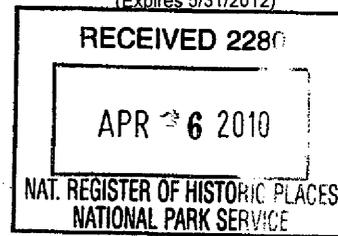


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

279



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 Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 322 Third Street SE N/A not for publication
city or town Massillon vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Stark code 151 zip code 44646

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Barbara Owen
Signature of certifying official

March 29, 2010
Date

Department Head, Inventory & Registration
Title

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio 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
Title

Date
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:)

John Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

5-21-10
Date of Action

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
- building(s)
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		buildings
2	1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: sandstone
walls: Brick
Sandstone
roof: _____
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is a brick Victorian Gothic Revival style church with sandstone trim featuring tracery and pointed arched stained glass windows and entrances, asymmetrical elevation, including a bell tower located at the southeast corner of Third Street SE and South Avenue SE in Massillon. John B. Verment (1841-1911) was the architect of the church and the builder was John Minehart. The current St. Joseph's was completed in 1892 and is located in a primarily residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown and nearby several other historic religious properties dating to the same period. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1875-1905, (NR 1979) is located within one mile of St. Joseph's on Cherry Street NE. One block north on Third Street is St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1892-93 (NR 1979). Another block north on Third Street is the First United Methodist Church, 1895, (NR 1985).

The nominated property includes an early 20th century period revival style two-story rectory dating to the 1920s. The rectory is located adjacent to the north of the church and faces Third Street. To the rear of the rectory building along an unnamed alley is a one-story, flat-roofed brick garage. The Church and rectory building are contributing resources and the garage is considered non-contributing.

Not included in the nominated boundary are two additional buildings of later dates and separated from the church and rectory by a parking lot. The two buildings include a convent built in 1957 and a school built in 1961, the original school was built in 1865 and is no longer standing. Both of these buildings were built by the Firestone and Motter Company of Canton, Ohio. The former convent now serves as the parish office with meeting rooms.

Narrative Description

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church displays the late 19th century Victorian Gothic Revival style through its red brick exterior resting on a raised basement of rusticated sandstone with watertable and further accented with contrasting sandstone trim details that include sandstone window sills, pointed arched lintels, stone banding, and smooth stone buttress caps and brick corbelling along the roofline. The main façade faces southeast and features a steeply pitched gable roof and a square corner tower balanced by a slender buttressed pinnacle positioned between the main central entrance and the right end entrance. The façade features three entrances all with brick and sandstone steps with iron railings – the main center doorway has a steeply pitched pointed arched sandstone surround with recessed columns, scored voussiors and decorative carved medallion and trefoil. The double wood doors are carved and have pointed arched stained glass windows and transom. The other two entrances are to the left (in the corner tower) and to the right of the main entrance. They both feature sandstone pointed arched surrounds similarly detailed, but more modest, to the center entrance. Above the center entrance is a pointed arched stain glass window with tracery. In the apex of the gable is the stone carved statue of Saint Joseph positioned on a stone pedestal within a pointed arched niche flanked by two smaller arched niches. The original slate roof shingles were removed in the 1950s and replaced with the current cementitious tiles.

The square corner tower features entrances (described above) on both the southeast and west side. The tower has brick buttresses with sandstone caps, single and paired lancet windows and tall, narrow louvered openings at the top of the bell tower. The original tall steeple was struck by lightning in the 1950s and replaced by a more modern interpretation that was not in scale with the tower. As part of a project to strengthen the corner tower in 2008 this 1950s era steeple was replaced with the current configuration of glass fibre reinforced concrete pinnacles topped by copper finials spaced between brick battlements (design based upon examples of religious architectural features found within the community, not one specific design source). The work was completed by the Chambers, Murphy and Burge architectural firm of Akron, Ohio.

The west elevation is six bays (counting the corner tower entrance) with two-story pointed arched stained glass windows with rusticated lintels, smooth stone sills, and tracery. The original stained glass windows were designed by the H.F. Petgen Art Glass Works of Pittsburgh, PA. The windows are spaced between brick buttresses with stone caps. The fifth bay is the left transept also featuring a similarly detailed stained glass window, buttresses, stone banding, corbelling and a small pointed arched louvered opening. The transept projection has a basement level entrance and a corner doorway facing southeast.

The east elevation has six bays with similar window and transept configuration and details to the west elevation, except for the first bay which three levels of a single pointed arched window, a small pair of pointed arched windows, a tall narrow stained glass window with tracery (with similar detailing to the other larger windows) and a stained glass round window in a small side gable. The transept entrance has a newer handicap accessible ramp leading to it.

The north elevation features the semipolygonal apse with the brick corbelling, buttresses with stone caps and tall narrow pointed arched windows as detailed in the rest of the church. New stained glass windows were installed in the apse in 2003 (designed by Radiant Arts, Inc. of Beach City, OH). The apse is flanked by one-story brick projections with brick corbelling, steeply pitched roofs, corner buttresses and small pointed arched side windows. Projecting out of the back wall of the church and extending over the roofs of both projections and to the ground are incompatible metal ductwork (appears to be reversible).

The interior presents a Latin cross plan with a large open sanctuary with a pointed, ribbed vaulted ceiling and pointed arches at the niches and chancel. The transept and window bays are defined by stylized fan vaults. The interior retains original architectural features including elaborately carved reredo and statuary. A very sensitive and sympathetic reconfiguration of the chancel furnishings, in order to conform to post-Vatican II liturgical standards, was completed in the 1980s.

These changes primarily placed the altar closer to the people and the priest faced the congregants while celebrating the Mass. The altar rail seen in the 1912 photograph was removed in 1968. The current altar, ambo, baptismal font, tabernacle table, and lighting were designed and manufactured in Italy. The side altar reredos were removed due to wood damage.

The choir loft features a large stained glass window. Two smaller windows are located in the upper rear corner area and are enclosed by an ornamental iron screen

The two-story Georgian Revival style rectory, built in 1922-1924 was designed by Cleveland architect William Coehl and displays a hipped roof, center entrance with round-arched trellised entry portico and paired multi-paned windows. This building replaced a 19th century wood frame Queen Anne style house that had served as the rectory on the same location. The interior plan of the current rectory features two brick vaults, one in the basement and one on the first floor, both used for storage of church records. The interior of the rectory was remodeled in 2004. The rectory is considered a contributing building because it is historically and functionally related to the church, the primary building in the nomination. This second rectory was originally built for use as a rectory and is situated directly behind the church. The rectory is still used for its original purpose, as the residence for the priest.

Overall the church retains the character-defining architectural features and details, materials, and craftsmanship to convey its architectural significance as a late 19th century Victorian Gothic ethnic parish church reflecting the design and workmanship of the local architect and stonecarver John B. Verment.

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1892-1924

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Vermont, John Baptist, architect (aka Vermont)¹

Minehart, John, builder

¹ Massillon City Directories for 1904 and 1909 list Vermont, John B., architect

Period of Significance (justification)

Period of Significance begins with the construction of the current historic church building and ends with the construction of the Rectory.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church meets Criteria Consideration A because its primary significance is for its Victorian Gothic architecture reflecting the work of local architect/stone carver John B. Verment.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is nominated under Criterion C for its significance as a representation of 19th century religious architecture in Massillon, Ohio. Built in 1892 St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is an ethnic parish church designed in the Victorian Gothic style highlighted by its polychromatic treatment of dark red brick and sandstone trim and carved details, asymmetrical corner tower, pointed arched windows and doorways, brick corbelling, buttresses, interior rib vaulted niches and chancel and fan vaulting in transepts. These stylistic and architectural features reflect the work of the local architect and stonecarver John B. Verment.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was designed by architect John B. Verment (1841-1911). Mr. Verment was born in Belfort Haut-Rhine, France, where he was educated and formally trained as an architect. Working there, he is credited with designing several churches and a seminary at Zillisheim. Immigrating to the United States in 1873, he attended Notre Dame University in Indiana to learn English. He moved to Massillon in 1878 and his first known work there is with Dayton architect Leon Beaver on the design of St. Mary's Church in Massillon. Verment is credited with sculpturing stonework at St. Mary's and also the Massillon Cemetery building (1879). In 1891 he designed the new church of St. Joseph's. Evidence of payment to Mr. Verment is in the parish records of 1891. Stone foundations were laid in the fall of that year. The structure was completed in April of 1892.

St. Joseph's exhibits Victorian Gothic stylistic characteristics in its asymmetrical elevation with prominent corner bell tower. The exterior is defined by large stained glass windows with pointed arched openings and tracery, brick buttresses with stone cap and pointed arched entrances. Significant architectural features also include brick corbelling and carved medallions and trefoils. The interior presents a large open sanctuary with rib vaulted ceiling and pointed arches at the niches and chancel. The transepts and window bays are defined by stylized fan vaults.

Mr. Verment later designed a building similar to St. Joseph's for St. Mary's Church in Marion, Ohio in 1898. Sandusky, Monroeville, Toledo, and Canton also claim churches and schools designed by John B. Verment. His known religious designs, including St. Joseph's in Massillon, all show the visual complexity of late 19th century church architecture displaying the distinctive features associated with the Victorian Gothic style. St. Joseph's in Massillon and later St. Mary's in Marion, Ohio both show his use of the asymmetrical massing of the corner tower and his use of the cruciform plan with side transepts; while St. Joseph's in Monroeville (1873-74) and St. Hedwig's in Toledo (1907) present basilica plans with a distinctive tower forming a central focal point to the facades. All examples show his use of the style's emphasis on verticality with steeply pitched roofs, pointed arched windows and entrances, spires and pinnacles, and vaulted ceilings; and its characteristic visual excitement through polychromatic exterior finishes, typically dark brick and lighter sandstone to create decorative banding, highlighting windows and entrances, and defining corners and elevations with buttresses and corbelling.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The city of Massillon was formed at the convergence of the Tuscarawas River and Sippo Creek as a canal-based business center. Irish-born William Henry settled in Stark County in 1807 to chart the state road from Canton to Mansfield, Ohio. It was the Treaty of Fort Industry in 1805 that opened the region west of the Tuscarawas for settlement. Irish and German immigrants and New England sheep-raisers arrived and began the development of the canal. James Duncan purchased land on the east bank of the Tuscarawas River and established a dry goods store and gristmill. The plat known as Massillon was recorded on July 17, 1826. Duncan's wife, Eliza Vilette Duncan, chose the name *Massillon*. Her choice was stimulated by the sermons of Jean Baptiste Massillon, an Oratorian Bishop of Clermont in 1717. The Ohio-Erie canal from

Cleveland to Portsmouth, Ohio became the hub of activity in the fledgling town. By 1836, the population of Massillon exceeded 1000; by 1890 the population was 10,092. Nineteenth century Massillon residents were predominately German, Irish, Welsh and of New England heritage. Beginning in 1899 with labor shortages in the growing local steel industry saw a rise in immigrants from southern, central and Eastern Europe.

As the community grew, the immigrants built elegant mansions and stately churches. St. Mary's, St. Timothy's, St. Joseph's, and the First United Methodist churches were among these, as were the now-historic Five Oaks and Spring Hill Mansions. From the naming of Massillon after a bishop, to the worship of the founders, the city's churches were then and have remained vibrant houses of worship for the people of Massillon as the city grew and prospered. Among the early settlers, Thomas Rotch and his wife Charity were Quakers; William Henry, a Methodist; and Duncan, an Episcopalian. Duncan served as a member of the vestry of St. Timothy's in 1837. The Germans and Irish built St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1852.

Following a devastating fire that destroyed the sanctuary of the predominately German Catholic St. Mary's Church, a group of Irish parishioners petitioned Bishop Rappe in 1852 for a new parish church. He granted their request and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was established as a mission for the English-speaking Irish Catholic community of Massillon. The congregation built and occupied a small building on Erie Street in downtown Massillon until their first church was finished in 1864. When the parish outgrew that church, the current structure was built. The former church building was demolished in 1906. The current St. Joseph's, designed by John Verment and built by John Minehart, was completed in April 1892. Father Thomas Mahon was the pastor at that time.

Pew rents from the St. Joseph archives in late 1888 identify approximately 130 families of which 43 can readily be identified of Irish background: e.g. Kennedy, Leary, McGreal, and McCarthy to name a few. Twenty-one bore German names, indicating that some German families also joined the Irish to form St. Joseph's parish. It is difficult to establish the exact number of families since the pew rent was paid in several different amounts. Some people paid ahead and others were in arrears. Pew rent income on July 31, 1891 was \$1022.38 and on January 25, 1898 was \$274.50. On February 27, 1898, it was \$115.14. the average pew rent payment was between \$1.50 and \$2.50. Some people paid \$7.50, others \$10.00 at a time making it difficult to assess what would be normal pew rent. An estimate of the 1898 parish census from pew rents paid by various families would be close to 500 families at St. Joseph's. St. Mary's would have quite a few more families, nearing 600-800.

Other notable payments were made to the builder of St. Joseph's, John Minehart, of \$500 each on October 24 and November 7 of 1891. These payments were specifically listed as "foundation payments," likely indicating beginning of construction. These were the first of many payments to Mr. Minehart during various stages of construction.

Mr. John Verment, the architect, received partial payments, according to parish expenses of 1891 through 1893, amounting to a total of \$784 "for architectural plans." These payments begin on January 15, 1891 and culminated on June 27, 1893. Payments to the Petgen Company for the stained glass windows were made beginning on December 28, 1892 and ended on March 31, 1893. The total amount recorded was \$1847.35. No mention of a window designer was noted. Payments are also recorded for many different contractors, one notably to the Tiffin Manufactory Company for pews (\$789) and a pulpit (\$100). An interesting item in the parish council minutes of December 31, 1892 listed an aggregate expense of \$23,865.52 for "construction of the church." Construction payments ended in 1893.

The neighborhood that is home to St. Joseph's also includes three nearby churches including St. Mary's Catholic Church (NR 1979), St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (NR 1979), and The First United Methodist Church (NR 1985). The Methodist Church is situated on the corner of Lincoln Way and Third Street SE. St. Timothy's is one block south on Third at the corner of Tremont, and St. Joseph's is one block farther south at the corner of South Street and Third Street SE. St. Mary's is on the corner of Cherry and First streets, just north of the Fourth Street Historic District (NR 1982). This historic area includes Five Oaks (NR 1973), now serving as the Massillon Women's Club and Spring Hill House (NR), the home of the Rotch family, reportedly served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. All of these properties are located within the historic area of northeast Ohio designated as the Ohio and Erie Canal Heritage Corridor.

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: **Church records**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>456342</u>	<u>4515824</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

City of Massillon, Parcel Nos. 0680122, 0610074 and 0680044. Roughly 97 feet along South Avenue SE; 216 feet along Third Street SE; 193 feet along an unnamed alley; then 216 feet along east side of building and parking lot.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundary includes the historic church and the rectory associated with the early development and history of St. Joseph's parish church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deacon Donald F. Molinari
organization _____ date 3/23/2009
street & number 1845 John Carroll Drive SE telephone 330-832-5244
city or town Massillon state OH zip code 44646
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

City or Vicinity: Massillon

County: Stark

State: OH

Photographer: Don Molinari

Date Photographed: 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 13. front façade, looking north
- 2 of 13. east elevation, looking west
- 3 of 13. front entrance, carved medallion and trefoil
- 4 of 13. façade showing three entrances
- 5 of 13. north elevation, apse windows
- 6 of 13. interior from rear of church
- 7 of 13. ceiling
- 8 of 13. ceiling, vaulting along side elevations
- 9 of 13. interior, altar looking from center of church
- 10 of 13. reredo and apse
- 11 of 13. stained glass window, side elevation
- 12 of 13. side elevation
- 13 of 13. current rectory

Bibliography

Archives, Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

Parish Records, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Receipts and Expenditures

Blue, Herbert T. O. *History of Stark County, Vol. 1*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928.

Kane, Ruth. *Wheat, Glass, Stone and Steel: the Story of Massillon*. Massillon Bicentennial-Sesquicentennial Committee, State College, PA: Josten's Publications, 1976.

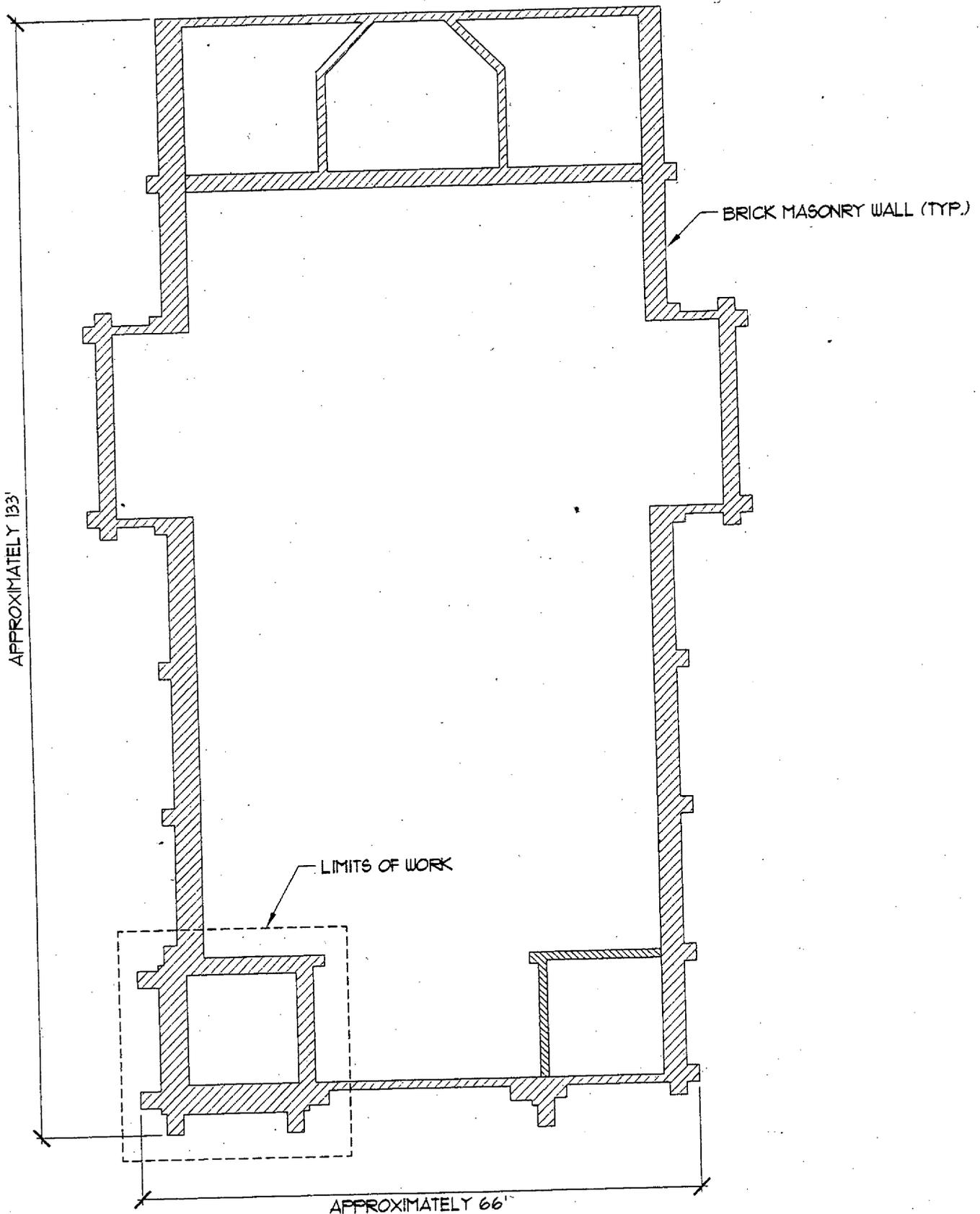
Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: The New American Library, Inc., 1980.

Vogt, Margy. *Towpath to Towpath – A History of Massillon, Ohio*. Massillon: Bates Printing Company, 2002.

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 18 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.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Stark Co., OH



KEY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Name of Property
Stark County, Ohio

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Photos

Page 1

1. First St. Joseph's Church, 1864.
2. view of current church, 1894 (from Massillon Independent)
3. Original rectory at current church site, pre-1920



1



2.



3.



EMERGENCY
SNOW STREET
**NO
PARKING**
WHEN SNOW
EXCEEDS 4 INCHES

**NO
PARKING**
HERE TO
CORNER























