

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Rectory

Location: 102 Center Point Road, Wilburton, OK

Owner of Property: Diocese of Tulsa, 824 S. Boulder, Tulsa, OK (Bishop Eusebuis J. Beltran)

Location of Legal Description: 824 S. Boulder, Tulsa, OK

Description: The simplified gothic style church is a 48 feet by 90 feet building with a small steeple. The church has been in continuous use since 1912. There are nine stained glass windows on the north and south sides of which three on each side are original as are two on the front side. Fire damaged the roof and steeple in the 1930s, as did a tornado in 1975. Interior renovations include removal of a seating balcony. The rectory is a three story frame structure with a porch on the south and east sides. The exterior was damaged somewhat in the 1975 tornado, but the interior is in excellent condition with the original woodwork and floors. The floor plan is also original except for the removal of one wall on the second floor. The rectory has also been in continuous use since 1912 and measures 32 feet by 52 feet including the porch.

Significance: The church and rectory are significant because of their architecture as they are two of the five remaining original buildings in Wilburton, and because of their role in the life of the Italian coal mining community. The rectory is a good example of residential architecture in the early 20th century. The two structures were built on land donated by the owners of the Eastern Coal and Mining Company and with labor provided by the Italian coal miners. They worked in the mines all day and on the church and rectory in the evenings. James Regnar and James McConnell, the company owners, also recruited Father Glynn, a missionary, from New York, to serve as the first pastor. He operated a school (grades 1-12) staffed by Mercy sisters, until the late 1920s when the Catholic population declined rapidly when mining activity dwindled. The church and rectory were the center for the Italian community's social life and the third floor of the rectory housed the orphaned children of miners. In the 1930s the area was used for a WPA sewing project and as a dormitory for college students. The parish contained nearly 150 families at the height of the mining boom. Today, between 75 and 80 families use the church facilities, and the congregation is still approximately 50 percent Italian.

Acreage: One acre

UTM: 15 Easting 288 765
15 Northing 3866 040

Verbal Boundary Description: That part of Lot 49, Addition 4, Wilburton, north of old highway 2 on the Center Point Road.