

SECOND GERMAN METHODIST-EPISCOPAL CHURCH (140 West Garfield Avenue)

|| Street:

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: The Second German Methodist-Episcopal Church is a Gothic Revival structure on the northeast corner of North Second Street and West Garfield Avenue. It is a 52' x 70' cream brick with stone trim design in the form of a Greek cross; the seating capacity is 500 people. A square tower rising 130 feet is set on the corner with an entry on the south side. The tower has corner pilasters stepping inward in buttress fashion to the height of a lower corbelled brick cornice. Above this is a large Gothic arch louvered bell opening, topped by a tall, thin spire with smaller corner spires. The other major visual element of each street elevation is a large gable. At the main floor level of the building is a group of three large Gothic arch openings in each gable; the center one of each group is slightly wider and taller than the flanking side openings. Smaller rectangular openings align with these below at the lower level. Centered near the peak of each gable is a circular opening, and stepping up each raking eaves are small brick corbelled arches, contributing a slightly German Renaissance character. (1982 photo - 48-12)

Significance: The building is an architecturally significant example of the Gothic Revival style; the window groups in the gables and especially the graceful, well-articulated tower with spire are excellent features of the design. The building's corner location gives it prominence in the area as a visual landmark.

| Number:

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The second German Methodist-Episcopal Church was organized in 1862, as an outgrowth of the First German M.E. Church. By 1865, a new brick structure was built on the corner of North Third and Lloyd Streets. This was replaced by the present building on North Second Street and West Garfield Avenue. It was constructed by Riesen Brothers, with the cornerstone being set in December 1887; the ceremony was conducted both in English and German. The dedication occurred in July 1888. Statements of cost for the church vary between \$15,000 and \$24,500, probably depending on whether furnishing were included. At that time, the pastor was the Reverend E. J. Funk, who led a congregation of 275 members (C).

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