

Historic Name: St. Michael's Catholic Church		MAR 5 1979	County: Wright
Common Name:			Community: St. Michael, Minnesota
Owner's Name and Address: Pastor Otto Neudecker St. Michael's Catholic Church St. Michael, Minnesota 55376			Address/Legal Desc.: N.W. Corner of Central Avenue and Main Street
Classification:			Acreage: one acre
Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____			
Condition:			Verbal Boundary Desc.: T120,R24, Sec. 12, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ Beginning at the SE corner of Sec. 12, T120,R24; thence west 140.46 feet, thence north 804.59 feet, thence west 459.54 feet, thence north 395.41 feet, thence east 600 feet, thence south 1,200 feet to POB.
Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____			
Open to the Public:		Visible from the road:	
Yes X No _____		Yes X No _____	
Occupied:		Present Use:	
Yes _____ No X		Church	
History:		UTM Reference: 15 Rockford Quad. 447800 5006400	
Date Constructed: 1890		Original Owner: St. Michael's Church	
Architect/Builder: N/A		Original Use: Church	
Description: St. Michael's Catholic Church is situated on a gentle rise of land at the intersection of North Main Street and East Ash Avenue in St. Michael, Minnesota. Immediately adjacent to the church is a large cemetery. The cemetery is enclosed by an ornamental wrought iron fence. The church is an imposing cream-brick structure executed on a parish church/hall type plan. Entry is gained through a monumental portal placed centrally on the principal facade; this central bay terminates in a polygonal spire which is surmounted by a cross. Decorative features include a corbelled gable above the entry. A sculpture niche for a statue of the Blessed Virgin is incorporated within the gable. Windows and door openings are of the lancet-gothic arch configuration. Corners and bays are highlighted with engaged buttresses with stone copings. continued		Level of Significance: Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State _____ Nation _____	
Significance: St. Michael's Catholic Church is a German Gothic Revival style parish church. It was constructed of brick in 1890. The church is the dominant architectural feature in the rural farming area and is a pivotal point in this German Catholic community. Catholic families first began to arrive in Wright County in 1855. Many of these homesteaders emigrated from St. Louis, Missouri, McHenry, Illinois, and various communities in Wisconsin. Those of German origin settled at or near the present City of St. Michael. From the beginning, the settlement in St. Michael centered about a log church which was erected in 1856. Benedictine Fathers from St. Paul originally ministered to the settlers; later on, priests visited the settlement from St. John's College in Stearns County. The original log edifice was replaced by a wood frame church in 1863. This building was later moved near the location of the present brick church. It has since been demolished. In 1867 the Catholic cemetery was started and in 1876 the parochial school of the Sisters of Notre Dame was established. The Church of St. Michael's became the mother church of all the Catholic parishes in Wright County. continued		Status: Survey _____ Date _____ Local _____ State _____ 1/78 Nat'l. Reg. _____ Nat'l. Land. _____ HABS/HAER _____	
		Theme/s: Primary <u>Settlement</u> Secondary <u>Architecture</u> Other <u>Religion</u>	
		Local Contact/Org.: Wright County Historical Society	
		Prepared by and date: John Hackett April 1978	
		Typed by: FR	

Description:

The corners of the principal facade and tower are accentuated with geometrically-proportioned mini-spires or finials. Cornices are corbelled in a stepped fashion.

Of note is the four-faced clock which is set within small gables at the base of the spire. This clock can be viewed from all directions and has become a visual focus for the community.

St. Michael's is essentially rectangular in plan. The principal facade consist of three bays; each of the longitudinal facades consists of six bays. Each bay is defined by engaged buttresses and lancet windows. The final facade takes the form of a polygonal apse. The entire building is covered with a multi-dormered gable roof.

Buildings adjacent to the church are the parish house, catholic high school and catholic grade school. These buildings are also constructed of birck at various later time periods.

Significance:

With the completion of the three major railroads in the county between 1868 and 1887, German Catholics in large numbers homesteaded in the area around St. Michael's Church. From this church the community and the post office took their names.

Under the direction of Rt. Rev. Deustermann, pastor from 1894-1904, the imposing, well proportioned, and balanced Gothic Revival Church was constructed in 1890. In the same year the village of St. Michael became incorporated.

St. Michael's Catholic Church remains the dominant architectural feature on the landscape and is a center for religious and social activities in this German Catholic community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Note: These changes apply to
St. Michael's Catholic Church in
Wright County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001279

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Wright

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Church of St. Michael (Catholic)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date