

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 5 1985**
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

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

1. Name

historic St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rectory and School

and/or common Christ the King Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number on Main Street between 7th and 8th Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Browerville N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 022 county Todd code 147

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Christ the King Parish

street & number N/A

city, town Browerville N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56438

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Todd County Register of Deeds

street & number 215 1st Avenue South

city, town Long Prairie state Minnesota 56347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic

Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Joseph's Church, Rectory and School are located on a full block of the Original Townsite Plat of Browerville, Minnesota. All buildings face east towards Main Street, which serves as U.S. Highway 71. The church is in the center of the block. The rectory is sited to the south and west of the church, and the school to the north. Also on the site is a grotto with rustic rubble stone walls and various benches, gates and sculpted figures.

The styling of the church reflects Southern German Baroque influences. Classical detailing predominates. The church is a large facility for the area, with dimensions of one hundred fifty-one by seventy feet. At the entry, a broad flight of stairs leads to a curving ballustraded porch. Three similarly sized doorways lead from the porch into the narthex. The central doorway is placed at the base of the tower, which projects several feet outward from the main facade. This entry is surrounded by attached Ionic columns which support a pediment.

The tower is the building's principal exterior feature. Square in plan, it rises above the narthex approximately seventy feet, and is topped by an onion-shaped dome. Cornices divide the tower into several parts, which contain circular windows and the church bells. The top stage of the tower supports four statues of saints placed at the corners and the lantern.

The lantern was apparently given special concern in the design of the building. Octagonal in plan, it has free-standing Corinthian columns projecting from all corners. The columns frame rectangular openings in the body of the lantern, which have semi-circular arched tops. The columns also support fragments of the entablature which project outward from the entablature of the lantern. An onion-shaped dome above, clad with copper, supports a smaller octagonal lantern, which in turn supports an even smaller onion-shaped dome. In this way the tower is scaled down to the cross at the very top.

The nave roof supports a fleche placed above what would be the crossing of a more fully-developed church. Similarly detailed to the tower, it is much smaller and consists of a short shaft, flat and segmental-arched entablature, an onion-shaped dome, and a cross.

The narthex has fan light windows above the side doors. An entablature and cornice divide the facade of the narthex into lower and upper parts. A ballustraded rail at the top of the walls partially conceals the hipped roof section tying the narthex to the nave. A carved stone nameblock is placed above the water table course at the southeast corner. On the interior, the second floor forms a balcony which overlooks the nave. This balcony contains a pipe organ and seating for the choir.

The main body of the church has three bays east of the transepts and two bays to the west. The transepts project approximately ten feet from the side facades and contain three windows. Each bay on the side facades has a single window. All windows are colored glass, and have panels depicting various saints. Semicircular

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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, 1908-09, ca.1925 **Builder/Architect** Boehme and Cordella, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Browerville is the primary unifying element among a group of immigrants from the Silesia region of western Poland. Settlement by this ethnic group into the Browerville area began in the 1870s, prior to the construction of rail facilities through Todd County, and continued at a steady rate so that by 1900, a significant concentration of Polish ethnic settlement had developed. The Parish of St. Joseph split with a German immigrant group in 1895. Twelve years later it constructed its Baroque Revival church, which was designed by Boehme and Cordella of Minneapolis.

Soon after the first settlers began to arrive in the Long Prairie River valley in Hartford Township, the need for church facilities was felt. In 1884, following the construction of a rail line through central Todd County, which facilitated greatly settlement in the area, Polish and German ethnic groups united to form a parish and to construct a church. Both ethnic groups steadily grew in size. Relations between the two groups were strained by a dispute over the financing of a school that they had built in 1890. This dispute was resolved in 1895 by the formation of separate German and Polish parishes in Browerville. The Polish group kept the original St. Joseph's church and school, while the German group, under the name St. Peter's, was left to build its own facilities, which it did at the opposite end of Main Street from the Polish congregation.

By 1907, St. Joseph's Parish numbered over two hundred families. At a special meeting of the congregation that year it was decided that a new church should be built. Assessments were to be placed upon each member to help defray the estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 cost.

The Rev. J.S. Guzdek, leading the building committee, strongly opposed the box-type church commonly built at the time. Victor Cordella, a fellow Polish immigrant, worked with Guzdek to design a church "in the modern Renaissance style" (Fuller, History of Morrison and Todd Counties, p. 267). Greyish-white Lime Belt brick was chosen for the exterior. The interior was to be "lit with a golden light piercing through the amber stained windows." With the barrel vaulted nave separated from side aisles by fluted Corinthian columns, the church was to have a "splendid appearance" (ibid.).

Hirr and Zierton, a St. Cloud, Minnesota construction firm, were awarded the contract for construction. The congregation furnished the bricks, labor for the excavation of the foundation, stones, and sand. The cornerstone was blessed July 23, 1908, and the church was completed for the easter service of 1909.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 2.25

Quadrangle name Browerville, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 355600 5105170
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1 through 24, Block 20, Original Townsite of Browerville, 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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc. date March 1, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55410

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/12/85

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

Alvina Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/5/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rectory, and School, Browerville, MN

Continuation sheet

Description, Cont'd.

Item number 7

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arched lights are placed above the rectangular windows, separated on the exterior by a band of patterned brickwork and on the interior by an entablature. A round window is also placed at the top of the gabled end of the transepts.

A single gabled roof covers both the nave and its side aisles. Transepts also have gabled roofs, which run transverse to the nave roof.

While the church interior has a nave and side aisles separated by fluted Corinthian columns, the vaults above the aisles run perpendicular to the nave vault. This architectural device visually unifies the two spaces. Entablatures supporting the vaults and supported by the columns run perpendicular to the nave to the sides of the church.

The altar, at the west end of the church, is contained in an apse. Smaller half-dome covered apsidials flank the central half-domed apse. Squared attached Corinthian support an entablature and the end walls of the nave vault. Doors at the sides of the apse lead to a corridor and offices. On the exterior, these rooms have hipped roofs.

The basement of the church contains meeting and assembly rooms, a kitchen, and a furnace room.

The church is in excellent condition and has had no significant alterations. Minor changes have taken place over time, such as the removal of crosses at the peaks of the gabled roof sections. The roof has been covered with asphalt shingles. In 1979 the interior was slightly modified to accommodate changes in the liturgy and changes resulting from the merger of two parishes. The baldachin and raised altar were replaced with fixtures of a simple design. The interior was repainted, in shades of white.

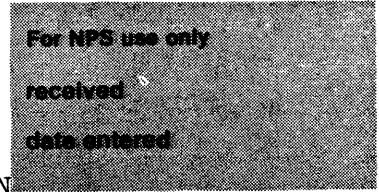
The school and the rectory are the other buildings on the church site. The school is a low, one story building constructed ca. 1925. It has a raised gable-roofed center portion which contains a gymnasium and dining hall. Flat-roofed classrooms open onto hallways which run parallel to the center section. Of a simple 1920s commercial style, the school has little ornamentation on its brick facades, except for a statue placed in a niche on the east-facing gable end.

The rectory, located to the south and west of the church, was the first building of the three to be built on the site. Built in 1902 beside the first St. Joseph's Church, the rectory is a two story hip-roofed brick structure, generally rectangular in plan. Gable-roofed extensions project outward from the centers of the front and rear facades. Brick hood molds are used above the first floor windows, while second floor windows have segmental arches. A Palladian-motif window is set in the front-facing gable end. The house has been modified only slightly since it was

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Continuation sheet Description, cont'd. Item number 7 Page 2

built. A second story has been added onto the front screened porch, and a two-stall garage has been attached at the northwest corner.

In front of the rectory is a grotto, the construction of which began shortly after the completion of the church. This was recently redesigned and rebuilt by the sculptor Joseph Kiselewski, who also constructed a scene of Christ praying in the garden of Gethsemane, in 1932, that has been placed in front of the school.

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Continuation sheet Significance, cont'd Item number 8 Page 3

Two related buildings share the site with St. Joseph's Church. The rectory, built in 1902, cost \$4000. The school, a replacement of the 1890 school which had served as a catalyst for separation of the Polish and German congregations, was constructed ca. 1925.

A grotto placed to the south of the church is the work of Browerville native Joseph Kiselewski. Prior to his recent retirement in Browerville, Kiselewski had designed the U.S. Military Good Conduct Medal, and had been awarded the Prix de Rome and the Beaux-Arts Prize.

In 1979, declining congregation and a shortage of priests caused the former Polish and German Paishes to unite. Since 1980 this unified congregation, under the new name Christ the King, has conducted services in the former Polish church.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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