

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received JUL 12 1984  
date entered AUG 9 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Holy Trinity Catholic Church

and/or common Holy Trinity Catholic Church

**2. Location**

street & number Rollingstone Road <sup>and MAP 25</sup> & State Highway 25 N/A not for publication

city, town Rollingstone N/A vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Winona code 169

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Church of The Holy Trinity

street & number none

city, town Rollingstone N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winona County Courthouse - Recorder's Office

street & number West 3rd Street

city, town Winona state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church is located in the small community of Rollingstone, Minnesota. The Gothic Revival style church was constructed in 1869 by the parish, under the direction of Charles Wender. The one storey structure is built of rough-cut limestone and measures 35 X 60 feet. Entry into the church is through the bell tower, which is capped by a wooden belfrey. Narrow lancet windows are filled with art glass set into wooden frames.

In 1893, the original rectangular plan was enlarged by the addition of a 35 X 60 foot transept and a 24 X 35 foot chancel, creating a new cruciform plan. The addition was also constructed by parish members, under the direction of a local carpenter, Nicholas Arnoldy. The newer portion is well integrated with the original through the use of identical limestone and grouting for surface materials, and the continued use of the lancet arch.

The interior has been greatly altered over the years, most recently when the congregation prepared to celebrate the church's 100th Anniversary in 1969. Consequently, little of the original interior fabric remains.

Alterations to the church's exterior include replacement of the original main entry doors and the addition of hipped roof porticos over the two transept entries. Exterior wall surfaces were tuckpointed and sandblasted during the 1969 renovation. A plate in the 1874 Andreas Atlas suggests some minor alterations may have been made to the wooden belfrey, but this has not been documented.

The church is in excellent condition and stands on its original site.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1869, 1893

**Builder/Architect** Charles Wender, 1869 church

Nicholas Arnoldy, 1893 addition

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church is significant for its distinctive Gothic Revival architectural style and for its importance as the pivotal element in the Rollingstone community. In 1855, the first German settlers from Luxembourg arrived in the rolling hills of Winona County. Bringing with them their strong Catholic religious heritage, the immigrants had, by 1861, established a cemetery and built a church. The community continued to grow and prosper under the agriculture skills of the Luxembourgers and, in 1869, through a community effort, the parishioners replaced the earlier frame building with a more substantial stone church. Two decades later, the church was enlarged, more than doubling its original seating capacity. In both instances it was the parishioners who provided the labor and financial aid, thereby, reinforcing their commitment, through both symbol and substantiate form, to their religious faith. Along with their faith, the Luxembourgers undoubtedly brought with them vestiges of their architectural heritage. The design for their church expresses its architectural style in its physical proportions, gable roof and lancet windows. Its siting, nestled as it is among the rolling hills, presents a particularly picturesque visual image.

In addition to religion, Holy Trinity Church formed the cornerstone for the establishment of a social as well as an academic community. A grade school was built in 1886 and enlarged in 1894. The school provided religious education to surrounding areas as well as its own. In 1921, a new grade school and the community's first high school were built. The old grade school (razed) was converted to a boarding facility which housed as many as 25 girls who attended the high school from outside the area. The school continued to serve in a parochial capacity until financial problems forced it to convert to a public format in the late 1960s. A residence for the teaching nuns, which still serves as a church-centered community center, was also built, along with three rectories, the last and present one constructed in 1922. Again, it was the small community which provided the necessary support. Undoubtedly, the homogeneous composition of this small community has contributed to its social, religious, and academic cohesiveness. The essence of that cohesiveness is Rollingstone's centerpiece-- Holy Trinity Church.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Holy Trinity Church to note 100th Anniversary," Winona Daily News, Nov. 23, 1964.  
Nilles, Mary E. Rollingstone: A Luxembourgish Village in Minnesota. Italy:  
Guy Dinsfeld Lito Terrazzi of Florence, 1983.  
Telephone interview with Myrton Stoos, February 18, 1984.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Rollingstone

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	5	9	4	1	2	1	0	4	8	3	2	2	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						

B. 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 1

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

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

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date February 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South

telephone 612/338-6123

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Russell W. Fridley*  
date 6/28/84

title Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

### For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

8-9-84

*Neilson Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Rollingsstone, Winona County, MN

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal boundary description

Commencing at the center of the intersection of State Highway 25 and Rollingsstone Road; thence westerly along the northerly edge of said Rollingsstone Road approximately 200 feet to the true point of beginning of parcel described herein; thence northwesterly 200 feet; thence easterly 200 feet; thence southerly approximately 200 feet to the northerly edge of Rollingsstone Road; thence easterly 200 feet along northerly edge of Rollingsstone Road to point of beginning.