

German Catholic Churches and Cemeteries of Lawrence County
(1872-c. 1930) Thematic Resources

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Church of St. Joseph</u>	STATUS	Open to public: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
	Common name: <u>St. Joseph Church</u>		Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Address: <u>Spring Street</u> <u>St. Joseph</u>		Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Owner's name: <u>Bishop of Nashville</u>		Present use: <u>Church</u>
	Owner's address: <u>2400 Twenty-first Ave., S.</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>		Current condition: <u>Excellent</u>
	Classification: <u>Building</u>		Alterations: <u>Electricity and furnace added</u>
	Tax map reference: <u>#169</u>		Site features: <u>Rectory, cemetery, and a storage building, which was the first church and later a parochial school</u>
	Acreage: <u>4.3 acres</u>		
UTM reference: <u>St. Joseph, Tn.-Ala., Quad</u> <u>35 02' 00" North Latitude</u> <u>87 30' 15" West Longitude</u>			
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1885</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>Moore, Lewis, (ed.).</u> <u>Glimpses of History in Lawrence</u> <u>County. Columbia: Columbia State</u> <u>Community College, n.d.</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>Unknown</u>		
	Original or previous owners: <u>N/A</u>		
	Original use: <u>Church</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Richard Quin</u>
Theme/s: Primary <u>Architecture</u> Secondary <u>Exploration/Settlement</u> Other _____	Title: <u>Historic Preservation Planner</u> Organization: <u>South Central Tennessee Development District</u> Date: <u>4-84</u>		
DESCRIPTION	<p>The boundaries of the St. Joseph Church property include the 1885 church, the c. 1915 rectory, a nineteenth-century cemetery, and an 1872 storage building, which was the original church and later a school.</p> <p>The 1885 St. Joseph Church is a large structure of coarsed ashler stone, featuring a front three-story square bell tower with a tin shingle steeple. The exterior of the building is rather plain, broken only by paired lancet windows with "kites." The interior is quite ornate, and features a three-tiered ceiling, paneled chancel, rear gallery, chapel, and original confessional beneath the gallery stairs. The walls were painted and adorned by the</p>		
	SIGNIFICANCE	<p>The Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church is significant to St. Joseph and Lawrence County in architecture and local history. The church was established in 1872 by the Rev. Henry Huesser and a group of German Catholic homesteaders from the Cincinnati area. The 1872 building, now used for storage, was the original church, but was later altered on the interior for use as a school. The building is probably the oldest surviving structure in the town of St. Joseph.</p> <p>The 1885 Church of St. Joseph contains one of the most elaborate interiors of any religious</p>	

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: Richard Quin

Date: March 1984

Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical
Commission, Nashville

Photographer facing: N/A

Photograph number 1-7 of 20 .

CONTINUATION

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow

See Attachment

TENNESSEE THEMATIC RESOURCE NOMINATION SURVEY FORM

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Church of St. Joseph cont'd

DESCRIPTION:

Rev. John Sliemers in the early part of the twentieth century. The rough exterior stucco is original.

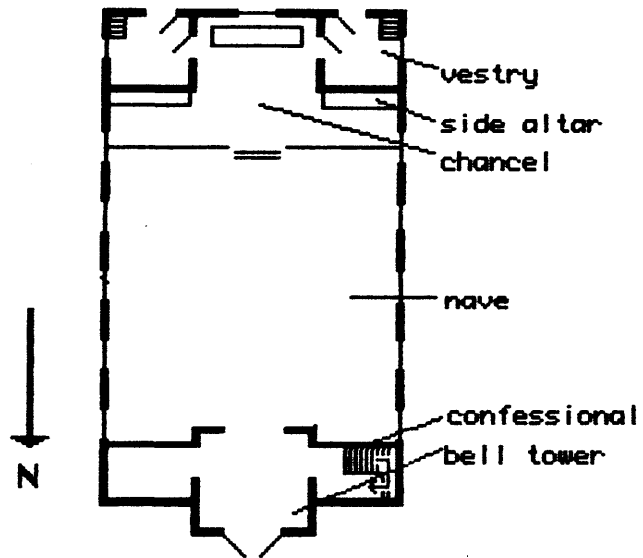
The c.1915 rectory is a small frame building with a gabled roof of tin shingles and a half-hipped front porch. The one-acre cemetery contains the graves of several early priests and settlers and has monuments dating from the 1870's to the present.

The original church building of 1872 is a small, one-room, rectangular frame structure set on stone piers and topped with a gable roof. A small portico is attached to the plain front (west) end. A small gabled section at the rear of the building was once a sacristy. The interior was altered in the late nineteenth century for use as a church school. The building is now used for storage.

SIGNIFICANCE:

building in south central Tennessee. The exterior of the church is an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style.

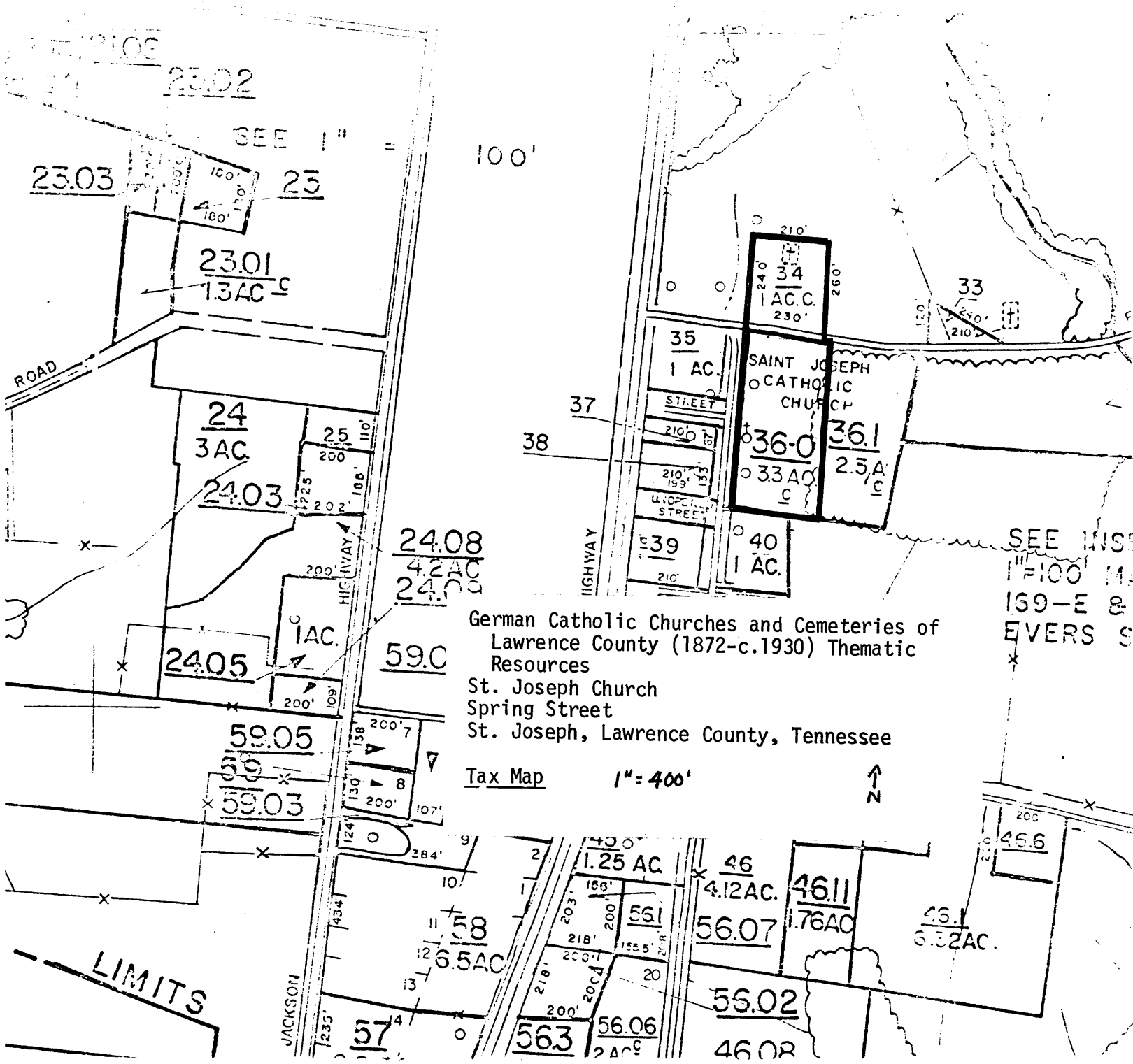
Located north of the first church building, the St. Joseph Cemetery contains the graves of the earliest German settlers of the town of St. Joseph, including several priests. The monuments represent a variety of architectural styles from the nineteenth century to the present.



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St. Joseph Church (1885)

Floor Plan Not to Scale



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 Lawrence County (1872-c.1930) Thematic
 Resources
 St. Joseph Church
 Spring Street
 St. Joseph, Lawrence County, Tennessee

Tax Map 1" = 400'



SEE WISE
 1" = 100' M.
 169-E &
 EVERS S

LIMITS