

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Mary's Catholic Church  
 Other names/site number KHRI # 083-99  
 Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number <u>14920 SE 232 Road</u>		not for publication
City or town <u>Kinsley</u>		vicinity
State <u>Kansas</u> Code <u>KS</u> County <u>Hodgeman</u> Code <u>083</u> Zip code <u>67547</u>		

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
     national      statewide   x   local      Applicable National Register Criteria:      A      B   x   C      D

**SEE FILE**

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Kansas State Historical Society  
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
     entered in the National Register      determined eligible for the National Register  
     determined not eligible for the National Register      removed from the National Register  
     other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious: Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:  
Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone: Limestone  
walls: Stone: Limestone; Brick  
roof: Tile; Metal  
other:

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## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary

St. Mary's Church is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Revival-style building located the southeast corner of rural Hodgeman County at the junction of two gravel roads, approximately 7.5 miles north of Highway 50. It is approximately 14 miles northeast of Spearville (population 773, 2010), 20 miles southeast of Jetmore (population 867, 2010), and 20 miles northwest of Kinsley (population 1,457, 2010). (Figures 1 and 2) The church was built in 1904 and substantially rebuilt following a fire in 1928. The small rural church features a stone exterior, Gothic-arch windows, a red tile gable roof, and a center bell tower. The nominated area is restricted to the church and the land upon which it sits.

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### Elaboration

#### Setting

St. Mary's Church occupies a corner parcel of land at the southeast corner of 232 and F roads. Adjacent to the church is a new metal building that serves a social hall and an old school. A partially paved driveway runs north-south in front of these three buildings and is accessed from both roads. There is an associated cemetery southeast of the church that is owned separately and it is not included in the boundaries of this nomination.

The one-story, wood-frame school building is a former two-story residence moved to the site in 1943. The building, which has non-historic metal siding, has been heavily altered on the interior and exterior. It is not included in the nomination boundary for three reasons: first, it does not contribute to the architectural significance of the church that is argued in Section 8; second, it does not retain sufficient integrity to warrant nomination under any of the four criteria; and third, the new metal building was recently constructed between the school and church impacting the integrity of the overall sight. As a result, the nomination boundary is restricted to the church and the land upon which it sits.

#### Church

The church was erected in 1904 and was nearly destroyed from a fire January 1, 1928, leaving only the walls standing. The parishioners of the time appealed to Bishop Augustus John Schwertner for permission to rebuild the church using the remaining walls. After inspection, the architectural firm of Henry W. Brinkman and Stanley Hagan of Emporia confirmed that reusing the remaining walls was feasible. Joseph Sebacher, of Sebacher Construction Company, was hired to reconstruct the church. The parishioners were required to furnish and haul the stone and sand. The rebuilt church was dedicated December 13, 1928.

#### Exterior

The exterior of the church, which faces west, is made from smooth-cut limestone that was likely quarried from nearby farmsteads and carried by horse and carriage to the site. The building has a gable-front roof with red clay tiles and a central tower projecting from the front side of the building. The tower also includes the building's primary double-door entrance topped by a Gothic-arch transom complete with

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tracery and stained glass. The paneled wood doors are not original. Above the entrance is a small round wood window with stained glass outlined in a lighter, tooled limestone. Prior to the 1928 fire, the tower had a square, wood-frame top with a conical roof. After the fire, this was replaced with a square, stone top with a metal steeple topped by a crucifix. The stone walls of the tower each have a single Gothic-arch louvered wood vent opening. The corners of the tower are accented by projecting rough-cut stones in the style of quoins.

On either side of the projecting tower bay is a single Gothic-arch wood window with stained glass and a smooth-cut stone sill. These side bays are topped by an angled wall conforming to the slope of the gable roof behind it. The angled wall forms a short parapet topped by smooth-cut stone coping.

The north and south facades of the church each have five Gothic-arch wood windows with stained glass and a tooled stone sill, much like those on the front façade. There is a double-door cellar entrance in the ground near the rear east corner of the building along its south façade. This leads to the partial basement beneath the building.

The east (rear) facade of the building has two non-historic wood doors, one near each corner. The north door has a smooth-cut stone lintel, but the south door does not. Each entrance is accessed by a few steps. One door leads to the sacristy and the other to the servers and flower room. Centered in the wall above the doors is a small round wood window with stained glass outlined in a lighter, tooled limestone – very much like the one on the opposite front façade.

### *Interior*

The primary double-door entrance leads into an entry foyer or vestibule. Just inside the main entrance is a wood staircase (at the southwest corner) leading to the choir loft above, which overlooks the sanctuary. There is a second double-door entrance into the sanctuary, which occupies the majority of the building interior. The sanctuary is rectangular-shaped with eight rows of oak pews on either side of a center aisle. The floors are wood surrounded by wood baseboards. The center aisle and front of the sanctuary have carpeting. The sanctuary has plaster walls with a Gothic-arch shaped ceiling. Adjacent to the entrance, at the rear of the sanctuary space, is an enclosed confessional space. There is a dais at the east (front) end of the sanctuary leading to an inset space defined by an impressive Gothic-arch ceiling. On either side of this dais is an enclosed room – one is the sacristy and the other is a servers and flower room.

There is a choir loft at the west (rear) of the sanctuary, situated above the entry foyer. The loft space spans the width of the building. The loft features a wood base with a communion-type rail and kneelers. This floor of the loft is carpeted. There is an electric organ in the loft that is still used on occasion.

The base of the Maria Altar, with an image of the Last Supper engraved in the base, remains at the front of the church. The top has been removed. It arrived from the factory of Wackner Company of La Crosse, Wisconsin, at a cost of \$900. Two side altars were made by Svoboda Church Furniture Company of Kenaunce, Wisconsin at a cost of \$470. The communion rail was donated by Reverend Anonemus and Stations of the Cross were bought from Herder Company, but in the 1960s, in order to follow the renewal of churches, the main altar was cut down and the communion rail and Stations of the Cross removed. These items were stored in a barn that eventually burned down destroying all of them. Statues of the Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception and the Little Flower were donated by parishioners and remain today.

The basement area is an unfinished crawl space that is accessed from the exterior cellar door.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- 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 is 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1904; 1928

**Significant Dates**

1904 (building built)

1928 (building rebuilt)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Original: Parishioners

Rebuild: Brinkman & Hagan, architects

Rebuild: Joe Sebacher, builder

**Period of Significance (justification)**

There are two periods of significance: 1904 is the year the original church was built and 1928 is when it was rebuilt to reflect its current appearance.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

St. Mary's Church meets the registration requirements for Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from its architecture. The property does not derive its primary significance from associations with religious doctrine.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

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(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

### Summary

St. Mary's Church is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its local significance in the area of architecture. The building was built in 1904, but suffered a devastating fire on January 1, 1928. The exterior walls were salvaged, and the building was rebuilt and dedicated in December 1928. The building is largely reflective of the late 1920s, is built with local limestone, and featuring a simplified Gothic Revival style. The church served an Irish community of parishioners within a ten-mile radius. The acreage for the church and cemetery were donated by John Gleason, who was the first person to be buried there in 1904, after he was run over by his team of horses. The cemetery remains the property of the Catholic Diocese, but the surrounding church property is owned separately. The cemetery is still maintained and used today.

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### Elaboration

The Kansas Legislature formed Hodgeman County in 1867 and the first settlements date to 1871. The county officially organized in 1879.<sup>1</sup> The county's population peaked at just over 4,000 in 1930, having steadily climbed at every federal census since 1900.<sup>2</sup>

The Irish congregation of St. Mary's Church was established in 1903. Before this, parishioners attended the German St. Joseph Church located five miles south.<sup>3</sup> They traveled to this church, which no longer exists, by horse and buggy. In 1903, a dispute arose between the German and Irish members of old St. Joseph Parish in regard to the new location of a second church building. The Irish members wished to have the old St. Joseph church moved about two miles north, but the Germans objected. A petition was circulated and sent to the Bishop of Wichita, who sided with the Irish parishioners in their effort to relocate. This led to the construction of a new building in 1904; the cornerstone was laid May 29, 1904.<sup>4</sup>

On the evening of January 1, 1928, the church suffered a major fire. One church member could see the flames from their home in Offerle to the southeast.<sup>5</sup> The fire destroyed all but the walls. The parishioners approached the Bishop requesting permission to rebuild. Rejoining St. Joseph's congregation was not a feasible as before since that congregation had just completed a new church building in Offerle. The St. Mary's parishioners suggested an architect be engaged to recommend how to proceed; the Bishop agreed. The parishioners contracted with Henry W. Brinkman and Stanley Hagan of Emporia, who had just completed the new St. Joseph's Church in Offerle. The architects reported that the remaining walls could indeed be salvaged and reused in a new church building. They then hired low bidder Joseph Sebacher, who had also worked on the new St. Joseph Church) to rebuild St. Mary's with the plans and

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<sup>1</sup> Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopaedia of State History, volume 1* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 859-861.

<sup>2</sup> "Hodgeman County, Kansas," Kansas Historical Society website:  
[http://kshs.org/geog/geog\\_counties/view/county:HG](http://kshs.org/geog/geog_counties/view/county:HG)

<sup>3</sup> The rural St. Joseph's church building is gone, but a small cemetery remains just southwest of the corner of Antelope / SE "A" and SE 232 roads across the county line in the far northeast corner of Ford County. In 1927, St. Joseph's built a new church at 111 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Offerle, Edwards County. It is not listed in the register, but has been documented in the Kansas Historic Resources inventory: # 047-4110-00001.

<sup>4</sup> Hand-written church ledger, 1930, 9-10. In possession of the author. Copies on file with the nomination.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 13-14.

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specifications provided by Brinkman and Hagan. His bid to rebuild was \$8,680. To help defray costs, parishioners hauled rock and sand to the site.<sup>6</sup> Furnishings brought the total cost to around \$15,000.<sup>7</sup>

The new church building was completed and dedicated late in 1928. A dedication ceremony was held at the church on December 13, 1928, after a sermon by Reverend O'Brien from Larned. Bishop Augustus John Schwertner of Wichita confirmed 19 children that day, too.

The hand-written church ledger for the year 1932 is particularly interesting, as it reports of the "Financial Depression [that] has spread over the whole country," and its "pernicious companion a continuous drought [that] prevailed over southwestern Kansas, so that hardly any crop was expected." With this poignant introduction, the recorder seemed pleased to note that "St. Marys [sic] Congregation met both ends and made no debts."<sup>8</sup> Virtually the same report was provided for the year 1933, with a note that "Twice this year theifs [sic] have attempted to break in St. Marys [sic] Church," and that one thief was successful in stealing items.<sup>9</sup> By 1935, the church report mentions the bad weather and dust storms. The hand-written history ends in 1937, the Jubilee year of the Diocese. At this time, the church included 34 families.<sup>10</sup>

St. Mary's has always been a mission church having weekly masses on Saturday or Sunday, that was conducted by a neighboring priest. It was an active church always having lecturers, communion ministers, choirs, servers and very generous in their giving. The church closed in 1997 because of a lack of priests. At the time of the closing around 30 families were still involved in the church.

### *Architects Brinkman & Hagan*

Architects Henry W. Brinkman and Stanley Hagan of Emporia teamed up with builder Joseph Sebacher on at least three Catholic church projects in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: St. Mary's (Hodgeman County, 1928), St. Joseph's (Offerle, Edwards County, 1927), and St. Anthony's (Fowler, Meade County, 1925).

Brinkman, a German immigrant, settled with his family near Olpe, Lyon County, Kansas in 1885. Brinkman studied architecture at Kansas State College (now Kansas State University). Following graduation in 1907, he established an architecture firm in Emporia. Brinkman was a devout Catholic, and he became known for his designs of Catholic churches and related facilities. In 1925, Brinkman partnered with fellow Emporia architect Stanley Hagan. The firm's churches often feature a mixture of Romanesque and Italian Renaissance styles, such as the National Register-listed Seven Dolours Catholic Church in Manhattan and the well-known St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Damar. Brinkman and Hagan remained together for 23 years, designing more than 125 churches in the region. Brinkman retired in 1948, but the name of the firm carried on into the 1950s.<sup>11</sup>

### *Gothic Revival Architecture*

Seemingly countless 19th century small-town churches in Kansas reflect elements of the Gothic Revival style. The great popularity of the style can largely be traced back to the 1852 publication of architect

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 18.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 20.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 21.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 25.

<sup>11</sup> Larry K. Hancks, "Henry W. Brinkman, Architect," Unpublished manuscript. 1992. Copy on file in Architect Files, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society. Citation covers entire paragraph.

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Richard Upjohn's book of church plans entitled *Upjohn's Rural Architecture*. Some of this country's greatest examples of high-style Gothic Revival buildings were built in the two decades preceding Upjohn's publication, including Alexander Jackson Davis's New York University building (1832-1837), Henry Austin's Yale College Library (1832-1837), and Richard Upjohn's Trinity Church in New York (1839-1846). Davis, Upjohn, and Andrew Jackson Downing, in particular, stressed the "picturesque effect" that characterizes so many Gothic Revival buildings.<sup>12</sup> Although the popularity of the style on residential buildings declined after the Civil War, it remained a favorite for designers of religious buildings into the 20th century.

Upjohn built several large urban churches, but his services were also requested for smaller rural churches. He hoped his book of plans, which included small frame churches, "would help meet the need for good, properly designed rural churches."<sup>13</sup> High-style Gothic Revival religious buildings were typically built of stone, though wood examples are found throughout Kansas. St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hodgeman County is a stone building, though not particularly high-style. It reflects the Gothic Revival style in pointed-arch windows and entrance and central tower. The style is carried through on the interior, particularly in the arched sanctuary ceiling and niches.

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<sup>12</sup> Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993), 53-60.

<sup>13</sup> Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, 2001), 175-177.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, volume 1*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Hand-written church ledger, 1930. In possession of the author. Copies on file with the nomination.

Hancks, Larry K. "Henry W. Brinkman, Architect," Unpublished manuscript. 1992. Copy on file in Architect Files, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society.

St. Mary's Church, Hodgeman County, 1904-1997. N.p., ca. 1997. (Hardbound book; copy on file with nomination.)

Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, 2001.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles, Revised Edition*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 7.4 acres

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>37.985244</u>	<u>-99.642268</u>	3	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes the church building and the land upon which it sits. It is located on a 7.4-acre parcel in the NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 9 Township 24S Range 21W described by the Hodgeman County Appraiser records as follows: NW/4-NW/4-NW/4 LESS BEG SE COR NW/4-NW/4-NW/4, TH W236.8', N345.9', E235.6', S345.2' LESS R/W.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

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The nominated area includes the extant property that retains integrity and contributes to the significance of St. Mary's Church.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joan L. Hogan (KSHS edits)  
organization St. Mary's Heritage Foundation date September 2014  
street & number 14630 SE 231 Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Spearville state KS zip code 67876  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name St. Mary's Heritage Foundation  
street & number N14920 SE 232 Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Kinsley state KS zip code 67547

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: St. Mary's Church  
City or Vicinity: Offerle vicinity  
County: Hodgeman State: Kansas  
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin  
Date Photographed: 13 November 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 14 Distant shot of church, camera facing SE
- 2 of 14 West (front) façade of church, camera facing SE
- 3 of 14 West (front) façade of church, camera facing E
- 4 of 14 Angled shot of south (side) and east (rear) sides of building, camera facing NW
- 5 of 14 Angled shot of east (rear) and north sides of building, camera facing SW
- 6 of 14 Typical sanctuary window on north side, camera facing S
- 7 of 14 Cornerstone at northwest corner of building, camera facing E
- 8 of 14 Interior, sanctuary space, camera facing E
- 9 of 14 Interior, sanctuary space, camera facing NE
- 10 of 14 Interior, pews in sanctuary space, camera facing NE
- 11 of 14 Interior, sanctuary space with loft above, camera facing W
- 12 of 14 Interior, sanctuary space with loft above, camera facing NW

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- 13 of 14 Interior, door on west wall of sanctuary, camera facing W
- 14 of 14 Interior, staircase in loft space, camera facing S

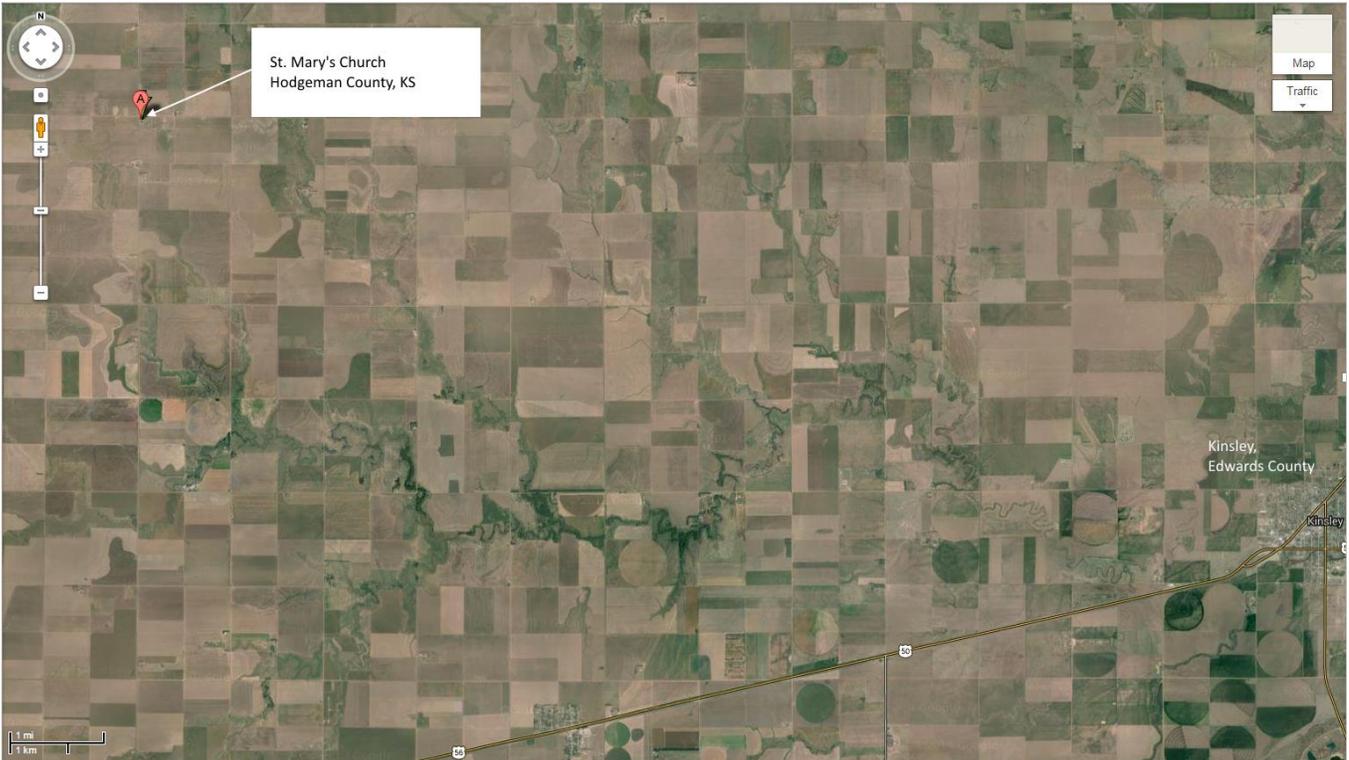
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**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

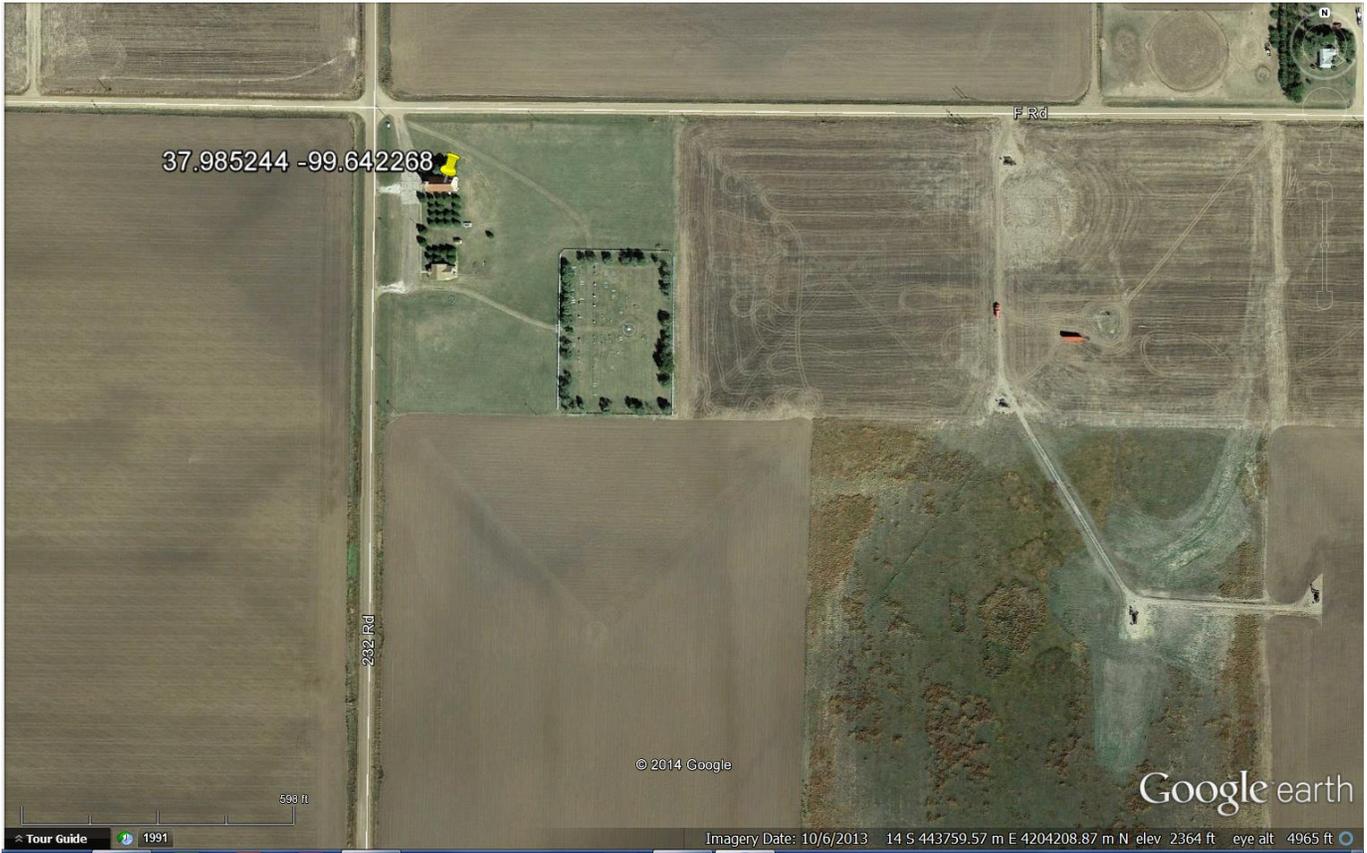
Figure 1: Contextual Aerial Image, Google Earth, 2014.



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Figure 2: Close-In Aerial Image, Google Earth, 2014.



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Figure 3: Standard Atlas of Hodgeman County Kansas. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co. Publishers & Engravers, 1907.  
Source: <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209438/page/22>

This map shows the church in the northwest corner of Section 9, just three years after it was built.

