

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 28 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Saints, Joseph and Mary Church

and/or common Sawyer Log Church

2. Location

street & number Mission Road N/A not for publication

city, town Perch Lake Twp (Sawyer) vicinity of Cloquet

state Minnesota code 22 county Carlton code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Saints Joseph and Mary Church

street & number Mission Road

city, town Sawyer N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carlton County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Carlton state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Saints Joseph and Mary Church is situated on a grass covered knoll at the edge of a hardwood forest. There are no buildings that can be seen from this site except the adjacent Saints Joseph and Mary Church built in 1969 of bricks and laminated beams.

The church is surrounded by large evergreens and trimmed shrubbery. In front of the church there is a shrine built and maintained by Indian people in the Sawyer community. The shrine has the title, Lily of the Mohawks, Cateri Tekakwitha.

The church consists of a main building (20' x 32') and three internally open attached annexes at the rear of the building which form a cross. The lateral annexes are 12' x 12'; the rear annex is 18' x 22'. The main building exhibits high quality dovetail piece-sur-piece craftsmanship. Some of these square hewn pine logs are fourteen inches in height and thirty-two feet long.

The log annexes have been very skillfully articulated with the main building. Reports indicate that the annexes were completed in the 1920s. The first annex addition, located on the east side, is of similar dove tail solid timber construction. The logs in this east side addition are slightly smaller in width. The remaining two additions have utilized partly hewn logs with a lapped system of notching at the corners.

The present roof is made of log rafters and cedar shakes. It is estimated that the original roof was covered with cedar shingles. The foundation is made of concrete with vents.

The distinctive features of this building are: (1) the excellence and beauty of the notching and placement of the logs; (2) the well engineered articulation of the three annexes that form a cross; and (3) the particular attractiveness of the natural setting of the church and church yard.

The basic log structure is in fairly good condition. At the intersection of the dove-tail annex on the east side and the main building, there is some dampness in the lower logs because of deficiency in the adjacent section of the roof structure. The crawl-space under the structure is fairly well ventilated. Plans are currently underway to secure local and state funds to repair the roof, maintain maximum dryness in the log structure, and preserve items that are related to the history and functioning of the building.

¹Mackie, Allan B., 1979, Building with Logs, Prince George, B.C.: Log House Publishing Co., Ltd., pp. 51-54

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) American Indian History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1884, 1920s **Builder/Architect** Moses Posey (Chippewa)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Reports indicate that this piece-sur-piece building was built by Moses Posey in 1884 with the assistance of other Chippewa parishioners.² Saints Joseph and Mary Church replaced a large wigwam structure that had been built when Father Vogt came to the Fond Du Lac Indian community in the 1880s. This building is of special historical significance in that it represents one of the earliest Catholic Churches among the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota. The church is also one of the two oldest remaining church buildings in northern Minnesota. Moreover, this building is one of the few remaining historic buildings in Carlton County. The widespread fire in 1918 destroyed most buildings in and around Cloquet except for the Sawyer area. Preservation of this building will be of importance in preserving the history of Carlton County as well as of importance to state history of the Catholic Church and the Chippewa tribe.

Saints Joseph and Mary Church was built by Chippewa parishioners in 1884. (Sommer, 1979; 23-24 of Section 11B). Angus Robideau, a Chippewa with French ancestry, is credited with making the land available to the Indian congregation of Saints Joseph and Mary Church in Sawyer, Minnesota. Moses Posey, a Chippewa and elder in the church, is credited with building the basic 20' x 32' dove-tail cornered chapel structure. The Indian congregation was encouraged in this building effort by Father Vogt who began his ministry to the Sawyer Indian community in 1882 (Coleman, 1967: 7).

The building of this piece-sur-piece church in Sawyer, Minnesota was a transition for the Fond du Lac Catholic Indian community. Catholicism had been actively promoted in Fond du Lac since Father Baraga's first visit in 1835, but no church or chapel was completed until a half century later with the construction of Moses Posey/Father Vogt log church in Sawyer. Reports indicate that this permanent log building replaced a large wigwam structure for Father Vogt's services.

²Sommer, Barbara; 1979, Boundary Changes on the Fond Du Lac Reservation; An Oral History. Beck and Associates Inc., 505 Alworth Building, Duluth, MN 55802. (Also available in the Minnesota Historical Society Collection, University of Minnesota Library, Duluth, Minnesota.) Pages 23-24 of Section IIB-Interview with Elizabeth Danielson.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet - page 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Sawyer Quad., Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A	1 5	5 2 7 7 8 0	5 1 6 9 9 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 5 located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 33, Township 49N, R18W
 Recorded as Document 156305
 Carlton County, Minnesota

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Anthony E. Thomas, Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology

organization University of North Carolina

date June 28, 1983

street & number Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

telephone (919) 966-1243

city or town

state

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

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/23/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/29/84

Melores Byers
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Saints Joseph and Mary Church, Lake Twp., Carlton County, MN
Continuation sheet

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Father Baraga's visit to the Fond du Lac Chippewa community from his home in Sault Ste. Marie on September 5, 1835, gave support to Catholic proselytizing that had been underway for some years by lay Indian leadership. Edmund F. Ely, missionary for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, reported in his DIARY (1834-1836) that Pierre Cottee, "a trader for thirty years or more" of Indian and French background, had been conducting successful missionary work in his trading post (reported in Coleman, 1967: 6). Local men of Indian background such as Pierre Cottee and Francis Roussain sustained the Catholic proselytizing effort by using their homes for religious services and for visits by priests. For example, Father Baraga and Father Skolla customarily stayed in the home of Francis Roussain during their visits between 1835 and 1853.

The building of Saints Joseph and Mary Church in Sawyer in 1884 represents a mix of Indian community initiative and Catholic mission encouragement. The 1884 building is an important marker in the history of Catholicism among the Indians of Northern Minnesota. The church at Sawyer, Minnesota, marks a transition between the older more lay directed congregations and the emergent resident priest directed parishes of the Twentieth Century among the Indians of northern Minnesota.

Moreover, Saints Joseph and Mary Church is a significant landmark in the broad history of Indian Catholic mission activity in the Great Lakes area and St. Lawrence Valley. Fond du Lac (originally at the junction of Lake Superior and the St. Louis River) is associated with the first Catholic Indian Mission in Minnesota. Father Claude Allouez visited this site for a month's mission activity in 1866 (Coleman, 1967: 3).

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Saints Joseph and Mary Church, Lake Twp., Carlton County, MN

Continuation sheet

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REFERENCES:

Coleman, Sister Bernard. Where the Water Stops. Fond du Lac Reservation, Superior, Wisconsin: Arrowhead Printing Company, 1967.

Sommer, Barbara. Boundary Changes on the Fond du Lac Reservation: An Oral History. Beck and Associates Inc., 505 Alworth Building, Duluth, MN 55802. (Also available in the Minnesota Historical Society Collection, University of Minnesota Library, Duluth, MN), 1979.

Hickerson, H. Chippewa Indians III: "Ethnohistory of Chippewa of Lake Superior." Garland Publishing, N.Y., 1974.

Mackie, Allan B. Building with Logs. Log House Publishing Co. Ltd. Prince George, B.C., 1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Note: These changes apply to
Sts. Joseph and Mary Church in
Carlton County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 84001409

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Carlton

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Church of Saints Joseph and Mary
(Catholic)

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Cloquet

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date

