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**CITY OF FOND DU LAC**  
*Historic Preservation Commission*

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Walking Tour

Fond du Lac Churches

1

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**51 West Division Street  
*Local Designation*

On September 3, 1848, St. Paul's Church was formally organized by Rev. Joshua Sweet. The expanding congregation moved to its current location in 1866. In 1875, with the formation of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, St. Paul's parish church became

Cathedral Church of St. Paul The Apostle and the seat of the first bishop, John Henry Hobart Brown of New York. The first building was destroyed by fire in 1884 and replaced with the present Gothic-Revival church constructed between 1885-1887. The church interior is decorated with many outstanding examples of ecclesiastical art, but the most significant is the front of the St. Augustine chapel altar — it is an exquisite piece of color-infused marble, an example of the Endolithic process. The windows in the chapel, done in 1966, show a different use of stained glass from all other windows.

2

**First Baptist Church**90 South Macy Street  
*Local Designation*

The First Baptist Church of Fond du Lac was organized in 1845 and joined with the People's Church, an unaffiliated body, in 1905. With the increase in size the congregation had to construct a new building to accommodate the new families and over 500 Sunday School attendees. This locally and nationally designated structure is an example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Neo-Gothic design. The building incorporates the coloration and proportion of Craftsman design with the ornamental and structural features of Gothic tradition. The interior is still virtually intact: the Estey organ (purchased with a matching grant from Andrew Carnegie), baptistery, pews, and entire Sunday School with its gallery, chalkboards, and curtain partitions remain as they were in 1907. They moved to a smaller structure in 1980.

3

**St. Peter's Church**54 East 1st Street  
*Local Designation*

St. Peter's Congregation was organized on August 15, 1858. In March of 1860, a church and property was purchased at the southeast corner of Marr and Second Streets; additional property on the corner of First and Marr Streets was purchased in early 1869. Construction of a new church was begun immediately, with the building dedicated on October 24, 1869. The cost of the new building was \$4,969. Improvements added to the frame church in 1873 included brick veneer and the steeple, at a cost of \$4,000—these had been left out in 1869 due to the high cost. Over the next ten years the oil lamps were replaced with gas and new pews were installed. In 1894, the Young People presented a gift of three church bells and the tower clock. Major remodeling began in 1908 which included ceiling work, electrification, and new windows. Three months later, the spire was burned down during the great fire; the interior was also ruined. A new, shorter spire was built and the interior was repaired and redecorated. The stainless steel cross was placed atop the spire in 1957. In 2007, the congregation voted to build at a new location and relocated.

4

**Immanuel Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**40 East Division Street  
*Potentially Eligible*

The church was organized in 1911 to provide English speaking Lutherans with their own congregation because St. Peter's Lutheran was predominantly a German church. In 1920, Trinity English Lutheran Church merged with Immanuel German Lutheran Church, leading to the construction of this Neo-Gothic Revival church in 1930. The congregation made efforts to utilize local materials, including limestone from a quarry outside the City; local artisans created the interior wood carving. More than 90% of the building was completed by local labor. In 2002 the congregation voted to build a new church at a different site. A local developer purchased the property and renovated the building for a restaurant. It is currently used as a place of worship by a non-denominational church.



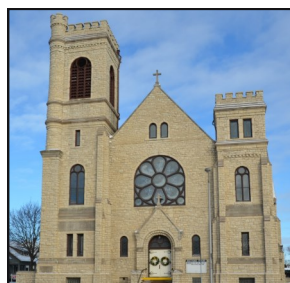
5

**Covenant United Methodist Church**20 North Marr Street  
*Not Yet 50 Years of Age*

The first Methodist gatherings were held in the homes of Dr. Mason Darling (in 1839) and Edward Pier (in 1843). Although the congregation was small—starting with eleven persons—it continued to grow, eventually being named Division Street Methodist Church in 1859. In 1979 the Division Street church merged with St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, and the current building was consecrated on February 21, 1988. Although only one story, the southeast corner rises to a tower nearly three-stories high with recessed niche-like areas at the base. Floor to ceiling windows provide light along the east side of the building, while the entrance doors along North Marr Street are covered by a one-story canopy wing. The church still utilizes the building to this day.



6

**St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Complex**53 East Merrill Avenue  
*Potentially Eligible*

The Congregation of St. Mary's was founded on November 15, 1865 for twenty-one German-speaking Catholic families, although the first church building was not dedicated until December 8, 1866. The cornerstone for the existing church building was laid in 1901 and dedicated the following year. The Neo-Gothic

Revival building features towers, buttresses, round arches, and a fine rose window set in the main gable, and locally quarried limestone construction. In 1911 a rectory was added with matching limestone in the Gothic-Revival style to the rear of the church; the rectory also underwent an addition in 1964. East of the church, a Fatima shrine built of river rock-like stones with a statue of Mary was dedicated in 1948, followed a year later by a two-story addition for school classrooms and a gymnasium. A Contemporary-style convent with brick and stone trim was completed in 1955. A decision was made to merge the congregation of St. Mary's with five other parishes in 1998, forming the Holy Family Catholic Community. The congregation relocated to the new Holy Family church in 2007.

7

**Temple Beth Israel**149 East Division Street  
*Potentially Eligible*

The temple was completed at this location in 1960 after meeting for twenty-five years at a location on South Military Road. Local businessman and philanthropist Abraham Sadoff was credited with the vision of building the temple; he was also credited with organizing the first Jewish congregation in Fond du Lac. The limestone structure built by the local Immanuel Construction is marked by an inscription above the wooden door "OPEN TO ME THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS" and a metal menorah to the right (east) of the door. Following forty years of active use the synagogue is rarely used today, due to a dwindling Jewish population in Fond du Lac.

8

**Dorcas Chapel**45 South National Avenue  
*Potentially Eligible*

Marian University was founded by the Sisters of St. Agnes as a teaching order in 1936. Situated on the campus, Dorcas Chapel was built in 1966 and named after a Christian seamstress in the New Testament who was known for helping others, primarily by sewing clothes for poor widows. The Contemporary-style, circular building was intended to be a visual reminder of a spool of thread, with a needle through the center. The outside is constructed of precast concrete, limestone and glass. An open, flat-roofed, loggia-like walkway encircles the exterior of the lower level. On the upper part of the chapel, the concrete is arranged in diagonal segments; the flat roof has a tall cross which rises from the center. A national citation of merit was awarded to the Wausau Tile and Terrazzo Company for superior craftsmanship

