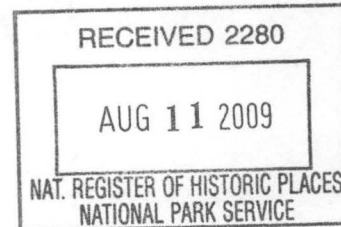


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church

other names/site number Site # PR0115

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Sycamore and Mason streets

☐ not for publication

city or town DeValls Bluff

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Prairie code 117 zip code 72041

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/3/09
(Date)

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9-23-09
Date of Action

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
Name of Property

Prairie County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional
MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD/Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, located on the corner of Sycamore and Mason streets in DeValls Bluff, Prairie County, Arkansas was built in 1912. The Plain-Traditional, Carpenter Gothic structure has a steeply pitched roof, with a front gable. The form is symmetrical with fenestrations on the south façade and the north, east, and west elevations. Constructed with the assistance of their non-Catholic neighbors the church is a simple but reverent form. There was no bell tower or cupola but the gable was originally topped with a wooden cross. Double doors lead directly into the Nave.

There are four windows on each side of the building. Small, round, six-light windows serve as decorative elements—a folk Rose window—on the south façade and north elevation. All of the windows have been covered to prevent vandalism.

Elaboration

The St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church is one block west of U.S. Hwy 70 which, prior to Interstate 40, was called the Broadway of America. It was only a few blocks south of the former location of the DeValls Bluff Rock Island Railroad depot. It sits, facing south, on a gradually sloping site at the corner of Sycamore and Mason Streets. The church served the small assemblage of local Catholics from 1912 to 1986 when the last of the parishioners passed away.

In 1903, the Catholic Church purchased Lot E of the Williams Subdivision. Father Robert Jenne, who succeeded Father A. Demerger at Brinkley, worked diligently with the Catholic families in DeValls Bluff and the surrounding farms to build a new church building.¹

A small frame building was completed in 1904. As a mission church, there was no resident priest in DeValls Bluff and therefore there was no rectory. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was instead served by a priest from Brinkley who came monthly. In 1912, this first building was damaged in a storm to such a degree that it was beyond repair. Unable to raise the funds for a new church, the small church community was aided by their Protestant neighbors in building a new building.²

¹ The deed is written to Right Reverend Edward Fitzgerald and this continued the pattern established by Fitzgerald to expand the church. However, Fitzgerald could not have been responsible for the purchase following his stroke in January 1900 which left him in some state of paralysis. Very Reverend Father Fitan Kraemer was serving as Vicar General at the time. J. M. Henry Williams to Rt. Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Warranty Deed, 20 April 1903; copy in possession of Mary Sharp. Historical Commission, *History*, np; Woods, "Roman Catholics;" Historical Commission, *History of Catholicity*, np.

² Historical Commission of the Diocese of Little Rock, *The History of Catholicity in Arkansas* (Little Rock, AR: The Guardian, 1925); James M. Woods, "Roman Catholics," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (July 21, 2008). Available online at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=343>. Accessed 17 March 2009. Bill Sager,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The new St. Elizabeth's Church was a simple frame structure not unlike the many Catholic churches across the Grand Prairie and Mississippi River Delta of Arkansas. The building was a one-room building sitting on brick piers and clad in false-bevel, drop siding. It was constructed with symmetrical east and west elevations fenestrated by four double-hung, four-over-four windows. The south façade featured double paneled doors centered on the façade with double-hung, four-over-four windows to the east and west sides. With no narthex the entry doors led directly into the single isle nave. Above the entry was a six-light, round window. This folk presentation of a Gothic Rose window was repeated on the north elevation above the altar.

Above the front entry the carpenters added a pointed transom window. This form was a reflection of the Gothic or Gothic Revival style. The simplified form on St. Elizabeth's is known as Carpenter Gothic. The Gothic Revival style was, particularly for religious buildings, a reaction to the perceived hedonism of Greek and Roman cultures. That hedonism as expressed in Greek and Roman Revival architecture was no longer desirable in the middle to late 1800s. Many Eastern churches adopted the medieval influenced Gothic Revival style as an outward expression of theological belief. In many immigrant communities the use of Gothic Revival and Carpenter Gothic was a material expression of ecclesiastical thought.

The Reverend George A. Poole wrote in 1842 that ecclesiastical architecture was rational, that it had a soul which it attempted to impart to those who viewed it, and that "its character was theological, doctrinal, catholic, exclusive; aiming at not only accommodating a congregation, but at elevating their devotions and informing their minds."³ Thus the architecture of the church was more than simply a building; the architecture meant something. The Gothic form of architecture in England represented a historical tradition, and more importantly, it represented the belief of Christians in the divine.

For the Anglican Church and the medieval church before it, the form of the building was symbolic of the belief in God. The early colonists to America brought their ecclesiastical architecture to the United States. So too the European immigrants to the United States brought their cultural perceptions of what was and wasn't reverent architecture. For immigrants accustomed the Cathedral at Cologne, or the elaborate Saint Barbara of Kunta Hora, Czech Republic, or even smaller churches like *Kirche Badendiek* or *Katholische Kirche Raden* in Eastern Germany there was a definite idea for what was and wasn't church architecture.

In rural America these forms became adapted to suit the needs of small communities with little money, using local materials. Structures similar to St. Elizabeth's were built at Brinkley (St. John the Baptist Church), Forrest City (St. Francis of Assisi), and Carlisle (St. Rose of Lima).

"DeValls Bluff (Prairie County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (January 22, 2009). Available online at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=965>. Accessed 17 March 2009.

³ Reverend George Ayliffe Poole, *The Appropriate Character of Church Architecture* (London: Rivington, Burns, and Houlston and Stoneman, 1842), 19.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Each of these were essentially plain traditional, gable-front structures, rectangular in form, with symmetrical facades. Lapped weatherboard was the prevalent siding among these rural Arkansas churches and all had simple double-hung windows. St. John's at Brinkley, with a larger parish, was more elaborate than St. Rose, with a cupola and pointed windows. The double-door entrance had a carpenter Gothic transom topped with a pointed pediment.

St. Rose of Lima was more traditional with square window opening and a rectangular transom above the front door. The front facing gable was topped with a wooden cross; so too with St. Francis of Assisi in Forrest City. Each of these church buildings presented simplified ecclesiastical feeling.

South Façade / Front

The front of St. Elizabeth's faces Sycamore Street. A single, symmetrical bay, the façade is clad in false-bevel, drop siding and sits on brick piers. The structure rises into the sharply pitched, asphalt shingle roof at a front facing gable. Double, paneled doors, atop a single concrete step, lead directly into the sanctuary. Above the entry doors was a pointed transom. This transom was lost to vandals and the empty hole is now boarded.

The entry is centered on the façade which is fenestrated by two double-hung, four-over-four windows equally spaced on the east and west. These windows are boarded to protect against vandalism but have opaque panes. Above the entry along the center line of the façade is a six-light, round window.

East Elevation / Side

The east elevation rises fourteen feet above brick piers to shallow enclosed eaves. Clad in false-bevel, drop siding, the elevation is fenestrated by four double-hung, four-over-four windows. The windows are encased in simple rectangular openings with no architectural detail other than opaque panes. As with the windows on the other elevations, these have been boarded to protect against vandals.

South Elevation / Rear

The south elevation has only one fenestration that being the six-light, round window above the altar. This window has been boarded to protect against vandals. The elevation is clad in false-bevel, drop siding and rises to an end facing gable.

West Elevation / Side

The west elevation is an exact match of the east elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Integrity

There have been no additions to the building or property other than some extensive foundation work. This work was to correct settling and leaning piers. A new asphalt shingle roof was put on about 1986. The church lost the simple wooden cross atop the gable to high winds. Some of the original opaque glass window panes have had to be replaced because of vandalism but the window frames and openings remain intact. The doors retain their original hardware. No additions have been made to the structure, nor has any of the structure been removed.

In all the structure remains well intact. There are some minor cosmetic issues and some minor issues with wood rot in the siding but that does not detract from the building's architectural purity. St. Elizabeth's Church remains a good example of the Plain-Traditional, Carpenter Gothic style in DeValls Bluff and is one of few remaining examples of the type in Arkansas's Grand Prairie.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A.** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D.** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E.** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F.** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G.** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Personal Library of Mary Sharp, DeValls Bluff, AR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was built in 1912. The parish was established in 1904 and the extant building was the second church building for this congregation. Catholic priests began serving the assemblage near DeValls Bluff in the 1870s. The history of the church is tied closely to the history of immigration in Arkansas's Grand Prairie.

As a Plain-Traditional or Carpenter Gothic style structure the building reflected the theological beliefs of the body in DeValls Bluff. It also reflected cultural norms as a material expression of ecclesiastical belief. Once a common form for Catholic churches across the Grand Prairie and the Mississippi River Delta, St. Elizabeth's is one of very few remaining early twentieth century Catholic churches. Therefore, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as a good example of the Plain-Traditional or Carpenter Gothic form of architecture in DeValls Bluff.

Elaboration

DeValls Bluff, was named after Jacob M. De Vall. He and his son Chappel S. settled in the area prior to 1850. There was little population growth in the swampy woodlands along the White River and DeVall's Bluff was a still a small community at the beginning of the Civil War, containing only a "store, dwelling house, and a 'boat landing.'"⁴ In 1862 the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad Company completed its western division from Huntersville, now North Little Rock, to DeValls Bluff. This created a shorter transportation route between Little Rock and Memphis, saving at least twenty-four hours than by steamboat alone. With the arrival of the railroad and the construction of warehouses to handle the additional shipping the population began to grow. It was however, the Civil War that proved to be the most prosperous period in the history of the town.

In 1863, the community was taken by Federal troops. With the entire route of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad in their control the United States Army made DeValls Bluff their primary shipping point; the White River having fewer shallows and snags than the Arkansas River. Union forces quickly established a regular service sending supplies from Memphis up the White River to the railroad at DeVall's Bluff and then to the garrison at North Little Rock and Little Rock. After the Union troops took possession of DeValls Bluff, the town was inundated with refugees seeking protection. Houses were built for them and as a result, by the end of the war, DeValls Bluff's population had increased dramatically. At least one source notes that building supplies for Federal and civilian structures were stolen from other towns.

⁴ Bill Sager, "DeValls Bluff (Prairie County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (January 22, 2009). Available online at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=965>. Accessed 17 March 2009.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The courthouse at Clarendon was dismantled and the material shipped up river to DeValls Bluff to make new buildings and some buildings at Des Arc were similarly torn apart and shipped down river.⁵ Although many of the refugees went back to their original homes at the end of the war, and the U.S. Army maintained no significant presence, it remained an important shipping point.

It was not until 1871 that the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad bridge was completed across the White River. From the end of the war to the completion of that bridge DeValls Bluff continued to be the primary shipping point for much of the agricultural and industrial supplies shipped to Little Rock and the west along that railroad.

In 1873, DeVal's Bluff was designated the county seat for Prairie County's Southern District, and by the 1880s it had "a postoffice [sic], two general, two drug, three grocery and one millinery store, a livery stable, two hotels, a boat oar factory, a large saw-mill, a Methodist Church, white, and a Baptist Church, colored, a school-house each for the whites and blacks, two title abstract offices, a lodge each of Masons, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Honor, Good Templars and Iron Hall."⁶

Though DeValls Bluff seemed a bustling town, by 1880 the population was listed at only 186. This was a dramatic decline from the wartime estimates of 1,500 to 2,000. Between 1880 and 1890 the population grew to 380 and by 1900 reached 605. This growth in population coincided with a brief but important period of European immigration to the Arkansas Grand Prairie.⁷

Between 1890 and 1910, recent European immigrants made up only one percent of Arkansas's total population. However, in areas like the Grand Prairie or the Arkansas River Valley immigrants populations were much higher. In Prairie County the growth of immigrants was only 4.4 percent between 1890 and 1900 but increased to 16.7 percent between 1900 and 1910.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Goodspeed Publishing Company, *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890; reprint Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1976), 679-80.

⁷ United States, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910*, Volume II, Population 1910 (Washington, DC: GPO, 1913. Reprint 1915), 104. Hereafter referred to as *Census 1910*. Also Sager, "DeValls Bluff." For a more comprehensive discussion of immigration to Arkansas see, Ken Story, "Minority Settlement in the Mississippi River Counties of the Arkansas Delta, 1870-1930" (Little Rock: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992). Copy on file at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. See also, Grand Prairie Historic Society, "The People of the Grand Prairie of Arkansas," *Bulletin* 8 (1965): 8; Grand Prairie Historical Society, "Immigrants," *Bulletin* 14, (1971): 9; Robert B. Walz, "Migration into Arkansas, 1820-1880: Incentives and Means of Travel" *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XVII, No. 4 (Winter 1958): 309-324; Felton D. Freeman, "Immigration into Arkansas," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* VII, No. 3 (Autumn 1948): 210-220.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

The largest numbers of immigrants were from Germany, Austria, and Hungary.⁸ The Rock Island Railroad, successor to the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, actively promoted settlement of the Grand Prairie in Midwestern immigrant communities.⁹

Large German and Eastern European communities grew up in the areas around DeValls Bluff and Stuttgart and led to the creation of towns like Ulm and Slovak.

With the immigrants came their culture and religion. In their new rural farm communities immigrants sought the same cultural norms that they had in their European homeland and in their older American communities. Religion, often Catholic, was central to daily life in many of the farming communities of German or Austrian immigrants.¹⁰ Catholicism was not new to Arkansas, in fact, as a Spanish and French territory Catholicism was the oldest religion in the state.

Pope Gregory XVI established the Diocese of Little Rock in November 1843. The first Bishop, Irish born, Andrew Byrne arrived in Arkansas from New York in 1844. Byrne actively sought to attract fellow Irish immigrants, with little success, throughout his eighteen year tenure. During the Civil War there was no Bishop in Arkansas and the Diocese went bankrupt. In 1867, thirty-three year old Edward Fitzgerald was appointed the second Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock. Like Byrne, Fitzgerald was very active promoting Catholic immigration into Arkansas.¹¹

Fitzgerald was equally active in increasing the size of the Church in Arkansas. During construction of the middle division of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad between Forrest City and DeValls Bluff, Bishop Fitzgerald assigned a Catholic priest to serve the immigrant work force of the railroad. Reverend D. A. Quinn rode a circuit out of Brinkley using the railroad section houses between Hopefield and DeValls Bluff for his church services. Priests riding circuits were common for Catholics in the Arkansas Delta and Grand Prairie in the late nineteenth century. Churches at Brinkley, Forrest City, and Carlisle were all served for some time by circuit riding priests from Little Rock.¹²

⁸ *Census 1910*, 128.

⁹ Carl H. Moneyhon, *Arkansas and the New South, 1874-1929* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1997), 62.

¹⁰ Johnathan James Wolfe, "Background of German Immigration," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XXV, No. 3 (Autumn 1966): 255; Hereafter, Wolfe, Part II. Wolfe, "Background of German Immigration," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XXV, No. 4 (Winter 1966): 367-9; Hereafter, Wolfe, Part III.

¹¹ James M. Woods, "Roman Catholics," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* (July 21, 2008). Available online at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=343>. Accessed 17 March 2009. Also, Historical Commission of the Diocese of Little Rock, *The History of Catholicity in Arkansas* (Little Rock, AR: The Guardian, 1925), not paginated. Bishop Byrne died in Helena on June 10, 1862, and no replacement was named until after the Civil War.

¹² Historical Commission, *History of Catholicity*, np. The middle division of the Memphis and Little Rock was constructed between 1868 and 1871.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Through the 1880s the few Catholic families and individuals in DeValls Bluff were served by a priest from St. Patrick's in North Little Rock. The priest held Mass for his parishioners in their homes or in section houses along the railroad. In the 1890s the Catholic families in and around DeValls Bluff were forced to attend services in Brinkley, Stuttgart, North Little Rock, or Little Rock as no priest came to visit the area. It was following a visit by Reverend Joseph A. McQuaid, of Stuttgart, that the Church renewed its efforts to establish a mission in DeValls Bluff.¹³

Father McQuaid urged Reverend A. Demerger at Brinkley to establish a mission church in DeValls Bluff. Agreeing with Father McQuaid in the need, Father Demerger began the process. In 1903, the Catholic Church purchased Lot E of the Williams Subdivision. Father Robert Jenne, who succeeded Demerger, worked diligently with the Catholic families in DeValls Bluff and the surrounding farms to build a new church building.¹⁴

A small frame building was completed in 1904. As a mission church, there was no resident priest in DeValls Bluff. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was instead served by a priest from Brinkley who came monthly. In 1912 this first building was damaged in a storm to such a degree that it was beyond repair. Unable to raise the funds for a new building, the small church community was aided by their Protestant neighbors in the construction of a new church.¹⁵

The new St. Elizabeth's Church was a simple frame structure not unlike the many Catholic churches across the Grand Prairie and Mississippi River Delta of Arkansas. Similar structures were built at Brinkley (St. John the Baptist Church), Forrest City (St. Francis of Assisi), and Carlisle (St. Rose of Lima). Each of these were essentially plain traditional, gable-front structures, rectangular in form, with symmetrical facades. Lapped weatherboard was the prevalent siding among these rural Arkansas churches and all had simple double-hung windows. St. John's at Brinkley, with a larger parish, was more elaborate than St. Rose, with a cupola and pointed windows. The double-door entrance had a carpenter Gothic transom topped with a pointed pediment.

St. Rose of Lima was more traditional with square window opening and a rectangular transom above the front door. The front facing gable was topped with a wooden cross; so too with St. Francis of Assisi in Forrest City. Each of these church buildings presented simplified ecclesiastical feeling.

¹³ *Ibid.* Father McQuaid was appointed to Holy Rosary Church at Stuttgart in 1899.

¹⁴ The deed is written to Right Reverend Edward Fitzgerald and this continued the pattern established by Fitzgerald to expand the church. However, Fitzgerald could not have been responsible for the purchase following his stroke in January 1900 which left him in some state of paralysis. Very Reverend Father Fitan Kraemer was serving as Vicar General at the time. J. M. Henry Williams to Rt. Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Warranty Deed, 20 April 1903; copy in possession of Mary Sharp. Historical Commission, *History*, np; Woods, "Roman Catholics;" Historical Commission, *History of Catholicity*, np. The church purchased Lots 1 & 2 in 1934.

¹⁵ Historical Commission, *History of Catholicity*, np., Woods, "Roman Catholics;" Sager, "DeValls Bluff."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

The small Catholic communities had little funds to construct elaborate buildings. These frame buildings with simplified Gothic architectural elements reflected ecclesiastical architectural forms found in many of these immigrants' homelands. Constructed by local carpenters and church members they typified a form that spoke of reverence and reflected theological belief.

Unfortunately none of these comparable early Catholic churches are extant. St. John the Baptist remodeled their frame church to a Neoclassical style structure in 1928 (MO0112, NR listed 10/2/1992). St. Francis of Assisi, in Forrest City, sold their frame structure to move into a larger, grander edifice. It is unknown what became of the original church at Carlisle. Of the turn-of-the-century frame Catholic churches in the Grand Prairie, DeValls Bluff is one of the few remaining. For many years the church remained without a resident priest, instead the priest shared duties between Carlisle and DeValls Bluff; and Slovak (Church of St. Cyril and Methodius) and DeValls Bluff in later years. Gradually the Catholic population of the town declined to a point where operation of the church was no longer sustainable. Leland Bland was the last remaining parishioner and with her death in 1986 the church ceased operation.

Abandoned by the Church in 1986, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church was unused by the community. In 1992, Mary Sharp purchased the structure and has actively sought to preserve it as an important piece of DeValls Bluff history.

Statement of Significance

The simple one-room structure with simple Gothic Revival elements on Sycamore Street speaks of a part of DeValls Bluff history now twenty-three years gone. The Catholic church served a community, albeit small, of farmers and businessmen who played integral parts of the history of DeValls Bluff and Prairie County, Arkansas. With the history of this small building is the history of European immigrants who helped build railroads, clear forests, and farm the fields that were and are firmly part of the State's landscape.

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as a good example of the Plain-Traditional or Carpenter Gothic form of architecture in DeValls Bluff.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church

Name of Property

Prairie County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 640962 3849919
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Sharp; Edited by Van Zbinden, National Register Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date 23 March 2009

street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building

telephone (501) 324-9880

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Sharp

street & number P. O. Box 242

telephone _____

city or town DeValls Bluff

state AR

zip code 72041

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church

Name of Property

Prairie County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Block E of the Williams Subdivision to the Town of DeValls Bluff. Lots 1, 2, & 3 of Block 16 of the town of DeValls Bluff.

Boundary Justification

This is all the land historically associated with St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Prairie

DATE RECEIVED: 8/11/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/03/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/18/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/24/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000744

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9.23.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. ST. ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
2. DeValls Bluff, PRAIRIE COUNTY
3. SARAH J. MARKS
4. February 2009
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. South FACADE LOOKING NORTH
7. # 1



1. ST. ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
2. DeValls Bluff, PRAIRIE COUNTY
3. SARAH J. MARKS.
4. FEBRUARY 2009
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. South facade and west elevation looking northeast
7. #2



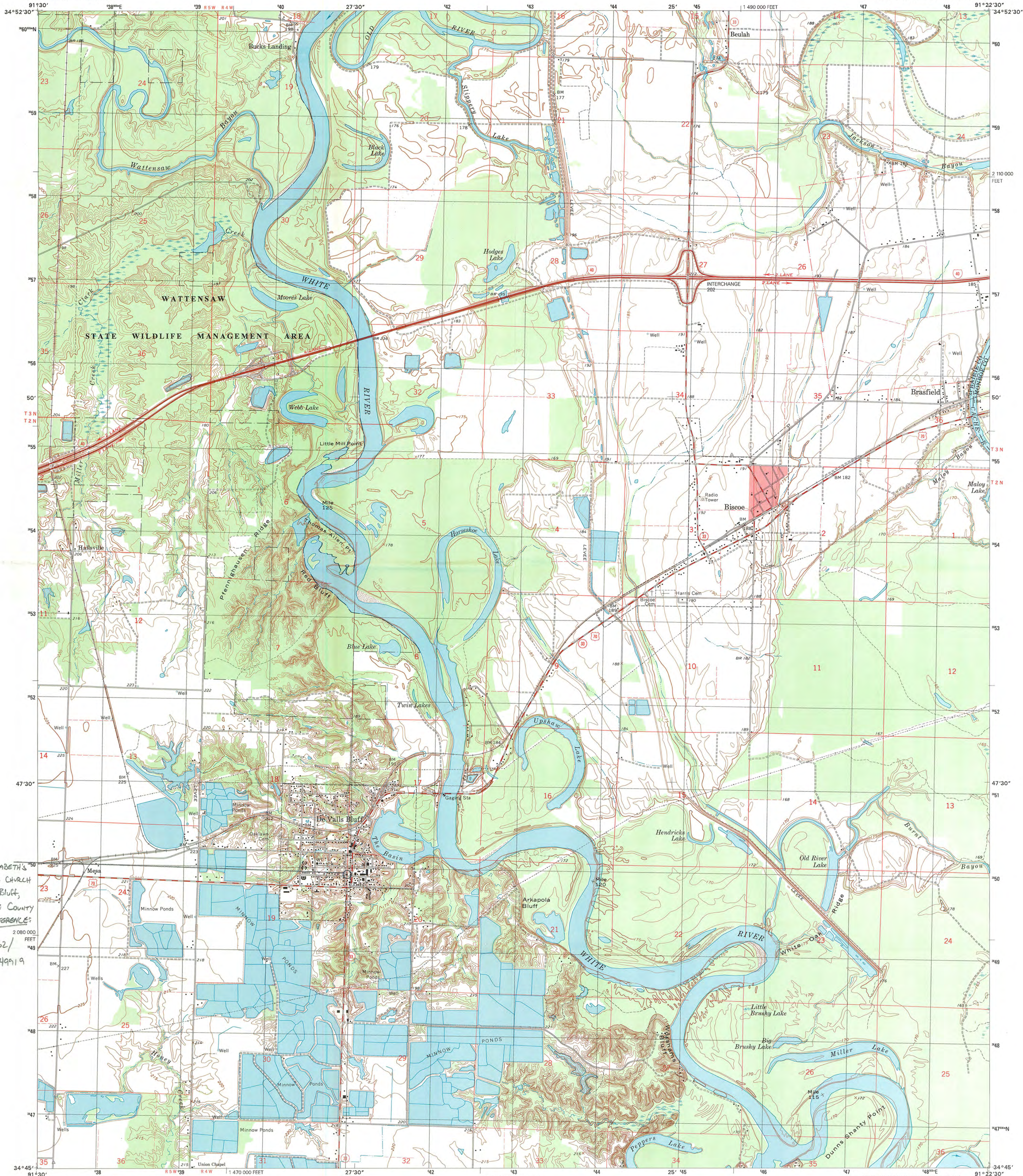
1. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
2. DeValls Bluff, Prairie County
3. Sarah J. Marks
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. West elevation looking EAST
7. # 3



1. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
2. Devalls Bluff, Prairie County
3. Sarah J. Marks
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. North Elevation and east elevation looking Southwest
7. # 4



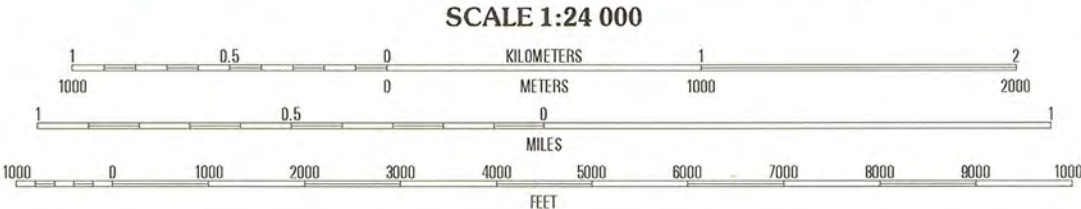
1. St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church
2. DeValls Bluff, PEAIRIE COUNTY
3. SARAH J. MARKS
4. FEBRUARY 2009
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. EAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST,
7. # 5



ST. ELIZABETH'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
DE VALLS BLUFF
PRAIRIE COUNTY
UTM REFERENCE:
15/640962/
3849919

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1966. Planimetry derived from imagery
taken 1996 and other sources, Public Land Survey System and
survey control current as of 1963.
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and
NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map.
Landmark buildings verified 1968.

UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway
hard surface
Secondary highway
hard surface
Unimproved road
Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

1	2	3	1 Des Arc West
			2 Des Arc East
			3 De Valls Bluff NE
4	5		4 Hazen
			5 De Valls Bluff SE
			6 Slinn
			7 Roe
6	7	8	8 Clarendon

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

DE VALLS BLUFF, AR
1996

NIMA 7753 IV SW-SERIES V884





The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880

fax: (501) 324-9184

tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005



RE: St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, DeValls Bluff, Prairie County

Dear Dr. Matthews,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Van Zbinden of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:vz

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

