

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1142



1. Name of Property

historic name St. Joseph Church

other name/site number St. Joe Community Center/MN-82

2. Location

street & town: 3300 St. Joe Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Raywick

X Vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Marion code 155 zip code 40060

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen SHPO Date 10/27/09

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper James J. [Signature] Date of Action 10/25/2010

St. Joseph Church  
Name of Property

Marion County, KY  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property  
Contributing      Noncontributing

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function  
(Enter only categories from instructions)

Current Function  
(Enter only categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium

FUNERARY/cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter only categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter only categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

foundation    **STONE**

walls            **METAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

roof              **METAL**

other             \_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

### **7. Narrative Description**

The St. Joseph Church (MN-82), now known as the St. Joe Community Center, is located in Marion County, Kentucky on the east side of St. Joe Road, also known as State Route 412, just north of Clear Creek Road. To access the property turn east off of State Route 412 into a large asphalt parking lot. The property lies approximately nine miles southwest of Lebanon, the seat of Marion County. The wood-frame church and cemetery are located on 1.23 acres of land.

### **Historic Property Acquisition and Site Characteristics**

The St. Joseph Church was constructed in 1908 on three acres of Henry F. Abell's land that was obtained by Father J.J. Neafsey after the St. Matthews Catholic Church, in the southwest corner of Marion County, closed in 1907. Residents in the Clear Creek area were granted permission from Bishop William George McClosky to build a white frame church near their homes (Marion: 2001, 95). The church was open for services in March 1908 and formally dedicated in August 1908 by Bishop McCloskey.

Theodore Spalding donated land for the cemetery located behind the church in 1908 and Mrs. Elizabeth Spalding donated land for an addition to the cemetery (St. Joseph Community, 1983: np).

Since 1908, several non-contributing buildings, structures and objects have been constructed on the site and are not included in the area proposed for nomination due to their age. Therefore, only 1.23 acres that include the contributing church and cemetery are being nominated.

In 1996, the Louisville Archdiocese closed the church, retained the cemetery, and donated the buildings and property to the Marion County Fiscal Court in 2001. Shortly thereafter, the residents of the community organized a non-profit organization entitled "St. Joe Community Center, Inc." and leased the property and buildings for \$ 1.00 a year for 100 years from the county. The church was then converted into a museum and performing arts center and is now known as the St. Joe Community Center. Currently, the rear addition houses a museum with historical artifacts from the church and community and photographs of families from the St. Joe area. The former sanctuary is available to the community as a performing arts center where special programs, community activities, and plays take place (Nolan Brady interview).

Today, the St. Joseph Church and cemetery are located on a portion of a wedge shaped lot on the east side of State Route 412 in Marion County. They are accessed by a large asphalt parking lot and narrow driveway that runs along the north side of the church. This driveway ends into a chain link fence that surrounds the cemetery. "St. Joseph Cemetery" is spelled out in the decorative metal archway above the entry gates.

### **St. Joseph Church – Contributing Building**

#### **Exterior**

The St. Joseph Church is situated on a hill in a parking lot that overlooks rolling green pastureland with the St. Joseph Cemetery to the rear of the building. This two-story wood-frame structure is one bay wide and two piles deep and is supported by a stone and mortar foundation.

The church was built by Ed McCurter and Will Hagan, both of Mannsville, Kentucky in Taylor County. Will Sturgeon and Billy Jo Mills assisted with many other parishioners donating time, labor and money to the project. Frank Brady donated wood for the roof and cut it into shingles. Logs were cut and hauled to the sawmill by men of the parish. Foundation stones that came from a ledge near Sally Ray Pike were laid by Jack Mackin

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

and Pat Brady (St. Joseph Community, 1983: np). Charlie Jarboe of Lebanon painted the church while Billy Woods of Lebanon varnished the interior. The nails for construction were purchased from the W.M. Webster Store in Raywick (75<sup>th</sup>, 1983: 4).

Originally, the bell tower had a pyramidal roof with louvered vents on all four sides and a cross on top. Lightning struck the bell tower and damaged the structure circa 1920. The top of the tower was removed and the remaining lower portion was redesigned with crenellated battlements above the central entry doors. In the 1950s, a bell from the L & N Railroad was installed in the bell tower (75<sup>th</sup>, 1983: 4).

A series of stone steps with metal pipe handrails leads to a pair of metal and glass central entry doors that accessed the sanctuary. Directly above the doors is a pair of stained glass windows that are seen in the second floor balcony.

Between 1908 and 1923, a one-story wood-frame addition was constructed to the rear of the church that consisted of two rooms. One room originally served as a place for traveling pastors to stay overnight; the other room served as a chapel for smaller masses (75<sup>th</sup>, 1983: 5). The partition was removed when the addition was renovated into a chapel for the priest who said Mass during the week in the wintertime. Supported by a concrete block foundation, a series of concrete steps with a metal pipe handrail provide a rear exit. It now is occupied by a museum where family photographs and historical artifacts are displayed.

In 1975, the church was covered in aluminum siding. Sometime later, a concrete handicap ramp was added to the side entrance.

**Interior**

The church is raised above grade and is accessed by a series of concrete steps that provide entry to the church through a pair of metal and glass central entry doors that open into a vestibule. A pair of swinging wood doors opens into the main sanctuary. On one side of the vestibule, a series of wooden stairs ascend to the balcony that is located in the rear of the church and is supported by two pipe columns. On the other side of the vestibule are two small rooms for confession.

Two sets of wooden pews, obtained from the St. James Church in Louisville during the 1970s, fill the sanctuary. Tongue and groove varnished wood covers the ceiling and lower portion of the walls as wainscoting. Tall, narrow, rectangular stained glass windows pierce the façade. The sidewalls began to spread apart shortly after the church was built. The walls were pulled back in by a series of twisted wires that can be seen in the church attic (75<sup>th</sup>: 1983, 4).

When Mass in English was instituted, the altar rail was removed and the old main altar was moved back against the wall. The original platform was reduced in size and a new altar was constructed to face the congregation. Later the altar facing the congregation was replaced with a large white altar that came from St. Mary's College (75<sup>th</sup>: 1983, 14). Two small rooms were constructed on either side of the altar.

Originally, two huge upright stoves, located on either side of the church near the rear, heated the building. Later, coal was used. In the late-1940s, furnaces were installed replacing the stoves (75<sup>th</sup>, 1983: 5). Visible reminders of the old stoves exist inside the church today.

**St. Joseph Cemetery – Contributing Site**

The St. Joseph Cemetery is situated behind the church and is accessed through a pair of gates that are accentuated with a tall metal arch that bear the words “St. Joseph Cemetery”. Surrounded by a chain link fence, the cemetery contains numerous headstones dating from 1908. Two statues were placed in the cemetery from St. Mary’s College in 1976 (St. Joseph: 2008, np) including a statue of Christ on the cross.

**Alterations**

Several alterations have taken place over the years including the redesign of the original bell tower. After lightning struck it circa 1920, the damaged pyramidal roof was replaced with crenellated battlements.

Sometime between 1908 and 1923, a one-story wood-frame addition was constructed to the rear of the church that consisted of two rooms: one for traveling pastors to stay overnight; and the other served as a chapel for smaller masses. When the partition was removed in the mid-1970s it was renovated into a chapel. Since 2001, it serves as a museum and contains the history of the church. Concrete stairs with a pipe railing provide an exterior exit.

When the sidewalls began to spread apart shortly after the church was built, they were pulled back in by a series of twisted wires that can be seen in the church attic (75<sup>th</sup> 1983: 4). These wires are not visible from the sanctuary.

During the 1970s, a pair of metal and glass central entry doors were installed on the front of the church to provide access into the vestibule and the entire church was covered in aluminum siding. The new siding is somewhat larger than the original wood siding, however, it has the same profile and finish thus reducing the change in appearance. It has been installed without obscuring the original character-defining features and can be removed without irreversible damage. Other alterations include: a concrete handicap ramp added to the side entrance ; wooden pews from another church; removal of the original altar rail; a new altar installed against the back wall; the reduction of the platform area; two small rooms added on either side of the altar; and two upright stoves replaced with furnaces.

The Louisville Archdiocese retained the cemetery when the church closed in 1996. They donated the church and property to the Marion County Fiscal Court in 2001. Area residents organized a non-profit organization entitled “St. Joe Community Center, Inc.” and leased the property and buildings from the county for \$ 1.00 a year for 100 years. At that time, the church was converted into a museum and performing arts center and is now known as the St. Joe Community Center.

St. Joseph Church  
Name of Property

Marion County, KY  
County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made 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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1908-1959

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person (only if Criterion B selected)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder (use last names first for individuals)

McCurter, Ed

Hagan, Will

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

300 Washington Street Frankfort, KY 40601

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

### **8. Statement of Significance**

The St. Joseph Church (MN-82) meets National Register Criterion A and is locally significant in the area of Social History because it played a significant role in the development of the St. Joe community in rural Marion County, Kentucky. In order to understand the significance of the St. Joseph Church, we must determine what factors influenced the church to become the social hub of this community. Therefore, the social history of the St. Joe Community will be examined from various aspects, including identifying where early settlers came from, what drew them to this area, the role of the church and its relationship to the social history of the St. Joe Community.

### **Catholicism in Marion County, KY**

The earliest settlers in Marion County emigrated from Virginia and Maryland and settled in small colonies along creeks. Those from Virginia were mostly Presbyterian, and those from Maryland were predominantly Catholic. Most of them came for religious or economic reasons (Marion, 2001:1). Religious development in Marion County began with the Methodists in 1776 followed by Methodist Episcopal in 1780, Catholic in 1785, Presbyterian in 1789, Christian in 1804 and Baptist in 1819. In the beginning, members met in private homes then in log or wood-frame structures. Finally, large stone or brick edifices, that better served the needs of the growing congregation, were constructed.

Marion County, Kentucky became a settlement for Roman Catholics from Charles, Prince George, and St. Mary's counties in Maryland (Bryant: 1992, 609). Holy Cross, known as the birthplace of Catholicism in Kentucky, was established in 1785 when a league of 60 families from St. Mary's County, Maryland immigrated to Marion County, Kentucky. They agreed to settle in the same area for mutual support, to increase their chances of getting a priest and erecting a church, as well as for protection against the Indians. Settlers came to Kentucky for economic reasons (Marion, 2001: 77). Taxes were higher in Maryland, and were double for Catholics (Marion, 2001: 48).

Prior to 1792, mass was held in private homes. The first Roman Catholic church in Kentucky was built on Pottinger's Creek in 1792 where the town of Holy Cross is now located. This was the first Catholic Church west of the Allegheny Mountains for Catholic worship. In 1823, the present brick church was built (Marion, 2001: 77). By 1875, Basil Hayden, Sr., had settled twenty-five Catholic families on the headwaters of Pottinger's Creek. Several of the Catholic churches were formed by the missionary priest, Charles Nerinckx, of Belgium (Bryant: 1992, 609).

Other early Catholic churches include the St. Charles Church, erected in 1786 in St. Mary (Marion, 2001: 78), the Holy Name of Mary Church that began in 1798 in Calvary (Marion, 2001:79), the Loretto Motherhouse dating from 1824 near Loretto (Marion, 2001:86), and the St. Matthews Church, dating from the late-1800s, near Finley (Marion, 2001:93). The St. Augustine Church was erected between 1815 and 1819 in Lebanon, the county seat. By 1836, a second, enlarged church was built on this site. In 1914, the cornerstone for the St. Monica Church was laid and in the late-1980s it was renovated (Marion, 2001: 80). The Catholic influence was further demonstrated in 1821, when St. Mary's College was established at Loretto. (Bryant: 1992, 609).

The Francis Xavier Church in Raywick, Kentucky was authorized in 1834, built in 1837 and consecrated in 1840 (Marion, 2001: 83). The first St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church was constructed in St. Francis in 1859. Plans for a new brick church began in 1896 and the building was dedicated in 1900 (Marion, 2001: 86).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 2

In 1859, the Loretto-St. Francis Catholics erected a church building that was replaced by a brick structure in 1896 (Marion, 2001: 86). The St. Ivo Catholic Church was constructed on a ridge near the Marion-Washington County line in the 1860s. It was destroyed by a tornado and torn down in the mid- to late-1900s (Marion, 2001: 87). The St. Joseph Catholic Church in the St. Joe Community was built in 1908 because there were numerous Catholic families in this area.

**Social History of St. Joseph Area**

Religious facilities were the center of social gatherings and the backbone of their Marion County communities in the early days. They were instrumental in promoting religion, education, inspiration, music and camaraderie. These social activities encouraged community growth and development. While some churches closed due to declining membership or lack of leadership, others were utilized by their communities in a new capacity, such as the St. Joseph community.

St. Joe is a small rural community situated near the Rolling Fork River in an area of some of the most beautiful knobs in Kentucky (Marion, 2001, 61). The Settles, Spalding, and Brady families were among the early settlers. Frank Brady moved to Clear Creek from Raywick in the 1800s and is the ancestor of the Brady families in the community. Theodore Spalding moved to this area in the 1800s and is the ancestor of many of the Spaldings in this area (Roth, 2008: np).

The center of the St. Joe community is along State Route 412 between the river crossings and the intersection with Clear Creek Road. Two dry goods stores, a trading post, a blacksmith shop, gristmills, a church and school were constructed in this area. Although it is not technically a crossroads community the relative closeness of these few buildings led to a strong sense of community identity and neighborhood sharing (Roth, 2008: np). The community was never platted or incorporated, and did not have a post office or bank (N.Brady Interview).

When St. Matthews Church closed in 1907, the people of the parish were instructed to go to the new Our Lady of the Hills Church in Finley. Traveling to Finley from the Clear Creek area seemed unfeasible in the early-1900s because it was approximately seven miles away, twice as far as the trip to St. Matthews had been. Therefore, the Clear Creek residents requested and were granted permission from Bishop William George McClosky to build a white frame church near their homes (Marion, 2001: 95).

Around 1912, Henry Collins built a store that he later sold to Jim Tudder. At one time, the town was called Tuddertown. In 1919, Fred Mann bought the store. Other owners in the 1920s were Joe Burress and Henry Whitlock. Fred Mann purchased the store again in 1929 and sold it to Thurman and Beatrice Settles in 1933. They operated the store and the community's single gasoline pump, until 1983. Upon their death, the store closed. Another store and gristmill opened in the 1920s by Martin Spalding and was sold to John and Sarah Martin in 1929. They owned and operated the store and gristmill for thirty years. Sometime after 1959, a modern Country Store was built on the site (St., 2008: np).

Historically, the stores in this area provided items for the farm and home such as groceries, hand tools, gasoline, butcher knives, farm implements and tack, that patrons could purchase on credit (Roth, 2008: np). According to store ledgers, there were ninety-eight customer accounts between 1922 and 1924 in this area. Stores in the St. Joe community acted as an agent for telephone dues. Some residents paid their bills during the year while others charged their dues and paid them at the end of the year with the money they received, after selling their tobacco crop. Others traded work for goods sold in the store (Roth 2008: np).



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

To accommodate the growing community, a school was built in 1920 adjacent to St. Joseph Church. Grades one through eight was taught here by the Ursuline Sisters from Mount St. Joseph in Owensboro. Later the building was leased to the Marion County School District, which operated the school. A high school was started in 1924 but only lasted a few years. In 1948, a cafeteria was constructed for the school when the government started the lunch program. When school consolidation occurred in 1970, the St. Joseph School closed after serving the community for fifty years and. In 1974, the cafeteria was demolished and the school was torn down in 1981 (Marion, 2001: 95).

As of 2009, the area is dotted with a few one- and two-story wood-frame and brick homes, barns, an abandoned store formerly known as the Settles Cash Store, and the St. Joe Grocery Store with gas pumps that is situated in the same location as an earlier store.

**St. Joseph Church**

In the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, the St. Joseph Church was vitally important to the community. Three acres of land was obtained from Henry F. Abell's farm to build the wood-frame church in 1908. Many parishioners in the area contributed labor, money and timber. The foundation stones that came from a rock ledge in the area were laid by two local residents. Wood for the shingle roof was donated, the church was painted and the interior varnished by local parishioners. When the church tower steeple was struck by lightning a few years after the church was constructed, the steeple was cut down to its present size and shape by a church member (75th, 2008: 4). Theodore Spalding donated land for the cemetery behind the church and Mrs. Elizabeth Spalding donated land for an addition to the cemetery (St., 2008: np) in support of the growth of the church.

The St. Joseph Church was a significant part of the social events of the surrounding community. It was the only church in the area. Activities included baptisms, confirmation, communion, Mass, weddings, funerals and picnics. Larger towns in Marion County had several venues for these activities, but this rural farming community had only one central activity area, the St. Joseph Catholic Church. Since all of these activities took place in one central area, the community looked to the church as a community gathering place, as well as a source of comfort, inspiration and reflection.

St. Joseph Church played an instrumental role in educating local residents by offering religious education from 1908 and formal education, in a school that was adjacent to the church, from 1920 to 1970. Religion was taught in the school classrooms in the early years, then one hour a week in another building by someone other than the regular school teachers, and finally by the pastor of the church in the rear addition of the church. Religion was also taught on Sunday morning after the last Mass. When the school closed in 1970, religion continued to be taught each Sunday in the church (75th, 2008: 9). The school is no longer extant.

Summer picnics were held almost every year on the Church property for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Cooking was done in large iron kettles and served to the public. The average profit from the picnic was \$ 3,600.00. Other fund-raising activities for the church included monthly dances and pie and cake socials that were held in the fall each year. Young girls would bake a pie or cake, and the young men would bid on the confections sometimes bringing extraordinary prices (75th, 2008: 23).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

The new community center board immediately began planning their first major event, the revival of the annual summer picnic tradition when the first St. Joe Homecoming was held. In June 2001, nearly 300 visitors strolled the grounds, partaking of a potluck dinner, playing games and paying their respects to the cemetery. The event raised more than \$ 600.00. In 2003, the community began an annual celebration of Mass in the cemetery. The tradition continues, and a centennial Mass took place in the church. In 2004, the community reinstated a full-fledged summer picnic, reviving a tradition which died in the 1950s (Roth, 2008: np). All of these initiatives continue to foster the community spirit and historical values which were established by the church many years ago.

Since the St. Joe Community Center, Inc. was established in 2001 there has been an increase in new home development in this area. As of 2009, the church continues to be an instrumental part of the community's growth and development, by providing summer reading programs for pre-school children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Boy Scout meetings, social events, family reunions, wedding receptions, as well as other community and governmental information meetings.

### **Analysis and Conclusion**

The St. Joe Community developed along a major transportation route in a rural farming area in Marion County. Situated in undulating topography, a store, gristmill, two one-room schools and homes were constructed on fertile bottomlands adjacent to Clear Creek. Although this area was located on a major transportation route, St. Joe was never incorporated and did not have a post office. Still, commercial, residential, religious and educational buildings were developed in this close knit community.

Although the church closed in 1996, it continued to serve the surrounding community as a social gathering place. The rear of the church has been preserved as a museum which contains historical artifacts from the church and community and photos of former and current families from the St. Joe area. The sanctuary is used as a performing arts center where Christmas plays, talent shows, Easter programs, Country music shows, weddings and choirs perform (N. Brady Interview).

### **Evaluation of Integrity**

St. Joseph Church is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A for its significance within the area of Social History because it played a significant role in promoting the welfare of its community in rural Marion County, Kentucky. The significance of the property is that it has been and continues to be an instrumental part of the continued growth and development of the St. Joe Community because it supported religious and educational development for almost one hundred years. It continues to be used as a social gathering place where the citizens come together to make decisions about their community and actively participate in local events that promote the town's viability. Therefore, the St. Joe Community Center is an excellent example of an early religious building that initially provided a place of worship, education, and a common gathering place that has been an instrumental part of the many citizens that resided in this area of Marion County, Kentucky.

The exterior has been wrapped in aluminum siding replicating the original wood siding and handicap ramps have been installed, most of the activities were held inside the church where the majority of character-defining features remain intact. These features include interior wood detailing, decorative stained glass windows, a raised altar, pews, tongue-and-groove wood ceiling and wainscoting.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 6

---

The St. Joseph Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, feeling and association from the date of its construction, 1908, and has made a significant impact on the lives of many individuals in rural Marion County.

The St. Joseph Church and cemetery retain an extremely high level of integrity of **location** because they have remained in their original location on S.R. 412 situated on the outskirts of Lebanon in Marion County, Kentucky since 1908. This Catholic church fulfilled the community's need to have a religious facility in proximity to their homes after the St. Matthews church closed.

The integrity of **materials** is low-to-moderate, because the original wood siding is no longer visible. It was covered with aluminum siding in the 1970s. While the new siding is slightly larger in dimension, it has the same profile and finish as the original, thus minimizing the alteration in appearance. It does not hide the original character-defining features and can be removed without irreparable damage. On the interior, the wood stairs and turned wood balusters, tongue and groove wood ceiling, wood trim around the doors and windows, the stained glass windows, and the wood wainscoting are characteristic features that have been well maintained.

The level of **design** integrity in the St. Joseph Church is moderate. The primary interior character-defining features remain, and give the property its sense of identity. These include the original building footprint, tongue and groove wood ceiling, wood wainscoting, and stained glass windows. A stair in the rear of the church that has turned wood balusters ascends to the second floor balcony where there are two rows of pews and a pair of stained glass windows above the paired entry doors. On the exterior, a front gabled metal roof intersects with the bell tower that has crenellated battlements. Within this small community, this is still a relatively large building. It still reads as a church.

The property retains a modest integrity of **feeling**. Some interior and exterior features have been altered. Despite this, one can still get the feeling of church inside the building, since the overall plan, including a large open sanctuary with rows of pews facing a raised altar with white marble piers, remains intact. Tall, narrow, colorful stained glass windows that pierce the exterior walls are dedicated to loved ones, and allow warm reflecting light to penetrate the space, creating a somber mood. Tongue-and-groove wood, that covers the sloped ceiling and forms wainscoting on the walls, exudes a feeling of comfort and strength. The wood trim around the doors and decorative stained glass windows have carved relief, which adds to the interior ambiance. The interior balcony is intact, which provided additional seating area when the church was crowded on holidays or special events. The bell tower is intact, whose bell called people to church or for special services. All of these features provide a feeling of what it was like to attend a social facility that was an important place in the lives of those who resided in the St. Joe Community and surrounding area for over 100 years.

The level of **association** is high because the St. Joseph Church has provided this area of Marion County with a social gathering place, a place where births, marriages, and funerals were conducted. The community also looked forward to the annual summer picnic and homecoming, events which brought people together. This church has been and continues to be the center of the community and was instrumental in its continued growth and development. This community would have disappeared if it had not been for the church. Today, the rural hamlet known as St. Joe has continued to grow as evidenced by the numerous brick and wood-frame homes and barns that surround the St. Joe Grocery store with gas pumps, an old store building and the St. Joe Community Center along KY 412.

## 9. Bibliography

### Previous Research at the Kentucky Heritage Council

Kentucky Historic Resource Inventory Forms for Marion County

### Historical Maps

U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps: Raywick 1961 PR 1987

### Taylor County Courthouse

Deeds, Tax Cards, Property Identification Map: 024-027

### Secondary Resources

Bryant, Ron D.

1992 "Marion County". *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Clark, Thomas D.

1954 *A History of Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: John Bradford Press

Coleman, J. Winston.

1971 *Kentucky, A Pictorial History*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Crews, Clyde F.

1991 "Religion". *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Harris, Cyril M., editor

1975 *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. New York: Von Hoffman Press

Harrison, Lowell K., James C. Klotter

1997 *A New History of Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Kleber, John E, editor

1992 *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Klotter, James C.

1992 *Our Kentucky: A Study of the Bluegrass State*. Lexington: The University Press of KY

Lancaster, Clay

1992 *Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Lee, Lloyd, G.

1981 *A Brief History of Kentucky and Its Counties*. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucky Imprints

Martin, Dr. Charles E.

1988 "The Pennyrile Cultural Landscape." Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council manuscript

Marion County Historical Society.

2001 *History of Marion County, Kentucky, Volume I*. New Hope, Kentucky: St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Community

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 9 Page 2

---

McAlester, Virginia and Lee

1990 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf

Nesbitt, Robert Lee

1941 *Early Taylor County History*. Campbellsville, Kentucky: Creative Press

Rennick, Robert M.

1984 *Kentucky Place Names*. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky

Rifkind, Carol

1980 *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library

Roth, Leland M

1980 *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper & Row

1983 *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Joseph Church 1908-1983*. np

2008 *St. Joseph Community 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. Raywick, Kentucky: np

**Interviews**

Mr. Barry Brady

Mr. Nolan Brady

Mrs. Mary Lou Brock

Mr. Jimmy Clements

Mr. Steve Leake

Mr. J.T. Reynolds

St. Joseph Church  
Name of Property

Marion County, KY  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.23 acres

UTM References  
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

USGS Topographic Quad name: Raywick

1 1/6 6/4/2/3/8/4 4/1/5/3/7/8/5  
Zone Easting Northing

2 1/6 // // // // // // // //  
Zone Easting Northing

3 1/6 // // // // // // // //  
Zone Easting Northing

4 1/6 // // // // // // // //  
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
See attached.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
See attached.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna G. Logsdon, Architect  
organization Donna G. Logsdon, Architect date 6-27-09  
street & number P.O. Box 10 telephone 270-528-4697  
city or town Hardyville state KY zip code 42746  
email address donnalogsdon@scrtc.com

Additional Documentation

The National Register requires each nomination consist of the following beyond this 4-page cover form:

- Continuation Sheets for narrative
- A USGS topographic quad map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts or properties having large acreage or numerous resources
- A Photo identification map for districts; one map can serve both as sketch and photo ID map.
- black and white photographs of the property. See policy statement for acceptable use of digital photographs

The Kentucky Heritage Council requires the following for all nominations:

- An additional set of black and white photographs that remains at the KHC
- Floor plans of properties whose significance is based on their plans
- Color slides or PowerPoint images and presentation of the property to the Kentucky State Review Board

Property Owner

name/title Marion County Fiscal Court  
street & number 223 N. Spalding Avenue, Suite 201 telephone 270-692-3451  
city or town Lebanon state KY zip code 40060  
email address (if available)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number 10 Page 1

---

**10. Verbal Boundary Description**

The **St. Joseph Church** is located on Property Identification Map 024-027 in Marion County, Kentucky. Located at 3300 St. Joe Road, the church and cemetery are situated on the east side of State Route 412 in Raywick. The new buildings on the site, located adjacent to the historic church and cemetery, are not included in the proposed nomination because they are non-contributing. The surrounding farmland is not associated with the property. See attached map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries chosen for this property encompass the significant church and cemetery. The entire 1.23 acres of land has been associated with the property since the church was constructed in 1908.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph Church  
Marion County, Kentucky

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

---

**Photographic Identification Sheet**

**Same information for all photos:**

**Name:** St. Joseph Church MN-82

**Location:** Marion County, KY

**Photographer:** Donna G. Logsdon

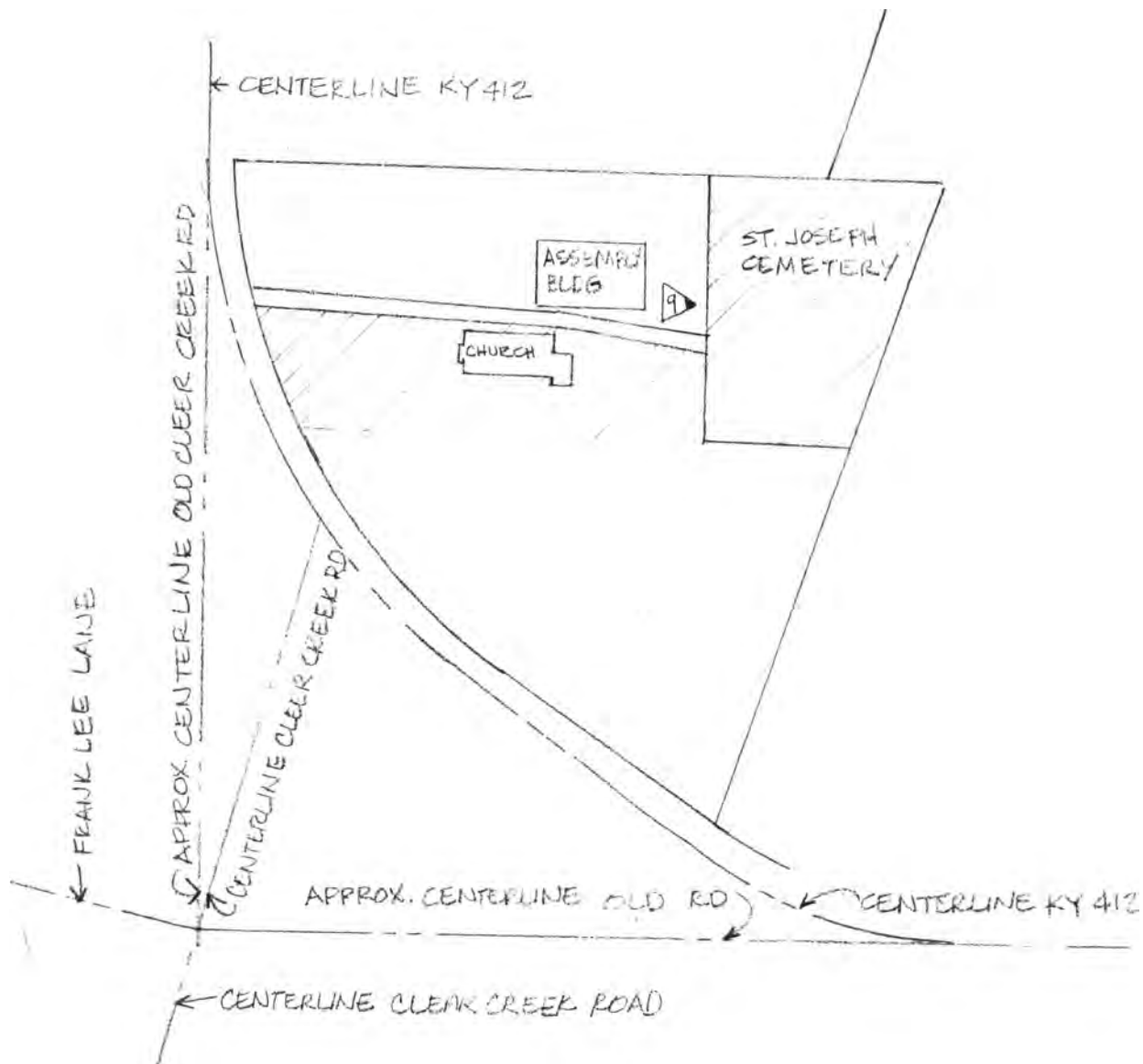
**Date:** January 2009

**Location of digital photographs:** Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

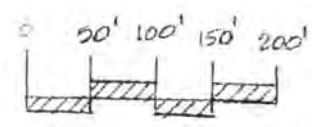
**Photograph-specific information:**

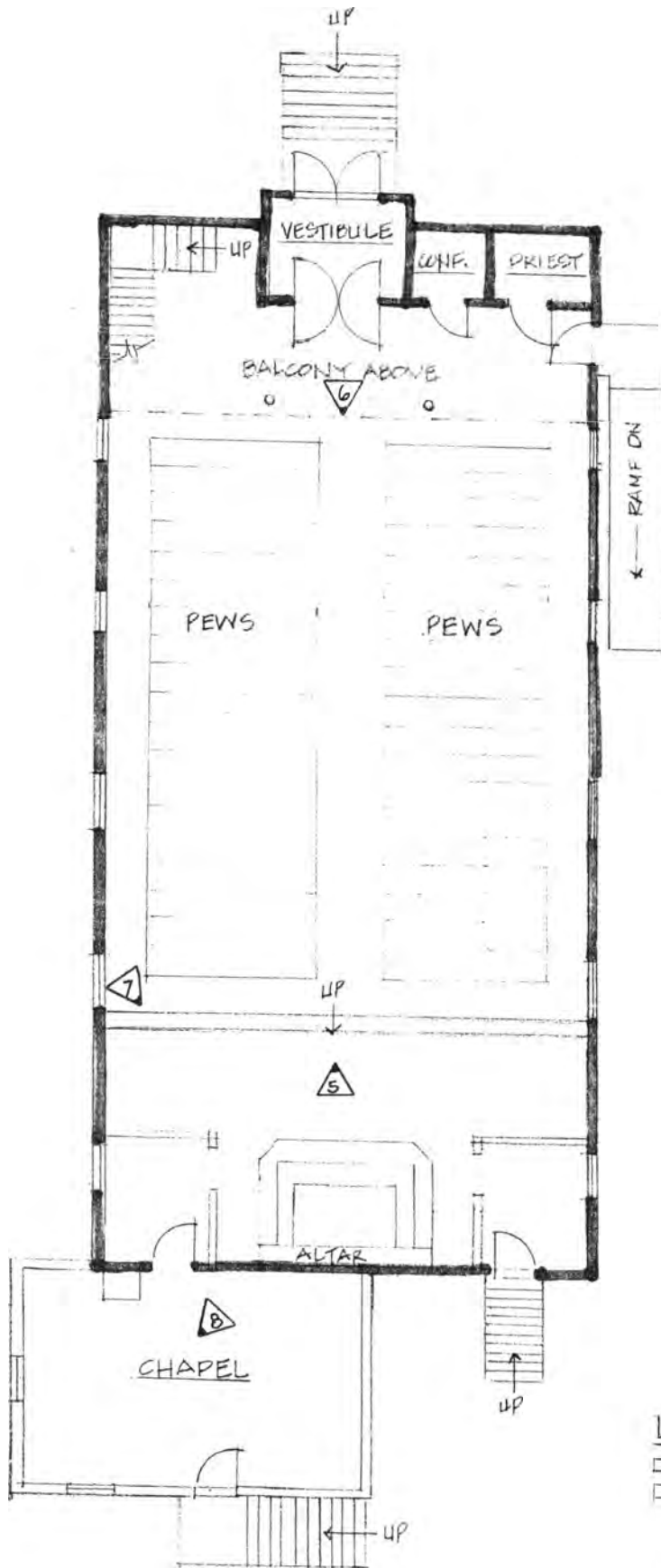
<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Photo Direction and Content</b>
Photo 1:	Facing Southeast, North and West Elevations
Photo 2:	Facing West, East Elevation
Photo 3:	Facing Northwest, South and East Elevation
Photo 4:	Facing North, South Elevation
Photo 5:	Facing West, Balcony from Altar
Photo 6:	Facing East, Altar from Balcony
Photo 7:	Facing East, Altar close up
Photo 8:	Facing Northeast, Interior rear addition
Photo 9:	Facing East, Cemetery







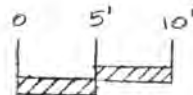
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
 3300 ST. JOE RD. / KY 412  
 RAYWICK, KY 40060





LEGEND

-  1908
-  1908-1923



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
 3300 ST. JOE RD. / KY 412  
 RAYWICK, KY 40060



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET



REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Joseph Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 11/13/09      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/01/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/09      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/28/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001142

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12/24/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*See attached comments*

RECOM./CRITERIA *Return*  
REVIEWER *J. Gilbert*      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Recommendation: SLR\_Return

Action: SLR\_Return\_None

Documentation Issues Discussion Sheet

State Name: KY County Name Marion Resource Name St. Joseph Church

Reference No. 1142 Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

Solution:

TR Problem: - new building on lot should be counted as a non-c. bldg -  
see sketch map and VBD

- don't need to mark (crit. cons.)

- please review Sec 8 - is sig in commander fully justified?  
best way to explain sig? lots of extra material here  
could be organized better.

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change:



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Return/Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: St. Joseph Church, Marion County, Kentucky

Reference Number: 09001142

This nomination is being returned for substantive problems. St. Joseph Church was nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development. The nomination does not adequately support this area of significance.

The National Register bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* notes on page 40 that Community Planning and Development is defined by “the design or development of the physical structure of communities.” This area of significance is typically reserved for activities that led to the physical development of a community. From the description provided in Section 8 and from the evidence depicted on the USGS topo map, it appears that there is no “town” of St. Joseph, but rather a dispersed rural hamlet. However, Section 8 of the narrative consistently refers to St. Joseph as a town and refers to a “town plan.” (p. 8-10) Was St. Joseph platted or incorporated? The nomination mentions Catholic immigrants moving into the general area. Was the construction of St. Joseph Church a reaction to these immigrants? Did the siting of a church in this area attract others of the faith, leading to a denser development pattern? Please define the community that the church served.

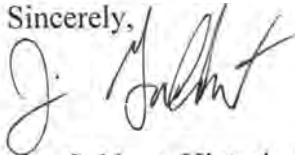
If the gist of the argument is that the St. Joseph Church had a significant role in the social development of the area (the creation of a social community), the more proper area of significance would be “Social History.” If this area of significance is pursued, the resubmitted nomination would have to explore the social role of St. Joseph Church. It would also have to discuss the roles any other institutions might have played. Were there other denominational churches in the area, or was the area primarily Catholic? In exploring the role of the St. Joseph Church, please cite the specific aspects of social history that the church played a significant role. Did the church have competing institutions in the social development of the area? Many of the social activities cited in the nomination have taken place recently. Please investigate the historic social role of the church and determine if the church played a significant role in the social development of the area.

The building is sheathed in vinyl siding. While it may be reversible, as claimed on page 7-2, it is present currently. Typically, nominations for buildings with aluminum or vinyl siding are discouraged unless the new material has been installed without irreversibly damaging or obscuring the architectural features and trim of the building and if the substitute material matches the historic materials in size, profile, and finish so that there is no change in the character of the historic building. Please address the effect of the vinyl siding on the church's ability to convey its significance.

Should you choose to resubmit this nomination under a different area of significance, the nomination would have to follow the procedures for a new submission. The change in area of significance is considered a substantive change, requiring review by the state review board.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at [<James\\_Gabbert@nps.gov>](mailto:James_Gabbert@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gabbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Gabbert, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
12/28/09

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09001142

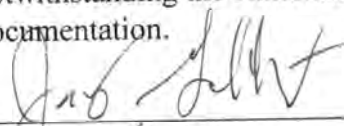
Date Listed: 10/25/2010

Property Name: St. Joseph Church

County: Marion

State: KY

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10/25/2010  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

### Section 5: Ownership

Ownership is hereby amended to include "**Private**."

### Section 8: Criteria Consideration

**Criteria Consideration A** is hereby checked.

The cemetery on the property is still owned by the archdiocese, a private owner. The owner was properly notified of the nomination.

Part of the property currently is, and all of it was, owned by a religious institution and used for religious purposes. The property is significant, however, for its social significance to the local community.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Joseph Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 10/01/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/15/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001142

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 10/25/2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Nomination as Resubmitted addresses issues from Returns.  
Property is representative of the social aspects of a tightly-knit  
Rural Catholic community.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A  
REVIEWER J. Crabtree DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 10/25/2010  
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR YN



















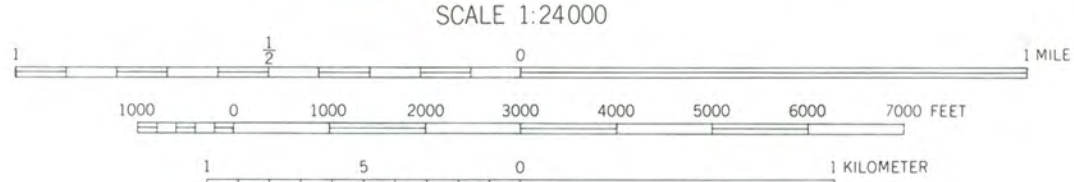
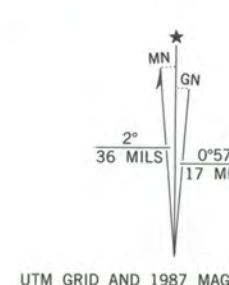






Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1953  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system,  
south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 4 meters south and  
3 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in  
cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial  
photographs taken 1984 and other sources. Contours adjusted  
adjacent to certain photorevised hydrographic features. This  
information not field checked. Map edited 1987



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

RAYWICK, KY.  
SW/4 LEBANON 15' QUADRANGLE  
37085-E4-TF-024  
1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1987  
DMA 3959 III SW-SERIES V853

St. Joseph Church  
Marion Co., KY  
Zone 16  
Easting 642380  
Northing 4153780



STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

MARCHETA SPARROW  
SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
www.heritage.ky.gov

MARK DENNEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



October 28, 2009

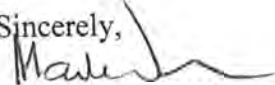
Jan Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Keeper  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the September 3, 2009 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

- Brooks House, Bell County, Kentucky*
- Coe House, Cumberland County, Kentucky*
- Jonathan Hills House, Hardin County, Kentucky*
- Hodgenville Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase), Larue County, Kentucky*
- Bradfordsville Christian Church, Marion County, Kentucky*
- ✓ *St. Joseph Church, Marion County, Kentucky*
- Caldwell House, Taylor County, Kentucky*
- Emerald Hill, Taylor County, Kentucky*
- Collins Residence, Taylor County, Kentucky*

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,  
  
Mark Dennen  
Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
MD/LMP/jvb



STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET**  
**KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**



THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
www.heritage.ky.gov

**MARK DENNEN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

September 24, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "T" (Eye) Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the September 8, 2010 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

- Morris Fork Presbyterian Church and Community Center**, Breathitt County, KY
- Headley, Hal Price, Sr., House**, Fayette County, KY
- Arcadia Apartments**, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Bradfordsville Christian Church**, Marion County, KY
- ✓ **St. Joseph Church**, Marion County, KY
- Bardstown Historic District (Boundary Increase)**, Nelson County, KY
- Woodstock**, Todd County, KY

Two of these forms, the Bradfordsville Christian Church (# 09001141) and St. Joseph Church (# 09001142) are resubmissions. They were returned and have been revised according to the comments made on the return sheets.

We request substantive review for the **Hal Price Headley, Sr., House**. The local historic preservation commission and the State Review Board both recommended the property as eligible at the National level of significance, as the house's designers, architects Polhemus and Coffin, had a national reputation for defining the house's French Provincial Revival style. The argument on the form claims local level of significance, and cites Polhemus and Coffin's national accomplishments as support for a claim that the house is a locally significant instance of the style, as the style has not been fully studied locally. We have attached the draft minutes of the meeting, containing the Board's discussion. Note the comments of Dr. Patrick Snadon, the Board's sole member representing the discipline of Architectural History. As SHPO, I have selected Local significance as a more defensible level than National.

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Mark Dennen, SHPO and  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council

