

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **MAR 22 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Joseph's Polish Roman Catholic Church 5DVI366
and/or common St. Joseph's Polish Church

2. Location

street & number 517 East 46th Avenue n/a not for publication
city, town Denver n/a vicinity of
state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Archdiocese of Denver c/o of Administrative Offices
street & number 200 Josephine
city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state Colorado 80206

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Denver City and County Building
street & number 250 West Colfax
city, town Denver state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1973 federal state county local
depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway
city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Joseph's Polish Church is situated on the corner of East 46th Avenue and Pennsylvania in the Globeville area of Denver. Globeville is an early residential suburb of Denver, northwest of the downtown commercial district.

The church, constructed in 1902, contains some Gothic elements, as reflected in the pointed arched openings. The most distinctive characteristic is the central entrance tower, with the name of the church in Polish ("KOSCIOL SW JOZEFA") inscribed directly above the arched entrance. Ornamentation is achieved through brick corbeling at the cornice level of the main block and within the tower. The tower has a louvered belfry and a conical spire of contrasting ribbed flashing. The building features stone detailing primarily in the rusticated sills of all the windows, the belt course that extends completely around the tower just under the louvered openings, and the buttress caps.

The building, which is 32' by 60', contains five arched stained glass windows on the sides of the church, and one stained glass window on either side of the front tower. In 1923 the north wall was torn down and the sanctuary extended, adding forty feet to the length. Upon completion, the interior was redecorated and a new altar erected. In 1974 the original door had to be replaced because of its severe deterioration. Other cosmetic changes include cleaning of the brick in 1976. On the east and west end are two gabled entrance "trancepts"

The interior of the church contains the original wooden pews. Carved wooden stations of the cross are positioned between each window and at the rear of the church. The ceiling is vaulted. A small confessional is built into the wall at the rear of the church. The choirloft at the rear (southside) has the original woodwork. Small side altars with statues are in each corner at the front of the church.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902; 1923 (addition) **Builder/Architect** Builder: Frank Kirchof

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Joseph's Polish Church, located in the historic neighborhood of Globeville, is significant in serving as a focal institution for the Polish community of Denver since the construction of the church in 1902.

Although there were some Poles who arrived in the Denver area during the early settlement period of the city's history, the greatest influx occurred after 1880. These immigrants gravitated to Globeville, a community separate from the city of Denver until 1903. They worked in the smelters, the brickyards, and the packing houses of Globeville. Not only Poles, but Germans, Russians, Ruthenians, Lithuanians, Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Slovenians, Irish and Austrians flocked to Globeville, which became, by the turn of the century, Denver's leading mixed ethnic enclave.¹

Each of the ethnic groups in Globeville was allied with a particular neighborhood church. St. Anne's (later Annunciation) had a predominantly Irish and German congregation; Holy Rosary was largely Austrian; and the Transfiguration of Christ Eastern Orthodox Church mainly Russian. By the turn of the century, the Poles were numerous enough to plan for a church where they could have services in their own language. Bishop Matz gave his permission for a parish church to be solely for the "Polanders" on November 22, 1900. The Poles diligently began collecting funds and the cornerstone of the church was laid on August 17, 1902. It became the twelfth Catholic parish in Denver.

The Croations and the Slovenians also attended mass, religious instructions and other religious related events at St. Joseph's. They formed their own societies, however, that were separate from the Polish societies. Reverend Theodore Jarszynske, the first pastor, conducted English classes for the Polish parishioners. Traditional religious customs were also encouraged by the pastor. Bozi Cialo, the feast of Corpus Shristi, was one such festival celebrated by Poles. There was a large procession from St. Joseph's through the streets of Globeville, with stops at colorful home altars erected on porches or front lawns of parishioners. (These altars are still erected today in Globeville and covered with brightly colored cloths and an abundance of flowers.)

¹Stanley L. Cuba, "A Polish Community in the Urban West," Polish American Studies Vol. 36, #1 (Spring 1979), pp. 33-74.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cuba, Frank, Globeville, CO. Interview, 18 November 1980.

Cuba, Stanley L. "A Polish Community in the Urban West: St. Joseph's Parish in Denver, Colorado."

Polish American Studies 36, #1 (Spring 1979): 33-74.

Cuba, Stanley L. "Remarks." Delivered at the Diamond Jubilee Banquet of St. Joseph's Church, Denver, Colorado, November 20, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .11478 acres or about 1/8 of an acre

Quadrangle name Commerce City Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the NE corner of the intersection of E. 46th Ave. at Pennsylvania, the boundary extends N 125' along the E side of Pennsylvania; turning eastward, the line extends 65'; turning southward, the boundary extends 125' to the N side of 46th Ave; turning westward, the boundary extends 65' along the N side of E. 46th Ave. to the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (continued)

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Renee Ensign Zella; Gloria Mills

organization

date December 4, 1980

street & number 13569 W. Purdue Avenue

telephone 697-6727

city or town Morrison

state Colorado 80465

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting)

date March 16, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/21/83

J. Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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St. Joseph's Polish Church

Continuation sheet Denver Co., Colorado

Item number 8

Page 2

(continued)

The construction of the Valley Highway (I-25) and I-70 in the early 1950s brought about many changes in Globeville. The community was cut in half by I-70, which resulted in the destruction of the Polish enclave that surrounded the church. However, it did not destroy the parish life.

As second and third generation Poles have moved from Globeville to the suburbs, additional Polish immigrants have arrived in the city with a need for the Polish language services and the social network provided by the parish. Also, many of the Poles who no longer live in Globeville still belong to the parish. St. Joseph's existence is an ever present reminder of the ethnic heritage of the Polish community. "The preservation of St. Joseph's," writes Dr. Stanley L. Cuba, "would be a service to Denverites, Coloradoans and all Americans, whether or not of Polish descent, because it would visibly document the presence in western America of the Polish ethnic group, one of the nation's largest. The preservation of St. Joseph's as an historical monument would also accent the contribution of the Polish community, as one of a number of ethnic groups, to the development of Denver and Colorado."

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Continuation sheet **St. Joseph's Polish Roman
Catholic Church**

Item number 9

Page 2

Doeppers, Daniel. "The Globeville Neighborhood in Denver." The Geographical
Review 57, #4 (October 1967):506-517

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St. Joseph's Polish Church, Denver, Colorado
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

VBD (continued)

intersection with Pennsylvania and the point of beginning. The boundary is drawn to include the church building only, extending to the south and west to the natural boundary formed by the streets; to the north 10' of the building; east 15' of the building.