

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: St. Adrian's Catholic Church COUNTY: Nobles
 CURRENT NAME: Same CITY/TWP.: Adrian
 LEGAL DESC.: SW corner, Block 22, Original Plat ADDRESS: NE corner Main Street
 including the south 100 feet of the west and Church Street
 200 feet of the block.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| CLASSIFICATION: | CONDITION: | SIGNIFICANCE: | THEME/S: |
| Building <u>X</u> | Excellent _____ | Local <u>X</u> | Primary <u>Religion</u> |
| Structure _____ | Good <u>X</u> | State _____ | Secondary <u>Settlement</u> |
| Object _____ | Fair _____ | National _____ | Others <u>Architecture</u> |
| District _____ | Deteriorated _____ | | |

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted _____ PRESENT USE: Church
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1900 ORIGINAL USE: Church
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Diocese of Winona ARCHITECT/BUILDER: _____

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: St. Adrian's Church Adrian, MN 56110 | ACREAGE: Less than one acre <u>X</u> |
| LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: | UTM REFERENCE: 15 / 262420 / 4834845 Adrian, Minn.; 1:24,000 |
| FORM PREPARED BY: Thomas Harvey | |
| DATE: March 1979 | |

DESCRIPTION:

St. Adrian's is a Romanesque Revival church constructed of red brick. Unmatched towers stand in each corner of the front facade. Both are square with arched belvederes and spires. The floor plan is cruciform with a rear apse. The building is on a rock-faced stone raised basement. Horizontal stone coursing in the towers and along the front facade, and a contrasting stone and brick arch, accentuate the entrance. Large circular stained glass windows are found in the front and side gables.

Some of the original interior painting has been covered, but some original canvas murals remain arched at the front of the apse. Recent alterations to the exterior include new glass doorways.

SIGNIFICANCE:

St. Adrian's Catholic Church is significant as the early center of Bishop Ireland's colonization effort in Nobles County. The church was founded in 1877, just a year after the Catholic Colonization Bureau was established. Bishop Ireland announced he had secured control of 70,000 acres of SC & SP railroad lands in Nobles county. Father C.J. Knauf went to Adrian where he found only three residences. In fifteen months he sold 22,000 acres of land to settlers. Knauf was the first pastor of St. Adrian's. He later platted the nearby village of St. Kilian.

The high red brick tower looms above even the local elevator and announces the Catholic town. Churches are much less obvious on other skylines in the area.

The brick church, built in 1900, replaced an earlier structure that burned in 1899. Included on the church grounds, but not in this nomination, are some more recent educational buildings housing the parochial school.



United States Department of the Interior
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
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**Note: These changes apply to
St. Adrian's Catholic Church in
Nobles County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002094

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Nobles

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Church of St. Adrian (Catholic)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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

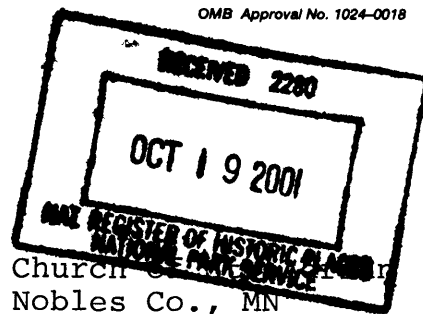
JUN 17 1988

Date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

A/D



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Reference Number: 80002094

State: Minnesota

County: Nobles

Resource Name (Historic): Church of St. Adrian

Location, Street & Number: Main and Church Streets, Adrian

Comments: The church's architect has been indentified. He is Henry Foeller of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Britta L. Bloomberg
Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

10/10/01
Date

Additional Documentation Accepted

11/23/01