

DEC 2 1985

JAN 16 1986

INVENTORY FORM FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Name of property: Gesu Church

Owner: Marquette Jesuit Assoc., Inc.

Address: 1145 West Wisconsin Avenue

Owner's address: 1201 West Wisconsin Avenue

City: Milwaukee

Milwaukee, WI 53233

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

160 NRHP Certification (date)

- Listed in NRHP (LI)
 Determined eligible in DOE process (DD)
 Determined eligible in nomination process (DN)
 Additional documentation added to nomination (AD)
 Boundary increased (BI)
 Boundary decreased (BD)
 Delisted (DL)

170 Thematic or Multiple Resource Nomination Name (code)

180 NRHP List Name Gesu Church

190 Level of Significance

- national (NA)
 state (ST)
 local (LO)

200 District Classification

- pivotal (P)
 contributing (C)
 non-contributing (NC)

210 Applicable Criteria

- event (A)
 person (B)
 architecture/engineering (C)
 information potential (D)

215 Criteria Considerations

- religious property (A)
 moved property (B)
 birthplace or grave (C)
 cemetery (D)
 reconstructed property (E)
 commemorative property (F)
 less than 50 years old (G)

220 Area of Significance (code)

Architecture

230 Period of Significance

The date of construction is 1893.

340 Review Board Date _____

70 USGS Quad Map

SW/4 Milwaukee 75 min 1:24,000

80 UTM Coordinates (Format: 99-999999-9999999)

16-424460-4765260

85 Listed Acreage Less than one acre

60 Verbal Boundary Description Rogers Subdivision in southwest quarter section 29 & southeast quarter sec. 30-7-22, block 251, lot 1-east 92 feet of north 22 ft. Lot 3 & also west 48' of N. 202', Lot 8 partition of W. one-half of southwest quarter section 29 adjacent.

STREET: West Wisconsin Avenue

NUMBER: 1145

**SHSW INTENSIVE
SURVEY FORM**

LOCATION

10 County Milwaukee

20 City or Village Milwaukee

30 Civil Town _____

35 Unincorporated Community _____

40 Location 1145 West Wisconsin Avenue

50 Town-Range-Section _____

55 Quarter Sections _____

60 Verbal Boundary Description Rogers Subdivision in southwest
quarter section 29 and southeast quarter section
30-7-22 block 251, lot 1-east 92 feet of north 22 feet,
lot 3 and also west 48 feet of north 202 feet, lot 8
partition of west one-half of southwest quarter section
29 adjacent.

PROGRAM REVIEW

250 Tax Case Number _____

260 Compliance Case Number _____

270 A or D Grant Yes No

275 Covenant/Easement Dates _____

320 Ownership

private (P)

local-public (L)

state-public (S)

federal-public (F)

mixed, private-public (M)

330 Lead Agency (code) _____

SURVEY

90 Photo Codes MI 98-25, 26

100 Survey Map 398

110 Map Code 98-25

120 Reconnaissance Survey Date 1979

130 Reconnaissance Surveyor Wenger/Hunton/Jensen

140 Intensive Survey Name (code) Westside

150 Intensive Surveyor Wenger/Hatala

155 Intensive Survey FY 1983

235 Survey Evaluation

eligible (E) not eligible (N)

237 Survey District Classification

pivotal (P) non-contributing (NC)

contributing (C)

240 Survey Level of Significance

national (NA) local (LO)

state (ST)

243 Survey Evaluation Criteria

event (A) architectural/engineering (C)

person (B) information potential (D)

245 Proposed District _____

280 NHL Date _____

290 HABS No. _____ 300 HAER No. _____

310 Local Landmark (code) _____

315 Associated Archeological Site(s) _____

Street

ARCHITECTURE

450 Date of Construction (source)

1893 (Cornerstone)

460 Dates of Alterations/Additions (source)

1902, 1927(A)

480 Builder (source) C.F. Kindt (A)

490 and 500 Designer Type and Name (source)

architect: Henry C. Koch (A)/Herman J. Esser (1902)(A)

artist: _____

engineer: _____

interior designer: _____

landscape architect: _____

other: (Mason) Frank Niezorawski (A)

510 Style or Form (code)

Gothic Revival

520 Building, Structure, Object or Site Type (code)

Church

530 Building Materials (code) Other (roof)

Cut Stone (foundation)

Stone (trim)

540 Interior Visited Yes No

550 Structural System (code) _____

560 Plan Configuration (code) T Plan with Additions

Address

570 Number of Stories

Two

580 Roof Shape (code)

Gable

590 Additional Description _____

620 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

650 Related Buildings (code)

HISTORY

430 Common/Current Name Gesu Church

440 Historic Names (source) Gesu Church (A)

660 Associated Individual(s) (dates) (source)

Father Stanislaus LaLumiere (1893-1895) (B) (D)

670 Associated Event (source)

The merger of St. Gall and Holy Name, the two earliest Jesuit Churches in Milwaukee, as Gesu Church (B)

680 Commercial/Industrial Historic Uses (source)

DESCRIPTION

Gesu Church is a massive edifice built in 1893-94 on the eastern edge of the Marquette University campus. It is basilican in plan with transepts and an apsidal end. The nave measures 50 feet wide, 138 feet long and 70 feet high. The roof is composed of steeply pitched, intersecting gables covered with gray slate. The walls are finished with rock-faced, light-gray limestone laid in coursed ashlar.

The Gothic Revival style of Gesu Church was influenced by the cathedrals of northern France. The main facade is dominated by two square towers of differing heights ornamented with stone carved crockets and copper finials. The west tower rises 250 feet and contains a clock and belfry. The east tower is of similar design, but much shorter. Their polygonal spires are covered with dark gray slate and topped with gold crosses. At the intersection of the nave and transepts is a spire topped lantern. Below the 28 foot in diameter rose window on the main facade is a projecting entrance vestibule of carved stone added in 1902. It is faced with three gabled Gothic portals enframed with compound arches.

The fenestration in the towers, side aisles and clerestory consists of lancet arched windows of stained glass depicting various saints of the Roman Catholic Church. At the ends of the transepts are large arched stained glass windows depicting the Nativity and the Ascension of Christ. These windows were added at various periods in the history of the church, but all were designed in Munich at the Royal Bavarian Institute for Stained Glass under the direction of F.X. Zettler.

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gesu Church has been described by local architectural historian Richard W.E. Perrin as one of the most imposing church edifices in Milwaukee. Normally religious properties are excluded from listing in the National Register, but Gesu Church is being nominated for its local architectural significance. It is significant as an example of nineteenth century ecclesiastical French Gothic architecture, and for its association with noted Milwaukee architect, Henry C. Koch.

Gesu is one of the city's major examples of ecclesiastical French Gothic architecture. It was designed by Henry C. Koch, one of Milwaukee's most accomplished architects of the nineteenth century. Among his major commissions were the City Hall, the Pfister Hotel and Calvary Presbyterian Church, as well as all of the public schools built in (See Attached-Continued)

690 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (SOURCES)

- A. Milwaukee City Building Permits.
- B. Hamilton, Raphael N., S.J. The Story of Marquette University. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1953. p.22-43, 47
- C. Milwaukee Department of City Development. Historic Designation Study Report.
- D. The Catholic Church in Wisconsin. [Milwaukee] Catholic Historical Publishing Co., 1897. p. 26-28.

700 STUDY UNITS (CODE)

_____	_____
_____	_____

350 Demolished

360 Date Demolished

_____ Yes _____ No

Architectural/Engineering Statement of Significance Cont.

Milwaukee between 1873 and 1881 and numerous imposing residences. Within a limited budget of slightly over \$150,000 he was able to complete the present church within 20 months after the cornerstone was laid on May 21, 1893. The resulting Gothic style structure is sparing in its display of ornamentation both inside and out. The interior is divided into an upper and lower church with a seating capacity of 1,450 each. Among the significant interior features are the outstanding stained glass windows; the marble "Pieta", the only known sculpture of the noted 19th century Italian artist Giovanni Dupre in the United States; the elaborate marble high altar designed by the Italian artist Vanvini and installed by Milwaukee architect, Alexander C. Eschweiler in 1927; and the windows above the main entries design by Conrad Schmitt. (A, C, D)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Gesu Church had its origins in the merger of the pioneer Jesuit church of St. Gall, founded in 1849, and Holy Name Church established in 1875. Bishop Henni of Milwaukee was the impetus for bringing the Jesuits to Milwaukee. While on a trip to Europe in 1849, Henni received \$16,000 from a wealthy Belgian to establish a Jesuit school in his diocese. In selecting a site for the new facility, Henni first proposed to purchase a brick house and eight lots on North Van Buren Street. This was declined by the Jesuit fathers who were to staff the school because it was within the St. John Cathedral parish. Instead they agreed to assume control of St. Gall's parish. The first Jesuits arrived from St. Louis in 1855 and established a school to educate Catholic youth at St. Gall.

The first years of St. Gall were extremely difficult because of poor administration. When Father Stanislaus Lalumiere was appointed to St. Gall in 1861, he was faced with a dwindling parish. By his dynamic leadership, he developed St. Gall into the largest Roman Catholic parish in Milwaukee. During the 1860's he was responsible for rebuilding the boys school starting a girls school, building a new St. Gall church and securing the charter for Marquette University in 1864, even though the college was not to open for 18 more years. He established the second Jesuit parish, Holy Name Church, in 1875 and was appointed president of Marquette College in 1887. (Neither of these former church buildings is extant.) It was during the 1880's that he began a campaign to unite the two Jesuit parishes into a single parish. He organized the subscription drive for the construction of the new church and supervised the architects in its design. The cornerstone laying ceremony for Gesu Church in 1893 was one of the most widely attended events of the 19th century Roman Catholic Church in Milwaukee.

The new parish numbered approximately 700 families. An adjacent parochial school on 13th Street served about 700 students under the charge of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The school has since been demolished and the site is now part of Marquette University's campus, which grew up around the Church in the 1900's. Gesu still serves as a Catholic parish for West Side residents as well as for Marquette's University's large student population. With its upper and lower church halls seating a total of 2,900 people, Gesu is the largest church in the city.

building

HISTORICAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE