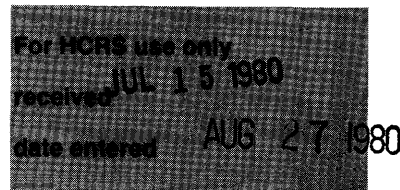


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Old Polish Church

and/or common Holy Spirit West Chapel

2. Location

street & number 309 South 3rd Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Virginia _____ vicinity of congressional district 8th District

state Minnesota code 22 county St. Louis code 137

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Duluth Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church

street & number 215 W. 4th St.

city, town Duluth _____ vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Louis County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Duluth _____ state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Polish Church in Virginia is a red brick structure constructed on the hall plan, with narthex, nave (without side aisles), and slightly raised chancel. The exterior is defined by steeple above the front entrance, which has stone detailing in a Jacobean spirit. Gothic elements, however, provide the architectural detail, including six evenly spaced arched windows on the side facades, and arched windows flanking the centrally placed main entrance. Paired windows located below the major Gothic windows in each of the side bays suggest the basement behind slightly raised foundation. Interior detail includes stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross with Polish inscriptions. The latter were produced in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Lucca, Italy, tradition.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Polish Church in Virginia is significant for its historic role as the center of Polish religious and social life in Virginia. The construction of the church in 1924 reflected the social and religious compact established by Polish immigrants in the community as they attempted to recreate in northern Minnesota the importance of the church in Poland. Significant aspects of its history include its consecration by the first Polish bishop in the United States and its use by nonreligious Polish organizations, such as the Polish National Alliance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marvin Lamma, A Report to the Department of Natural Resources on the Historical Aspects of the Vermilion, Cuyuna, and Mesabi Iron Ranges of Northeast Minnesota (Eveleth: 1977).

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Virginia

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>535060</u>	<u>5262880</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The old Polish church is located on Lots 20 through 23, Block 44, Original Addition, Virginia, Minnesota.

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 Charles Skrief, Director, State Historic Preservation Office

organization Minnesota Historical Society date September 10, 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue telephone 612-296-9070

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

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

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/28/80

For HCERS use only

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

Fred W. Ray
Keeper of the National Register

date 8/27/80

Attest: Kristin O'Connell
Chief of Registration

date 8/20/80

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 21 1989

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Old Polish Church

St. Louis County, MN

Name Change Approval
to Church of St. John the
Baptist (Catholic)

Keeper Beth Boland 6/28/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

JUN 12 1989

Section number 1 Page 1

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Note: This change applies to the Old Polish Church in St. Louis County, Minnesota.

Reference Number: 80004362

State: Minnesota

County: St. Louis

Resource Name (Historic): Church of St. John the Baptist (Catholic)

Comments: Historically the church is associated with the Polish community in Virginia. Its historic name is the Church of St. John the Baptist (Catholic)

(Silver Jubilee brochure. Virginia: ca. 1920 and phone conversation with Virginia Kirby, Director of the Virginia Area Historical Society, 29 March 1985)

Nina M. Archabal
Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

6/1/89
Date