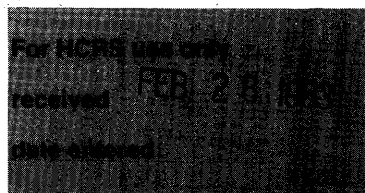


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Church of St. Casimir

and/or common Church of St. Casimir

2. Location

street & number 937 E. Jessamine Avenue ~~avenue~~ N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Minnesota code 22 county Ramsey code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Church of St. Casimir

street & number 937 E. Jessamine Avenue

city, town St. Paul N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55105

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/80-11/82 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society 75 W. 5th Street

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Church of St. Casimir at 937 E. Jessamine Avenue, is located at the northwest corner of Jessamine Avenue and Forest Street in a residential neighborhood of St. Paul's Payne-Phalen area. The church is the focal point of the neighborhood.

The Church of St. Casimir's is a Beaux Arts inspired 2½ story church constructed in 1904 of red pressed brick on a limestone foundation. Unfortunately, building permit records are incomplete and the architect of the building is not known. The symmetrical principal facade (the gable end) is dominated by two 3½ story rectangular bell towers which stand at each corner. The towers have small rounded arched windows with angular radiating brickwork voussoirs on the first story, rounded arched windows with bracketed stone sills and pilasters with composite capitals which support metal pedimented hoods on the second story, and large rounded arched vents and stone coping on the third story. The towers were once topped by galvanized metal octagonal bases, onion domes, and cupolas surmounted by crosses. In 1926 these spires were replaced by more substantial polygonal egg-shaped tops constructed of brick which end in metal crosses. Between the two towers the main gable end of the church features a classical temple-like pedimented portico supported by brick Tuscan columns, three large rounded arched windows separated by brick pilasters with composite capitals on the second story, and a round stained glass window flanked by brick pilasters supporting a stone or concrete pediment surmounted by a cross. The main entrance consists of three double leaf doors with rounded arched transoms. The seven bay side walls are pierced by rectangular windows with rounded arched transoms divided by brick pilasters.

The interior of the church was highly ornamented originally with fine stencil-like painting and classical moldings. In 1956 the interior was remodeled from designs by architects Haarstick, Lundgren and Associates of St. Paul. The interior of the church was repainted, a new altar installed, and a new floor, pews, and confessionals installed.

Despite interior renovation and the replacement of the tower spires, the church remains a fine example of the order and symmetry of the Beaux Arts style. The church is in good condition and there are no threats to the site.

The church history published by the parish in 1967 gives two dates, 1926 and 1948, for the replacement of the original spires with brick and concrete domes. However, building permit research indicates that 1926 is probably the correct date.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates	1904	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of St. Casimir, built in 1904, is historically significant because of its early associations with the Polish immigrant community in St. Paul and architecturally significant as an unusual and sophisticated example of a St. Paul church designed in the Beaux Arts style. Unfortunately, the architect of the church is unknown.

The early history of St. Casimir's Church is linked with that of two other historic St. Paul parishes, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert. In 1872 the Church of St. Stanislaus was established near West 7th Street by Polish and Czech people who immigrated to St. Paul in great numbers in the 1860's and 1870's to work in the city's railroad shops and foundries. As the number of Poles in the city increased, they broke away from St. Stanislaus and founded the Church of St. Adalbert in 1879 in the Frogtown neighborhood northwest of Downtown. During the 1880's more factories and railroad yards were built and even more Poles were attracted to the city. Finally, in 1888 a group of Polish families who lived on St. Paul's East Side and attended St. Adalbert's formed the Society of St. Casimir and made plans to form a second Polish parish in their neighborhood. In 1890 the Society purchased three lots at Forest and Jessamine Avenue and in 1892 a modest two story frame church and school building was built. The parish consisted of seventy families when the first church building was blessed in 1892. Twelve years later, in 1904, the present church was constructed. Polish was spoken at parish masses at St. Casimir's until around World War II, when the church began to lose some of its original Polish flavor. Despite this assimilation, the Church of St. Casimir remains today an important religious center for residents of St. Paul of Polish descent and a reminder of the many Polish immigrants who helped to establish St. Paul.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Building Permit No. 42590, City of St. Paul Building Permits Division.
 Jaszczak, Walter, editor. Church of St. Casimir: 1892-1967. St. Paul: Church of St. Casimir, 1967.
 Reardon, James. The Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Paul. St. Paul: North Central Publishing Co., 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1
 Quadrangle name St. Paul East, Minn Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	1 5	4 9 5 2 2 0	4 9 8 0 0 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification
 Lots 29-30, Block 10, Eastville Heights.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gayle Whitney, Student Intern; Susan Granger, Research Assistant
Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and
 organization Ramsey County-Ramsey Co. Hist. Society date 10/30/81
 street & number 75 West 5th St. telephone (612) 292-0090/222-0701
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/15/83

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Keptner of the National Register Delores Byers entered in the National Register date 3/3/83
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration