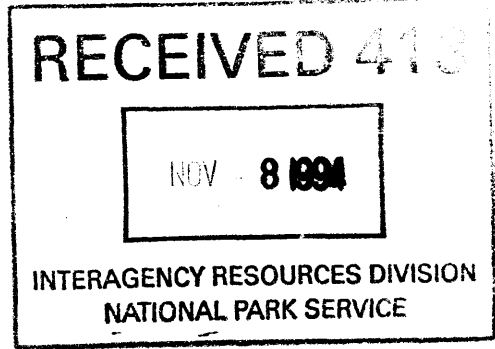


NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10/90)

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 in *How to 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 any 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. Boniface Church, Convent and Rectory
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 206 St. Boniface Street not for publication _____
city or town Uniontown vicinity _____
state Washington code WA county Whitman code 075 zip code 99403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Mary M. Thompson 10/12/94
Signature of certifying official Date
Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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:)

Edson H Beall 12.9.94

Entered in the
National Register
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

for

Property Name St. Boniface Church, Convent and Rectory

County and State Whitman County, WA

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> Total

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

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Church

Convent

Rectory

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Church

Rectory

Hotel (bed and breakfast)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival

No Style (convent and rectory)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

STONE

roof Shingle/ASPHALT

other

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

Property Name St. Boniface Church, Convent and Rectory

County and State Whitman County, WA

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>
<u>EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</u>

Period of Significance

<u>1905-1920</u>

Significant Dates

<u>1905</u>
<u>1906</u>
<u>1913</u>

Cultural Affiliation

<u>N/A</u>

Significant Person

N A /

Architect/Builder

Herman Preusse and Julius Zittel, architects (church)

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name St. Boniface Church, Convent and Rectory

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository:
St. Boniface Church

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 3

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u> Zone	<u>4/9/3/0/4/4</u> Easting	<u>5/1/5/3/8/6/0</u> Northing	3	<u>///</u> Zone	<u>///</u> Easting	<u>///</u> Northing
2	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	4	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren McCroskey (on a draft by Marvin Entel)

organization Washington Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date August 1994

street & number 111 21st Ave. SW telephone (206) 586-2901

city or town Olympia state WA zip code 98504

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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**National Register of Historic Places
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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Rolling wheat country known as "The Palouse" frames the small southeastern Washington community of Uniontown, where St. Boniface Catholic Church is a commanding architectural presence on a hill overlooking town. Visible for several miles before arrival, the church complex is symbolic of the predominately German Catholic heritage of Uniontown. The large brick church spouts twin spires from a Romanesque Revival program of broad arches, corbelled brickwork and buttresses. Flanking the church along St. Boniface Street are a modest, two-story rectory to the south, and a larger, two-and-a-half-story convent to the north. In spite of slightly varying styles found among the three buildings, overall uniformity is achieved through the use of red brick walls and rock-faced concrete and stone accents.

The three properties are aligned along St. Boniface Street and are preceded by large expanses of grass, original sidewalks, and a number of mature fir trees. The back of the complex is a grass yard which slopes gently away toward cultivated fields. A small grotto of native basalt is located behind the former convent building. Additional fir trees skirt the rear margin of the property, but are not dense enough to obscure the rural vistas of the Palouse country.

CHURCH (contributing):

Exterior: Completed in 1904 and dedicated in 1905, the Romanesque Revival style church is symmetrical in design and based on a cruciform plan. The building's footprint measures fifty-seven feet by one hundred and forty feet; the nave rises thirty-one feet, flanking side aisles rise twenty-one feet; the transept width is eighty-two feet. The foundation consists of a tuck-pointed basalt base with a granite sill course. Large twin towers capped by spires flank the entry. The nave features shallow transepts that extend slightly beyond the plane of the nave walls. A semi-circular apse projects from the rear of the building. Brick walls are laid up in an American bond, with flush joints painted light red. Small buttresses found at tower corners, between nave windows and at other junctures have inclined sandstone caps.

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At the front elevation, concrete stairs are framed by solid concrete railings textured in a stone-like finish; light standards rest on railings. Wood, double entry doors in arched openings feature strap hinges. The overlying arch, flanking arched windows and arched windows and openings on the towers are further defined by corbelled label moldings. A rose window is contained between two rows of corbel tables. The gable peak contains a clock and is surmounted by a statue of the Immaculate Conception. Towers feature long arched openings containing wooden louvers; tower bases terminate in heavy cornices composed of layered crown moldings. The shortened, octagonal spires rest upon open arcades which are capped by small gables clad with shingles.

Exterior nave walls feature broad arches containing stained glass scenes depicting the history of the church. All windows and arches are defined by corbelled label moldings; windows rest on lug sills consisting of classical moldings. A cupola over the crossing was removed in the 1930s or 1940s.

Interior: St. Boniface Church has a remarkably intact interior which has sustained only minor renovations in the form of painting, replacement of some light fixtures and the occasional repainting of decorative surfaces and stencilling. Though eclectic, the interior program most strongly conveys a gothic inspiration, coupled with classical revival elements. The slightly cruciform plan is defined by a central aisle separated from side aisles by colonnades. Columns have ornate composite plaster capitals. The gothic-arched ceiling is made possible by suspended plaster vaults; side aisles have groin-vault ceilings that are visually supported by corbels at arch spring lines.

Stencilling is used liberally along vault ribs and beneath nave windows. Stations of the cross, located appropriately throughout the nave, consist of oak-framed oil paintings with attached candle lamps. Flooring is hardwood and linoleum. Metal, gothic-style hanging lamps, installed in 1909, compliment the interior program. Original gothic-style pine pews bearing quatrefoil motifs fill the nave and side aisles. Above the narthex is an elliptical balcony finished in beadboard. A small chapel in the southeast corner

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contains an elaborate gothic-style baptismal font consisting of marble, plaster and free-standing figures. Two original oak confessional booths are found in each transept; the south transept contains movable confessionals.

Most striking are the chancel, main altar and side altars which replaced temporary fixtures in 1910. Preceding the high altar is a classical, balustraded communion rail; the railing, artfully decorated with faux marble finish, has been cut out in the center to accommodate access and comply with Vatican II directives. The chancel/apse, rising three steps from the nave, contains a marble and plaster altar and reredos. The gothic-style unit contains four saints in gothic niches, a columned base with a carving of the Last Supper, and a monstrance in the center of the table. An ornate brass host is suspended from the ceiling in front of the altar.

The chancel walls are illuminated by three small arched windows and adorned with painted medallions featuring Christian symbols and saints. Chancel ribs are painted with arabesque stenciled. Arched doorways with paneled doors that access vesting rooms are found at each side of the altar. Side altars are found at the front of each side aisle. These altars are smaller versions of the high altar, featuring niches, saints, and monstrances. Arches directly above the side aisles are treated with tympanum paintings, each depicting a biblical scene. These scenes, and those found elsewhere throughout the church, were painted in the 1930s by a Italian artist who modeled his figures after local residents alive in Uniontown at the time.

RECTORY/CONVENT (contributing):

Completed in 1905, the two-and-a-half story, former convent building is a mostly symmetrical composition featuring a cross-gabled roof. Resting on a granite and brick foundation, the thirty-eight feet by forty-five feet building has brick-bearing walls with flush joints that are accented by jack-arch window openings, rock-faced sandstone belt courses and concrete sills. All first and second story windows are the original sixteen-over-one, double-hung sash. Formerly roofed with wood shingles, the

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four gables are now clad with three-tab asphalt shingles. Gable ends are clad with original shingles and contain three-part, Palladian-style windows. Deep soffits are created by flared eaves that create a bell-cast roofline.

At the front elevation, the arched central entry, slightly asymmetrical in placement, delivers into a vestibule preceded by double doors with transom. A second set of double doors with transom follows. At the time of the conversion of the rectory into a convent in 1912, a crude wood entry porch was constructed. At this time, the second-story window directly above was partially infilled and replaced with a door which accessed the porch balcony. Eventually the balcony was roofed within the modern period. Overall, the porch/balcony feature, while partly historic, was an ill-designed and poorly constructed feature which adversely impacted the architectural qualities of the front elevation. Brick surfaces and the beltcourse were cut into, the entrance arch obscured, and the balcony roof awkwardly attached, thereby obstructing the design merits of the flared roof and gable windows. As of this writing, a rehabilitation of the building has elected to remove this feature and return the building to its 1906 appearance.

Upon entry, an el-shaped pine staircase with newel post accesses the upper floors. Interiors are largely unaltered. Walls are lathe-on-plaster; rooms feature fir paneled doors and fir window and door casings, and base boards. Most all elements have retained their natural finish. The first and second stories originally contained thirteen rooms, however, current rehabilitation plans will reduce that number. The attic story, formerly a sleeping area for the sisters, is an open space.

Rehabilitation work has added a large one-story, hipped roof garage to the rear. This feature, attached to the original building, has eclipsed most of the first story of the rear elevation; a central, second-story window has been re-fitted with a door which accesses a porch area in the new addition. The addition has been faced with compatible brick and features new casement windows and three-tab, asphalt shingle roofing.

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RECTORY (contributing):

Built in 1913 to house the parish priest following the conversion of the former rectory into a convent, the newer rectory is the smallest building in the complex. The building measures twenty-four feet by thirty-six feet and is two stories in height with a hipped roof. Walls are brick with flush joints. On the front elevation, fenestration is highly irregular: To the left are first and second story, double-hung sash windows. To the right is a single entry door covered by a hipped-roof porch; directly right of the door is a small window; overlying the porch is a small, double-hung sash window. Evidence of brick in-fill above the porch suggests that this window was perhaps larger at one time, or served as a door access to a porch balcony of different design. In either case, the present porch and window opening alteration happened well within the historic period.

Remaining windows on side elevations are double-hung sash. A brick chimney rises from the north side of the hipped roof. At the rear of the building is a garage addition clad with asbestos siding in a brick pattern. Directly behind the rectory are a noncontributing trailer and metal garage/storage building. Completely obscured by the new garage is a wood frame, shed-roofed privy constructed when the church grounds were enhanced as a city park.

GROTTO (contributing):

A grotto containing the Virgin Mary is composed of native basalt. The structure contains the figure in a an arched niche.

Noncontributing:

- Trailer
- Corrugated Metal Garage/Storage
- Privy

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As a focal point for German immigration and Catholic worship during the settlement of eastern Washington's Palouse country, St. Boniface Catholic Church claims a stature apart from other churches in the region. Prominence is felt in the assertiveness of its architectural program, in the survival of a profusely ornamented interior, and in the cohesiveness of the adjacent convent and rectory buildings. Few historic Catholic churches were left untouched after the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s, which prescribed a cleansing of features and details believed to be distracting or redundant. St. Boniface's interior escaped the landmark event and subsequent liturgical changes -- which elsewhere swept away interior ornamentation and decorative painting.

In the historic context of Palouse settlement, the St. Boniface complex is strongly emblematic of German settlement in Whitman County, a movement that coalesced in the community of Uniontown, and later in Colton, located three miles to the north. The first settlement of southeastern Washington occurred around 1867 with the arrival of Oregon Trail immigrants following a northern route along the Snake River in southern Idaho. First settling in the Walla Walla region, homesteaders poured into Whitman County after ferry and steamboat landings were established in the mid 1870s. Primarily from midwestern states, the settlers to this part of eastern Washington embraced every possible ethnic heritage. Germans were especially prevalent, with Volga Germans accounting for some settlement in the northwest region of the county.

First dismissed as a barren land suitable only for stock grazing, the Palouse exceeded all expectations as a prime grain growing region, and the availability of cropland was especially attractive to settlers fresh from the nation's grain-growing heartland. Railroad spurs and branch lines of the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads, established early in the 1880s, provided the vital links to grain markets, while steamboat transport along the Snake and Columbia Rivers remained vital conduits. Uniontown was well-poised along a branch of the Union Pacific, its location further enhanced by the nearby Snake River to the south.

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A large population of Catholic Germans made Uniontown the logical choice for a grand church of European tradition. First worshipping in a small frame church built in 1879 and enlarged in 1882, the growing parish gave rise to an entirely new building of impressive proportion and materials. An educational role for the church was realized with the arrival of Benedictine nuns who founded a school. The convent, serving first as a rectory, was adapted in later years for the purpose of housing the nuns who succeeded this order. An educational legacy is felt today in a modern school maintained by St. Boniface at the south edge of town.

Uniontown's Catholic foundation was influenced by the exodus of the Benedictine Sisters from Switzerland to the United States in 1882. Unfavorable Catholic sentiment in Switzerland prompted their move to New York, subsequent travel by train to California, and boat trip to Portland, Oregon. Seeking to found a mission, the sisters chose Uniontown in 1884, where they established the first convent and school which no longer remain. A contentious relationship between the Benedictine sisters and the priest of St. Boniface, which reached a climax in 1892, forced the nuns to relocate to Colton three miles to the north. Colton's Catholics embraced the order, offering a twenty-acre site for a new convent. (Completed in 1894 under the plans and direction of Julius Zittel of Pullman, and incorporating granite from a local field, the new St. Scholastica Academy in Colton sported a handsome brick profile of Romanesque proportions. This building, though no longer in use, has a high level of integrity and is also eligible for nomination. The nun's new tenure at St. Scholastica was not permanent however, as the Benedictine order was eventually relocated to permanent quarters at nearby Cottonwood, Idaho. At this time, the Colton parish, formerly affiliated with St. Boniface, was established as a separate parish. A surviving brick church and adjacent rectory were built in 1905 and 1918, respectively.)

In 1901, the Sisters of the Divine Savior arrived in Uniontown to reopen the parochial school left vacant by the Benedictine sisters. By 1909 the school closed once again when this order was called away. In 1911, the Sisters of St. Francis reopened the school once again. As the school grew, administrative needs outgrew the

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original convent facility. The sisters then moved into the St. Boniface rectory, renamed St. Anthony's convent, on Christmas Eve, 1913. Living quarters were provided in the attic story, while lower floors were adjusted for administrative offices, and a chapel located in the large first floor room. This order was followed by the installation of the Sisters of the Holy Names, which occupied the facility between 1932 and 1972.

The prominent Spokane firm of Preusse and Zittel was commissioned for the St. Boniface church project, and possibly designed the adjacent convent less than one year later. Close to Uniontown in Pullman, Julius Zittel had already built a local reputation with commissions such as the St. Scholastica Academy in Colton. Themselves Germans of Catholic faith, Herman Preusse and Julius Zittel became one of a handful of Spokane's prolific, post-fire architectural firms. After a disastrous fire consumed most of Spokane's wood frame, commercial core in 1889, Preusse and Zittel garnered numerous contracts for more durable replacements built in brick, with sturdy granite and basalt foundations. Many of their buildings were loose interpretations of the Romanesque Revival style.

Julius Zittel was born in Germany in 1869, coming first to Chicago, where he received drawing skills, and then to Spokane in 1887, at the age of eighteen. That same year, he found work with the office of Herman Preusse and was made a partner with the firm in 1893. Between 1893 and 1910, Preusse and Zittel enjoyed a successful union which produced many of Spokane's most notable architectural works. The firm was responsible for the design and construction of the original Gonzaga College (now University) buildings, and adjacent St. Aloysius Church. Both are Romanesque Revival buildings, the church, not unlike St. Boniface with its brick composition and twin spires. Other important commissions included the State Normal School at Cheney, the Old City Hall, the downtown Carnegie Library, and the city hall in nearby Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Perhaps better know for public commissions, the firm also designed residential properties in the Ninth Avenue District (National Register-listed) on Spokane's south hill. Built for prominent

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Spokanites while St. Boniface was rising on the Palouse, many of these are large but undistinguished examples of the American Foursquare style then popular.

After the firm ceased in 1910, Zittel continued an active career and eventually served as the state architect under the Lister and Hartley administrations. Thereafter principal of Zittel and Rigg, Julius Zittel was remarkable for his number of state projects and was said to have designed more state buildings than any other architect in the country.

The nearest compliment to St. Boniface is the Catholic Church in Colton, three miles north. Like the Uniontown complex, the Colton church also has an adjacent rectory, a brick residence designed in the Arts and Crafts style. The church's architect is unknown at this time, however, the construction date (only one year later) and Romanesque program point to a possible association with Preusse and Zittel. A less spectacular composition than St. Boniface, this church is smaller, has a single spire and a modernized interior. It is reported that the German Catholic community in Uniontown, aghast at the erasure of the Colton church's interior following the Second Vatican Council, was successful in heading off a similar interior remodeling of St. Boniface.

Uniontown's St. Boniface complex is unparalleled in eastern Washington's rural communities. Situated on a hill with supporting structures, the church remains a strong reminder of a European heritage that was not far removed during Whitman County's settlement period. Nowhere else is the German Catholic foundation of the Palouse expressed so deliberately. Active as a parish and regional performance hall, St. Boniface has extended the life of the former convent with its sale to private owners. The convent is currently under development as a bed and breakfast operation that will draw increased visitation to an already-frequented Palouse landmark.

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Name of Property St. Boniface Church and Convent
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Verbal Boundary Description

Located in the North Half of Section 7, Township 12, Range 46 East, West Meridian, Town of Uniontown, Whitman County, Washington State. All of Tract P in the Original Plat of Uniontown consisting of 2.17 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are defined by the urban legal description which has always been associated with the St. Boniface Church, rectory, and former convent.