

City, Village or Town: Eau Claire	County: Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11-16-81
Street Address: 322 Fulton Street		Legal Description: see continuation sheet	Acreage: less than one acre

Current Name & Use: St. Patrick's Catholic Church	Current Owner: St. Patrick's Church
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Film Roll No. EC 2L		Current Owner's Address: 318 Fulton Street
Negative No. 20		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 617960 Northing: 4962850 USGS Eau Claire West Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Facade Orient. S		

Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 St. Patrick's Church (ECMRA)	A				
Dates of Construction / Alteration 1885	A				
Architect and/or Builder: Unknown	A				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A on building

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark
 other: _____

B History of Eau Claire County. 1914, pp 511-512.

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

C The Light That Knows No Setting. 1966. church pamphlet available at Chippewa Valley Museum

8 District:

pivotal contributing non-contributing
 initials: _____ date: _____

D Eau Claire Daily Leader, June 21, 1885, p. 3.

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local initials: **met**

E

F

Fulton Street
 322
 plat map #8
 Map Code 2L/20

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (322 Fulton Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: St. Patrick's Church is a rectangular brick building capped by a steeply pitched gable roof. Anchoring the design of the main facade is a full four stage tower located at the southeast corner of the nave. Buttressed at each stage, the tower is culminated by a pinnacled belfry that is covered with a metal pyramidal roof. The belfry is identified by paired louvred openings contained within lancet arches. The lower stages are likewise punctuated by lancet openings - the third stage by a small, broad window emphatically outlined; the second stage by three adjoining lancet windows; and the lower stage by narrow rectangular windows bracketed by a lancet arch. This last opening is distinctive for the pattern of windows and arch defines a Latin cross. The church's other tower is identical, lacking only the fourth (belfry) stage. Characterizing the gabled portion of the facade is a large lancet window, the lower two thirds of which are demarked by three lancet openings, the center one containing a crucifix. Statuary niches flank the window. Three pointed arch openings included in a sheltering pavilion indicate the church's main entrances. A triple gabled roof, accented by pinnacles, covers the pavilion. On the side walls lancet windows alternate with buttresses. A steeply pitched gable distinguishes the crossing.

(1981 photos - 41/37, 42/3)

Significance: St. Patrick's Church is a locally significant example of transitional Romanesque/Gothic design. The impressive brick structure is the oldest church building in Eau Claire and one of the few remaining intact remnants of nineteenth century institutional architecture in the city. The hybrid Romanesque/Gothic composition is highlighted by one full tower which rises prominently at the southeast corner of the church and by numerous lancet windows.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

The Catholic church in Eau Claire was established in the mid-1850's by missionaries from the church at nearby Chippewa Falls. (The actual year the church was organized varies in each historical account.) A frame church was erected on N. Barstow Street in 1858 and the parish named St. Patrick's. A school was constructed in 1870 and in 1875 the parish was divided when a number of German-speaking members created Sacred Heart Church. The congregation purchased lots on Oxford and Fulton Streets in 1880 and commenced the construction of a church which was completed in 1882. This building was destroyed by fire on October 8, 1884. The present St. Patrick's Church was erected following the fire (B,C). At the time of its construction, the church was described as "half Gothic" and a structure "more in keeping with the modern style of ecclesiastical structures" (D).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

St. Patrick's Church is located in Block 13 of Chapman & Thorps Corrected Second Addition. The boundaries of the nominated property are as follows:

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (322 Fulton Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (2)

Beginning at the northwest corner of Fulton and Oxford Avenue proceed 205 feet north, 130 feet west, 205 feet south, and 130 feet east to point of beginning.