

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Lafayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: **St. Augustine Church** Congressmen to be notified:
Senator William Proxmire

AND/OR HISTORIC: Senator Gaylord A. Nelson
Rep. Vernon W. Thomson

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
5.0 miles SE of Benton just off County Highway "W"

CITY OR TOWN:
New Diggings (Benton P.O.)

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Lafayette	CODE 065
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Occasional
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Historic site	religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		use.

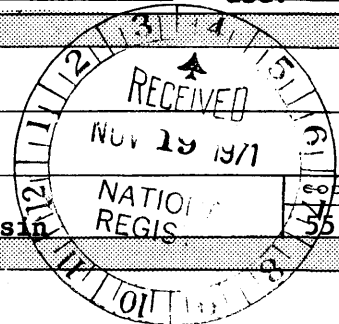
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Diocese of Madison

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 East Wilson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lafayette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Darlington

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A frame building of classical Temple-like styling, this 1844 church "displays an Italianate treatment of Greek Revival combined with Gothic Revival elements,"¹ with pointed windows and front door. Exterior walls are covered with 9" wide planks which are tooled to simulate rusticated stone. Windows are wood-painted and covered by louvered shutters. The cornices are boxed and denticulated, with a Greek-fret frieze under the sides and the returns at the ends. The raking cornices, however, do not have the frieze but are subtended by a deeply scalloped architrave or taenia. At the four corners of the building, pilasters of the Doric order support the entablature. The pilasters are modified by recessed vertical panels that come to points immediately below the capitals. There are no front windows. Sides are divided into four bays and the rear lean-to into three.

At the rear of the building is a small lean-to that houses the sacristy and, on either side, a small ante-room. In the corner at the right the ante-room contains a small confessional.

The bell tower is inset, open, and square. Its structure follows that of the church exterior, with the plank-sided base tooled and with square columns supporting the entablature. The roof of the bell tower is hipped but nearly flat.

The foundation is of a greyish-buff limestone laid random ashlar, and there is a small basement in which school was held at one time.

The church was built in 1844, has never been painted, and has weathered to the solid grey color of long-exposed wood. In about 1961-63, members of the Knights of Columbus of four nearby counties undertook restoration of the church, rebuilding the badly deteriorated foundation and replacing those parts of the bell tower which were no longer strong enough to support the bell. The bell had been removed and stored for some time before the restoration but has since been replaced in the tower. Restoration was completely faithful, with minimal replacement of deteriorated wood. Beams and floor joists were found to be strong and in good enough condition to continue to support the floor. No alteration of the building has ever occurred. More thorough restoration, especially of detailed parts like the Greek-fret frieze, the louvered window shutters, etc., is needed.

1. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 36.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1844**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

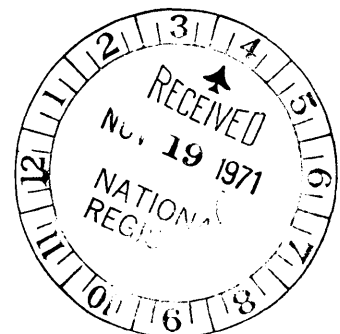
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of St. Augustine Church is architectural. Its architect was a Dominican priest-missionary, Father Samuel C. Mazzuchelli, an amazingly accomplished architect-builder who designed and erected at least twenty and possibly as many as twenty-five churches in the upper Mississippi valley, mostly in the lead-mining areas of southwestern Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois and northeastern Iowa, although he is credited with having built one church in Green Bay. A number of his churches still stand and are in active use, but most have been altered to accommodate needs of larger congregations. St. Augustine Church, out of active use for nearly a century, is the only known Mazzuchelli church which has undergone no alteration.

Father Mazzuchelli was born in Milan in 1806, was educated and became a Dominican in Italy, and came to the United States at twenty-two. So far as is known he had no architectural training, but for an amateur he has left a heritage of architecture that would do justice to a highly accomplished professional. Perrin describes Father Mazzuchelli's St. Augustine Church at New Diggings as "Perhaps the most curious of the Greek and Gothic Revival combinations [in the state]," and says further, "This building...is one of the genuine architectural gems in the state of Wisconsin...an important element of Wisconsin's cultural legacy. The preservation of this building should be regarded as a public responsibility."¹

Now partially restored, preserved and maintained by the Knights of Columbus, St. Augustine Church is open to the public on Sunday afternoons in the summertime, and on infrequent but appropriate occasions, usually related to events in Father Muzzuchelli's life, Mass is still celebrated there.

1. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 36.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962, 36, 41.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wis. Chapter, AIA, Milwaukee, 1960, 25.
 Newcomb, Rexford, Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory, University of Chicago Press, 1950, 134.
 "Picturesque Old Church at New Diggings Was Built by Pioneer Dominican Missionary," Telegraph-Herald and Times-Journal, Dubuque, Iowa, July 11, 1931, p. 12.

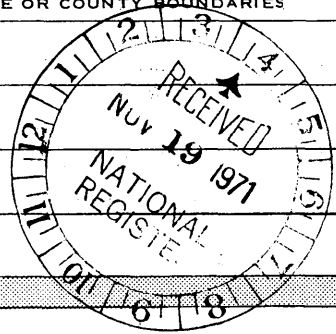
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.2**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **7/29/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date NOV 12 1971

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

Ernest A. Gannally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date February 2, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS