

Our Saviour Lutheran Church History by Jerome Gray

The following description is for Baltimore City Historic Society use. The information is pulled from a variety of resources. One particularly helpful document is the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Landmark Designation Report from April 11, 2017.

The Neighborhood: Ednor Gardens-Lakeside

The area bounded by 33rd Street on the south, Hillen Road on the east, Ellerslie Avenue on the west, and Argonne Drive, The Alameda, Loch Raven Boulevard, and Roundhill Road on the north is known as Ednor Gardens-Lakeside. The community was developed primarily by Edward Gallagher (deriving its name from the neologism of his sons Edward and Norman) and its proximity to Lake Montebello.

Ednor Gardens-Lakeside sits on the former country estate of prominent citizens General Samuel Smith and later purchased by John Garrett as well as the Tiffany and Gorsuch families. The site was later subdivided and purchased by Gallagher who proceed to develop the lots into unique rowhouses. With the advent of improved public transit and the construction of 33rd St. the population increased and was largely built to its current state by the mid-1940's.

The Congregation

Church of Our Saviour was founded in 1892 by former members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and resided in the old Jackson Square Methodist Church Building. The church building was sold and the congregation moved to a wooden structure on its present site at The Alameda and 33rd Street and renamed the Church of Our Saviour in 1919. The current Gothic Revival building replaced it in 1930. A merger was completed in 1973 with Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church, an African-American congregation that resided at 1901 Druid Hill Ave. The congregation became outspoken on social justice issues including challenging the unsavory practice of "blockbusting" by predatory developers in the area.

The Building

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is located at 3301 The Alameda in Baltimore, MD.



The site is within a residential neighborhood of detached and semi-detached homes. The site includes the 1930 church building with a 1957 addition and a parking lot on the east. The church has a tower entrance/portal that faces The Alameda. A secondary narthex entrance faces 33rd Street.

The Gothic Revival stone church was designed by Frohman, Robb, and Little. The building is a combination Early English and the Norman styles. The stone veneer is believed to be "Port Deposit Granite" and is applied in a random pattern forming corner buttresses and a dominate, flat turret tower with crenulations. Openings are trimmed with limestone and are lancet arches. The roof is a variegated slate. Wrought iron hardware was supplied by Samuel Yellin. There are eighteen bells that where cast by the McShane Bell Foundry. The stained-glass windows were made by the Willett Stained Glass Company. The interior finish consists of limestone columns and arches topped by decorative king post trusses.

The Architect

Our Saviour Lutheran Church was designed by Philip Hubert Frohman, E. Donald Robb and Harry B. Little (Frohman, Robb & Little Architects). Frohman's specialized in church design and became the principal architect. The contractor was Edward A. Wehr. The building cost was \$178,360.28.

Philip Frohman is remembered primarily for his more than 50 years working as the principal architect of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington, commonly known as Washington National Cathedral.



It is rumored that Frohman visited the Cathedral's Bethlehem Chapel, and was so impressed signing the visitor register with a prayer that he would become the Cathedral's architect.

Frohman was dedicated to the process building and applied technique and detail to numerous churches large and small.

Although occupied with his workload in Washington, Frohman's reach extended beyond, designing among them Baltimore's Cathedral of the Incarnation and, of course, Our Saviour Lutheran Church.



Philip Hubert Frohman was born in Hotel Chelsea, designed by his grandfather Philip Gengembre Hubert, in New York in 1887. He served World War 1 and studied Throop College of Engineering (later California Institute of Technology) and eventually formed partnerships with Frohman & Martin and Frohman, Robb & Little before practicing alone.

Frohman comes from a line of creatives including his grandfather Philip Gengembre Hubert and his great-grandfather Charles Antoine Colomb Gengembre, an architect and civil engineer and a great-great-grandfather Philippe Joachim Joseph Gengembre, the director of works for King Louis Philippe of France.

THANKS to Jerome Gray for not only the history but also his own 3 church sketches.