

STATE:  
**Idaho**

COUNTY:  
**Lewis**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**JUN 24 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **\*\***  
**Saint Joseph's Mission (Slickpool) - Site 9**

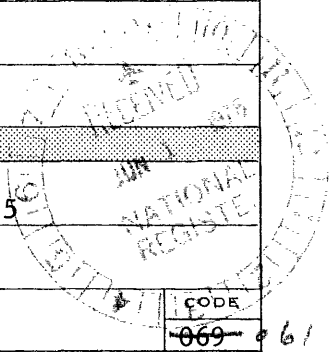
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Nez Perce National Historical Park**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Four miles south of Jacques Spur on Mission Creek off U.S. 95**

CITY OR TOWN: **Culdesac** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16** COUNTY: **Nez Perce Lewis** CODE: **069-061**



**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	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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. AGENCY**

**Saint Joseph's Mission Historical Society**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
**Route 1, Box 39**

CITY OR TOWN: **Culdesac** STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**County Recorder's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lewiston** STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Nez Perce County-National Historical Sites, Idaho-A Feasibility Report**

DATE OF SURVEY: **October, 1963**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**523 Fourth and Pike Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Seattle** STATE: **Washington** CODE: **053**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Joseph's Mission is a wood frame structure with horizontal lapped siding. The original sanctuary, built in 1874, was 60 feet by 26 feet with a single peak roof running longitudinally over the nave and a lean-to roofed sacristy at the rear. The building was supported on wood piers. This structure was built by a contractor, M. Williams of Lewiston. In 1904, the nave was extended and a bell tower was incorporated into the new front of the building. A choir loft was installed over the nave in the new portion. The original front windows flanking the central door were utilized on the side of the structure while the original door trim was reutilized on the bell tower, but modified by the addition of two double hung second story windows providing light for the choir loft. Two additional windows were also added to the extended nave, and the base of the bell tower became the narthex for the sanctuary. The addition was placed on a perimeter stone foundation wall and the spaces between the perimeter wood piers which supported the original structure were filled in with matching stonework at this time. The interior had a cove ceiling and today appears much as it did in 1904; the altar and many other furnishings are original.

The only obvious changes to the structure since the historic period are the addition of stained glass to the choir loft windows (1963), the construction of a concrete sidewalk from the entrance out to the road (1936, redone 1972), and the construction of the concrete front porch and steps (1955).

From its construction in 1874, Saint Joseph's has been plagued with two structural problems. The foundation along its perimeter has been settling, requiring several floor leveling operations, and its cove ceiling has been spreading the roof trusses; necessitating the placement of tie rods along the nave. The building today is consequently in only fair condition; \$50,000 would be required to stabilize and restore this structure.

Boundary: Commencing at a point on the South line of Lot 19, Section 4, Township 34 North, Range 3 West Boise Meridian, said point being 37.5 feet West of the Southeast corner of the said Lot 19, thence North 3 degrees 54 minutes West a distance of 50.1 feet; thence South 82 degrees 45 minutes West a distance of 262.0 feet to a point on the county road; thence South 3 degrees 51 minutes East along the county road a distance of 90.0 feet; thence North 3 degrees 54 minutes West a distance of 39.9 feet to the place of beginning. Excepting herefrom the part of the above described tract that lies within the right-of-way of the county road.

Lying within Lots 19 and 30 of Section 4, Township 34 North, Range 3 West Boise Meridian, in Lewis County, State of Idaho, for historic monument purposes as a non-federally owned portion of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

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**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874-1958

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

Saint Joseph's Church, Slickpoo, and the First Presbyterian Church at East Kamiah are the oldest such establishments in the Nez Perce Country; both edifices were erected in 1874.

The story of the church and mission is inseparably intertwined with the life of their founder, Father Joseph Cataldo. He was the link between the mission and important events and personages elsewhere in the Nez Perce Country. All felt the impact of his strong character for 60 years, from the mission's founding in 1868 until his death in 1928.

The stories of both the mission and priest illustrate the conflict between rival Christian denominations, between Christianity and native beliefs, and the efforts toward religious toleration.

Beginning in the early 1830's, Christian churches in the United States competed in a drive to bring Christianity to the Nez Percés of the Oregon Country. The Reverend Henry Spalding, a Presbyterian, was the first permanent missionary on the scene. He established a mission station in the Lapwai Valley in 1836. While offering keen competition generally, Roman Catholic missionaries did not found any stations on Nez Perce lands during this early period. However, many Nez Percés on buffalo hunts east of the Bitterroots came into contact with the Jesuit priests of the Rocky Mountain Mission established by Father Pierre De Smet in the early 1840's.

In 1847, Spalding left the Nez Perce Country following the killing of his associate, Dr. Marcus Whitman, by the Cayuse Indians in the Walla Walla Valley. While Catholic missionaries continued to be active in today's Montana and along the Columbia River, neither priest nor preacher worked among the Nez Percés in their homeland for the next 20 years.

Father Cataldo's Nez Perce activity began when he sought the vacant Nez Perce Agency teaching position at Lapwai in 1867--only six years after the Agency's founding. The post had been held previously by Reverend Spalding. Though his bid was unsuccessful, it marked the beginning of Cataldo's long struggle to carry out his missionary and educational work among the Nez Perce.

President Grant's Peace Policy for administering the Indian reservations, whereby various churches assumed responsibilities for the various reservations, came into effect at Lapwai in 1871. Although the Catholic

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Memoirs of Father Michael M. O'Malley, S.J."; O'Malley, Fr. Michael M., (1875-1970) 1971.  
 "The Jesuits in Old Oregon"; William Norbert Bishoff (Caldwell, Idaho), 1945.  
 "A Chronicle of the Catholic History of the Pacific Northwest"; Wilford P. Schoenburg (Portland, Oregon 1962); 1743-1960.  
 "Historic Structures Report, Saint Joseph's Mission, Nez Perce"; Erwin N. Thompson, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1973.

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	° ' "	° ' "		46° 18' 52"	116° 42' 33"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		<i>zone 11</i>		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		<i>5128-850-N</i>	<i>522-400-E</i>	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Laurin C. Huffman II, Historical Architect and Jack Williams DATE: November, 1973  
 BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 523 Fourth and Pike Building PHONE: 206-442-1006  
 CITY OR TOWN: Seattle STATE: Washington CODE: 053

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None *Merle W. Wells*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
*Active* *WJ Huntly*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local  
*Paul O'Keefe* MAY 25 1976  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
 Deputy Assistant Secretary  
 Title

Date: 6/24/76  
 ATTEST:  
*Active* *Charles Henry*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 6-23-76

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8. Church had hoped to have the Nez Perces assigned to its sphere of interest, the Presbyterians acquired this responsibility. Even so, Father Cataldo finally succeeded in founding a mission with school and church at Slickpoo.

Father Cataldo also had to contend with General O. O. Howard, commander of U.S. troops in the Nez Perce War of 1877, in his struggle to propagate his faith. During this period the Father played a key role in dissuading northern tribes from entering the war. This missionary success led to further steps forward for religious toleration.

Father Cataldo continued to minister to the Nez Perce at Saint Joseph's until his death in 1928. The church and school which he founded served the reservation until 1958. The church, under non-federal ownership, is now a part of Nez Perce National Historical Park, authorized by Public Law 89-19, May 15, 1965.



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10.

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