

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 19 2008

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School

Other name/site number 051-2390-00007

2. Location

Street & number 210 W. 13th and 217 W. 13th ☐ not for publication

City or town Hays ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Ellis Code 051 Zip code 67601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rachel Zolner DSHPO

10/09/08

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:)

St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Name of Property

Ellis County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone

Walls: STONE: limestone

Roof: ASPHALT

Other:

Narrative Description

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

St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Name of Property

Ellis County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904-1908

Significant Dates

1904, 1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marshall, Joseph

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office

St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Name of Property

Ellis County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	4	4	7	1	2	2	0	4	3	0	2	8	6	0
	Zone		Easting												
2	1	4	4	7	1	2	0	0	4	3	0	2	7	0	5

3															
	Zone		Easting												
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis
Organization Davis Preservation Date February 22, 2008
Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053
City or town Topeka State KS Zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Salina Diocese
Street & number P. O. Box 980 Telephone 785-827-8746
City or town Salina State KS Zip code 67402-0980

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

Narrative Description

Setting

St. Joseph's Church is located at the northeast corner of W. 13th Street and N. Ash Street in downtown Hays. The church property is comprised of the entire block between 13th and 14th Streets, Ash and Fort Streets and portions of the blocks to the north and south. The nomination encompasses only a portion of the church property – the area occupied by the church and non-contributing rectory and St. Joseph's High School located across 13th Street south of the church. A second school with a large modern addition, and a 1960s convent on the east side of the block fronting Fort Street, are not included in the nomination.

The church is located at the southwest corner of the block with the rectory off the northeast corner of the building. The church faces south fronting 13th Street and is surrounded by a manicured lawn on the north and east. The existing rectory was constructed in the 1960s on the site of the former monastery off the northeast corner of the church. A paved parking lot is located east of the rectory, accessed from the north. A wood fence extends from the northwest corner of the church enclosing the rear lawn. Parallel street parking and perimeter sidewalks define the south and west sides of the block along 13th and Ash Streets.

St. Joseph's High School occupies the east two-thirds of the north half of the block, south of the church. The school faces north, fronting 13th Street. Paved parking lots surround the school on the south, east, and west.

Church Exterior

The 2-1/2 story church (1904) features a gabled nave defined by a large tiered tower that rises from the center of the front (south) elevation and corner buttresses with massive spires. Constructed of coursed, rock-faced native limestone, the exterior walls are divided into bays by wall buttresses and feature corbelled detailing. A rusticated stone foundation is capped by a dressed stone water table. Round-arched openings, typical of the Romanesque Revival style, frame stained-glass windows with ornate tracery on the primary elevations.

South (Front) Elevation

The front elevation is comprised of three bays. The center bay is the tower which projects from the flanking end bays. The tower, five stories in height, is the most prominent feature of the elevation. The lower three stories are rectangular in form and defined by corner buttresses. The first floor has an arched central entrance with an arched stained glass window with trefoil tracery over the entrance at the second floor. Just above the gable roof over the nave, the tower transitions to an octagonal form. Round stone pillars/spires cap the corners of the rectangular tower. Alternating arched openings and small blind arches comprise the fourth floor of the tower and a corbelled band of checkerboard stone relief terminates the stone portion of the tower. The tower is topped a one-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

story metal cap with arched louvered openings on each side, inset slightly from the stone tower. An ogee domical roof caps the tower and has a cross finial.

The flanking end bays on the south elevation have a gable roof with a corbelled cornice. Corner buttresses are topped by stone spires that rise above the roof plane. A small one-story bay spans between the buttresses at the corner of the building and the corner of the central tower on each side of the central entrance. These bays have an arched door opening with a flanking small arched window. At the second story, the end bays have a large stained glass window, like the center bay, except with quatrefoil tracery. The three arched doorways serve as the front entrance to the sanctuary accessed by steps that span the front elevation. Lantern-style light fixtures are located at each entrance.

North (Rear) Elevation

The rear elevation is simple in contrast. A single double-hung window with an arched lintel in the gable end is the only opening on the north elevation. The 2-1/2 story gabled apse has corner buttresses with corbelled caps that frame the solid stone wall.

East and West (Side) Elevations

The east and west elevations are similarly configured with three primary components – the nave or sanctuary, the transept, and the sacristy. The sanctuary has a corbelled cornice band which extends around the transept and sacristy. Stone buttresses divide the main elevation of the sanctuary into four bays and corner buttresses define each corner of the building. A one-story enclosure with a pent roof spans between the buttresses in alternating bays. These enclosures have a small rectangular window. Two-story stained glass windows are located in the open bays; the bays with the one-story enclosure at the base have shorter, one-story stained glass windows. Other than length, the stained glass windows in each bay are similar with arched openings and trefoil tracery.

The transept is a 2-1/2 story projecting bay that serves as secondary entrances into the sanctuary at the north end of the east and west elevations. A single door is located on the south side of the transept on each side of the building. The transept roof is a simple gabled form that intersects the gabled nave. Massive stone spires frame the gable and a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows are located in the gable end. The transept is defined by a round stained glass window that aligns with the arched stained glass windows along the sides of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary extends one bay north of the transept, terminated by a corner buttress that features a massive stone spire. The end bay of the sanctuary features a two-story stained glass window matching those on the main body of the elevation. The 2-story sacristy abuts the north elevation of the sanctuary and is understated in its detailing. Wall buttresses divide the sacristy elevation into two uneven bays. The north bay has a pair of narrow arched stained glass windows. A single

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

arched window is located above at the 2nd floor of the southern bay on the west elevation. A one-story bay is located at the intersection of the sacristy and the sanctuary. This enclosure maintains a corner buttress, corbelled cornice and arched window openings like the body of the sanctuary. Basement windows with flat stone lintels are partially above-grade and align with the upper windows. A single door provides access on the north elevation of this bay.

The rectory, a non-contributing structure, is a 2-story contemporary stone structure that extends from the east side of the sacristy. The rectory is rectangular in form with a shallow hip roof. Arched two-story openings with horizontal windows and infill panels provide a contemporary, vertical orientation to the rectory in contrast to its horizontal rectangular form. A one-story porch with arched stone arcade and a hip roof spans the S elevation of the rectory. The north elevation of the rectory is a solid stone wall with three garage bays at the basement level.

Church Interior

The plan configuration maintains its original form with the traditional components: nave, transept, apse, and sacristy. A central double-door, flanked by two single doors, comprises the primary church entrance. The nave or sanctuary is a 2-1/2-story space with a groin vaulted ceiling that features ornate pendants at each bay. A carpet runner extends down the center aisle from the entry vestibule on the south to the apse on the north. Wood church pews are located on each side of the center aisle. The pew area has tile flooring. Ornate wood enclosures form small hexagonal bays on the side walls of the sanctuary corresponding to the one-story bays on the east and west elevation. The sanctuary also features the original Stations of the Cross, ornate plaques that are located on the east and west walls, between the stained glass windows. The original hexagonal pendant light fixtures are extant in the sanctuary.

The choir loft is located at the south end of the sanctuary with a large pipe organ flanking the center stained glass window. Original frescos remain on the south wall in the choir loft. The balcony has an ornate balustrade with a blind arch motif, topped by a simple rail with balusters. The apse is raised with marble steps and floor and features a barrel-vaulted ceiling with ornate pendants like the sanctuary.

The interior of the church retains significant historic integrity in the form original features including the plan configuration, vaulted ceiling, stained glass windows, choir loft, Stations of the Cross and fresco paintings.

School Exterior

Across 13th Street, south of the church, stands St. Joseph's Parochial School which was completed in 1908. The school is a 3-1/2-story structure with a rectangular plan and parapet gable roof with twin gabled wall dormers on the front elevation. The building is constructed of coursed rock-faced native limestone. The symmetrical elevation features a regular pattern of window openings, generally with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

flat stone lintels and stone sills. Reflecting the Romanesque style, arched openings include the central entrance and the band of third-floor windows. Subtle stone detailing, including a projecting water table, dressed belt course between the ground floor and upper elevations, and a crenulated cornice band, are the primary ornamentation.

North (front) Elevation

The school faces south, fronting 13th Street. The gabled wall dormers on each end of the north side divide the elevation into three bays. A set of tripartite louvered openings are located in the gable-end of the dormers. The end bays have four windows per floor, the third floor having arched stone lintels while the first and second floor windows have flat stone lintels. The windows are contemporary replacements throughout. The center bay has two windows per floor on the upper floors, maintaining the style and pattern established by the openings on the end bays. The front entrance to the school is defined by a half-round arched opening, representative of the Romanesque style. The entrance is comprised of a pair of contemporary metal-framed glass doors with a transom that fills the arched opening. A ramp spans from the perimeter sidewalk to the entry which is slightly above grade. Lantern-style light fixtures are located on each side of the central entry. "Saint Joseph's Parochial School 1908" is set in round mosaic tile at the entrance.

South (Rear) Elevation

The rear elevation is characterized by its asymmetrical pattern of multiple openings in contrast to the formal symmetry of the front elevation. A square exterior chimney divides the elevation into the east third and west two-thirds. A metal fire-escape is located on the east end of the south elevation with a single door providing access at the east end of the third floor. An arched opening on the 2nd floor, west of the chimney has dressed ashlar stone inset around a pair of double-hung windows. A single arched masonry opening is located at the ground level beneath the double-arch on the 2nd floor, and also inset with a dressed stone surround and a contemporary window.

West (Side) Elevation

A three-story rectangular bay projects from the center of the east and west elevations. The bay has a shallow hip roof with a crenulated cornice band and a projecting dressed stone water table matching the main building. A metal fire-escape is located off of the end of the west bay with solid slab doors providing access at each floor. The former transom openings are infilled above each door. The ground-level opening is arched; the upper floors have flat stone lintels. The projecting center bay creates three bays on the side elevations. The north bay has a single window on the lower two floors and the south bay has three windows on the lower two floors. Former window openings on the third floor have been infilled with stone and are barely discernable. A pair of former windows in the gable end are infilled with wood panels.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

East (Side) Elevation

The projecting bay on the east elevation is wider than the bay on the west and features a gabled wall dormer with a round opening (infilled) in the gable end. This bay serves as a secondary entrance into the school with a half-round arched opening that frames a pair of double doors. The arched transom is infilled above the doors. The entrance is above grade and accessed by steps that are framed by a stone knee-wall. Above the ground-floor entry, an arched opening frames tripartite windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors with coursed dressed ashlar stone inset between the floors. The arched panel above the 3rd-floor windows has been infilled/downsized to accommodate the existing replacement windows.

Similar to the west elevation, the projecting bay divides the elevation into three bays. The south bay of the main building has one window per floor and there are no openings on the north bay. Like the west elevation, there is a pair of window openings in the gable end that have been infilled with wood.

School Interior

The interior of the school retains varying degrees of historic integrity based on location. The upper floors are in near-original condition with classrooms retaining exposed wood floors and tile floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and original features including chalk boards. The ground floor was formerly converted to offices. The plan configuration with a double-loaded corridor has been maintained but finishes are contemporary and include suspended acoustic tile ceilings, paneled wainscot, tile and carpet flooring, and replacement doors and light fixtures.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

Introduction

St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Parochial School in Hays, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architectural significance. The buildings are examples of the Romanesque Revival Style, a style whose German medieval origins made it a logical choice for many German Catholic and German Lutheran congregations. Both the church (1904) and school (1908) were constructed using Kansas limestone, the material of choice for many Nineteenth Century and Early Twentieth Century institutional and religious buildings in the Northcentral and Northwest regions of the state.

A Brief History of Catholic Church and Catholic Settlement in Kansas

The Catholic Church first established a Kansas presence in ca. 1542, when Father Juan de Padilla returned to the area to evangelize to the Wichita Indians after accompanying Coronado on his Quivira expedition. Padilla's mission work was cut short in 1544 when he was killed in New Mexico.¹

By the early Eighteenth Century, Europeans had established cultural and financial ties with Indian peoples West of the Mississippi. Early explorers, trappers and traders cemented these ties through intermarriage. French explorer Captain M. Etienne Venyard de Bourgmont began trading in what would become northeast Kansas in 1724. In 1762, the region came under the control of Spain, also a Catholic monarchy, until it transferred to France in 1800. After the United States gained control of the territory under the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, French Catholics maintained a presence in the place that would later become Kansas. In their famed expedition through the newly acquired territory, Lewis and Clark encountered French trappers on the Kansas River. Such trappers sold their wares at French trading posts established by the Chouteau, De Munn, and Sublette families.

After the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced native peoples west of the Mississippi River onto reservations in what would become Kansas and Oklahoma, many religious organizations established missions, with the aim of educating and assimilating the Indians. The Catholic Church alone established six Indian missions in the pre-Territorial period. The first of these, founded in 1836, was the Kickapoo Catholic Mission, located at the Kickapoo Landing north of Fort Leavenworth, which had been established in 1827. The Kickapoo Mission was followed by three missions to the Pottawatomie Indians, including one at St. Mary's; a mission to the Miami Tribe; and a mission to the Osage Tribe in St. Paul.²

¹ Padilla is known as the United States' first martyr, or protomartyr.

² Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopaedia of State History* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

Two short decades after Indian Removal, the Kansas-Nebraska Act opened the territory to permanent white settlement. A good number of the early white settlers were northern Protestants who came to Kansas to ensure the territory would enter the Union as a free state. However, the Catholic Church flourished, particularly in areas where it had established a presence during the pre-Territorial period. In the first decades of statehood, the majority of the state's Catholics, particularly German and Irish immigrants, were concentrated in the cities of Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Topeka. By 1855, Leavenworth was home to seven Catholic families, prompting the Kickapoo Mission clergy to move from north of Fort Leavenworth to town. Leavenworth, the state's first and largest city, was a Catholic center from the beginning. It was there that the Sisters of Charity, founded 1858, opened St. Mary's Academy – and where the state's first cathedral, consecrated in 1868, was built.³ In 1877, Leavenworth was named headquarters for the state's first Catholic diocese.

Atchison was also home to many Catholic institutions established by Benedictine Monks and Sisters. The Benedictines, who first established a presence in Doniphan, later established a priory and college at Atchison. They established Benedictine College in 1868 and Mount St. Scholastica Academy for Girls, later Mount St. Scholastica College, in 1863.

Louis Fink, who had been prior at the Benedictine Monastery at Atchison, went on to become the first Bishop of the Diocese of Leavenworth.⁴ Bishop Fink played a crucial role in the expansion and success of the Catholic Church in Kansas. Among his efforts to encourage the Church's growth was his involvement in marketing railroad trust lands to immigrants. An 1873 handbook for Irish immigrants included a letter of introduction from the Bishop.⁵ During the 1870s and 1880s, many Irish immigrants came to Kansas to work as laborers for the growing number of railroad companies.

Railroad companies also marketed trust land to Germans and German-Russians. Among the German-Russian immigrants were Catholic Volga Germans, who in the Eighteenth Century had accepted an invitation by Catherine the Great to escape military service in Germany to settle in Russia's scarcely populated Volga region. In the early 1870s, when a policy change left Germans subject to military conscription, hundreds of Volga German and Mennonite families immigrated to Kansas.

To facilitate church organization and promote a sense of community, Bishop Fink encouraged Catholic immigrants to settle in groups.⁶ Among the state's Catholic enclaves were Solomon, an enclave between Abilene and Salina, home to 100 Irish immigrants and the seat of a Catholic

³ Local Catholic Church History and Catholic Ancestors of Kansas,
http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic/CatholicUS-KansascityKS.htm#Dioceses

⁴ For more information on Bishop Fink, see Catholic Encyclopedia.

⁵ James Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1995), 112.

⁶ *Ibid*, 97.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Ellis County, Kansas*

parish that extended west to Ft. Hays. In addition was St. Mark's, a German Catholic community and seat of a parish that extended west from Sedgwick County into Reno County.⁷

Some Volga Germans settled in cities, including Topeka, where they built St. Joseph's Church. However, most who began arriving in 1876, concentrated in rural northwest Kansas, particularly in Ellis and Rush Counties where they quickly built elaborate limestone churches at Victoria (also Herzog), Ellis, Schoenen, Pfeifer, and Hays. In 1878, Bishop Fink appealed to the Capuchin Fathers, from an order of German immigrants headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to serve the growing number of Volga German Catholics who had colonized northwest Kansas.⁸

Unfortunately, the Catholic trend of settling in clusters left Catholics, particularly German Catholics, susceptible to the prejudices of their Protestant neighbors. For decades, German Catholics, living in all-German farming communities, conducted business and worshiped in their native tongue. Despite their decades-long ties to Kansas, these immigrants and, by then, their American-born grown children, were targeted by narrow-minded American "natives" whose suspicions only grew when the United States declared war on Germany in World War I. In 1918, German baker Robert Prager was lynched in Illinois for speaking German. Many shops in Kansas displayed signs warning German-Americans to speak English or "go home."⁹

Anti-German and Anti-Catholic sentiment did not cease when the war was over. In fact, it escalated in the early 1920s after anti-immigration and anti-Catholic nativists succeeded in organizing. Anti-Catholic fervor was so strong that U. S. Vice President Charles Curtis (1860-1936), a Topeka native who had been baptized by Jesuits at St. Mary's mission, was forced to respond to detractors by denying his Catholic heritage.¹⁰ The most disturbing development was the re-constitution of the Ku Klux Klan. Originally organized by former Confederate soldiers who resisted Post-Civil-War Reconstruction, the KKK rose again in 1915 with the release of the KKK-glorifying film *Birth of a Nation*. By the early 1920s, there were as many as 200,000 KKK members in Kansas – nearly twice the number of Kansas Catholics at the time.¹¹ When the Catholic mayor of Liberty refused to allow the Klan to use a hall he owned, the Klan kidnapped and assaulted him.¹² In 1925, after

⁷ Ibid, 112.

⁸ B. M. Dreiling, *Golden Jubilee of the German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas* (Hays, KS: *Ellis County News*, 1926), 32.

⁹ Robert F. Zeidel, *Immigrants, Progressives, and Exclusion Politics: The Dillingham Commission, 1900-1927* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2004).

¹⁰ *Assumption 1962 Centennial Book*, 13. Charles Curtis, a Native American, argued that although he was baptized into the Catholic Church, he was raised by his Protestant paternal grandparents.

¹¹ William Connelley, "Catholic Church," *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918).

¹² "Klan Painting," Cool Things, Kansas State Historical Society. Online resource, accessed 2/1/08, www.ksks.org/cool2/klan.htm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Ellis County, Kansas*

famed editor William Allen White ran for Governor on an anti-KKK platform, Kansas became the first state to successfully oust the KKK by denying the organization a charter.¹³

Despite the threats, the Church thrived in the 1920s and the decades that followed. In 1923, church leaders expanded Leavenworth's St. Mary's Academy into a two-year junior college, St. Mary College. The College became a four-year institution in 1932. Parishes also constructed at least 25 new churches in the 1920s.¹⁴ Like many churches, the Catholic Church experienced a period of significant growth in the post-war years. To accommodate an increasing number of school-aged children, many parishes constructed new school buildings or constructed additions to existing schools.

Over the years, the state's growing number of Catholic parishioners required the establishment of new Dioceses. In 1887, the Leavenworth Diocese (later moved to Kansas City), which until then covered the entire state, was divided into three dioceses, with new dioceses headquartered in Concordia (later moved to Salina) and Wichita.¹⁵ In 1951, the Wichita Diocese was divided and the Dodge City Diocese was created. Northeast Kansas now falls under the Kansas City Archdiocese. Northwest Kansas lies in the Salina Diocese, which dedicated a new cathedral in 1953.

History of St. Joseph's Parish

Hays' St. Joseph's Parish is one of the many parishes established by Volga German Catholics who arrived in Ellis County in the 1870s. Volga Germans were Germans who moved to Russia's Volga region in the Eighteenth Century. In an effort to settle Russia's scarcely populated tundra, Empress Catherine the Great, a German native who was crowned in 1762, promoted colonization. To further entice settlers, Catherine offered them expanded rights, including freedom of religion, tax incentives, and military exemptions. Weary from the recent Seven Years War, 25,000 Germans, mostly Catholics and Mennonites, answered the call, journeying by land to the Volga region in the mid 1760s. Although many of the colonists had no farming experience, they quickly found success cultivating wheat.

After the Volga Germans had tilled the lands of their adopted country for more than a century, Russia changed its immigrant policy. In 1874, the Russian government passed a law requiring German-Russian service in the military, which did not recognize their Catholic faith. Disillusioned by the new demands, the colonists met in the Volga village of Herzog to elect delegates to find a location for a settlement in the United States. When delegates toured lands in Pawnee County, Kansas with Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad representatives, however, they were

¹³ Craig Miner, *Kansas: A History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2000), 252-253.

¹⁴ Historic Property Inventory, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas State Historical Society.

¹⁵ Mary Frances Lahey, *Harvest of Faith: History of the Diocese of Salina* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1987), 26.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

unimpressed. In early 1876, the delegates finally made arrangements with the Union Pacific Railroad to purchase less expensive land in Ellis County. Soon, dozens of Volga German families began arriving in groups as large as 108 families. The families established communities at Herzog (later Victoria), Ellis, Liebenthal (Rush County), Catherine, Munjor, Schoenchen, Pfeifer, and Hays.

Before the Volga Germans arrived in Ellis County, priests from Solomon and Salina served the religious needs of its small Catholic population, made up of Irish railroad workers and Catholic soldiers stationed at Fort Hays. However, after more than 150 German Russian Catholic families immigrated to Ellis County in 1876, Leavenworth Diocese Bishop Louis Fink assigned Rev. Fr. Valentin Sommereisen resident priest to all the German Russian settlements in Hays and surrounding communities. By the time he arrived in Hays in October 1876, Father Sommereisen, who was born in Alsace in 1829 and immigrated to the United States in 1854, had spent decades serving American pioneers. In March 1856, soon after his ordination, Father Sommereisen was assigned priest of St. Peter and St. Paul's parish in Mankato, Minnesota. After traveling home to Alsace in 1870, Father Sommereisen returned to the United States, where he served as a missionary among the Sioux Indians in South Dakota and, in 1873, accompanied the 7th Cavalry, under General George Custer, on its Yellowstone Expedition.¹⁶

To accommodate his growing congregation, Father Sommereisen purchased four city lots to house a planned 22' X 42' frame church building. Although Father Sommereisen laid plans for a church in Hays, even initiating the excavation and construction of the building's foundation, he retired before these plans could come to fruition. Until the late 1870s, the fledgling parish held services only on the fourth Sunday of every month in one of the barracks at Fort Hays, a public school building, and the courthouse.

Sommereisen's replacement, Father Anastasius, was successful in completing the frame church building in 1879. By then, the congregation had grown to a point that a church building was necessary. In the first days of Early on, the majority of the county's Volga German Catholics lived in small farming communities. Many of these farmers sought work in Hays in the off season. Over time, many of them moved to Hays permanently.

The rapidly growing congregation quickly rendered the frame church obsolete. In spring 1886, the congregation began constructing a simple masonry "Roman" structure. The building measured 32' X 72', with a 16' X 26' east-projecting bay. The church was completed by Christmas 1886 at a cost

¹⁶ Tim Wenzl, "Priests on the Prairie." Custer had camped near Hays City during its rowdy days.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

of \$2400. By the time the church was dedicated and consecrated in 1887 the congregation had grown to 60 families.

Between 1887, when the first masonry church was completed, and 1899, the number of families in the parish had nearly doubled to 113, including the original Irish and German-Russian immigrants and the families of their adult American-born children. By 1899, the parish's property included the 1887 church, the 1884 one-story frame school building east of the church, a 2 ½ story monastery with an adjacent outbuilding and icehouse north of the church, and a second 1-story school building located across Sheridan Street to the south of the church.¹⁷ Given its growth, the burgeoning parish had no choice but to build a new church, its third building in two decades.

To design the third (current) structure, the parish hired Topeka architect Joseph Marshall. Marshall was born in Limerick, Ireland on June 1, 1849 and immigrated to the United States in 1865. He learned the carpentry trade in Indianapolis, where he also studied architecture under Robert Platt Daggett, the founder of a prominent Indianapolis firm.¹⁸ As an apprentice architect, Marshall designed five buildings at DePauw University, a Methodist institution in Greencastle, Indiana. In 1886, following his education and apprenticeship, he established his own office at 115 W. 5th in Topeka, Kansas. Marshall earned a reputation for designing religious and educational buildings, as well as institutional buildings, which he designed in his position as assistant state architect between 1897 and 1898.¹⁹

By Spring 1901, Marshall had completed his plans for St. Joseph's Church and submitted them to the Bishop, who approved the plans and granted the parish a \$10,000 loan for construction. In order to ensure that services would not be interrupted, the parish decided to construct the new church next to the 1887 building, on the northeast corner of Sheridan and Ash. The parishioners broke ground for the new church on June 3, 1901 and completed excavation in a week. However, sweltering summer heat slowed construction progress, postponing the cornerstone laying until November 28. At the cornerstone ceremony, clergy gave sermons in both English and German. Despite additional setbacks, tied to low crop prices, the church was finally completed and dedicated on June 12, 1904. Still, the parish could only use the church on rare occasions during its first winter

¹⁷ 1899 Sanborn Map.

¹⁸ Daggett Collection, Ball State University, Finding Aid, see <http://www.bsu.edu/cap/facilities/archives/collections/practitionercollections/daggett/>.

¹⁹ Howard D. Berrett, *Who's Who in Topeka* (Adams Brothers, Publishers, Topeka, 1905). Given his design of the church in the Romanesque Revival Style, a style favored by German congregations, Mr. Marshall's background is ironic.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

*St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School
Ellis County, Kansas*

Section number 8 Page 12

as the heating system was not installed until March 1905. Once the new building was complete, the parish demolished the 1887 church.

Having finally completed its church, the parish returned its attention to Catholic education. The parish had begun offering courses since the Sisters of St. Agnes arrived in 1879 and constructed the first frame school building in 1884. In the 1890s, the parish founded a boys' academy. Unfortunately, however, the ensuing financial Panic forced its closure. The parish's goal of establishing a college was finally realized in 1907, three years after completing the new church building. They laid the cornerstone on June 23, 1907 and completed and dedicated the building on September 14, 1908. The school provided a "commercial course of three years and a classical course of six years." In order to pay for these improvements, farm families committed one acre of land to the church. The crop proceeds from a farmer's "God's acre," were donated to the church.

With or without the "God's acre" pledges, the church's financial well-being was directly linked to crop prices and the weather. Fortunately, good weather and record-high crop prices during World War I followed a cycle of drought. Good times for farmers left the parish poised to respond to community needs. By the first decade of the Twentieth Century, the number of families in the parish had more than doubled to 239 families. After fewer than five years, the school had outgrown its limestone building, requiring the parish to construct a new brick building, which opened in 1914. In 1915, the Sisters of St. Agnes founded St. Anthony's Hospital.

By 1926, St. Joseph's Parish had grown to 500 families; it was the largest parish in the Concordia Diocese. 678 children were enrolled in the parochial schools – and the Hays Catholic Girls' High School had an enrollment of 62, many of whom boarded in Hays. Between 1909 and 1926, St. Anthony's Hospital had cared for 13,180 patients and delivered 1900 babies.²⁰

Romanesque Revival Architecture

Romanesque Revival Style, also known as the Round Arch Style, first emerged in the years preceding the Civil War and was a popular style for institutional and religious buildings through the turn of the century. The massing and form of early Romanesque Revival buildings resembled those of Gothic Revival buildings. The principal character-defining feature of the Romanesque Revival Style is the rounded arch, described by Poppeliers and Chambers as "not the classical

²⁰ Dreiling, 73-81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

round arch of Roman times, but as filtered through the medieval Romanesque style." The best-known example of Romanesque Revival is James Renwick, Jr.'s Smithsonian Institution, known as the "Castle," completed in 1855.²¹

The majority of Romanesque Revival Style buildings in Kansas are churches. Because the style, which reflected Medieval German architectural trends, was imported to the United States by German immigrants, the style was popular among German Lutheran and German Catholic congregations. There are a number of examples in Ellis County, including St. Fidelis Catholic Church (known as the "Cathedral of the Plains") in Victoria, St. Mary's Church in Ellis, and St. Joseph's Church in Hays.

By the 1880s, the Romanesque Revival Style was supplanted by Richardsonian Romanesque, which dominated institutional and governmental architecture until 1910.

Hays

Hays, founded 1867, was located at the junction of Big Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad. The town grew up around Fort Fletcher, later renamed Fort Hays, which was established in 1865 to protect the Smokey Hill Trail to Denver. In the months after the Union Pacific Railroad arrived in 1867, Hays was a bustling railroad terminus and supply depot for points west and southwest. In the late 1860s, Hays was home to as many as 1000 residents. Among its famous citizens in the early days were Wild Bill Hickock, who served as sheriff for a few months in 1869, General George Armstrong Custer, Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson.²² As the railroad moved west, however, the population declined – to 640 by 1870.

The community's population exploded with the arrival of hundreds of German-Russian immigrants in the mid to late 1870s. In 1877, St. Joseph's Catholic Church became the city's first church building. By 1880, the population had grown to 859. Despite some setbacks in the waning years of the late Nineteenth Century – including a financial panic, drought, failed gold mine, and devastating fire that destroyed 50 downtown buildings – Hays continued to grow. By 1910, the population had reached 1962. It doubled again by 1930, when the city boasted 4618 residents.²³ The city saw another boost with the completion of Interstate 70, which crossed the north side of town, in 1967. Today the city has a population of nearly 20,000. It is home to Fort Hays State University, the only 4-year regents' university in the western two-thirds of the state. The county produces more oil than any other county in the state.

²¹ John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Jr. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. (New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2003), 54-56..

²² William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: Andreas, 1883).

²³ US Census, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 14 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 15 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

The school sits on Lots 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, Block 17, Hays Original Town Block 14 Thru Subdivision. The church sits on Lots 1, 3, 5, and 7, Block 18, Hays Original Town Block 14, Thru Subdivision.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the property occupied by the church, rectory, and parochial school. The church sits on the northeast corner of 13th Street and Ash, at 217 W. 13th Street. The property on which the church sits extends north to south from 13th Street and 14th Street, which was vacated in ca. 1949. The school is located across the street at 210 W. 13th Street. The school sits north of the east-west alley that bisects Block 17, between 12th and 13th Streets.

Photo Log

All photos were taken by Christy Davis in 2007.

1. Exterior, Front (South) and East Elevations of Church, Looking Northwest from the Southeast.
2. Exterior, Church, East Elevation of Church and South Elevation of Rectory (non-contributing), Looking Northwest from the Southeast.
3. Exterior, Church, East Elevations of Church and Rectory, Looking West.
4. Exterior, Church, Rear (North) Elevation, Looking South.
5. Exterior, Church, North Elevation, Looking Southeast.
6. Exterior, Church, Apse, Looking Southeast.
7. Exterior, Church, Nave and Transept, Looking Northeast.
8. Exterior, Church, Bell Tower, Looking East.
9. Interior, Church, Looking North from Nave to Apse.
10. Interior, Church, Looking South from Nave to Choir Loft.
11. Interior, Church, Looking Northwest at Transept.
12. Interior, Church, Looking Southwest in Nave.
13. Interior, Church, Looking Southeast in Nave.
14. Exterior, School, Front (North) Elevation, looking Southeast.
15. Exterior, School, Side (East) Elevation, looking West.
16. Exterior, School, Rear (South) Elevation, looking Northeast.
17. Exterior, School, Side (East) Elevation, looking Northwest.
18. Exterior, School, Side (East) Elevation, looking west.
19. Exterior, School, Cornerstone.
20. Exterior, School, Front Entrance.
21. Exterior, School, Light Fixture.
22. Interior, School, Tile in Entry.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 16 *St. Joseph's Church and Parochial School*
Ellis County, Kansas

- 23. Interior, School, interior entry doors and transoms.
- 24. Interior, School, First-floor offices.
- 25. Interior, School, Typical Classroom.
- 26. Interior, School, Hallway.
- 27. Interior, School, Hallway.
- 28. Interior, School, Classroom.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

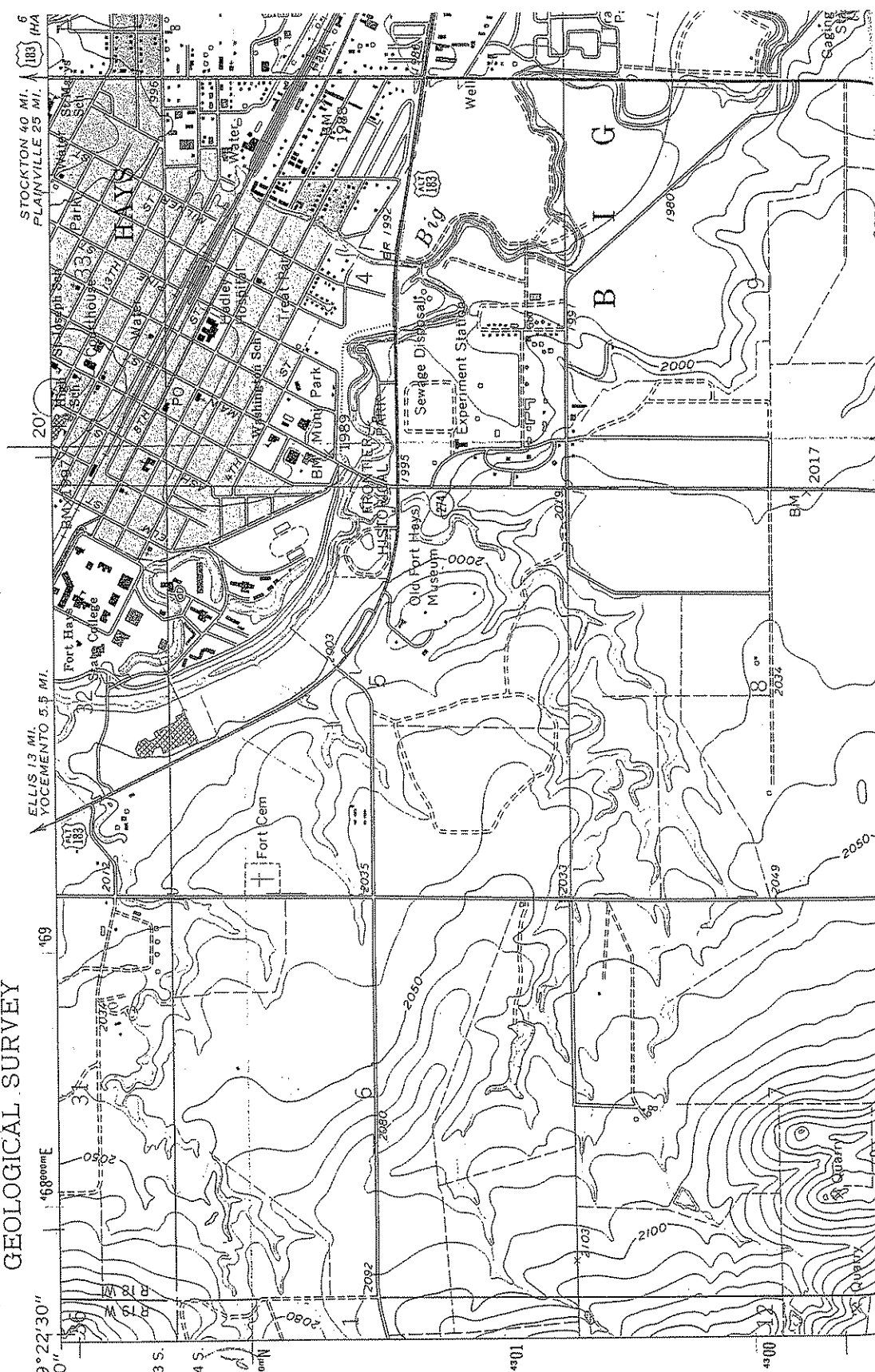
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YOCEMENTO

38°52'30" 99°22'30"

St. Joseph's Church
& Parochial School

(See also: Hays North Quad)

14: 471200 E
4302705 N



STOCKTON 40 MI.
PLAINVILLE 25 MI.

ELLIS 13 MI.
YOCEMENTO 5.5 MI.

169

1680000E

38°52'30" 99°22'30"

T. 13 S.

T. 14 S.

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ELLIS 13 MI.
YOCEMENTO 5.5 MI.

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38°52'30" 99°22'30"

T. 13 S.

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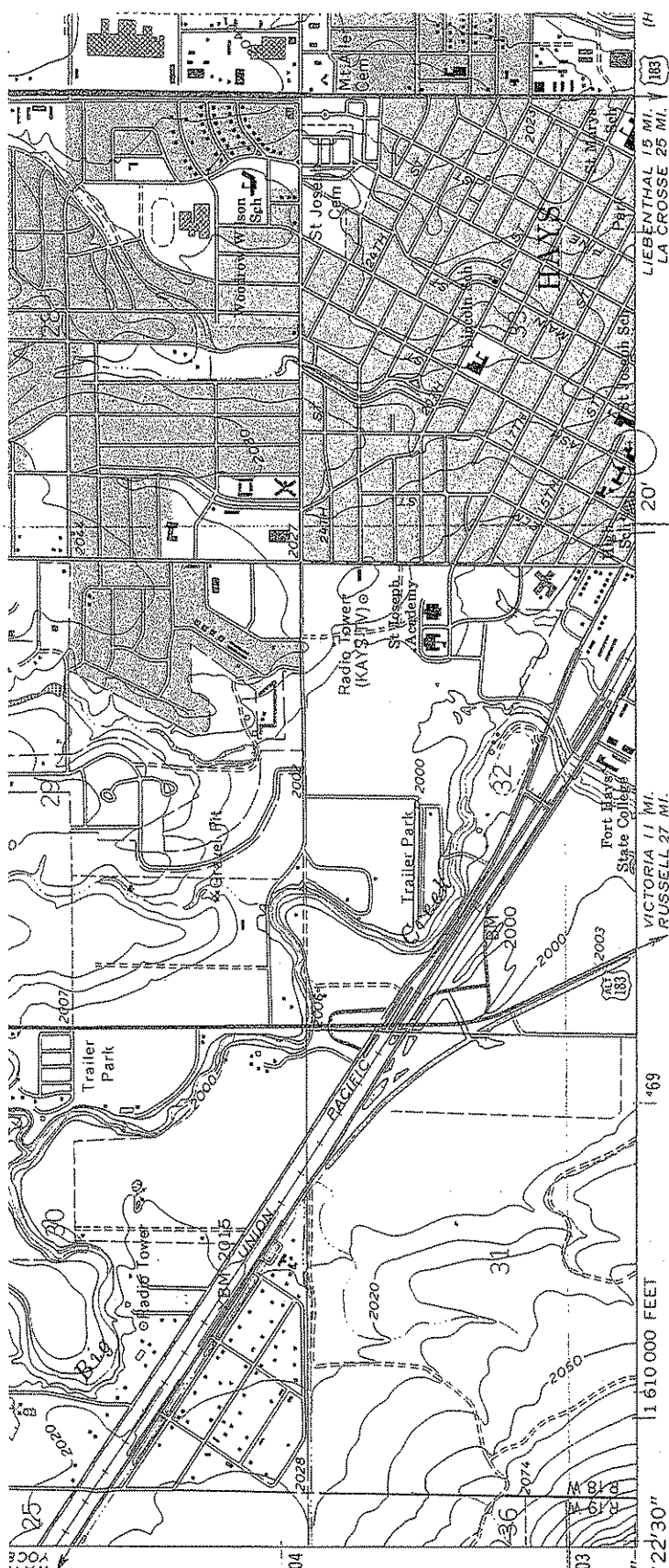
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
as part of the Department of the Interior program
for the development of the Missouri River Basin

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1961

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983

move the projection lines 3 meters north and
32 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

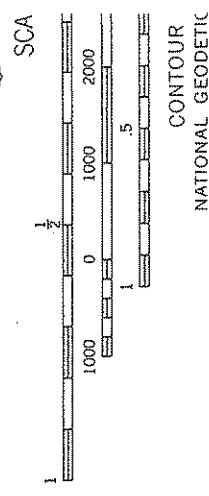
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616 N SW
38° 52' 30" N
99° 22' 30" W

St. Joseph's Church
+ Parochial School

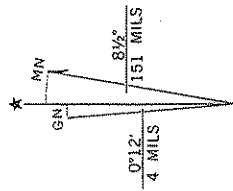
14: 471230 E

① 4302860 N

(See also: Hays South
Quad)



UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH N
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGIC
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas