

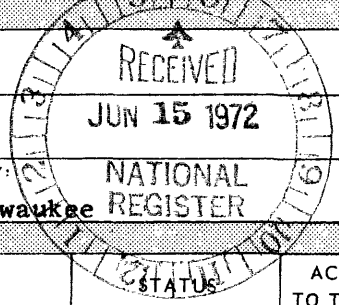
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 6 1972

1. NAME	
COMMON: St. Josaphat Basilica	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson
	Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (4th Cong. Dist.)

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 601 West Lincoln Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE 079



3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	STATUS: <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: Franciscan Fathers Minor Conventual			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2333 South Sixth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Milwaukee County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North 9th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 11	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Milwaukee ENTRY NUMBER: 100-7-1073 DATE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This grand, imposing edifice stands on the southwest corner of South 6th Street and West Lincoln Avenue on Milwaukee's near south side. Cruciform (Latin cross) in plan and oriented north-south, the basilica measures 213 feet long by 127 feet wide (at the transepts). A Corinthian-colonnaded, pedimented portico dominates the facade (north) and is bracketed by twin bell towers 100 feet in height. A vast dome, reportedly 250 feet in circumference and 250 feet high, rises above the crossing of nave and transepts.

For plan, elevations, and details, the architect-contractor Erhard Brielmaier of Milwaukee drew inspiration from Italian Renaissance architecture. But his design was also affected by a structure far less remote in time and place than the churches of 15th and 16th century Italy--namely, the Chicago Post Office and Custom House of 1879. When this four-story building was demolished in 1896, St. Josaphat's pastor, Father Wilhelm Grutza, purchased the salvage materials, had them transported to Milwaukee, and asked that they be incorporated into the fabric of his congregation's new church. The architect, who had been at work on a design to be executed in brick and terra cotta, complied and revised his plans accordingly. And so, the cut limestone blocks from the walls of the Post Office became St. Josaphat's walls; polished granite columns from the Chicago building found a place in St. Josaphat's north portico; wood doors, metal railings and fixtures, too, were used again. But while limited by the quantity and character of the salvage materials, Brielmaier was not content simply to reconstruct the Post Office, remodeling it to serve its new purpose. That the two buildings, though related, were dissimilar in far more than function is testimony to his ingenuity and inventiveness.

The principal entries are on the north, where a broad staircase joins Lincoln Avenue and the portico. Five doorways open into the vestibules which give access to the nave and to galleries and organ loft at the north end of the building. Nave, transepts, and chancel are vaulted and domed spaces, with the principal dome, as noted, covering the crossing.

St. Josaphat's interior is magnificently furnished and ornamented. Gilded and painted plasterwork and paintings abound, the murals depicting scenes from the Bible, episodes in the lives of St. Francis and the Polish saints, and events in Polish history. There are colorful stained glass windows--many of them imported from Austria, a sumptuous marble pulpit, and elaborate wood and marble shrines and altars. In the presence of such splendor, a splendor entirely appropriate to the building, it is difficult to picture the church as it was when it opened 71 years ago--the interior without adornment, walls, vaults, and domes all painted white. Most of the present ornament dates from the 1920's, was supervised by an Italian artist, Gonippo Raggi, and was complete by the time St. Josaphat's was consecrated in 1928.

Since then the fabric has undergone few major modifications. Fire damage to the basement level (lower basilica) in the 1940's necessitated repairs and remodeling. And during the past dozen years, the exterior walls have been cleaned and silicone-treated, a new heating system and new organ installed, the chancel altered to a minor extent to meet changing liturgical requirements, new flooring installed in vestibules and aisles, and the entire fabric generally renovated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **1896-1901; 1929**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | Ethnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Josaphat Basilica began its history as the third parish church erected for a congregation of largely Polish immigrants. Constructed, as we have seen, of materials salvaged from the Chicago Post Office and Custom House, the church represents an architectural achievement of major significance. It was dedicated on July 21, 1901 and consecrated twenty-seven years later. In 1929 the church was elevated to the dignity of minor basilica by decree of Pope Pius XI. The ceremonies of elevation took place on January 25, 1931 in the presence of Samuel Cardinal Stritch.

Today, St. Josaphat's is the only Roman Catholic basilica in Wisconsin. It is a major monument of Milwaukee's Polish community, a landmark on the city's south side. It is also a splendid, richly ornamented, well-preserved example of Neo-Renaissance design.

Recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1969, the basilica was, in the same year, designated as a Milwaukee Landmark by the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission and as a Wisconsin Registered Landmark.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greenwood, Barbara, "Markers Preserve Historic Events," Wisconsin Then and Now, 16(9):2-3, April 1970.
 Pagel, Mary Ellen and Virginia A. Palmer, Guides to Historic Milwaukee: Walker's Point and South, Milwaukee, 1969, 22, 23.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Milwaukee Landmarks, Milwaukee, 1968, 10-11.
Saint Josaphat Basilica, Custombook, Inc., South Hackensack, N. J., 1969.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		N 43	00	09
SE	° ' "	° ' "		W 87	55	09
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary Ellen Wieczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: **Milwaukee Landmarks Commission** DATE: **10 May 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 West Michigan Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Milwaukee** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

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 James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date JUN 9 1972

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

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

Date 3/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5-1-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 7 1972

(Number all entries)

ST. JOSAPHAT BASILICA

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (State)

1971

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

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

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

March 1, 1972

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

