

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Milwaukee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

DEC 19 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

**2. LOCATION**

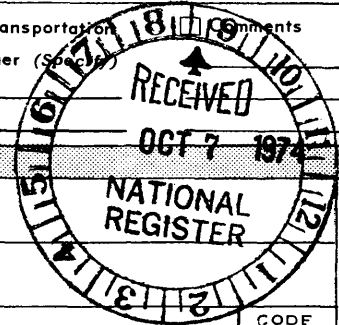
STREET AND NUMBER: 9400 West Congress Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wauwatosa		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth	
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE 079

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Milwaukee Hellenic Community			
STREET AND NUMBER: 9400 West Congress Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wauwatosa		STATE: Wisconsin	
		CODE	55



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Milwaukee County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North Ninth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee		STATE: Wisconsin	
		CODE	55

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin			
STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison		STATE: Wisconsin	
		CODE	55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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

Annunciation Church was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and erected in 1959-61. It stands on a spacious, open site in the Milwaukee suburb of Wauwatosa. In The Architecture of Wisconsin Richard W.E. Perrin has described the building as follows:

"In the design of this church Wright probably came closer to an established tradition than in any other situation. This was necessarily so, because of the positive requirements of the Orthodox liturgy, but in addition there was the love he professed for the Byzantine of Hagia Sophia...Annunciation Church is a cream-colored, bowl-shaped concrete monolith, capped with a blue tile-covered dome shaped like an inverted saucer. Its circular general plan is superimposed on a somewhat cruciform ground-floor plan, which in turn is divided into quadrants by aisles, thus effectuating two Greek crosses in almost acrostical fashion. The church proper seats nearly seven hundred persons on two levels, and a small chapel on a still lower level seats another seventy. The interior of the circular main auditorium is finished in a predominantly cream color. Blue seat cushions in the pews and walnut pew ends add richness, as does the gold-colored wall-to-wall carpeting together with gold leaf applied to the inside surface of the dome. The iconostas is lacy-looking, executed in bronze and polychrome."

One may supplement this description by noting that the church is composed on three levels: the below-grade story, comprising offices, kitchen, meeting rooms, and chapel and opening onto two curved, walled gardens; the main level, cruciform in plan, with seating for 240 in three arms of the cross and the sanctuary in the fourth; and the balcony level, a great hollow circle of space, with seating for 560, surmounted by the broad, low dome, which measures 104 feet in diameter and 45 feet in height from the center of the main level. Spiral staircases at the crossing join the three levels. The disposition of spaces on main and balcony levels is reflected in the shapes of the concrete walls that enclose them and that, on the exterior, create a handsome sculptural composition. Natural light enters the church through a series of arched windows at the upper level and a series of glass spheres--325 of them in all--along the base of the dome. As Perrin indicates, the color schemes of exterior and interior are predominantly pale gold and deep blue. A recurring decorative motif is the plan of the building itself--the Greek cross within circle; it is incorporated, to cite just three examples, into the design of the icon screen, the canopy of the bishop's throne, and the gates at the exterior staircases joining main garden levels.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1959-1961

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although a property which has achieved significance within the past fifty years does not ordinarily qualify for the National Register, it is believed that Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, as a work of worldwide acclaim by a world-renowned master, is eligible for consideration.

It is not without interest that this costly edifice was erected for a relatively small congregation of Greek-Americans and that a granddaughter of Joseph Stalin was christened here in 1971. It is important that the church has attracted thousands upon thousands of visitors since it opened in 1961. But of surpassing significance is the simple fact that this is an extraordinarily beautiful building, one of the last works of its celebrated architect. For his design Frank Lloyd Wright drew upon time-honored Eastern Orthodox traditions, and yet Annunciation Church is wholly of this century. With the best of his buildings from all phases of his long career it shares that organic harmony of building and setting, form and function, space and solid, materials and texture, color and light. The architect intended that it be a jewel, and he succeeded.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Milwaukee, n.d.

Perrin, Richard W.E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967.  
126-127.

Perrin, Richard W.E., Milwaukee Landmarks, Milwaukee, 1968, 25.

Vergis, The Rev. E.N. and Wright, Frank Lloyd, Greek Orthodox Church for the Milwaukee Hellenic Community, Milwaukee, n.d.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

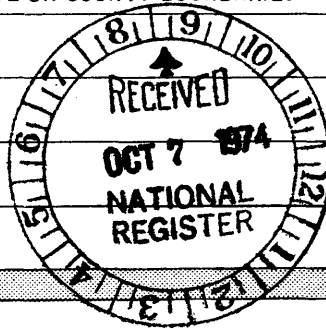
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM CO  
16/416180  
4771950

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Milwaukee Landmarks Commission DATE: Aug. 10, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
734 North Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 James Morton Smith  
James Morton Smith

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date Oct. 1, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

AR Ruesten  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/19/74

ATTEST:  
Wm J. Smith  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-18-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER:	DATE
	DEC 19 1974

(Number all entries)

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers  
Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

August 15, 1974

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

