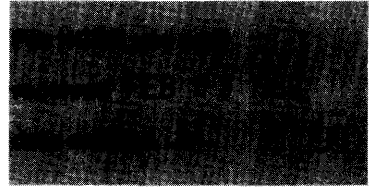


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ^{WI} Highway Q and Rich Road ___ not for publication

city, town Richwood ___ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dodge code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas and Delores Schoemann

street & number Highway Q, Route #5

city, town Watertown ___X___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53094

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dodge County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Juneau state Wisconsin 53039

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___X___ no

date 1977 ___ federal ___X___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The church is a rectangular building approximately 35' x 83', constructed of Watertown cream brick. On the west side of Richwood, the church occupies a prominent site at the junction of Rich Road on county highway "Q". The drama of its situation is enhanced by open space to the east, west, and north, but its setback from the road, and by a partial screen of trees along the east facade. The acre of land on which it is set includes the rectory and barn, now joined, which were moved onto the site and predate the church. Greatly altered, the amalgamated structure is not included in the nomination.

The church tower, with louvred belfry and shingled spire finished with a Latin cross, surmounts the ridge of the gabled roof over the central entrance. Located under a pointed archway, the door is now covered by a shed-roofed clapboard vestibule with a central gable, which was added before 1908.¹ Upon entering the nave, one is standing under the choir loft, which can be reached by stairs immediately to the left. Both the stairs and loft are open, enclosed only by simple wood balustrades. Pews are arranged in rows on either side of a central aisle leading to the elliptical-arched apse at the north end. As one faces the altar, the sacristy opens to the left of the sanctuary. The room, which contains the original wood vestment cabinet, has a separate outside entrance.

Ten tall, pointed-arch stained glass windows light the nave, one to each side of the south entry and four on each side. While the design of all windows is essentially the same, each is set with a different Christian symbol within the arch at the top and is dedicated to a different individual or family. The windows were added sometime after 1895. A single, plain incandescent lamp supplements the light from the windows and recently added spotlights highlight the altar.

Several other additions and changes have been made to the building. The present oak pews were added in 1888. The altar, with its cross-covered tabernacle and tryptych back, was donated by Michael Carroll in 1899. In 1922, a basement was excavated under the nave, resulting in a serious structural fracture in the west wall. In the same year, a gable-roofed basement entrance was added on the outside of the west wall, three heating stoves were removed, and a furnace was installed in the basement. In 1949, the stencilled window and sidewall borders above the wainscoting were painted over, although some of the design remains on the south end of the east wall under the choir loft. In 1963 "the church was completely redecorated...the tile flooring was laid in the sanctuary...[and] the worn side altars were discarded in favor of smaller wall brackets on which were placed the statues of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin."² These brackets have since been removed.

Plans of the owners include filling the church basement to correct the fracture in the west wall, and continuing efforts to restore the decorative aspects of the church to close approximations of the original.

1 Dated postcard of the church in the possession of the owner.
2 A Century at St. Joseph's, 1864-1964, 10

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates July 3, 1864¹ Builder/Architect James Clancy²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

For over one hundred years of its consecration, St. Joseph's Church was the primary religious and cultural center for the people of Richwood and the surrounding countryside. Hand-constructed by the sons and daughters of immigrant German and Irish Catholics, the building was their assertion of part of their identity. Today, despite deconsecration and nearly ten years of neglect, the building remains the dominant architectural feature in the Town of Shields, Dodge County, and the most significant remnant of early Richwood.

History

The cornerstone at St. Joseph's Church of Richwood was laid on July 3, 1864 on an acre of land donated as a church site by Patrick Norton of nearby Emmett Township. The tiny village of Richwood had first been settled by whites almost twenty years earlier by the same influx of German and Irish Catholics who settled most of southern Dodge and northern Jefferson counties. For those first years, worshippers traveled the ten-odd miles to St. Bernard's Church in Watertown for Mass and Communion. In the fall of 1864, local worship services were held in the district schoolhouse by an assistant pastor from St. Bernard's. The following spring, Archbishop Joseph Henni of the Milwaukee Archdiocese sent the Reverend Henry J. Roche from Delavan to direct construction of a church. Long-awaited and quickly-constructed, the building represented the fruits of the parishioners' persistence in the practice of their faith. For the next hundred-plus years, St. Joseph's Church provided the people of Richwood and the surrounding area with their major religious and cultural center. In addition to leading worship services and giving religious instruction to the predominantly Roman Catholic population, the pastorate provided a sense of community cohesion to the widely-scattered rural population by sponsoring numerous social and cultural activities, from St. Joseph's Total Abstinence Society in the late nineteenth century to the ever-popular bingo games and church picnics.³

In 1952, when Sacred Heart College of Watertown became a military academy, the Holy Cross Fathers were removed as pastors of St. Joseph's and the parish became a mission of St. Henry's in Watertown. Twelve years later, the parish became a mission of St. John's in Clyman. By 1970, due to the declining rural population and the reduction in the number of parishioners due to the ease of commuting to other parishes with schools in Watertown, the Milwaukee archdiocese deconsecrated the church and sold the church and rectory. The present owners purchased the property two years ago.

Architecture

St. Joseph's Church is a fine example of "Country Church Gothic" design built by local craftsmen and parishioners. The designer and carpenter was James Clancy of nearby Hubbleton--the site of an outmission of Father Roche, the founding pastor--and the brickwork and plastering were done by Hugh Boyle of Watertown. While the foundation sills were hauled from mills in Fond du Lac, local parishioners themselves hewed the cross timbers out of trees from the surrounding dense woods for which the hamlet had been named. Throughout its service as a church,

9. Major Bibliographical References

The History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin (Catholic Historical Publishing Company, Milwaukee, 1895-1898)
A Century at St. Joseph's, 1864-1964 (Watertown, WI, 1964)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 3.75

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Richwood, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	5	4	8	5	0	4	7	8	8	9	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

See revised UTD rec'd 6/27/80

Verbal boundary description and justification A part of the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 13, T-9-N, R-14-E, Town of Shields, Dodge County, Wisconsin, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing on the SE Corner of said SW 1/4 of SW 1/4; thence W 10 rods; thence N 16 rods; thence S 16 rods to the place of beginning excluding the rectory.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George C. Brown, Historian, Historic Preservation

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date August 1979

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-3390

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Henry

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/27/80

For HCRS use only

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

for the *Ray* *Jace*

Keeper of the National Register

date 7/2/80

Attest: *Kristin J. O'Connell*

date 6/30/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED JUL 2 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Richwood, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

parishioners donated most of the labor for maintenance, changes, and additions to the building.

Visually, the church is the outstanding architectural element of the village of small frame buildings. While simple and unadorned by urban standards, the structure's simple forms and cleanly-designed stained glass windows make it the most distinguished building in the area. The building's location along the county highway at the terminus of a major cross-axis, combined with handsomeness of building materials and restrained decoraton, give it an added dignity.

-
- 1 Cornerstone
 - 2 A Century at St. Joseph's, 1864-1964, 5
 - 3 Ibid, passim. The History of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin, 523-524

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 27 1980

DATE ENTERED JUL 2 1980

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Richwood, Wisc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10. PAGE 1.

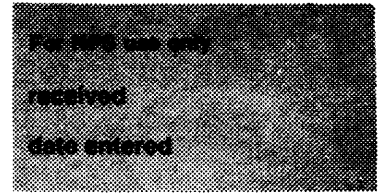
Verbal Boundary Description (revised, 6/20/80)

The boundary of the nominated site is to be formed by a rectangle twenty feet from each of the exterior walls of the church building, with base along County Highway Q at the junction of Rich Road in the Town of Shields, Dodge County, Wisc., in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 13, Town 9N, Range 13E.

Submitted by Filipowicz
(6/20/80)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Item number Page

PROPERTY NAME St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

8	0	0	0	4	4	8	0
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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

0	2	7
---	---	---

COUNTY CODE

Correct town is Shields

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

FEB. 17, 198⁶

DATE