



The City of Seattle

## Landmarks Preservation Board

400 Yesler Building Seattle, Washington 98104 • (206) 625-4501

LPB-125/81

### REPORT ON LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Name of Property:

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
1818 Queen Anne Avenue North

Legal Description:

Law's 2nd Addition, Block 15, Lots 5-10 incl.

Features/Characteristics to be Preserved:

Entire exterior of church and site.

Criteria Applicable:

Criterion 3.01 (4), architectural significance of church.

Criterion 3.01 (6), prominence of siting due to location and visibility of tower and spire; contrast of siting and distinctive presence along Queen Anne Avenue North.

Approved by the Landmarks Preservation Board at a Public Hearing held  
22 April, 1981.

Issued: 24 April, 1981

  
Earl D. Layman  
City Historic Preservation Officer

EDL:jw



**City of Seattle**  
 Department of Community Development/Office of Urban Conservation

## Landmark Nomination Form

LPB-115/80

**Name** BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **Year Built** 1929-1930  
(Common, present or historic)

**Street and Number** 1818 Queen Anne Avenue North

**Assessor's File No.** 423290-1075

**Legal Description** **Plat Name** Law's 2nd Addition **Block** 15 **Lot** 5-10

**Present Owner** Bethany Presbyterian Church **Present Use** Religious

**Address** 1820 Queen Anne Avenue North

**Original Owner** Bethany Presbyterian Church **Original Use** Religious

**Architect** Charles Hay **Builder** C.C. Cawsey



**Description:** Present and original (if known) physical appearance and characteristics

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Bethany Presbyterian Church was designed by Charles Hay in a style derived from English gothic, and was built between 1929 and 1930. Its external form is based upon an L-shaped plan which partially encloses a square courtyard. The main body of the church creating the nave is oriented toward the street with offices and classrooms incorporated within the adjacent two story wing. Simple pitched roofs shelter both portions of the church with two dormers and a large gable occurring in the office and classroom wing and facing into the court. A distinctive and well proportioned tower with spire rises from the intersection of the two wings, and serves to unify the composition. Access to the interior is provided through a formal entrance portal at the center of the street facade, and a second major entrance located at the base of the tower.

The original portion of the church is constructed of reinforced concrete and structural steel, and is faced with a veneer of red brick and light-colored cast stone trim. The brick exterior is repeated in the addition. Fenestration in the nave portion includes five bays of elongated windows opening under slightly pointed arches at each side. The windows are framed within cast stone casings with quined sides, and are organized into bays by flat buttress. Heavier buttresses visually anchor the corners of the street facade and the one tower corner exposed at the base. The street facade is composed of a single cast stone gothic window with cast stone casings and armatures. A small Celtic cross is placed atop the gable. In the office and classroom wing windows are generally rectangular and filled with simple metal sash.

The tower and spire are the key elements of the total composition. Rising above the pitched rooflines, the tower is detailed with cast stone pilasters and imbricated finials at the corners, and crenellations at the top. Single gothic arched openings with cast stone tracery, casings and quoins occur near the top of the tower at each of its four faces. An octagonal spire rises from the top of the tower to a height of approximately eighty feet and is sheathed with square, diagonally set copper plates.

The interior of the church is organized into a simple rectangular nave which incorporates a gothic arched choir recess behind the pulpit, and a small gallery built over the narthex. A handsome gothic arched organ screen complements the entrance facade window at the opposite end of the nave. A series of wooden scissors trusses, reinforced with iron tie rods, spans the nave and the ceiling is finished in stained shiplap panelling. Walls are finished in plaster with stained wainscoting along the sides in the lower portions.

The congregation's history dates back to 1888 when it became independent of the First Presbyterian Church and was chartered as the Second Presbyterian Church. The first structure was erected within the area now encompassed by Seattle Center, circa 1889. Its name was changed to Bethany Presbyterian Church in 1903, and a second structure was constructed between 1906 and 1907 at a new address at the southeast corner of First Avenue North and Roy Street. In more recent years, this structure was remodelled for commercial use as Sunday's Restaurant. Construction of the present church designed by Charles Hay began at a third site on Queen Anne Avenue North in 1929. The edifice was completed in 1930 and was expanded in the early 1960's with a harmonious addition designed by Durham, Anderson and Fried.

### Statement of significance

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Although the nave form contradicts the Protestant nature of the congregation, Bethany Presbyterian Church represents one of Seattle's more successful eclectic adaptations of English gothic architecture in terms of composition and detailing. Situated on the central plateau of Queen Anne hill, the church is an important visual element of the townscape, significant for its contribution to the neighborhood's identity.

Internal articulation of structure and use of space are clearly expressed in the external form of the church. The exterior elevations of the nave are composed of bays and buttresses which represent structural increments that correspond with the internal truss framework. Worship and ancillary functions are housed in separate wings differentiated from one another primarily by difference in fenestration. At the juncture of the two wings, the exceptionally well proportioned and detailed tower with spire serve to unite the wings and create one of the three finest such structures in Seattle, comparing well with those at Blessed Sacrament and the First Baptist Church. The L-plan arrangement is effective in partially enclosing a passive green space planted informally with trees and shrubbery. This court and its plantings soften the composition and contrast pleasantly with the urban character (rather dreary strip commercial) of Queen Anne Avenue North.