

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

MAY 1-2 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Island Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *SE of Waterloo at*
Junction of Blue Joint Road and Island Road

CITY OR TOWN: Waterloo vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9th

STATE: Wisconsin

CODE: 55

COUNTY: Jefferson 53549

CODE: 055

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not in regular use.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Occasional religious use.			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

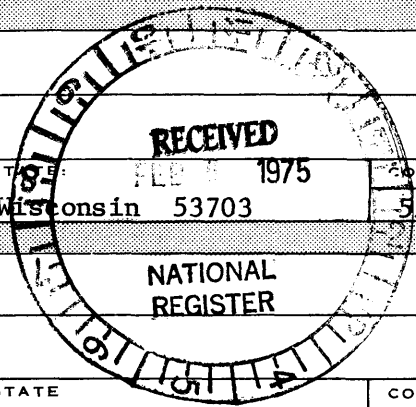
OWNER'S NAME: Diocese of Madison

STREET AND NUMBER: 15 East Wilson Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison

STATE: Wisconsin

CODE: 55



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson

STATE: Wisconsin

CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969-74

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison

STATE: Wisconsin

CODE: 55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAY 1 9 1975

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Jefferson
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built about 1863, the Island Church is very small, only thirty-two feet, two inches in length and twenty-four feet in width. Perrin describes it as follows:

...the walls of this church are solid tamarack log construction. The outside surfaces were sheathed with vertical boards and battens, but it is questionable whether this was the original treatment. It is much more probable that the log walls remained exposed until about 1870, when log buildings generally were being covered with boards and battens or clapboards for reasons of weatherproofing and the elimination of continuing maintenance which the chinking of logwork imposed. The inside of St. Wenceslaus Church is extremely plain, with a half inch of lime plaster trowelled directly to the logs and left in its original off-white color. Original, unpainted pine pews [handmade by John Fiedler] are still in place. The pew ends were cut out to an unusual profile, and all the woodwork has mellowed to the honey color which is characteristic of white pine upon prolonged exposure. A small iron stove with an extended stovepipe stands in the aisle exactly where it stood over a hundred years ago. The altar is enamelled white and bears a Greek cross on its frontal panel. Over the tabernacle, and tight against the ceiling, is a polychrome picture of [St. Wenceslaus, patron of Bohemia] flanked by the Blessed Virgin [and] St. Joseph. The stations of the cross in the form of framed pictures were also placed very close to the ceiling...and under each station is a simple L-shaped wrought iron candleholder, driven into the log wall. Light from these candles, the six altar candles and from two oil lanterns on standards, were the sole source of illumination other than the four small windows.¹

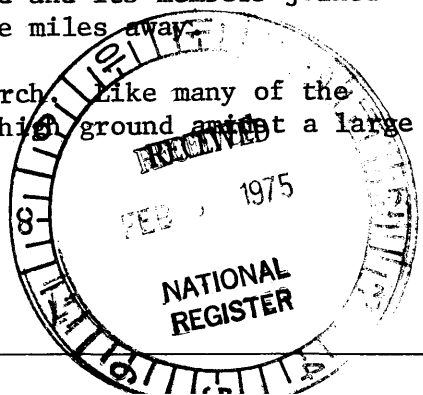
The windows, two on each side of the church, are kept closed with vertical board shutters.

There is a small vestibule at the front, and a slightly inset two-stage belfrey which is clapboarded. The original bell still hangs in the second stage and the four openings around it are louvered. Atop the second stage is a small, wood-shingled spire surmounted by a slender metal cross. The churchyard and the small cemetery at the rear of the church are well-maintained, though the church has not been in regular use since 1891 when the church was closed and its members joined St. Joseph's congregation in Waterloo, about five miles away.

The church has long been known as the Island Church. Like many of the farms around it, it is situated on an island of high ground amidst a large marshy area known as Blue Joint Marsh.

1. Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 124.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1863

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Ethnic history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Island Church strikes Perrin as "Very Eastern in feeling, and bearing some resemblance to primitive Slavic churches of log and timber construction." In addition, he states that the placement of the pictures of the Bohemian patron St. Wenceslaus, of Joseph and Mary, and of the stations of the cross close to the ceiling is also "a typically Slavic treatment."

The people who built and made up the congregation of St. Wenceslaus Church came to the Town of Waterloo in the mid-1840's and early 1850's. Some were from Germany but many came from the old Austro-Hungarian province of Bohemia, now a part of Czechoslovakia. The latter, for the most part, came from four tiny villages, all within walking distance of each other. They bought land on the "islands"--the high ground--in the Blue Joint Marsh and there established their farms and their small church.¹

The church's regular use did not extend over a long period of time because it never had a resident pastor. It was served by priests and missionaries from both Milwaukee and Jefferson and later by the resident pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Waterloo. It has long had the sobriquet of "Island Church." Father Ivo, a Capuchin missionary from Milwaukee baptized eight children there in 1872 and recorded that the church was known "locally as Island." Father Huber, of Waterloo, who also served the church recorded in 1877 before returning to his native Baden for a visit, "Closed the church of St. Wenceslaus (Island)." Regular use was discontinued in 1891.²

"The credit for preserving the church goes largely to two men who unselfishly devoted themselves to its care for many years. Henry Bartosch maintained the building and carefully mowed the churchyard...[and] is credited with saving the church from being destroyed. Some years ago, a few of the local Catholics felt that the church was on the verge of collapse and should be wrecked before a serious accident should occur. Mr. Bartosch carefully checked the foundation and the logs under the floor. He found the church perfectly sound and solid, with no sign of decay or damage to its timbers."³ Now the people of the area take pride in the church and churchyard, keep the church painted, the grounds well mowed, and the cemetery well maintained. The church's ownership has reverted to the Diocese of Madison and the building and grounds are under the protection of St. Joseph's Church in Waterloo. In recent years it has been opened on occasion for burials of old residents of the vicinity and there

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perrin, Richard W.E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture (Milwaukee, 1960), 14.
 Perrin, Richard W.E., The Architecture of Wisconsin (Madison, 1967), 124-125.
 Schultz, Helen A., "The Island Church--St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church,"
 research report prepared for Wisconsin Registered Landmark nomination,
 (Jefferson, Wis., 1970).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

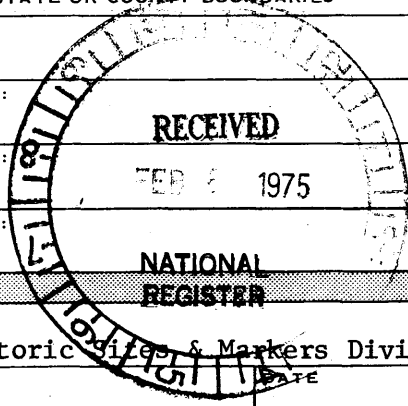
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

U.T.M. Zone 16
 343,820 E.
 4,780,290 N

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division
 ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 12 December 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local

Name: James Morton Smith
 Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Date: Jan. 27, 1975

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/12/75
 ATTEST: Ronald M. Greenberg
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 5/19/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
12	MAY 12 1975

(Number all entries)

THE ISLAND CHURCH

8. has been an anniversary Mass on the Sunday nearest to September 28, the feast day of the church's patron, St. Wenceslaus. On that occasion in 1968, 110 people crowded into the tiny church, and a crowd of similar size attended the following year. In 1970, the Island Church was designated a Wisconsin Registered Landmark.

1. Schultz, 1
2. Ibid., 2-3
3. Ibid., 4-5

