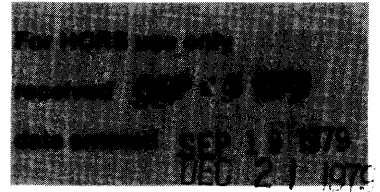


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW of Zigzag on Truman Road not for publication

city, town Zigzag vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Clackamas code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Michael Gudge

street & number P. O. Box 306

city, town Welches vicinity of state Oregon 97067

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clackamas County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Oregon City state Oregon 97045

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date 10-24-72; 10-26-76
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church was originally built to serve the needs of Mt. Hood area residents, tourists, vacationers, and skiers. Dedicated on September 26, 1937, the existing building replaced a predecessor--St. John's Chapel, which collapsed under the weight of snow on February 16, 1937. The church of peeled logs was designed in the Oregon Rustic Style and built by area builder Henry Steiner. Although the building has been moved twice within the immediate vicinity, it is in sound condition. It is presently being used as a private residence.

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church is a one and a half story log church with cruciform plan measuring 72 x 42 feet. Ground story walls are formed of 11 to 12 courses of chinked and peeled logs with notched and untrimmed joinery at the corners. Second story gable ends are finished with rustic shingles. The gable roof is clad with shingles also. Typical window openings, simply punched through the log walls, are rectangular and finished with peeled pole casings. There are seven fixed-pane openings in either long wall of the nave. The transepts have double-hung sash windows, one each, in end and east elevations. There are doorways in the west elevations of either transept. The east end wall is formally organized with central entry flanked by a double-hung window on either side. The upper story is lighted by a pair of double hung windows. In the west end, the entry is a double-leaf door fashioned of half-rounds of peeled logs standing on end and nailed to a backing of boards. Here, as in the single leaf transept doors, arched glazed panels in the upper third of the door are framed by tree-trunk sections in which natural curvature occurred. The main entry is sheltered by a gable-roofed canopy supported originally by a post and beam framework. The open end of the canopy gable is decorated with a central peeled pole upright and radiating struts which echo the pattern of vergeboard decoration in west and east facades. Openings in the log wall of the west end are smaller rectangles than those of the nave. There is one on either side of the entry, and each was fitted with stained glass with a Latin cross motif. A pole cross also surmounted the peak of the west gable. Windows in the upper story of the west face are square, set in the wall as lozenges, or diamonds. There is one on either side of the porch canopy, and these too originally were fitted with stained glass.

The interior of the church contains confessional stalls and choir loft at the west end of the nave. The altar was situated at the crossing, and the sacristy, behind it, contains a stairway access to the rectory, or priest's quarters in the loft above. With the exception of board flooring, all interior surfaces are of peeled logs or peeled log half-rounds. Beams rafters and braces are exposed. Stairways are formed of log half-rounds--flat side up--as treads notched into the walls and resting on a chord at the string. Handrails are formed of naturalistic curved roots and branches. Balusters are peeled poles. In the choir loft railing, the peeled-pole balustrade is formed of diagonal members under a log top rail.

The original site of the church was a parcel of 0.36 acres on the north side of Highway 26 (Mt. Hood Loop Highway) at Zigzag. The parcel was level and wooded. The nominated property of 2.50 acres also is level and forested terrain in a residential zone less than a mile from the original setting. The current owner is acquiring several additional acres surrounding the two-acre parcel to buffer the property. On its original site, the church rested directly on the ground without foundation. First course logs incurred moisture damage as a result. Today, the building is on a peripheral foundation of reinforced concrete with 4x4" posts and piers as secondary reinforcement. The damaged lowermost course of logs has been replaced. The concrete foundation will be covered by back-fill upon completion of the restoration.

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The exterior of the building has remained its original configuration, with no alteration other than the steps to accommodate a new foundation and roof repairs. The stained glass windows were removed to be used in the successor Catholic Church ca. 1972. Interior finish work is essentially intact, although, of course, spatial functions have changed. The south transept is now a bathroom; the sacristy is used as a kitchen, and the rectory in the loft is now a bedroom. While in use as a church, the building was heated with a small wood stove. Under subsequent ownership by the Mt. Hood Players, a furnace was installed, and it was necessary to cut holes in some of the walls for ducting. The ducting has been removed by the current owners, but the wall damage may be difficult to repair. The building is once again heated by a wood stove. The building had never had plumbing installed until the present day. All personal property and sacred objects were removed by the Catholic Archdiocese at the time of the abandonment 1968-1972. This included removal of pews, kneeling benches, communion rails, dias, lighting fixtures and candle holders. All windows had either been removed for reuse by the church or had been broken during the vacant period. All window openings are being reglazed.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1937 **Builder/Architect** Henry Steiner (deceased)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Naturally enough, log construction is a continuing tradition in Oregon and throughout the timber-abundant Pacific Northwest. Plank houses were constructed by native inhabitants of the heavily forested coastal areas. Various forms of timber construction were employed by men of the fur trade and the overland immigrants who followed. The distinctly "rustic" phase of the continuing tradition was introduced in the proliferation of seaside, hot springs and mountain resorts during the heyday of the railroad and reached its zenith in the Pre-War era when a number of public recreation developments were carried out under auspices of such federal agencies as the Works Progress Administration, the National Park Service, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. What distinguishes late 19th century and 20th century log building from vernacular architecture of an earlier day is the self-conscious use of native materials--logs peeled or unpeeled, used whole or as half-rounds for wall facings, and naturalistic conceits ranging from twig-like surface applications to peeled poles for vergeboard decoration and elaborately membered railings. Today, the log building tradition has taken other directions, and what might be best described as the Oregon Rustic Style is a discrete--if long-lived--phase and can be evaluated as such.

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church built at Zigzag near the confluence of the Zigzag and Sandy Rivers on the west slope of Mt. Hood in 1937 is significant to Oregon as an interesting and singular example of the 20th century rustic resort architectural style applied to church building. The church, built to replace a predecessor of 1926 which had collapsed under a heavy snow load, was under construction at the time of the dedication, farther up the slope, of Timberline Lodge--the apogee of regional mountain architecture and the ultimate collaboration of creative arts activity in the state under WPA auspices. The log church, with its peeled pole vergeboard decoration and use of knots, roots and branches to achieve naturalistic arches and curved handrails, reflects the rise of winter sports and the surge of Mt. Hood's popularity as a year-round recreational area. That the Oregon Rustic Style was adapted to a cruciform church was a deliberate effort to blend religious function with the atmosphere of the primitive resort. Carried out under local builder Henry Steiner, the result was successful in both functional and artistic terms. The building was used by the Catholic Church at its original site on Highway 26 (Mt. Hood Loop Highway) at Zigzag until about 1972, when road improvements triggered its abandonment for a new and larger facility. Considerable community interest and support was generated by the building's first rescue and relocation. The church was acquired by the Mt. Hood Players and resited in the Hoodland Park recreational area nearby in 1972. Church furniture and colored glass windows were removed from the church at that time, and certain interior modifications, such as installation of a stage platform and exposed furnace ducting, were made without serious detriment to the building. In 1976 the former church again became surplus property and was acquired by the present owners and subsequently moved to a wooded site north of the highway less than a mile west of its original site. The original compass orientation of the church was recreated. The church is undergoing restoration for use as a private vacation residence. Despite its adaptive uses and conservative changes of location in the Zigzag area in recent years, the church's importance as a special example of the Oregon Rustic Style remains.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hartman, E., and Schwartz, M., Sandy Pioneers: Early Settlers and Barlow Trail Days (Gresham, OR: The Outlook Publishing Co., 1973), 164.
Lowe, Don, and Lowe, Roberta, Mt. Hood: Portrait of a Magnificent Mountain (Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1975), 81. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.50 acres

Quadrangle name Rhododendron, Oregon

UTM NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Dunn, with editorial additions by Elisabeth Potter

organization

date March, 1979

street & number 2017 NE 19th Street

telephone 503/667-0184

city or town Gresham

state Oregon 97030

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer's Designee

date September 10, 1979

For HCERS use only

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



date 12-21-79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: 

date Dec 21, 1979

Chief of Registration

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

St. John the Evangelist Church was the second of three churches built by the Roman Catholic Church at this locale. The inspiration of the original edifice, built in 1926, was to provide services for tourists, vacationers, skiers, and area residents on a continuing basis. The Archdiocese felt that such persons were not afforded appropriate service because of the distance involved in traveling to settlements farther down the mountain. When the first frame church collapsed under the weight of snow on February 16, 1937, it was decided that a more durable log structure would be erected. The designer and builder was long-time local resident Henry Steiner, whose log structures for commercial and residential use were well known in the area. As construction progressed during the summer of 1937, workers watched from the beams as President Franklin D. Roosevelt rode by in his limousine on the way to dedicate Timberline Lodge.

By an exceptional special arrangement, the Archdiocese granted permission to a local Protestant congregation to use the log church on an alternating schedule, a situation which has continued to the present day in the successor facility.

A number of log buildings in the Rustic Style built on Mt. Hood in the earlier 20th century have been lost to fire, deterioration or redevelopment. Basically unchanged since its construction, St. John the Evangelist Church is a well-known example of a dwindling resource. Its fine craftsmanship is admired. The logs of the lower wall are joined at the corners through notching alone, with no drift pins or nails, and the building has withstood two moves without loss of structural integrity.

In 1972, Highway 26 was widened at Zigzag, thus making it necessary to move the church. The Archdiocese decided to sell the property and build a new and larger facility elsewhere in the neighborhood. With abundant community support, a little theater group known as the Mt. Hood Players performed and raised funds to move the building to a new site. Clackamas County officials offered a County-owned parcel, and it was planned that the church-turned-theater would be the pivotal facility in a community complex to include the chamber of commerce, recreation area offices, a public information center and women's club. After much effort and money had been expended toward this end, it was found that the log building was not suited for use as a multi-purpose public facility. Fire insurance rates were prohibitive, and enlargement would mean loss of the building's integrity. Once again, St. John the Evangelist Church was threatened with demolition. The community insisted, however, that the building be sold to a party or parties who would preserve it and keep it within the neighborhood. Since the building could not be privately owned on public land, it was moved to its present wooded site less than a mile away from its original setting. The present parcel had been owned previously by a Catholic Order, the Sisters of Charity. The move was completed in October of 1976, and the community has given its wholehearted moral support to the adaptive use restoration now underway.

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21

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Catholic Archdiocese Records, Portland, Oregon
Mt. Hood Lions Club Records, Wemme, Oregon
Sandy Post clipping files, Sandy, Oregon

Oregon Journal (February 16, 1937); (October 25, 1972, Brian Bell photo).

Catholic Sentinel

- "Mass Celebrated for First Time on Mt. Hood" (August 7, 1924), 1.
- "Holy Name Chapel Work to Be Underway" (May 28, 1925), 4.
- "New Church on Mt. Hood Loop" (July 1926), 1.
- "New Church to Be Dedicated Next Sunday" (July 15, 1926), 1.
- "St. Johns Chapel at Murphy, Oregon is Blessed" (July 22, 1926), 4.
- "Church Collapses Under Snow Weight" (February 18, 1937), 8.
- "New Chapel at Welches" (June 3, 1937), 5.
- "Mountain Chapel is Being Erected" (August 26, 1937), 1.
- "Archbishop Blesses Log Chapel for Use Rhododendron Area" (September 1937), 5.
- "Highway Widening Forces Moving Church at Welches" (November 1, 1968), 17.

Sandy Post

- "Historic Church Bought by Area Theater Group for Community Use" (Feb. 3, 1972).
- "Players Perform Plays for Building Funds" (February 17, 1972).
- "Community Effort Sought to Restore Mt. Hood Landmark" (March 16, 1972).
- "Mt. Hood Players Show Progress" (May 11, 1972); "Patrons Party" (June 8, 1972).
- "Players Production Ready for Weekend Shows" (September 21, 1972).
- "The Mt. Hood Players Work Party" (October 5, 1972).
- "And Sometimes We Work" (October 12, 1972).
- "Moving a 50-Year-Old Building" (October 12, 1972).
- "Hoodland Happenings" (October 26, 1972).
- "Moving Day: Grand Occasion on Mountain" (October 26, 1972).
- "Mt. Hood Players Log Theater Receives Foundation" (March 22, 1973).
- "Volunteer Labor" (August 7, 1973).

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Commencing at the quarter section corner on the south side of Sec. 33, T.2S., R.7E., of the Willamette Meridian, in the County of Clackamas, State of Oregon; thence north on the center line of said Section 33 1980' to a stake; thence west 660' to a stake at the SE corner and true point of beginning of the description of nominated property; thence north 330' to a point; thence west 330' to a point; thence south 330 feet to a stake; thence east 330' to the true point of beginning, containing in all 2.50 acres, more or less.