

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000638

Date Listed: 5/3/90

St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery, Washington Co., WI
Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/3/90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item # 3, Classification:

Because the most historically important resource should be used to classify a property consisting of different resource types (Bulletin 16, p. 43), the appropriate classification is building.

Item #8, Significance:

The most appropriate criteria exception is "D" (cemeteries).

The nomination documents the architectural significance of church as "an outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth century fieldstone Romanesque Revival country church" whose "primary significance . . . lies in its method of construction." The period of significance for criterion C, as documented, is 1856, the date of construction.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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MAR 19 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts.. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

On County Trunk Hwy Y three miles south of
street & number intersection of Y and Wisconsin Hwy 33 N/A not for publication

city, town Town of Trenton N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Washington code 131 zip code 53095

3. Classification

Ownership of property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.

[Handwritten Signature]

3/9/90

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
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

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

Beth Boland

5/3/90

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure
Funerary/Cemetery

Religion/Religious Structure
Funerary/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

<u>Romanesque</u>	foundation	<u>Stone</u>
	walls	<u>Stone</u>
		<u>Limestone</u>
	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	other	<u>Wood (shingle)</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Setting

St. Augustine Catholic Church is located in the Town of Trenton, Washington County three miles south of Newburg on County Trunk Highway Y. The church faces west standing alone on a knoll overlooking hilly vistas of farmed land on all sides. (Photo 1 - View facing northeast) St. Augustine's rear or east elevation backs onto County Trunk Y, which separates Washington and Ozaukee Counties. (Photo 2 - View facing north) The dense hardwood timber growth of 1847 has been replaced with rolling farm landscapes cultivated by a nucleus of German emigrants who came that year from the villages of Wickenricht, Boden and Reisach, north of the Danube River in the Kingdom of Bavaria.

Exterior

St. Augustine Catholic Church is an 1856 fieldstone structure, with Ozaukee County limestone quoins, measuring fifty-eight and one-half feet deep by thirty-five feet wide and approximately fifty-three feet high to base of cross at the steeple roof. The upper walls are two and one-half feet thick with base walls three feet three inches deep. The construction is random laid fieldstone with heavy mortaring. Raised mortar joints are applied on the surface to imitate regular ashlar coursing. A stone watertable separates the basement from the upper level. The eaves and cornice are wood recently protected by vinyl. The quoining method, long-and-short work, utilized lengths of rectangular slabs set on edge alternated with shorter lengths with the same area of cross section (Photo 3 - View facing northeast).

There are eight round-arched leaded stained glass windows with limestone sills symmetrically placed, four on each side elevation. They are set in wood frames originally held by six wood fixing blocks, most are still in place. The radius of upper light transom is two feet with a wood transom bar and the lower rectangular section measures eight feet high by three feet nine inches wide. They were designed by Milwaukee Mirror and Art Glass Works of Milwaukee and installed in 1906. The glass works were specialists in stained and mosaic glass for churches. The design of each window is identical except for centered medallions depicting symbols in liturgical art. The founding family members and donors are appropriately recognized by inscription. (Photo 4 - View facing north)

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Town Trenton, Washington County

The rectangular plan of the church is early Romanesque Revival in style with an unusual architectural feature of an octagonal roof positioned over a square wooden steeple. Each side of the steeple is clad with weatherboard overlaid with a complimentary vinyl covering complying to the underlying wood and has paired square louvered grills.

The gable roof, originally covered in wood shingle, was renewed by parish members in 1891; later topped by green asphalt shingles in 1959. A cream brick chimney intersects the roof on the northeast corner and was constructed in 1883 by Mr. Gonen.

Basically it can be said that every steeple is an individual subject, and there is no such thing as a standard steeple. St. Augustine's steeple is distinctive in having its square sides topped by an octangular roof. (Photo 5) It was built in 1856, though the bell was not installed until seven years later, probably due to the cost of copper, tin, lead and zinc.

The structural timberwork framing of the steeple and roof is oak and pine. (Photo 6) There are two supporting vertical oak beams that extend from the floor of the balcony to the bell platform attesting to its early construction. (Photo 7) The steeple is supported by broad axed beams spanning the west end of the nave, rising through the main roof. The beams were attached with mortise and tenon joints then secured by trunnels.

When the stone walls were in place, the roof was constructed and extensively cross-braced to ensure minimal outward thrust against the walls. The internal bracing is fitted and mortised to its respective rafters, joists, and tie beams. (Photos 8, 9, 10) There is variety in the width of the sheathing board. (Photo 11) Since the church was unheated for many years, the wood tended not to warp or split. There are some age cracks from drying on the old beams, but not at the joints where wooden trunnels were used.

The Meneely bell is rung with a rope from the ground floor attached to Andrew Meneely's Rotating Yoke patented in 1858. The bell was made by Meneely Bell Co. of West Troy, New York in 1863.¹ (Photo 12, 13) It measures two and one-half feet high and has a twenty-eight inch diameter.

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The company made notable installations before it came to a close in the 1950 s. Andrew Meneely's sons won the coveted silver premium for bells entered in competition during the New York World's Fair of 1853 and 1854. The Troy plant gained a reputation for its magnificent copies of the Liberty Bell. A 13,000 pound replica cast in 1876 hangs in the tower of Independence Hall. A huge four foot 3000 pound clock bell erected in 1886 in the Union Depot at Milwaukee was heralded as one of the finest in the country. ²

The bell has another separate rope reached from the balcony and is attached to an anvil type clapper which strikes the outside of the sound-bow of the bell for tolling. (Photo 14)

The wooden enclosed vestibule covers the main entrance and simply provides three protected entrance approaches. The interior is unadorned. This singular small addition measures nine feet seven inches wide by six feet five inches deep, (Photo 15 - View facing northeast) and was constructed under the supervision of the parish priest of St. Augustine and Holy Trinity, Rev. Bernard Nuttmann, ca. 1896. A very similar front entrance addition was also built in 1896 for the early brick (1860s) Holy Trinity Church, now demolished. ³

This nondescriptive free standing addition has no architectural merit. It does screen the main stone arched entrance, however its sole intent was to provide shelter from the elements.

The fieldstone main entrance has a semi-circular voussoir arch in limestone with a stained glass transom in the tympanum. The jamb stones have point chisel marks every half inch giving a rough finish to the stone. The threshold granite stone is seven feet three inches wide by two and one half feet deep with six inches showing above ground. The paired entrance doors are flat-panelled within a recessed oval. There are two applied diamond panels of graduated size above the iron door handle and the bottom panel has a stylized linen fold pattern decoration. Some early hardware is intact including hinges and an oval keyhole plate for the mortise lock.

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The lower level school entrance is also round-arched with cut limestone jambs and has a simple four panel wood door with a round arch top. (Photo 16 - View facing west) There were four round-arched basement windows, two on each side elevation. In 1958 they were filled in with standard seven inch by four inch glass block above and cement block below. This alteration has had little effect on the overall appearance and original workmanship and materials of the church. (Photo 17 - View facing west by southwest) That portion of basement space not utilized has three simple square vent recesses on each side elevation for air circulation.

Since the church is nestled into the hillside contour it required a slanting grade and multiple terracing with a complicated stone line. The church thus faced away from the access road, County Y, which was laid prior to the church construction, so that the longer lower lines provided easy accessibility to the children's classroom.⁴ The basement wall height at the basement door is ten feet two inches whereas its height at the main entrance is one foot nine inches. Free movement of air to offset moisture condensation on the inside of the fieldstone walls is offset by a lunette or loophole in the upper gable of the east elevation.

In the late 1950s the circle drive and parking area was resurfaced over the earlier 1929 thin layer of crushed stones; additionally a cement low rise entrance stoop with ornamental railings was constructed in the mid 1970s with little effect on the building's historic integrity.

Interior

Rev. Tom Fait, Archivist for the Milwaukee Archdiocese, best described St. Augustine's interior as "possessing the charm and strong sense of going back in time".⁵ Loose stretched canvas covers the walls. Strips of wood used vertically as nailers and spacers were applied to the interior stone wall surfaces with the canvas pulled over these furring strips spaced three feet apart.

Prior to the canvas treatment, early church records, before 1880, indicate that the walls were frequently whitewashed using a mixture of lime and water. Later oil base paints on damp stone walls created problems especially during changes in weather. In 1905 the curved plaster ceiling was covered with bent six inch board fencing and board was also laid horizontally over the five foot dado. This, too, was later covered with canvas.

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Town Trenton, Washington County

In preparation for the church's seventy-fifth anniversary in 1925, it was determined to have artist Hans Schmeidl, highlight and embellish their church. Hans Schmeidl and Conrad Schmitt were partners in Milwaukee as vice president and president respectively of Conrad Schmitt and Company in 1915. Previously Schmeidl was actively engaged as artist for the 1904 world's fair held in St. Louis to commemorate the acquisition of Louisiana by the United States.

The walls were painted with tempera and Craftex. The base ingredients were similar to calcimine mix but instead of using egg white solution as a binder Hans Schmeidl and his son Gordon made it more lasting than calcimine by adding glue to hot oil and poured the mixture into whiting dissolved with water which made a calcimine paint. The walls are painted pale buff pink with the dado a rose tan.⁶

The fine art works on the east wall were applied to the stretched canvas. The paintings were executed in a lead zinc mixture with oil added. The depiction of St. Augustine, with pen and book attesting to his vast works, letters and sermons, is centered above the altar screen on a light gray background. Rust panels of light olive drab stenciled scrolls and gold leaf crosses frame the art work and are designed by the artist to appear to be an extension of the reredos. Flanking St. Augustine are two bordered medallion paintings of Mary and Jesus.⁷ (Photo 18 - View facing east)

The church is made up of three parts: sanctuary, nave, and choir/organ balcony. These divisions are indicated by a change in floor level. The sense of a chancel arch division is achieved by the curvature of the ceiling which meets a denticulated cornice on the side walls. This chiseled molding begins nineteen feet above the raised communion baluster rail within the nave proper. The platformed level is a three step rise at the sanctuary. This area from the first rise to the east wall is eighteen feet. Most of the church floor is covered by inlaid light green vinyl speckled with beige and white flecks. Interspersed in certain areas is carpeting in a similar shade of green. (Photo 19 - View facing southeast)

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The main and side altar reredos, ca. 1870, designed in a Gothic Revival manner, are of particular interest. They are crafted in wood using various molding planes, chisels and mill cut boards. A finial ornament from the altar shows the original finish was stained, now painted in light and medium sand pink, peach and highlighted in gold leaf. The crucifix, chalice and paten are goldplated. The decorative altar backs are embellished by scrolls, ball-flower molding, a revolving crucifix niche, fluted pillars, medieval pointed cresting, dentils, cavetto moldings and statuary. Flanking the main altar is St. Catherine of Alexandria depicted with the torture wheel at her side and a book representing her wisdom; and Saint George of Cappadocia slaying the dragon.

All the statuary including those on plinths and pedestals at the canopied side altars were made by G. Mayer & Co. of Munich and distributed by European Statuary & Art Company on Potter Avenue in Milwaukee. The statues were variously made of zinc, wood or cement and then hand painted. The ca. 1900 wood statues were imported from Germany (Photos 20, 21) and later painted in the studio.

The choir/organ loft is reached from the southwest side at the entrance. It is supported by two twelve foot turned tree trunks shaped into tapered Tuscan columns painted rose tan (same as dado). (Photo 22 - View facing west) The curved wooden stairwell has a closed stringer with baluster of Maltese crosses within a circle. Enclosed under the staircase are pine utility cabinets stained walnut to match the stairs. The depth of the balcony is fourteen feet and width thirty feet and height to ceiling from balcony floor is eight feet. The balcony rail is comprised of wood flush panels painted a wood grain texture. Furniture includes a hand crafted cabinet, folding chairs and two organs. An oak pump organ dates to 1882 made by T.G. Earhuff Organ Co., St. Paul, Minnesota and the other Allen Organ Model T-12A purchased new 1977.

The nave has a center aisle six feet wide. (Photo 23 - View facing west) On the left are twelve oak pews and ten on the right, each are twelve feet long free standing. The curved aisle end of each pew has sections of veneer pieced together with cut nails. In 1923 the pews and balcony rail were painted, grained and varnished.

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Above the dado encircling the church interior is a chevron design applied to canvas by Schmeidl carried out in mustard, light olive drab and rust. There are fourteen stations of the cross in wood relief that adorn the side walls. Electricity was installed in 1957 which also dates the one hanging light fixture, hexagon ceiling lights under and fluorescent fixtures above the balcony.

The lower level was built to house the school and living quarters for the teaching sisters. The two rooms are each approximately fifteen feet deep with ceiling height at eight and one-half feet. There are two round arched windows in each room, one on each side. The floor is rough cast concrete.

Very old wood furnishings are stored in the lower level. Of note are two wall benches with high rise wooden backs with coat hooks in place, two rectangular tables, and two ten foot school benches with attached drop leaf writing tops with a shelf for books underneath made from squared off logs with wood pegs. (Photo 24) Also among the school bench desks is a bench consisting of a rough hewn board resting on tree trunks that still bear the bark. Stacked are fourteen early stations of the cross framed prints two feet four inches by two feet by Druck U. Verlag des lith Jnst V. Levy Elkan, Badmer & Co. (Vormals Arnz & Co.) in Dusseldorf and two prints of paintings printed in Germany #6420 Heil Herz Mariae and #6419 Heil Herz Jesu. The rooms are separated and entered through one door with wrought iron hardware.

Approach to the grounds is through a commemorative wrought iron arch erected in 1931. (Photo 25 - View facing west) The arch is on the north side of the circular drive and replaced the gate and earlier protective horse and wagon shelter built in a hollow on the north side for the visiting priest's horse and buggy. (Photo 25 - View facing west) The shelter became the automobile shed, then was dismantled for the iron arched entrance. At a very early time a low, thick wall of dry masonry construction was laid up in stones of irregular color and size paralleling County Y. The wall was removed and the drive was later built to accommodate cars with parking at the top of the hill south of the entrance.

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The nominated property contains two resources: the church and cemetery. The well maintained grounds of the churchyard slope east and south of the church. (Photo 26 - View facing northwest) The old headstones identify the resting place of the fathers of the parish sans quaint inscriptions, simply names some almost obliterated by time. The earliest markers record births in the late 1700s and death dates in the 1850s. The stones are not unusual for the period and most are intact and free standing. A concrete monument, donated in 1924, of Christ on a wooden cross, is positioned upon a stepped pedestal. (Photo 27 - View facing northwest) In front of the cross is a high-point blue slant marker of stone⁸ erected to replace the unmarked wooden crosses which stood in the churchyard at one time. Scattered among the headstones and unadorned graves are seven decorative iron crosses unmarked and approximately four feet high.

A children's section nearest County Y attests to the dreaded 1850s cholera, diphtheria, pneumonia and scarlet fever diseases which claimed several children from each family.

In line with the cemetery, near the entrance of the church and centered among red cedars of noble proportions, was a large wooden cross placed in 1864 by the missionary priest Rev. F. X. Weninger⁹ who in 1852 was in charge of the pastorate of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Johnsburg.¹⁰ It was rededicated and reinforced in 1927 but eventually fell in disrepair and is now remembered by a wooden cross placed on the exterior rear elevation of the church.

- 1 Information noted on the inscription band.
- 2 L. Elsinore Springer, That Vanishing Sound (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1976), 47-49; 89.
- 3 Harry H. Heming, The Catholic Church in Wisconsin (Milwaukee: Catholic History Publishing Co., 1896), 487.
- 4 Journal Special Correspondence, Newburg, WI, "Even Members Wonder Why Church Has Its Back to Road," Milwaukee Journal, 12 February 1950

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5 Ibid.

6 Gordon J. Schmiedl, artisan, who assisted his father, Hans, in embellishing church decor, interview with Shirley McArthur, 24 February 1989.

7 Ibid. 26 February 1989.

8 Visually a low, small monument identified in a bill submitted August 30, 1973 by Koenig Memorial Co. of West Bend, WI as a "highpoint blue slant marker of stone".

9 Earliest records of St. Augustine in German Script. St. Augustine Congregation Holdings.

10 Heming, 435.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) X A B X C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1856 - 1925²

Significant Dates

1856¹

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

St. Augustine Catholic Church is eligible for the National Register on the local level of significance under Criterion C, as an outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth century fieldstone Romanesque Revival country church. Though it is only vaguely influenced by Romanesque Revival, the primary significance of the St. Augustine church lies in its method of construction. Fieldstone construction was typically connected to German and Irish immigrants. The Wisconsin inventory has documented thirty-four fieldstone properties in the Town of Trenton. Southeastern Wisconsin has the highest concentration of fieldstone architecture in the state. The abundance of glacial till and the familiarity of the German and Irish immigrants in working with this material attests to its popularity. It is the earliest Catholic church built in the Town of Trenton and is in part Germanic in expression reflecting the strong heritage of the settlement then and now.

Historical Background

There were apparently two unrelated St. Augustine Catholic churches in Washington County. The first St. Augustine in the Town of Richfield burned down in 1855.³ The founding members of the current St. Augustine parish, in the Town of Trenton were German emigrants who came from an area northeast of Nurenberg in the kingdom of Bavaria from villages of Wickenricht, Boden, and Reisach. They came in 1847 during the first of three major waves of German emigration to the United States.⁴ The fact that they all settled in that part of old Port Washington County which included Ozaukee County was in part due to the earlier arrival of the Michael Wollner family in 1846 who found a large holding of property available in Sections 25 and 30. This land was held by heirs of Pvt. Joel Brown of the 16th Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, War of 1812, who had received a land warrant from the U.S. It was made available to John Heffenstein of Milwaukee with power of attorney to sell.⁵ Early plat maps identify a large contingent of Irish ownership in the surrounding area.⁶

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The Irish settlers generally preceded that of the Germans but were gradually outnumbered.⁷ The process seems to have occurred sooner in Ozaukee County than elsewhere.⁸

St. Finbars Congregation, organized in 1843 was Irish in origin. It was in the north-western part of what is now Ozaukee County. Services were discontinued in 1890 and the congregation became part of the Holy Trinity parish in Newburg.⁹

It is clear that the German families from the three villages of Bavaria did cluster together. At the time of their settlement, Ozaukee County was a part of Washington County and not separated until 1853, using County Y as the dividing line. The 1849 road cut through the settlers' land holdings dividing their property in some cases into the two counties, flanking both sides of County Y.

The census of 1850 clearly shows the clustering of St. Augustine congregation families as follows: John Peter Simon, Peter Driessel, Mathias Walkdircher, Jacob Etzel, Michael Weiss, George Weiss, Mathias Bach, Michael Wollner, Martin Molling, Joseph Uetz, John Krieg, Egidius Engelhardt, George Schmid, and George Fechter. The William Gall family arrived October 1850 after the original petition and census and have since served the congregation.

An 1849 letter stated: "Urged by this great and pressing need for a church of our own, the first members of our future parish have volunteered in writing to donate fifteen and one-half acres of their land as property for a parish church to be built including a cemetery."¹⁰ The land was donated by M. Wollner, George Weiss, Michael Weiss, Martin Molling and Joseph Uetz. Their intention was dated September 23, 1849 and signed by the remaining families listed above as those who wished to become future members of the parish.

At this time "a road which cuts through our property leading to Newburg was being built in this jungle."¹¹ The State of Wisconsin was one year old and the Milwaukee Diocese comprising the whole of Wisconsin was six years old. It is interesting to note that the Roman Catholic churches in the City of Milwaukee 1850 totaled four - and Washington County tally was twelve.¹² The acreage donated was "the best place, centrally located, and the road would make travelling so much easier. It should also be noted that this church aside from liturgical functions and meetings, be likewise used as a school."¹³

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For almost three years after having settled here and not having a church, they found it to be "a great hindrance especially for the sick and elderly to travel to Town Ten, to St. Francis Xavier."¹⁴ Besides, the parish of St. Xavier, in Town Ten, requested monetary and manual help from these new settlers.¹⁵ St. Francis Xavier was in the Town of Grafton, southwest corner of Section 1, a distance of five miles in 1847 (one way) from St. Augustine Church. Since St. Xavier requested funds and manual help to build a church, it was determined on August 30, 1849 that the first members would donate fifteen and one-half acres of land for their own parish. The date closely relates to the date set aside in the church calendar to honor St. Augustine, August 28th, and is directly related to the naming of this church. The celebration of the patron's feast is a special gathering (Kirmes) held on August 28th.

The church property was measured November 13, 1849, and a Trust Deed or document of donation¹⁶ to Bishop Johann Martin Henni was approved December 12, 1849. The first parish mass was celebrated in the house of Michael Weiss by Rev. Joseph Sadler from St. Xavier.¹⁷

Services presumably in the Weiss home, continued for two years and in 1852 a low one story log cabin was built on the site.¹⁸ It is believed that Dr. Joseph Salzmann assisted in building the log structure for he was active in Washington County as a missionary priest and a frequent visiting priest to St. Xavier where the settlers had received church services before 1850.¹⁹ He became the first rector of St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee 1869. He is recorded as having been involved in the building of St. Peter's log church in Town of Farmington, and St. Boniface in Goldenthal settlement of Town of Germantown.²⁰

The other early missionary priests holding services for St. Augustine Parish is an impressive list of important names in Milwaukee Diocese early Catholic church history. They include Rev. Michael Heiss, of St. Xavier, secretary to Bishop Henni and later his successor; Rev. Obermueller of St. John's the Baptist (NRHP) of Johnsburg; Rev. Peter Fabian Bermadinger of St. Xavier. Rev. Bermadinger is thought to have assisted in the construction of St. Augustine and was the only priest mentioned in the earliest documents of the congregation as "especially devoted to the children and young people and offering religious instruction". He was followed by Rev. Joseph Sadler at St. Xavier, Rev. Simon Bartosz of Holy Angels, West Bend (1855-1857) and Rev. Casper Rehrl who attended to all the Catholic churches in the near vicinity until 1878.²¹

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(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

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The present fieldstone St. Augustine Catholic Church was completed in 1856,²² and was attended by missionary priests as was St. Peter's and Holy Trinity until 1870.

Holy Trinity in Newburg was a mission of St. Peter's Church when organized in 1858. Their first church of brick forty feet wide and seventy-five feet long was built in 1860 to accommodate the fifty-one member families in the fast growing community. It is not known nor written when St. Augustine became a mission of Holy Trinity. The parish was incorporated under St. Augustine's Congregation November 28, 1899.²³ It is known however, that the same priest who attended Holy Trinity since 1870 also attended St. Augustine. By 1899, when the current Holy Trinity Church was built, the congregation membership had grown to one hundred and twenty-two families.²⁴ St. Augustine's member families have fluctuated from thirty to forty since the original fourteen.

In the early 1850s the dairy and crop farmers of St. Augustine's parish believed that their church area on both sides of County Y was fast becoming a small village. Businesses included a shoemakers shop, cheese factory, a creamery, a seamstress, and a fieldstone building used as a gathering place for dancing and drinking. Additionally an acre of land was donated for School District 7 on County Y. Despite this optimism, the village of Newburg became the larger community because of its proximity to the Milwaukee River. However, "St. Augustine was never in debt and had more money than Holy Trinity."²⁵ The financial affairs of St. Augustine were exemplary. In the prepared account for the year 1856 it was agreed that "Church money" over and above operating expenses may be lent out at 10% interest to parishioners.²⁶

The church and school were equally central to the German ideas of community. The Society of St. Agnes founded by Rev. Casper Rehrl comprised teaching sisters who remained for a time in Barton but are documented as being actively involved with St. Augustine prior to 1870 and after.²⁷ The congregation wanted their children to read and write in German and to receive religious instruction in that language. The membership sang only in German and the priest's sermon was in German until the 1940s. Change was slow in coming. Their family life was inextricably linked to religion and they lived as they did in the old country. It wasn't until 1955, more than one hundred years as a congregation, that the women and children were permitted to sit on the same side of the aisle as their husbands. Change was indeed very slow in coming.

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Section number 8 Page 4 St. Augustine Catholic Church
Town Trenton, Washington County

St. Augustine is a remarkably intact example of fieldstone construction of the 1850s. Historic milestones, i.e., 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversaries resulted in the addition of important elements of the church's present appearance. Under the administration of a zealous priest and energetic congregation first came the stretched canvas followed twenty-five years later with the stained glass windows. The last major improvement, made approximately sixty-five years ago, was the decoration of the church interior to mark the eventful 75th anniversary. It is important to note that all improvements were made to enhance and preserve the character of the church. All is as it was except electricity which was added in 1957 and in 1968 the altar was moved back.

Many of the original families are still members of St. Augustine and are among its strong supporters. In the recent past services were held on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, Christmas, Easter, All Souls Day, and the feast day of their patron saint.

In 1985 regular services were canceled excepting several holidays, weddings and funerals. Its 30+ member families were asked to join Holy Trinity.

Architecture

St. Augustine Catholic Church is one of the finest fieldstone nineteenth century churches remaining in Washington County. There are four fieldstone Washington County churches on the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places. Of these, two are Gothic Revival and altered. St. Mathias Catholic Church, Nabob, Town of West Bend was built in 1867. Its width is the same as St. Augustine but it is deeper by twenty feet, and unfortunately it was renovated and enlarged in 1906 with a square brick addition attached to the rear. ²⁸ The other Gothic Revival church of similar proportion is St. Hubert's, Town of Richfield built in 1863. It has been substantially altered by several additions and the half-circle apse windows have been filled in with brick. The interior is currently being renovated. St. Peter's Church on Newark Drive in the Town of Farmington was built in 1861 and was listed on the NRHP on 6/30/83. It is smaller than all the others, is vernacular in style and its apse is intact.

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Section number 8 Page 5 St. Augustine Catholic Church
Town Trenton, Washington County

St. Augustine is striking similar to St. Peters. Although larger, it has a similar massing, scale, proportions, fenestration and siting. Both have the arched windows with fanlight transoms and fieldstone construction with corner quoins and applied raised mortar joints imitating coursed ashlar construction. Both also have the unusual basement grade entrance on the rear facade. An octagonal design motif is used on both buildings; in St. Peters on the apse and in the steeple roof of St. Augustines. The fieldstone construction differs somewhat in that St. Peters uses larger, heavier stones with less mortar in a manner which creates a bolder appearance. St. Peters is also more restrained in ornamentation and detailing, in keeping with its more modest style.

St. Augustine is essentially vernacular in character with very minimal Romanesque Revival influences highlighted by the semi-circular arched entrances and window openings. This element of classicism is typical of the Germanic architecture of the 1850s and 1860s.

Fieldstone construction in Wisconsin was most popular during this 1850-1880 period.²⁹ St. Augustine reflects the southern German preference for using lesser sized stone with heavy applied mortar.³⁰ The method of stonelaying was one over two and two over one. The two obvious benefits are stability and strength. The fieldstone with its irregular shapes was not split and did not lend itself to coursing. The heavy application of applied mortar was scored to simulate coursed stonelaying. A distinctive feature and most unusual is the octangular roof superimposed on the steeple.³¹

The interior decorative details, i.e., stretched canvas, paintings and original furnishings contribute to St. Augustines aesthetic dimension. Aside from the fact that they survive, they do convey the sense of a nineteenth century country church serving a small enclave of German settlers.

X See continuation sheet

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Town Trenton, Washington County

Criteria Exceptions

Criteria Consideration A

St. Augustine Catholic Church is being nominated for its architectural significance under Criterion C and therefore is an exception to Criteria Consideration A.

Criteria Consideration C

The cemetery is not significant in its own right but an important element of the overall church property. It is an integral part of the district and helps document the history of the church. It is an historical document in and of itself and therefore is an exception to Criteria Consideration C.

¹ Joseph Uetz, president, St. Augustine Congregation Volume 1, 17 March 1856.

² The period of significance starts from the date of construction of the church and ends with an agreement between Holy Trinity Congregation accepting the children of the St. Augustine Congregation on an equal basis with those of their own congregation including contributions of their respective share toward the maintenance of the instruction costs. Holy Trinity had just completed an addition to their 1888 school. This was a major concession in St. Augustine's original raison d'etre statutes that the church aside from liturgical functions be used as a school. Included in their statutes was "Catholics within three miles (Holy Trinity is three and one-quarter miles away) distance did not substantially increase and the congregation family membership topped at forty-four. In 1925, approximately the time of the transferring of school children, the parish numbered forty families. The expense and difficulty of obtaining religious nuns as teachers for this smaller congregation forced this agreement and the giving of what they felt was their responsibility. During this period German, Irish and Bohemian parentage made up the Holy Trinity Congregation. This end date also encompasses the completion of major decorative features which give the church its present appearance including the 1906 stained glass windows, stretched canvas and decorative paintings, and 1923 graining of the pews and balcony rails.

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Section number 8 Page 7 St. Augustine Catholic Church
Town Trenton, Washington County

³ Milwaukee Journal, 28 February 1968. Interview with Attorney Donald M. Oberbreckling in Washington County, leader of a group of preservationists to save the remains of an early St. Augustine Church. The cemetery alone remains at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 167 and County Trunk CC. The first church was log built in 1846. It burned down in 1855; rebuilt in fieldstone 1875 - burned down in October 1922.

⁴ Naturalization papers, death records, family records: Washington County Courthouse.

⁵ Deeds, vol. 181, 485; vol. E, 278-280, Washington County Register of Deeds.

⁶ C. M. Foote, Plat Books of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, 1859, 1874-1875, 1892, in possession of Washington County Historical Society.

⁷ Joseph Schafer, Four Wisconsin Counties, Prairie and Forest (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1927), 88.

⁸ Grace McDonald, History of the Irish in Wisconsin in the Nineteenth Century (Washington: The Catholic University of America Press, Inc., 1954).

⁹ Eileen M. Kreuter, "A History of St. Finbars - A Little Bit of Ireland in Ozaukee County", n.d, unpublished paper in possession of St. Finbars Cemetery Association.

¹⁰ St. Augustine Congregation Volume 1, 1849-1873, miscellaneous letters and records written in German script. "Future Parishioners", 23 September 1849; "Origin and Foundation of Our Catholic Parish of St. Augustine in Town 11, Port Washington County", 24 December 1850; "Parish Statutes", 1850. Transcribed in 1989 and in possession of Dorothy Gall.

¹¹ Ibid., "Future Parishioners" letter, 23 September 1849.

¹² Samuel Freeman, The Emigrant's Hand Book and Guide to Wisconsin, (Milwaukee: Sentinel and Gazette Power Press Print, 1851).

¹³ St. Augustine Congregation Volume I, "Future Parishioners" letter dated 23 September 1849.

¹⁴ A majority of the settlers brought one or more parent and/or grandparents. The U.S. Census 1850 indicates Michael Wollner and his wife Marguerette were in their sixties when they came in 1847 with their adult sons and Michael Wollner's father.

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Town Trenton, Washington County

- 15 St. Augustine Congregation Volume 1, "Origins and Foundation" statement, 24 December 1850.
- 16 Deeds, Vol R, 383-384 Washington County Register of Deeds.
- 17 St. Augustine Congregation Volume 1, 24 December 1850.
- 18 "St. Augustine Mission 75th Jubilee," West Bend News, 2 September 1925, sec. 1, p. 1,2.
- 19 Harry H. Heming, The Catholic Church in Wisconsin (Milwaukee: Catholic History Publishing Co., 1896), 421.
- 20 Ibid., 486-488.
- 21 Rev. Casper Rehrl, Holy Trinity Church Records 1866-1878, written in Latin including records of St. Mathias, St. Joan of God, St. Michaels, St. Peters, and St. Finbars; in possession of Holy Trinity Rectory, Newburg, WI.
- 22 Uetz, 1856.
- 23 Deeds, vol. R, 383-384, Washington County Register of Deeds.
- 24 Holy Trinity Church Records, Holy Trinity Rectory, Newburg, WI.
- 25 Mr. William Weiss, interview by Shirley McArthur, notes, 2886 Highway Y, Saukville, WI, 26 February 1988.
- 26 "Financial Records of St. Augustine Congregation", 1 March 1985, in possession of Dorothy Gall.
- 27 Sr. M. Imogene Palen, Fieldstones: The Story of Casper Rehrl (West Bend: Congregation of Saint Agnes, n.d.) 56.

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Town Trenton, Washington County

28 Fr. Florian J. Mac, pastor, "St. Mathias Church Album Directory", n.d.

29 Richard W. E. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey in Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870, 2nd ed. (Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1981), 86.

30 Ibid., 85.

31 Ibid., 95.

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Rockford: W.W. Hixson & Co., 1931.

Deeds, Washington County Register of Deeds and Ozaukee County Register of Deeds.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): X See continuation sheet

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CRF 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 Building 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

Specific repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 3.80 Acres

UMT References

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C	<u> / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / / / </u>	D	<u> / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / / / </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The church site includes 3.80 acres approximately 416.62' deep and 486' wide in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 25, Town 11 North, Range 20 East; beginning at the northeast corner thereof thence west twenty five and one X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the lot on which the church sits and its adjoining cemetery on the south and east sides of the church. (See Addendum B)

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley du Fresne McArthur, Curator

organization North Point Historical Society date June 21, 1989

street & number Post Office Box 577 telephone (414) 271-2395

city or town Milwaukee state Wisconsin zip code 53201

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12 February 1950.

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in Ozaukee County". n.d. Unpublished paper in possession of
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Rehrl, Rev. Casper. Holy Trinity Church Records 1866-1878.

U.S. Census 1850 and 1860.

Walker's Pew Rent Record Book from 1908 to 1976

Interviews by Shirley du Fresne McArthur

John Armbruster, 414-377-7163, Cedarburg, descendant of prominent early family settler, 2/3/89

James Frederick Bach, 9148 Sycamore Ct. Milwaukee; 1/15/89; 1/26/89; 1/31/89

Anita Kultgen Becker, 414-284-0463, former Register of Deeds, Port Washington, 1/31/89.

Rev. Earl J. Dionne, St. Matthias Church, Nabob, WI.; 3/12/89

X See continuation sheet

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Richard and Martha Fechter, 194 Knollwood Rd, West Bend; 3/6/89;
3/22/89; 3/30/89

Rev. George Fleischmann, Parish Priest of St. Augustine and
Holy Trinity Churches; 521 Congress, Newburg; 8/31/88

Sr. Carmelia and Johanna Feder, 3500 West Center St.,
Milwaukee; 10/24/88; 11/30/88; 1/6/89; 2/15/89;

Dorothy and Charles Gall, 3326 Cedar Sauk Road, Saukville;
3/18/89; 3/30/89; 4/16/89; 8/27/89

Sylvester Herman, 893 Riverview Dr., West Bend; 3/5/89; 3/15/89

Grace Lynn, 3352 Birchwood, Saukville; 2/4/89

Randy Miller, Saukville Historical Society; 414-375-4345; 2/4/89

Sr. Mildred Rieber, Holy Trinity Convent, Newburg; 5/17/89

Rev. Robert Rutzinske, St. Hubert Church, 3727 Hubertus Rd,
Hubertus; 3/13/89

Gordon J. Schmiedl, 3200 S. 72nd, Milwaukee; 2/11/89; 2/26/89;
2/24/89

Robert Schwin, 6770 Hickory Rd., West Bend; 3/5/89; 3/15/89

William Weiss, 2886 Highway Y, Saukville; 2/19/89; 2/26/89;
3/4/89

Alice Wendt, Wasaukee Rd., Mequon, WI; 242-6788; Cedarburg
Historical Society, Curator; 2/4/89

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Town Trenton, Washington County

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

quarter rods thence south twenty eight and one half rods thence east twenty five and one quarter rods to range line thence north to place of beginning twenty eight and one half rods. County Register of Deeds: Volume 314 page 543. The boundaries include the lot on which the church sits and its small adjoining cemetery on the south and east sides of the church. This area is zoned exclusively agricultural and the church property per se is located on an area identified as Rural institutional.

___ See continuation sheet

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St. Augustine Catholic Church
Town of Trenton, Washington County, WI
Photos by Shirley McArthur
Late fall 1988 and the spring of 1989.
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- Photo 1 of 27 View facing northeast.
- Photo 2 View facing north.
- Photo 3 View facing northeast.
- Photo 4 View facing north.
- Photo 5 View looking up inside steeple roof.
- Photo 6 View of structural timberwork framing.
- Photo 7 Supporting vertical oak beams.
- Photos 8, 9, Views of internal bracing, rafters, joists and
& 10 tie beams.
- Photo 11 View of sheathing boards.
- Photos 12, 13 Views of the Meneely bell.
- Photo 14 View of tolling clapper.
- Photo 15 Enclosed vestibule -view facing northeast.
- Photo 16 View facing west of lower level school entrance.
- Photo 17 View of rear elevation facing west by southwest.

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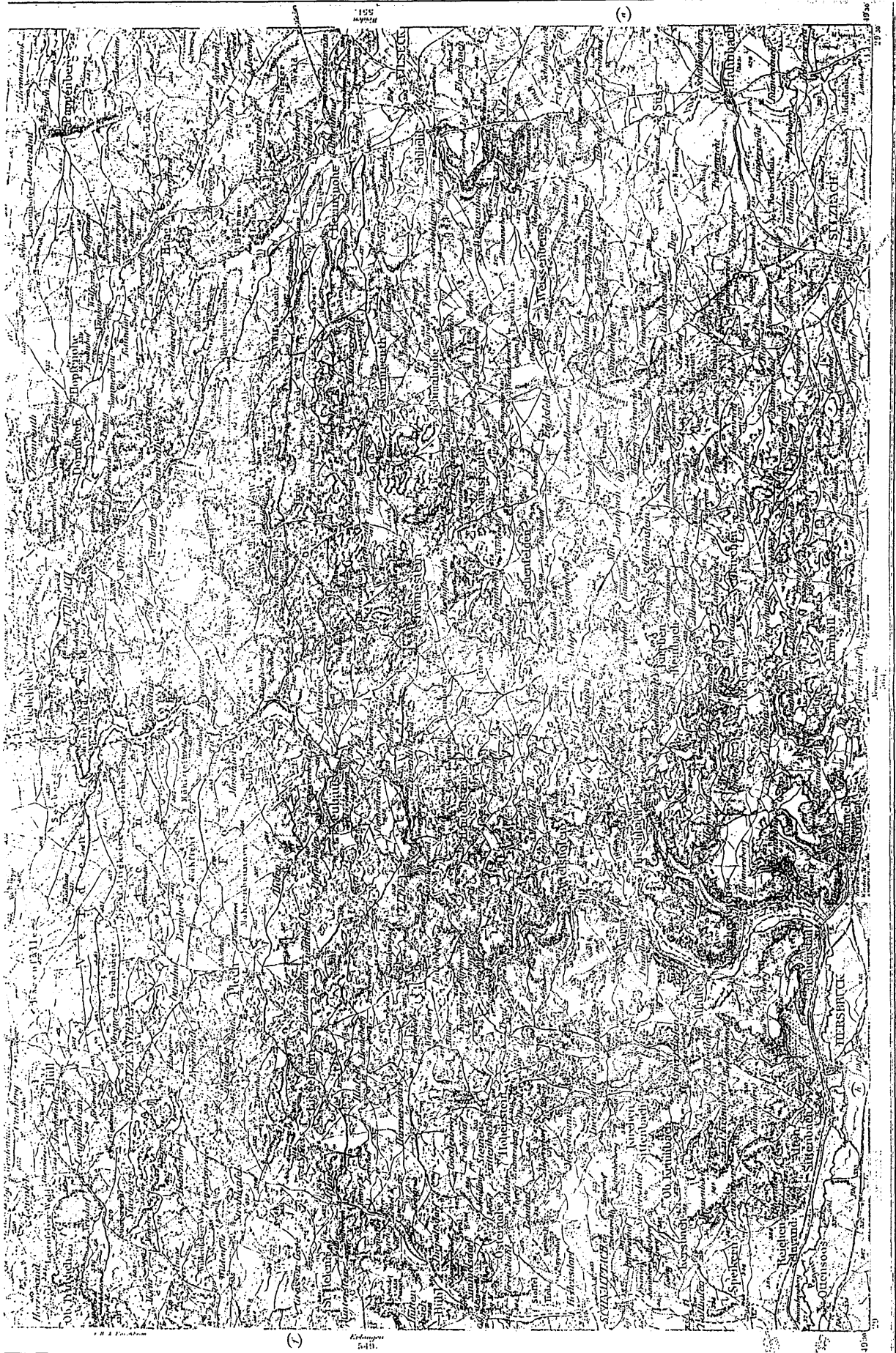
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Section number photos Page 2 St. Augustine Catholic Church
Town Trenton, Washington County

- Photo 18 Main altar and wall paintings - view facing east.
Photo 19 View from the balcony facing southeast.
Photos 20, 21 Side altars and statuary.
Photo 22 View of Choir/organ loft facing west.
Photo 23 View of round arched main entrance facing west.
Photo 24 View of ten foot school bench in lower level.
Photo 25 Entrance arch view facing west.
Photos 26, 27 Church and cemetery views facing northwest.

___ See continuation sheet



Die Zahlen geben die Höhen über Normal Null in Metern an.

Messungssystem vom 1870er Repertorium des 15. Deutschen Generalstabes. Maßstab 1:250,000. Maßstab im Verhältnis zum Original 1:250,000.

- (1) Königsreich Bayern
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- (99) Reg. Bez. Ober- und Niederbayern
- (100) Reg. Bez. Ober- und Niederbayern

ADDENDUM A