

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Waukesha	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin	Congressman to be notified: Sen. Wm. Proxmire Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Glenn R. Davis
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

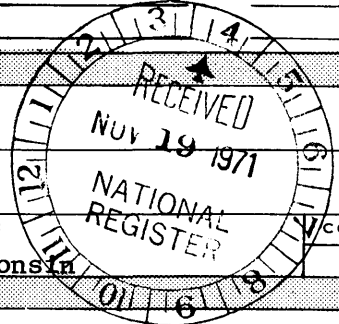
STREET AND NUMBER: On grounds of Nashotah House, Episcopal Seminary, 1 mi. S and 1 mi. W of Nashotah on Nashotah House Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Nashotah jic			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Waukesha	CODE 133

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Nashotah House (Episcopal Seminary)		STATE: Wisconsin
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Nashotah	STATE: Wisconsin	



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Waukesha County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Waukesha	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1960	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Waukesha	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 23 1972	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

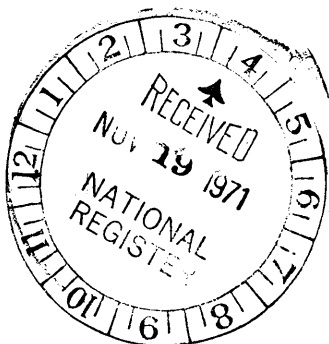
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An exceptionally fine example of Perpendicular Gothic, the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin is built of light grey native limestone laid random ashlar with tooled joints. A single-story building with "an unusual, high screen-type belfry..." the chapel has a steep gable roof with a semi-octagonal hip over the chancel. There is no clerestory. The building is divided into six bays, each containing a pair of slender lancet windows, and bays are separated by well-proportioned buttresses which terminate at the level of the window-arch apices. Facing northwest toward Upper Nashotah Lake, with a surrounding of tall trees and broad lawn, the chapel has a uniquely picturesque setting still reminiscent of the wilderness in which it was built.

Except for having been joined at one side into a group of large seminary buildings in 1890, the chapel has undergone little exterior change other than considerable weathering. What was formerly a side porch was converted into a vestibule which connects with the building group on the southwest. A great deal of decorative woodwork was added to the original interior as the building was adapted to full use as a seminary chapel from its original use as a mission chapel. This might reasonably be construed as more a matter of elaboration upon the original interior than of frank alteration.

Construction was begun in 1859 but was delayed by the Civil War and not completed until 1866.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859-1866

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

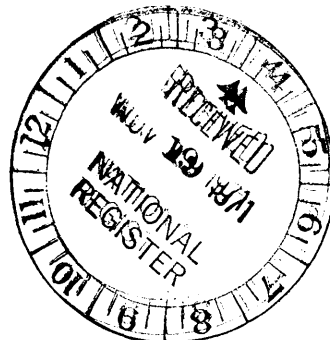
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While many fine examples of Gothic Revival architecture are to be found in Wisconsin's church buildings, the Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Nashotah is an exceptional example of its type. Architecture must be considered the primary area of significance of the chapel but the area of religion/philosophy has to be included to some extent. Egar, in mentioning the new stone Chapel at Nashotah, describes it as "a neat and substantial structure, in the early English style..."¹ Perrin elaborates somewhat on the point, stating, "That many of the finest of Wisconsin's older churches styled in the Gothic manner are those of the Anglican Communion can be explained by the fact that the Episcopal Church had just restored to itself historic rites and ceremonies which also called for greater fidelity in its architecture."²

Of such churches in which "the use of native limestone [was] worked into expressions of English Perpendicular Gothic," Perrin cites three which he considers outstanding.³ The Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin is one of the three, and of them it is the least massive and the simplest in design which, along with the beauty of its stone, imparts a feeling of grace and reverence quite in keeping with its name. This is indeed no accident, as the chapel is the work of the distinguished American architect and churchman, Richard Upjohn of New York.⁴

- 1: Egar, 86
2. Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 79
3. Idem
4. Idem



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Egar, John H., The Story of Nashotah, Burdick & Armitage, Milwaukee, 1874 (Reprinted from the London Edition) 86.
 Perrin, R. W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 78-79.
 Perrin, R. W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wisconsin Chapter, AIA, Milwaukee, 1960, 15.
 Perrin, R. W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962, 88, 90.

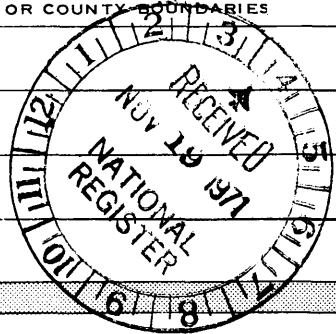
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		N 43	04	57
SE	° ' "	° ' "		W 88	25	34
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.25**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: October 7, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
 Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Date NOV 12 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 8 1972

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 19 1979
DATE ENTERED

National Register Property - Correction

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Correction to Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, Nashotah, Waukesha Co., Wisconsin

Richard Upjohn has incorrectly been credited with the design of the chapel, which was actually executed by James Douglas. The mistake occurred since Upjohn did submit plans for the chapel, as a gift, which were beyond the means of the church. According to the minutes of the trustees annual meeting on 16 June 1859, receipt of partial plans from Upjohn was acknowledged and a resolution was passed to return the plans because of the high cost to build from them. Minutes from the 1860 annual meeting mention that the construction of the chapel was in progress, but do not mention the source of the plans. It has been assumed that Upjohn submitted revised plans and was the architect of the chapel (Richard Perrin, 1962, 1967, 1976; H.A.B.S., 1960).

However, M. Fred Himmerich of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Watertown, Wisconsin noticed the similarity between St. Paul's and St. Mary's at Nashotah. St. Paul's was designed by Douglas in 1859 and is a brick structure; the contract with Douglas is extant. Himmerich also found the original contract and specifications for the Chapel of St. Mary, signed by the trustees and Douglas and dated a few months after the St. Paul's contract. Account books for both churches show entries of \$25.00 paid to James Douglas for plans.

The Statement of Significance as originally written is appropriate with this correction.

Rebecca Murray
State Historic Preservation Officer Signature

6/8/79
Date