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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 23 2005

SEP 2 2005

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Joseph Catholic Church
Other name/site number 163-1250-0001

2. Location

Street & number 105 N. Oak Street not for publication
City or town Damar vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Rooks Code 163 Zip code 67632

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 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. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Christy Davis 9/22/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

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 commenting 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 Beall 11.5.05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Name of Property

Rooks Co., Kansas
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 the 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)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Limestone

Roof: Copper

Other:

Narrative Description

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Name of Property

Rooks Co., Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 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** a birthplace or grave.
- 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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912-1917

Significant Dates

1912-1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brinkman, Henry W., architect

Rothenberger, Frank K., contractor

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:

St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Name of Property

Rooks Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately three

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	4	4	9	4	4	0	4	3	5	2	0	8	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 Steven E. Hanson; Edited by KSHS staff

Organization St. Joseph Catholic Church Date December 15, 2004

Street & number 307 Maple, P.O. Box 52 Telephone 785-737-3627

City or town Damar State KS Zip code 67632

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name St. Joseph Catholic Church

Street & number 101 N. Oak Street Telephone _____

City or town Damar State KS Zip code 67632

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 listings. 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

Description

Summary

The St. Joseph Catholic Church, (c.1912- 1917) is located at 105 Oak Street in Damar, Rooks County, Kansas (pop 156). The native limestone Romanesque Revival Church has a penny thickness copper gabled roof, installed in 1947. There are symmetrical, square bell towers with copper domed roofs on the front façade, each with a cross atop the roof. Each cross soars to a height of 90 feet, distinctively marking the town. Featuring an eastern façade, the overall measurements of the footprint are 135 feet long and 35 feet wide. The rectory, constructed in the 1950s, stands north of the church and is not included in the nomination.

Elaboration

The two symmetrical square towers of the Romanesque Revival Catholic Church are constructed of native Lucas limestone with white concrete belt courses, arches, imposts and watertables. These accents provide a very distinctive visual effect against the natural yellow limestone coloration. Each towers' upper portion is rounded and has eight arched recessed black louvers. White concrete columns stand between the arches. Each of the towers is adorned with panels with limestone inlays providing a white and yellow color contrast. An eight-sided copper domed roof highlights the top of each tower with a cross at its peak.

The St. Joseph Catholic Church is constructed of native limestone (yellow and pink in color) broken by recessed panels, arches, concrete belts and windowsills. The Lucas limestone is well known in Kansas for its coloration, texture and sculpting and was quarried near Waldo then hauled by train car to the church construction location. The foundation is constructed of concrete blocks with the balance of the building being constructed of limestone blocks beginning at grade level. There is a concrete block basement under the back quarter of the church (roughly the area of the altar and sacristies) with an entrance on the south and north ends. The balance of the church has a concrete floor. The basement was originally used as classrooms, but it was remodeled in the 1950s to establish a kitchen and meeting space.

The eastern façade is comprised of a center gable, flanked by the bell towers. Three arched doorways pierce the gable face, providing entry into the sanctuary. Stained glass transoms surmount each door. A gabled door surround projects from the façade plane, distinguishing the center double door as the main entrance. A large, stained glass, rose window fenestrates the center of the gable façade, two smaller stained-glass rose windows fenestrate the bell towers. The large, center window is named "Penance." Two arched stained glass windows flank the large rose window. The façade's upper gable is distinguished by an arched niche containing a statue of the Virgin Mary. One arched, stained glass

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

window fenestrates each face of the bell towers. Other exterior concrete work includes window casings and concrete pilasters flanking the front entrances.

The north and south elevations are roughly symmetrical in appearance, each with five large stained glass arched windows, and each with two panels. A gabled altar area marks the end of the building, completing the cruciform footprint. The gabled transept contains two large rose windows named "Conformation" on the north and "Holy Order" on the south. The windows contain old stained glass from France, Belgium, and Luxemburg. Vents stand below the windows, storm windows protect them on the outside.

These windows were manufactured by T.C. Esser Co Stained Glass Studios, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from antique glass imported from France in 1943. The bid for these windows was \$13,000.00 with another \$6,500.00 for 20 new vents. The saints depicted are St. Isadora, Christopher Columbus, 2 windows of Blessed Mother-Mary, St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Joan of Ark, St. Benedict, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Margaret Mary Alacogue, St. Teresa, St. George, St. Francis, St. Teresa of Avila, Good Christ Shepherd, Christ the King and Nativity. There are two windows that cannot be identified.

The back of the church is basically a one-room sacristy on each side of the sanctuary. This area originally had flat roofs but sloped copper roofs were added in the late 1940s to provide drainage. The upper portion of the elevation has four rose stained glass windows titled "Holy Eucharist," "Baptism", "Anointing the Sick," and "Matrimony."

The St. Joseph Catholic Church interior is defined by a choir loft above the vestibule with a large uninterrupted nave with a series of arches and domes leading to the main area, which is a large dome and attached to the main dome area. The main altar area is the focus of the church with an open dome which is painted with a mural utilizing fine oil based paint and gold leaf. There is large stone and ceramic altar depicting Christ on the cross and The Last Supper under the altar's mantel.

Interior columns that appear to be marble at first appearance surround the interior arch support beams. There are eight large columns of scagliola (polished gypsum) construction, which makes them appear to be marble into which the buildings beams are set. Scagliola is an ancient process of applying a thin layer of gypsum with different minerals, which causes the veining effect in the gypsum. When dried, sanded and polished, the final product appears to be marble. In some cases raw silk is applied to the wet gypsum to add streaking and additional veining. On top of each main column is an ornate Corinthian capital. Several half columns and smaller columns attached to the walls are also done in scagliola.

The walls are plaster coated and decorated with fine oil paint and gold leaf. The church is entered through massive oak doors. The vestibule has glass doors with a half circle stained glass above the main entrance doors to provide a separation leading into the church area. The nave is an open space,

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

characterized by high dome ceilings, arches, and handmade sculptured bronze lanterns that hang from the ceiling by chains.

The eight lanterns, with enclosed reflectors, were constructed by Mr. Deges, a master craftsman with the E. Lehmann Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a cost of \$350.00 per lantern. T.C. Esser Co Stained Glass Studios manufactured the leaded glass globes for the lanterns. The designs for these lanterns were the inspiration of Father Senecal, to match the painting décor and stained glass window styles.

In 1928, parishioners purchased pews and a wooden altar railing with a marble top, installed a boiler heating system, and constructed a new altar of stone and ceramic. There were no further alterations made to the church until 1944 when Monsignor Francis J. Senecal became the new priest. In reviewing the condition of the church's leaking roof, whitewashed walls and some broken windows, Monsignor Senecal recognized the need to redecorate and upgrade the church.

Under Monsignor Senecal, \$80,000.00 was raised to complete the interior redecoration of the church. Milwaukee, Wisconsin based T. C. Esser Co. was hired to install European antique stained glass windows, vents and exterior storm windows. In 1948 Bernard Greunke (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) replastered and painted murals on the whitewashed walls and ceilings, using two coats of oil-based paint. In late 1948 or early 1949 copper sheeting of penny thickness was installed on the roof and bell towers.

In the 1950s, the parishioners contributed \$57,000.00 and labor to construct a modern brick Rectory and Convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph's who taught in Damar's Catholic school system. The Damar Catholic School operated until 1966 when it was consolidated with Palco and Zurich schools to form USD 269. There have been several other remodeling additions added since then, such as remodeling the basement by adding a kitchen and bathrooms in 1954 and installing bathrooms in the vestibule of the church in the 1960s.

In the late 1980s to early 1990s, the mortar in the outside walls and the windows had deteriorated. A company from McPherson, KS removed the old mortar where needed and regouted the blocks. Areas that were concrete, like the belt course and doors and window surrounds, had a sufficient number of cracks that they had to be sawn out and refilled with mortar. The deteriorated areas around the windows that were enabling moisture to seep in were repaired. In order to provide a seal to the repaired concrete areas and protect the structure from further damage, sand-based, gray paint was applied to the belt course, window and door surrounds.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

Statement of Significance

Summary

St. Joseph Catholic Church (c. 1912- 1917) is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good example of the Romanesque Revival style.

Settlement:

People of French Canadian origin who immigrated to Damar, Kansas, came directly from Quebec, Canada or by way of Kankakee, Illinois, beginning in the late 1870s. The first immigrants were Francois Saint Pierre and his wife Euphrosine. They settled on a quarter section of land 2.5 miles southwest of the present city of Damar in 1878 and lived in a dug-out. Francois had served in the army during the Civil War, and like so many other veterans, he was lured by the opportunity of free land made available by the Homestead Act.

Within a few years more French Canadian settlers with names of Simoneau, Manny, Plante, Noel, Martin, Dussault, Sennesac, Desbien, Saidon, Moel and Berland settled in the area known as St. Peterville. The area developed a solid French Canadian character, with many descendants still living there and carrying on the family names.

In the 1880s the Union Pacific Railroad constructed a rail line two-and-a-half miles northeast of Petersville on land that became the community of Damar. This rail line ran from present day Salina to Colby, until it was abandoned in the late 1990s. With the establishment of the railroad, the community of Damar, Kansas continued to grow in population, creating the demand for businesses such as a bank, two grocery stores, three taverns, a creamery, a hotel and three restaurants.

Veteran missionary Fr. Molier celebrated the first Catholic mass in the Pierre dug out in 1887. With the arrival of Father B. M. Pujos in 1890 to care for the needs of the Catholic flock, Francois St. Pierre donated five acres of land to the Catholic diocese, three acres for a cemetery and two acres in which a small wooden-framed Catholic church 16 x 32 feet in size was constructed. After Father Pujos, there were several other priests that came from Concordia, Aurora, Plainville and Zurich to administer to the spiritual needs of the parishioners until Father Carrivault took up residence in Damar in late 1890s.

A New Church:

By 1898 the congregation had outgrown this church. A larger wooden church measuring 60' x 32' was built in Damar near the present limestone church. The small wooden framed church was moved 2.5 miles by mule drawn wagons into the city of Damar and attached it to the back of the new church. The older structure was utilized as the sanctuary, sacristy and kitchen for the resident priest. The new wooden church served the congregation until 1917, when the current limestone Romanesque church was constructed. Both structures were demolished following the completion of the new stone church.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
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The current St. Joseph Catholic Church is one hundred twenty-eight feet long, fifty-five feet wide and ninety feet to the top of each cross on the bell towers. The building construction utilized twenty train car loads of Lucas limestone quarried near Waldo for the outside walls, one hundred and thirty cords of native rock from a quarry eight miles west of Damar for the inside walls, four thousand concrete blocks in the basement and foundation, plus, twenty four hundred sacks of concrete and two thousand loads of sand.

All of the stones were cut by hand to fit the appropriate sizes required. Two horses, Daisy and Polly, tied to a rope pulley was used to haul stone and cement to the higher reaches of the building through the use of voice commands to go forward or backward. The parishioners donated their labor to this project, thereby making the ambitious construction feasible at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

The first mass was held in the new St. Joseph Catholic Church in 1917. All masses were given in French, the language of Damar residents, until 1923 when the bishop and new Priest Father Diss declared that all masses would be spoken in English. However, some French was still spoken until the late 1930s.

The St. Joseph Catholic Church records indicate that since 1899 there have been 1,078 people baptized and 262 marriages, presently there are more than 300 members.

The Architecture:

The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by massive articulated wall structures, round arches and powerful vaults. This is a style primarily used for churches. Romanesque architecture is based on Roman and Byzantine elements, it emerged in Western Europe in the early 11th century and remained popular until the middle of the 19th century. The Romanesque Revival became popular in America during the second half of the 19th century, and is most frequently applied to ecclesiastical design. Twentieth century interpretations are frequently seen in communities where second and third generations built a new church.

Between 1840 and 1900, the round-arched medieval style became a popular prototype for Christian churches in America. With round-arched openings instead of pointed Gothic arches and spires, the Romanesque style was associated with the great European monasteries, churches, and fortified castles of the Middle Ages. Known to architects through books, prints, photographs, and travels, the Romanesque was also appreciated for its picturesque qualities. Although interest in the Romanesque waned with the shift to academic Classicism and Gothicism at the turn of the century, another revival occurred in the late 1920s and 1930s.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
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The defining feature of the Romanesque Revival is the semi-circular arch used for all window and door openings and for wall enrichment. Other distinguishing motifs are beltcourses and the arcaded corbel table, comprised of a series of miniature arches below the eaves. Belt- or stringcourses mark horizontal divisions. Column capitals and compound arches are enriched with geometric medieval ornament. Facades have gabled roofs flanked by square or polygonal towers of differing heights, with parapets or various roof shapes, and occasionally spires of Gothic origin. Pyramidal roofs often have concave slopes. The typical plan is basilican, with a long, narrow nave, vestibule, central tower or paired side towers, and self-contained massing. Broad, smooth wall surfaces of monochromatic brick or ashlar masonry laid with thin mortar joints were favored.

St. Joseph's features a gable, framed by two symmetrical square bell towers. It is a classically restrained interpretation of twentieth century Romanesque Revival. Brinkman, the building's architect, typically worked in this mode, relaying on symmetry and excellent execution of features to portray revival styles in the Catholic churches he designed. The rounded Romanesque arch motif is present in all doorways and windows that mark the church. Three arched doorways pierce the façade gable, a stained glass windows fenestrated the center doorway.

The Architect and Builders:

The architect for the church project was Henry W. Brinkman of Emporia, Kansas. The stonemason was Frank K. Rothenberger and the carpenter was Sidney Brown.

Brinkman was a 1907 Kansas State Agricultural college (now Kansas State University) architecture graduate. Based in Emporia, Brinkman designed schools, churches and public buildings in the Midwest between 1910 and 1947. Brinkman was a devout Catholic who specialized in church design. During his career Brinkman designed more than 125 churches in a five-state area. St. Joseph's Catholic Church represents one of his earliest commissions.

Frank K. Rothenberger of Osborne was the stonemason. He owned Rothenberger Masonry Company as well as the Post Rock Limestone quarry where the Lucas limestone was quarried. Frank was descended from a long line of Pennsylvanian stonemasons. After his family emigrated to the Osborne area, Frank work for several stonemasons besides his family's business. In 1886 he established Rothenberger Masonry Company in Osborne.

On June 15, 1911, Frank Rothenberger was awarded the stonemason contract for the St. Joseph Catholic Church for \$5,224.50. The church's arches were the first arches constructed by the Rothenberger Family. Over the years the Rothenberger Masonry Company constructed over 15,000 buildings in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

The Glass and Sanctuary Painting:

In 1948, the St. Joseph Catholic Church hired Bernard Gruenke to complete the church's redecorating. T.C. Esser Stain Glass Studios recommended Gruenke to Father Senecal after seeing his work with Conrad Schmitt Studios.

Gruenke began his career with the Norman Thesis Design Studio in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He painted billboard and movie posters until he saved enough money to take art classes at Layton School of Art in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1934, he attended Corcoran Art School in Washington, D.C. While at the Corcoran, Bernard took classes with Caesar Riccardi, a former student of the artist and teacher, Robert Henri.

Upon returning to Wisconsin, he obtained employment with the Conrad Schmitt Studios in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a stained glass apprentice; he fired the kiln, cut glass, traced, painted, glazed and learned scaffolding construction. While there he formed a close relationship with Conrad Pickel, who was a native of Munich, Germany, art trained at the Art Academy and Mayer of Munich Studio. Conrad provided additional training in stained glass art and mural painting as they traveled the United States completing projects. In 1948, Bernard Gruenke ventured out on his own to make a better living for his family and many of the Conrad Schmitt studio workers followed him. It was at this time that Bernard redecorated the interior of the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

In 1950, Bernard Gruenke returned to the Conrad Schmitt Studios as a partner. He purchased the business in 1953 upon death of the Conrad Schmitt's son, who was the studio president. Bernard and his family have owned this business ever since and it is now one of the top church and building restoration companies in the United States. His company has worked on the Notre Dame Cathedral, St. Gertrude's Catholic Church in Franklin Park, Illinois, St. Mary's Greek Ruthenium Church in New York City, the Greek Orthodox Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Union Station, St. Louis, MO and Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. Bernard has received many awards and honors in his lifetime including Stained Glass Association of America Lifetime Achievement Award. He is 92 years old and still active in the business that his sons have taken over.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

Bibliography

forgue@webtv.net. "Centennial Highlights & History of Damar, Kansas 1888-1988."

Rothberger, Von. "A History of the 1871 Pennsylvania Colony of Osborne County, Kansas." 1998.

St. Joseph Catholic Church Archives, Damar, Kansas. – Collection of letters from Father Senecal to contractors who redecorated the Church from 1945 to 1952 and Contractor contracts from 1911 to 1952.

Thyfaut, George. "History of Damar." 1975. 2 pages.

Zimmerman, Patricia K. "A Passion for Art: Bernard O. Gruenke, Sr. of Conrad Schmitt Studios." *Stained Glass*. Fall 2003. <http://www.stainedglass.org>.

Verbal Boundary Description

Tract J except the North 70 feet and N 3 feet' of Tract K except a tract beginning 70 feet South of the Northeast Corner of Tract J, S 100 feet, West 200 feet, North 100 feet and East 200 feet to the point of beginning, City of Damar, Kansas. Bounded by Oak Street on the east and adjacent property lines on all other sides.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Damar, Kansas.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church
Rooks Co., Kansas

Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. St. Joseph Catholic Church
2. Rooks Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Martha Hagedorn-Krass
4. July, 2004
5. Negative on file at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is applicable to specific photographs:

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View of front elevation from the east
2.	View from the northeast
3.	View from the southwest
4.	View from the southeast
5.	View of bell towers from the southwest
6.	View of entrance arch from the southeast
7.	View of nave from the east
8.	View of column and capital detail
9.	View of bronze lantern and vaulted ceiling
10.	View of dome above altar
11.	View of spandrel
12.	View of rose window from the west