



# HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

## HISTORIC SITE FORM

PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION



### IDENTIFICATION

Property Name (if any): Saint John's Swedish Lutheran Church

Address: 323 Park Avenue

Date of Construction: c.1907

City, County: Park City, Summit County, Utah

Architect/Builder, if known: unknown

Tax Number: PC-39

Current Owner: Marion R. Lintner

Legal Description (include acreage): COM NE COR LOT 6 BLK 3 PARK CITY TOWNSITE TH W'LY 75 FT; S 15 FT; E 10 FTS 11 FT; E 65 FT; N 26 FT TO BEG A PART OF LOT 5 BLK 3 PARK CITY SURVEY, DESC AS BEG 1 FT S 23\*26' E ALG E LINE LOT 5 FRNE COR SD LOT 5 BLK 3, TH 11.5 FT S 23\* 26'E TH 65 FT S 66\*40' W; TH 11.5 FT N 23\*26' W; TH 65 FT N 66\*40' E TO BEG IWD-32-228 OWD-503 M55-274 M57-73-74M7-37-38 (SEE M68-590) (SEE QCD 1300-352 EZEKIEL R DUMKE JR TRTO KZ INVESTMENTS TRACT 2); 0.06 AC

### STATUS / USE

Original Use: religious

Current Use: single dwelling

Property Type:

National Register of Historic Places:

Evaluation:

Building

Eligible

Landmark Site

Structure

Ineligible

Significant Site

Site

Listed, Date:

Non Historic

2/12/1999 Individually Listed

### DOCUMENTATION

Photographs:

Research Sources:

Tax Photos

Sanborn Maps

City/ County Histories

Newspapers

Prints: 2006, 1995

tax Card

Personal Interviews

Other:

Historic

Census Records

Park City Museum

abstract of title

USHS Preservation Files

**DESCRIPTION**

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Architectural Style: religious

No. Stories: 1

Number of Associated Structures:  Accessory building(s). # 1  Structure(s). #

Condition:  Good  Fair  Poor  Uninhabitable/Ruin

Location:  Original location  Moved (Date: ,original location: )

Materials: (Describe the visible materials)

Exterior Walls: Drop siding

Foundation: Concrete

Roof: Gable roof form sheathed in standing seam metal

Windows/Doors: Three point arched windows with stained glass

Additions:  Major  Minor  None

Alterations:  Major  Minor  None

Describe Additions/ Alterations (Dates):

Essential Historic Form:  Retains

Does Not Retain

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

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(Briefly describe the property and its setting. Include a verbal description of the location; a general description of the property including the overall shape, number of stories, architectural style, materials, shape of roof; identify and describe any associated structures; identify any known exterior additions and/or alterations.)

St. John’s Swedish Lutheran Church is one of the few remaining religious buildings left in Park City from the mining era. It was described fully in a 1999 National Register nomination form as follows:

“Built in 1907, St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church is located on the uphill (west) side of Park Avenue which runs parallel to Main Street in Park City. The one-story building is of wood-frame and drop-siding construction, with a standing-seam, sheet metal-covered roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. A Victorian Eclectic-style building, it

exhibits vernacular characteristics of both the Victorian Gothic and the Greek Revival style, both commonly used for church buildings in Utah during the mid-to-late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

The front (east) facade has a small entry vestibule that currently has a set of glass-paneled double doors. An historic photo of the church reveals that the original doors were wood paneled but these were replaced for insulation purposes. Above the doors is a decorative stained glass transom, and above this, a simple wood pediment. The stained glass is not original; the historic photo shows plain glass in the transom. This vestibule is approximately eight and a half feet wide and five feet deep with a gable roof. Beyond the vestibule is the primary, gable-end elevation of the building. Both of these gables have cornice returns. The gables also contain some simple, decorative gable trim that was recently applied by the current owner at the same time as the doors and stained glass. An historic photo of the church reveals that there was no decoration in the gables; the only ornamentation on the church was a cross at the tip of the gable roof. The entrance to the building is from a landing which is accessed by stairs on either side. The landing, stairs and balustrades were constructed in early 1980s to meet building safety code requirements. The original entrance to the church consisted of approximately five-foot wide wood steps which led straight up the steep embankment from the street to the vestibule.

The north and south elevations of the church each contain three pointed-arch windows with operable lower sashes for ventilation. The original glazing was replaced with stained glass panels, although the original window openings and framing were retained. There is an addition to the rear of the church which is differentiated from the historic building by a stepped down roof line. A back door flanked by windows is on the south elevation of this addition. The rear or west elevation has two, two-over-two, double-hung windows on the first floor, and a small window in the upper part of the gable. The north elevation has one two-over-two, double-hung window on the addition.

The interior of the vestibule has floor to ceiling wood paneling, with a set of solid wood doors that open up into what was once the sanctuary, and is now the living room. No alterations have been made to this area, and it retains its openness. At the west end are stairs that lead up to a bedroom and a loft. Behind the stairs, on the main level, is the kitchen, a hall, a bath and two bedrooms.

The lot is very narrow with a steep rise to the rear, as is typical for much of the older area of Park City; the house to the north is less than fifteen feet away from the church. The vacant lot to the south of the building was purchased to provide parking and driveway space. There are currently no outbuildings on the property.”

The building is unchanged from the time of this description. The overall form and materiality of the building remains intact and the building retains its historic value.

## SIGNIFICANCE

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Historic Era:

Settlement & Mining Boom Era (1868-1893)

Mature Mining Era (1894-1930)

## ☐ Mining Decline & Emergence of Recreation Industry (1931-1962)

### Narrative Statement of Significance:

(Briefly describe those characteristics by which this property may be considered historically significant.)

The history of St. Johns Swedish Lutheran Church was given in the 1999 National Register nomination as follows: “Constructed in October 1907, St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church is significant as one of the few remaining historic church buildings in the mining town of Park City, the largest historic metal mining town in Utah. In a state settled and dominated by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church), Park City was an anomaly. Because of the expediency of the settlement and the various backgrounds of the people who inhabited Park City, the Mormon church had little influence in the community. This provided the opportunity for different faiths, including the Lutherans, to establish churches in a city where a single religion did not play a major role in the development of the community. St. John's is significant under Criterion A for this reason, as a stabilizing institution established during Park City's era as a mining boom town and representative of Lutheran missionary activity in western mining towns.

In 1869 significant deposits of silver and lead were discovered in the mountains 35 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. This discovery led to the establishment of a mining camp which would become the town of Park City. Park City became the single largest metal mining community in the state of Utah during the mining boom period of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Park City and Eureka are the only two mining towns that have survived to the present day.<sup>1</sup> In 1880 Park City was incorporated as a town. On December 2, 1882 the town suffered a setback when fire struck and destroyed several buildings on Main Street. On June 19, 1898 a fire started early one morning in a boarding house near the center of town. There was a strong wind that day which blew the fire out of control, destroying over 200 buildings.

The policy of L.D.S. Church President Brigham Young had on mining only allowed whatever mining was necessary to develop and sustain a self-sufficient community. He would not support Church members who mined for precious metals. Consequently, Park City developed as a primarily non-Mormon community. The early prospectors and miners were people of a variety of religious faiths. Many were Catholic, and the Priests came from Salt Lake City on Sundays for mass. St. Lukes Episcopal Church was built in 1881; destroyed in the 1898 fire rebuilt in 1901 and is still standing at 523 Park Avenue. This wood frame building was the first church in Park City, and was placed on the National Register in 1980. The Congregational

Church was built next; it also burned in the 1898 fire but was not rebuilt. St. Mary's Catholic Church was built of stone, however it was also destroyed in the 1898 fire. Located at 523 Park Avenue, it was rebuilt in 1884 and placed on the National Register in 1978.

The Lutheran church was the state church of Scandinavia. The first Lutheran church in Utah was organized in Salt Lake City on July 18, 1882. This particular branch was the Swedish Lutheran Church with five members.<sup>6</sup>

Lutherans came to Utah for two main reasons: the first was to proselytize among the Mormons, and the second was to serve the Lutherans who had migrated to Utah to work as employees of the railroads, as merchants, miners and farmers. It was thought that some of the ten thousand Scandinavian Mormons who had come to Utah could be 'won back' to their original religion. Lutheran congregations were formed on the basis of language.

The mining communities in Utah were populated by people of a variety of nationalities and diverse religions, many of whom were Swedes and Finns of Lutheran background. Ministers from Salt Lake City and Ogden traveled to the mining camps for services on an irregular basis. St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church in Park City was organized in 1902 by Oscar Anton Elmquist, a student minister and carpenter by trade. The original<sup>31</sup> members consisted of

nine Swedes and twenty two Finns. Services were conducted in Swedish and Finnish, and during the first few years were held in private homes and at the Methodist Episcopal church. After being ordained, Reverend Elmquist was sent to the Elim Lutheran Church in Ogden; he continued to serve the Park City congregation traveling there by train.

The first recorded owners of the property where St. John's Lutheran Church now stands are Amos and Maggie Mosher. In July 1881 Amos Mosher quit-claimed Lots 5 and 6 to Merrill L. Hoyt; who returned the property to Mosher four months later. In October 1887, Mosher deeded the property to Curtis and May Blanchard. They held the property until April, 1905 when it was deeded to Fargo Sherman, who held the land until November of that year when he quit-claimed it to J.W. Bircumshaw. In September, 1906 Bircumshaw deeded the land to St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church.

John Willard Bircumshaw was born in Nottingham, England in January 1856. According to his obituary, Bircumshaw was a butcher in Park City until 1920. However, the 1912-13 and 1914-15 Utah State Gazetteer show listings for Frank McEwan & J.W. Bircumshaw, saloon at 455 Main Street.

In 1906 the Swedish Lutheran congregation purchased Lots 5, 6, 27 and 28 of Block 3, located on Park Avenue. By the summer of 1907 they had begun construction on the building. The church had a small foyer and a sanctuary with vaulted ceiling; at the rear was a room and a back door. The building was constructed in three weeks at a cost of \$2, 197.00. The first service was held in the unfinished building in August; the church was dedicated St. John's Evangelical Swedish Lutheran

Church on October 26, 1907. The congregation boasted that "no other congregation in Park City has been able to build, furnish and dedicate a church in ninety days without a dollar's debt".

Shortly after the dedication, Reverend Elmquist accepted a pastorate in Iowa, and the congregation never again had a resident pastor. Preachers would travel from Salt Lake City or Ogden for a wedding or funeral, and once a month for Sunday services; staying in the back room. The building was heated with a wood stove and had no indoor plumbing. Services were conducted in Swedish until gradually, by 1920, they were in English. By the 1940's the congregation, along with the population of Park City, had dwindled; the few remaining parishioners traveled to Salt Lake City to worship, and the church was abandoned.

In May 1966 the abandoned building was deeded to the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. The church was auctioned off, and one week later it was deeded to L. Virginia Santy and Olga Guillaume. The two women kept the property until June 1973 when it was sold to John and Nicky Price. John Price was a contractor who began the conversion of the church into a residence when he dug out a basement, poured a new concrete foundation (which was required by code) and replaced the shed roof on the rear room with a new gable roof. He also created a balcony where the podium had been. One year later Price sold the church to the current owner, Marion Lintner.

Ms. Lintner purchased the building as a home for herself and her two daughters. It has undergone some modification, specifically to the roof of the rear room, installation of stained glass in the sanctuary windows, application of gable trim, and minor changes to the loft in the interior. The original exterior building materials, massing, and form of the building remain, and most of the historical integrity of the building is still present. The rear addition, though not visible from the street, is compatible and not overwhelming to the church, and can be differentiated as a non-historic addition by the change in roof line."

## REFERENCES

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- Boutwell, John Mason and Lester Hood Woolsey. *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Park City District, Utah*. White Paper, Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912.
- Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940*. Salt Lake City: Center for Architectural Studies, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Utah and Utah State Historical Society, 1988.
- Hampshire, David, Martha Sonntag Bradley and Allen Roberts. *A History of Summit County*. Coalville, UT: Summit County Commission, 1998.
- National Register of Historic Places. Park City Main Street Historic District. Park City, Utah, National Register #79002511.
- Peterson, Marie Ross and Mary M. Pearson. *Echoes of Yesterday: Summit County Centennial History*. Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1947.
- Pieros, Rick. *Park City: Past & Present*. Park City: self-published, 2011.
- Randall, Deborah Lyn. *Park City, Utah: An Architectural History of Mining Town Housing, 1869 to 1907*. Master of Arts thesis, University of Utah, 1985.
- Ringholz, Raye Carleson. *Diggings and Doings in Park City: Revised and Enlarged*. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1972.
- Ringholz, Raye Carleson and Bea Kummer. *Walking Through Historic Park City*. Self-published, 1984.
- Thompson, George A., and Fraser Buck. *Treasure Mountain Home: Park City Revisited*. Salt Lake City: Dream Garden Press, 1993.

## PHOTOS AND MAPS

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(Provide several clear historical and current photos of the property as well as locational maps indicating the location of the property in relation to streets or other widely recognized features.)





*323 Park Avenue. Northeast oblique. November 2013.*



*323 Park Avenue. East elevation. November 2013.*



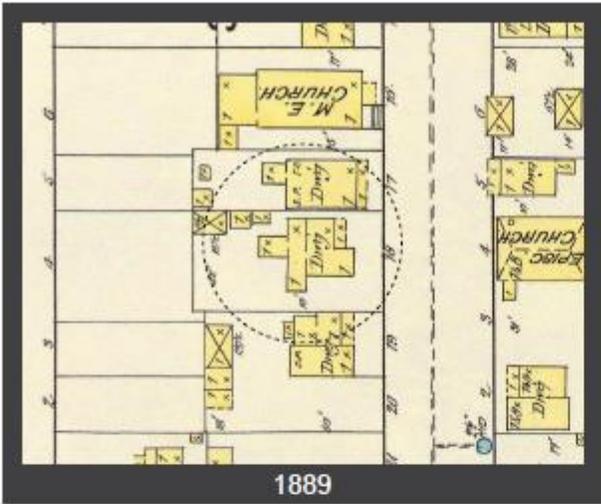
*323 Park Avenue. Southeast oblique. November 2013.*



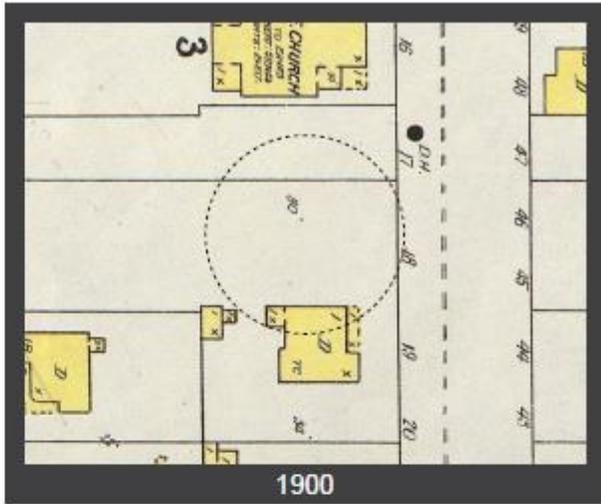
MAPS

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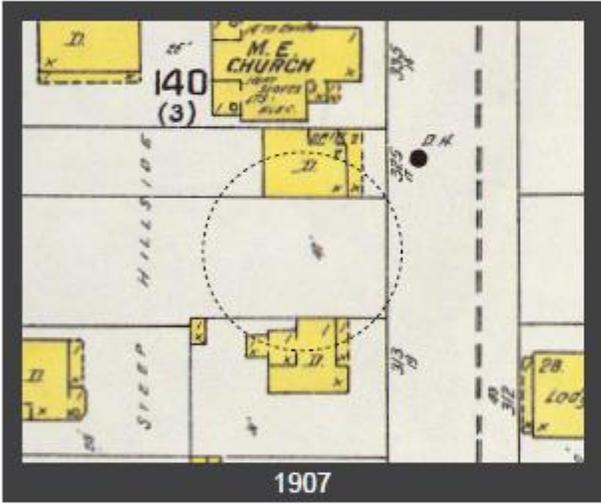
323 Park Avenue, Park City, Summit County, Utah  
Intensive Level Survey—Sanborn Map history



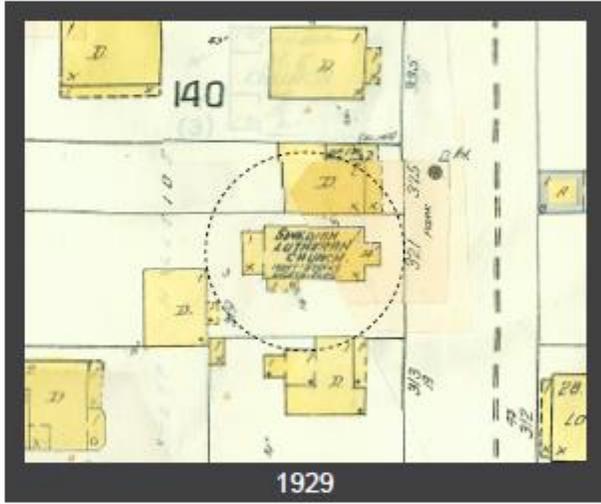
1889



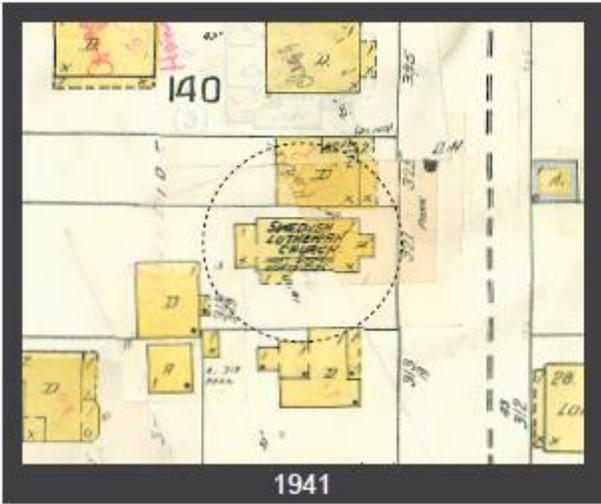
1900



1907

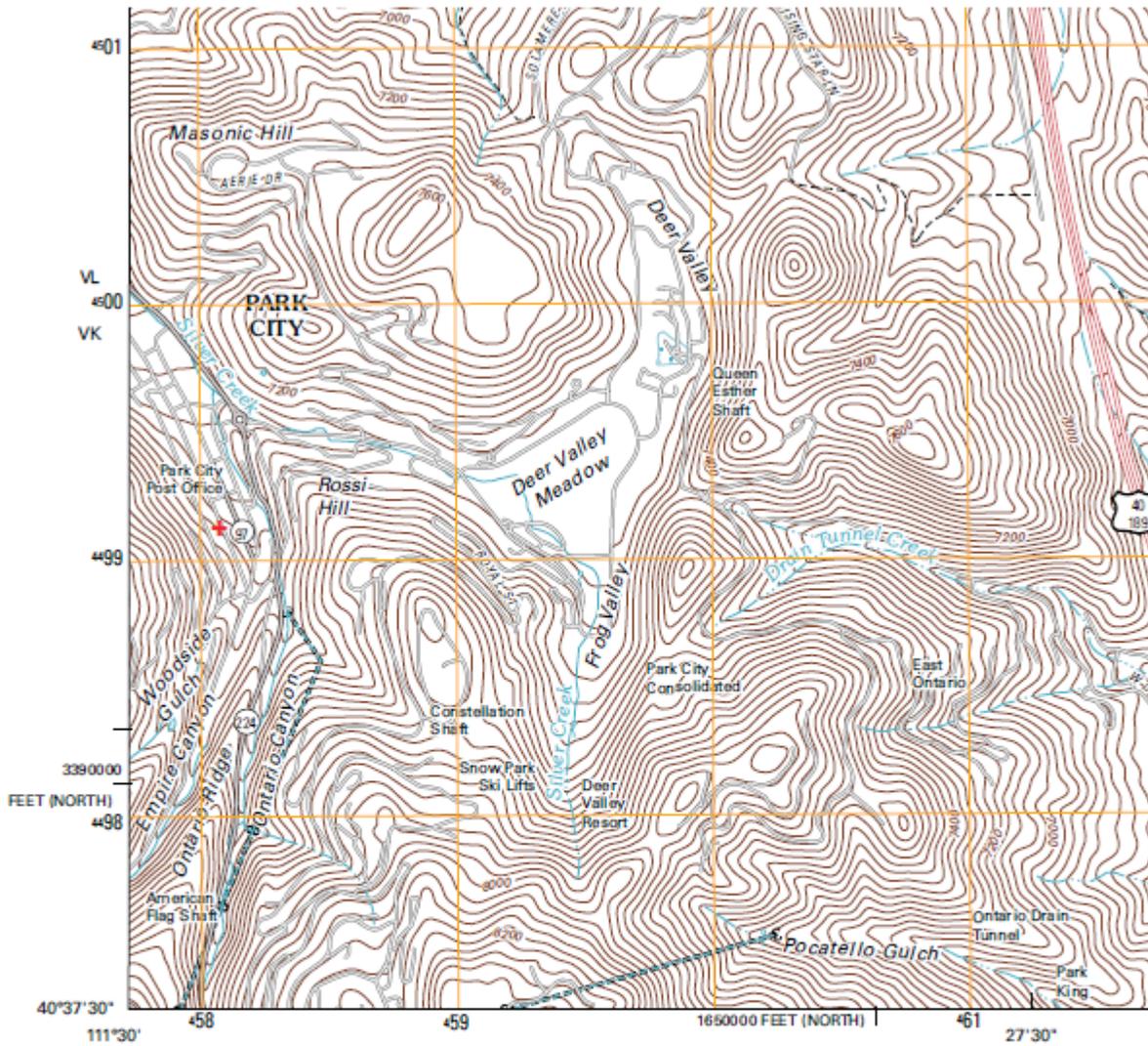


1929



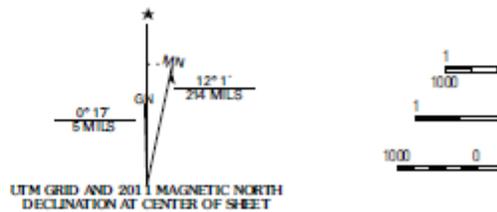
1941

323 Park Avenue, Park City, Summit County, Utah  
 Intensive Level Survey—USGS Map



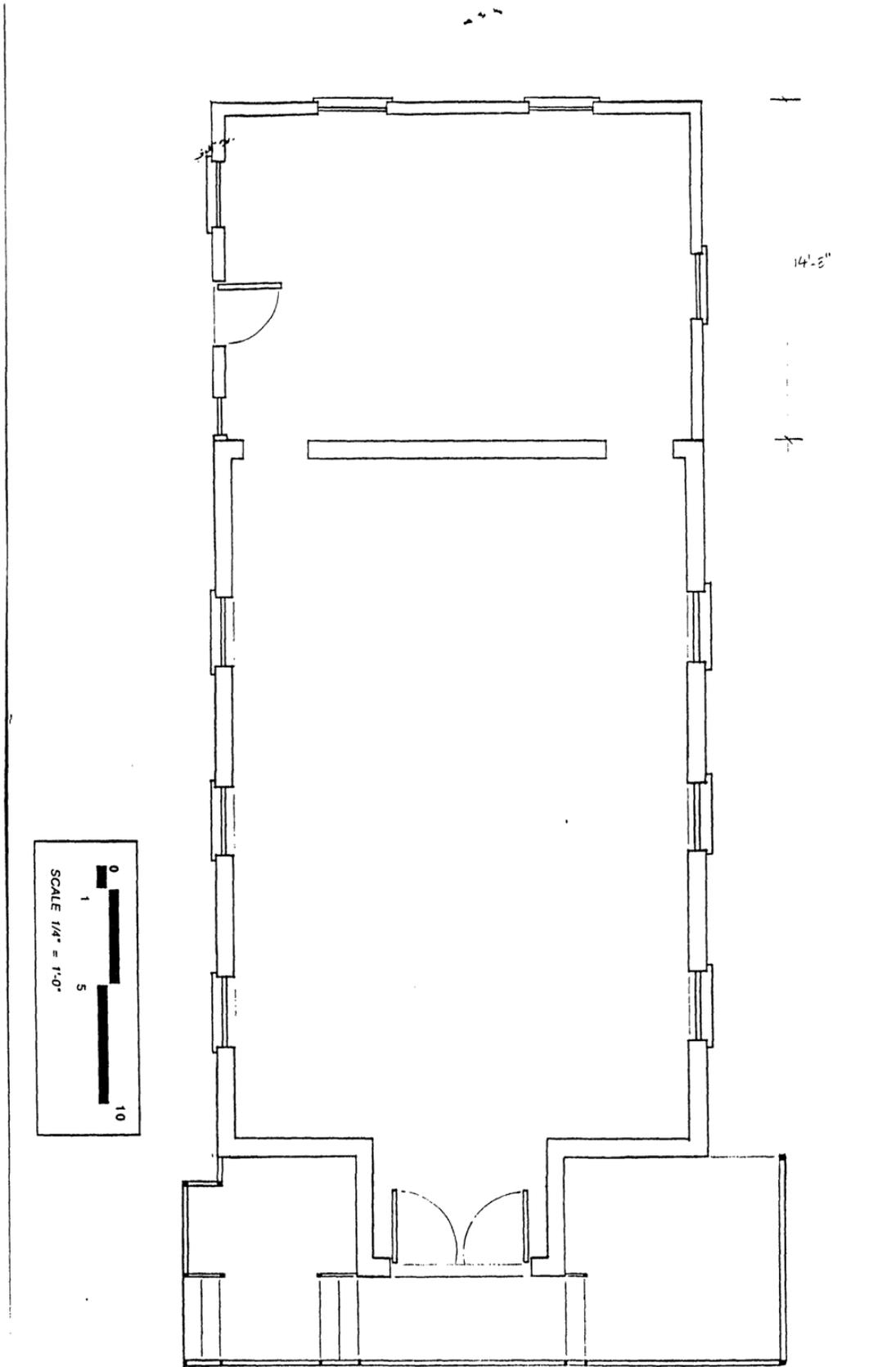
Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
 World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and  
 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 12T  
 10 000-foot ticks: Utah Coordinate System of 1983  
 (north and central zones)

Imagery.....NAP, July 2009 - August 2009  
 Roads.....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas  
 Names.....GNIS, 2009  
 Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2009  
 Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2008



U.S. National Grid
100,000-m Square ID
VL VK
Grid Zone Designation
12T

+ location on USGS Park City East 1:24000 Quadrangle Map (2011)



ST. JOHN'S SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
323 PARK AVENUE, PARK CITY, UTAH



DOCUMENTS

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**TITLE SEARCH FORM**

[Obtain information from title abstract books at County Recorder's Office]

Address: 323 Park Avenue

City: Park City, UT

Current Owner: Marion R. Linther

Address: (see historic site form for address)

Tax Number: PC-39

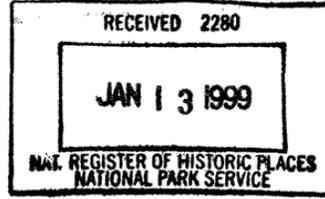
Legal Description (include acreage): PC BK3 pt.L5 & L6 (see historic site form for complete legal description)

TRANSACTION DATES	GRANTOR (SELLER)	GRANTEE (BUYER)	TYPE OF TRANSACTION	DOLLAR AMOUNT	COMMENTS
7/16/1881	Amos Mosher	Merrill L. Hoyt	Q		"5,6"
10/17/1881	M.L. Hoyt	Amos Mosher	Q		"5,6"
12/22/1882	Edwd P. Ferry	David C. McLaughlin	W		[L1-2, 5-7, 10-11, 17-32]
10/27/1887	Amos and Maggie Mosher	Curtis B. Blanchard	Q.C.		"5,6"
4/27/1905	May L. & C.B. Blanchard	Sherman Fargo	W.D.		"5,6"
11/29/1905	Sherman Fargo & wife	J.W. Bircumshaw	Q.C.D.		"5,6"
9/15/1906	J.W. Bircumshaw & wife	St. John S.L. Church	W.D.		"5,6"
5/31/1966	St. John S.L. Church	P.S.W. Synod Lutheran Church in Am.	W.D.		[pt.L5, pt.L6, pt.L27]
6/6/1966	P.S.W. Synod Lutheran Church in Am.	Virginia Santy & Olga Guillaume	W.D.		[pt.L5, pt.L6, pt.L27]
6/1/1973	Virginia Santy & Olga Guillaume	John E. & Nicky Price	W.D.		[see record for legal description]
6/10/1974	John E. & Nicky Price	Marion R. Linther	W.D.		[see record for legal description]

Researcher: John Ewanowski, CRSA Architecture

Date: 4/1/2014

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church  
other names/site number 323 Park Avenue

### 2. Location

street & number 323 Park Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town Park City N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Summit code 043 zip code 84060

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Walter M. A. 1/2/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson A. Beall 2/12/99  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Park City, Summit County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Victorian Eclectic  
OTHER: vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD: drop siding  
roof METAL: standing seam steel  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 7 Page 1

St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church, Park City, Summit County, UT

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### **Narrative Description**

Built in 1907, St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church is located on the uphill (west) side of Park Avenue which runs parallel to Main Street in Park City. The one-story building is of wood-frame and drop-siding construction, with a standing-seam, sheet metal-covered roof, and rests on a concrete foundation. A Victorian Eclectic-style building, it exhibits vernacular characteristics of both the Victorian Gothic and the Greek Revival style, both commonly used for church buildings in Utah during the mid-to-late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

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The north and south elevations of the church each contain three pointed-arch windows with operable lower sashes for ventilation. The original glazing was replaced with stained glass panels, although the original window openings and framing were retained. There is an addition to the rear of the church which is differentiated from the historic building by a stepped down roof line. A back door flanked by windows is on the south elevation of this addition. The rear, or west elevation has two, two-over-two, double-hung windows on the first floor, and a small window in the upper part of the gable. The north elevation has one two-over-two, double-hung window on the addition.

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The lot is very narrow with a steep rise to the rear, as is typical for much of the older area of Park City; the house to the north is less than fifteen feet away from the church. The vacant lot to the south of the building was purchased to provide parking and driveway space. There are currently no outbuildings on the property.

   See continuation sheet

St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Park City, Summit County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

1902-1940s

**Significant Dates**

1902

1907

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

St. Johns Swedish Lutheran Church, Park City, Summit County, UT

### Narrative Statement of Significance

Constructed in October 1907, St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church is significant as one of the few remaining historic church buildings in the mining town of Park City, the largest historic metal mining town in Utah. In a state settled and dominated by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church), Park City was an anomaly. Because of the expediency of the settlement and the various backgrounds of the people who inhabited Park City, the Mormon church had little influence in the community. This provided the opportunity for different faiths, including the Lutherans, to establish churches in a city where a single religion did not play a major role in the development of the community. St. John's is significant under Criterion A for this reason, as a stabilizing institution established during Park City's era as a mining boom town and representative of Lutheran missionary activity in western mining towns.

In 1869 significant deposits of silver and lead were discovered in the mountains 35 miles southeast of Salt Lake City. This discovery led to the establishment of a mining camp which would become the town of Park City. Park City became the single largest metal mining community in the state of Utah during the mining boom period of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Park City and Eureka are the only two mining towns that have survived to the present day.<sup>1</sup> In 1880 Park City was incorporated as a town. On December 2, 1882 the town suffered a setback when fire struck and destroyed several buildings on Main Street. On June 19, 1898 a fire started early one morning in a boarding house near the center of town. There was a strong wind that day which blew the fire out of control, destroying over 200 buildings.<sup>2</sup>

The policy of L.D.S. Church President Brigham Young had on mining only allowed whatever mining was necessary to develop and sustain a self-sufficient community. He would not support Church members who mined for precious metals. Consequently, Park City developed as a primarily non-Mormon community.<sup>3</sup> The early prospectors and miners were people of a variety of religious faiths. Many were Catholic, and the Priests came from Salt Lake City on Sundays for mass. St. Lukes Episcopal Church was built in 1881; destroyed in the 1898 fire rebuilt in 1901 and is still standing at 523 Park Avenue. This wood frame building was the first church in Park City, and was placed on the National Register in 1980. The Congregational Church was built next; it also burned in the 1898 fire but was not rebuilt.<sup>4</sup> St. Mary's Catholic Church was

<sup>1</sup> "Residences of Mining Boom Era Park City". NR Nomination, April 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Echoes of Yesterday.

<sup>3</sup> Jespersen, Oscar. *An Early History of the Community of Park City, Utah*. M.A. Thesis, 1969.

<sup>4</sup> Echoes of Yesterday.

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built of stone, however it was also destroyed in the 1898 fire. Located at 523 Park Avenue, it was rebuilt in 1884 and placed on the National Register in 1978.

The Lutheran church was the state church of Scandinavia.<sup>5</sup> The first Lutheran church in Utah was organized in Salt Lake City on July 18, 1882. This particular branch was the Swedish Lutheran Church with five members.<sup>6</sup> Lutherans came to Utah for two main reasons: the first was to proselytize among the Mormons, and the second was to serve the Lutherans who had migrated to Utah to work as employees of the railroads, as merchants, miners and farmers. It was thought that some of the ten thousand Scandinavian Mormons who had come to Utah could be 'won back' to their original religion. Lutheran congregations were formed on the basis of language<sup>7</sup>

The mining communities in Utah were populated by people of a variety of nationalities and diverse religions, many of whom were Swedes and Finns of Lutheran background. Ministers from Salt Lake City and Ogden traveled to the mining camps for services on an irregular basis. St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church in Park City was organized in 1902 by Oscar Anton Elmquist, a student minister and carpenter by trade.<sup>8</sup> The original 31 members consisted of nine Swedes and twenty two Finns. Services were conducted in Swedish and Finnish, and during the first few years were held in private homes and at the Methodist Episcopal church.<sup>9</sup> After being ordained, Reverend Elmquist was sent to the Elim Lutheran Church in Ogden; he continued to serve the Park City congregation traveling there by train.<sup>10</sup>

The first recorded owners of the property where St. John's Lutheran Church now stands are Amos and Maggie Mosher.<sup>11</sup> In July, 1881 Amos Mosher quit-claimed Lots 5 and 6 to Merrill L. Hoyt; who returned the property to Mosher four months later. In October 1887, Mosher deeded the property

<sup>5</sup> Peach, Mary. *Lutherans in Utah*.

<sup>6</sup> Jespersen, Oscar. *An Early History of the Community of Park City, Utah*. M.A. Thesis, 1969.

<sup>7</sup> Peach, Mary. *Lutherans in Utah*.

<sup>8</sup> Corcoran, Brent. Park City Underfoot.

<sup>9</sup> Kummer, Bea & Ringholz, Raye Carleson. Walking Through Historic Park City.

<sup>10</sup> Peach, Mary. *Lutherans in Utah*.

<sup>11</sup> Abstract of Title, Coalville, Utah, July 1997. Although the townsite was officially platted, many chose to ignore the legalities of property ownership, and did not purchase their land from the corporation. Property transactions went unrecorded for decades, and inaccurate records combined with inconsistent property descriptions were the result of this early lack of planning and organization.

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to Curtis and May Blanchard. They held the property until April, 1905 when it was deeded to Fargo Sherman, who held the land until November of that year when he quit-claimed it to J.W. Bircumshaw. In September, 1906 Bircumshaw deeded the land to St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church.<sup>12</sup>

John Willard Bircumshaw was born in Nottingham, England in January 1856. According to his obituary, Bircumshaw was a butcher in Park City until 1920. However, the 1912-13 and 1914-15 Utah State Gazetteer show listings for Frank McEwan & J.W. Bircumshaw, saloon at 455 Main Street.

In 1906 the Swedish Lutheran congregation purchased Lots 5, 6, 27 and 28 of Block 3, located on Park Avenue. By the summer of 1907 they had begun construction on the building. The church had a small foyer and a sanctuary with vaulted ceiling; at the rear was a room and a back door. The building was constructed in three weeks at a cost of \$2,197.00. The first service was held in the unfinished building in August; the church was dedicated *St. John's Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church* on October 26, 1907. The congregation boasted that "no other congregation in Park City has been able to build, furnish and dedicate a church in ninety days without a dollar's debt".<sup>13</sup>

Shortly after the dedication, Reverend Elmquist accepted a pastorate in Iowa, and the congregation never again had a resident pastor. Preachers would travel from Salt Lake City or Ogden for a wedding or funeral, and once a month for Sunday services; staying in the back room. The building was heated with a wood stove and had no indoor plumbing. Services were conducted in Swedish until gradually, by 1920, they were in English. By the 1940's the congregation, along with the population of Park City, had dwindled; the few remaining parishioners traveled to Salt Lake City to worship, and the church was abandoned.<sup>14</sup>

In May 1966 the abandoned building was deeded to the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. The church was auctioned off, and one week later it was deeded to L. Virginia Santy and Olga Guillaume. The two women kept the property until June 1973 when it was sold to John and Nicky Price. John Price was a contractor who began the conversion of the church into a residence when he dug out a basement, poured a new concrete foundation (which was required by code) and replaced the shed roof on the rear room with a new gable roof. He also created a balcony where the podium had been.<sup>15</sup> One year later Price sold the church to the current owner, Marion Lintner.

<sup>12</sup> Abstract of Title, Coalville, Utah, July 1997.

<sup>13</sup> Lintner, Marion. *The Story of Marion's Church*.

<sup>14</sup> Lintner, Marion. *The Story of Marion's Church*.

<sup>15</sup> Lintner, Marion. *The Story of Marion's Church*.

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Ms. Lintner purchased the building as a home for herself and her two daughters. It has undergone some modification, specifically to the roof of the rear room, installation of stained glass in the sanctuary windows, application of gable trim, and minor changes to the loft in the interior. The original exterior building materials, massing, and form of the building remain, and most of the historical integrity of the building is still present. The rear addition, though not visible from the street, is compatible and not overwhelming to the church, and can be differentiated as a non-historic addition by the change in roof line.

X See continuation sheet

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St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church, Park City, Summit County, UT

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\_\_ See continuation sheet

St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church  
Name of Property

Park City, Summit County, Utah  
City, County, and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of property** 0.06 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 12 4/5/8/1/6/0 4/4/9/8/8/6/0 B 1 11111 111111  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 111111 D 1 11111 111111

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 6, BLOCK 3 PARK CITY TOWNSITE, THENCE WESTERLY 75 FEET; SOUTH 15 FEET; EAST 10 FEET; SOUTH 11 FEET; EAST 65 FEET; NORTH 26 FEET TO BEGINNING. A PART OF LOT 5, BLOCK 3 PARK CITY SURVEY, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING 1 FOOT SOUTH 23° 26' EAST ALONG EAST LINE OF LOT 5, FROM NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5, BLOCK 3, THENCE 11.5 FEET SOUTH 23° 26'; THENCE 65 FEET SOUTH 66° 40' WEST, THENCE 11.5 FEET NORTH 23° 26' WEST; THENCE 65 FEET NORTH 66° 40' EAST TO BEGINNING.

Property Tax No.  
PC-39

\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are a portion of those which were historically, and continue to be, associated with the building.

\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lisa M. Miller, Preservation Consultant/ Utah SHPO Staff

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 4, 1998

street & number 1382 Perry Avenue telephone 801/355-8611

city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84103

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

name Marion R. Lintner

street & number P.O. Box 64 telephone 435/649-8298

city or town Park City state UT zip code 84060

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 7

St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church, Park City, Summit County, UT

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**Common Information:**

1. St. John's Swedish Lutheran Church
2. Park City, Summit County, Utah
3. Photographer: Lisa M. Miller
4. Date: July 1997
5. Negative on file at the Utah SHPO.

**Photo No. 1:**

6. East elevation of building. Camera facing west.

**Photo No. 2:**

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing northwest.

**Photo No. 3:**

6. West & partial north elevation of building. Camera facing southeast.

**Photo No. 4:**

6. North elevation of building. Camera facing west.