



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions for National Park Service. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Joseph's Chapel

other names/site number 32WA155

2. Location

street & number Pulaski Twp. SESESE Sec. 23 T156N R51W N/A not for publication

city or town Oslo vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Walsh code 099 zip code 56744

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James E. Sperry 4/28/94
Signature of certifying official/Title James E. Sperry Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClelland

6/2/94

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, Stick Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. Used.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic: Northern European, Polish
Religion
Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1942

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Joseph Kosmatka, architect and builder

Primary location of additional data:

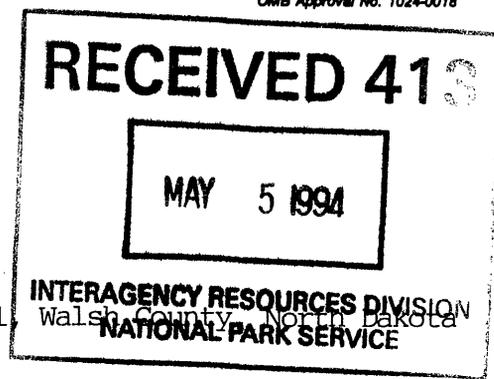
- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

State Historical Society of North Dakota

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1

St. Joseph's Chapel

Walsh County, North Dakota

DESCRIPTION:

St. Joseph's Chapel is a wood frame wayside chapel located in the southeast corner of Section 23 of Pulaski Township in Walsh County. It faces southeast at the intersection of two dirt section line roads several hundred feet west of the Red River of the North. This is a single building nomination.

The building is eclectic in architectural style with Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival and Stick style elements. It contains an interior altar and enough space inside for a priest and two altar boys. It is one story tall and measures 8 feet 2 inches square east-west by 8 feet 2 1/2 inches north-south. The building is sheathed in wood lap siding and has an original sheet metal roof. Built in 1907, the building has a symmetrical front facade dominated with a tall central steeple and two shorter flanking steeples. Steeples are trimmed in diamond shaped horizontal banding. The shorter flanking steeples have open semi-circular niches with plaster statues of Mother Mary and Mary Magdeline looking up and toward the central cross and figure of Christ. These three steeples are topped with heavy wooden crosses. The central cross is the tallest and is original, hewn from a heavy oak timber, and contains a wooden statue of Christ on the cross. The two flanking crosses are lower in height and are recent replacements, the originals having rotted. The juncture of the two arms of the three crosses is elaborated with millwork which has replaced the original which rotted. This was done within the past decade.

The roof is pyramidal, but the front facade has a central gable over double doors which swing inward. The front gable has iron cresting along the ridge pole. The lateral sides on the east and west have one-over-one single round-arched windows with wood keystones and original bluish-purple colored glass set into wooden frames. The north facade is unbroken lap siding with no openings. Around the bottom of the lap sided walls is a molded water table and the corners of the building have corniced tops of wood.

The chapel sits on a smooth concrete block foundation which dates from 1969. The foundation is covered in sheet aluminum to keep animals from access to the interior.

The interior of this small building has a replacement floor of plywood covered in vinyl tile square pattern of sheet linoleum. The interior walls are tongue and groove wood laid horizontally on the upper half of the walls and vertically on the lower half. The back altar has a quatrefoil design flanked by two Gothic arches. Niches contain plaster

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DESCRIPTION, CONT.

statues of St. Joseph, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Mary. Interior wood window molding and frames were replaced in 1990 to match the original.

There have been several alterations to the building in recent years. The entire chapel has always been at the southeast corner of Section 23. However, it was moved 12 feet northwest in 1969 after a disastrous flood of the Red River caused the section road to cave in. However, the building still retains its visual context at the corner of the section, because the original dirt north-south section line road had to be raised and regraded after the flood.

In 1990, the front double doors were replaced with new heavy plywood single panelled doors. The farmer on whose land the chapel is located recalls that the original doors may have been panelled, but the replacement doors are now flush and look more modern. The west and east window frames and moldings are replacements and some of the fretwork at the juncture of the three crosses on the steeples has been replaced as has the fretwork at the cornice, which is almost as elaborate as the original, but is the work of the woodworking machine. Two cornice moldings are missing from the corner front pilasters. The front lap 3" siding mostly was replaced in 1969 when the building was moved to its present location. The side and rear lap siding is original, and, of course, the building has been repainted and is now in good repair. Had these maintenance tasks not been performed, the chapel would now be in deteriorated condition.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

St. Joseph's Chapel is significant under Criterion A for its associations with the Polish community which settled in and around eastern Walsh County in the vicinity of Pulaski Township beginning in 1873. It is also significant under Criterion C because it is an unusual and fairly elaborate example of the property type (wayside shrine) and has a strong architectural character representative of the period. It is located five miles east of the town of Warsaw. This area of the Red River Valley was settled by Polish immigrants from the predominantly Roman Catholic Galician area of southeastern Poland. The Polish pioneers brought with them the pious custom of erecting wayside shrines or crosses, of which St. Joseph's chapel is a type and the largest and most elaborate one to be erected in the area. Seven extant wayside wooden crosses are known to exist in the area, but the chapel is the only building constructed as a wayside shrine. Unlike the crosses where passers-by would stop and say a prayer, St. Joseph's Chapel also functioned as a place for a priest to bless the crops and pray for a good harvest after Spring planting. Such services have been conducted, usually in June, since the shrine was erected in 1907. It is significant, at least through the fifty year benchmark of eligibility as the singular property associated with an ethnic, agricultural ritual celebrated by the Polish community each year since its construction.

The wayside shrines are indicative of the strong faith of the Polish pioneers who settled in the Warsaw area in the late 19th and early 20th century. No one knows how many crosses were erected in fields and along the by-ways in Pulsaski Township, but seven plain wooden crosses are known to exist presently. Dates of erection are unknown. One is located three miles east of Warsaw erected by Lawrence Mozinski and replaced by a large cross made of telephone poles by Steve Mozinski, his grandson. Another is one mile north of Warsaw erected by Joseph Gerszewski. Another is three miles north and one mile east of Warsaw erected by Frank Stygar. Teofil Gerszewski erected another four miles east and one mile north of Warsaw. Frank Marynik, a religious pioneer, erected one by the Red River two miles north and five and a half miles east of Warsaw. Another is located one mile south of Warsaw erected by Tomasz Stanislawski and the last known cross is located two miles south of Warsaw on what is now the Florian Mozinski farm ("Centennial of St. Stanislaus Church," p. 26; Walsh Heritage, vol. 1, p. 316)

Together with the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, rectory convent and cemetery, in Warsaw which is on the National Register, the St. Joseph's Chapel reflects the Polish community's penchant for ornamental architecture. St. Stanislaus Church is a Romanesque/ Gothic structure

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SIGNIFICANCE, CONT.

with ornate interior stencilling designed by architect John W. Ross of Grand Forks. The St. Joseph's Chapel, however, is not professionally designed, but rather an example of the work of a local craftsman in the Polish community.

According to a history in Walsh Heritage, Mrs. Joseph Wosick (nee Minnie Kulas) suggested to her neighbors that a cross or religious monument be erected in their midst and a meeting was called during which it was decided to erect a small chapel and name it St. Joseph's Chapel, because half of the men present were named "Joseph." Attending that first meeting were: Joe Wosick, Joe Ceter, Joe Kosmatka, Joe Rogalla, Frank and Paul Rogalla, John Duray, and Frank Ebertowski (Walsh Heritage 1: 317).

The Chapel was built on Joe Wosick's farm on land donated for the purpose. A collection was taken up among the group and \$102 dollars raised for materials. The chapel was completed and the first mass said in 1907. Measuring a little over 8 feet square, it contained an altar and enough room for a priest and two altar boys to say mass. Written in 1976, one history explains that,

The chief reason why the chapel was built was that a priest could come here and offer mass at least once a year and ask God's blessing on the crops. Mass is said there every year, usually in the month of June, and is attended by a large number of people (Walsh Heritage 1: 317).

Joe Kosmatka was both the designer and the carpenter and builder of St. Joseph's Chapel. No plans or blueprints were used. He was born in Pozen (Posen, Poznan), Poland, February 2, 1869 and came with his pioneering parents to North Dakota at the age of eight, around 1875. He married Mary Kulas at St. Stanislaus Church in Warsaw on November 15, 1892. A biographical entry simply notes that "he was a carpenter and farmed northeast of Warsaw." (Walsh Heritage 1: 306). According to Steve Mozinski, Joe Kosmatka built many buildings in the area, including barns, granaries, and chicken coops. He also made rockers and chairs (Interview with Norene Roberts, February 17, 1992).

The chapel was built on the Wosick farm in the southeast corner of Section 23 (T156N R51W) in Pulaski Township. Joe Wosick's wife, Minnie Kulas, sister of Mary Kulas Kosmatka, took care of the chapel until her death in 1916 and his second wife, Anna Merchlewicz, took care of it until her death in 1967 (Walsh Heritage, 1: 308, 317). Until that

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SIGNIFICANCE, CONT.

time, the chapel was in original condition. After the 1969 flood of the Red River washed out the road and the chapel was moved 12 feet northwest to its present location, the new foundation, floor, and front doors were installed. Fortunately, the necessity of moving the chapel has not damaged its integrity of location. It sits on the crossroads of two section line roads in the same relationship to the original Wosick farm. The chapel is maintained today by the current owner of the farm, John Bishop, who did the 1990 repair work on the chapel himself.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

"A History of the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw, N. Dak.
June 22, 1975. Written on the Occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of
the Church." Grafton-Grand Forks: Associated Printers, 1975.

Christlieb, Marilyn and Maxine Workman. "Cemeteries of Walsh County."
Vol. 27 of "Cemeteries of North Dakota" Series. 27: 76.

Steve Mozinski. Interview with Norene Roberts, February 17, 1992.

Walsh County Historical Society. Walsh Heritage: A Story of Walsh
County and Its Pioneers. 4 Vols. Grafton: By the Society, 1976.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the chapel, evergreen trees, and a wooden picket fence. The boundary is a 20-foot by 80-foot rectangle located in the southeast corner of Section 23, Pulaski Township, T156N R50W, in Walsh County North Dakota. From the center line where sections 23, 24, 25, and 26 meet, proceed 20 feet west and 36 feet north to the point marking the southeast corner of the rectangle. Proceed 20 feet north, 80 feet west, 20 feet south, and 80 feet east to the starting point of the rectangle to complete the boundary. The chapel is centrally located within the rectangle.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the chapel, the evergreen trees planted to the north, and the wooden picket fence behind the evergreen trees. The nominated property is located on the John Bishop farmstead property but does not include any farm-related buildings. The boundary was chosen to include the nominated property without including the front lawn of the John Bishop farmstead.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000556

Date Listed: 6/2/94

Property Name: St. Joseph's Chapel

County: Walsh State: North Dakota

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda M. Clelland
Signature of the Keeper

June 2, 1994
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance

Criterion consideration B is hereby entered to indicate that the chapel was moved.

Roleene Schliesman, National Register coordinator for the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on June 2, 1994.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)