NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) 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 paperties 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.

RECEIVED.

OMB No. 10024-0018

1. Name of Property
historic name Kinnickinnic Church
other names/site number N/A
other names/site number N/A
2. Location
street & number Highway J at juncture of HWY JJ N/A not for publication
city or town Town of Kinnickinnic N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county St. Croix code 109 zip code 54022
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
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 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

Kinnickinnic Church		St. Croix	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and State	
4. National Park Service	e Certification	· · · · ·	
I hereby certify that the property is: Yentered 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:)	Essa 	H. Beall	10/6/00
	Signature of the	ne Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	U		
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property not p listing. N/A		1 buil	ed resources tributing dings s ctures ects
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction RELIGION/religious facility	ctions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RECREATION AND CULTURE/ auditorium	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruc Greek Revival	ctions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) Foundation Limestone walls Weatherboard	

Asphalt

Wood

roof other

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

Name of Property

County and State

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.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture		
Α	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.	Period of Significance		
<u>X</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	1868		
	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.	Significant Dates		
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	_		
÷ .	information important in prehistory or history.	1868		
	ria Considerations			
(Mari	x "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person		
Prope	erty is:	(Complete if Criterion B is marked)		
V A	armad by a collisions institution on	N/A		
ΔA	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A		
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
С	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Alimation		
		N/A		
D	a cemetery.			
E	a reconstructed building, object, or			
	structure.			
		Architect/Builder		

Mr. Kimball

Narrative Statement of Significance

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

F a commemorative property.

(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:

X State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local government University Other

Name of repository:

Northing

10.	Geogra	phical Data	·				• ,	
Acre	age of Pr	coperty 1.27 acres	·					
UTN	A Referen	nces (Place additiona	al UTM references on a cor	ntinuation s	heet.)			
1	15	5/3/6/0/2/0	4/9/7/3/2/4/0	3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	_	Zone	Easting	Northing	······································

Zone

Easting 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)

Northing

11. Form Prepared By

2

Zone

Easting

name/title	John R. Thurston, Ph.D.				
organization	Kinnickinnic Historical Associa	tion (KHA)		date	December 20, 1999
street & number	3752 Cummings Street			telephone	(715).832-0034
city or town	Eau Claire	state	WI	zip code	54701

Wisconsin St. Croix Kinnickinnic Church

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.)

name/title	Amy Thurston, President				
organization	Kinnickinnic Historical Assocaition		date	December 1999	
street&number	414 Merchak Circle North			telephone	(715) 386-8379
city or town	Hudson	state	WI	zip code	54016

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.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1	Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County,
	Wisconsin

7. Description

The Kinnickinnic Church is located on a 1.2678 acre lot in the rural heartland of the Kinnickinnic River Valley, with its entrance facing CTH J to the south. The surrounding landscape consists of rolling farmlands punctuated by wood fencing and deciduous trees. The residence of the de facto caretaker is located next to the church lot and the new Kinnickinnic Township Hall is located approximately 0.25 miles southwest on CTH J. Large oak and poplar trees frame the property on the north, east and west sides. A fence rings the property on all sides, and a hinged metal gate provides access to the property's southern facade.

Oriented on a north/south axis, this single story rectangular church is a front-gabled structure with a small entrance pavilion located on its south facade. The church was completed in 1868 and is a fine example of carpenter-built Neoclassical architecture. Greek Revival details consistent with the 1830 to 1870 period include its regular massing, pedimental gables, Doric pilasters, and cornice returns. Doric pilasters frame the lower two sections of the three-staged steeple, with the second section functioning as an open belfry. The original wooden spire has been lost. It was replaced by a Gothic Revival elongated pyramid framed by spiky corner finials. Fenestration is symmetrical with three evenly spaced, 9/9-light windows on the east and west sides, and flanking the entrance pavilion on the south side. The most ornate window is located in the center of the pavilion, and consists of two paired 8-light windows topped by a lunette-shaped window comprised of 10 pointed lights. The latter provides a Gothic Revival element to an otherwise Greek Revival configuration. Many of the building's original casements and window lights were replaced in 1972 and the structure's original wooden shutters have been lost. The rear elevation is a blank wall.

The church is raised on a limestone and mortar foundation, is sheathed with clapboard, and is roofed with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney originally projected on the roofline, but it was removed when the structure was reshingled in 1987. The entrance pavilion originally provided access through two transomed doors, one located on its east and one located on its west facade. The original wooden stair leading to these access points has been lost, as has the wooden cantilevered walkway that projected off of the pavilion. A single wooden stairway with a handrail now occupies the pavilion's east facade. The pavilion's west door has been locked shut.

The interior has largely been unaltered and consists of three chambers: the entrance pavilion, an anteroom, and the sanctuary. The latter two are conjoined by two doors, as well as by windows with

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section _7 Page ___2

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

louvers. The sanctuary space has plastered walls and a non-structural vaulted ceiling. The original eight rows of pews are divided by two aisles that provide access to the seating and to the raised platform along the structure's north side. The central aisle of pews are divided by a wooden barrier, prescribing to the conservative tradition of segregating the men and women during worship. A Victorian-style lectern and ministers' chairs occupy the space's raised wooden platform. Both of the church's original cast-iron heating stoves are extant – one located in the anteroom, the other in the main congregational space – although the extensive piping that led from the anteroom stove to the north-end chimney has been removed. The church retains its original wainscoting and kerosene-burning chandeliers with glass globes. The alterations have been minimal and mostly reversible. The alterations do not diminish the architectural integrity of this Greek Revival Church.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	_8_	Page	1_
---------	-----	------	----

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

The Kinnickinnic Church fulfills requirements for eligibility under National Register Criterion C. This Greek Revival church retains its architectural integrity and presents a very fine characteristic example of period detailing and materials (date of completion, 1868). It exemplifies society's interest in vernacular Neoclassicism combined with Victorian-isms, which permeated much of St. Croix County's architecture in the late 1850s and 1860s.¹

Historical Background

St. Croix County was founded January 9, 1840, when the territorial legislature set off what had been a large portion of Crawford County. The land had been acquired in 1837, when the Chippewa Indians surrendered claims to the territory between the Chippewa and Mississippi rivers. This treaty resulted in significant population growth, and the county was again divided in 1845 and then in 1853, when it attained its current size. Early settlers were primarily engaged in farming and lumbering activities, with the first sawmill established along the St. Croix in 1839 and lumber production reaching its peak by the 1870s.

Denominations associated with the earlier settlement of New England - Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Methodists – promoted widespread missionary activities in Wisconsin; by 1851, the American Home Missionary Society had established some 121 missionaries in the fledgling state. These itinerant preachers often brought with them architectural pattern books that were greatly influenced by New England's meetinghouses and churches, such as those created by the immigrant architect Richard

¹Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America: Being an Account of Important Trends in American Architecture Prior to the War between the States (London: Oxford UP, 1944), 311.

² Harold Weatherhead, "The Growth of St. Croix County." Chap. In Willis H. Miller, *Historic Hudson*, 1840-1940 (Hudson, Wisconsin: Star-Observer, July 1940), 10-12.

³ Harold Weatherhead, "Lumbering on the St. Croix River." Chap. In Willis H. Miller, *Historic Hudson*, 1840-1940 (Hudson, Wisconsin: Star-Observer, July 1940), 17-18.

⁴John von Rohr, *The Shaping of American Congregationalism*, 1620-1957 (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1992), 269.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2 Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

Upjohn.⁵ In general, such designs exhibited the growing trend in mid-nineteenth century Protestantism for personalized preaching, which necessitated an auditorium-like space with a raised platform opposite the entrance and a small lectern-like pulpit for the preacher.⁶ This form of church architecture – largely constructed cheaply of wood by local carpenters and primarily conceived in a very austere Greek Revival mode – proliferated in the prairie states by the 1830s.

The Kinnickinnic Church was established by the Methodists in 1868 and dedicated in December of the same year. It was built by a Mr. Kimball for \$2000 on land donated by Mr Perrin. It originally functioned as a union church, shared by local Methodists and the Congregationalists, who, prior to that date, had been convening in nearby schoolhouses. Each denomination used the church on alternate Sundays, until about 1897, when the Congregationalists purchased the building for \$300.⁷

Between the approximate years 1868 and 1875, the structure became associated with the life of Edgar Wilson ["Bill"] Nye, who worked along with his brother as the church's janitor. According to his autobiography, which was published posthumously, Nye utilized the church as an auditorium space where he could "practice his oratory." Years later he returned to the Kinnickinnic River Valley on a fishing foray, which prompted his humorous essay, "Time's Changing."

Bill Nye (d.1896) was born in Shirley, Maine on August 25, 1850. When he was two years old, his family moved to the Kinnickinnic River region of western Wisconsin, where they engaged in farming. Nye spent some twenty-three years living in St. Croix County. He was educated at elementary schools in Hudson and River Falls, worked on his family's homestead, and held an odd assortment of local jobs. He spent time working as a janitor at the Kinnickinnic Church, working for a local miller, taught school, and

⁵Peter W. Williams, Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States (Urbana, Illinois: U Illinois P, 1997), 213.

⁶Rohr, 302.

⁷John James Prucha and Norman Arthur Foss, *Kinnickinnic Years* (New York: Arrow, 1993), 90 cites Colton Whitcomb, "Kinnickinnic Church History," *River Falls Journal Centennial Edition* (Aug. 5, 1948), 30.

⁸Edgar Wilson ["Bill"] Nye, Bill Nye, His Own Life Story (New York: Century Company, 1926), n.p.

⁹Edgar Wilson ["Bill"] Nye, *Remarks* (Chicago: A.E. Davis & Co., 1887), 347-349. In the 1890s, the Kinnickinnic River became a very popular trout fishing spot for bon ton urbanites from Minneapolis.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

wrote for local newspapers, including the Hudson Star and the Chippewa Falls Weekly Herald. At age, twenty-five, he moved to Wyoming, where he also worked for daily newspapers and eventually came to practice law. In the mid-1880s and upon advice from his doctor, he returned to Wisconsin, where he began writing plays and participating in national lecture tours.

Nye was a prolific writer, known for his contributions as a humorist, journalist, public lecturer, and book author. He authored or co-authored some 20 books and was a regular on the Chautauqua circuit. During the late nineteenth century, his popularity rivaled that of Mark Twain, perhaps fueled by the daily appearance of his playful use of language and his comic images of the American west. His autobiography, which appeared posthumously in 1926, made special reference to the importance of the Kinnickinnic church, "The Little Methodist Church Where the Nye Boys Were Janitors and Practiced Their Oratory." ¹⁰

Time changed the Kinnickinnic Church's importance to rural Wisconsin life. Over the years, the church sponsored ice cream socials, chicken-pie dinners, and, for a period of time, meetings of the Christian Women's Temperance Union. But by 1951, the Congregationalists no longer used the space for worship and declared the church to be defunct; by 1962, they put it up for sale to an individual who planned to remodel the church into a private home. When news of this potential sale became public, some 50 people gathered to oppose the transaction. They formed a committee devoted to the church's preservation and purchased the building from the Congregationalists. Later in 1962, the Kinnickinnic Historical Association was established in order to maintain and preserve the church and its surrounding grounds. This Association continues its mission to date. Although maintained by the association, the church is seldom used. It is occasionally used for meetings, weddings and ice cream socials which help support the maintenance costs.

Architecture: Criterion C

The clapboard, front-gabled Kinnickinnic Church of St. Croix County displays essential features of the Greek Revival Style and retains its original setting. The main block consists of an oblong rectangular massing and features cornice returns, wooden architrave trim, and Doris corner pilasters. The use of the Doric order is maintained on the entrance pavilion and the two lower sections of the steeple. Eighteenlight windows provide the primary fenestration, except in the center of the entrance pavilion; here, a lunette-shaped window containing intersecting tracery surmounts paired eight-light windows. In addition, the Kinnickinnic Church retains its architectural integrity respective of its original function; interior

¹⁰Edgar Wilson ["Bill"] Nye, Bill Nye, *His Own Life Story* (New York: Century Company, 1926), n.p. Text accompanies a pre-1926 photograph of the church before it was divested of its original steeple and the last of its shutters.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

spaces are unaltered, from the organization of the rooms to the pews and the preacher's oratory platform. Further evidence of the church's original appearance, function, and atmosphere, the original furnishings and fixtures are in situ.

The structure's architectural elements are consistent with the rural Greek Revival style in America, documented in such sources as Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2, Architecture and Americans Interpret the Parthenon, and Greek Revival Architecture in America. Alterations to the exterior and the interior have been minor and insignificant, and are respective of the structure's original function and appearance. Similar Greek Revival structures that have been qualified for National Register Status under Criterion C include the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church in Wabaunsee, Kansas; the First Methodist Church in Taylor's Falls, Minnesota; and the Shopiere Congregational Church in Wisconsin. A local examples of the Greek Revival are also found throughout St Croix County. A large number of houses in the style may be found in the city of Hudson. However, few examples of non-residential, Greek Revival style buildings are identified in the county's architectural inventory. The First Baptist Church in Hudson contains elements of the style; however, this church has many elements of the Italianate in its design. The former Harris Hotel, also in Hudson, is a more pure interpretation of the style. However, the function of the building is very different than the subject of this nomination.

Summary

St. Croix County's Kinnickinnic Church is a fine local example of Greek Revival church architecture. Because of its high degree of architectural integrity and because intact examples of pioneer architecture in rural Wisconsin are becoming increasingly rare, it seems a logical conclusion that the Kinnickinnic Church gains recognition for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

¹¹Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2, Architecture, 2-3; Robert K. Sutton, Americans Interpret the Parthenon: The Progression of Greek Revival Architecture from the East Coast to Oregon, 1800-1860 (Niwot, Colorado: U Colorado P, 1992), 75; and Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America.

¹²Marilyn J. Chiat, *America's Religious Architecture: Sacred Places for Every Community* (New York: Preservation Press, 1997), 171.

David Gebhard and Tom Martinson, A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota (Minneapolis: U Minnesota P, 1977), 148.

¹⁴Richard W.E. Perrin, *Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey of Pioneer Architecture 1835-70*, 2nd rev. ed. (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1981), 107.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section g Page 5

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A

While the Kinnickinnic Church was historically owned by a religious institution and used for religious purposes, the building's significance is in the area of architecture, as a fine example of a Greek Revival, rural church.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

9. Bibliographical References

Chiat, Marilyn. America's Religious Architecture: Sacred Places for Every Community (New York: Preservation Press, 1997).

Gale, Steven H. "Nye, Bill." Encyclopedia of American Humorists (New York: Garland, 1988).

Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota (Minneapolis: U Minnesota P, 1977).

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America: Being an Account of Important Trends in American Architecture Prior to the War between the States (London: Oxford UP, 1944).

Miller, Willis H. Historic Hudson, 1840-1940 (Hudson, Wisconsin: Star-Observer, July 1940).

Nye, Edgar Wilson [Bill]. Bill Nye, His Own Life Story (New York: Century Company, 1926).

. Remarks (Chicago: A.E. Davis & Company, 1887).

Perrin, Richard W.E. Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey of Pioneer Architecture 1835-70, 2nd rev. ed. (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1981), 107.

Prucha, John James and Norman Arthur Foss. Kinnickinnic Years (New York: Arrow, 1993).

Sutton, Robert K. Americans Interpret the Parthenon: The Progression of Greek Revival Architecture from the East Coast to Oregon, 1800-1860 (Niwot, Colorado: U Colorado P, 1992).

Von Rohr, John. The Shaping of American Congregationalism, 1620-1957 (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1992).

Weatherhead, Harold. "The Growth of St. Croix County." Chap. In Willis H. Miller, *Historic Hudson*, 1840-1940 (Hudson, Wisconsin: Star-Observer, July 1940).

_____. "Lumbering on the St. Croix River." Chap. In Willis H. Miller, *Historic Hudson*, 1840-1940 (Hudson, Wisconsin: Star-Observer, July 1940).

Williams, Peter W. Houses of God: Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States (Urbana, Illinois: U Illinois P, 1997).

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Vol 2, Architecture (Madison, Wisconsin: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos 1

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

Photo list

All pictures were taken by the same photographer on the same date. All negatives are located in the same place.

- 1. Kinnickinnic Church
- 2. St. Croix County (109), Wisconsin (WI)
- 3. Patti Stangel, Photographer
- 4. Date of photographs: August 1, 1999
- 5. Location of original negatives: Patti's Photography, Patti Stangel, 3511 East Hamilton Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, closer view of stairs and porch entrance) View to the Northwest Photo #1 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, frontal view) View to the North Photo #2 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, rear view) View to the Southeast Photo #3 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, closer view of stairs and porch entrance) View to the Northwest Photo #4 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, view of inner entrance to church and porch windows) View to the South Photo #5 of 9

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos 2

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, interior, pews, and pulpit) View to the Northeast Photo #6 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, interior, pews, and pulpit) View to the North Photo #7 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, closeup of pulpit) View to the Northeast Photo #8 of 9

Kinnickinnic Church (Church, closeup of organ) View to the North Photo #9 of 9

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Kinnickinnic Church, Kinnickinnic Township, St Croix County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is a square, 235 feet by 235 feet, as defined by a fence around the property. The southern boundary is adjacent to and parallel to County Highway J. The property is located at N 1/2, Section 15, T28N, R18W, in the Township of Kinnickinnic.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all that area historically associated with church.

