United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

code 40

For HCRS use only OCT 1 6 1980 date entered NOV 1 2 1980

not for publication

code

121

003

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Joseph's Catholic Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 0ff 0k 31

county

congressional district

Plttsburg

city, town Krebs

state Oklahoma

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	<u> </u>	agriculture	museum
X building(s)	_X_ private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	X_ religious
object	in process	yes: restricted Xyes: unrestricted	government	scientific
	being considered	X yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	other:

vicinity of

4. Owner of Property

name St. street & num	. Joseph's Catholic C mber Box 621	hurch	
city, town	Krebs	vicinity of	state Oklahoma
5. Lo	ocation of Le	gal Description	
courthouse,	, registry of deeds, etc. 0f	fice of the County Clerk	
street & nun	nber Pittsburg Coun	ty Courthouse	
city, town	McAlester		state Oklahoma
6. Re	epresentatio	n in Existing Surv	veys

title	Oklahoma Comprehens	sive Survey	has t	his property	been determine	ed elegible?	yes	no
date	1979				federalX	_state	county	local
deposi	itory for survey records	Preservation	Office,	0klahoma	Historical	Society		
city, to	wn Oklahoma City	۲			st	ate Oklah	oma	

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

And the second second

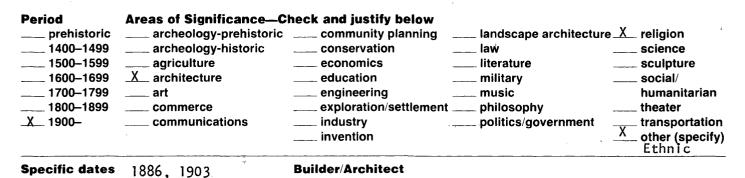
St. Joseph's Catholic Church is of red brick construction and of eclectic style. The campanile contains the original bell, cast in 1886.

The tower, set in the center, serves to crown the entrance, a feature common to rural churches of the area. A few elements suggest romanesque influence--the tower, the arcaded opening, the small wheel window and the other arched windows around the facade. The front is organized by the arcaded elements--three stacked one on top of each other, with one window to each side.

The exterior remains virtually unaltered from its original state, but the interior was extensively remodeled in 1965 to conform to the liturgical changes occasioned by Vatican II. Originally, the alter was quite ornate and gilded, while large paintings decorated the walls. In the process of remodeling the altar was given a more subdued appearance, the paintings were removed and stored, the interior walls were painted ivory, and the embossed ceiling painted white. The original stained glass windows are still in place, however. They depict various religious scenes, and several are inscribed in the native languages of their donors. The park-like setting is spacious and pleasing.

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8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St Joseph's Catholic Church of Krebs is the oldest church in the Eastern Oklahoma Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, founded three years before Oklahoma Territory was opened to white settlement. It also became the spiritual focus of the many southeastern European immigrants who settled in the Krebs area. During the height of the coal mining era, Pittsburg County represented a veritable mosaic of a dozen different nationalities. In 1910, 3,367 of its inhabitants--7.1% of the population--had been born abroad. The cominant ethnic group in Krebs were the Italians, but there were also hundreds of Irish, Slovaks, Lithuanians, Mexicans, and Poles. A large proportion were Catholic: Pittsburg County had 5,500 Catholics in 1916, the heaviest concentration in the state.

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A Frenchman, Dom Isidore Robot, O.S.B., Prefect Apostolic of Indian Territory, planned the church, and a group of Irish, Italian, and German pioneers established the original wooden structure on the site in 1886. Nearby they also provided a school and a residence for the Sisters of Mercy who became its teachers. The Benedictine priests who served St. Joseph's in its early years founded other churches and missions in the area. After the original church was destroyed by fire, the present edifice was completed in 1903.

With a membership of about 400, St. Joseph's stands as a monument not only to the pioneer Catholic missionaries in Oklahoma but also to the thousands of European immigrants who settled Plttsburg County, made its coal mines productive, and through their sacrificial offerings created and perpetuated this church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McAlester News-Capital, July 18, 1976, section C. Brown, K. L., 'A History of the Italians in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma", MA Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1965, pg. 53-56.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>Under 1 acre</u> Quadrangle name <u>Krebs</u>, 0k

UMT References

A 1 15 Zone	2 5 1 7 4 0 Easting	3 8 6 8 7 1 0 Northing
c		
E		
G		

B Zone	Easting	Northing
F		
н		

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4 and 5 of Block 138, N. and W. addition, Krebs

state code county code 11. Form Prepared By name/title Douglas Hale, Supervised by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date March, 1979 street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678 city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer Certification The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	state	code	county				code	
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city or town Stillwater 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	organization Oklahoma Hi	storic Preservati	on Survey	date	March,	1979		
State State Interval colspan="2">State As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 8 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mathematical Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 8 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mathematical Historic Preservation Mathematical Historic Preservation and Recreation Service.								