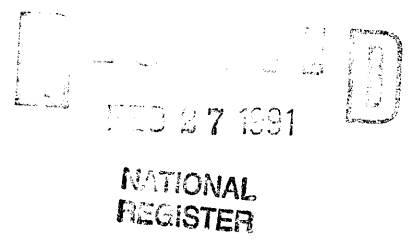


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Joseph Catholic Church

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 710 North Custer Avenue

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Hardin

state: Montana code: MT county: Big Horn code: 003 zip code: 59034

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Hardin

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Maull Sheff Signature of certifying official Date 2-12-91

MT SHPO 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

Entered in the National Register

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Alan Byrne 4/11/91
___ 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] Signature of Keeper Date

6. Function or Use

Historic: Religion/religious structure

Current: Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:
Late Gothic Revival

Materials: foundation: concrete
walls: brick
roof: asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Joseph Catholic Church is built in the Gothic Revival style. The church is a traditional, rectangular, gable-roofed building with a vestibule and steepled tower centrally located on the front end. Brick bearing walls set on an elevated concrete foundation tooled to simulate cut stone. Carpeted concrete steps with wrought iron guardrails approach the main entrance to the vestibule, which consists of a pair of unadorned modern wooden doors surmounted by a Gothic transom with simple Gothic tracery. A bracketed overdoor shelters the entry. Two small Gothic windows sit above the overdoor, just below an architrave moulding which wraps around the square steeple tower. Another architrave moulding, at the level of the peak of the main gable roof, forms the square base for the octagonal steeple roof. Between the two architrave mouldings is a large louvered Gothic opening with tracery. Side elevations are each divided into eight bays by brick buttresses with diagonal buttresses, set against the corners of the main block of the church. Gothic windows with simple tracery are located in the middle six bays on each side. The double-hung sash windows have recently been replaced with textured glass panes. Dark brown brick surrounds contrast with the light brown brick of the main body of the church and the steeple surround. The brick surrounds are inset along the vertical sides of each window, corbel outward at the haunch of the arch, and are flush with the wall along the arch. There is a rectangular window opening with a simple 1-over-1, double-hung sash in the basement wall beneath each of the side Gothic windows. A small gabled vestibule, housing stairs to the basement and the first floor sanctuary, is centrally located at the rear of the church. A small, round, stained glass window, visible over the altar in the sanctuary, is located in the main wall over the peak of the roof of the vestibule. On each side of the steeple tower and the rear roof of the vestibule is a single Gothic window identical to those along the sides of the church. Other than replacement glazing in the original Gothic windows and a recent wrought iron guardrail along the stairs, the exterior of the church appears to be intact.

The interior of the church was almost completely remodelled in 1938. Only the small rooms next to the altar and the balcony railing appear to be intact. All of the wood trim in the sanctuary has been removed and the walls and ceiling refinished with coarse textured plaster which returns to the window stops. The basement has also been remodeled.

A small shed-roof enclosure has been added to the north side of the steeple tower.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C	Areas of Significance: Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A	Period(s) of Significance: 1919
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1919
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: Russell, J.W. (builder)

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture on a scale suited to a small, western rural town.

Shortly after Hardin was established, the town's Catholic community erected a small wood frame building for use as a temporary place of worship. The congregation was served by priests from St. Xavier's Mission, some 23 miles up the Big Horn River south of Hardin. The Catholic Church sold Hardin's original church building in 1917 and began holding services in other buildings, such as the Sullivan Block, until their new permanent building could be finished. Omaha contractor, J.W. Russell began work on this Gothic Revival church building in the spring of 1919, and the first services were held in the new sanctuary on December 25, 1919.

The architect for the St. Joseph Catholic Church is unknown; however, it is a traditional Gothic church building. A modest building when compared to more elaborate churches in larger population centers, it never-the-less features characteristic Gothic elements: a symmetrical vertical emphasis achieved through steeply-pitched roofs, tall Gothic windows with tracery and transoms, the raised main floor, and the tall, steeple-capped central portico which dominates the front view of the building.

Although Gothic Revival was the style of choice for churches built in Hardin during the early 20th century, St. Joseph Catholic Church is the only such church in town which still retains integrity of design and location. The Congregational Church sets at its original location but has been significantly altered, while the Evangelical and Reformed German Lutheran Church has been beautifully restored but has been moved to the Big Horn County Museum east of town.

St. Joseph Catholic Church is being nominated as an addendum to Historic Resources of Hardin.

