

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Montana	
COUNTY: Lake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 19 1973	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. Ignatius Mission

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: approximately 1/8 mile southeast of State Highway 93, in St. Ignatius (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN:  
St. Ignatius (Congressional District #1)

STATE Montana	CODE 30	COUNTY: Lake	CODE 047
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Montana Catholic Missions, S.J.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o St. Ignatius Mission

CITY OR TOWN:  
St. Ignatius

STATE:  
Montana

CODE:  
30

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lake County Courthouse, recorded in Bk. 13 Deeds, pg. 366

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Polson

STATE:  
Montana

CODE:  
30

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
State Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: Sept. 1968  Federal  State  County  Local 1973

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Montana Dept. of Fish & Game

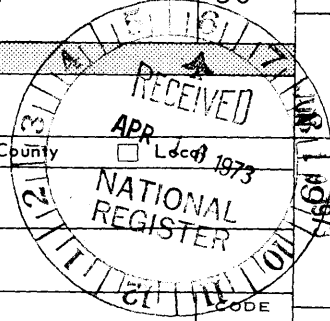
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena

STATE:  
Montana

CODE:  
30

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Montana

COUNTY: Lake

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present brick church which is listed by the official Montana state highway map as "one of the three most beautiful churches in the world," was built in 1891 and is in good condition as far as appearance is concerned. On the original site, selected in 1854, a log cabin residence was built across the road from the present Holy Family Hospital; it is still extant but has been moved 400 yards next to the church so it may be visited in conjunction with the church. In 1864, a large wooden church was built to replace a former primitive chapel; it is no longer extant.

In 1891, the cornerstone of the new brick church was layed, and the church soon became a landmark in the valley. The exterior dimensions are 120 feet by 60 feet. The belfry is nearly 100 feet high. The exterior brick was obtained and fired in the vicinity of the mission.

The interior of the church with figures and scenic murals depicting the complete history of man's relation to God overshadows the exterior. The mural of St. Ignatius, vested for Holy Mass, appears over the main altar. A mural of Our Lady is to the left; a mural of St. Joseph is on the right. These outstanding paintings and murals are the work of Brother Joseph Carignano, S.J., (b. Turin, Italy, 1853 - d. Yakima, Washington, 1919) who devoted 14 months of unremitent, arduous labor to the completion of these works of art, in the late 1800's. The paintings are not without artistic merit and although not entirely original in concept, they do manifest the ability of a true artist in their execution, particularly so when it is considered that Brother Carignano never had any professional art training.

In 1952, the interior of the church was completely restored at considerable expense, and shortly thereafter the present stained glass windows were installed. A pressing problem is the need to repoint the mortar between the exterior of the bricks so the magnificent interior paintings which are in excellent shape will not suffer from moisture deterioration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

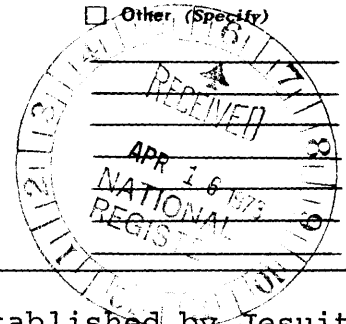
- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

~~1854~~ - present 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art      | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Ignatius Mission was originally established by Jesuit Father Peter deSmet, Indian missionary, and Father Adrian Hoecken, on the Pend d'Oreille River near the town of Cusick, Washington, in 1844. The site was unfavorable, its greatest drawback being that it was not centrally located to serve the Indians. At the Indians' request, the mission was transferred, in 1854, to its present location at St. Ignatius.

On September 24, 1854, Father Hoecken and Father Menetry arrived to establish the mission, and they were soon joined by Brothers McGean, Claessens and Specht. Open air masses were held among the Pend d'Oreille and Kalispell Indians. Following the building of the log cabin residence built in 1854, a chapel, cabin, blacksmith and carpenter shops, and later in 1864, a flour mill and saw mill were established. Farming was undertaken. In many ways, the mission was the cradle of development and civilization in this area. It was one of the first settlements in the northwest with a resident school for Indians and a trade school besides.

By 1855, more than a thousand Indians had gathered to make their permanent home at the mission. In 1864, a boarding school was set up under the Sisters of Providence from Montreal. In 1888 a school for boys was established, and in 1890, the Ursuline Sisters opened a nursery school. St. Ignatius reached its fullest development from 1890 to 1896 when as many as 320 Indian children were being educated and taught trades. A branch opened in the Jocko Valley for Flat-head Indian children. The extent of studies and trades taught the Indian children was highly progressive for its time. In the late 1800's, Senator Vest toured the area and wrote of St. Ignatius: "In all my wanderings in Montana last summer, I saw but one ray of light on the subject of Indian education. I am a Protestant--born one, educated one, expect to die one--but I say now that the system adopted by the Jesuits is the only practical system for the education of the Indian, and the only one that has resulted in anything at all."

(See 8. Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Davis, W. L., S.J., A History of St. Ignatious Mission  
 Schoenberg, W., S.J., Jesuits in Montana  
 Stout, Montana, Vol. 1, pp. 157-161

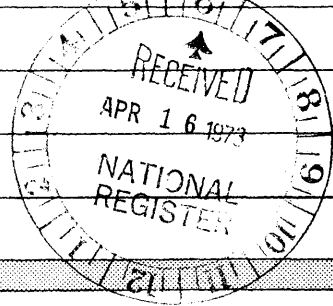
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	47	18	53
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	114	06	08
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11/19/03/5244000

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Norman Guyaz, Recreation Planner

ORGANIZATION: Montana Dept. of Fish and Game      DATE: April 10, '73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Sam W. Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN: Helena      STATE: Montana 59601      CODE: 30

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Ashley C. Roberts  
 Title State Liaison Officer  
 Date April 10, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/19/73  
 ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 6 12 73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In 1896, an Act of Congress denying further government help to all Indian mission schools dealt a severe blow to St. Ignatius. By 1901, only forty-seven boys remained at St. Ignatius. Today, the mission still operates for the Flathead Indian children and is still the religious center for the Flathead tribe on the reservation.

The magnificent church is the only remaining visible reminder of the foregone era. With its paintings and murals of considerable magnitude by Brother Carignano, and the vital role the mission played in the education and religion of the Indians, the mission's significance in the fields of religious art and American Indian education and religion are evident.

