

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **NOV 14 1984**  
date entered

**DEC 13 1984**

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

**1. Name**

historic St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and Parish House

and/or common St. Wenceslaus

**2. Location**

street & number NW Corner of Yankton and Lidice Streets NA not for publication

city, town Tabor NA vicinity of

state South Dakota code 46 county Bon Homme code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Roman Catholic Church - c/o the Rectory

street & number NW Corner of Yankton and Lidice Streets

city, town Tabor NA vicinity of state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds - Bon Homme County Courthouse

street & number 300 West Cherry Street

city, town Tyndall state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Bon Homme County Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion state South Dakota

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Situated at the northwest corner of Yankton and Lidice Streets, the basilica plan St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church is brick and rests on a quartzite foundation. Measuring 42' X 132', the church displays Gothic elements including pointed arch windows and doors, and stained glass panels with biblical passages in Czech. A tall bell tower/steeple dominates the front (south) facade and contains the main entranceway which is crowned by paired double-hung rectangular windows and a stained glass pointed arch transom. Above the transom is a bullseye window. The top of the tower includes pointed arch vents, dentils, decorative crenelations and a multi-sided spire. Beneath the gable roof, which covers the nave of the building, are scalloped wood cornices. Pilasters are located between the windows on both the east and west (side) facades. Belt courses are at ground level as well as on the side facades. On the south (rear) end of the church there is the transept with a truncated hip roof. Two chimneys flank an apse which is pierced by small pointed stained glass windows and capped with a pentagon roof. The south end also has a stained glass bullseye window and a modern door surrounded by rubble stone.

On the interior, elaborately carved altars with statuary dominate the apse. Fine craftsmanship is also displayed in the pulpit, the confessional, the pews and the wooden crosses. The brass lighting fixtures have intricate detailings. The Rev. F.A. Bouska described the church's oil paintings: "On the epistle side is a large painting which depicts the presentation of Jesus at the temple and on the gospel side the assassination of St. Wenceslaus in Stave Boleslavi. Above these paintings are the four evangelists."<sup>1</sup> There are sacristies on both sides of the church joined by a passage behind the main altar.

Adjacent to the church (to the west) is the parish house. It is a two-story cube-shaped structure with a hip roof, two brick chimneys and dormers on the east and west sides. Constructed of a polychromatic brick (sometimes called "Yankton brick"), the parish house has a single-story entranceway with a hip roof on the east facade and a single story addition with a hip roof on the south (rear) facade. A one-story screened in porch is located on the north side of the house. Supported by Doric columns, the porch is surrounded by a balustrade. There are three stained glass transoms over the windows on the north (front) facade which are not visible from the street (obscured by porch). Above the porch is a parapet containing a semi-circular window. There is also a belt course, about three feet above ground level. South of the house and the church is a single-story brick garage with a hip roof. An old water pump is also located near the parish house.

<sup>1</sup>"History of Catholics in South Dakota." by Rt. Rev. Monsignor E.A. Bouska, P.R. from History of the Czechs in the State of South Dakota by Joseph A. Dvorak, Tabor, South Dakota, 1920. Translated by Laddie E. Kostel for reprint by Czech Heritage Society, Inc. (Tabor, SD, 1980, pg. 125.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1898, 1910 **Builder/Architect** Mr. August O. Goetz, Yankton, S.D.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Wenceslaus Church and parish house is significant in the area of religion for it served the large Catholic Czech population of Tabor. The Church, an intact example of neo-gothic architecture, is also significant in the area of architecture.

The majority of Czechs who settled around Tabor were Catholic.<sup>1</sup> In 1872, the Catholics of this community founded a cemetery and began building their first church. It was completed in 1874, measured 24' X 50' and was constructed of chalkrock quarried near the Missouri River. In 1877, the first parish house was built southeast of the church. It still stands today although it has been significantly altered. The first priest to live in the house was Father Joseph Krizek. Several successors followed Father Joseph Krizek until Rev. Msgr. E.A. Bouska took over in 1893. He remained in charge until he died on February 18, 1941. The present parish house, an intact polychromatic brick cube-shaped structure, was erected in 1910.

The first church was razed in 1898. On the same site, the present church was constructed by August O. Goetz of Yankton. Although the basilica-plan building resembles many Catholic churches in the state, St. Wenceslaus has certain features that reflect Czech heritage including the stained glass windows that have biblical passages inscribed in Czech. Furthermore, the sermons of St. Wenceslaus were spoken in Czech until the 1960's.

The St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church is a fine example of neo-gothic architecture. With its basilica plan, tall bell tower/steeple, and original bell donated to the parish by Frank Sykora, the church remained relatively unchanged since it was built in 1898.

<sup>1</sup>"History of Catholics in South Dakota" by Rt. Rev. Monsignor E.A. Bouska, P.R. from History of the Czechs in the State of South Dakota by Joseph A. Dvorak, Tabor, SD, 1920. Translated by Laddie E. Kostel for reprint by Czech Heritage Society, Inc. (Tabor, SD), 1980, p. 120.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property About 2 Acres

Quadrangle name Tabor

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	0	9	5	0	0	4	7	5	5	9	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and Parish house are contained within the boundaries of the legal description: Lots 2 and 3 of Block 4, City of Tabor, South Dakota.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Professors James Stewart and Gerald Wolff (with the assistance of M. Betz)

organization Dept. of Social Behavior (Stewart)  
Dept. of History (Wolff)

date September 6, 1984

street & number University of South Dakota

telephone 605/677-5401 (Stewart)  
605/677-5218 (Wolff)

city or town Vermillion

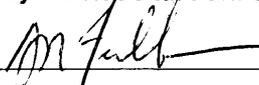
state South Dakota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 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 National Park Service.

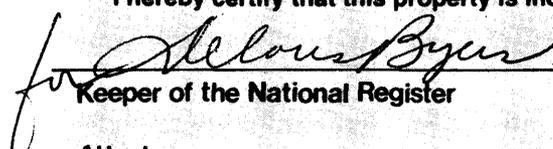
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer, and Director of Office of Cultural Preservation

date 11/2/84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

  
Keeper of the National Register

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~

date 12-13-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Major Bibliographical References

Dakota Territory Centennial: A History of Bon Homme County. Scotland, SD:  
Scotland Journal Publishing and Stickney, SD: Argus Printers, 1961.

Dvorak, Joseph A. History of the Czechs in the State of South Dakota.  
Tabor, SD, 1920. Translated by Laddie E. Kostel for reprint by  
Czech Heritage Society, Inc. (Tabor, SD), 1980.