United	States	Department	of	the	Interior
Nationa	al Park	Service			

### RECEIVED

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	REGISTER
1. Name of Property	Sienza;
historic name: <u>Immaculate Heart of Mary School</u>	
other name/site number: N/A	
2. Location	
street & number: Off S.R. 365; N. of Blue Hill Road	
not	for publication: N/A
city/town: Marche Community	vicinity: X
state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 1	.19 zip code: <u>72118</u>
3. Classification  Ownership of Property: Private	
Category of Property: <u>Building</u>	
Number of Resources within Property:	
Contributing Noncontributing	
buildings sites structures objects 0 Total	
Number of contributing resources previously listed i Register: N/A	n the National

4. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify request for determination of eligibili standards for registering properties i Historic Places and meets the procedur set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my op	National Historic Preservation Act that this X nomination ty meets the documentation n the National Register of al and professional requirements
( and A State)	8-5-93
Signature of Jertifying official	8-5-93 Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets Register criteria See continuati	does not meet the National on sheet.
Signature of commenting or other offic	ial Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
5. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby certify that this property i	Entowed Tw Ellis
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	Actors Byen 9/16/93
determined not eligible for the National Register	-
removed from the National Registe other (explain):	
	Signature of Keeper Date of Action
6. Function or Use	
Historic: Religion	
Current : Religion	Sub: vacant/storage

7. Description
Architectural Classification:
Craftsman
Other Description: N/A
Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt walls Weatherboard other
Describe present and historic physical appearance. $\underline{X}$ See continuation sheet.
8. Statement of Significance
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <u>Local</u> .
Applicable National Register Criteria:C_
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A
Areas of Significance: Architecture
Period(s) of Significance: 1925
Significant Dates: 1925
Significant Person(s): N/A
Cultural Affiliation: N/A
Architect/Builder: Makowski, George
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	 Page	1

#### **Summary**

Located in the Marche community in Pulaski County, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a single-story, wood-frame parochial school constructed in 1925. The Craftsman-style building remains in good condition.

#### Elaboration

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a single-story frame parochial school constructed in 1925 under the supervision of the head carpenter, George Makowski. The Craftsman-style building is supported by a continuous brick foundation, and the frame walls are sheathed with false-bevel novelty siding. A gable-on-hip design was employed for the roof, and it is covered by composition shingles. There are no extant chimneys.

A broad, centrally placed porch supported by two square brick columns and covered by a low-pitched gable roof defines the front, or western, elevation. The porch is slightly raised, and the concrete deck is accessed by five concrete steps with a short brick stoop to the inside of both columns. False half-timbering over vertical boards (instead of the more typical stucco) and three decorative beams adorn the porch roof gable end. The central entrance is comprised of double-leaf, five-panelled wood doors with a four-pane transom. A six-over-six, double-hung window is symmetrically placed on each side of the porch. The gable-end on the roof also contains three false beams as well as a pair of wood louvered vents.

The northern elevation is fenestrated by a single six-over-six double-hung window placed near the northwest corner and two rows of windows, containing six and four of the six-over-six windows respectively, that are separated by a porch and entry. Although narrower than the front-elevation porch, this porch is also supported by two brick columns and has similar gable-end detail. The double-leaf entrance is identical to the one on the front elevation.

A single six-over-six double-hung window is positioned at both corners of the rear, or eastern, elevation, with a row of six identical windows in between.

Due to the slope of the grade, the southern elevation of the structure rests upon a raised foundation. A porch and entrance is placed on this elevation directly opposite its northern elevation counterpart. The porches are similar; however, this porch has a raised concrete deck and two tall brick columns that are narrower in width. Otherwise, the gable-end treatment and the entrance are the same as found on the other two porches. The wall to the east of the porch is not fenestrated, but the longer wall to the west is lighted by a row of six six-over-six double-hung windows with a separate window at the western corner.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section	number	7	Page	2

As originally constructed, the interior was composed of two large classrooms, a smaller classroom, a cafeteria, a cloakroom to either side of the front entrance, and a storage attic. The only principal alteration to this arrangement has been the removal of the wall between the smaller classroom and the cafeteria to provide storage space for the parish's lawn care equipment. Otherwise, the interior is remarkably intact and retains the original pressed-metal ceiling, blackboards, and door and window moldings. The doorways are comprised of panelled wood doors and large transoms, and the interior walls are sheathed with a form of beadless, novelty siding.

There are no outbuildings included in this nomination.

Located on Blue Hill Road in Pulaski County, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is in good condition.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section	number	8	Page	1

#### Summary

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Craftsman-style, wood-frame school building in the Marche community.

#### Elaboration

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School was constructed in 1925 by Polish immigrants who had first settled in the area that was to become the Marche community in 1877. The establishment of the Polish colony is credited to Count Timothy von Choinski, who was born in the province of Posen, Poland, circa 1817. Choinski was born into aristocracy and was educated at two German universities, one of which he later joined as a member of the faculty. In 1847, he married Loccadia Barbara Dembinski, and they had ten children together.

Since the late 1700's, Poland had been divided largely between Prussia, Austria, and Russia, and the Poles had staged four revolts since Choinski was a teenager. Following an insurrection in 1863, the Polish people were stripped of the majority of their remaining civil rights, and even members of the Polish aristocracy were deprived of participation in political affairs. The Polish language was banned from schools, and children were taught either German or Russian. Many of the insurgents were executed or exiled. To avoid this possible fate, Count Choinski and his family emigrated to the United States and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1869 (1873 according to one account). Choinski gained employment first as a teacher in the public schools and later as a professor of German at Engelman's Academy. As the years passed, the family grew to dread the harsh winters on Lake Michigan, and Choinski made several trips to the South in search of a milder climate. It was on these trips that he first thought of establishing a Polish colony. Although an aristocrat by birth and a university professor by occupation, Choinski recognized that most of his countrymen had been farmers and were now forced to work as laborers under less than ideal conditions in the cities. In the South, Choinski saw agricultural potential and the chance to build their own community where they could practice and preserve their native customs.

Count Choinski was authorized to act as the land agent for the approximately 500 Polish families that had agreed to join the proposed colony. Although he was initially attracted to western Arkansas and Eastern Texas, it proved difficult to contact the owners of the desired land. Choinski then read an article about Arkansas in a Polish newspaper published at Chicago by W. Dieniewicz. The article described the vast tracts of land along the right-of-way that were for sale, but failed to mention the names of railroad agents to contact. Choinski decided

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	0	Page	2
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to write a letter to the editor of the *Arkansas Gazette* requesting information on purchasing at least 50,000 acres of woodland in one tract, with good soil, with both banks of a river or smaller stream, near a railroad, and with a good site for a future town with manufacturing potential. Naturally, he also requested that the land be reasonably priced. The *Arkansas Gazette* published the letter, providing an equal chance to the competing railroad agents and other interested landowners.

Colonel W. D. Slack, land commissioner for the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway, responded to the letter, and Choinski travelled to Little Rock to inspect the railroad company's lands. He returned again on May 22, 1877 with 22 other colonists. Although they first expressed an interest in the company's holdings in Conway or Pope counties, the Polish contingent eventually decided on land near the Faulkner and Pulaski county line, which included the townsite of Bartlett, later known as Warren. 11,000 acres of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad land was purchased in addition to an adjacent tract of 11,000 acres from the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad Company.

Beginning around 1870, Judge Liberty Bartlett had unsuccessfully tried to develop an industrial town at the location, but never filed a plat with the Pulaski County circuit clerk. Bartlett did not have title to the land, but based his claim on an agreement with the railroad that gave him an option to purchase the property. On June 22, 1875, the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company asserted its claim to the property by filing a plat for the town of Warren, located on the same site. Warren was conceived as a recreational area for people on picnic excursions from Little Rock. Park facilities, including a large, covered dancing pavilion and a "Flying Dutchman" circular swing, were constructed in April, 1876. Although not a failure as a recreation area, Warren never developed into a permanent town. It would soon become, however, the trading center for the new Polish colony.

The Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad provided the transportation for the colonists and on September 26, 1877, a special train left Chicago carrying 330 people representing 169 Polish families. Another group of 100 families were scheduled to leave a few days later. Unfortunately, many of the families were disappointed when the train arrived at Warren. Told that there was an existing townsite, many of the colonists thought there would be houses they could occupy immediately. Instead, they found the dancing pavilion, a couple of concession shacks, and an abandoned sawmill. In a 1938 interview, Mrs. Helen Schnable, a daughter of Count Choinski, further described the housing situation at Warren:

At the time my father arrived in Arkansas, his stopping point then was called Warren. It had a defunct sawmill building and such cabins as go with an

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page	3

industry of that kind, and a two-story 14-room rough board shack with its cracks covered with cleats, which did not keep out the wind. The sole inhabitant was an old man operating a small grocery, and the only place, beside the sawmill, the 14-room shack and cabins, to receive a crowd of people, was a picnic dance hall.

Also, when told of the agricultural potential of the colony, most of the immigrants, accustomed to farming practices in Poland, did not realize that the land was covered with virgin timber that would have to be cleared. Many became disillusioned at the prospect of building a home and community under these conditions, and some believed that they had been deliberately misled by the colony's promoters. Some that could afford the fare left on the same train that had brought them, while others found jobs in Argenta as railroad construction workers.

Nevertheless, some 75 to 100 families remained to build the colony as originally planned. The dancing pavilion was enclosed to provide more shelter, and the Choinskis, who had invested their life savings in the colony, assumed much of the burden of feeding the people during this time. Despite the opinions of some of the colonists who had left, it appears that Colonel Slack and the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad were sincere in their desire that the venture succeed. On the day after the colonist's arrival, wagons were sent by the railroad to assist the Poles in hauling lumber, supplies, etc. Each family was given the opportunity to select a homestead, usually 80 acres but sometimes 40, and were given a good price with several years to pay. By the fall, most of the families had constructed a cabin or some form of shelter and had acquired their housing utensils and farm equipment from Little Rock.

As an agricultural colony, Count Choinski's dream was a success, although an actual town never did develop on the site of Bartlett/Warren. Most of the families lived in a radius of several miles from the townsite, which consisted of a general merchandise store operated by Max Malachowski and a depot. The name "Marche," which is French for market or market place, was officially given to the town in 1896 with the establishment of a post office. Max Malachowski was appointed postmaster by President Grover Cleveland, and he served in that capacity until the office was abolished in 1930.

The center of community gatherings, both religious and social, took place at the Catholic Church. By November, 1878, a small wood-frame chapel had been erected and a priest, Reverend Anthony Jaworski, appointed to oversee the colonist's spiritual needs. The new Immaculate Heart of Mary church, as it was known, was constructed on top of a hill that was named "Jasna Gora," Polish for Sky Blue Mountain (today it is known as Blue Hill). A larger frame structure was built in 1896, and it served the needs of the parish until 1932, when it was

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section	number	 Page	4

destroyed by fire. Construction on a new buff-brick, Gothic Revival-styled church (designed by Charles Thompson and placed on the National Register, 12/22/82) began in that year, and it was dedicated by the bishop in May, 1933. A rectory was also constructed at this time.

Until 1925 when the subject school building was constructed, classes were taught by a nun in one room of a small building. According to a series of interviews with Annie Stozek Sarna in 1975-1976, the curriculum for the eight school grades consisted of arithmetic, geography, Bible and catechism, and "letters." Interestingly, the morning classes were taught in Polish, and the afternoon classes taught in English. It is ironic though, that a people intent on preserving their own customs and way of life would neglect to teach the subject of history. Sarna, who was born at Marche in 1897 and attended school before the current structure was erected, recalled few children in those days actually completed the eighth grade. The boys usually attended until they had received their First Communion and had learned their catechism, while the girls stayed in school until they were old enough to work in the fields. Arrangements were made by the nun, however, to hold classes in the summer and break for the autumn, so the children could spend their "holiday" assisting their parents in harvesting the crops. Although owned by the church, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School was a member of the Pulaski County Rural School District (1936), which paid for the cost of heating fuel. In 1935, the new school had 120 pupils enrolled. This school building served until 1959 when a new facility was constructed. Classes through the eighth grade are still held today.

Essentially unaltered since construction, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School reflects the evolution of the Polish colony's built environment from the first, crude structures intended for temporary shelter to a contemporary building with design influences from the nationally popular Craftsman style. As it is the best example in the Marche vicinity of a wood-frame school building with Craftsman influences, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References
X See continuation sheet.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):
<pre>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 #</pre>
Primary Location of Additional Data:
<pre>X State historic preservation office Other state agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify Repository:</pre>
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property: Less than one
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 560280 3859350 B C D
See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.
Beginning at a point 15 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the building, proceed east to a point 15 feet southeast of the southeast corner; then proceed north to a point 15 feet northeast of the northeast corner; then proceed west to a point 15 feet northwest of the northwest corner; then proceed south to the point of beginning.
Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.
Due to the close proximity of an adjacent nonhistoric building, this boundary reflects all of the property historically assoicated with this resource that retains its integrity.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	9	Page	1
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#### **Bibliography**

Babcock, Bernie. "First Settlers of Marche." Arkansas Gazette (magazine section). February 6, 1938.

Hebb, L. E. "Pioneer Settlers of Marche Still Retain Customs of Native Poland." *Arkansas Democrat* (magazine section). June 21, 1936. (typewritten copy of the article from the Federal Writer's Project files)

Information supplied by Theresa Kaplon, April 1993.

"Polish Settlement of Marche Founded By Refugees in 1870." Arkansas Gazette. July 13, 1941.

Ross, Margaret. "Old Town of Bartlett Got a New Name - Warren - But Is Remembered as Marche." *Arkansas Gazette*. February 12, 1967.

Ross, Margaret. "Plans for Polish Community at Marche Began With Letter to Editor of Gazette." *Arkansas Gazette*. February 19, 1967.

Sarna, Jan, ed. "Marche, Arkansas: A Personal Reminiscence of Life and Customs." (unpublished manuscript of a series of interviews conducted between 1975-1976).

11. Form Prepared By
Name/Title: <u>Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian</u>
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/19/93
Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

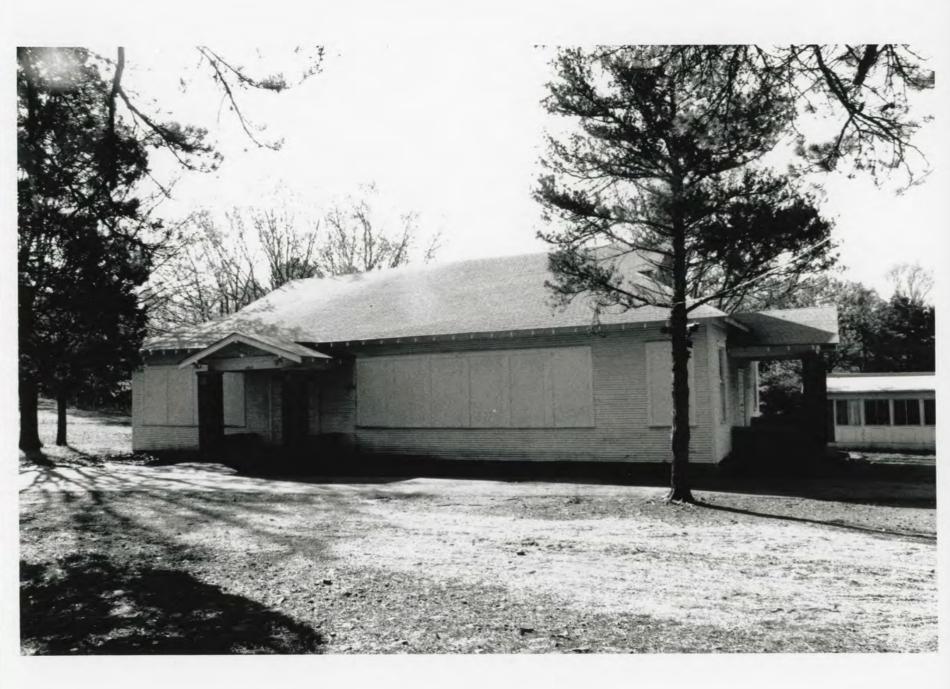
# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	nistoriccurrent
PROPERTY Immaculate Heart of Mary School NAME:	DESCRIPTION
MULTIPLE NAME:	architectural classificationmaterialsdescriptive text
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski	
DATE RECEIVED: 8/20/93 DATE OF DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/16/93 DATE OF DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	45TH DAY: 10/04/93
REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000965 Nasaphasa and	Specific dates Statement of Significance (in
NOMINATOR: STATE	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N  ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/16  ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	/93 DATE Wational Register
ADDINACI/ BOHNANI COMMENTS.	
	sketch mapsUSGS maps
	Questions concerning this nom
RECOM./CRITERIAREVIEWER	
DISCIPLINEDATE	Signed

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

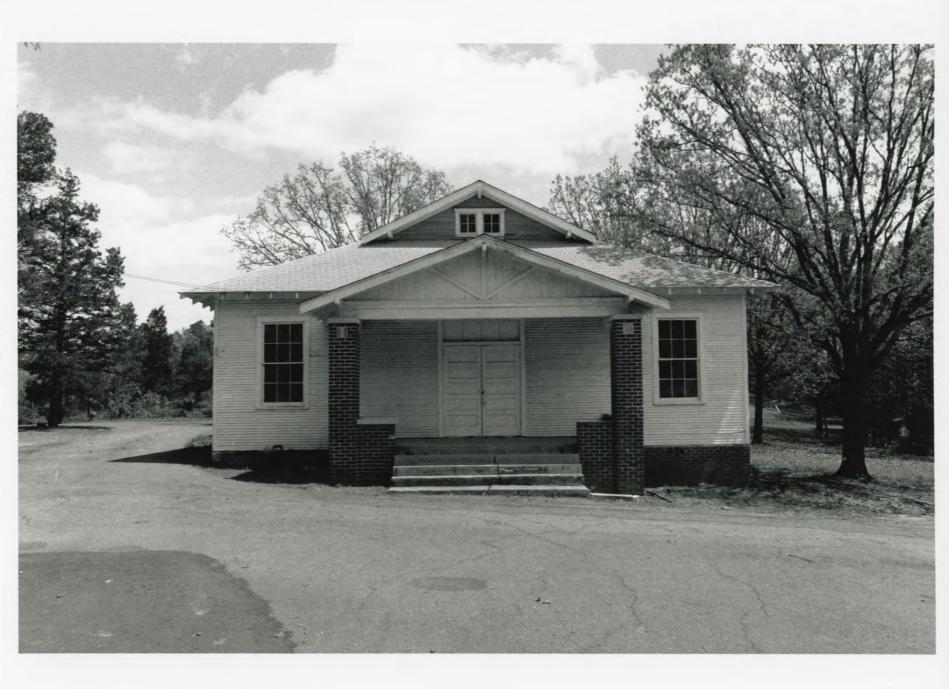
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FUNCTION THAMS MAUTER MOURAULAVE	
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architectural classification	
materialsdescriptive text	MAIRE -
	STATE I COUNTY: AFRAN
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Period Areas of SignificanceCheck and jus	
Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)	
summary paragraph	
completenessclarity	
applicable criteria	
justification of areas checked relating significance to the resource context	
relationship of integrity to significancejustification of exception	
other property and the contract of the contract	
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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION	
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OTHER COMMENTS	
Questions concerning this nomination may be direc-	ted to
Phone _	RECOM. /CRITERIA
Signed Date	eNNINTER



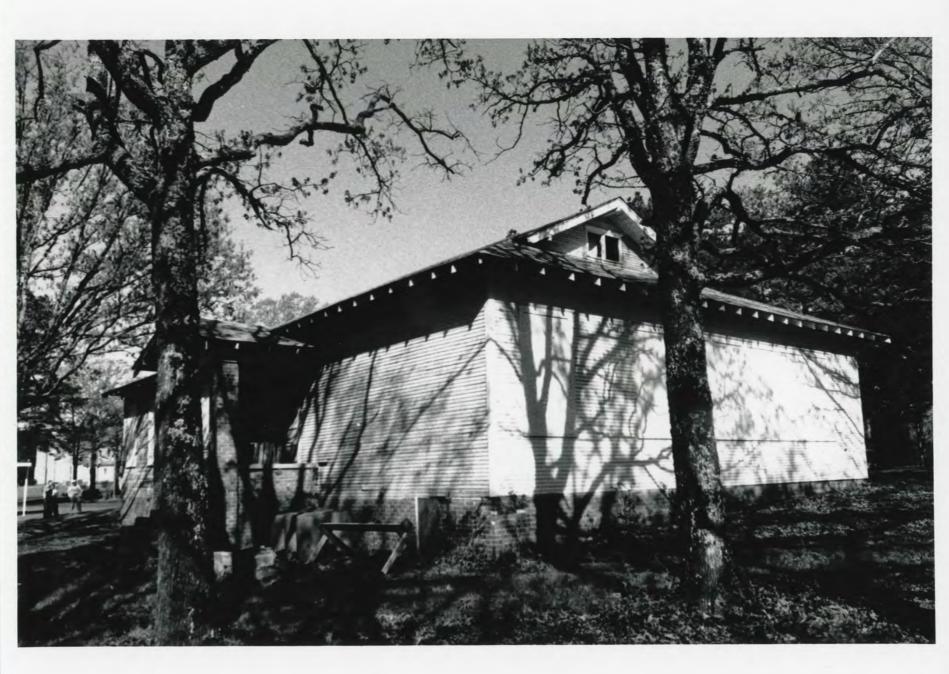
Immaculate Heart of Mary School Pulaski Co., Arkansas Photograph by Patrick Zolher April 1993 Negative on file at AHPP View of the northern elevation



Immoculate Heart of Mary School Pulaski Go., Arkansas Photograph by Patrick Zalher April 1993 Negative on file at AHPP View from the northwest



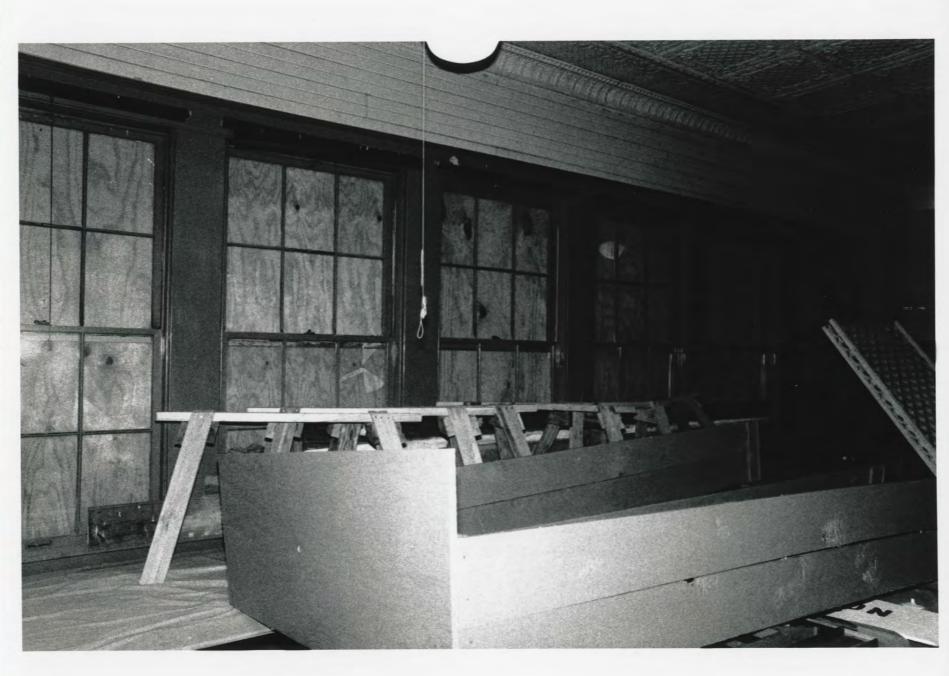
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Puleski Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolher
April 1993
Negative on tile at AAPP
Viau of front elevation from
the west



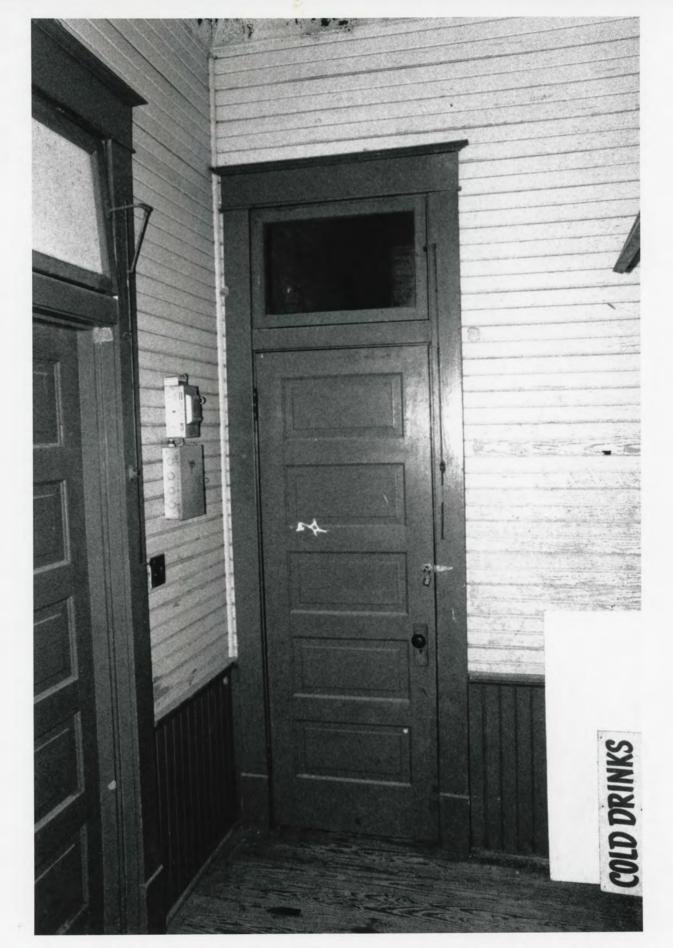
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Polaski Co, Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
April 1993
Negative on file cet AHPP
View from the sortheast



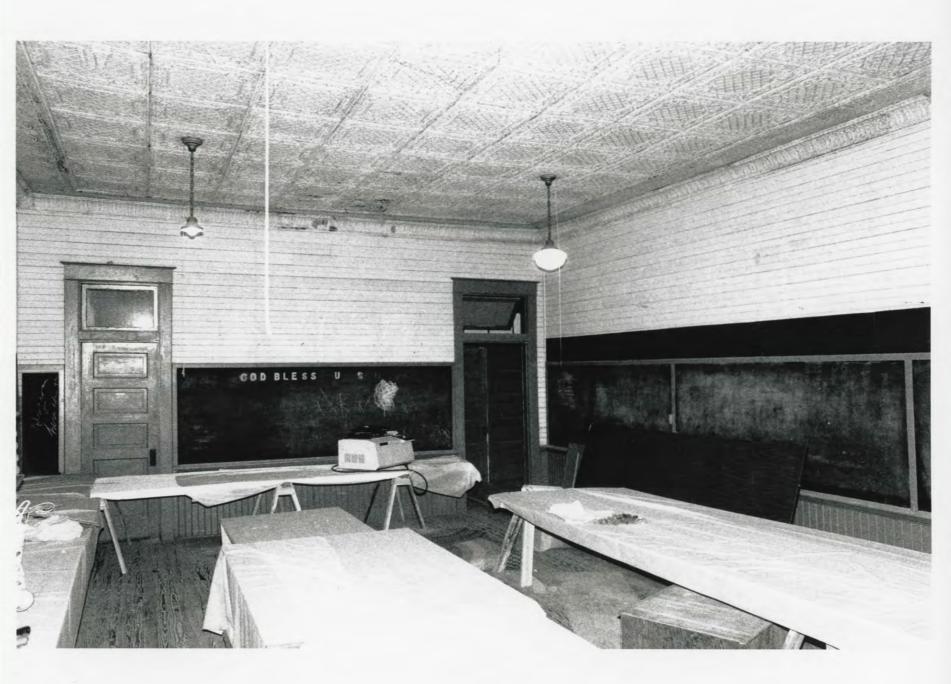
Immaculate Heart of Mary School Polaski Co., Arkansas Photograph by Patrick Zollner April 1993 Negative on file at AHPP View from the southwest



Immaculate Heart of Mary School Pulaski Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
April 1993
Negative on like at AHPP
View of window configuration
from the interior



Immaculate Heart of Mary School Pulaski Go, Arkansis Photograph by Patrick Zolher April 1993 Negative on file at HHPP Vice of interior doorway



Immaculate Heart of Mary School Pulaski Co., Arkansis Photograph by Patrick Zolher April 1993 Negative on file at AHPP View of classroom from the east



Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Polaski Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollher
April 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of Ceiling



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

RECEIVED

AUG 2:0 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

August 6, 1993

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002

RE:

Immaculate Heart of Mary School

Marche Community, Pulaski County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater

State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:kg

**Enclosures** 



