

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 18 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEP 30 1980

**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 St. Joseph Catholic Church

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1215 N. Newton Street

CITY, TOWN

Jasper

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Dubois

CODE

037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Catholic Diocese of Evansville, Indiana

STREET & NUMBER

1020 Kundek, P. O. Box 710

CITY, TOWN

Jasper

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana 47546

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Dubois County Courthouse

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Page 16 of the Record of Testimony at the County Recorder's

STREET & NUMBER Office.

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Jasper,

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the largest stone churches in the Ohio Valley, St. Joseph's Catholic Church is located on North Newton Street (U.S. 231 and State Roads 45 and 46) in the city of Jasper.

This mammoth structure of solid sandstone blocks, four and six feet in thickness and laid in a running bond, rises impressively with a large stone bell tower and steeple some 235 feet in height. The building is 82 feet 9 inches wide, 193 feet 5 inches long and from the ground to the eaves it measures 67 feet. The apex of the roof is 90 feet above floor level. The original slate roof was replaced in 1909 by a light green Spanish tile which itself after many years of service was replaced recently with a similar green Spanish tile.

The stone bell tower with a large clock facing four sides (circa 1904), is best described as similar to the tower of Parliament in London. The steeple is of steel and slate roof construction with a gilded cross at the very top. Four tourelles, at each corner, extend above the wall and parapet.

The church itself is Romanesque, but because Father Fidelis Maute, its builder, had never studied architecture, there are many mistakes in style.

The interior is divided into three spacious naves that on the ground floor alone seat twelve hundred persons with standing room for another five hundred. Each of the fourteen columns inside the church are single giant yellow poplar timbers cut from nearby forests and rising 67 feet from their bases, and continuing beyond the capitals to help support the tie beams of the roof. (See photo #5.) The roof structure is a maze of beams and rafters some 16 by 16 inches and others 12 by 12 inches. Over 1,000,000 feet of the finest hardwood lumber is used in the roof structure. (See photo #6.)

The three altars are white Italian marble; the main altar has two groups of figures representing Abraham and Melchisedech and each is seven feet tall. The communion railing is of onyx and brass, circa 1902.

The three large mosaics above the altars were imported from Austria in small sections and assembled on the site. The mosaic over the main altar represents Christ the High Priest. Above the altar on the north of the church, the Assumption of Mary is portrayed, and above the south altar one sees the betrothal of Mary to Joseph. The names of the donors of the stained glass windows (circa 1898) are marked in German and English.

In 1954 the interior walls and columns were veneered with St. Meinrad sandstone panels. The altar area was done in marble and sandstone. The floors were laid in terrazzo and the arched ceilings were repaired and replastered. The ceilings were more recently decorated.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction

SPECIFIC DATES 1867-1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Reverend Fidelis Maute

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, built ca 1867 - 1904 is significant for its historical representation of the immigration of a German culture which settled in Jasper, Dubois County, throughout Southern Indiana and much of the midwest. It is architecturally significant by its massive and unique exterior appearance which continues to dominate the community to this day. The construction itself is significant locally for the size of the undertaking and the use of the major materials and labor from the area within the sound of the church's bells.

Father Joseph Kundek, born in Johannich, Croatia, August 24, 1810, arrived in Jasper (having been sent by the Diocese of Vienna, Austria) in 1838 and founded St. Joseph's parish, which he named after Franz Joseph, at that time Emperor of Austria, who had given him funds for the mission church. In Jasper the young priest found fifteen poor families who had used all of their money in "entering their lands" and in building their log cabins. With outstanding knowledge, energy, and persistence, he succeeded so well, and through his influence a great number of new settlers arrived and bought farms in the vicinity of Jasper. By 1841 a spacious brick church had been completed and within six years Father Kundek founded the towns of Ferdinand and Celestine and added churches at Ferdinand, Fulda, and Troy, with many German Catholic immigrants around each of them. The founding of St. Meinrad Abbey by the Benedictine Order was through his efforts and persuasion. Thus, the German immigration in this area continued and St. Joseph's was responsible for its beginning.

With the congregation growing to 2,460 in 1860, Father Fidelis Maute, O.S.B. then pastor, decided that the brick church was too small and it was determined to build a big church to represent the great faith of its people and to provide additional room. Father Fidelis would not go into debt, however, and this explains the fact that the church required almost forty years to actually complete.

A design of the exterior of the projected building was obtained from Albert Druiding of Chicago, but this design intended for brick as a building material was not followed except in general outline and proportions. Lumber, other materials, and unskilled labor were contributed by the congregation, as money was scarce. A high grade of building sandstone was quarried by the congregation about a quarter of a mile from Jasper.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wilson, George R. Wilson's History of Dubois County Wilson 1910
 Goodspeed History of Pike and Dubois Counties, Ind 1885
 Kleber, Albert St. Joseph Parish, Jasper, Indiana 1937
 Nordhoff, Arthur C. Pictures from the Past, Jasper, Indiana 1966

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Jasper Quadrangle

UTM NOT VERIFIED QUADRANGLE SCALE: 24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 5,0,5,9,1,0 4,2,4,9,5,0,0

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

STATE	None	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kenny Krempp and Reverend Carl Shetler

ORGANIZATION

Dubois County Historical Society

DATE

12/22/78

STREET & NUMBER

1314 Wilson Street

TELEPHONE

812-482-2158

CITY OR TOWN

Jasper

STATE

Indiana 47546

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

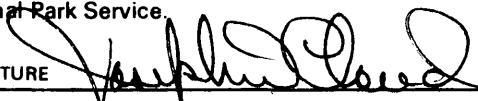
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 6, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce
 ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/30/80

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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The exterior of the church is unaltered except for replacement of the roof, some minor stone restoration work and enlarged entrances to meet present code requirements for fire regulations, installed in 1954.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The parishioners stacked many huge blocks of stone all over the extensive church grounds, only to see them all disappear into the foundation. They hauled more and more stones with Father Fidelis also driving his team of oxen hitched to a "lizard sled" and dragging stone to within reach of the derrick. As the walls rose higher and higher, the steady animals were driven up on a long inclined plane to where the derrick, now on top of the wall, could reach the blocks of stone. The stone was hoisted also by means of a rope winding around a vertical drum turned by oxen hitched to it and walking around it. This went on for years, because Father Fidelis built only with cash, not with credit; when the money gave out, he interrupted building. Only a few years show a deficit of from one hundred to two hundred dollars. In those days there was no bank in Jasper.

On September 14, 1868, Bishop Maurice de St Palais blessed and laid the cornerstone. A concourse of people, estimated at five thousand, attended the solemnity at which the bishop preached in English and Father Bede O'Connor in German.

On November 20, 1880, Father Fidelis decided to bless the church and to open it for divine service even though it was not even plastered.

By 1888, the plastering of the church and much other necessary work was finished and no debt of any kind rested upon the huge edifice.

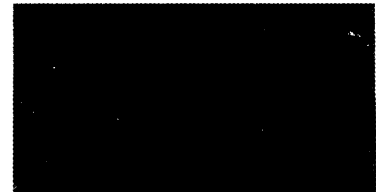
The church was consecrated by Francis Silas Chatard, Bishop of Vincennes, on October 7, 1888. The whole community of Jasper and surrounding areas entered into the spirit of the festivity. Streets and houses were decked with wreaths and garlands and with flags flying, an estimated ten thousand people attended.

In 1904 Father Basil Huesler finished the tower at an expense of \$7,624.53. There was no plan from Father Fidelis to be followed, nor was an architect consulted. Father Basil obtained his idea from the tower in London that is the home of Big Ben; he talked it over with Michael Durlauf, a stone mason and builder at Jasper. The two had only a small stereoscopic picture of their model. As their idea developed into its final form, it departed so much from its original that it became a new creation. It is this tower that has made the exterior of St. Joseph Church a thing of beauty; it is unique in church architecture. With the completion of the sacristy in 1907, the church was finally finished.

The German immigrant, taking advantage of the vast hardwood timber-covered land around him, began and developed the wood furniture industry in this area. Today the area is dominated by this industry.

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The eastern boundary of St. Joseph's Church is formed by the western curb line of Newton Street (U.S. Highway 231). The northern, southern, and western boundaries are formed by lines drawn parallel to and twenty feet from the exterior walls of the church.