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F A I T H COMMUNITY

A Historic Walking Tour

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CONGREGATIONS IN THE MILE SQUARE

Since the founding of Indianapolis in 1820-1821, religious practice has shaped the capital's landscape. On the Circle, and in the surrounding Mile Square area, numerous houses of worship once lined the streets of the city's downtown, leading one observer to describe Indianapolis as a "city of churches." Since WW I, many of these congregations have moved to the suburbs.

This map includes buildings both standing and demolished, those still functioning as houses of worship and those converted to other purposes. While many

have faded from the scene, there remain many examples of Indianapolis' rich religious heritage in the Mile Square and the immediately surrounding area. As one makes the tour, two broad themes become apparent. One is the diversity of religious practice in this city.



Over the years, various groups immigrated here and often their first concern was to establish a church or synagogue. The second theme grows out of the first. As these groups assimilated and grew in prosperity, they often moved out from the center city, leaving their houses of worship to newly arrived congregations, or to be replaced by secular structures. This map is therefore a guide to both the past and the present.

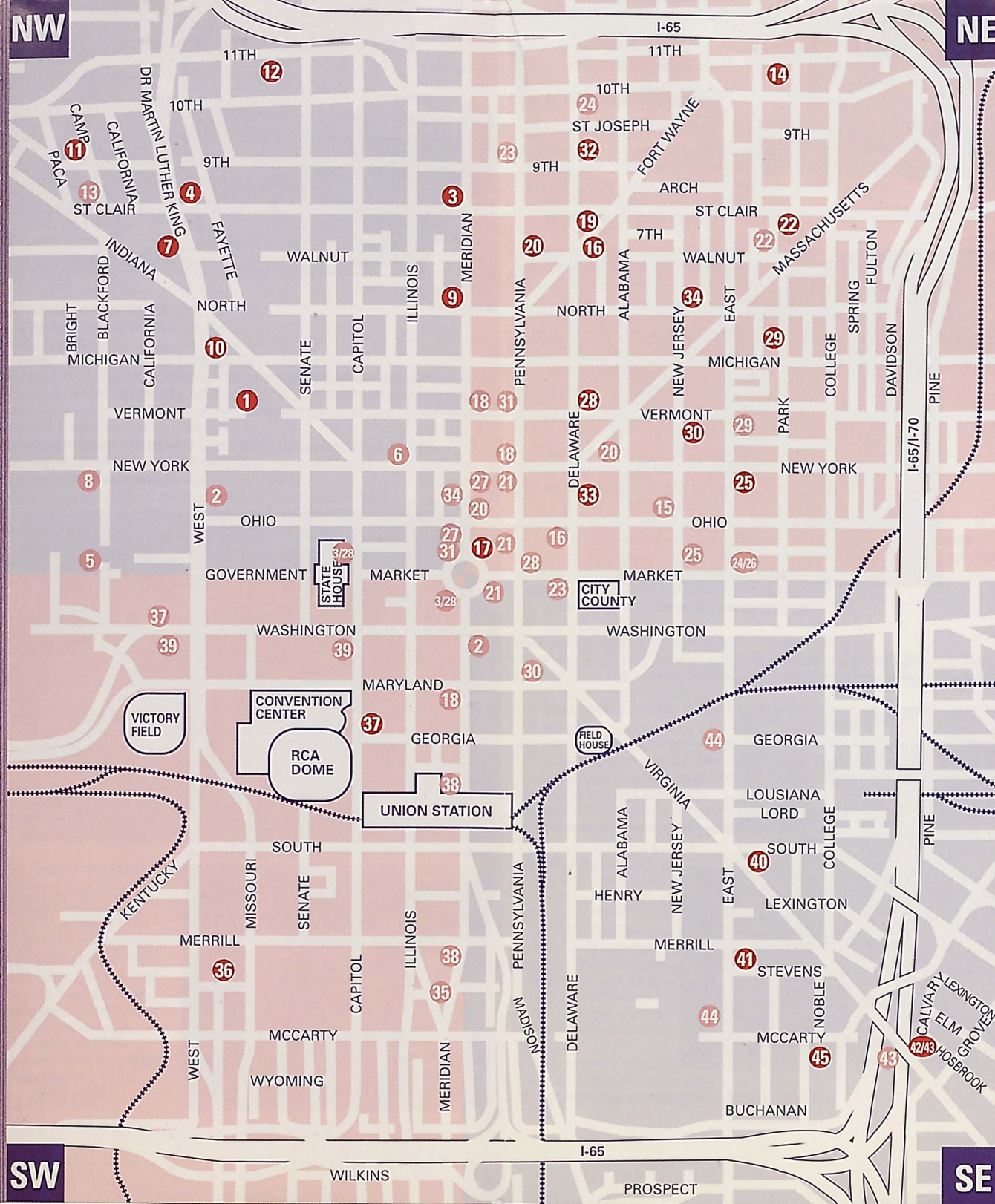


NORTH WEST QUADRANT

- 1 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church** A / C / AA / X
414 West Vermont Street, brick structure (Built, 1869)
- 2 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church** D / O / EE / X
27 South Meridian Street (1900-1914)
West Street between Ohio and New York Streets (1914-post 1960)
- 3 Meridian Street Methodist Episcopal Church** R / C
802 N. Meridian Street (Built, 1906)
- 4 St. Bridget Catholic Church** R / C / I and AA
801 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street (Built, 1880)
- 5 St. Constantine and Elena Romanian Orthodox Church** D / O / X / EE
West Market and Blackford Streets (1911-1947)
- 6 St. Paul's Episcopal Church** D / C / X
New York and Illinois Streets (Built, 1866; Re-built, 1889-1940s)
- 7 St. Philip's Episcopal Church** A / P / X / AA
720 North Martin Luther King Jr. Street (Built 1888-1905, Re-built 1986)
- 8 St. Stephen's Bulgarian Orthodox Church** D / O / X / EE
226 N. Blackford (1916-1955)
- 9 Scottish Rite Cathedral** A / C / X
50 North Meridian Street (Built, 1926-1929)
- 10 Second Baptist Church** R / C / X / AA
West Michigan and West streets (Built ca. 1867; Re-built, 1912-20)
- 11 Second Christian Church** R / C / X / AA
702 W 9th Street (1911-1948)
- 12 Simpson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME)** V / C / AA
11th and Missouri Streets (1899-1950s)
- 13 Witherspoon Presbyterian** D / C / X / AA
700 block of Camp Street (1907-post 1930)

NORTH EAST QUADRANT

- 14 Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME)** A / C / X / AA
637 East 11th Street (Built, 1928)
- 15 Cadle Tabernacle** D / C
Northwest corner of Ohio and New Jersey streets (1921-1968)
- 16 Central Christian Church** A / C / X
Southwest corner of Delaware and Ohio Streets (1852-1893) D
701 North Delaware Street (Built, 1892)
- 17 Christ Church Cathedral** A / C / X
Northeast corner of Monument Circle (Built, 1859)
- 18 First Baptist Church** D / P / X
Meridian and Maryland Streets (ca. 1829-1861)
Pennsylvania and New York Streets (1864-1904)
Meridian and Vermont Streets (1904-1960)
- 19 First Friends Church** V / C / X
Intersection of Fort Wayne, St. Clair, and Delaware Streets (1856-1896)
1245 North Alabama Street (1895-late 1950s)
- 20 First Lutheran Church** A / C / X
Meridian and Ohio Streets (1837-1853) D
Alabama and New York Streets (1853-1875) D
701 North Pennsylvania Street (Originally built in 1875, addition 1887)
- 21 First Presbyterian Church - 1525 North Delaware Street** R / C / X
Pennsylvania Street between Market and Ohio streets (1823-1841) D
Monument Circle and East Market Street (1841-1864) D
Southwest corner of New York and Pennsylvania Streets (1864-1899) D
Southeast corner of North Delaware and 16th Street (1903-1970)
- 22 First United Brethren Church** R / C / G
21st Street and Central Avenue (1898-1907) D
749 North Park Street (1907-1920)
704 North Park Street (1920 - 1960s) D
- 23 Fourth Presbyterian Church** D / C / X
Southwest corner of Delaware and Market Streets (1857-1874)
Northwest corner of Pennsylvania and 9th (1874-1895)
- 24 Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation** D / J / X
Market and East Streets (1868-1897)
10th and Delaware Streets (1899-1958)



- 25 Lockerbie Square United Methodist** A / C / G / X
Southeast corner of Wabash and New Jersey Streets (ca. 1850-1883) D
237 North East Streets (Built, 1883)
- 26 Ohev Zedeck Temple** D / J / EE / X
Market and East Streets (1897-1928)
- 27 Plymouth Congregational Church** D / C / X
Meridian Street just north of Monument Circle (1859-1884)
Southeast corner of New York and Meridian Streets (1884-1900)
- 28 Roberts Park United Methodist** A / C / X
Northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Market Streets (1842-1879) D
401 North Delaware Street (Built, 1879; addition, 1927)
- 29 St. Joseph Catholic Church** V / R / Ca
Vermont and east of East Street (1873-79) D
540 North College Avenue (1880-1949)
- 30 St. Mary's Catholic Church** A / Ca / G / X
117 East Maryland Street (1857-1910?)
317 North New Jersey (Built, 1910?)
- 31 Second Presbyterian Church** D / C / X
Northwest corner of Monument Circle (1840-1860s)
Vermont and Pennsylvania Streets (1860s-1959)
- 32 Unity Center** A / C / X
907 North Delaware Street (Built, 1950s)
- 33 Wheeler Mission** A / C / X
245 North Delaware Street (Built, 1922)
- 34 Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ** A / C / G / X
32 West Ohio Street (1841-1911) D
601 North New Jersey Street (Built, 1911)

SOUTH WEST QUADRANT

- 35 Ezras Achim** D / J / EE / X
708 South Meridian Street (ca. 1910-??)
- 36 Mayer Chapel** R / C
448 West Norwood Street at West Street (1894-1960s)
- 37 St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church** A / Ca / X
Washington between West and California Streets (1840-1850) D
South Capitol Avenue and West Georgia Street (Originally built, 1850; re-built 1871)
- 38 Sharah Tefilla** D / J / EE / X
352 South Meridian Street (1882-1909)
Meridian and Merrill Streets (1909-1966)
- 39 Volunteers of America** D / C / X
531 West Washington Street (ca. 1900) D
44 South Capitol Street D

SOUTH EAST QUADRANT

- 40 Fletcher Place United Methodist Church** R / C
501 Fletcher Avenue (1872-1980s)
- 41 Holy Rosary Catholic Church** A / Ca / It / X
20 Stevens Street (1911-present)
- 42 Olivet Baptist Church** A / C / AA / X
1001 Hosbrook Street (1927-present)
- 43 St. Mark's Lutheran Church** R / C / G / X
647 Virginia Avenue (1891-1893) D
1001 Hosbrook Street (1893-1922)
- 44 St. Paul Lutheran Church** D / C / G / X
Georgia and East Streets (1860-1882)
717 South New Jersey Street (1882-19??)
- 45 Trinity Evangelical Danish Lutheran Church** R / C / D
701 East McCarty Street (1872-1956)

KEY

V = vacant building	C = Protestant/Christian	G = German
A = active religious structure	Ca = Catholic	I = Irish
R = reused by another organization	J = Jewish	D = Danish
D = demolished	O = Orthodox	It = Italian
	AA = African American	X = Existing active congregation
	EE = Eastern European	

NORTH WEST QUADRANT

1 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church A / C / AA / X
414 West Vermont Street, brick structure (Built, 1869)
Organized in 1836, Bethel is the oldest African-American congregation in Indianapolis. Bethel was a stopover on the Underground Railroad. The Indianapolis chapter of the NAACP was founded on this site in 1909. In 1991 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church D / O / EE / X
27 South Meridian Street (1900-1914)
West Street between Ohio and New York Streets (1914-post 1960)
The Indianapolis Greek community established an Orthodox church at 27 South Meridian Street around 1900. It relocated to the 200 block of North West Street, across from Military Park, in 1914. An Indiana state historical marker stands one block south of where the West Street church was located.



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, ca. 1916
IHS C1873

3 Meridian Street Methodist Episcopal Church R / C
802 N. Meridian Street (Built, 1906)
Meridian Street Methodist traces its origins to Indianapolis' first Methodist body established in 1821. The congregation eventually moved to this Gothic Revival style church on the southwest quadrant of Monument Circle. This building now houses the Indiana Business College.

4 St. Bridget Catholic Church R / Ca / I and AA
801 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street (Built, 1880)
St. Bridget originally served primarily Irish parishioners. The Romanesque Revival-style brick building included a parish school. After 1900, it began serving the growing African-American Catholic community. The building now houses the Newman Center (Catholic campus ministry) for IU/PUI.

5 St. Constantine and Elena Romanian Orthodox Church D / O / X / EE
West Market and Blackford Streets (1911-1947)
Romanian immigrants organized a parish in 1910-1911. The parish conducted a weekly language school to maintain the native tongue among the children. In 1949, the church moved to 3237 West 16th Street where it has served as the center of Romanian culture in the city.

6 St. Paul's Episcopal Church D / C / X
New York and Illinois Streets (Built, 1866; Re-built, 1889-1940s)
St. Paul's was reputed to have been sympathetic towards Southern Democrats during the Civil War, which earned the parish the popular label, "the church of the Holy Copperheads." The congregation occupied the site until the late 1940s.

7 St. Philip's Episcopal Church A / P / X / AA
720 North Martin Luther King Jr. Street (Built 1888-1905, Re-built 1986)
St. Philip's began as a mission among the city's African-American population. Officially organized as a parish in 1901, the 25-member church erected their first building in 1905. The present edifice was completed in 1986.

8 St. Stephen's Bulgarian Orthodox Church D / O / X / EE
226 N. Blackford (1916-1955)
Macedonian and Bulgarian immigrants established this Orthodox congregation in 1907. An Indiana state historical marker stands near the former church site, now occupied by the IU Law School at Indianapolis.

9 Scottish Rite Cathedral A / C / X
650 North Meridian Street (Built, 1926-1929)
This monumental building serves as the headquarters of the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis, a Masonic organization. The building is of Tudor design with Gothic ornamentation, and is laid out in multiples of 33 feet, symbolizing the 33 years of Christ's life and the degrees of masonry. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open daily for tours.

10 Second Baptist Church R / C / X / AA
West Michigan and West streets (Built ca. 1867; Re-built, 1912-20)
Organized in 1846, this church was the city's first African-American Baptist congregation. In the early 1990s, the congregation relocated to the west side and sold the building to developers who have transformed the interior into condominiums.

11 Second Christian Church R / C / X / AA
702 W 9th Street (1911-1948)
Second Church was Indianapolis' first African-American congregation in the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ denomination. The church moved in 1982 and changed its name to Light of the World Christian Church.

12 Simpson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) V / C / AA
11th and Missouri Streets (1899-1950s)
The Simpson Chapel began in 1875 to serve the surrounding African-American population. By 1899 the congregation laid the cornerstone for their new brick building. They remained at this location until the late 1950s.

13 Witherspoon Presbyterian D / C / X / AA
700 block of Camp Street (1907-post 1930)
This African-American congregation has its origins in the Ninth Presbyterian Church, organized in 1872. The congregation officially reorganized in 1907 as the Witherspoon Presbyterian Church. It occupied this site until the late 1930s. .

NORTH EAST QUADRANT

14 Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) A / C / X / AA
637 East 11th Street (Built, 1928)
Organized in 1865, this congregation sponsored one of the first day schools for blacks in the city. Allen Chapel erected a new building at the corner of Eleventh and Broadway Streets in 1928 where they continue to worship today.



Allen Chapel AME, ca. 1960
Recorder C7654

15 Cadle Tabernacle D / C
Northwest corner of Ohio and New Jersey streets (1921-1968)
This Spanish-style building was reputedly the largest building in the U.S. devoted to religious services. Cadle Tabernacle hosted famous evangelists, including Billy Sunday, Aimee Semple McPherson, and Billy Graham.

16 Central Christian Church A / C / X
Southwest corner of Delaware and Ohio Streets (1852-1893) D
701 North Delaware Street (Built, 1892)
Indianapolis' first congregation affiliated with the Indiana-based Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ. Their current red brick Romanesque Revival-style building at Delaware and Walnut Streets was dedicated in 1893.



Central Christian, ca. 1940
Bass 210445

17 Christ Church Cathedral A / C / X
Northeast corner of Monument Circle (Built, 1859)
The city's first Episcopal congregation, Christ Church Cathedral is the only church remaining on the Circle. This English country Gothic-style building is probably the oldest religious structure in Indianapolis. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Christ Church Cathedral, ca. 1900
Bass 4359



First Baptist, ca. 1930s
IHS 2245297F

18 First Baptist Church D / P / X
Meridian and Maryland Streets (ca. 1829-1861)
Pennsylvania and New York Streets (1864-1904)
Meridian and Vermont Streets (1904-1960)
Indianapolis' first Baptist congregation was established in 1822. In 1904, the congregation constructed the largest Baptist church in the state, at the northeast corner of Meridian and Vermont Streets. The church relocated in 1960 after the state purchased its property for an expansion of the World War Memorial Plaza.

19 First Friends Church V / C / X
Intersection of Fort Wayne, St. Clair, and Delaware Streets (1856-1896)
1245 North Alabama Street (1895-late 1950s)
The Society of Friends in Indianapolis first met in the 1830s. This white congregation helped organize several African-American congregations. The Friends met in this Romanesque Revival building for over 60 years.



First Friends, ca. 1930
Bass 8628



First Lutheran, ca. 1930s
Bretzman 19142

20 First Lutheran Church A / C / X
Meridian and Ohio Streets (1837-1853) D
Alabama and New York Streets (1853-1875) D
701 North Pennsylvania Street (Originally built in 1875, addition 1887)
The first Lutherans to settle in Indianapolis established Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church in 1837. In the early 1870s, the congregation erected its present Gothic Revival-style building on North Pennsylvania. The church joined the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

21 First Presbyterian Church - 1525 North Delaware Street R / C / X
Pennsylvania Street between Market and Ohio streets (1823-1841) D
Monument Circle and East Market Street (1841-1864) D
Southwest corner of New York and Pennsylvania Streets (1864-1899) D
Southeast corner of North Delaware and 16th Street (1903-1970)
The city's first Presbyterian congregation erected a large stone building at the southeast corner of Delaware and 16th Streets. A notable feature was the stained glass window designed by Tiffany's, now housed at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The Delaware Street building currently operates as the Metropolitan Community Center

22 First United Brethren Church R / C / G
21st Street and Central Avenue (1898-1907) D
749 North Park Street (1907-1920)
704 North Park Street (1920 - 1960s) D
A United Brethren congregation first organized in the city in 1844. The congregation successively occupied two buildings one block apart on North Park Street. The 1907 building has housed the Phoenix Theatre, a professional theater company, since 1988.



First United Brethren, ca. 1930s
Bass 82390F

23 Fourth Presbyterian Church D / C / X
Southwest corner of Delaware and Market Streets (1857-1874)
Northwest corner of Pennsylvania and 9th (1874-1895)
This congregation erected a building at the southwest corner of Delaware and Market Streets in 1857. The church moved in 1874 to a new building at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania and 9th Streets.

KEY			
V =	vacant building	C =	Protestant/Christian
A =	active religious structure	Ca =	Catholic
R =	reused by another organization	J =	Jewish
D =	demolished	O =	Orthodox
		AA =	African American
		EE =	Eastern European
		G =	German
		I =	Irish
		D =	Danish
		It =	Italian
		X =	Existing active congregation

24 Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation D / J / X
Market and East Streets (1868-1897) D
10th and Delaware Streets D (1899-1958)
Jewish immigrants organized the city's first Jewish temple in 1856. The congregation's second temple, built in the Moslem/Byzantine style, was topped by three domes. A stained glass window depicting Moses was reputed to be the first instance in which a person was portrayed in a synagogue.



Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, ca. 1900
KCT 200

25 Lockerbie Square United Methodist A / G / X
Southeast corner of Wabash and New Jersey Streets (ca. 1850-1883) D
237 North East Streets (Built, 1883)
This congregation of German Methodists was commonly referred to as the "shoemaker church" because of the many members involved in that trade. In 1883 the congregation dedicated a Neo-Romanesque-style building designed by local architect Diedrich A. Bohlen.

26 Ohev Zedeck Temple D / J / EE / X
Market and East Streets (1897-1928)
Hungarian Jews established this congregation in 1884, and for years supported a Hungarian Jewish school. Following a merger with Congregation Beth-El, the congregation became Beth-El Zedeck, which is currently located at 600 West 70th Street.

27 Plymouth Congregational Church D / C / X
Meridian Street just north of Monument Circle (1859-1884)
Southeast corner of New York and Meridian Streets (1884-1900)
In 1857, Plymouth was the first Congregational church established in the capital city. Later Plymouth merged with Mayflower Congregational Church to form First Congregational, located since the late 1950s at 7171 North Pennsylvania Street.

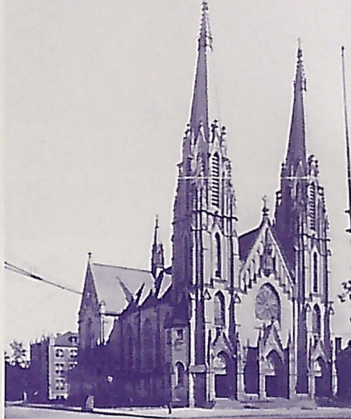
28 Roberts Park United Methodist A / C / X
Northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Market Streets (1842-1879) D
401 North Delaware Street (Built, 1879; addition, 1927)
Roberts Park Methodist traces its origins to Indianapolis' first Methodist body established in 1821. The Romanesque Revival-style building, patterned after the City Temple of London, took ten years to build. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Roberts Park Methodist, ca. 1850
Bass 17004

29 St. Joseph Catholic Church V / R / Ca
Vermont and east of East Street (1873-79) D
540 North College Avenue (1880-1949)
This Gothic-style building was designed by Diederich A. Bohlen. The sanctuary contains ceiling paintings by Italian artist Giovanni Gioscio. Currently, the Hispanic Center is housed in the old parish rectory.

30 St. Mary's Catholic Church A / Ca / G / X
117 East Maryland Street (1857-1910?) D
317 North New Jersey (Built, 1910?)
St. Mary's was the city's second Catholic parish, founded specifically for Germans in 1856-1857. The present limestone Gothic Revival structure was modeled after the Cologne Cathedral. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



St. Mary's Catholic, ca. 1920
Bass 30898

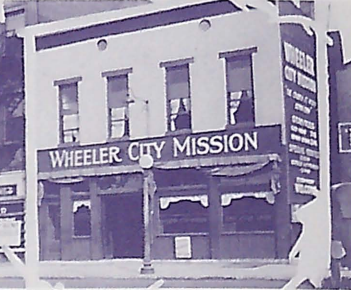
31 Second Presbyterian Church D / C / X
Northwest corner of Monument Circle (1840-1860s)
Vermont and Pennsylvania Streets (1860s-1959)
Henry Ward Beecher was the church's first pastor (1839-1849). The congregation occupied this Neo-Gothic building for 90 years, until displaced by the Indiana War Memorial Plaza.



Unity Center interior, ca. 1910s

32 Unity Center A / C / X
907 North Delaware Street (Built, 1950s)
The Unity movement, founded on non-creedal Christian teachings, began in Indianapolis in 1914 and occupied several sites in the downtown area before erecting a building at its present site in the 1950s.

33 Wheeler Mission A / C / X
245 North Delaware Street (Built, 1922)
Founded in 1893, Wheeler Mission provides free shelter for men, meals, medical care, clothing and other programs.



Wheeler Mission, date unknown
IHS C5794

34 Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ A / C / G / X
32 West Ohio Street (1841-1911) D
601 North New Jersey Street (Built, 1911)
German immigrants organized this congregation in 1841. The present sanctuary is a glazed red brick Gothic Revival-style building with Arts & Crafts-style stained glass windows. The church tower includes three large bells from Bothurn, Germany.

SOUTH WEST QUADRANT

35 Ezras Achim D / J / EE / X
708 South Meridian Street (ca. 1910-??)
This congregation of Eastern European Jewish immigrants was commonly known as the "peddlers shul" because of the many poor peddlers who comprised the congregation.

36 Mayer Chapel R / C
448 West Norwood Street at West Street (1894-1960s)
Second Presbyterian Church established this chapel in 1894. The mission provided classes and worship services to people residing near the stockyards and Belt Line Railroad. The building currently houses state government offices.

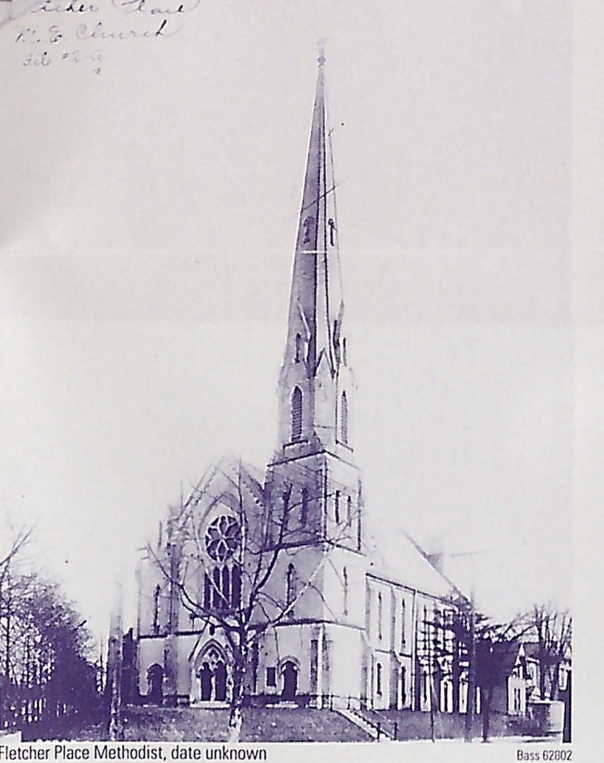


St. John the Evangelist Catholic, ca. 1900
Bass 841

38 Congregation Shaarey Tefilla D / J / EE
Meridian and Merrill Streets (1909-1966)
Polish Jews organized Shaarey Tefilla in 1882. In 1909, they moved to a new Classical-style synagogue at South Meridian and Merrill Streets. In 1966, Shaarey Tefilla merged into United Orthodox Hebrew Congregation and moved to the city's north side. (In 1997, the name was revived by a new Conservative congregation.)

39 Volunteers of America D / C / X
531 West Washington Street (ca. 1900) D
44 South Capitol Street D
The Volunteers of America opened a Mission Hall on West Washington Street that provided religious worship services and a variety of social welfare programs. Currently, they have one local post with membership of about 60.

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT



Fletcher Place Methodist, date unknown
Bass 62002

40 Fletcher Place United Methodist Church R / C
501 Fletcher Avenue (1872-1980s)
Reputed to be designed by Pastor Charles Tinsley, the church served its congregation until the early 1980s. For a short time this building served as a community center. The Fountain Square & Fletcher Place Investment Corporation has undertaken extensive restoration of the building.

41 Holy Rosary Catholic Church A / Ca / It / X
520 Stevens Street (1911-present)
The Holy Rosary parish was established in 1909 to serve the growing Italian population. Between 1957 and 1977 the building housed the Latin School, which prepared boys for the priesthood. The Italian Festival has been held there since 1984.

42 Olivet Baptist Church A / C / AA / X
1001 Hosbrook Street (1927-present)
Originally founded in Beech Grove in 1867, the Olivet Baptist congregation moved to 1001 Hosbrook Street in 1927, in the Fountain Square area (formerly home to St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church) where it continues to worship today.

43 St. Mark's Lutheran Church R / C / G / X
617 Virginia Avenue (1891-1893) D
11 Hosbrook Street (1893-1922)
The congregation represented the strong concentration of German families and businesses clustered in the Fountain Square area. The congregation sold its Hosbrook building to the Salvation Army in 1922 and moved further east. The original building was later demolished to make way for highway construction.

44 St. Paul Lutheran Church D / C / G / X
Ohio and East Streets (1860-1882)
South New Jersey Street (1882-1977)
The mother of German Lutheran churches in the city, St. Paul's Lutheran in 1842. In 1882, the congregation built a Gothic Revival edifice at the corner of South New Jersey and East McCarty Streets, now part of the Eli Lilly corporate campus. St. Paul's congregation is now located in Perry Township on the city's south side.

45 Unity Evangelical Danish Lutheran Church R / C / D
East McCarty Street (1872-1956)
Immigrants from Denmark erected this red brick Gothic-style church, reputed to be the first Danish ethnic congregation in the US. The lintel over the front entrance bears the original inscription in Danish. The Holy Rosary-Danish Church District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building also houses the Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic Faith.

ABOUT THIS MAP

This historic walking tour map, and its accompanying booklet, are produced by The Polis Center as a service to the Greater Indianapolis community and its visitors. Individuals, church and school groups, and others interested in the history of religion will find them useful as a guide to the houses of worship, past and present, in the Mile Square area of downtown Indianapolis. As well, those with an interest in architecture and the development of urban areas should find them informative. These materials are a product of the Project on Religion and Urban Culture, a multi-year, ongoing study of how religious faith and the urban community intersect and shape one another.

The Polis Center is a multidisciplinary unit of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis that seeks to extend the university into the community, and the community into the university. We seek to develop and share information about Indianapolis that will serve the common good, and through our mutual efforts to invigorate the sense of community in this city and beyond.



The Polis Center

We bring things into perspective.™

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For

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