



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

REPORT ON DESIGNATION

LPB-359/80

New Age Christian Church, 1763 N.W. 62nd Street

Legal Description: Gilman Park, Block 20, Lots 2 & 3.

At a Public Hearing held by the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board held on August 20, 1980, the Board voted to approve Landmark designation of the subject property.

This designation is based upon satisfaction of the following criteria of Ordinance 106348, Part III:

Section 3.01 (4) It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction.

The New Age Christian Church, built in 1894 for the German Congregation Church, is one of Seattle's last surviving examples of a simple form of protestant church architecture, common in our small communities throughout the United States during the late nineteenth and early 20th century. The church represents a common design form consisting basically of a light frame meeting hall given additional religious meaning with the addition of symbols such as a tower in the front and frequently the inclusion of gothic-arched windows and doors. Of the few early frame churches remaining in Seattle, New Age Christian Church is the best preserved and most typical representative of this archetype.

Section 3.01 (6) Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the city.

New Age Christian Church is a readily identifiable visual feature of its immediate neighborhood due to its age and its tower-embellished form. It has become a symbolic reminder of the small town character of the pre-annexation Ballard community and contributes to the distinctive identity of its neighborhood.

Features and characteristics of the property identified for preservation include:

- the exterior of the structure; and*
- its site.*

REPORT ON DESIGNATION
LPB-359/80
Page two.

Issued: September 02, 1980
Earl D. Layman, City Historic Preservation Officer

by:


Roberta Deering
Board Coordinator

RD:gaj



LPB-21/80

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

Landmark Nomination Form

Name New Age Christian Church Year Built c. 1894
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 1763 N.W. 62nd Street

Assessor's File No. 276760 - 2265

Legal Description Plat Name Gilman Park Block 20 Lot 2,3

Present Owner New Age Christian Church Present Use religious

Address 1763 N.W. 62nd Street

Original Owner The German Congregational Church Original Use religious

Architect unknown Builder unknown

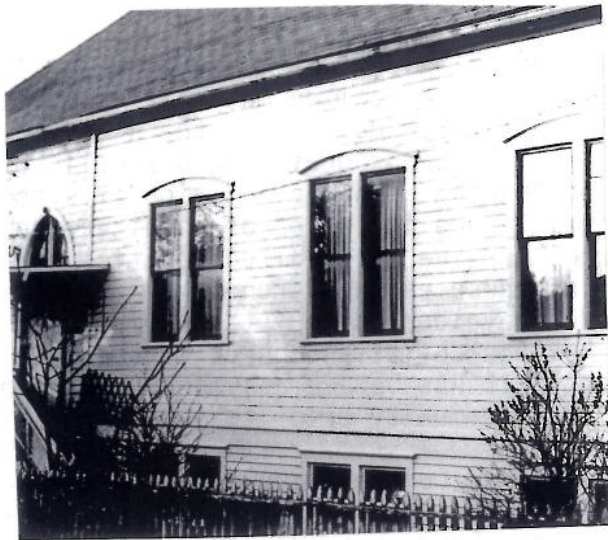
Description: Present and original (if known) physical appearance and characteristics

The New Age Christian Church, built circa 1894 as the "German Church" is a light frame, single story structure raised upon a poured concrete foundation. Its form consists of a simple rectangular pitched roof body with an attached square-based tower projecting from the entrance facade. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof. At the rear, two additions are visible, the first one of an apparently early date, and a second one built in 1939. The first addition simply extended the overall length of the church by approximately fifteen feet and conceivably provided room for a church office and/or church school. The pitched roof was also extended at the time, but was hipped toward the rear. The 1939 addition built to house a small apartment, is considerably smaller, but also has a hipped roof.

The exterior of the church is generally sheathed in V-groove shiplap siding, a practice common in Seattle during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A variation, also common to the period, is found at the facade where decorative shingle-work embellishes the gable and the middle section of the tower. The front portal, located at the base of the tower is framed within a simple, gothic arch and approached from the sidewalk via a set of broad wooden stairs. Similar gothic-arched windows flank the tower on each side of the tower, and a square window, with victorian mullions, is set diagonally in the middle section of the tower. Simple louvred openings are placed at the top of the tower immediately under the roof. Each side of the church originally included three paired, double hung sash windows set within segmentally arched window casings. The first addition appears to have originally repeated this window design at the west side, although it has subsequently been modified. A gothic-arched doorway with victorian detailing is located at the east side of the first addition, and rectangular windows and a door are randomly arranged in the 1939 addition. Windows also occur above grade in the basement, and except in the additions, correspond with the paired windows at the main floor. An exterior stairwell leads to the bottom of the tower at the east side, where a doorway provides access to the social hall.

The interior of the church is simple. Original wainscoting survives, but the wall and ceiling are now covered in more modern materials. The straight wooden pews found in the interior are of an uncertain date.

Photographs:



Submitted by: Office of Urban Conservation staff

Address 400 Yesler Building, Seattle WA. Phone 625-4501

Date _____

Reviewed _____ Date _____
Historic Preservation Officer

Statement of significance

The New Age Christian Church is one of Seattle's last surviving example of the simple vernacular form of church architecture, common in small communities throughout the United States during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. It represents a common formula for design consisting basically of a light frame meeting hall given religious meaning with the addition of symbols such as a tower at the front, and frequently the inclusion of gothic-arched windows and doors. Many similar churches survive in rural communities across the country. However in Seattle, most of these early churches fell victim to growing congregations, urbanization and redevelopment. Of the early frame churches which remain in Seattle, the New Age Christian Church is the most typical and most authentically preserved. It has become a symbolic reminder of the small town character of the Ballard community prior to 1900.

The church was originally built for the German Congregational Church circa 1894 in Ballard. It appears for the first time in the 1894 - 1895 Polk Directory at the "south side of Post between First and Second" in Ballard. This address corresponds with the present, post-annexation address of the church at 1763 N.W. 62nd. Ida Grace Corkey's 1939 manuscript on Seattle churches notes that German derrominations had begun work in Ballard as early as 1892 and 1893. Thus the 1894 date appears plausible, however records confirming the church's date are unfortunately no longer available. In 1904, the church was rented to Evangelical St. Paul's congregation, a second German parish which reportedly bought the building in 1905 and proceeded to make repairs and rebuild the tower that same year. Evangelical St. Paul's congregation continued to worship in their original church until 1930 when they abandoned it and moved to 1706 N.W. Market Street. By 1931, the church was occupied by the Zion Church of the Lutheran Brethren which became the Apostolic Lutheran Church about 1953. The present congregation has worshipped in the church since 1975.