

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 14 1987

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (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.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Joseph's Chapel
other names/site number St. Joseph's Chapel

2. Location

street & number Sacred Heart Cemetery, Omaha Street N/A not for publication
city, town Eau Claire N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54703

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings ---, sites ---, structures ---, objects ---, Total 1
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 11/19/87
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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] Entered in the National Register 1-14-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion - religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion - religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls Brick

roof Asphalt (shingles)other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Joseph's Chapel is a red brick Gothic Revival structure located in Sacred Heart Cemetery. The one-room building is characterized by a steeply pitched gable roof and a center entrance tower. The tower extends above the ridge of the main chapel roof to provide lancet arch openings on each elevation and terminates in a steeply pitched hip roof topped with a pressed metal cross.

Erected on a limestone block foundation, the common brick walls were laid with 7th course headers. A picture taken the day of the dedication of the chapel (attachment #1) indicates that originally the tower portion above the roof line was brick. This portion of the tower is now covered with 4" wood siding.

The original gable and tower roof was slate. The slate was removed during a 1982 improvement project and the roof was then shingled with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney on the east side of the roof remains in its original location and construction. The first chimney was capped with a brick arched opening (attachment #1). The chapel at one time was heated by a wood or coal burning stove.

A Gothic stone arch-shaped transom window with stained glass accents the doorway to the chapel centered in the entry tower on the south elevation of the chapel. The wooden paneled double doors shown in the 1981 Intensive Survey Form picture (attachment #2) have been replaced with double metal doors which contain small rectangular shaped clear glass windows. Directly above the main entry door and transom is a quatrafoil stained glass window also centered in the tower face. On the north (rear) elevation of the building, a door leads to the crypt where at one time the bodies of three parish priests were entombed in a vault.

The symmetrical stained glass windows on the south elevation, flanking the tower, are accented by stone sills and stone lancet arched caps. The three lancet windows on each side wall of the chapel are identical to the windows on the south elevation. During the 1982 project the stained glass windows were restored and protected with Lexon covering. The tower louvered openings are contained within lancet arches.

Significant original interior features of the chapel have been preserved. In the original multi-covered floor tile, one tile located inside the front doorway is inscribed "Ross Bros. Eau Claire". During the 1982 restoration, the designs on the interior walls and ceiling were again hand painted and the gold leaf detail was restored. The altar and its intricately hand carved wooden relief reredos were also restored.

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1896

Significant Dates
1896*

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Bemish, Joseph

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

Erected in 1896, St. Joseph's Chapel is the only example of a late Nineteenth Century Gothic Chapel in the City of Eau Claire. This chapel is a fine local representation of Gothic Revival design highlighted by a steep gable roof, a central entrance two-story tower, and numerous lancet windows. St. Patrick's Church, 322 Fulton Street, is the other example of Gothic Revival Church architecture of the late Nineteenth Century in Eau Claire. Built in 1885, this National Register of Historic Places property (1982) is an impressive brick structure highlighted by one full tower and by numerous lancet windows.

The Catholic Church in Eau Claire was established in the mid-1850's. A frame church was erected on N. Barstow Street in 1858 and the parish was named St. Patrick's. In 1875 the parish was divided when a number of German-speaking members created Sacred Heart Church.

St. Joseph's Chapel was built in 1896 by Joseph Bemish, a member of Sacred Heart Parish. The cornerstone on the chapel, "St. Joseph's Kapelle 1896" attests to the year of construction and to the German ethnicity of this parish and its cemetery. The chapel is located on the east end of the five adjacent cemeteries. To the west lies the graves of St. Patrick's Parish, the graves of two Lutheran congregations, and lastly the graves of the Jewish community in the greater Eau Claire area. The Rev. John Metzler commissioned the building of the original structure in memory of the Rev. Joseph Boehm who died in 1893. Rev. Metzler succeeded Rev. Boehm as Sacred Heart's pastor.

Masses were held periodically in the chapel and three parish priests, Rev. Joseph Boehm, Rev. John Metzler and Rev. Paul Geyer were buried in the vaults of the chapel basement.

Parish records indicate that Mass was held at the chapel for the last times on Memorial Day and in the month of November in 1943. The Rev. John Peltz had the three bodies removed from the vaults and reburied in the cemetery.

In 1982 the congregation realized the chapel was deteriorating and soon would be at the point of demolition. The building had been used to store maintenance equipment for the cemetery. Alterations of the chapel were undertaken in the summer of 1982 under the leadership of Rev. Peter Eiden.

See continuation sheet

*Cornerstone, "St. Joseph's Kapelle 1896".

9. Major Bibliographical References

Intensive Survey Form
Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
St. Joseph's Chapel (1981)
St. Patrick's Catholic Church (1981)

History of Sacred Heart Parish - Faith in Action 1875-1983

Eau Claire Leader Telegram, May 30, 1984

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
- 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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	0	1	2	0	4	9	6	4	3	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Legal Description:

St. Joseph's Chapel is located within a cemetery plot described as follows:

The W 330 ft. of E 536 ft. of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 16-27-9

The actual boundaries of the nominated property include an area 33' x 55' which constitutes an area 15 ft. out from the chapel on all sides.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the area directly adjacent to the historic chapel and the chapel building itself.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Ohl

organization Eau Claire Landmarks Commission

street & number 203 S. Farwell Street

city or town Eau Claire

date 8/4/87

telephone 839-4947

state WI

zip code 54702

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph's Chapel

Section number 8 Page 1

St. Joseph's Chapel, Eau Claire, Eau Claire
County, WI

The interior painting and hand-painted art work on the ceiling was done by Haines Decorators of Arcadia, Wisconsin. The impressive wooden relief above the altar was refinished. Record of the original carver of the relief does not exist, but Dr. Kenneth Campbell, art history professor at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, stated that most reliefs in the Upper Midwest during the late nineteenth century were done by carvers in Bavaria or by carvers from that same area who settled in Hugenot, Texas. Houser Studios of Winona, Minnesota, restored the stain glass windows.

St. Joseph's Chapel is a significant example of small scale Gothic design representing the building traditions of nineteenth century Eau Claire.

Criteria Consideration/Exceptions

The chapel is being nominated as an exception to the criteria as a religious structure deriving its primary significance from its architectural qualities.

Sources

History of Sacred Heart Parish - Faith in Action 1875-1983
Eau Claire Leader Telegram, May 30, 1984.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photograph Page 1 St. Joseph's Chapel, Eau Claire, Eau Claire County
WI

St. Joseph's Chapel
Text information on photographs

Photographs Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

1. St. Joseph's Chapel
2. Eau Claire, Wisconsin
3. Pat Ivory, Photographer
4. 6/5/87
5. Negative - Historic Preservation Division, SHSW

Photograph No. 1 - 6. Southeast

Photograph No. 2 - 6. Southwest

Photograph No. 3 - 6. South elevation

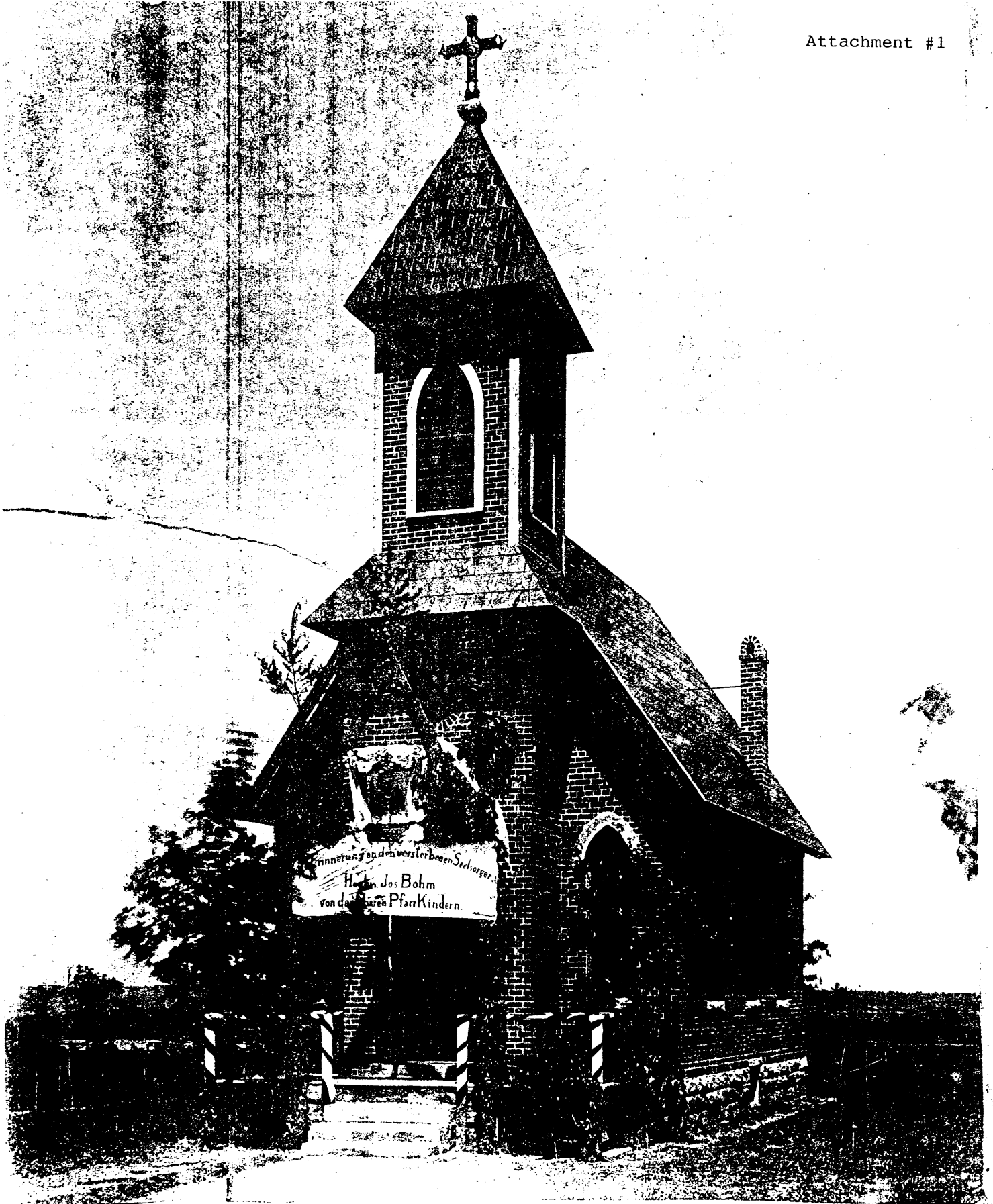
Photograph No. 4 - 6. Altar Raredo South

Photograph No. 5 - 6. Hand-painted walls South

Photograph No. 6 - 6. Ceiling

Photograph No. 7 - 6. Above doorway South

Photograph No. 8 - 6. Windows, East and West




This is a picture that was taken the day of the Dedication of St. Joseph' Chapel and was donated to Sacred heart parish by Mrs Laurine Klaes.

You will find names of Memorials and donations on other side of this picture . We ask that you check for any errors and please report them to the Rectory 835 9154. More donations are welcome.

1982

St. Joseph's Chapel

1 City, Village or Town: Eau Claire	County: Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11/23/81
Street Address: Omaha Street		Legal Description:	Acreeage:
Current Name & Use: Cemetery Chapel		Current Owner:	
Film Roll No. EC 5L		Current Owner's Address:	
Negative No. 14		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:	
Facade Orient. S		Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

Omaha Street

2 Original Name & Use:	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
Dates of Construction /Alteration C.1900	Source A				
Architect and/or Builder:	Source				

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:
 This small chapel is located in the Sacred Heart Cemetery. The red brick Gothic structure is characterized by a steeply pitched gable roof, a center entrance tower, and pointed arch openings.

Historical Statement:

Plat Map #4

5 Sources of Information (Reference to Above)

A Visual estimate by surveyor.

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark
 other: _____

B

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

C

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing

D

initials: _____ date: _____

E

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown

F

national state local initials: met

SI/14