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**Emmanuel Episcopal Church Named to the National Register of Historic Places**

**LA GRANGE, Illinois, 8 January 2018** -- The National Park Service announced that it has named Emmanuel Episcopal Church in La Grange, Illinois, to the National Register of Historic places. The church is only the third individual building in the Village of La Grange to be added to the registry. The Late Gothic Revival Church designed and built between 1924 and 1926 was recognized for the quality and integrity of its architecture and the artistic quality of the church's collection of stained glass. "Emmanuel's soaring architecture captured the sophistication and aspiration of La Grange's citizens in the 1920's," said parish historian Katherine Clark, "They rejected a modest neighborhood church and instead chose to build a church on a cathedral-like scale." Parishioner and La Grange resident John Neal Tilton, Jr., and the Chicago architecture firm of Marshall & Fox designed the church. The nationally prominent New York firm of Bertram Goodhue & Associates, then designing nearby Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago, served as consulting architects. Emmanuel and Rockefeller Chapel are the Goodhue firm's only surviving free-standing works in Illinois.

The National Register finding also recognized the preservation of the integrity of the gothic edifice through the use of stained glass that reflected the medieval nature of the building but also the modern nature of the congregation. Emmanuel's windows may be inspired by the glass of a medieval cathedral, noted the application submitted to the US Department of the Interior, "but they contain images of settlers and lumberjacks, worshipping suburbanites and microphones, modern business suits and the urban poor."

Efforts to preserve the integrity of the church's historical legacy continue with the founding of Friends of Casavant 3062, a 501(c)(3) corporation to preserve Emmanuel's massive, 6,000-pipe, nearly fifty-year-old pipe organ. "The organ was designed for this space," said Emmanuel's Rector, Ellen Ekevag, "The unique sounds of the Casavant organ help create a mood of quiet contemplation or joyful ceremony that the gothic sanctuary and Episcopal liturgy call for." Many stained glass windows recognized by the National Register designation celebrate the role of music in the life of the church with five depicting church organists and one showing a builder of organs.

National Register Designation qualifies a structure for recognition, grants, and for rehabilitation income tax credits. It does not restrict the property owner's ability to freely use the recognized property. The designation is the result of over two years of research by the parish and follows a unanimous recommendation for designation by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council reached at a hearing in Springfield on October 27, 2017.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 S. Kensington, La Grange, Illinois, is part of the Episcopal Church, a denomination within the larger body of churches of the Christian faith tradition. A part of the Anglican Communion, a world-wide body of more than 38 autonomous churches with common roots in the Church of England, Emmanuel is one of over 120 parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

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If you would like more information about this topic or would like to arrange a tour please contact Judy Staiano, at (708)352-1275 or at [admin@eeclg.org](mailto:admin@eeclg.org).