

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



MAR 28 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**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 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mary Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number N. First and 'B' St. not for publication
city, town Sprague vicinity
state Washington code WA county Lincoln code 043 zip code 99032

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

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 *Joseph E. [unclear]* Date 3/16/90

Washington State Department of Community Development Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
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. *Adriana Byrne* **Entered in the National Register** 4/26/90

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 *fu* 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 stone
walls brick

roof aluminum shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Prominently sited on a hillside overlooking the small railroad town of Sprague, Washington, Mary Queen of Heaven Church is a masonry Gothic Revival structure characterized by arched fenestration, stout brick buttresses, and an engaged steeple with wooden spire that rises well above the structure. The well preserved church, built in 1902, and designed by prominent Spokane architect Herman Preusse, is located on the north side of the town, in a neighborhood characterized by small frame houses. The parsonage, located on the lot to the east, is an American Four Square styled structure of frame construction and shingle siding. It is not included in the nominated parcel. In a region characterized by channeled scablands and vast wheat fields, the church is the most imposing structure on the landscape.

Mary Queen of Heaven Church is constructed of load-bearing masonry walls faced in orange-red brick and resting on a foundation of locally quarried rough-faced ashlar. The church is built on a rectangular plan, measuring 30 feet across the front (south) facade and 75 feet along the sides. The walls rise to the steeply pitched gable roof with aluminum shingles, boxed eaves, and gable returns.

The front of the church is dominated by an engaged central tower which projects three feet from the plane of the facade. The tower is square in plan, and is supported at the corners by buttresses placed at 135 degree angles to the face of the tower. The tower is reached by a flight of ten concrete steps that accentuate the verticality of the design and lead to the great pointed arched entryway. The entry features double paneled oak doors, beneath a wooden canopy and surmounted by a stained glass Gothic arched window. The arch is outlined by a brick hoodmold.

Centered above the entryway is a rose window with stained glass, encircled by a molded brick surround. Above the window is a brick stringcourse which supports a blind arcade of pointed arch niches which rise above the roof ridge and form a frieze for the brick tower. The tower is capped by a frame, four-sided, pediment which also serves as a base for the octagonal belfry. The belfry, which is surrounded by louvered arched openings, still houses the bell that was purchased for the earlier church at the site (1887). The steeple is crowned by a tall spire, surrounded at its base by engaged gablets, and rises to a metal finial and a wooden cross.

The bell tower is flanked on the facade by pointed arched windows with stained glass set in trefoil-like tracery in the upper pane. On the side elevations of the church, the walls are divided into five bays, articulated by six brick buttresses which rise to the eaves in two stages. The buttresses are trimmed with cast stone. Between the buttresses, each bay is lighted by a pointed arched opening, with stained glass and trefoil-like tracery in the upper part of the window. The arches are outlined with brick hoodmolds. Five slender chimneys, two on the west and three on the east, rise against the buttresses, through the eaves and above the roof ridge.

A polygonal apse projects from the rear elevation, with a one-story sacristy encasing the apse. The side walls of the sacristy feature three small Gothic windows; a single leaf door provides access to the rear.

The interior of the church is distinguished by the great arched ceiling, which defines a dramatic interior space. The ceiling is faced in plaster, and articulated with graceful wood ribs in a grid pattern. The ribs rest on a cornice molding which surrounds the interior. A great chancel arch divides the nave from the chancel. To either side of the chancel arch, frescoed angels hover on the walls overlooking the altar pieces. The main and side altarpieces are intricately carved and characterized by numerous spires. Behind the chancel arch, the polygonal vaulted dome of the apse is faced in a golden broken tile pattern with white ribs rising to the apex. The sides of the nave are lighted by arched windows with stained glass. At the rear of the nave, a balcony lighted by the arched windows in the facade, is supported by Tuscan columns. The interior is lined with stained oak wainscoting. With the exception of the replacement roofing material, both the interior and the exterior of the church retain excellent integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1902

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Preusse, Herman (architect)Peterson, P.L. (builder)

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

Built in 1902 and designed by Spokane master architect Herman Preusse, Mary Queen of Heaven Church is a distinguished example of the Gothic Revival Style built for a small town parish at the turn of the century. Prominently sited on a hillside overlooking the railroad and farming town of Sprague, the church is characterized by a high level of craftsmanship, best reflected in pointed arch windows with stained glass, an ornate interior with ribbed arched ceiling and frescoes, and a gracefully proportioned steeple that rises above both town and countryside. Since its completion, the church has served parishioners from a 70-square mile area, and its tall spire has been visible for miles around. Today, the church retains outstanding interior and exterior integrity and is the most imposing architectural landmark in Sprague and its hinterland.

Historical Background:

Located in the channeled scablands of Lincoln County about 40 miles southwest of Spokane, Sprague was established in 1882 by officials of the Northern Pacific Railway, who selected the site for the divisional shops of the transcontinental line pushing its way west across Washington Territory to the Puget Sound. The company built a rail yard, platted a community (originally known as the New Railroad Town and later named after a company official), and began the sale of lots.

On February 14, 1882 Father Joset, a Jesuit missionary who had worked among the Indians of Eastern Washington, secured property from the railroad (on land now occupied by State Route 23) and constructed a small chapel of rough boards, measuring about 12 x 16 feet. Father Joset conducted the first recorded mass in Sprague on May 29th of that year to an overflowing crowd, some of whom had to kneel outside. So apparent was the need for a larger church, that immediately after the service parishioners met to lay plans for a larger structure.

Shortly thereafter, the congregation purchased two lots (just north of the nominated parcel) at bargain prices from the railroad. Under the direction of Jesuit Father Aloysius Jacquet, the new church was built in October, 1883, and dedicated to Mary Queen of Heaven by Bishop Junger on July 15, 1886. In the later part of 1885, Father Meuwere was appointed as the first resident pastor of the church.

Over the next 15 years, Mary Queen of Heaven church was enlarged several times to meet the demands of a growing congregation. But eventually it, too, proved inadequate, and in 1902, under the direction of Father Van der Ven, a substantial new brick church was constructed just south of the older building.

To design the new church, the parish hired Spokane architect Herman Preusse, who had already embarked on a career designing many of the most important Catholic structures in Spokane. Preusse was born in Germany in 1847, where he received his architectural training, arrived in pioneer Spokane in 1882, and had established the largest practice in the city in the years before the Great Fire of 1889. Afterwards, Preusse designed some of the first and largest masonry structures in the post-fire city. From 1893 to 1910, he was the senior partner in the firm of Preusse and (Julius) Zittel. The firm had numerous large projects as well as residential work in Browne's Addition and on the South Hill. But they were particularly distinguished for its work for the Catholic Church. For example, in the year of the Mary Queen of Heaven commission (1902), construction began on the Preusse and Zittel-designed Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral (1902-08) in Spokane. Other commissions included the completion of Holy Names Academy (c.1900); the Administration Building (1903-05) and other structures for Gonzaga University; and St. Aloysius Church (1909), all in Spokane. Preusse's experience and skill with ecclesiastical architecture led to the high quality of the Sprague design. On the Mary Queen of Heaven commission, Preusse

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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worked with Spokane contractor P.L. Peterson, a well known builder whose other commissions included the homes of Patrick Clark, A.B. Campbell, and F. Lewis Post in Spokane.

On October 21, 1902, the church was dedicated by Bishop O'Dea; it was rededicated by Bishop Schinner on August 2, 1914. When completed, the church served a community of parishioners drawn from a 70-square mile area, including wheat farmers and ranchers in a four-county region. In addition to services, the church ran a school and a number of the students entered the ranks of priests and nuns.

Exception to National Register criteria: The well-preserved church remains a landmark in the community. The simple Gothic design is enlivened by well proportioned arched windows with stained glass, brick buttresses, and a majestic tower. The interior is a dramatic space defined by an arched ceiling with delicate ribs, frescoes, and a golden domed chancel. No other building in the community reflects such a high degree of architectural skill and craftsmanship. Therefore, the church meets National Register criteria considerations for religious properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jans, Celia. A History of Sprague, Spokane: Gonzaga University Press, 1962.
The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Washington, June 27, 1909.
Pearson, Arnold and Esther. The Early Churches of Washington, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980, pp. 152-153.
Schoenberg, Wilfred. A Chronicle of Catholic History of the Pacific Northwest, 1743-1960, Spokane: Gonzaga, 1962.

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 #

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A	<u>11</u>	<u>426300</u>	<u>5239030</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 1-10, Block 56 and described thusly: Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of First and "B" Streets, proceed northerly along "B" Street approximately 100 feet; then proceed easterly approximately 60 feet; then proceed southerly to First Street; then proceed westerly to point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the parcel associated with the church. It does not include the adjacent parsonage because that building does not have architectural significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Richard Harding and Nancy Compau (edited by L. Garfield, OAHP)</u>	date	<u>August 15, 1989</u>
organization	<u>Parish Council</u>	telephone	<u>(509) 257-2862</u>
street & number	<u>Route 1, Box 65</u>	state	<u>Washington</u> zip code <u>99032</u>
city or town	<u>Sprague</u>		