rectangular windows at the apse; smooth stone sills occur at every window and are occasionally shared by two windows; circular windows are found in the ends of the cross gable; 20th century stair enclosure of concrete block, made to appear as stone, on south elevation. Interior oak hammerbeam ceiling resting on stone corbels; oak pews and pulpit; wide strip pine floors; smooth plaster walls; brass lights with simple stained glass inserts; hand carved oak eagle serves as lectern.
Historical Significance

The Episcopal Church was established in Nebraska with the founding of Omaha's Trinity Cathedral in 1856. Other Episcopal congregations in the city were formed either as missions of parish churches, with the impetus and monetary support provided by the Cathedral. While early attempts at expansion were largely unsuccessful, mission activity prospered under the direction of the Very Reverend Frank Millsbaugh, dean of Trinity Cathedral, in 1876. Millsbaugh and his successor, George Worthington, were responsible for founding most of the Episcopal churches in the city today, including All Saints, St. Andrew's, St. Barnabas, St. John's, St. Mark's, St. Philip's, and St. Martin's.

Bishop Worthington wanted to create a systematic form of evangelism, and opened an "associate mission" in Omaha in 1886. Composed of single, young clergymen, the missionaries lived in a quasi-monastic community, operated a school, and serviced the various Episcopal missions. One of these young men, Rev. C. S. Witherspoon, served the "Mission of Our Saviour" in South Omaha, and supervised the construction of a church at 30th and "R" Streets. However, that location was south of the rapidly developing stockyards and packinghouse district, and church members decided to look for another site closer to the residential portion of South Omaha.

Although the members worshipped in rented structures for a time, they were once again able to meet in their own building in 1890. Generous support from the Bishop enabled them to move the 30th and "R" structure to a better location on 23rd Street between "F" and "G" Streets. When 23rd Street was regraded, leaving the church far above the street, the structure was remodeled. In 1892, it became St. Martin of Tours Church, named after the fifth century Christian saint of France.

Since St. Martin's had lost its mission status, it established its own outreach work with the organization of St. Clement's Mission in an old saloon building close to the stockyards. By the end of the decade, continued growth forced the congregation to consider a new church building. Once again, Bishop Worthington provided assistance and a lot was purchased on the northeast corner of 24th and "J" Streets. The old church building was moved to that site and used while the new church was built.

Construction of the new Gothic Revival Church began in 1899. The limestone used to construct the building was purchased at a "substantial saving" from the residence of Daily Herald founder and editor George L. Miller. Miller's palatial stone castle, located on the shores of Seymour Lake near Ralston, had recently burned and the church was able to salvage much of the undamaged stone. The cornerstone was laid in August, 1899 and the building completed a year later. The former church was retained for use as a rectory.

St. Martin's experienced some financial difficulties in the Teens which led to the closing of St. Clement's Mission. Despite the hardship caused by a serious fire in 1918, the congregation built a new rectory in the 1920s. Another fire, in 1942, was even more disastrous, destroying church records, furnishings, memorial windows
and the organ. At that time the building was remodeled, with both transepts closed off. The southern one became the church office, while the northern space was a small chapel containing the old altar from the St. Clement's Mission. This arrangement did not continue, however, and there are currently plans to convert the southern transept to a chapel and retain the northern space as an entrance.

Bibliography


A History of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. History File, St. Martin's Episcopal Church.


LHPC Case No. HI-81-14, APPLICANT St. Martin of Tours Parish requests LANDMARK DESIGNATION for 2312 "J" Street. Area to be designated is shaded. (St. Martin of Tours Church)
ORDINANCE NO. 29709

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church, located at 2312 "J" Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

Section 1. That the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church is located at 2312 "J" Street, which is on the following described land, to wit:

Lots 8 and 9, Block 91, in the City of Omaha, in the section once South Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2. That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the architectural characteristics of the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church are hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation.

Section 3. That the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church is hereby designated pursuant to Section 24-61 of the Omaha Municipal Code, and hereby subject to all of the provisions of Landmark Heritage Preservation, Ch. 24, Art. II. of the City of Omaha.

Section 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect fifteen (15) days from and after the date of its passage.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER

Bevine Simm

APPROVED:

Michael *Signature*
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
DATE 3/18/82

PASSED MAR 16 1982

ATTEST:

*CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA*

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Signature*
ASS'T CITY ATTORNEY

PL/8:22
ORDINANCE NO. 29709

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church, located at 2312 "J" Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading MAR 2 1982

Hearing MAR 3 1982

Pass to MAR 9 1982

Final Reading MAR 16 1982

Passed