

2011 NOMINATION FORM

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Awards Program

NOMINATIONS must be postmarked or received in the Kentucky Heritage Council office by **Monday, April 11**. Entries may also be submitted via email to kyheritage@ky.gov or by fax at 502-564-5820. For each entry, submit a completed nomination form, narrative description and supporting documentation to:

Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office

300 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

ATTN: Ida Lee Willis Awards

1. Nominee

Name **"The Church" Renovation by Susan Swope and Pip Pullen**

Title / Organization **n/a**

Address **801 East Main Street, Louisville, KY 40206**

City **Louisville** State **KY** Zip **40202**

Phone **502-533.9100** Email pipp@red7e.com

2. Award

(check one)

Memorial Award

Preservation Project Award

Service to Preservation Award

3. Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

See below

4. Supporting Documentation

Attach or enclose any photographs, articles, publications or letters of support for the nominee that would assist in the determining the impact of his/her contribution. Before and after photographs should be included for a Preservation Project Award. When submitting by mail, materials may also be submitted on a CD/DVD attached to the nomination form. When submitting via email, please submit all files in one email in PDF format; do not send multiple files. For questions, contact Diane Comer at 502-564-7005, ext. 120, or diane.comer@ky.gov.

5. Submitter of Nomination

Name **Joanne Weeter**

Title / Organization **Historic Preservation Consultant**

Address **4302 Talahi Way**

City **Louisville** State **KY** Zip **40207**

Phone **(502) 296-7666** Email joanne.weeter@insightbb.com

Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

DESCRIPTION

Marcus Lindsey United Methodist Church is a Gothic Revival style church located at the northeast corner of Shelby and Main Streets in the Butchertown Neighborhood. The building's main entrance faces Main Street with secondary entrances on both Main Street and on Shelby. The brick structure, which rests on a raised stone foundation, is dominated by a multi-story corner tower flanked by expansive pedimented wall dormers. Both dormers feature multi-light Gothic style art glass windows that rest upon the stone string course of a curvilinear brick wall arrangement. Brick and stone buttresses support both the corner tower and the curvilinear wall. The flanking portions along both the Main Street and Shelby Street facades repeat the art glass motif of the windows in the main section but feature rectangular rather than Gothic style window headers. The secondary façade toward the east of the sanctuary features Gothic windows while the secondary façade toward the north has simple square headed windows. A standing seam gabled roof, replete with spire, originally topped the structure. At some point prior to 1973, the steeple was removed.

The floor plan of the Marcus Lindsey Church is divided into 3 distinct sections; sanctuary, vestry, and classrooms/offices. The sanctuary is square in shape. An unpainted wooden tongue and groove ceiling tops this space and is punctuated by period chandeliers. Originally the sanctuary accommodated curved pews arranged in an "Akron" plan. To the left of the carved wooden pulpit was a pipe organ. To the north of the sanctuary is a multi-use space that until recently housed the minister's vestry, a small office, and bathroom. To the east of the sanctuary was a classroom wing.

Sometime after 2006 the previous owner leveled the sloping floor and removed the pews, pipe organ, and pulpit from the pulpit. The classroom wing, which most recently featured non-original partitioned Sunday School rooms, was also demolished after 2006 to create a two story space. A simple iron floor platform was added at that time.

SIGNIFICANCE

801 East West Main Street is located within the boundaries of the Butchertown National Register District (listed in the National Register in 1976) and also lies within the boundaries of the Butchertown Preservation District (designated in 2003). It is a contributing element to that district.

According to archival records, including Anniversary Booklets from 1943 and 1968, the present Marcus Lindsey United Methodist Church was constructed in 1898 and officially dedicated in 1900. It is the successor to an earlier church that was located on Shelby Street, between Market and Jefferson that dated from 1843. The present church was named to honor of Marcus Lindsey, a "pioneer preacher" who served the Methodist Church for 23 years before dying of cholera in 1833. A parsonage to the church is/was located one block north at 825 East Washington Street. It is believed that the church building was built in phases with the oldest portion to the east, built a decade prior to the main block of the sanctuary.

The existing Gothic Revival style building is typical of turn-of-the-century ecclesiastical architecture. 801 East Main Street fits in well with the surrounding area in terms of its scale, style, massing, setback, materials and period of construction. It also displays the requisite

location, design, setting, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association required for structures considered contributing to a National Register District.

BUTCHERTOWN HISTORY

Butchertown's early origins can be traced to Henry Fait who established one of the area's first gristmills in the area. He was soon followed by Colonel Frederick Geiger, who established a flourmill, operated a ferry between southern Indiana and Louisville and built a twenty-room farmhouse around 1800. Because of the water provided by Beargrass Creek and the presence of a turnpike, butchering soon developed in the area. By 1834 the Bourbon Stockyards, a major local slaughterhouse, was built, securing the Butchertown neighborhood's role as the home to the city's principal butchering and slaughtering industries. Cattle drovers from as far away as central Kentucky herded their animals along the nearby turnpike roads to the stockyards. Eventually, smaller master butchers and meat packers, who slaughtered hogs, cows, and sheep, had operations that stood alongside the Bourbon Stockyards. Before long, a host of businesses that focused on slaughtering by-products, such as tanneries, soap and candle making, blacksmiths, and cooperages dotted the landscape. Breweries and distilleries were built to serve the area's early settlers, many of whom were German. By 1841, Butchertown's street system was laid out and the area's future was secure. Most of the workers in the butcher-related industries lived in the Butchertown neighborhood area as well. Thus, it developed a mixed-use character early in its history with residences standing side-by-side with commercial concerns. Toward the end of the 1900s large meatpacking plants moved into the area and skewed the land usage toward industry as they replaced small butchering concerns. In 1931 when the area was formally zoned for land use under the new citywide zoning system, the entire area was designated for industrial land use. The incompatibility between the increase in industrial concerns alongside existing residential uses resulted in homeowner disinvestments. The 1937 flood that damaged or destroyed many buildings in the area hastened the area's decline. In later years, a floodwall was constructed that further severed ties between the neighborhood and the river to the north. To add insult to injury, the 1960s witnessed the construction of Interstate-64, which bisected the Butchertown neighborhood and further impeded residents' access to the Ohio River. In response, neighborhood residents united and formed Butchertown, Inc., a neighborhood revitalization organization that sought to stem the tide of urban disinvestments by purchasing and renovating some of the area's older homes and businesses. In 1966, activists convinced the city's planning authorities to revert some industrially zoned land to residential zoning to more accurately reflect original functions and current use. The efforts paid off slowly but surely. In 1976 the area was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and in 2003, Butchertown was designated a Metro Landmark District.

FROM THE CHURCH WEB SITE

Marcus Lindsey Church was originally called the Main Street Church and comprised only the east half of the current structure, which was completed in 1888. Its congregation, dating back to 1845, moved from nearby Wesley Chapel on Shelby Street after buying the lot in 1887.

The congregation grew rapidly, and in 1898 a cornerstone was laid for a beautiful new sanctuary, now the western half of the building at Main and Shelby Streets. It was dedicated the Marcus Lindsey Church in 1899, renamed after [Reverend Marcus Lindsey](#), a celebrated Methodist preacher. At its dedication the congregation completely filled the church, and contributed offerings totaling over \$4,000.00, allowing what was later to become the Marcus Lindsey Methodist-Episcopal Memorial Church a completely debt-free new beginning.

From 1900–1950, the church's parsonage was located on the street behind the building at 825 East Washington Street, one-and-a-half blocks away from the church and a block from the

famous [Thomas Edison House](#). No one seems to know the fate of the steeple that once adorned the church. Speculation is that it may have been removed in the 1950s or early-'60s when the tower was lowered to resolve roofing problems — although several other local steeples have been lost to fires and storms.

Restoration of the structure, which was beginning to deteriorate and had long-since been desanctified, began in February 2009 under the auspices of new owners Pip and Susan Pullen-Swope. At this point it was known as Marcus Lindsey United Methodist Church.

The Church (as it is has been informally and, everyone hopes, finally renamed) is in the Butchertown National Register District in the [Nulu](#) (East Market) district. Susan and Pip have worked to preserve and repurpose this significant neighborhood asset.

LINK TO PHOTOS

<http://801emain.com/pictures.php>

FLOOR PLAN

<http://801emain.com/listing.php>

NEWS ARTICLES AND BLOGS

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2008/10/16/you-live-where-in-a-church-holy-condo-watch/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2008/11/17/holy-condo-watch-update-project-plans-unveiled/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2009/01/15/butchertown-church-conversion-approved/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2009/04/09/holy-condo-watch-construction-officially-begins/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2009/07/03/holy-condo-watch-interior-construction-tour/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2009/11/10/church-construction-continues-beyond-belief/>

<http://brokensidewalk.com/2010/01/21/butchertowns-church-keeps-mayor-abramson-hopeful/>





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