

3578

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

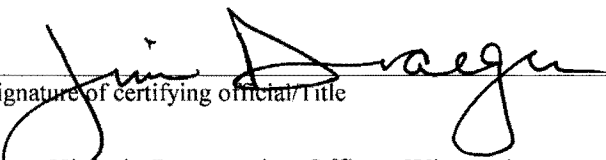
historic name St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 645 South Irwin Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town Green Bay N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Brown code 009 zip code 54301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_ nationally \_ statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  Date 2/14/19  
State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin  
State or Federal agency and bureau


In my opinion, the property \_ meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery	Brown County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register.  
 \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 \_\_\_ removed from the National Register.  
 \_\_\_ other, (explain):

  
 Signature of the Keeper

3-28-19  
 Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
public-local	District	1	3 buildings
public-State	Structure		sites
public-Federal	Site		structures
	object		objects
		1	3 total

Name of related multiple property listing: (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	0

#### 6. Function or Use

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION/religious facility	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGION/religious facility
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#### 7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ <i>Late Gothic Revival</i>	foundation CONCRETE, STONE
	walls STONE
	roof ASPHALT
	other

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1903  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1968  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1903  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1968  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Reynolds, William E.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 #

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16T 420324.15 4927927.86  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

<b>name/title</b>	Roysin Younkin/ Rachel Barnhart	<b>date</b>	May 21, 2018
<b>organization</b>	MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC	<b>Telephone</b>	(617) 499-4009
<b>street &amp; number</b>	263 Summer Street, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor	<b>zip code</b>	02210
<b>city or town</b>	Boston	<b>state</b>	MA

Name of Property

County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

<b>name/title</b>	James Gannon, Provincial Minister, St. Mary of the Angels Parish	<b>date</b>	May 21, 2018
<b>organization</b>	Franciscan Province of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
<b>street &amp; number</b>	9230 W. Highland Park Ave.	<b>telephone</b>	
<b>city or town</b>	Franklin	<b>state</b>	WI
		<b>zip code</b>	53132

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Summary**

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery, located at 645 South Irwin Avenue in Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin, was constructed in 1903 and designed in the Gothic Revival style by local architect William E. Reynolds. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was erected by the parish of St. Mary of the Angels in partnership with the Polish Franciscan Fathers. The building is comprised of a masonry church with an attached two-story masonry monastery to the north. The church and monastery are located just east of downtown Green Bay, between the Fox and East Rivers, in the Astor East River neighborhood. The building is located on the northeast corner of South Irwin Avenue and Cass Street. The nomination boundary corresponds to the historic parcel of the property, which is bound by S. Irwin Avenue to the west, Cass Street to the south, S. Baird Street to the east, and to the north by the rear lot lines of the properties facing E. Mason Street between S. Irwin Avenue and S. Baird Street. The boundary contains one contributing building, the church and monastery, and three non-contributing buildings: a one-story, wood-frame hermitage, a wood-frame shed; and a two-car garage. The hermitage and the shed were constructed on the property in the 1930s and the garage was constructed circa 1960. The three buildings are non-contributing because they post-date the period of significance in 1903, and do not contribute to the architectural significance of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery. A second period of significance, the year 1968, recognizes the alteration of the interior, including the reorientation of the sanctuary pews and altar, and stripping the interior of statuary and ornament, changes reflective of the Second Vatican Council.

The church and monastery represent the successful establishment of a Polish Catholic Church in Green Bay following a thirty-year struggle by the community to gain sufficient financial stability to maintain a parish distinct from the German Catholic parishes in the vicinity. When the church opened, the congregation was comprised of 80 Green Bay families, nearly all of whom were of Polish decent. The church served as a significant gathering place for Polish Catholics in Green Bay, particularly in the church's early years of operation. Today, the church remains an active part of the community, having served residents of Green Bay for nearly 120 years. The monastery continues to operate, although in a much more limited capacity due to changing demographics.

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery remains today largely as constructed at the beginning of the twentieth-century. The original church and monastery blocks, designed by William E. Reynolds, retain their historic stone cladding and hallmarks of the Gothic Revival architectural style, including pointed-arch window and door openings, masonry flying buttresses, and tracery work. On the interior, the layout and finishes of the church and monastery remain largely intact, with double-loaded corridors, wood flooring and trim, and historic doors, transoms, and hardware. Alterations were made to the orientation and finishes in the church sanctuary during the 1960s and to the finishes and partitions of the

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St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
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monastery to keep pace with user needs. Overall, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery retains integrity to convey its local significance under Criterion A in the area of Architecture, as a distinct and important example of the Gothic Revival style in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

### Site and Setting

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is oriented to the northwest, however, for clarity the description of the building and site will refer to the front façade of the church and monastery, which faces South Irwin Avenue, as the west façade, with all other façades following this orientation description.

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is located on the northeast corner of South Irwin Avenue and Cass Street. The primary façade of the church faces west onto South Irwin Avenue, the second street façade faces south, a two-story plus attic monastery wing extends to the north, and the rear of the building faces east. The nominated parcel includes a large landscaped yard to the east of the church and monastery. Tall deciduous trees line the edges of the yard and obscure it from the public-right-of-way. The interior of the yard has a grass lawn and a rectangular paved pathway. Paved walkways lead from Irwin Avenue to the church and monastery. A small paved parking lot is located to the east of the church and monastery, with an access driveway from Irwin Avenue and from Cass Street. A historic wrought iron fence begins at the southeast corner of the church, continues along Cass Street and then north along South Baird Street, terminating at the northeast corner of the parcel. Historic stone gate posts at the beginning of the fence on Cass Street flank the access driveway to the paved parking lot.

### Non-contributing Buildings

Three non-contributing outbuildings are located on the property: a hermitage, shed, and garage. To the northeast of the church and monastery is a rectangular, one-story garage with two vehicular bays constructed circa 1960. The garage is clad in corrugated metal siding. It has a shallow side-gabled roof with metal decking. Each garage bay contains a metal overhead rolling door. To the east of the garage, in the northwest corner of the yard, is a one-story hermitage, constructed circa 1930. The hermitage has a concrete masonry unit foundation, vinyl siding, and a gabled roof with asphalt shingles. The south façade of the hermitage has three bays; the outer bays each contain a pair of eight-light wood windows. The center bay contains a single-leaf wood paneled entrance door. Three sets of clerestory windows are above; each set contains a pair of six-light wood windows. To the east of the hermitage is a small wood-frame shed, constructed circa 1930. The shed has painted wood shiplap siding and a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The east façade of the shed contains a hinged wood single-leaf door and a four-light wood window. The south and west shed elevations each contain one four-light wood window. The three non-contributing buildings were constructed outside of the period of significance and are not associated with the architectural significance of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery.

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St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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Church and Monastery

Exterior

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was designed in the Gothic Revival style with a T-shaped footprint resting on a stone foundation and a combination of pitched and flat roofs. The exterior is constructed of coursed rough-face limestone blocks. A limestone belt course wraps all elevations above the basement level. Limestone is also used throughout the building for ornamental details such as carved capitals, crosses, and articulated string courses. The primary entrance to the church faces west onto S. Irwin Avenue. The monastery wing extends to the north and is set back from the street. The church block features pointed-arch window openings containing historic stained-glass windows.<sup>1</sup> The monastery block has rectangular window openings with historic wood one-over-one sash and non-historic aluminum storm windows.

*Primary (West) Façade – Church Block*

The ground and upper level of the west façade of the church block is organized into three bays. The projecting center bay is framed with battered buttresses that terminate at the base of the church's steeple tower. On the ground floor, the primary entrance is within the center bay and accessed by a set of splayed concrete steps leading to an elaborate entrance with pairs of truncated stone piers with Corinthian-inspired caps supporting an arched stone enframing capping by a triangular stone pediment. The pointed-arch entrance contains a pair of non-historic, double-leaf, glazed, aluminum-frame doors with a historic pointed-arch fanlight above containing a historic art-glass window. The outer bays on the ground floor each contain a historic pointed-arch window opening with tall, historic stained-glass windows. On the upper story, the center bay above the entrance contains a historic, wide, pointed-arch window opening flanked by stone pilasters resting on a projecting bracketed stone sill. The opening contains a historic stained-glass pointed-arch window. A stone panel with an inscription in Latin that reads "Ecclesia B.M. Angelorum" is set in the stone above this window opening. The outer bays on the upper story contain shorter historic pointed-arch window openings with historic pointed-arch stained-glass windows and projecting bracketed stone sills. At the base of the west, north, and south sides of the square-shaped steeple tower is a set of four pointed-arch openings on a projecting bracketed stone sill; the inner two openings on the west side contain historic stained-glass windows. The remaining openings are filled with stone. A bracketed stone stringcourse ornaments the steeple tower between these openings and two pointed-arch metal vents with flat pointed-arch lintels, present on all sides of the steeple tower. At the base of the steeple tower's octagonal spire are four stone triangular helms topped with stone crosses with inset panels featuring an image of a cross. The spire is clad with asphalt shingles and topped with a metal cross.

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<sup>1</sup> The church block originally had frosted-glass windows. These were replaced with donated stained-glass windows in 1911-1912. Rev. Constantine Klukowski, *History of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin; 1898-1954*, (Abridged) (Pulaski, WI: Franciscan Publishers, 1956), page 44.



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Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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*North (Side) – Church Block*

The north façade of the church block abuts the monastery block that extends to the north. The north side of the church is defined by four evenly-spaced, double-height, pointed-arch window openings with historic stained-glass windows. Battered stone buttresses flank each window bay. A projecting stone belt course is located above the basement level, which lacks windows.

*Secondary (South) Façade – Church Block*

The south façade of the church block can be visually divided into west, center, and east portions and has a projecting stone belt course above the basement level. The west portion corresponds to the sanctuary and has four evenly-spaced, double-height, pointed-arch window openings with historic stained-glass windows. Battered stone buttresses flank each window bay. The center portion has a front-gabled roof and projects from the plane of the elevation. Battered stone buttresses rise along the edges of the center portion. At the ground level are three bays; the center bay contains a secondary entrance to the sanctuary. Like the primary entrance, this bay is framed by an arched opening beneath a triangular pediment topped with a stone cross. The entrance contains a single-leaf, non-historic, aluminum-frame glazed door with sidelights and a wood screened door. Above the door is a historic pointed-arch transom with a historic stained-glass window. The entrance is fronted by a set of concrete steps with metal handrails and a non-historic stone kneewall. Flanking the entrance are tall pointed-arch openings with historic stained-glass windows. Above the ground level, the wall has three pointed-arch openings with historic stained-glass windows; these windows overlook the sanctuary. In the gable wall above is a pointed-arch blind window. The gable is topped with a stone cross. The east portion of the elevation corresponds to the sacristy and has a flat roof; it abuts the apse of the sanctuary to the north. The first story has three window bays. The west bay is spaced apart from the other two. Each bay contains a pointed-arch opening with a wood sash window. At the basement level are two window bays centered below the two east bays on the first story. The basement window bays contain rectangular window openings with wood, one-over-one windows. To the right of the first-story windows is a secondary entrance; this small area was originally an open porch and has been infilled with stone similar to the church's historic stone cladding. The entrance contains a non-historic aluminum-frame glazed door with transom.

*East (Rear) Façade – Church Block*

The east façade of the church block corresponds to the sacristy and the apse of the sanctuary. The apse is articulated with battered stone buttresses to each side of this blank wall, and capped with a polygonal domed roof. There is a short band of blank windows, five across and each having a pointed arch. These blank windows demarcate the separation of the first and second story levels. The upper level of the southeast and northeast walls of the polygonal apse each contain a pointed-arch window opening with a historic stained-glass window. To the south of the apse, the east wall of the sacristy contains one pointed-arch window opening with a wood window. A one-story wing attached to the northeast wall of the apse has a flat roof; its east elevation has a pointed-arch window opening with a wood window.

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St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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*Primary (West) Façade – Monastery Block*

The monastery block is two stories with a basement and attic. It has a steeply-pitched hipped roof with front-gabled wings on its west façade and east elevations. A wood frieze runs along the west façade and north elevation. All windows within the monastery, unless noted otherwise, are historic one-over-one wood sash with non-historic one-over-one aluminum storms. The west façade of the monastery block, which faces South Irwin Avenue, extends to the north from the north elevation of the church block and is set back from the street by a wide lawn with two paved sidewalks and a narrow driveway abutting the north side of the block. A sign in the lawn reads “St. Mary of the Angels Parish Office and Friary.”

The west façade can be visually divided into south, central (front-gabled), and north portions. The south portion extends from the north elevation of the church block to the front-gabled center portion. The south portion is seven bays wide. At the basement level, the southernmost bay contains an entrance door sheltered by a small, metal, flat-roofed canopy. The six remaining basement-level bays have rectangular windows. On the first and second stories, each bay contains a rectangular window. Two dormer windows rise from the attic level above the second and fifth bays. The dormers have front-gabled roofs with wood enframements and a cross at the gable peak. Each dormer contains a historic Palladian window consisting of a central pointed-arch window with a four-light wood lower sash flanked by shorter two-over-two wood sashes.

The central portion of the west façade projects forward and is defined by a front-gabled roof. The portion is five bays wide at the basement level and first and second stories. In the center bay is the monastery block’s primary entrance, accessed by a flight of concrete steps. The primary entrance is enframed by a cut-stone round arch opening with cut-stone pilasters beneath a triangular pediment. The entrance contains a non-historic aluminum-frame glazed single-leaf door with a historic arched transom above containing a historic wood tracery art-glass window. The remaining bays at the basement, first, and second stories each contain a rectangular window. Above the second-story windows is a centered stone panel inscribed with “Klaster M. B. Anielskiej,” which roughly translates from Polish to “St. Mary’s Monastery.” The attic level has three bays. The smaller outer bays contain a pointed-arch opening with a historic wood one-over-one window. The wider central bay contains a pointed-arch window opening with a historic wood one-over-one window flanked by shorter fixed wood windows. The attic-level windows have projecting bracketed stone sills. The gable wall above is ornamented with a recessed stone cove with a religious statue. The gable peak is topped with a stone cross.

The north portion of the west façade is six bays wide. Each bay contains a rectangular window. A dormer window rises from the attic level above the center bays. It is identical in configuration to the dormer windows in the south portion of the attic.

*North (Side) Façade – Monastery Block*

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The north façade of the monastery block is three bays wide, with historic rectangular window openings with stone sills. The window openings in the center bays are infilled with glass blocks and small replacement casement sashes. The flanking bays contain one-over-one windows.

*East (Rear) Façade – Monastery Block*

The east elevation of the monastery block is similar to the monastery's west elevation and can be divided into north, center, and south portions. A frieze of non-historic synthetic material runs along the elevation. The north portion is six bays wide with fenestration like that on the west façade. A metal fire escape is attached to the north end. A shed-roof rectangular wing projects from the fourth south bays of this portion at the basement level. The wing has stone and brick walls with two window bays in the stone portion containing a pair of fixed two-light wood windows. The stone-clad south portion of the wing is original to the building, although historically it had a shallow-pitched gabled roof.<sup>2</sup> The non-historic north portion of the wing is open with a short span of chain-link fence attached. The center portion of the east elevation has five bays as the basement level and first story. In the center bay is a secondary entrance with a pointed-arch opening. The opening contains a non-historic aluminum-frame glazed door and historic wood tracery in the transom with wood panels replacing the glazing. The remaining bays contain windows as seen on the west façade. The second story of the center portion has six window bays. The two center window bays are situated slightly lower than the others, corresponding to a stairwell landing. The bays contain windows as seen on the west façade. The attic level is designed in an identical way to the attic level on the center portion of the west façade, however, the pointed-arch cove lacks a religious statue.

The south portion of the east elevation is seven bays wide. An original three-bay-wide, two-story and basement wing with flat roof and stone cladding projects from the south portion, abutting the rear of the church block. The wing historically contained choir chambers on the first floor and a library on the second floor. A private chapel for the monastery is now located on the first floor of the wing. The east wall of this wing contains three window bays at each story. The basement-level bays contain rectangular windows. The first and second-story bays are pointed-arch openings with historic wood windows. The north wall of the wing has an offset bay at the basement level containing a rectangular window. The first story has a wide, centered bay with a rectangular window. The second story has a narrower, centered bay with partial stone block infill at the base and replacement sash above. North of the projecting wing, the remaining portion has five bays at the first and second story containing rectangular windows. Projecting from the basement level is a small, non-historic one-car concrete block garage with a flat roof. The non-historic garage was added at an unknown date. The north wall of the garage has a metal overhead rolling door. A brick chimney rises from the pitched roof slope above the south portion of the elevation.

Interior

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<sup>2</sup> The wing is visible in the original plans, east elevation illustration.

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St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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*Church Block*

The interior of St. Mary of the Angels Church is centered primarily on the nave, with all secondary spaces serving this rectangular, vaulted space. A narthex, former baptismal and office spaces are located west of the nave. The apse, sacristy and a private chapel are east of the nave. The main entrance to the church is located on the west elevation along S. Irwin Avenue, with additional access from the exterior through entrances on the south elevation. An interior connection to the monastery on the north side of the church is provided through a doorway in the north transept.

The main entrance on the west end of the church provides access to a small narthex. The narthex is an octagonal space with pointed-arch niches and a double-door opening on its eastern wall. On the north wall of the narthex is an opening leading to stairs to the basement. Adjacent to these stairs is a small, enclosed office space, accessed through the nave.

The nave of the church is oriented east-west, with a vaulted apse located at its east end. The nave retains its historic double-height interior volume of space with an original pointed-arch vaulted ceiling, a characteristic of Gothic Revival churches. The original wood and plaster ceiling is preserved, including historic painted plaster corbels adorning the ribs of the vault. Historic stained-glass windows punctuate each bay on both sides of the nave leading up to the north and south transepts. Historic plaster walls are preserved.

The dictates of the Second Vatican Council led to sweeping alterations to the interior of the church, implemented in 1968.

Originally, the central and raised side alters were heavily and elaborately ornamented with painting, carved screens, an abundance of statuary, and niches. Painted decoration covered the walls and continued up into the ceiling. In 1968, the alteration to the interior eliminated much of this ornamental exuberance, stripping down the walls and ceilings to eliminate the elaborate painting, and removing statuary and carvings. In fact the series of ceremonial steps and landings that led to the alter area were removed and a screen now completely blocks the central alter area with its trio of tall arches.

The orientation of the congregation pews and the raised altar were also revised in 1968 in response to the Second Vatican Council in which changes to the celebration of Mass were encouraged to increase the participatory experience of the congregation. Rows of non-historic wood pews are oriented towards the northeast corner of the space, facing a raised altar with a baldachin. The floor has non-historic carpeting. Previously, floor tiling was installed in circa 1939. Prior to that time, the floor was carpeted. Mid-twentieth century light fixtures are suspended from the ribs of the vaulted ceiling. Doorways located in the north and south transepts lead to the monastery block and the Cass Street entrance, respectively. The current interior has integrity to this important transitional period in the Catholic church, reflecting

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how the impacts of the Second Vatican Council transformed church interiors.

An original pointed-arch opening and flanking niches at the east end of the nave are supported by Corinthian-inspired wood columns and fluted pilasters. This spatial and ornamental articulation marks the separation between the nave and the apse. A choir loft is currently in place within this pointed-arch opening, with a partial wall partition installed behind, separating the nave from the apse. Two small, triangular rooms are located north and south of the apse, beyond its angled walls. These small rooms are adjacent to the monastic chapel and sacristy located on the north and south sides of the apse, respectively. The north room is now a private chapel for the monastery, but originally served as the choir. The private chapel was altered at an unknown date with the installation of a partition wall in the north third of the space; an acoustic-tile dropped ceiling was installed in the smaller space created by the partition wall. The sacristy, located south of the apse, retains its historic pressed-metal ceiling and elongated cornice tiles. The ceiling materials, plaster and pressed-metal, and wall finishes largely remain in the nave and secondary spaces of the church block.

The basement of the church block consists of support spaces, a function maintained since the opening of the church in 1903. Administrative and storage rooms are located off the double-loaded corridor that runs through the basement space. Dropped ceilings and carpeting have been added to the basement spaces, however, a number of rooms still retain their historic wood bead board wainscoting and wood doors with three-light transoms.

*Monastery*

The monastery block is a two-story plus basement and attic wing that is connected to the north side of the church. Both floors of the monastery are arranged around a double-loaded corridor that runs north-south. The basement and attic are secondary spaces. The monastery block is accessed from the exterior on the west façade through the historic center entrance, or via the modern entrance at the south end of the west façade. A second historic entrance is located on the east elevation and is accessible from the parking lot.

The primary entrance to the monastery block from the exterior is through the centered entrance on the west façade. The replacement metal and glass door features single-pane sidelights and is capped with a historic pointed-arch stained glass transom with wood tracery. The interior of this entryway contains a half-stair leading to the first floor, with access to administrative offices and the central double-loaded corridor. The entryway features non-historic finishes. Across the corridor from this west historic entrance is a stairwell leading to the basement and second floor. This stairwell also contains the east historic entrance. The final exterior entrance is a modern alteration that is located in the southern-most bay of the west elevation of the monastery. The modern entryway at the southwest corner of the building consists of a small tiled vestibule and a set of stairs leading to the first-floor corridor beyond a non-historic metal and glass door.

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The double-loaded corridors that run north-south define the space on both the first and second floors of the monastery block. The first floor contains primarily administrative spaces, guest rooms, and private rooms for friars. The second floor is primarily private rooms, some of which include non-historic lavatories. On both floors, private rooms feature wood floors, stained wood trim, and either dropped ceilings or pressed-metal tiles. A second set of corridors runs east-west along the first and second floors at the south end of the monastery block. On the first floor this corridor leads to a chapel, located on the east side of the building, which is also connected to the church block. On the second floor, the corridor provides access to a library that is located above the first-floor chapel. The library features pointed-arch windows with historic wood frames and historic hardwood floors and a drop ceiling.

Access to the second floor is provided by a historic stairwell, which is centered on the east side of the monastery block. The basement is also accessed through this stairwell. A secondary, non-historic staircase is located within the modern entryway located in the southwest corner of the block. This staircase is also located within the east-west corridor.

On both the first and second floors the doorways located along the double-loaded corridor remain in their original locations with historic five-panel wood doors with single-light wood transoms. Original hardware has also been retained on a number of doors on both floors. The historic wood bead-board wainscoting on the corridor walls also largely remains intact. Each floor has a shared lavatory, which has been updated with modern fixtures and tiles but retains its original function and plan. Dropped ceilings have been added to a majority of the interior spaces on the first and second floor of the monastery block; however, original trim, plaster, and pressed-metal ceiling tiles remain above. The original hardwood floors, largely covered with carpet or linoleum, remain.

The basement of the monastery block has retained its historic function as support space. While updated with modern appliances and tools, the laundry room and woodshop still serve their historic function. These rooms, in addition to other support spaces, are accessed from the double-loaded corridor that bisects the basement. The basement has received some alteration through minor updating; however, there are still large sections of historic wood trim throughout and plaster beneath the drop ceiling.

The attic of the monastery block is accessed through the east stair off the central corridor. Aside from the enclosed stair, the attic space is open with a vaulted wooden ceiling. The space is unfinished, with exposed wood trusses and masonry walls.

Alterations and Additions

The exterior of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery has changed very little since the building's completion in 1903. The rough-cut limestone blocks that clad the exterior remain, and the minimal sculptural elements are also still present. Stone sills beneath the windows of both the church and

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monastery blocks also remain. The historic stained-glass windows in the church and a few select areas of the monastery are in place, within their original pointed-arch openings. The monastery retains historic wood windows. The historic roofline of both the church and monastery has been retained, as well as the original steeple at the west end of the church block. Exterior alterations to the church and monastery are primarily limited to doors and the addition of storm windows. Storm windows have been added to the windows on both the church and monastery blocks, but do not alter the shape of the window openings or historic sash. Although filled with glass block, the central window openings on the north end of the monastery block are still evident. The exterior doors of both the church and monastery have been replaced, but these modern replacements have not altered the size or shape of the original openings. The transom of the historic entrance on the east elevation of the monastery has been infilled with sheets of wood, but the wood tracery remains in place. Concrete stairs and metal handrails were added at each of the entrances. The modern entrance at the southwest corner of the monastery block has a concrete ramp leading up to doorway, and a flat metal awning has been added to shelter the entryway. A second entrance was also added at street level to the south elevation of the church, east of the historic entrance on the same elevation. A small garage was also added to the east elevation of the monastery block at an unknown date.

The interior of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery also retains a significant portion of its original finishes. The vaulted ceiling and plasterwork of the nave, stained-glass windows throughout, and pressed-metal ceiling in the sacristy remain in the church. The double-loaded corridor with wood wainscoting and doors, with single-pane transom above, reflect the historic finish and arrangement of the monastery.

Alterations to the sanctuary were the result of a renovation in 1968 that was designed to reflect reforms in church doctrine as a result of the Second Vatican Council. These alterations entail the installation of pews re-oriented towards the northeast corner of the sanctuary, rather than towards the apse, facing a raised alter with a baldachin. The reorientation brought the congregation physically closer to the priest during worship services. The alterations also included the installation of new carpeting, new lighting fixtures attached to the ribs of the vaulted ceiling, the installation of a partial wall within the historic apse. A choir gallery originally located above the narthex on the west end of the nave was walled off during a later renovation. The 1968 reorientation of the sanctuary has gained significance in its own right as an architectural design that reflects the doctrine changes espoused by the Second Vatican Council.

The interior of the monastery was also affected by the 1968 renovation, though alterations are primarily restricted to finishes. Wood paneling was added to the administrative spaces on the first floor, carpeting or linoleum was placed over the original hardwood throughout, and drop ceilings were added to nearly every room. A confessional was assigned to a room on the first floor near the administrative spaces, requiring minor reconfiguration, and double-doors were added to the south end of the main corridor on both floors, allowing access to the east-west corridor to be closed off. A staircase was also added to the

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east-west corridor that incorporated the addition of an entrance on the west elevation. Additionally, some of the private rooms had a modest bathroom added to the space, delineated by the addition of a partial wall. These alterations have not impacted the overall configuration and layout of the space and have had a minimal impact on the historic finishes.

**Integrity**

The exterior of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery has excellent integrity as an example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in Green Bay, as it retains its historic form, building materials, and detailing. Most exterior finishes, including rough-hewn stone exterior and ornament, stone window enframements, stained glass windows, stone ornamentation, and original footprint of the building remain. Minor alterations have been made, with the most significant changes involving openings and the addition of entrances on the west facade of the monastery and south facade of the church. The window openings with storm windows added have not had their pointed-arch or square-head forms altered or compromised by the addition. As a result, the overall appearance of the exterior of the church and monastery is reflective of its original design.

The interior of the church building, although altered, also retains its historic spatial layout (with the exception of the nave, which still has its original volume of space) and circulation, as well as finishes and materials that were originally designed for the distinct spaces. The vaulted ceiling and plasterwork of the nave, and pressed-metal ceiling in the sacristy, remain in the church. The interior of the monastery retains excellent integrity, retaining its original plan and many historic finishes, including wood wainscoting, paneled wood doors with single-light transoms, and wood flooring beneath carpeting or linoleum.



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**Statement of Significance:**

**Summary**

Designed by prominent local architect, William E. Reynolds, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture as a highly-intact example of the early-twentieth century Gothic Revival architectural style in Green Bay, Wisconsin. As a religious property, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery meets Criterion Consideration A, as its primary significance derives from its architectural distinction. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was erected by the parish of St. Mary of the Angels in partnership with the Polish Franciscan Fathers in 1903. The church and monastery represent the successful establishment of a Polish Catholic Church in Green Bay following a thirty-year struggle by the community to gain sufficient financial stability to maintain a parish distinct from the German Catholic parishes in the vicinity. When the church opened, the congregation was comprised of eighty Green Bay families, almost all of whom were of Polish descent.<sup>3</sup> The church served as a significant gathering place for Polish Catholics in Green Bay, particularly during the early years of its operation.

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery reflects the Gothic Revival style through its tall, narrow pointed-arch windows; pointed-arch entrances, coves, and dormers; stained-glass windows with tracery; tall, battered buttresses; and soaring steeple tower with octagonal spire. Furthermore, the building's Gothic Revival style motifs are balanced by its Richardsonian Romanesque influences, which include its monochromatic rough-face limestone cladding and massively-scaled entrance surrounds with truncated columns. The design of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is distinct in Green Bay for its interplay of Gothic and Romanesque forms and its representation of the Gothic style's transition away from the High Victorian Gothic aesthetic and towards simpler, less-ornamental expressions.

Three non-contributing buildings are located within the nomination boundary. These are a shed and hermitage, building circa 1930, and a garage built circa 1960. The three buildings are non-contributing because they post-date the period of significance in 1903, and do not contribute to the architectural significance of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery. The period of significance is 1903, the year that St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was completed. A second period of significance, 1968, recognizes the interior reorientation of the sanctuary pews and altar, a design reflective of the Second Vatican Council.

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<sup>3</sup> Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff, "City of Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," Prepared for the City of Green Bay Redevelopment Authority, 1988, page 116.

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**A Brief History of Green Bay**

The city of Green Bay is located in Brown County, approximately 120 miles north of the city of Milwaukee. Green Bay developed as an out-growth of communities and economies associated with the growing fur trade, as well as lumber and fishing industries. With its location at the southern tip of Green Bay, the establishment and growth of the city can be attributed to its access to waterways. The Fox River, which runs through Green Bay, was historically one of the most important water routes in North America, providing passage for traders, explorers, and Native Americans traveling to and from the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. This economy, built on trade and industry dependent on the waterways, attracted large numbers of Catholic European immigrants to Green Bay in the mid-nineteenth century. In order to support this immigrant population, Catholic parishes, including the Polish St. Mary of the Angels parish, were established in the city.

Prior to the incorporation of Green Bay in 1854, the population of the city was largely English and French. In the 1840s, groups of other nationalities from Europe began to arrive in more significant numbers.<sup>4</sup> This growth continued to rise with the introduction of the railroad and the formation of the Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad companies in 1860.<sup>5</sup> New immigrants came to Green Bay in response to economic opportunities in the expanding lumber, transportation, fishing, ice trade, and dairy industries. Belgian, Dutch, German, Irish, and Scandinavian immigrants came to Green Bay contributing to the city's nearly 40% foreign-born population in 1870.<sup>6</sup> By 1900, the draw of inexpensive and plentiful farmland, as well as an abundance of mill and dock jobs in town, led to another influx of immigrants arriving in Green Bay from Belgium, Germany, Holland, and Poland.<sup>7</sup>

Expansion of industry and the establishment of paper companies, including the Green Bay Paper and Fiber Company (later purchased by Proctor and Gamble), and food processing companies, provided a strong economic springboard for the city to survive the Great Depression. Annexations of adjacent townships contributed to Green Bay's physical growth in the early and mid-twentieth century.

**The Astor East River Neighborhood**

The Astor East River neighborhood, where St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is situated, is located southeast of downtown Green Bay. It is primarily a residential neighborhood and is bounded by

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<sup>4</sup> Rev. Constantine Klukowski, *History of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin; 1898-1954*, (Abridged) (Pulaski, WI: Franciscan Publishers, 1956), page 7.

<sup>5</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Hotel Northland, Brown County, Green Bay, Wisconsin, National Register #13000860, Section 8, page 2.

<sup>6</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 14.

<sup>7</sup> National Register for Hotel Northland, Section 8, page 2.

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Mason Street, the East River, the city of Allouez border and Webster Street. The neighborhood is adjacent to the Astor Street neighborhood, which is a designated Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Unlike the Astor Street neighborhood, which is recognized for its concentration of high style Victorian and early twentieth century residences, as well as its association with a number of influential members of Green Bay society, the Astor East River neighborhood has a more modest history and architectural pedigree. This part of the city was attractive to the Polish immigrant population of Green Bay, who were both attracted to the neighborhood itself, and the farmland to the south.<sup>8</sup> Though the neighborhood was subdivided by the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the land remained largely unimproved when St. Mary of the Angels was built in 1903. Development was gradual, not reaching residential maturity until the mid-twentieth century. The houses constructed were typically modest, functional, one-and-a-half story frame dwellings with little ornamentation and built on small lots.

### **Polish Settlement in Green Bay**

The earliest Polish immigrants arrived in Green Bay in the mid-1850s. It was not until after the Civil War, however, that Polish immigrants began settling in Green Bay in large numbers.<sup>9</sup> Polish immigrants were motivated in large part by economic opportunity in the United States, specifically by a strong desire to be independent land owners.<sup>10</sup> At the time, a divided Poland—partitioned among German, Russian, and Austrian powers—subjected the Polish people to economic, political, and religious oppression. Workers were not well-paid, farmers were unable to procure land, stringent military service requirements were applied, and religious freedoms were denied. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 further motivated Polish residents to immigrate to the United States.<sup>11</sup> The overwhelming majority of Wisconsin's Polish immigrants originated from German-ruled areas of western Poland known as Poznan and West Prussia.<sup>12</sup> Of the Polish settlements in Wisconsin, Green Bay was a small but significant community. With many immigrants arriving as farmers and fisherman, Green Bay would have been attractive for its proximity to undeveloped land and numerous waterways.

Polish settlements in Green Bay in the 1870s and 1880s were located along the banks of the East River, in the Main Street and Walnut Street areas on the east side, in the northern sections of Fort Howard, and on farms in Preble township and south of the city.<sup>13</sup> The wave of Polish immigrants to Green Bay during

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<sup>8</sup> Klukowski, *History of St. Mary of the Angels*, page 7.

<sup>9</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 148.

<sup>10</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Polish Settlement," page 2.

<sup>11</sup> John W.S. Tomkiewicz. "Polanders in Wisconsin." In 1901 Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (Madison, Wis.: Democrat Printing Co., 1902) page 148. Online facsimile at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=1346>.

<sup>12</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Polish Settlement," page 10.

<sup>13</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 148.

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this period included a number of the charter members of the future St. Mary of the Angels.<sup>14</sup> The Polish population in Green Bay was considered significant enough in 1873 to merit the organization of a Polish parish.<sup>15</sup> In 1876, the size of Green Bay's Polish community earned its inclusion in a statistical survey tracking Polish settlement in the United States.<sup>16</sup>

The growing population of Poles settling in Green Bay in the 1880s and early 1890s was bolstered by a prominent Polish resident, John Gajewski, also known as the "Polish King of Green Bay." Gajewski was the owner of a grocery store and saloon, and also performed as a notary public, and a real estate and steamship agent. His successful business acumen as well as his fluency in Polish, German and English (an unusual skill for immigrants at the time) allowed him to flourish as a representative of the Polish community in Green Bay. With the support and assistance of Gajewski, many Polish families were able to establish successful businesses in Green Bay.

Typical Polish businesses in Green Bay during the last quarter of the nineteenth century included saloons, grocery stores, small hotels, and land agencies.<sup>17</sup> As their numbers grew, the Polish community became active in local politics as well, with representatives serving as aldermen, revenue collectors, sheriff, and superintendent of schools in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As the twentieth century progressed, Polish residents of Green Bay rose in political influence with one resident, Dominic Olejniczak, serving as state senator from 1936-1945, and as Mayor of Green Bay from 1945-1955.<sup>18</sup>

Another measure of the settlement of the Polish community in Green Bay was the establishment of houses of worship. Compared to national numbers, Wisconsin had a significant number of Polish settlements by the beginning of the twentieth century. As a result, the state also contained a high percentage of Polish Catholic churches, home to 45 of the 300 national churches across the country.<sup>19</sup> Because the majority of Polish immigrants settling in Wisconsin in the last quarter of the nineteenth century originated from German-occupied Western Poland, there was a tendency in Polish communities towards assimilation with German settlements in the same area. Cultural and linguistic familiarity, in addition to necessity, often led Wisconsin-settled Poles to join German Catholic churches when their numbers were too few to maintain a thriving church of their own. However, there was strong desire among Polish immigrants to maintain Polish cultural identity within these settlements, one means of which was transmitted through their own national Catholic Church.<sup>20</sup> The Polish immigrants who settled

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid, page 8.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, page 14. According to Bishop Joseph Melcher.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, page 7.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, page 8.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, page 9-10.

<sup>19</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Polish Settlement," page 10.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 2.

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in Green Bay were participants in this quest for cultural distinction in their new home. While they joined the German-Catholic church of Old St. Mary's upon their arrival in Green Bay, they diligently worked towards establishing their own parish church beginning in 1873. However, a series of setbacks due in large part to the financial instability of the immigrant parish prevented long-term progress toward this goal for another thirty years. The construction of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery in 1903 and its subsequent growth represented the achievement of the Polish community's dedication to their goal of establishing and maintaining an independent Polish church.

**History of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery**

Without a sufficient number of members or funding to build their own church, early Polish immigrants in Green Bay joined Old St. Mary's church, the predecessor of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Old St. Mary's served a German-Catholic parish.<sup>21</sup> By 1873, however, the Polish community was large enough to support its own parish. Bishop Melcher, the first bishop of the Catholic diocese of Green Bay, purchased two adjoining lots for the newly organized parish located just off the northwest corner of Crooks and Baird streets.<sup>22</sup> The parish began to gather funds to build a church on these lots, and the first cornerstone was laid on Sunday June 7, 1874. This church, the first Polish church to be built in Green Bay, was named St. Stanislaus Kosta. Despite financial troubles which caused delays in construction, the church was officially dedicated on July 18, 1875.<sup>23</sup> The completion of St. Stanislaus Kosta marked the introduction of the first Polish church not only in Green Bay, but also in Brown County and the entire northern half of the state.<sup>24</sup> The fledgling parish struggled financially and just two months after the dedication, the church was sold.<sup>25</sup> Ultimately, a Polish parish in Pine Grove, Wisconsin purchased the building, dismantled it, and carted it away to be reassembled at its new location.<sup>26</sup>

The Polish parish in Green Bay returned to the German-Catholic church, now St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, where they remained for twenty-three years.<sup>27</sup> To provide spiritual care for the Polish parishioners at the Cathedral, once or twice a year a Polish-speaking priest was recruited to conduct a service in their native tongue.<sup>28</sup> The establishment of the Polish Franciscan Fathers in Pulaski, northwest of Green Bay, provided additional support and assistance, albeit distant.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 115-16.

<sup>22</sup> Klukowski, page 14.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, page 15.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, page 16.

<sup>26</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 115.

<sup>27</sup> Klukowski, page 22

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Catholics," (1986), page 9.

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The Poles in Green Bay made a second attempt at organizing a national parish in 1894, holding a meeting to elect a parish committee, with the approval of Bishop Messmer.<sup>30</sup> That year, Messmer purchased three lots on the southwest corner of Crooks and Irwin streets for the purpose of building a Polish church at that location. However, disputes erupted within the Polish community over the proposed location. While some favored the intended site, others argued it was too close to existing downtown churches, and still others preferred a closer proximity to the Cathedral.<sup>31</sup> An additional challenge for the new parish was the scarcity of Polish priests in the area. Even including the nearby Franciscan Fathers, the numbers were few. A lack of organized leadership inhibited unification of the group, prolonging the erection of a church for the parish for four more years.

In 1898, it appeared that erection of a new church would move forward on the Crooks and Irwin streets site and fundraising began in earnest.<sup>32</sup> However, a Catholic church constructed in 1894 at the northwest corner of Cass and Irwin streets became available, and Messmer encouraged its purchase for the Polish church. The Catholic Church was erected by Joseph Rene Vilatte, a polarizing figure within the Catholic community who represented the Old Catholic religion, a controversial position that broke with the Roman Catholic tradition. He was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church on three different occasions throughout his life.<sup>33</sup> Vilatte began to experience financial difficulties and could not maintain the church he had built in the Astor East River neighborhood. Not wanting the site to be purchased by a party outside of the faith, Bishop Messmer campaigned to have the Polish parish purchase the property.<sup>34</sup> He appealed to Rev. Theophil Malkowski, the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Pine Grove, to persuade the parish in Green Bay to purchase the church rather than build their own, and to help raise sufficient funds for that purpose.<sup>35</sup> Malkowski's Holy Trinity parish was the same group that purchased St. Stanislaus Kosta from the Green Bay parish in 1875. Malkowski proved successful in his mission and on February 10, 1898, Vilatte signed over his church and the lot, and the church was remodeled and redecorated for the Polish parish. The church was dedicated as St. Mary of Czestochowa just twelve days later; the name derived from a famed shrine in Poland. It was the fifty-eighth Polish church established in Wisconsin, and the second established in Green Bay.<sup>36</sup> On the lot across from this church, on the northeast corner of Cass and Irwin streets, the Polish Franciscan Fathers would build St. Mary of

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<sup>30</sup> Klukowski, page 22.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, page 24.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, page 32.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, page 24 & 31.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, page 33.

<sup>35</sup> "100 years and counting: St. Mary of the Angels marks end of Centennial," *Green Bay Press-Gazette* (July 25, 1998), page 33.

<sup>36</sup> Klukowski, pages 33-34, 59. This former church is still standing. After the construction of St. Mary of the Angels, it was used as a school until 1907, when it was moved to the southwest corner of Mason and Irwin streets by a parishioner and converted to a grocery store. Today the former church lacks architectural integrity due to non-historic alterations, such as vinyl siding

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the Angels Church and Monastery.

The transformation of the site of the new Polish parish from the small, frame building known as St. Mary of Czestochowa, to the large stone church and monastery that exists today as St. Mary of the Angels was made possible by an arrangement with the Polish Franciscan Fathers of Pulaski.

St. Mary's of Czestochowa, the small frame church on the site that initially served the Polish parish before St. Mary of the Angels was built, functioned as a mission church of Holy Trinity in Pine Groce, with one priest serving both churches. It is assumed that the Polish parish preferred to ultimately have a dedicated priest, and it is also noted that the small immigrant parish had suffered financial constraints for some time. The Polish Franciscan Fathers had been located at St. Mary's of Czestochowa and influenced the rest of the fathers to move to Green Bay.<sup>37</sup> The Polish Franciscan Fathers built St. Mary of the Angels and Monastery for two purposes; the Polish parish would have a new, larger church that suited the needs of the growing congregation, and the fathers would have a monastery from which they could live, with Green Bay now serving as their new headquarters.<sup>38</sup> The monastery at St. Mary of the Angels was only the second Polish Franciscan monastery built in the United States.<sup>39</sup> The Polish congregation could now also have their own resident priest and no longer had to function as a mission church; Rev. Stanislaw Jeka, formerly a superior at the Pulaski monastery, served as the resident priest at St. Mary of the Angels.<sup>40</sup>

After a meeting in December 1900 between the Franciscan Fathers and Bishop Messmer (Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay from 1892-1903), the bishop apparently advised the fathers to build a connected church and monastery.<sup>41</sup> St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery cost \$60,000 to build; it is assumed that having the church and monastery physically attached, rather than designed as two separate buildings, made the most financial and design sense, given the lot dimensions and the budget. Bishop Messmer purchased the lots in the south half of Block 181 between February and May of 1901 that would be the site of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery.<sup>42</sup>

In 1899, Bishop MessmerIn 1900, while plans were being drawn for a new building, the name of the church was changed from St. Mary of Czestochowa to St. Mary of the Angels, named after a church in Assisi, Italy, that was home to St. Francis of Assisi, celebrating the new association with the Franciscan

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<sup>37</sup> Klukowski, page 37.

<sup>38</sup> "Important Event in History of St. Mary's Polish Church," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, June 26, 1903.

<sup>39</sup> "Important Event in History of St. Mary's Polish Church," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, June 26, 1903.

<sup>40</sup> "Important Event in History of St. Mary's Polish Church," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, June 26, 1903.

<sup>41</sup> Klukowski, page 37.

<sup>42</sup> Klukowski, page 37.

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Fathers.<sup>43</sup>

In the course of planning the construction of a monastery, it became increasingly clear that as new Polish families were settling in Green Bay, the parish was outgrowing the space offered by the small, frame church they occupied.<sup>44</sup> Bishop Messmer encouraged the parish to build a new church that would connect with the monastery, and in May of 1901 a contract was signed for the construction of a combined church and monastery. The architect was William E. Reynolds of Green Bay and the general contractor was Joseph H. Servotte. The cost of the project was initially projected to be \$48,523, but the total cost was approximately \$60,000 when finished.<sup>45</sup> A groundbreaking ceremony was held sometime after May 27, 1901 and the cornerstone of the new church and monastery was blessed by Bishop Messmer on September 1, 1901.<sup>46</sup> During construction, the parish continued to raise money, and accepted donations of a number of needed articles. For instance, a sanctuary lamp was donated by a local Polish family, the Stations of the Way of the Cross by a collection of families, and two confessionals by the priest of a church in Otis, Indiana.<sup>47</sup> This priest also funded the purchase of an oil painting of Lady of the Angels, which was displayed within the apse above the main altar until its removal during a redecoration in 1943.<sup>48</sup>

St. Mary of the Angels was dedicated in 1903 with a founding congregation of 80 families, almost all of whom were of Polish descent.<sup>49</sup> The interior of the church was originally simply finished with white plaster walls, a single oil painting, and frosted glass windows. Its appearance was improved gradually as donations were made and the congregation raised sufficient funds for enhancements. Donations within the first few years included statuary, carpeting, a bell for the rear steeple, and stained-glass windows. These gifts were bestowed by parishioners, the Franciscan fathers, local Polish businessmen, and various religious societies. By 1923, a contract for painting the church sanctuary was assigned to John L. Kitslaar of Green Bay, and additional oil paintings adorned the walls. Shortly thereafter, the church was wired for electricity and received a new organ. Subsequent alterations included the replacement of carpet with tile in 1943 and, to better communicate with the growing congregation, a public-address system was installed in the sanctuary in 1953.<sup>50</sup>

Parish growth was substantial in the years following the construction of the new building. By 1929, the original eighty-family membership had expanded to 288 families. Over the next two decades

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid, 34-37.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 37.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 38.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 116.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, page 48-50.



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membership doubled to a total of approximately 600 families in 1948. Over time, the parish attracted families of various cultural backgrounds, diminishing the Polish cultural identity that characterized the church's beginnings.<sup>51</sup> By 1946, all church services were conducted in English.<sup>52</sup> However, parishioners of Polish descent continued to represent a little less than half of the congregation in the 1950s.

Typical of Catholic churches, St. Mary of the Angels sought to tend to their young parishioners' educational needs by providing a parochial school associated with the church. As a temporary solution, the old church (St. Mary's of Czestochowa) was remodeled for use as a school in 1902, as church services had moved into the basement of the new building while it was under construction. The school population quickly outgrew the remodeled church; however, the building was sold to parishioner Stanley Lukaszewicz, who moved it off-site and converted it to a grocery store.<sup>53</sup> A new school building was constructed in 1907 directly across from the church on S. Irwin Street.<sup>54</sup> The plans for the school were drawn by William E. Reynolds, who also designed the church and monastery. The steady growth of the parish during the interwar years led to the demolition of the school in 1953 in order to rebuild a larger building on the site to accommodate the increase in attendance.<sup>55</sup> In 1941, a convent was built to house the sisters who taught at the school. This building still stands adjacent to the 1954 school building. While the construction of the school and convent relates to the historical development of St. Mary of the Angels, representing a flourishing parish financially secure enough to expand the role of the church in the lives of its parishioners, the church and monastery maintain architectural significance distinct from these ancillary buildings which were designed by later architects in different styles more than three decades after the construction of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery.

The Second Vatican Council, convened from 1962 through 1965, sought to address societal and cultural changes in the post-World War II era by revising and updating doctrines and worship practices to meet the needs and expectations of modern congregations. The decrees of the Second Vatican Council ushered changes in Catholic churches, schools, and homes. One of these decrees, the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy," established a greater participation by the laity in the celebration of Mass.<sup>56</sup> As a result, some congregations across the country, at varying paces, chose to alter the interior layout of their churches to reflect the liturgical reforms.

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, Catholic priests led the celebration of Mass in Latin while separated

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<sup>51</sup> Klukowski, page 50.

<sup>52</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 149.

<sup>53</sup> Klukowski, page 59.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> "100 years and counting," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, page 33.

<sup>56</sup> The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Second Vatican Council," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, October 4, 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Second-Vatican-Council>, accessed January 2019.

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and facing away from the congregation. The Second Vatican Council approved the construction of freestanding altars where priests would stand closer to, and facing towards, the congregation. Other liturgical changes included the use of the vernacular language in Mass and the elimination of the altar rail, as Communion could be received while standing. By 1978, the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy had issued guiding principles for designing sanctuaries to reflect the Second Vatican Council, *Environment and Art in Catholic Worship*. One of the guiding principles noted, "The location of the altar will be central in any Eucharist celebration, but this does not mean it must be spatially in the center or on a central axis. In fact, an off-center location may be a good solution in many cases."<sup>57</sup>

The congregation at St. Mary of the Angels Church radically altered the sanctuary interior circa 1968 to align itself with these new decrees of the Second Vatican Council. A new raised altar with a baldachin from which the priest conducted Mass was built in the northeast toward the altar, increasing the sightlines and potential for eye contact between the priest and parishioner, and hence bringing the priest and parishioner closer together. New light fixtures were suspended from the ribs of the vaulted ceiling, increasing the amount of light in the sanctuary. These design changes heightened the participatory experience of the congregation during services, reflecting the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

### **Gothic Revival Architecture**

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was designed in the Gothic Revival style by local architect William E. Reynolds and completed in 1903.<sup>58</sup> The Gothic Revival style was introduced to the United States in the early 1830s and popularized in the mid-nineteenth century. Like so many design aesthetics in the United States during this period, the Gothic Revival was spawned from a resurgence of enthusiasm for historical architectural forms, in this case European medieval buildings dating from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries. Renewed interest in these forms was initiated in England in the late eighteenth century, with continued development of the style in the mid-to-late nineteenth century, and into the twentieth century. The Gothic Revival style coincided with popular literary and artistic movements that

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<sup>57</sup> Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, *Environment and Art in Catholic Worship*, National Conference of Catholic Bishops: November 1977, p. 35. Available online at: [http://web.sbu.edu/theology/bychkov/art\\_catholic2.pdf](http://web.sbu.edu/theology/bychkov/art_catholic2.pdf), accessed January 2019.

<sup>58</sup> The Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database entry for this building, as well as the Green Bay Intensive Survey conducted in 1988, indicates a style of High Victorian Gothic. This style description is not used here due to the inconsistencies between hallmarks of the High Victorian Gothic style and St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery. Typically, High Victorian Gothic buildings are polychromatic, commonly feature a high degree of ornamentation and bold forms and were generally constructed before the end of the nineteenth century. St. Mary of the Angels is more subdued in use of ornamentation, is decidedly monochromatic, and was constructed in the early twentieth century thus a bit late for High Victorian Gothic. While large in scale, St. Mary of the Angels does not have any outwardly bold roof peaks or curved forms, therefore, the term "Gothic Revival style" is more appropriate for St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery.

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romanticized medieval buildings as settings tied to deeply-felt emotions.<sup>59</sup> Characteristic medieval forms that were embraced in the Gothic Revival included asymmetrical and irregular massing, towers, steep roofs, pointed arches, buttresses, and narrow windows. In both England and the United States, Gothic Revival forms were initially popular among the wealthy for their private homes and subsequently were applied to public buildings, churches, and educational institutions, cementing the popularity of the aesthetic. In England, the Houses of Parliament in London, designed by Sir Charles Barry and A.W.N. Pugin in 1836, were a notable application of Gothic Revival forms to public buildings. Trinity Church designed by Richard Upjohn in 1840 in New York City was a prominent early example of the Gothic Revival style applied to religious buildings in the United States.

The Gothic Revival was not limited to high-style public and private buildings. Its forms were applied to vernacular buildings across the United States. Many Americans were first exposed to Gothic residential architecture through Andrew Jackson Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses*, published in 1850.<sup>60</sup> This plan book, based on American architect Alexander Jackson Davis' application of European Gothic styles to American buildings in the early 1830s, provided numerous ideas for Gothic-style residential houses, particularly cottages. The style of these cottages was sometimes referred to as Carpenter Gothic, and referenced the application of Gothic elements in wood-frame construction. This was most common in residences, but also sometimes employed in religious buildings. The Gothic Revival style proliferated primarily in rural regions due to the space required for often large-scale designs and the association architects drew between the building and the surrounding landscape.<sup>61</sup>

Various adaptations of the Gothic Revival style were made throughout the latter half of the nineteenth-century and into the twentieth-century, providing variations on the form. These included the High Victorian Gothic Revival of the late-nineteenth century which emphasized ornament, notably polychromatic surfaces with a multiplicity of textures and building materials. These ideas stemmed from the writings of English critic John Ruskin whose *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, published in 1849, and *The Stones of Venice*, published in 1851-1853, outlined the tenants of the style.<sup>62</sup> The High Victorian Gothic of the late-nineteenth-century was most often applied to public and religious buildings. A later adaptation of the style, the Neo-Gothic Revival, emerged in the early decades of the twentieth-century. This variation was based on scholarly research of medieval buildings rather than romantic musings and resulted in more subdued, monochromatic buildings with studied, highly carved stonework.<sup>63</sup> Like the High Victorian Gothic Revival, the Neo-Gothic Revival leant itself to public and religious buildings

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<sup>59</sup> Marvin Trachtenberg and Isabelle Hyman. "The Gothic Revival" in *Architecture from Pre-History to Post-Modernism/The Western Tradition*. The Netherlands: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. 1986, pages 399-402.

<sup>60</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Architectural Styles," page 4.

<sup>61</sup> Virginia McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984), page 199-200.

<sup>62</sup> Trachtenberg and Hyman, "Victorian Gothic," page 458.

<sup>63</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 226.

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rather than residential architecture.

The Gothic Revival in its various adaptations was used extensively in religious and institutional buildings in Wisconsin in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Many of Wisconsin's larger communities have examples of Gothic Revival style churches.<sup>64</sup> Gothic Revival churches in Wisconsin were typically built on the basilica plan with a steeple at the entrance, and stone was the most common building material. Several prominent stone examples in Wisconsin include the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Nashotah (2777 Mission Road, NRHP #72000067), designed by Wisconsin architect James Douglas in the 1860s, and the All Saints Episcopal Cathedral in Milwaukee (818 E. Juneau Ave., NRHP #74000099), designed by Edward Townsend Mix in 1868.

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is part of the evolution of the Gothic Revival style seen in religious architecture in Green Bay. The earliest examples of the medieval-inspired style in the area can be seen in the Bethel Baptist Church/ Westside Moravian Church (529 Fourth Street, AHI #2115). Built in 1867, the wood-frame church is designed in a Carpenter Gothic style. St. Patrick's Catholic Church (201 N. Maple Avenue, AHI #2116), built in 1893, is an example of High Victorian Gothic Revival in Green Bay, displayed in its polychrome decoration, masonry construction, and dramatic window tracery. By the turn of the twentieth-century, a simplified, more robust form of the Gothic Revival style began to emerge in religious buildings in Green Bay. Christ Episcopal Church (425 Cherry Street, NRHP #12000852), built in 1899, illustrates the heavier treatment of the style with its prominent square tower, limited ornamentation, and rough-hewn stone. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery followed this approach to the Gothic Revival style and set a precedent for the Neo-Gothic Revival churches built in the decades that followed. The Church of the Annunciation (325-29 Gray Street, AHI #2053), built 1932, and Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church (901 Shawano Avenue, AHI #50570), built 1938, show a greater emphasis on weighted horizontality and subdued ornamentation, trademarks of the Neo-Gothic Revival style.

Completed in 1903, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style in Green Bay. The Gothic Revival style is reflected in the exterior design of the building through its heavy use of pointed arches for both its tall, narrow stained-glass windows as well as for its smaller art-glass windows, dormer windows, decorative coves, and historic entrances; soaring battered buttresses framing the church sanctuary's window bays; stained-glass windows with tracery; steeply-pitched roof lines; and monumental steeple tower with pointed-arch ornamentation topped with an octagonal spire with triangular helms. The church sanctuary's double-height interior nave with pointed-arch vaulted ceiling also reflects the Gothic Revival style. Furthermore, the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style is also seen in the building's design through its heavy, rough-faced

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<sup>64</sup> Wisconsin's CRMP, "Architectural Styles," page 5.

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limestone cladding as well as its stone primary entrance surrounds featuring massive pointed-arch lintels within a triangular pediment supported by squat columns that seem truncated by the weight of the lintel and pediment. The Richardsonian Romanesque style is typified by the use of round Roman arches for door and window openings and corbel tables; heavy, rough-faced masonry materials that lend the building a sense of massiveness and permanence; squat, truncated columns; towers of varying heights, and asymmetrical compositions. The style was commonly used for large public buildings and churches. The Romanesque style was popularized in the United States by the architect Henry Hobson Richardson, and was particularly influential from the 1870s through the early twentieth-century.

When St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery was completed in 1903, its Gothic Revival design with Richardsonian Romanesque influence reflected the atmosphere of the era in which many historicist styles were pervasive in American vernacular architecture, and local architects took liberties with combinations of design elements rather than producing studied replicas of historic precedent. Thus, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is particularly distinct in Green Bay as a transitional architectural design that illustrates hallmarks of both the Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque styles, reflecting the historical references that shaped ecclesiastical architectural design in the early-twentieth century. Unlike the High Victorian Gothic style churches of the late-nineteenth century, which often featured a proliferation of ornament and polychrome brickwork, the Gothic Revival style as seen in St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery reflects a trend towards simpler ornamentation and a monochrome aesthetic, while still projecting monumentality through the use of battered buttresses and heavy masonry. The building's style anticipates the shift towards the Neo-Gothic Revival style churches of the 1910s and 1920s, which emphasized simplicity of architectural expression.

### **Comparable Sites**

Architect William E. Reynold's choice of the Gothic Revival style for St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is a reflection of the common aesthetic motifs employed by architects for ecclesiastical buildings in the early-twentieth century. Indeed, a majority of the churches in Green Bay that are recorded in the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) are constructed in a variation of the style.<sup>65</sup>

Among the extant ecclesiastical buildings in Green Bay, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is distinct because it exemplifies an important piece of the lineage and evolution of the Gothic Revival style in the area. Unlike the High Victorian Gothic-designed churches of the late-nineteenth century, the design of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is more typified by its monochromatic rough-

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<sup>65</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Church Episcopal Complex, Brown County, Green Bay, Wisconsin, National Register #12000852, Section 8, page 3.

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face limestone cladding and battered stone buttresses, representing a shift towards simpler ornamentation. The distinct hallmarks of the Gothic Revival style that are embodied in the building are its series of tall, narrow, pointed-arch windows, pointed-arch entry doors, pointed-arch coves, stained-glass windows with tracery and smaller art-glass windows, steeply-pitched roof lines, and soaring steeple tower with an octagonal spire. These monumental and dramatic elements of the Gothic Revival style are tempered by the building's Richardsonian Romanesque influences that simultaneously anchor it to the ground, including its rough-face limestone cladding and oversized entrance door surrounds with truncated columns. The inclusion of the Richardsonian Romanesque details indicates the various historical references influencing architects at the time, as well as a shift away from the High Victorian Gothic design motif and towards the later Neo-Gothic Revival style that would gain in influence in the twentieth century. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is also architecturally distinct in Green Bay for its high level of integrity, including lack of major exterior additions. A majority of the churches in Green Bay were expanded or altered in the years following their original construction.

The Bethel Baptist Church/ Westside Moravian Church at 529 Fourth Street in Green Bay was built in 1867 in a Carpenter Gothic style, with additions in 1902 and 1911. The St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at 123 Grant Street (NRHP #10001658) in De Pere was designed in 1890 by William E. Reynolds, who would later design St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery. St. Joseph's exemplifies the High Victorian Gothic mode in its polychromatic brickwork. St. Patrick's Catholic Church at 201 N. Maple Avenue in Green Bay also displays a polychrome brick exterior and slender massing, however, the front entrance has been altered by a mid-century masonry addition. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery differs from these examples because of its monochromatic rough-face limestone cladding and lack of High Victorian Gothic design aesthetic.

Most similar in interpretation to St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is Christ Episcopal Church, built in 1899 at 425 Cherry Street (NRHP #12000852) in Green Bay. Christ Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register in 2012 for its Gothic Revival style and its example of a large, intact church complex including a rectory, school, and parish hall. Both the Christ Episcopal Church and St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery display a departure from the High Victorian Gothic through their use of heavy stone cladding, while still retaining Gothic Revival architectural details such as pointed arches and buttresses. Christ Episcopal Church's massing is informed by its cruciform plan, and its primary façade is identified by its off-centered square tower. In contrast, St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery's primary church block façade has a centered steeple tower with a dramatic octagonal spire; this soaring element is contrasted with the heavy entrance door surround featuring an over-sized pointed-arch lintel within a triangular pediment supported by truncated columns. The interplay of the gravity-defying elements of the Gothic Revival style with the monumental proportions of its Richardsonian Romanesque qualities makes the building a particularly distinct architectural example in Green Bay. Furthermore, the attached monastery block of the building, and the building's lack of later

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major exterior additions, provides a unique example of an unaltered church-monastery complex in Green Bay. Later churches in Green Bay that display the trend towards a more simplified Neo-Gothic Revival style are the Church of the Annunciation at 325-329 Gray Street, and Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church at 901 Shawano Avenue, built in 1932 and 1938 respectively. The simpler ornamentation of these 1930s-era examples are also likely reflective of the congregation's financial limitations and the economic market.

Other non-religious buildings constructed in Green Bay in a Gothic Revival style include the Albert Platten Wholesale Produce, a retail building at 406-408 Dousman Street (NRHP #99000330) that is a much earlier Gothic Revival style building, constructed in 1873. The Press-Gazette Building at 435 E. Walnut St (AHI #2221) was built in 1924 in a Neo-Gothic style with carved-stone ornament cladding its steel frame construction. These buildings share common design elements in ornament, despite their differing functions and approach to Gothic Revival style.

### **Architect**

#### *William E. Reynolds*

Architect William E. Reynolds had a prolific career designing buildings in Green Bay. Despite his broad physical impact on the city, little is known about the architect. He was born in New York state ca. 1857 to Irish parents.<sup>66</sup> He is first listed in the Green Bay City Directory as an architect in 1896-97.<sup>67</sup> He conducted his business either out of his home, located at 627 Walnut Street, or from a building next door throughout the span of his career.<sup>68</sup> First this neighboring office space was at 113 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street and then 109 and 113 S. Roosevelt Street after 1911. St. Mary of the Angels, arguably his best-known work, is located nearby the latter of his office spaces.<sup>69</sup> According to city records, he also worked out of an office on Webster Street as early as 1898. He died in 1933; his funeral services were held at St. Mary of the Angels.<sup>70</sup> Primarily an architect of ecclesiastical buildings and schools, his other works include Grace Presbyterian Church in Green Bay (extant), St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in De Pere (NRHP #10001658; extant), and Holy Cross Church and Convent in Green Bay (NRHP # 01000685; extant). He had an ongoing relationship with the Catholic St. Norbert College in De Pere, where he designed a number of campus buildings between 1903 and 1930. Reynolds' work also extends to Michigan where he designed the Holy Family Orphanage in Marquette (extant).

### **Conclusion**

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<sup>66</sup>National Register of Historic Places, Hotel Northland, Brown County, Green Bay, Wisconsin, National Register #13000860.

<sup>67</sup> "Green Bay Intensive Resource Survey," page 190.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> "W.E. Reynolds Rites are Held This Morning," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, June 5, 1933, page 7.

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St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is locally significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture, as an excellent and distinct example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture designed by prominent local architect, William E. Reynolds. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery represents a distinct interpretation of the Gothic Revival style through its incorporation of soaring Gothic motifs within a simplified, heavy composition with monumental entryways and rough-hewn stone walls. The Gothic Revival style is reflected in the building's series of tall, narrow pointed-arch windows; pointed-arch dormers, coves, and entrances; stained-glass windows with tracery and smaller art-glass windows, tall battered buttresses, steeply-pitched roof lines, and monumental steeple with octagonal spire and triangular helms with stone crosses. The building's Richardsonian Romanesque influences are seen in its monochromatic rough-face limestone cladding and its massively-scaled entrance surrounds with squat columns. The design of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery displayed a definitive departure from the elongated, ornamented polychromatic High Victorian Gothic buildings of the previous decade in Green Bay. It highlighted Reynolds' own interpretation of medieval forms, and anticipated the emergence of the Neo-Gothic Revival style in the early-twentieth century. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is highly intact, with very limited alterations to its exterior design; thus, it is also distinct within Green Bay as an example of church and monastery block with high integrity. St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery meets Criterion Consideration A because the building is being nominated under Criterion C for its architectural significance apart from religious belief or doctrine.



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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery is located in Green Bay, Wisconsin on parcel 17-448 which is bounded by South Irwin Avenue on the west, Cass Street on the south, South Baird Street on the east, and the rear lots of private residences on the north.

ASSESSORS PLAT OF ASTOR S 85 FT OF LOTS 12 & 13 & ALL OF LOTS 14 -15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23 -24-25 & 26 BLK 131.

**Boundary Justification:**

The nomination boundaries encompass the parcel of land historically associated with St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Photo Log**

<b>Name of Property:</b>	<u>St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery</u>		
<b>City or Vicinity:</b>	<u>Green Bay</u>		
<b>County:</b>	<u>Brown</u>	<b>State:</b>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<b>Photographer:</b>	<u>John Cramer</u>		
<b>Date Photographed:</b>	<u>January and May 2017</u>		
<b>Location of Original Digital Files:</b>	<u>State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI</u>		

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 32:** West elevation of the church— looking east.
- Photo 2 of 32:** Tower detail, west elevation of the church— looking east.
- Photo 3 of 32:** Detail of church entrance, west elevation—looking northeast.
- Photo 4 of 32:** West and south elevations of the church—looking northeast.
- Photo 5 of 32:** Detail of church entrance, south elevation—looking northwest.
- Photo 6 of 32:** South and east elevations of the church—looking northwest.
- Photo 7 of 32:** East elevation of the church—looking northwest.
- Photo 8 of 32:** East elevation of the monastery—looking southwest.
- Photo 9 of 32:** West elevation of the monastery—looking east.
- Photo 10 of 32:** Historic Monastery entrance detail, west elevation—looking northeast.
- Photo 11 of 32:** Modern monastery entrance detail, west elevation—looking east.
- Photo 12 of 32:** West and north elevations of the church and monastery—looking southeast.
- Photo 13 of 32:** Church narthex--looking west.
- Photo 14 of 32:** Church nave--looking east.
- Photo 15 of 32:** Church nave--looking northeast.
- Photo 16 of 32:** Church apse--looking northeast.
- Photo 17 of 32:** Church nave--looking west.
- Photo 18 of 32:** Church Sacristy--looking southwest.
- Photo 19 of 32:** First floor corridor, monastery--looking south.
- Photo 20 of 32:** Typical monastic cell—looking west.
- Photo 21 of 32:** Typical monastic cell--looking east.
- Photo 22 of 32:** Typical monastic cell with plumbing—looking west.
- Photo 23 of 32:** Typical shared lavatory, monastery—looking east.
- Photo 24 of 32:** Monastery, historic stair—looking east.
- Photo 25 of 32:** Second floor corridor, monastery--looking north.

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- Photo 26 of 32:** Library, monastery--looking southeast.  
**Photo 27 of 32:** Monastery stair to attic—looking west.  
**Photo 28 of 32:** Monastery, attic—looking south.  
**Photo 29 of 32:** Monastery attic, window detail—looking northeast.  
**Photo 30 of 32:** Non-historic garage—looking northeast.  
**Photo 31 of 32:** ca. 1930 Hermitage—looking northwest.  
**Photo 32 of 32:** ca. 1930 Shed—looking northwest.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Section Figures Page 1

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Figure 1:** Site map with contributing and non-contributing resources

**Figure 2:** Exterior photo key

**Figure 3:** First floor photo key

**Figure 4:** Second floor photo key

**Figure 5:** 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

**Figure 6:** 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

**Figure 7:** 1970 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

**Figure 8:** St. Mary of the Angels During Construction, 1902

**Figure 9:** Aerial view of St. Mary of the Angels, 1954

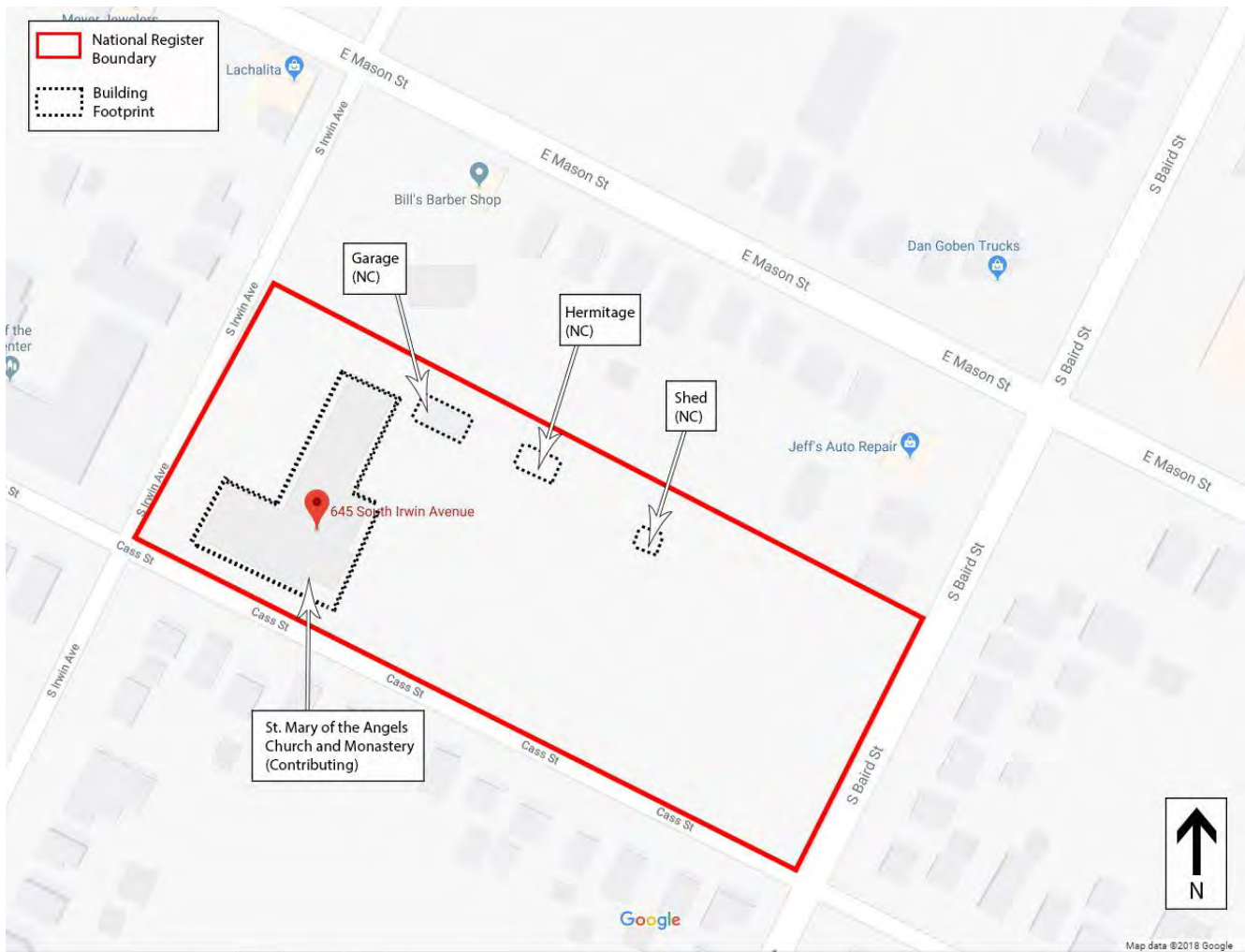
**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section Figures Page 2

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 1:** Site map with contributing and non-contributing resources  
Not to Scale



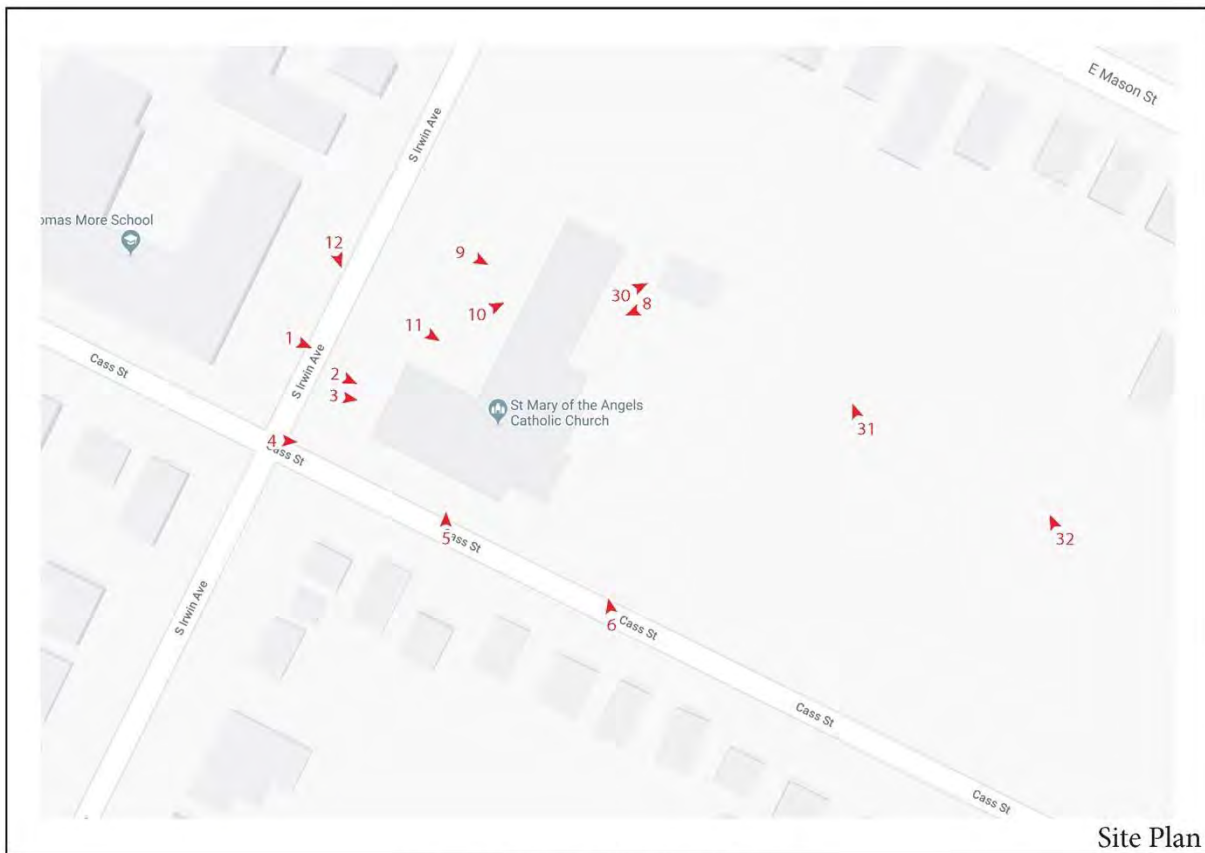
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 3

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 2:** Exterior photo key  
Not to Scale



St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
645 S. Irwin Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

National Park Service  
National Register Photo Key



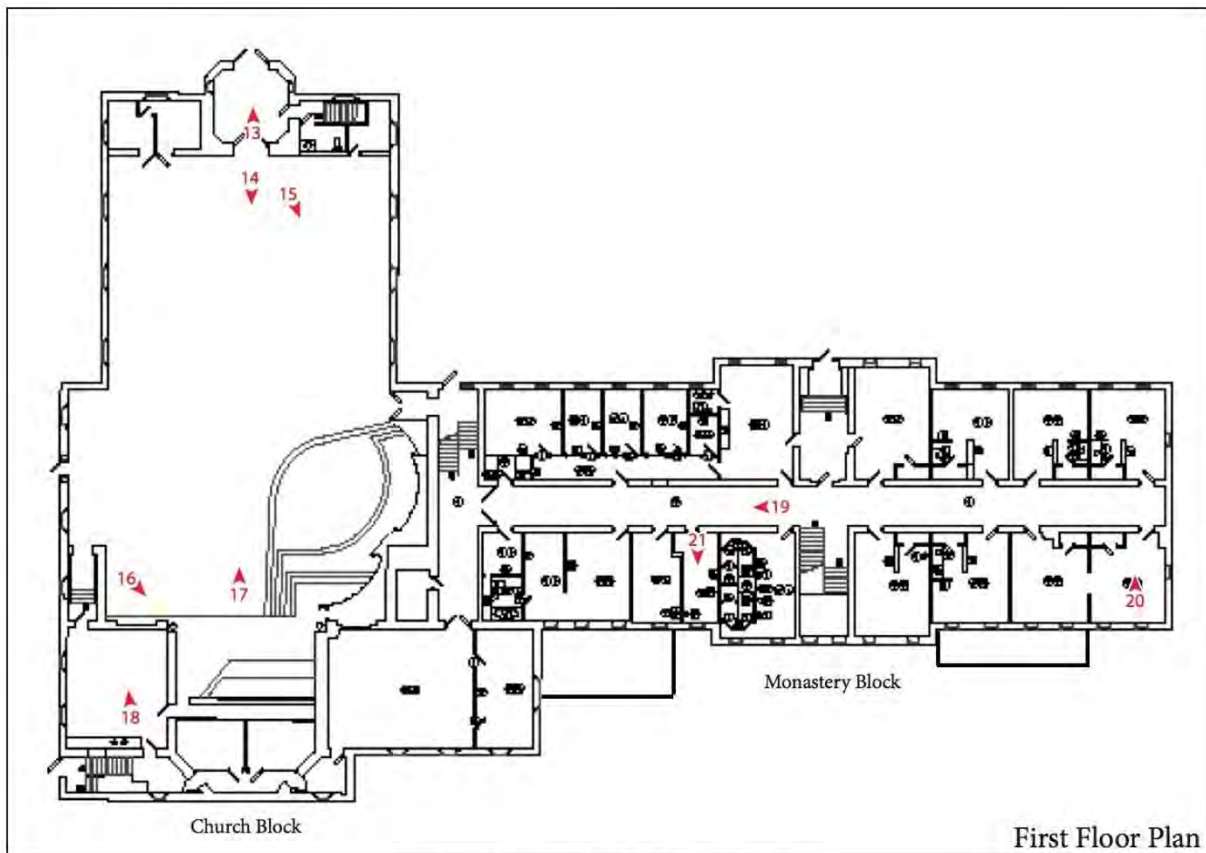
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet


Section Figures Page 4

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 3:** First floor photo key  
Not to Scale



St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
645 S. Irwin Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

National Park Service  
National Register Photo Key 



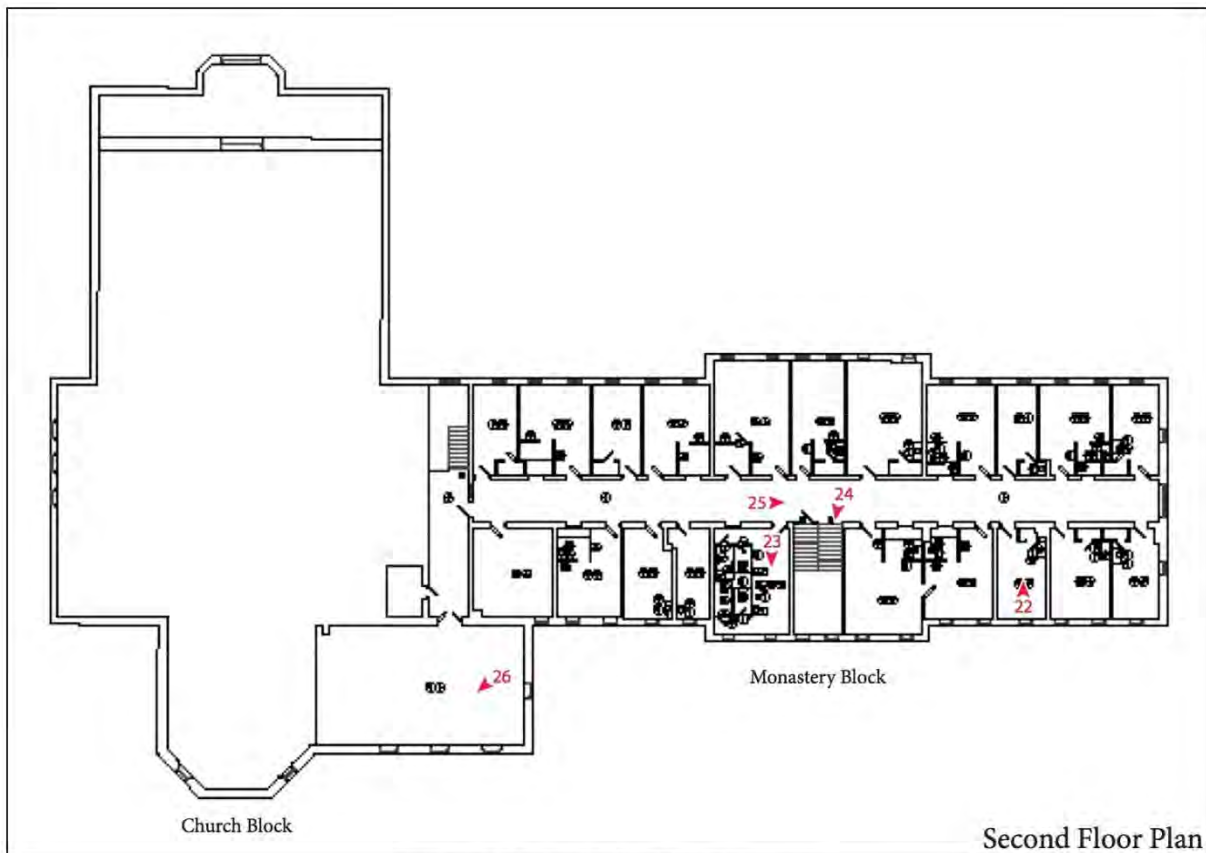
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet


Section Figures Page 5

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 4:** Second floor photo key  
Not to Scale



St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
645 S. Irwin Avenue  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

National Park Service  
National Register Photo Key 

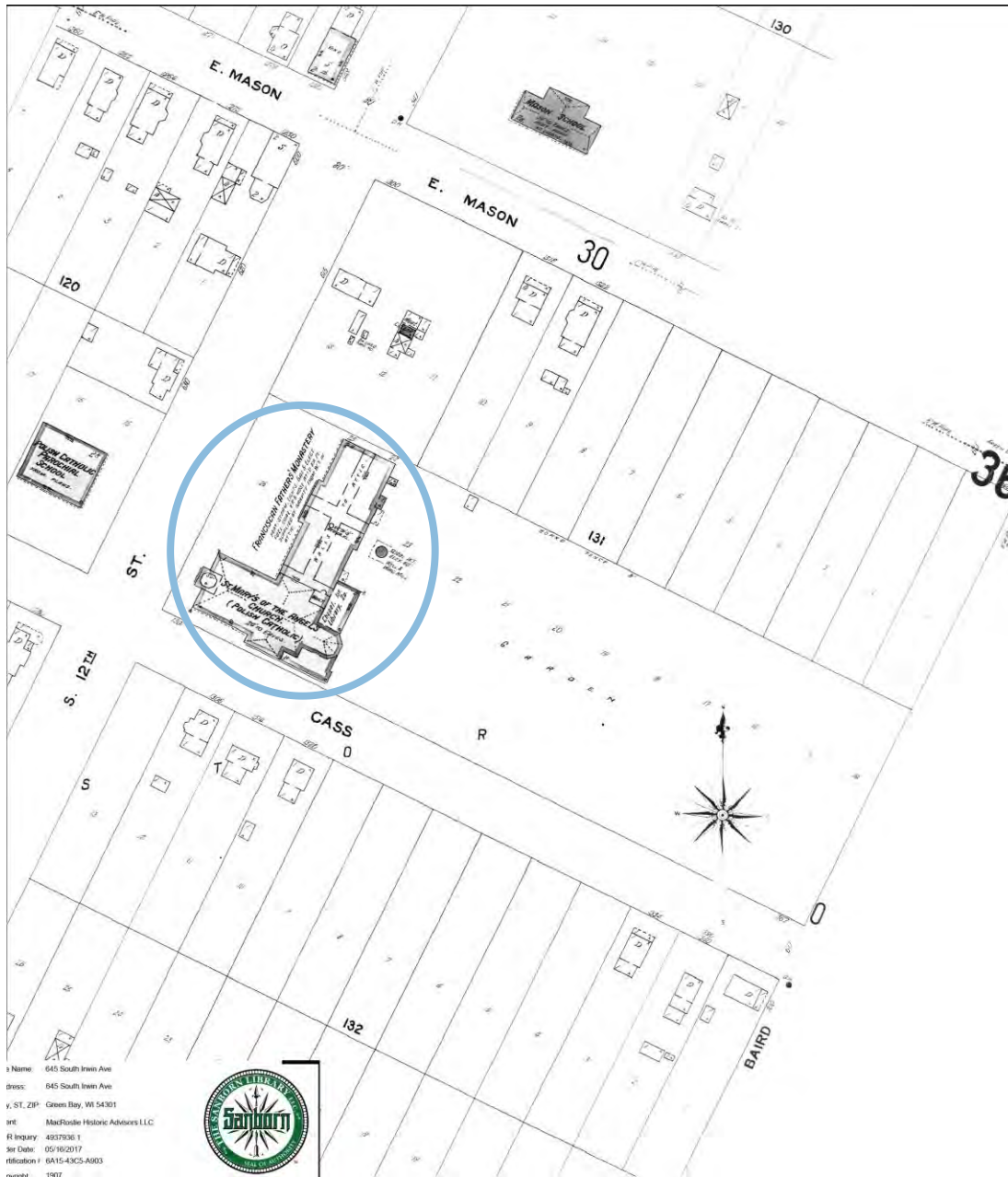
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 6

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 5:** 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing St. Mary of the Angels.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

Section Figures Page 7

**Figure 6:** 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing St. Mary of the Angels.



© Name: 645 South Irwin Ave  
Address: 645 South Irwin Ave  
City, ST, ZIP: Green Bay, WI 54301  
Map Modification: Historic Advisors LLC  
Revision: 4/3/2017  
Serial Date: 05/15/2017  
Publication: RA15-43CS-A003  
Copyright: 1936



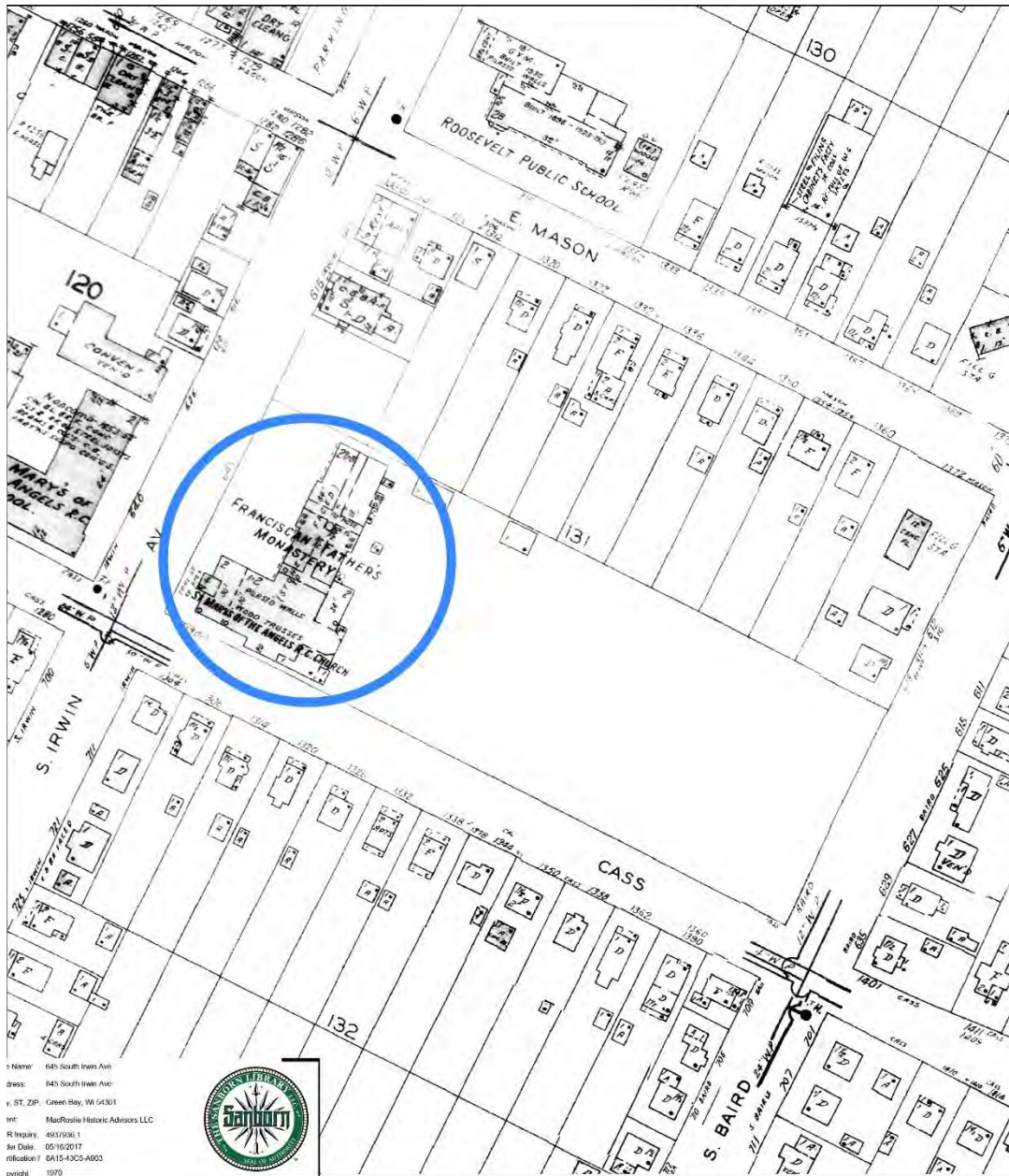
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section Figures Page 8

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

**Figure 7:** 1970 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing St. Mary of the Angels.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 9

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Figure 8:** St. Mary of the Angels During Construction, 1902. *History of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin; 1898-1954.*



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

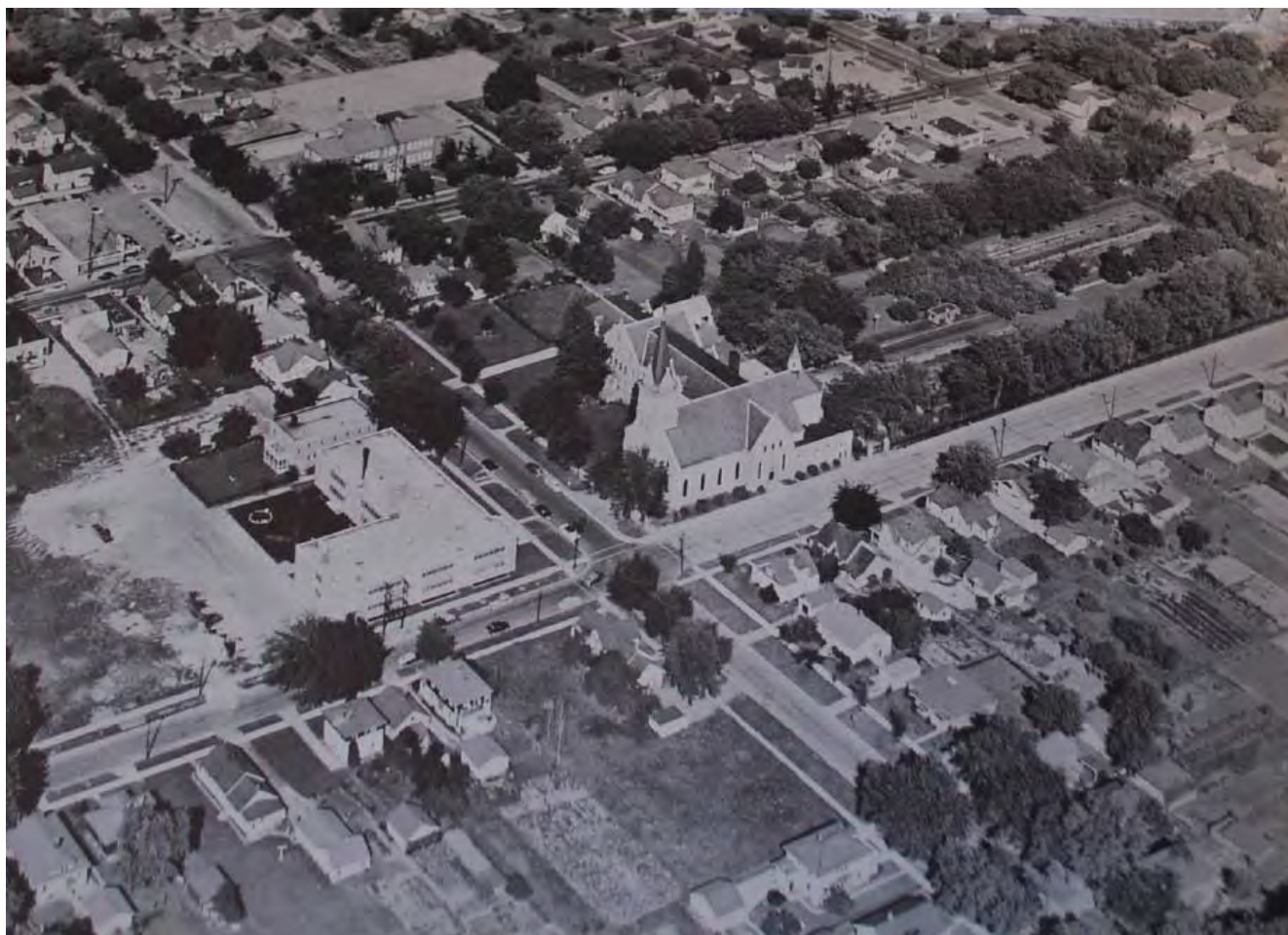
**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

Section Figures Page 10

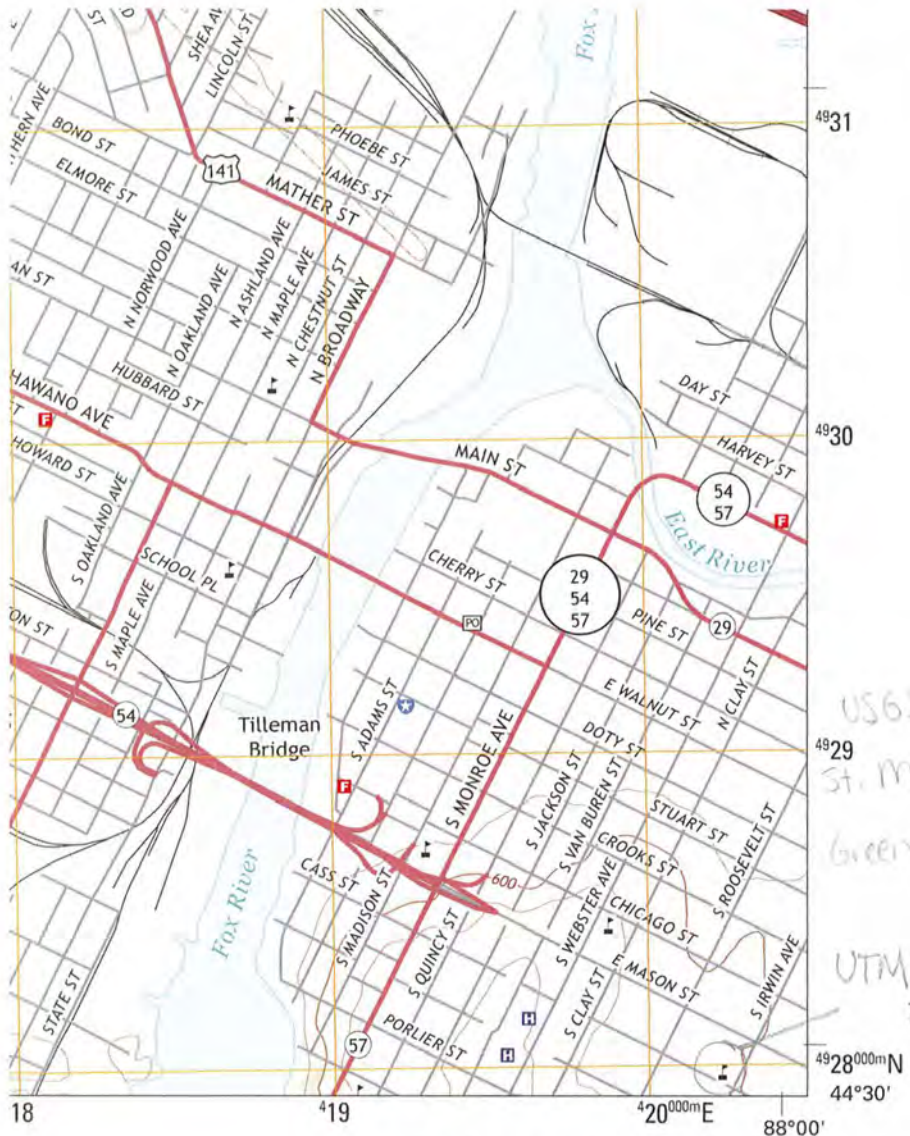
St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery  
Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

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**Figure 9:** Aerial view of St. Mary of the Angels, 1954. *History of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin; 1898-1954.*



\_\_\_ End Figures



USGS Map Topo  
 St. Mary of the Angels Church and  
 Monastery  
 Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin

UTM: 16T 420324.15 492927.26  
 Zone Easting Northing

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Expressway		Local Connector	
Secondary Hwy		Local Road	
Ramp		4WD	
	Interstate Route		US Route
	State Route		State Route



- 1 Pulaski
- 2 Suamico
- 3 Little Tail Point
- 4 Oneida North
- 5 Green Bay East
- 6 Oneida South
- 7 De Pere
- 8 Bellevue

**GREEN BAY WEST, WI**  
 2016

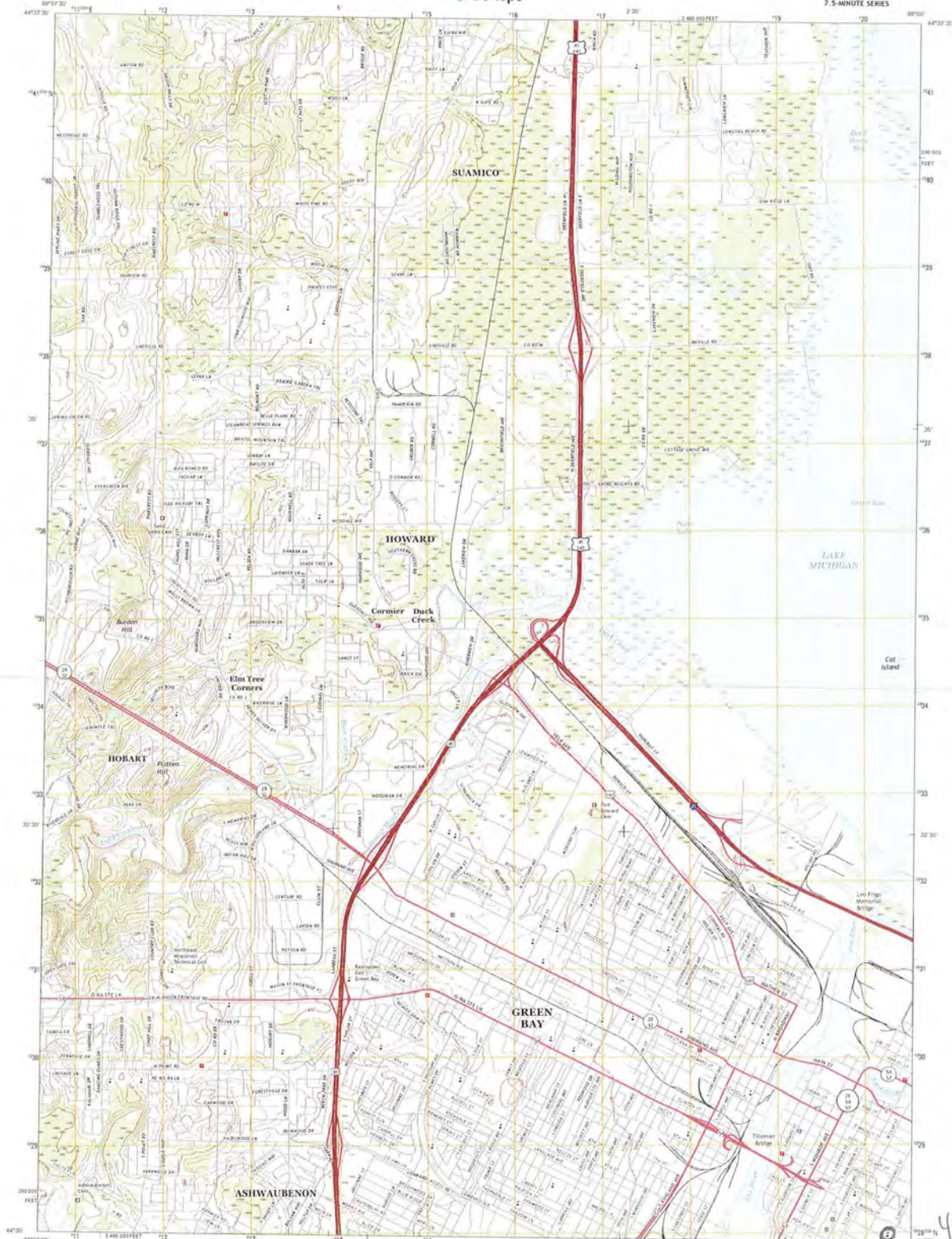
NSN. 7 6 4 3 0 1 6 4 0 3 2 3 7  
 NGA REF NO. USGS X 2 4 K 7 0 2 4 6



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



GREEN BAY WEST QUADRANGLE  
WISCONSIN-BROWN CO.  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
NAD 83 datum (Datum of 1983)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS 84) datum  
1:50,000 scale  
North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)  
This map is not a legal document. Boundary maps for  
surveyed or un-surveyed lands. Private lands with a government  
claim may not be shown. Obtain permission from  
the appropriate authority.

Scale 1:24,000

Scale bar showing 0 to 2000 feet and 0 to 600 meters.

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with the  
National Geographic Program US Topo Product Standards, 2011.  
A metadata file associated with this product is available on the  
USGS website.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
NAD 83 datum (Datum of 1983)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS 84) datum  
1:50,000 scale  
North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)  
This map is not a legal document. Boundary maps for  
surveyed or un-surveyed lands. Private lands with a government  
claim may not be shown. Obtain permission from  
the appropriate authority.

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary	Local Connector
Secondary	Local Road
Interstate	US Route
State	State Road

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

16T  
420324.15 E  
4927927.86 N

GREEN BAY WEST, WI  
2016

St Mary of the Angels  
Church and Monastery  
645 South Irwin Avenue  
Green Bay, Brown County







ECCLESIA B. M.  
ANGEORU.









SPEED  
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15

STOP













































WASHROOM 12

STAIR DOWN

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 2/15/2019      Date of Pending List: 3/7/2019      Date of 16th Day: 3/22/2019      Date of 45th Day: 4/1/2019      Date of Weekly List: 4/5/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      3/28/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary  
Comments:

Recommendation/  
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

# ERIC GENRICH

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



90th Assembly District



November 1, 2018

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board  
% Peggy Veregin  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Veregin,

I am writing to express my support for the addition of St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. St. Mary of the Angels is located at 645 South Irwin Avenue in Green Bay and is a prominent structure in the 90th Assembly District. Completed in 1903, St. Mary of the Angels served as a center for Polish community activities for many years. As you know, the church and attached monastery make quite an impression in the Astor East River Neighborhood and are excellent, well-preserved examples of the High Victorian Gothic Style.

St. Mary of the Angels Church and Monastery deserve the recognition, protection, and remembrance that the official recognition of this historic building would provide. Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Genrich  
State Representative  
90th Assembly District