OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8/86) Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D) (Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JAN 1 9 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in <u>Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms</u> (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

| l. Name of Property | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| nistoric name Sair | nt Lawrence Catholic Churc | eh | |
| other names/site number | N/A | | |
| | | | |
| 2. Location | | | |
| street & number Corner of (| CTH "J" and State Highway | 163 N/s | A Not for Publication |
| city, town Denmark | | <u>N/</u> | A vicinity |
| state Wisconsin code | WI county Kewaunee | code 06 | 1 zip code 54208 |
| | | | |
| 3. Classification | | | |
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | No. of Reso | urces within Property |
| X private | building(s) | contributing | g noncontributing |
| public-local | X district | 2 | buildings |
| public-State | site | 1 | sites |
| public-Federal | structure | | structures |
| | object | ************ | objects |
| | | 3 | OTotal |
| Name of related multiple p | roperty listing: | previously | ributing resources listed in the |
| None | | National Re | gister None |

| 4. State/Federal Agency Certification | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| As the designated authority under the Nati | lonal Historic Preservation Act of 1966, |
| as amended, I hereby certify that this X | nomination request for determination |
| of eligibility meets the documentation st | tandards for registering properties in the |
| National Register of Historic Places and n | |
| requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. | the contract of the contract o |
| does not meet the National Register cr | |
| | - Concentration of the concent |
| | 1 |
| V (In Mittours | 1/5(89) |
| Signature of certifying official | Date |
| State distoric Preservation Officer-WI | Date |
| State or Federal agency and bureau | |
| State of redelar agency and buleau | |
| | |
| | |
| In my opinion, the propertymeetsdo | oes not meet the National Register |
| criteria. See continuation sheet. | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Signature of commenting or other official | Date |
| | |
| State or Federal agency and bureau | |
| | |
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| | |
| | |
| 5. National Park Service Certification | |
| I, hereby, certify that this property is: | |
| i, hereby, certify that this property is: | |
| entered in the National Register. | // 2 / / |
| See continuation sheet | Selvrent 2/21/8, |
| manuscript Strategies | |
| determined eligible for the National | |
| | |
| Register See continuation sheet | |
| 1. t | |
| determined not eligible for the | |
| National Register. | |
| | |
| removed from the National Register. | |
| | |
| other, (explain:) | |
| | |
| - A | Signature of the Keeper Date |
| χ | |
| U | |
| 6. Functions or Use | |
| Historic Functions | Current Functions |
| (enter categories from instructions) | (enter categories from instructions) |
| (Career edication from instructions) | (Shoot casegories from instructions) |
| RELIGION/Religious Structure | RELIGION/Religious Structure |
| RELIGION/Church-related Residence | RELIGION/Church-related Residence |
| | FUNERARY/Cemetery |
| FUNERARY/Cemetery | runerari/ demetery |

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| 7. Description | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Architectural Classification | Materials | |
| (enter categories from instructions) | (enter cate | gories from instructions) |
| | foundation | Stone |
| Gothic Revival | walls | Brick |
| Other: American Four-square | | |
| | roof | Asphalt |
| | other | Wood |
| | | |
| | | |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The St. Lawrence Church is located in the rural, crossroads community of Stangelville. It sits at the corner of County Highway "J" and State Highway 163, facing east onto Highway 163. Stangelville has a current population of about 50 people. In the past few decades the community has suffered a decline in population and commercial activities. A fire in 1962 destroyed many buildings in the community. The property being nominated consists of the 1892 church, 1904 rectory and cemetery dating back to 1863.

The St. Lawrence Church in Stangelville was erected in 1892-94 to replace a log structure that was too small for its members. The church was designed by Jon Paulu, a noted Czech architect from Milwaukee. He designed other churches in Wisconsin, among them are Sacred Heart of Sun Prairie, St. Joseph in Cudahy and St. Wenceslaus in Milwaukee. 1

The 2 1/2 story Gothic Revival St. Lawrence Catholic Church has a fieldstone foundation and cream colored brick walls. The 50' x 100' church building features a 150' steeple on top of a central tower. The building has a steep gable roof with asphalt shingles and five lightning rods. The main (east) facade is symmetrically composed. The projecting tower pavillion features a central entrance with modern double doors topped by a Gothic arch and transom window. A Gothic style window composed of paired sash is located on the second stage of the tower. The bell tower is defined by a wooden cornice at its base and has louvered grills set in arched openings which are ornamented with Greek crosses executed in wood. The steeply-pitched, flared steeple capping the tower has a pedimented wooden cornice and is topped by a cross. Above the second story window is a Latin quotation in large letters, which translates as "St. Lawrence Pray For Us!"

The tower is flanked by large arched window openings composed of paired four-over-four double-hung sash with lancet shaped transoms. Below these are fixed four light windows with flat soldier brick lintels. The parapet of the main facade has heavy corbelling under an embattled cornice and buttresses at the corners.

X See continuation sheet

| 8. Statement of Significance | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | significance of this property in relation tostatewideX_locally |
| Applicable National Register Criteria | <u>X A B X C D</u> |
| Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) | <u> </u> |
| Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Ethnic Heritage Architecture | Period of Significance 1892-1930 Cultural Affiliation N/A |
| Significant Person N/A | Architect/Builder Paulu, Jon 3 Reynolds, W.E. |

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The St. Lawrence Catholic Church is being nominated under criterion C for its local architectural significance as a fine example of late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical design. It is nominated under criterion A as a locally significant resource representing the ethnic heritage of the church's Czech members. The period of significance dates from 1892 to 1930. This period reflects the beginning date of construction of the church and extends to the 1930s when religious instruction in the Czech language ceased.

ETHNIC HERITAGE

The Settlement section of <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u> discusses the immigration of Czech-speaking people to Wisconsin. The section notes that Czechs tended to settle in the eastern lakeshore region and in the bluff and coulee region of southwestern Wisconsin. Nearly all these settlements were agriculturally oriented. Kewaunee County is noted as a major settlement area for Czech immigrants. Czechs chose Kewaunee County due to the rich and readily available agricultural lands.⁴

Political upheaval in Central Europe encouraged Czech immigration. The Czech people were taken over by the Austrian Empire or Hapsburg Empire. The Czechs were forced to work for the Emperor and their sons were conscripted to serve in his armies. People worked for the Emperor during the day and had to take care of their own crops at night. There also was religious persecution because all were expected to embrace the Roman Catholic Church. Because of this, the people were very receptive to American agents who came there and promised freedom and land.

| 9. | Major | В | Bibliogr | aphical | Ref | erences |
|----|-------|---|----------|---------|-----|---------|

See continuation sheet.

| 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 University | Primary location of additional data: X State Historic preservation office Other State agency Federal agency Local government | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # | Other Specify repository: | | | | |
| recorded by Historic American | specify repository. | | | | |
| Engineering Record # | | | | | |
| 10. Geographical Data | | | | | |
| Acreage of property Four acres | | | | | |
| UTM References A $\frac{1/6}{\text{Zone}}$ $\frac{4/4/5/4/8/0}{\text{Easting}}$ $\frac{4/9/1/6/2/4/5}{\text{Northing}}$ | Zone Easting ///// Northing | | | | |
| c <u>/ ///// /////</u> | D / //// | | | | |
| | See continuation sheet | | | | |
| Verbal Boundary Description COM AT NE COR OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 S10 TH 495 FT N 264 FT TO P.O.B. S10 T22N R23E | W 799 FT S 313.5 FT E 304 FT N 49.5 FT E See continuation sheet | | | | |
| Boundary Justification The property being nominated is the entiwith the St. Lawrence church and include buildings and sites. | re land holdings historically associated d within its boundaries, all associated See continuation sheet | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 11. Form Prepared By | | | | | |
| name/title Raymond R. Selner | | | | | |
| organization | date August 1, 1988 | | | | |
| street & number Route 1, Box 147 | telephone 414/863-6566 | | | | |
| city or townDenmark | state <u>Wisconsin</u> zip code <u>54208</u> | | | | |

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| | | | | | Kewa | aunee Cour | ity, Wisco | onsin |

The buttresses are one story each with a sloping stone cap. There are six in front of the church. The south side has nine. The west (rear) facade has four buttresses and four stained glass windows. All windows in the church are Gothic in style with brick lintels supporting the lancet arch. Corbelling is found below the roof line flanking the apse which projects slightly from the rear and has a hipped asphalt roof.

The north and south sides of the church each have five stained glass lancet windows separated by buttresses. The north side has one less buttress than the south side due to an attached one story chapel. The chapel is located on the west end of the north facade. It is original to the church and has a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles with corbelling below the roof line of the gable end. There are three lancet windows in the chapel.

A basement was put under this structure in 1955. There are two basement entrances; a frame entryway on the north and one on on the southeast corner which also accesses the basement. The cement front steps were also added later.

The interior of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church has an axial plan and measures $68' \times 42.'$ It features a dramatic Gothic vaulted ceiling rising from 22' high on the sides to 35' from the floor in the center. Six corbelled tudor arches were installed in 1957 when the church was repainted. Three medallions alternated with church symbols are stenciled on the ceiling. The sanctuary is pentagonal in shape and measures $21' \times 16'$.

The High Gothic style main altar is built of oak and butternut wood and is approximately 30 feet high. The altar was constructed in c. 1894 by Joseph Svoboda of Kewaunee, a Czech artistic wood carver who was born in Bohemia and studied in Austria before coming to America. He built many altars for churches throughout the United States.² It has a very elaborate multicolored gold and silver design trim. The altar is lavishly carved with a wide range of gothic motifs including lancet arches, quatrefoils, pinnacles and gothic capitals. There are faux marble pilasters on the altar and columns. The two smaller side altars use the same stylistic vocabulary as the main altar.

The steps leading to the altar are wood but are now covered with tile. The marble baptismal font is the original one purchased for the church and bears an inscription in the Czech language. The pews are original with the church and are made of oak. The floor is all wood covered with vinyl tile.

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The original decorative painting was done by William Scheer of Appleton, Wisconsin, who studied decorating and painting in Germany before coming to America. He was said to have painted most of the Catholic and Lutheran churches in Wisconsin. The 1957 repainting of this church was done by Louis Shrovnal, a well-known Czech painter and decorator from Kewaunee, Wisconsin. All walls are plastered.

The apse is elaborately stenciled. There are four tudor arches in the apse that meet in a medallion. These are outlined with a painted chevron pattern in gold paint ornamented with a cross and stylized floral design. Painted angels are on either side of the apse.

A stenciled pattern outlines the Gothic stained glass windows which feature scenes depicting the lives of Catholic saints. The lower panel of each window contains a Czechoslovakian inscription commemorating the donor of the window.

The back of the church has a choir loft supported by four wooden columns. The balcony has pews and a raised area in the center with pews. Floors are all original maple and pews up in the balcony have the original wooden kneelers. In the raised area there are ropes for tolling the bell which was bought for the old church in 1870.

The confessional on the south side of the church was originally free standing and is of High Gothic design executed in oak.

The chapel is 12' x 16' and also has an arched ceiling which rises to a height of 15 feet in the center. The chapel contains a gothic side altar from the old church. This altar was hand-carved by Father Adlebert Cipin in 1875. Father Cipin was a gifted woodcarver who left his native Czechoslovakia to serve the Czech parishes in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Also included in this nomination is the two story American Four Square church rectory which was built in 1904. Its cream brick construction ties in nicely with the church itself. The architect for the rectory was W. E. Reynolds of Green Bay. He also drew plans for buildings in Kewaunee. This building was built by the resident pastor, Father Wenceslaus Kozelka as contractor. The labor force was all local people and curiously it was built for \$7.00 more than the estimated price.

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The two story rectory measures 34' x 44' and has a hipped roof with hipped dormer in the center of the main facade. Closely spaced beltcourses on the second story and in the center of the first story show a Praire style influence which is commonly seen in midwestern Four Squares. Three tall brick chimneys can be seen on the roof. The windows are one-over-one double-hung sash and are paired on the front and occur singly on the side elevations. The main facade features a one-story full-width porch supported by square posts and a central entrance with side lights. A one-story bay window is located in the center of each side elevation.

The interior of the rectory is very simple and unadorned. A low one-story brick garage was attached to the side of the rectory in the mid 1930s.

There are two small storage buildings located west of the rectory. One is a one story log building with wood siding. It was used to stable a horse belonging to one of the early pastors. During the period of significance, the building was moved by the resident pastor and used by him as a workshop. The other building is a one-and-a-half story frame building with a gable roof. Both sheds are insignificant in size and scale and therefore are not included in the resource count although they are contributing resources within the property.

The cemetery, which is also included in this nomination, was established on a small knoll to the west of the original log church in 1863. When the cemetery was begun, all people interned were buried as deaths occurred. In the 1930s family lots were established. The unique small crosses on the headstones are executed in a style similar to these people's Czechoslovakian homeland. Many of the stones on this cemetery have Czech inscriptions.

A parking lot extends to the south and rear of the church and the site contains no other significant landscape features.

The church retains a high degree of its historic integrity. As stated earlier, the a basement was excavated in 1955. The 1957 remodelling and repainting resulted in minor cosmetic alterations, the most notable of which was the addition of tudor arches to the sanctuary ceiling. Despite these change, the most significant historic features have been retained.

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Milwaukee Journal; August 26, 1930
- ² Kewaunee Listy; July 1, 1894
- 3 Appleton Post Crescent; October 24, 1946
- 4 St. Lawrence Church Record-1903; page 43

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Beginning in the 1850s many people left Czechoslovakia for America. Some Czech families sent their sons to America first to avoid service in the army and the family came later. The Erie Canal was built connecting the East Coast with the Great Lakes opening up the West. In eight days a person could travel the entire 340 mile Erie Canal and continue from his homeland to Wisconsin for \$50.00.6 The influx of Czechs to the Midwest, and Chicago especially, was such that a newspaper article in 1914 said that Chicago had the third largest Czech speaking community in the world. 7

Most of the Czech settlers in Kewaunee County were Catholics. As soon as approximately 30 families were settled in one area, they built a church. Research shows that many churches in this area were built from 1860 to 1912. Later on many were consolidated. This pattern reflects both settlement activity and the importance of churches to a sense of ethnic identity.

The Czech people that settled in Franklin (later renamed Stangelville) came from an area near Domazlice in Bohemia. The first Czech settlers in this area came to Stangelville around 1855. The names of John Mach and Rebitz are found in the Kewaunee County Courthouse land records. Several more families came till in 1864 there were about 25 and they decided to build a Catholic church. A unique story or legend is told about the starting of this parish. It seems that a group of Czechs were observing some Irish settlers chop down a huge tree during the building of a road. The tree fell the wrong way and fell on the Czech men. Even though one of the Czechs had his ax handle broken in three pieces, the only casualty was one Czech who lost his hat. Believing this to be a miracle, they decided to build a church on this spot dedicated to St. Lawrence who was a patron saint of their church in Czechoslovakia. During research of this project this story was mentioned several times by different authors and newspaper articles.

These immigrants were very poor so this log church was very plain and an altar (which is now in the chapel) was finally built by Father Adlebert Cipin, a talented carpenter and musician. He, along with a number of Czech priests, many newly ordained, came directly from Czechoslovakia to serve the numerous Czech parishes in this area.

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For some unknown reason, many of the people that settled here took only 20 or 40 acres not the full 160 acres government land grant. They proceeded to clear land for crops and a lot of them worked in this area and up north in logging camps during the winter. They also hauled bark to a tannery 25 miles away.

In the 1880s John Stangel and his sons came to this area and bought a tavern and store from Mathias Roidt and shortly after the village was renamed Stangelville. About this time the old log church was getting too small. The Township of Franklin had a population of 1,400 people in 1880 compared to 1,000 now. The need to do better was uppermost in the people's minds. An article in the local paper mentioned that by 1892 they had built two schools and plans were being made to build a new church.

By 1892 the church congregation numbered around 163 paying units. The parish decided to build a beautiful church that would be a showcase for the entire area. The newspaper accounts say that the parish thought they could build this church for \$7,000 and the architect mentioned \$9,000. The last account said the cost was \$15,000. These Czech people were very zealous and donated much to this building which was to be the center of their social as well as religious activities. Even today the social activities held at the church are important to this small, rural community. The church steeple can be seen for miles in several directions, drawing people to Stangelville.

The Czech immigrants brought many customs of their homeland to their church. The name, St. Lawrence, was the same as their church in Mrakov, Czechoslovakia. The statues in the church represent saints and holy people which are patrons saints of Czechoslovakia. Three paintings were brought from Czechoslovakia for the church. They pictured the Holy Trinity, St. John Nepomuc and St. Lawrence. The painting of St. Lawrence is now hung in the church chapel.

In 1904 a new rectory was built of cream brick to match the church building. 11 It was built by local people of Czech heritage who by this time had taken up these building trades. Again much time and labor was donated by these people. In 1909 stained glass windows were added to the church. These windows with pictures of saints and holy people of Czech descent were all donated by Czech families in this parish in honor of their family. The names of the donators are inscribed on each window in the Czech language.

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The major project of painting and decorating the church was done in 1912. There are six beautiful frescoes on the ceiling of the church depicting various episodes in the life of Jesus. These were all donated by parishioners. The painting was done by William Scheer of Appleton. He was a noted church artist and he painted many churches in this area of Wisconsin.

The church continued to be a center of the community and was maintained by Czech priests who all were born in Czechoslovakia. In 1925 the pastor, Father John Vorlicek, went out and got donations for the beautiful Stations of the Cross that adorn the interior walls of the church on each side. In 1928 electricity came to Stangelville so the parish again donated for wiring the church and rectory. In 1955 an extensive project took place when a basement was put under the church building and a hall and kitchen were created for social events in the community. The church was also repainted.

The money for many of these projects came from the proceeds of a "Kermis" or get-together. This was an annual event held on August 10th the feastday of St. Lawrence. It was a homecoming for many people who originally came from the area or had relatives in the community. Many traditional Czech dishes and delicacies were prepared for this day. The biggest celebration was held in 1964 when St. Lawrence congregation celebrated its centennial. Many thousands of people were here for this occasion.

The tenacity of Czech culture and the central role the St. Lawrence church played in perpetuating the ethnic identity of its Czech congregation is still visible today. The maintenance of ethnic traditions by the St. Lawrence congregation confirm the importance of this church as the primary social center of the surrounding community of Czechs. The church was the focal point of both religious and secular activities of the surrounding, largely rural, population. The importance of retaining their unique ethnic traditions is demonstrated by the congregation's choice of St. Lawrence as the patron saint of their congregation, and the use of Czech religious iconography such as the Greek cross on the bell tower and the recurrent use of the Czech language inscriptions throughout the church building. The cemetery with its unique Czech headstones is an extension of the cemeteries of the immigrants' homeland.

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The St. Lawrence church provided a vehicle for preserving and perpetuating their ethnic heritage through the maintenance of old-world customs and craftsmanship. Czech customs persisted well into the twentieth century including the selection of Czech priests, the celebration of the "Kermis" or feastday of St. Lawrence, and the maintenance of the Czech language for religious instruction until 1930 and services until the late 1940s.

This church, rectory and adjoining cemetery are visual reminders of the Czech influence in this area which continues to this day. This parish was served by a Czech speaking priest until 1984. You can go throughout this area and you will see many Czech names on local mail boxes. There are many people that can still speak or understand the Czech language to this day.

ARCHITECTURE

The St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Stangelville is a significant local example of Gothic Revival architecture. The Architecture section of <u>Cultural Resource</u>

<u>Management in Wisconsin</u>, volume 2, describes the manifestations of the Gothic Revival style in Wisconsin. The Gothic Revival extended from about 1850 to 1880 and was manifested in churches, institutional design and residences. The predominant characteristics include steep roofs, pinnacles, battlements, and the ubiquitous lancet arch. Gothic Revival churches were generally built with a basilica plan with a steeple on the entrance end. 12

The St. Lawrence Catholic Church is a somewhat late example of the Gothic Revival. While it is larger, more stylistically complex, and more detailed than the typical semi-rural Gothic Revival church, it does not exhibit the opulence generally associated with High Victorian Gothic design. This may be understood as an attempt to retain the traditional styles and forms in this predominantly rural area, or as a transitional building showing the influence of the High Victorian Gothic.

The major characteristics of the Gothic Revival style are evident in the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. The church exhibits a basilica plan with an attached chapel on the south facade. Its massing, details and scale are quite similar to the architect (Paulu's) St. Wenceslaus Church in Milwaukee. Although St. Wenceslaus is more massive, the overall design of St. Lawrence is equally sophisticated. The church features an abundance of Gothic details for such a relatively modest example including lancet windows and window hoods, battlements,

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pinnacles, buttresses and a massive steeple. The corbelled brick corbelling of the main facade is a noteworthy feature. The pews, stenciling, baptismal font and numerous other aspects of the building's interior continue the Gothic expression into the interior spaces. The exuberantly hand-carved Gothic altar pieces and stained glass windows of the interior are a testimony to the importance that this largely rural group of Czech immigrants placed upon this church as the center of their religious and social life.

Little is known of the architect, John (Jon) Paulu. Paulu was of Czechoslovakian descent and had his office in Milwaukee from at least 1887 to 1901. 13 It is likely that his Czechoslovakian heritage played an important role in his selection as architect for the St. Lawrence church. In addition to St. Lawrence, he designed St. Wenceslaus in Milwaukee for a largely Bohemian congregation and was a trustee of that parish. He designed other churches in Wisconsin, among them are Sacred Heart of Sun Prairie, and St. Joseph in Cudahy. The ethnic composition of these congregations is unknown. He was also architect of a commercial building at 1405 W. Greenville and a two-flat apartment at 1724 W. Mineral Street in Milwaukee. 14

The St. Lawrence Church is a significant although somewhat late example of the Gothic Revival style and together with its rectory and cemetery represent an important expression of the ethnic heritage of the church's Czech congregation. The Czechoslovakian imprint on this church is clearly evident in its architecture, history and function as one of the most important cultural institutions of the surrounding rural area.

In a regional context, several other comparable churches in this area were built within 25 years of the St. Lawrence Church. The first church, St. Joseph's of Norman, Wisconsin, is approximately five miles away and was built in 1912. This 2 1/2 story church with three-story steeple was built with cream brick in the Gothic Revival style. It has a cement block foundation, buttresses and Gothic windows. An obtrusive one-story entrance was added along with changes made in the altar area of the church.

Approximately eleven miles away is St. Mary's Church in Tisch Mills which was built in 1889. It was also built in Gothic style but has only brick veneer construction. It has smaller windows and has had some nonhistoric additions to the building and the inside of the church has been stripped of its altars.

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| | | | | | Kewa | aunee Cor | inty, | Wisco | nsin |

Another church in the vicinity is St. Joseph's of Pilsen which is approximately five miles away. This red brick building built in 1912 is also in the Gothic style and has had a number of nonhistoric additions. The alters have been replaced.

Of all these churches, which are very attractive and well-cared for, only the St. Lawrence Church has retained the majority of its original interior and exterior features.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A

The St. Lawrence Catholic is an exception to criteria consideration A because it is being nominated primarily for its architectural distinction as an example of Gothic Revival design and its historical importance as an important resource reflecting the rich ethnic heritage of its Czechoslovakian congregation.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D

The St. Lawrence Catholic Church cemetery is an exception to criteria consideration D. The cemetery has a strong historical association to the Czechosolvakian congregation. It contains graves dating back to 1863 and is an important historic documentation of the lives of the congregation. Many of the headstones exhibit distinctive Czech decorative features which contribute to the overall ethnic significance of the site.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B

A small storage shed was moved to its present location from elsewhere on the property during the period of significance. Because the move occurred during the period of significance, the shed is an exception to criteria consideration B.

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| | | | | | Kewa | aunee Cour | ity, Wisco | onsin |

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Building datestone.
- ² St. Lawrence Church Record-1903; page 43.
- ³ Ibid; Milwaukee Journal, August 26, 1930.
- ⁴ Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vol.1, Settlement 8-10 to 8-13.
- ⁵ Oral history supplied by Raymond Selner.
- ⁶ Bicha, Karel; <u>Wisconsin Magazine of History</u>; "Czechs in Wisconsin History"; Summer, 1870; page 198.
- 7 Kewaunee Enterprise; June, 1914.
- ⁸ Habenicht, Jan; <u>History of Bohemians in America Wisconsin</u>; Hlas; St. Louis, MO; 1910; page 489, 493.
- 9 Kewaunee Listy; March 9, 1892.
- 10 Kewaunee Listy; December 17, 1894.
- 11 St. Lawrence Church Record-1903; page 43
- 12 Barbara Wyatt, ed., <u>Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin</u>, vol. 2, Architecture section p. 2-5.
- 13 Milwaukee city directories, 1887 to 1901.
- 14 Information supplied by Les Volmert, City Planning and Development Office, City of Milwaukee.

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Oral history information was provided by the nomination preparer, Raymond Selner who is a member of the St. Lawrence congregation and a lifelong resident of the area.

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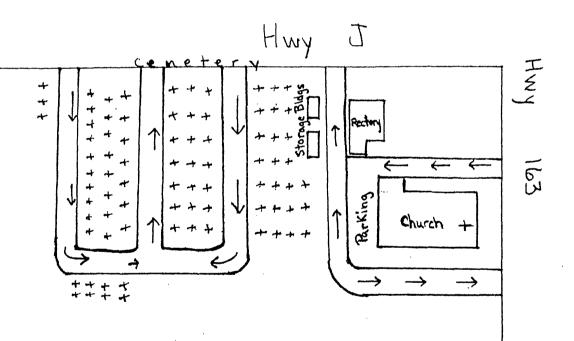
PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to all photos unless otherwise noted.

Saint Lawrence Church Stangelville, Kewaunee County, WI Photos by Raymond Selner, 1987. Negatives at WI Historical Society

- 1. Aerial view of Stangelville
- 2. St. Lawrence Church, looking east
- 3. St. Lawrence Church, looking north
- 4. St. Lawrence Church, looking west
- 5. St. Lawrence Church interior main altar
- 6. St. Lawrence Church interior left side altar
- 7. St. Lawrence Church interior right side altar
- 8. St. Lawrence Church interior side wall detailing Stations of the Cross
- 9. St. Lawrence Church interior view of ceiling frescoes
- 10. St. Lawrence Church Cemetery, looking east
- 11. St. Lawrence Church Cemetery, looking west
- 12. St. Lawrence Church Rectory, looking east
- 13. St. Lawrence Church Rectory, looking north
- 14. St. Lawrence Church Rectory, looking south

STATE



St. Lawrence Catholic Church Stangelville, Kewaunee County, WI

Figure 1

Not to Scale