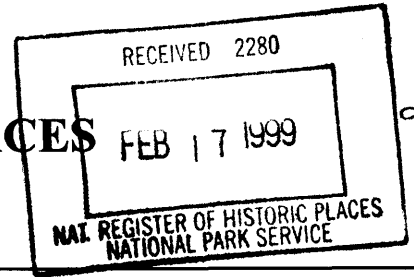


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Joseph's Catholic Church

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: D'Aste Townsite

not for publication: na
vicinity: X

city/town: Moiese

state: Montana code: MT county: Lake code: 047 zip code: 59824

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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.


Signature of certifying official/Title

2-2-99
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

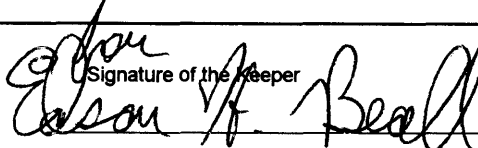
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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
 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____


Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
3/18/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
--------------	-----------------

Category of Property: Building

1 1 building(s)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

Name of related multiple property listing: na

1 1 TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RELIGION/Religious Facility/Church

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements:
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

foundation: concrete
walls: clapboard
roof: asphalt shingle
other:

Narrative Description

St. Joseph's Catholic Church at D'Aste (pronounced "dee-astee" or "dasty") is located between Charlo and Moiese, Montana and approximately eight miles northwest of St. Ignatius. The wood frame church, built in 1916, stands by itself along a graveled county road.

St. Joseph's decorative exterior elements are in the Craftsman Style. The walls are embellished with clapboards of alternating narrow and wide exposure. The rafter tails are exposed and massive, decorative braces appear in the front gable end. The front gable is stucco relieved by stickwork. Small, rectangular windows in the rear wing have battered trim creating an Egyptian-influenced appearance.

The main body of the building is rectangular in plan with a north-south orientation and a front-facing gable roof. A sacristy is located across the north end (rear). The low hipped roof of the sacristy attaches to the main body of the building below the peak of the gable. A steep three-sided hip which creates an interior apse interrupts the roof of the wing in the center against the gable end. In 1942, a simple gable-front vestibule was added to protect the front doors. It is sided with clapboard and has matching braces to those supporting the gable end. Stone-veneered concrete steps lead to the front doors. A brick chimney projects at the northwest intersection of the gable and hip roofs. A wooden cross is mounted on the ridge near the front gable.

The windows in the main body of the church are one-over-one double-hung sash. New sash have just been installed; the upper sash is slightly taller than the lower. Each side of the church has three windows and single windows flank the entry. The windows in the sacristy are identical on each elevation. They are small rectangular casements grouped together. Battered jamb trim terminating at wide head and sill boards give them an Egyptian appearance. Doors are located on the north and south sides of the church. The original pair of front doors is gone and the single door on the rear is new.

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The nave is a large open space with a raised platform and circular apse at the north end. The walls are painted plaster above a wood wainscot the height of the window sills. The window and door openings have architrave trim. The wood flooring is covered with carpet. The light fixtures are modern. The sacristy is divided into two rooms and finished with painted plaster.

A woodframe, shed roofed outhouse sided with wide boards is located behind the church. Its date of construction is unknown, and since its exterior materials do not match the church, it is considered a non-contributing building to the church.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: 1916-1948

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1916

Cultural Affiliation: European-American

Architect/Builder: Tom McDonald (?)/ Tom McDonald and
William O'Maley

Narrative Statement of Significance

St. Joseph's Catholic Church at D'Aste is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The church is an unusual Montana example of ecclesiastical architecture in the Craftsman Style. The undocumented designer of the church used a variety of Craftsman-defining features more commonly found in residential buildings. These features include massive, decorative braces in the gable, stickwork and stucco, also in the gable, and exposed rafter tails. Clapboard siding in alternating widths and Egyptian-influenced window trim on the sacristy add to the building's Craftsman appearance.

D'Aste and St. Joseph's Catholic Church

When the U.S. Congress opened the Flathead Indian Reservation for homesteading in 1910, it set aside several tracts of land for townsite purposes. Forty- or 80-acre parcels were reserved at Polson, St. Ignatius, Arlee, Dayton, Ravalli, Dixon, Ronan, Hot Springs, and D'Aste. The town of D'Aste was platted soon after this, but its growth was limited. Thomas P. Quinn operated a store and post office serving homesteaders in the immediate area. Local children attended a school in the townsite. The 1915-16 Missoula County Director lists Quinn as D'Aste's only resident. Fifty-three "ranchers" received their mail at D'Aste.

Irish Catholics from Butte primarily took homesteads in the area. These staunchly religious farmers at first attended services at Dixon, some eight miles to the south, or at St. Ignatius, which was an hour's drive by horse and buggy to the southeast. By 1911, however, Jesuit priests from St. Ignatius Mission were offering services in the upstairs "community hall" of the Tom Quinn house, located just west of where St. Joseph's Catholic Church would be built.

The Jesuits had a longstanding relationship with people living on the Flathead Indian Reservation, having maintained churches and programs ministering to the Indian tribes of Western Montana since 1841. While the missionaries directed most of their energies to converting and educating Indian peoples, as increasing numbers of European-American settlers came west, the priests also served the white settlers in emerging communities.

Reverend William O'Maley, the first priest of Sacred Heart Parish in neighboring Ronan, recognized the opportunity for a mission church at D'Aste. He initiated and directed the construction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on two lots in the townsite. Tribal authorities rejected plans for a cemetery next to the church. Representatives of St. Joseph's traveled to Butte where they raised \$500 toward the church's construction costs. The Extension Society of the Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois matched the donations.

After they raised additional money through local raffles, D'Aste farmers purchased lumber at cost from the Dixon lumber yard. Catholics and Protestants alike contributed labor to construct the building. Assisting Father O'Maley in supervising construction, was Tom McDonald, the only carpenter hired for the project. Through local oral tradition, McDonald is credited with the design of the church. The church took only one month to complete.

Bishop Carroll of the Diocese of Helena dedicated the church to St. Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church, in May 1916. St. Joseph's became the site of summer catechism classes taught in the early years by Father Feylon, a Jesuit priest from St. Ignatius, and later by the Sisters of Providence from either Sacred Heart Convent in Ronan or from St. Ignatius. In 1917, the Northern Pacific Railroad donated a brass bell from a steam train to St. Joseph's. In 1928, early settlers donated the Stations of the Cross in memory of their loved ones.

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The onset of drought and Montana's statewide depression just after World War I led to changes in the D'Aste community that directly affected St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Increased use of the automobile combined with water shortages at D'Asti resulted in the town being moved to the present site of Charlo. Despite the move, the church and the school at D'Aste continued to be used. However, their importance declined as Charlo became the site of most community events. The school at D'Aste was closed in 1939, and St. Joseph's Church became the only building in use at the old townsite.

During 1942, when Father D.B. Harrington ministered at St. Joseph's, Frank Gallagher constructed a vestibule and stone-veneered steps on the front of the building. The church was wired for electricity in the early 1950s. St. Joseph's Catholic Church celebrated its golden anniversary on September 25, 1966 with a mass conducted by Bishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Helena.

The school building to the north of the church was sold and dismantled in 1960, leaving the church as the only building remaining at D'Aste. As old settlers died, the population of the area decreased, leaving St. Joseph's with fewer and fewer parishioners. In 1978, a decision was made to relocate the church services to Charlo, and in April of that year, Father Fenlon conducted the final mass at St. Joseph's Church. A new church was constructed in Charlo that year.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church gradually deteriorated after its abandonment. The windows were broken out, the paint peeled, and cattle strayed into the building. In hopes of preserving the church, the Gallagher family purchased the building from the Sacred Heart Parish (Ronan) in 1985. The Bishop of Helena challenged the Gallagher's ownership when the building was presented to the State Historic Preservation Review Board for nomination to the National Register in 1996. Working with the Bishop's representative, the Gallaghers identified the D'Aste Woman's Service Group, Inc. as a suitable steward of the building, and ownership was transferred to that nonprofit organization in 1998. The club has begun restoration of the building including new electrical service, window sash and exterior paint. Club members are now stripping paint from the interior wainscoting.

Architectural Significance

St. Joseph's Catholic Church at D'Aste is an unusual Montana example of ecclesiastical architecture in the Craftsman Style. Only one other Craftsman Style church is documented in the state. The church's designer applied a variety of Craftsman-defining details to this otherwise simple, rural church. Among the most obvious of these details are the massive, decorative braces in the front gable, the stickwork and stucco, also in the front gable, and the exposed rafter tails, and the half-timbering. Other Craftsman details can be found in the alternating width of the clapboard siding and the Egyptian-influenced window trim on the rear wing.

Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties

St. Joseph's Catholic Church at D'Aste meets Criteria Consideration A as a significant example of Craftsman-style ecclesiastical architecture. The only other Craftsman Style church identified in Montana is the Catholic Church in Judith Gap (1918-19). See "architectural significance" for evaluation of St. Joseph's architectural significance.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Most of information used in this nomination is from:

Gallagher, Margaret R. A History of the D'Aste Townsite and Saint Joseph Catholic Church at D'Aste, Montana. Manuscript, 1980, Billings, Montana.

Kingma, David A., JOPA Archivist, The Archives of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, Letter to Allan Mathews, January 5, 1996.

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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: **Zone** **Easting** **Northing**
 11 711600 5251570

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Section 19, Township 19 North, Range 20 West, M.P.M.

Verbal Boundary Description

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is located on Lots 9 and 10, Block 59, Townsite of D'Aste, Montana.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn, based on legally recorded lot lines, to include the land on which the building has stood since its construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Allan Mathews
organization:
street & number: 435 Ryman
telephone: 406-721-5643
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801

name/title: James R. McDonald
organization: James R. McDonald, PC
street & number: P.O. Box 8163
telephone: 406-523-4650
city: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807

date: January 1996

Property Owner

name/title: D'Aste Woman's Service Group, Inc.
street & number: Box 7774 Highway 212
city or town: Charlo state: MT

telephone:
zip code: 59824