

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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

**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 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	225 S. Hartwell Avenue and 520 E. Newhall Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Waukesha	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Waukesha	code 133
			zip code 53186

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title 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

St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex

Waukesha

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

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
 structure
 site
 object

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

contributing	noncontributing
3	buildings
1	sites
1	structures
1	objects
6	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property 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, church school,
church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility, church school,
church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

stone

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1953

1960

1964

Significant Dates

1953

1960

1964

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Flad, John J. & Associates

Wenzel-Zoeller-Gunn, Inc.

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

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.66 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 400516 4761506
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

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	Traci E. Schnell, M.A.	date	August 2021
organization	tes Historical Consulting, LLC	telephone	262.366.0397
street & number	211 Paine Street	zip code	53042
city or town	Kiel	state	WI

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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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Fr. Matthew Widder or Fr. Chuck Wrobel	Date	August 2021
organization	St. Mary Congregation	telephone	262.547.6555
street & number	225 S . Hartwell Avenue	zip code	53186
city or town	Waukesha	state	WI

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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex
Waukesha, Waukesha County, WI

Start description on line below

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Located on the southeast side of Waukesha in Waukesha County, St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a highly intact, Contemporary 1950s-60s religious complex. While collectively offering architectural significance as a church complex, the church alone, completed in 1964, stands as a well-intact example of 1960s Contemporary church architecture, both inside and out. The irregular parcel upon which St. Mary's is located includes a church (1964) and free-standing bell tower (1964), a combination school and convent building (1953; 1960), as well as a rectory (1960), in addition to a playground area and associated equipment, landscaping and hardscaping, bench seating, as well as signage--only the playground area (a site) and a statue of Mary (west of the bell tower) of which are included in the resource count.

Site and Setting

Consisting of just under twenty-six square miles, Waukesha is a city of approximately 72,000 people. It is located just south of I-94, about twenty miles west of Milwaukee's downtown, while Madison is sixty-five miles to the west. Known as an industrial and college town, Waukesha is home to Carroll University, the state's first four-year institution of higher learning that was chartered in 1846, two years before statehood. The St. Mary's church complex is located just over one-half mile southeast of Carroll College and about one-and-one-half miles from Waukesha's commercial downtown. The area surrounding St. Mary's is entirely residential, aside from the parcel directly to its north, upon which Catholic Memorial High School (1949+) is located. Situated at the corner of S. Hartwell and E. Newhall avenues, the National Register-listed Caples Park Historic District (1926-1938) is located immediately to the southwest, while the areas to the south and east were developed slightly later.

The 6.62-acre parcel includes the church and combined school and convent building along E. Newhall Avenue, while the rectory is located to the rear (north of) the church. All buildings are interconnected. A sidewalk runs along E. Newhall Avenue, the street to which both the church and school are primarily oriented. The church is further fronted by a concrete terrace that was originally designed to include electric snow-melting apparatus. The concrete terrace area extends to the west and includes a free-standing concrete belltower. A Lannon stone-sheathed wall surrounds the belltower on two sides; the north wall connects directly with the church building; while a staircase along the west wall leads down to the lower level of the church, and the entrance to the church office. West of the stairs is a

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circular landscaped area with a stone retaining wall; a statue of the Virgin Mary is located within the landscaping/hardscaping and set off by a light. Moving mid-way down the hill, the area between the church and S. Hartwell Avenue includes an additional sidewalk that leads from the sidewalk that parallels the street. Two sets of paired bench seating along with a planter (all constructed of aggregate stone) is located along that walk that leads to the lower-level office entrance. Additional stone retaining walls and another staircase parallels the west elevation of the church and leads to both the former rectory and the rear parking lot.

The large asphalt parking lot extends (east to west) behind the entire complex and includes a driveway access along both E. Newhall and S. Hartwell avenues. Beyond the parking lot to the north is a playground area that is accessed via a number of concrete steps. A variety of playground equipment, a soccer field and concrete basketball courts are included in that area. A fence delineates the grade school playground area from the sports fields (football field, track and baseball diamond) of the neighboring high school. Finally, the area along the east side of the property is comprised a grassy area with mature trees.

Brief Evolution of St. Mary's Complex

The two-story, combination school and convent, which included a parish hall/gymnasium, was built along E. Newhall Avenue in 1953. Seven years later, a two-story addition was made to the east end of the school and a rectory was built northwest of the school/convent, leaving a large space for the eventual construction of the church, which was completed in 1964. The following year, four additional classrooms were completed in the basement level of the church. In 1998-99, a new narthex, south entrance, north entrance (with elevator access) and community room were added along the east side of the church which resulted in the church being connected to the school building (note, however, that the original narthex space remains extant). Despite the addition, little of the original church was altered. The buildings of the complex are described in chronological order.

School and Convent Building (Contributing, 1953, 1960):

Although multi-storied due to the parcel's terrain, the combined school and convent building appears as a largely two-story building along its E. Newhall/street-facing elevation, with one-story wings extending to both the east and west. The flat-roofed building with wide, overhanging eaves is constructed of concrete block and is sheathed with brick, board and stone veneer. Dominating the

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entrance elevation and located at the approximate center is a vertical block that rises both floors and is sheathed with a stone veneer. This section includes a large aluminum cross, along with the school's name spelled out in aluminum lettering, "St. Mary's Grade School." Extending from this section to the east is a low, stone-sheathed planter box, immediately east of which is the school entrance. Three metal-and-glass doors are set within a larger glass wall (sidelights and transoms) and provide entry to the office area; the exterior corner wall of which includes the datestone that reads "1952," along with the second stone that features a cross, signifying it is a religious school. Windows along the main level (which were replaced in 1998-1999) are arranged in large banks with continuous stone sills. Fenestration within each bank is comprised largely of fixed (replacement) sash; however, a small number of operable hopper windows are included in the window bank. The flat-roofed, second floor (convent level) is comprised of regularly placed, (replacement) slider windows that run above a continuous stone sill that defines the upper board sheathing from the lower brick. The two areas where brick covers the full second level at the east end of the convent level also identifies where the 1960 addition was added to the original 1953 block.¹

Each of the east end walls of this block of the building are devoid of windows; however, each includes an access/egress door. The first-floor west end wall of the school immediately abuts the 1998 entrance to the church, while the upper convent level, which continues to be sheathed with both brick and vertical board, is comprised of regularly arranged slider windows, arranged singularly and in pairs.

It is at along the rear (north) elevation of the combined school/convent building that you can see its multiple stories. Visible at the building's easternmost end is the two-story, 1960 classroom wing addition that includes additional convent space above. Similar to the front of the building, windows along the classroom levels are grouped in large banks and include both fixed and awning-type openings. Extending to the north from the "school proper" is the flat-roofed and brick-clad gymnasium that includes a one-story, flat-roofed entrance vestibule. The gym is devoid of fenestration along its east and north elevations, while two slider windows are situated along the upper level where a bank of windows was originally located. Visible above the gym is the main level of classrooms, as well as the uppermost convent level. As with elsewhere, banks of windows punctuate the brick-clad classroom level, while slider windows are found along the convent floor (sheathed with vertical board).

¹ John J. Flad & Associates, "Grade School and Convent for St. Mary's Parish," Original plans, Job. No 5201, 18 April 1952. This and all architectural plans cited hereafter in possession of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waukesha, WI. Copies are also on file at the Wisconsin Architectural Archive, Milwaukee Public (Central) Library, Milwaukee, WI.

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Obscuring the lower level of the school block is the one-story, flat-roofed community room that was added in 1998-99.²

Aside from the 1960 classroom addition to the east of the original block, alterations to the exterior of the school/convent building include window replacement (the window banks along the classroom levels were replaced with a similar arrangement of windows in 1998-99, while the original casement windows were replaced with slider types at an earlier date along the convent level). Additionally, the sheathing between the original windows along the convent level was comprised of corrugated Transite, which was later replaced with vertical board.³

The interior of the school building is somewhat complicated due to the multiple levels, which include the basement/gymnasium level, a ground floor and first and second levels. As built in 1953, the basement/gymnasium level included the gymnasium with rear entrance vestibule and storage, a kitchen and the mechanical room/boiler room. In 1981, the stage area of the gymnasium was removed and renovated to include a boys' and girls' locker room, as well as an office. Today, the basement/gymnasium level continues to include the gymnasium and its associated vestibule, locker room, office and storage areas, as well as the mechanical room and kitchen.⁴

As built in 1953, the ground floor included a temporary chapel and sacristy, an all-purpose room and girls' and boys' locker rooms. The 1960 addition added two classrooms, two meeting rooms and storage to this level. The hallway floors were terrazzo and the walls were concrete block; lockers lined the hallway. Today, the ground floor of the original block includes the art, music and band rooms, along with a resource room, various storage rooms, a scout room and two bathrooms. The 1960 addition has been slightly reconfigured but includes two classrooms (two former meeting rooms), a library/learning commons (formerly two separate classrooms), a conference room, a small kitchen and storage.

² John J. Flad & Associates, "Rectory and Addition to St. Mary Grade School & Convent," Original plans, Job No. 5927, 14 August 1959.

³ Corrugated Transite was an asbestos-cement product of the Johns-Manville Company.

⁴ Untitled Plans for Gymnasium renovations, Prepared by MSI General, Oconomowoc, WI, Project No. P-2965, 24 March 1981.

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As built in 1953, the first floor included eight classrooms, a library, a priest's room, boys' and girls' restrooms and an administrative area that included a main office, principal's office and nurses room. The hallways were lined with lockers and the floors were terrazzo. The 1960 addition added four more classrooms, a faculty lounge, as well as another restroom for both the boys and the girls. Today, the configuration of the first floor remains largely the same as when it was built; however, the administrative area/offices have been moderately reconfigured and the former faculty lounge is now used for the guidance counselor.

Finally, the convent level (or second floor) as built in 1953, included a kitchen, refectory (dining room), parlor, community room, two visitors rooms, a large communal bathroom, as well as twelve "cells" or rooms for the sisters, along with a storeroom, utility room and linen room. The 1960 addition added six rooms for the sisters, as well as an additional communal bathroom. Today, the room arrangement remains exactly the same as it was built and the kitchen remains entirely intact. Aside from a few of the rooms being utilized for teaching purposes, the third floor is largely storage.

Original finishes of the interior that remain are concrete block walls in the classrooms, terrazzo hallway floors and staircases, while ceramic tile covers the floors in the restrooms. Classrooms were recently carpeted and the mint green glazed tile finish of the upper hallway walls have been painted white. A grotto with a statue of Mary is located directly opposite the school entrance and in a niche along the first-floor hallway, which was originally--and continues to be--lined with lockers.

Rectory (Contributing, 1960):

This two-story plus basement garage rectory building is located immediately south of the 1964 church building and adjacent to the parking lot. A set of eleven concrete stairs with a metal railing on each side provides access to the rectory from the parking lot. Although appearing to be attached to the church, the rectory is not actually physically connected to it. Topped with a low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, the rectory's exterior sheathing consists of brick, vertical board and stone trim. A brick chimney rises from the east side of the roof, near its south end. Beginning with the west (primary entrance) elevation, a set of steel doors (with small square windows) is located near the center, while two slider windows are regularly placed on either side (to the north and south); the same window arrangement is found on the second floor. Both the first and second floors are sheathed with brick along the lower portion, while the upper wall area is sheathed with vertical board; a line of cut stone runs between the two and also acts as a continuous window sill. A wide overhang (matching that

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of the roofline) with a slight pitch runs between the two floors. This sheathing arrangement continues along both the north and east elevations.

Turning to the north elevation, the basement level is sheathed entirely in brick and includes a series of three overhead, replacement garage doors. Three slider windows are located along each of the upper floors that are sheathed with brick, vertical board and trimmed with stone.

Continuing to the east elevation, the basement level is entirely devoid of fenestration, less a single steel door near the middle. Although only two slider windows are visible along the main level, two additional windows are located at the south end (and are obscured by the sacristy wing at the rear of the church). Likewise, although only a single slider window is visible along the uppermost floor, two additional windows are located at the south end.

Although not visible, the rear elevation does retain its original fenestration arrangement of a central steel door and a slider window to either side, while the second floor includes three slider windows, one each in line with the first-floor fenestration.

Alterations to the exterior include the replacement of the original flat roof to a low-pitched, hipped roof at some point after 1975. Likewise, the overhang that runs between the first and second floors was altered from a flat roofline to a modest hipped roof. Finally, the original casement windows were replaced with sliders of similar size. See Figures, Figure #5 for a photo of the rectory as originally built.⁵

As built, the basement-level interior of the rectory building included a three-car garage, the boiler room, a bathroom and a large meeting room. The first floor included three offices (one includes a large safe), the priest's study, a kitchen, a combination living room/dining room and a bathroom. Original flooring material on this level was largely carpeting, while the kitchen had rubber tile and the bathroom was ceramic tile. A total of five bedrooms were located on the second floor (one for the priest, one for the housekeeper, two for the assistant priests and one guest room), along with two study spaces (one for each of the assistant priests) and three bathrooms (one for the housekeeper, one for the

⁵ A historic image of the rectory is included in "St. Mary's Family: Growing Together, 1950-1976," Twenty-fifth anniversary booklet prepared by the congregation, 1975, n.p., Copy on file at the Waukesha County Historical Society, Waukesha, WI.

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two assistant priests and one shared between the priest and the guest room). Aside from bathroom floors, which included ceramic tile, the remaining flooring was oak and walls throughout were plaster.⁶

Despite the fact that the rectory building has not used as living quarters since at least 2000, little has been done to alter the original interior room arrangement/room spacing. Use of the building today includes offices and a meeting room for the church staff (first floor); school administration offices (2nd floor) and a food pantry (former meeting room in the basement). The kitchen remains today as it was built in 1960 and updates are generally limited to the installation of new carpeting throughout, including the second floor.

Church (Contributing, 1964; 1998-99 entrances and new narthex addition):

Designed by the architectural firm of Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc. of Elm Grove, Wisconsin (See Section 8 for biographical information) and constructed of reinforced concrete block, this 1960s Contemporary-style church is a dramatic combination of Lannon stone and glass topped with a soaring and overhanging roofline; the fascia is finished in formed copper panels and battens. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A large, combination faceted glass and mosaic glass window (executed by Conrad Pickel Studio of New Berlin, See Section 8 for biographical information) within an aluminum framework dominates the central portion of the church's south elevation beneath which is a series of four sets of wood-and-stained glass doors alternating with additional rectangular sections of faceted and mosaic glass. "St. Mary's Church" is spelled out above the entrances. The wall space adjacent to both the east and west of the large window consists of ten, peaked and slit-like openings with pre-cast concrete frames. Slate fully infills the majority of the openings, while operable awning-style windows with Graylite #31 glass are found at the bottom of five of them (instead of the slate). Comprising the outermost portions of the entrance elevation include a floor-to-ceiling, ¼ inch thick, Solarbronze glass set within aluminum framing, while a single cylindrical light fixture completes the elevation at either end.⁷

⁶ John J. Flad & Associates, "Rectory for St. Mary's Parish, Waukesha, Wisconsin," Job#5927, 14 August 1959.

⁷ Graylite #31 glass is a dark gray, almost black tinted glass that provides 31% light transmission and provides glare control, while the energy-efficient Solarbronze glass has a warm bronze tint that results in a warm glow to the interior.

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Turning to the west side of the church, the building's two levels are divided into five bays by six, Lannon stone-clad pilasters. Aside from the lower level of the fourth bay from the south (right), each bay features a series of five window openings on each level that are set within pre-cast concrete framing (like that found along the entrance elevation). Aside from the fifth (northernmost) bay, all include an operable awning window beneath the larger fixed window, all comprised of stained glass. The lower level of the entrance bay includes a rectangular glass door, sidelights and a transom set within a metal framework and is flanked by a single window set within the same pre-cast concrete framing. Copper gutters extends the length of the building.

Turning to the rear/north elevation of the church, the rectory obscures a portion of the westerly end; although it is not directly connected to the church, as a concrete sidewalk runs between the two buildings. Extending from the main level of the building and supported by a number of Lannon stone-sheathed piers is the sacristy space, below which is a porch-like area. A series of eight, symmetrically arranged rectangular windows run along the upper wall of the sacristy, while a run of rectangular windows is located along the lower level. Located at the westernmost end of this elevation and visible adjacent to the rectory is another entrance to the building. Set off by a pair of stone-sheathed pilasters, the glass double doors rest beneath an aluminum-framed window wall of Solarbronze glass that reaches nearly to the roofline (the lower half of this window wall was installed in 1998-99 and replaced a pair of original wooden doors).

The church's original east elevation is now enclosed within the 1998-99 addition that includes a one-story, glass-enclosed, pavilion-type entrance with a standing-seam metal roof on the south (along E. Newhall Avenue and which connects to the west wall of the school), a new narthex, as well as a new north entrance (from the parking lot). Due to the parcel's terrain, the rear entrance is two stories; the lower level of which is designed like the entrance pavilion to the south and includes Lannon stone sheathing. The gabled upper level of the addition, sheathed with EIFS (Exterior Insulating and Finishing Systems) stucco, includes a small chapel at the north end (which is located on the main level, off of the new narthex). Windows of the addition (which include stained glass) were designed to reflect the tall-and-narrow slit-like openings of the original block and include similar framing constructed of EIFS.⁸

⁸ Architecture 2000, "St. Mary's Catholic Church and School," Project No. 9718, 27 February 1997, revised 11 March 1998, Plans in possession (both hard copy and digital) of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waukesha, WI.

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Extending east from the new north entrance and connecting to the school is the one-story, flat-roofed community room that was also added at the time of the new entrances. Also constructed of EIFS, the visible elevation includes two entrances with glass double doors, along with a series of rectangular windows in metal framing.

Alterations to the exterior are largely limited to the aforementioned 1998-99 addition that was made to the east side of the building, which resulted in the opening up of a portion of the original east wall to provide for a pair of wood-framed, multiple-door entrances to the nave. Additionally, the westernmost and easternmost pair of original entrance doors, that were set beneath the Solarbronze windows, were removed and replaced with similar windows set within an identical aluminum frame.

The interior of the main level of the 1964 church building, as built included a narthex, the auditorium-style nave with balcony, as well as the sacristy—all spaces remain largely intact today. Despite the construction of the new entrance and narthex, the original narthex, with its slate tile floor, remains intact. A short hallway extends from either end of the narthex; to the east are stairs to the choir balcony, along with men's and women's restrooms.⁹ A second set of stairs to the choir balcony are also located to the west, along with two additional bathrooms, a Bride's Room, and the Reconciliation Room.¹⁰ Three sets of wooden double doors open into the auditorium-style nave; one set directly to the north, while the other two are to the east and west, all beneath the overhanging choir balcony that is finished with strips of vertical wood. Located at the center of the choir balcony wall is an original wooden clock. Visible above the balcony is much of the faceted glass and mosaic glass window that was executed by the Conrad Pickel Studio.¹¹ The following description of the window was included in the dedication booklet:

⁹ The rooms off of the east side of the narthex originally included a wardrobe, offices, usher's and bride's room and the Holy Family Shrine, information from "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 24 January 1965, 10, Copy on file at the Waukesha County Historical Society, Waukesha, WI. The Holy Family Shrine has since been relocated to the lower narthex.

¹⁰ The rooms off of the west side of the narthex originally included restrooms, the crying room (also used as the Bride's Room) and Baptistry (later a prayer chapel and now the Reconciliation Room), "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 10.

¹¹ The choir balcony was reportedly added late in the plans and, as a result, it partially obscures full view of the wall from the nave, "St. Mary's Catholic Church, Parish Directory, 2009," Prepared by the congregation, Copy on file at the church office, 225 S. Hartwell Avenue, Waukesha, WI.

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“A large figure of the Blessed Virgin dominates the window. She is depicted as the great sign that appeared in heaven: the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. The sparkling white garment symbolizes her immaculate purity: her star-studded mantle is show in the traditional blue. The symbolism on the right-hand side refers to the role of the Immaculate Conception in our redemption. The star recalls the birth of her Divine Child in the stable of Bethlehem. Christ, the new-born Savior, is symbolized by the sacred monogram, the Chi-Rho. His attributes are the cross and the Crown, symbols of His passion and His Glory.”¹²

Laminated wood arches provide for the building's interior framing and the space in between is comprised of wood decking; a skylight is located at the center, above the chancel/sanctuary. Walls are largely finished with face brick, while upper-level areas adjacent to the choir balcony are finished with wood. Stained-glass windows executed by Donald Camplin (of the Conrad Pickel Studio) line the east church wall and are set within pre-cast concrete frames as seen on the exterior. Eight sections of pecan-stained, oak pews, as well as a choir platform radiate from the raised chancel, which is carpeted; the remainder of the nave floor, however, is terrazzo. The marble baptismal font is located southeast of the chancel (in an area that originally included another section of pews), while the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine (which is mounted on a backdrop of the same construction as the reredos) is located along the rear church wall opposite the Reconciliation Room. Hanging at regular intervals from the wood-covered ceiling is the lighting which consists of cylindrical brass fixtures with perforated cross designs. Additional original wooden furniture of the room includes two free-standing confessionals; one on the east end, the other on the west. Stations of the Cross, which are located along the rear of the church, are painted and set in walnut frames.¹³

The sanctuary/chancel is raised by one step around the perimeter, upon which a pair of marble lecterns are located. The original Alabama marble altar, which measures 10 feet long and 3 1/3 feet wide, is set atop two additional steps. The semi-circular and geometric-designed reredos (a hollow form that is constructed of a combination of wood, metal and plaster) extends from the floor to the ceiling, from which a 7-foot carved wooden statue of Christ is attached (carved in 1984 by William Thalmayer, See

¹² Ibid., 12-13.

¹³ Since the Baptistry was converted for use as the Reconciliation Room (as of the 1998-99 alterations), the free-standing wooden confessionals are no longer used for their original purpose and are, instead, used for storage. Stations of the Cross are a fourteen-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. As of December 1965, the stained-glass windows in the nave were noted as “in progress of being executed,” information included in “Special glass section,” entry written by Paul Pickel, Conrad Pickel's son, in *Wisconsin Architect*, December 1965, 34.

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Section 8 for biographical information). A plastic canopy (baldachin) hangs from the ceiling over the altar and “reflects the Holy Spirit hovering over the Altar of Sacrifice. The seven free-form canopy projections symbolize the Gifts of the Holy Spirit,” which include wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord. The original Communion rail, which was walnut on bronze and outlined the sanctuary, was removed in the 1970s. The single lamp that hangs over the sanctuary is the “sanctuary lamp” and, when lit, it indicates that the communion bread is in the tabernacle (the gold box that houses the consecrated hosts) and that Christ is present. Hanging on the front wall to either side of the chancel are carved statues of Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, executed in lindenwood. The hollow wooden statues were commissioned at the time of the church’s construction and were designed and made in Germany. Behind the chancel, a pair of rectangular doorways are set within patterned brickwork and lead to the sacristy, which retains its original wooden storage closets, cabinets and drawers. The floor in this space is vinyl tile.¹⁴

Alterations to the interior of the main level of the original church space (less the 1998-99 addition) include modest changes to the rooms off of the nave to the east and to the west (as mentioned previously). Also in 1998-99, two sections of pews were removed; one was replaced with a choir platform, while another is now the location of the marble baptismal font.

The lower level, as built in 1964, included a mechanical equipment room, boiler room, restrooms, as well as mostly unfinished storage space. In 1966, the largely unfinished storage areas were finished off to include four additional classrooms, as well as a library. Today, the room spacing of the lower level of the church remains largely the same. Of the rooms, most of which have been remodeled, their uses now include the parish offices, a conference room, additional offices, and a large workroom, in addition to the mechanical room.¹⁵

The interior of the 1998-99 addition, which now connects the church to the school, functions as a new narthex which has access from both the E. Newhall and rear parking lot entrances (both of which are

¹⁴ “St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Parish Directory, 2009,” Prepared by the Congregation, page 6-7, Copy available at the church office, 225 S. Hartwell Avenue, Waukesha, WI; “St. Mary’s Church,” Dedication booklet, 10; Anne Domach, “Statues of St. Mary’s,” article included in the St. Mary’s Parish archives, Waukesha, WI. The patterned brickwork is part of the acoustical system of the church as there is acoustical material behind the brick. Additional acoustical material is located behind the vertical strips of wood at the back of the church, while the “blank” picture frames, which alternate with the Stations of the Cross, also include acoustical material.

¹⁵ Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc. “Finishing of Classrooms for St. Mary’s Parish,” Project No. 693, 13 June 1966, sheet 1.

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also new). In addition to the vestibule area, the ground floor includes a mechanical room, an office, as well as an elevator. The wood carving of The Holy Family, commissioned for the new church and executed by German woodcarvers, is located in the vestibule (having been relocated from the nave). On the upper/first floor, at the south end of the new narthex and adjacent to the south (E. Newhall) entrance, is a large kitchen area, while a small chapel is located at the north end. The north chapel wall includes stained glass windows believed to have been relocated from the east side of the nave, as a result of the construction of the new narthex. All areas of the upper level of the new narthex are carpeted, while the lower level is tiled.

Bell Tower (Contributing, 1964):

Constructed of precast concrete, this tower rises 50 feet above the ground. The tower is further surmounted by a 12-foot-high, stainless-steel cross. The bell tower's three bells, which were imported from Asten, Holland, weigh nearly two tons combined.¹⁶

End of Description of Physical Appearance

¹⁶ "Bells of St. Mary's Hoisted," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 13 January 1965, 6; "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 14.

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 Insert Statement of Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as a very good and highly intact, 1950s-60s Contemporary-style (or Mid-Century Modern) church complex. The complex, which is unique in its styling and has no local comparisons, was identified as potentially eligible for the National Register following a 2013-2014 intensive survey of historical and architectural resources in the City of Waukesha, which was funded by the National Park Service. Built between 1953 and 1964, the property includes a church, rectory and combined school and convent—all the buildings of which are interconnected. The combination school/convent (1953; 1960), which was designed by the well-known Madison, Wisconsin firm of John J. Flad & Associates, exhibits characteristics common to both 1950s Contemporary styling in general, and 1950s-era school construction specifically, which include clean horizontal lines (exhibited through its flat rooflines and large rectangular banks of windows), a lack of ornamentation, as well as such natural building materials as brick, stone, wood and glass. Although modified from its original flat roofline to one with a slight pitch, the 1960 rectory of brick, wood and stone trim follows the same clean horizontal lines as the school and is devoid of ornamentation. While also contributing to the architectural significance of the complex overall, St. Mary's Catholic Church alone is an excellent and largely intact local example of 1960s Contemporary church architecture, both inside and out. Designed by the Elm Grove, Wisconsin firm of Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc., the church exhibits a dramatic combination of Lannon stone and glass, along with a soaring and overhanging prow-like roofline that protects a large window wall of faceted and mosaic glass that was executed by regionally known artist and craftsman Conrad Pickel of the Conrad Pickel Studio, while thirty-five stained glass windows on the interior were completed by Donald Camplin, also of the Pickel Studio.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A

St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex is an active parish; hence it is a religiously owned facility. Properties owned by religious institutions are not typically eligible for National Register listing; however, an exception can be made if a criteria consideration is met. Since St. Mary's significance is derived from its architectural distinction, the property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A.

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Statement of Land Acknowledgment

This nomination recognizes the depth of human presence here, the ancestral homeland of American Indians for millennia, including Menominee and Ho-Chunk tribes. From as early as the 17th century, inter-tribal conflict, Euro-American exploration and settlement, and ensuing military campaigns, all had the effect of repeated displacement of Indians of many tribal affiliations. This continuous tribal movement resulted in Wisconsin being home to many tribes who originated from other parts of the country, generating a pattern of immigration, relocation, and formation of a new homeland. Some of these tribes remain in Wisconsin; others may not, but numerous count Wisconsin as home: Brotherton, Dakota, Fox/Meskwaki, Ho-Chunk, Kickapoo, Mascoutens, Menominee, Miami, Munsee, Odawa, Ojibwa, Oneida, Potawatomi, Stockbridge, Sauk, and Wyandot tribes. We acknowledge that the St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex that is the subject of this nomination is located on land long occupied by American Indians, and since 1850 by the Potawatomi tribe. The name Waukesha is derived from the Potawatomi name Wau-tsha, the leader of the local tribe at the time of the first European settlement of the area.¹⁷

General History of Waukesha

The general history of the City of Waukesha is discussed in a variety of publications, including the following: Butterfield's *History of Waukesha County* (1880); Haight's *Memoirs of Waukesha County* (1907); and the 1982 Historic Resources Survey prepared by Howard Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff (HNTB). Briefly summarized, the settlement, which numbered 144 in 1838, was initially known as Prairie Village, but was later shortened to Prairieville in 1839. In 1852, one year after the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad reached Waukesha and the settlement had incorporated as a village, the population numbered approximately 2,000 persons. By 1870, the census reported only 2,500—a somewhat modest increase from twenty years prior.¹⁸

¹⁷ C.W. Butterfield, *The History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880), 383.

¹⁸ Butterfield, *The History of Waukesha County*; Theron W. Haight, ed., *Memoirs of Waukesha County* (Madison, WI: Western Historical Association, 1907); *Spring City's Past: A Thematic History of Waukesha and The Final Report of Waukesha's Intensive Historic Resources Survey*, Prepared by Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff (HNTB), Milwaukee, WI (September 1982), 1-3, 35.

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A rather substantial event in the history of Waukesha includes Colonel Richard Dunbar and his "discovery" of the benefits of the area's spring water in August 1860. Eventually he began to bottle Bethesda Spring Water and created Spring Park which attracted the first throng of visitors to the community during the summer of 1869. Records indicate that approximately fifty springs were in operation in Waukesha at one time or another. In addition to the resort business that the springs fostered, Waukesha also developed a large bottling industry. The peak period of the "Springs Era" was between the mid-1880s to the late 1890s and, as the popularity of the natural water waned, industrial manufacturing pursuits began to grow. By 1900, the population of Waukesha had grown to just over 7,400 people and the city's Catholic community was well-established.¹⁹

Waukesha Catholics

The Catholic church in Waukesha was established by Father Martin Kundig, who came to the community (then known as Prairieville) as a circuit rider in 1842. The first mass in Waukesha was held at the home of John Gaspar, whose home was at Main and Gaspar streets (Waukesha's present-day commercial downtown). During that year, Kundig organized four parishes in Waukesha County, including St. Joseph's in Waukesha, which remains today. St. Joseph's was able to accommodate the city's Catholic population until the close of World War II. Discussions began regarding a second parish; however, others supported the construction of a Catholic high school, for which funds had been raised as early as the 1920s. Ultimately, Catholic Memorial High School (located at 601 E. College Avenue) was completed in advance of the start of the Fall 1949 term. Not only did the new school building provide classrooms for a freshman class of ninety-two students, it also accommodated nearly 230 students in the newly established St. Mary's grade school (first through eighth grade). Additionally, the school building included a chapel (Our Lady of Fatima) that was able to seat 500. And, in addition to students, the chapel would also accommodate area Catholics—the contingent of which would form a new parish, known initially as St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception. The first mass (consisting of approximately 400 attendees) was held in the high school chapel on July 31st. The new congregation formally organized in September 1949 but did not receive its charter until 1 January 1950.²⁰

¹⁹ *Spring City's Past: A Thematic History of Waukesha*, 3-4, 21.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 67; "St. Mary's Family: Growing Together, 1950-1975," n.p.; "Catholic Clergy Dedicates School," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 31 May 1949, 1; "400 Attend First Masses in New Parish," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 1 August 1949, 1. Despite dedication services having been held on Memorial Day, the local paper reported that the school was without some

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Students in the St. Mary's graded school continued to grow and as of the new school year, students numbered 280 (while the high school added a sophomore class of eighty-five). As the student numbers for both schools grew, it was apparent that a separate grade school would need to be built soon. A series of parish meetings were held in 1951 to discuss its construction. Following an October meeting, members of the board, along with Fr. John Voelker, pastor of St. Mary's and the principal of the high school and graded school, agreed to begin a fund drive for a combination grade school and convent that was expected to cost \$260,000. The building would include ten classrooms on the main floor with twelve rooms for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (of Manitowoc) above. A parish hall was added to the plan shortly thereafter; the hall would be used as an interim gymnasium by the high school, as they did not have one. Because of this user agreement, members of both St. Joseph's and St. Mary's would contribute to the cost of the hall/gymnasium.²¹

Property-Specific History

Although completion of the new school/convent building was targeted for the 1952 school year, it was not until 20 June 1952 that construction began—two months after the plans were drawn by the Madison firm of John J. Flad & Associates (see Architects and Artisans write-up later in this section for biographical information). Construction was completed by the Oliver Construction Company of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Progress photos were published in the local paper in November 1952, which showed many of the walls in place. In Fall 1953, the combined school/convent and gymnasium/parish hall were completed along the north side of E. Newhall Avenue, just east of S. Hartwell Avenue and directly south of Catholic Memorial High School. Construction costs totaled over \$400,000 and students numbered 401 at the start of the school year. The Sisters took residence on 6 August 1953, with classes starting on 9 September 1953. Dedication of the building was held on 24 October 1953. Shortly thereafter, the 80-foot by 45-foot gymnasium was used as a parish hall/auditorium, as well as served as the home court for the Catholic Memorial Crusader basketball team. It was not until 2 July 1961, however, that St. Mary's parishioners would use the gym/parish hall for mass instead of the high school chapel (Catholic Memorial had, by then, built their own

furniture (desks) and other equipment as of late September, Richard Pierce, "Though Partly Bare, Catholic High School is ALL Modern," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 30 September 1949, 3, 11; "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 5.

²¹ "Back to School Time Nears, Parochial Schools Open Today," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 6 September 1950, 1; "Plan New School at St. Mary's," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 15 October 1951, 1; "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 5-6.

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gymnasium). The stage area was used as the sanctuary, which could be closed off from the gym proper by a set of sliding doors.²²

As a result of the increased enrollment, an additional classroom was opened in 1955 and the following year, an all-purpose room was switched for classroom use. In 1956, another fundraising campaign began for a six-room addition to the school, along with the construction of a new rectory. In 1959 work began on both projects, again per plans drawn by John J. Flad & Associates. The two-story plus basement rectory (which replaced their former rectory at 520 E. College Avenue; no longer extant) was completed in June and it became the home of Father Enders (who had replaced Monsignor Voelker the year before), his two assistants and their housekeeper. Official dedication of the rectory and the school addition was held on 9 October 1960.²³

With a school, convent and rectory, all the parish needed now was their own church building. Final plans for the new church edifice, completed by the firm of Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc., were finalized in July 1963 and, two months later, the plans were set up for review by the public. With over \$245,000 in gifts and pledges, ground-breaking for the new church was held on 8 December 1963, the Fest of the Immaculate Conception. The cornerstone was laid on 20 September 1964. The first mass in the \$725,000, 1,100-seat house of worship was held on 14 January 1965 and dedication services were held ten days later. The faceted glass and mosaic glass window along the entrance elevation cost \$25,000. The following day, a \$622,000 bond issue for the St. Mary's congregation was publicly offered; proceeds from the sale of the bonds were to be used to pay for the church which, by that time, boasted

²² "Our History," St. Mary's Catholic Church, Available online at <https://www.ccwauk.org/st-mary-waukesha>, Accessed May 2021; "Progress Report," photos and caption, *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 14 November 1952, 9; St. Mary's School, Open house and dedication, photo and caption, *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 24 October 1953, 2; "Archbishop Speaks at School Dedication Here," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 26 October 1953, 1; "New Gym," photo and caption, *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 13 November 1953, 10. The Crusaders had previously played all of their games in the Vocational school gymnasium which was significantly smaller than the St. Mary's space. Although the parish website indicates that the congregation used the gym for mass following its completion in 1953, the church dedication booklet cites the transition from the high school chapel to the parish hall/gymnasium did not take place until 1961, "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 7: "Building for Tomorrow: St. Mary's Parish," a booklet published to encourage donations to the expansion of the St. Mary's campus with a school addition and the construction of a rectory, circa 1956, n.p., On file in the St. Mary's Parish Archives.

²³ "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 6. The twenty-fifth anniversary booklet cites only a single assistant at the time of the rectory's completion, "St. Mary's Family: Growing Together, 1950-1975," n.p.

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over 4,000 parishioners. In 1966, four additional classrooms were completed in the largely unfinished lower level of the church building. That same year, the Catholic school established its first school board and, in 1970, the first parish council, comprised of lay members, met for the first time. In 1972, the *Marion Clarion*, the parish newsletter was first published and, two years later, the parish celebrated its 25th anniversary with a total of 1,700 members. The parish grew such that in 1981, St. John Neumann congregation was established in order to relieve overcrowding at St. Mary's (although a church building would not be completed until 1987). As a result, over 400 families transferred to St. John Neumann. That same year (1981), alterations were made to the gymnasium area, which included the removal of the original stage area and remodeling the space for girls' and boys' locker rooms, and office and storage.²⁴

Following a Parish Building Master Plan and Capital Fund Feasibility study completed under the direction of Reverend Michael Newman, a capital campaign began in the Spring of 1997 for improvements to the campus. One year later, ground was broken for the \$2 million addition on 29 March 1998. The addition, designed by Architecture 2000, consisted of a new Narthex (along with a small chapel) and South entrance, a new community room, and a new north entrance with elevator access to the new Narthex. Dedication occurred on Pentecost Sunday (23 May 1999) and the following year, the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary (on 23 January 2000).²⁵

In 1990, the independent parish schools of St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. William consolidated, forming the Waukesha Catholic School System. Grade schoolers attended either St. Mary's or St. William's, after which they would attend middle school at St. Joseph's. St. Mary's classes were originally taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Charity of Manitowoc and followed by the Dominican Sisters from Racine

²⁴ "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 7, 11; "St. Mary's Family: Growing Together, 1950-1975," n.p.; "First Mass Is Offered in St. Mary's New Church," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 14 January 1965, 1; Approximate cost of window alone, along with the church overall, included in "Faceted Glass Window Marks New St. Mary's," photo and caption, *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 14 January 1965, 14; "Dedicate St. Mary's Catholic Church," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 25 January 1965, 5; "St. Mary's Will Offer Bond Issue," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 25 January 1965, 3. Despite the 1981 establishment of St. John Neumann, a new church was not completed (at 2400 W. State Road 59) until 1987, following six years of worship at Rose Glen School, "Our History," St. John Neumann Parish, Available online at <https://www.ccwauk.org/st-johnneumann-waukesha>, Accessed August 2021; Julie Dennert, "St. Mary's: The Middle Years, 1970-1985," typescript in the St. Mary's Parish Archives. No copies of the *Marion Clarion* were found in the parish archives.

²⁵ "Our History," St. Mary Parish; "50th Anniversary Celebration Mass, January 23, 2000," 16, Booklet prepared by St. Mary's Parish, On file in the St. Mary's Parish Archives.

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and the School Sisters of St. Francis of Milwaukee—prior to the lay teachers of more recent times. Following the 2019/2020 school year, the St. Joseph campus, which had hosted grades 6-8, closed. Effective with the 2020/2021 school year, K3 through Grade 2 students attend William's campus at 440 N. Moreland Boulevard and Grades 3 through 8 are at St. Mary's Campus. Students currently number approximately 430.²⁶

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the firm of Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc. of Elm Grove, Wisconsin and completed in 1964-65, St. Mary's Catholic Church is an exceptional example of 1960s Contemporary (or Mid-Century Modern) church architecture. Characteristics of the style (as applied to houses of worship) include a combination of modern materials such as concrete, stone and glass, as well as non-traditional (sometimes geometrical) forms and unique rooflines. Sheathed with locally quarried Lannon stone and brick, St. Mary's is topped with a soaring and overhanging roofline, the fascia of which is comprised of formed copper panels and battens. Located beneath the roof's overhanging eave is a large wall of faceted glass that was designed by Conrad Pickel of Conrad Pickel Studios. Pre-cast concrete framing details the tall and narrow slit-like openings on the entrance elevation, as well as the faceted glass windows along the building's west elevation. The interior framework of the church is comprised of eighty-foot laminated arches provided by Wood-Lam, Inc. of Pewaukee and remaining stained glass windows of the nave were executed by Donald Camplin of the Conrad Pickel Studio.²⁷

Regarding ecclesiastical design, churches built in the United States prior to World War II largely reflected traditional styling, such as Romanesque, Gothic and Colonial Revival. In general, in

²⁶ "Our History," St. Mary Parish; "50th Anniversary Celebration Mass, January 23, 2000," 15; Student body count included in "Our Story," Waukesha Catholic School System, Available online at www.waukeshacatholic.org/our-story, Accessed May 2021; "Our History," St. William Parish, Available online at <https://www.ccwauk.org/st-william-waukesha>, Accessed August 2021.

²⁷ "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 19; The Lannon stone veneer for the church was donated by Norman R. Thoresen (and family), co-owner of the Thoresen Bros. Quarry in Saylesville, Waukesha County. Robert P. Fay, former member of St. Mary's congregation, indicated that he thought he remembered an article about the new church building and Norman Thoresen that was published in the *Catholic Herald Citizen*, Fay, E-mail correspondence with Traci E Schnell, June 2021. To date, that article has not been located. Wood-Lam Inc. was established in 1955 in Milwaukee by Don W. Osenga. Following graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he worked at Unit Structures, Inc., in Peshtigo before going into business for himself, "Wood-Lam is. . . Specialist in Wood Roofs," *Wisconsin Architect*, October 1965, 37.

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Wisconsin, traditional design continued well into the 1950s despite the fact that both national and state architectural journals of the period had fully embraced “Modern.” It was within this fifteen-year period (1945-1960) that the transition from traditional to modern church design was made. Despite the fact that Modern or Contemporary design was embraced by many architects, it was the church congregation members that most often steered the church’s design. In 1945, in addressing “the problem of American Church Design,” the Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture (re: American Protestant churches) wrote, “The exterior designs in this book will impress some as being generally too conservative. However, they illustrate in nearly every case what a congregation demands and approves. . .”. Also shown in that 1945 book was the concept of “building in units,” based on the congregation’s growth and available funding. Seven years later, the resistance to modern church design was still evident, for George B. Allison wrote, that although “. . .principal architectural magazines hold strongly with the contemporary trends,” in his experience, “. . .most building committees oppose contemporary trends, at least to some degree.”²⁸

At approximately the same time, during the summer of 1947, well-known Roman Catholic priest and church liturgist Fr. Hans Reinhold (1897-1968) held lectures at the University of Notre Dame, during which time (and thereafter) he is said to have laid much of the foundation for the liturgical reforms that lead up to the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (hereafter cited as Vatican II). Those lectures were included in Reinhold’s 1952 booklet, *Speaking of Liturgical Architecture*. He promoted that the most basic principle in church design was “form follows function.” Although he did not promote a specific type of architecture for churches, the design principle he touted was one and the same with modernist architecture. Fr. Reinhold also stated “The ideal parish church is the one in which the architecture creates the ideal setting for full participation.” Note that the idea of “full and active participation” of the congregation came out of Vatican II. According to Fr. Reinhold, the “ideal setting” was a fan-shaped congregation, which later became to be known as the “church-in-the-round.”²⁹

²⁸ The Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture, *Planning Church Buildings* (New York: The Friedman Press, c1945), 4; George B. Allison, “The Church and its Architecture,” in *The Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, Vol. 17 (March 1952), 124-25.

²⁹ Randall B. Smith, “Don’t Blame Vatican II,” *Sacred Architecture Journal* 13 (2007), Available online at https://www.sacredarchitecture.org/articles/dont_blame_vatican_ii. Accessed August 2021.

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The movement towards modern design in church architecture can be attributable to expanding church activities and programs and the advent of new and improved materials, including steel construction, reinforced concrete and plate glass. Among the more popular forms of early 1950s Modern church design was that of the A-frame. The A-frame provided both the volume and height of traditional houses of worship yet it reflected modern design trends. Although not a traditional A-frame, Frank Lloyd Wright's Unitarian Meeting House in Shorewood Hills, Wisconsin, with its prow-like roofline beneath which is an expanse of glass, may have provided some inspiration for the design of St. Mary's. In 1957, William P. Wenzler's hyperbolic paraboloid-roofed St. Edmund's Episcopal Church was completed in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, the same community in which Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc. would establish their offices in 1963. Indeed, by the mid-to-late-1950s, modern church architecture had largely taken over in Wisconsin, as is evident in a review of church photos/plans included in *The Wisconsin Architect* between 1955 and 1961. A 1956 advertisement for architectural concrete (in that same periodical), cited "moderate first costs, low maintenance costs and long life," and the ad was illustrated with an entire page of churches constructed of the material (admittedly, none were located in Wisconsin). Those cost-related attributes may have been a factor in some congregations/building committees accepting the building material and associated modern styling.³⁰

Regarding the design of St. Mary's, Fr. Voelker's request (in June 1963) of the architectural firm, in advance of the completion of any plans, was that "the church be designed for the people and in accordance with changes in the liturgy voted upon by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, which was still in progress." [The Council met from October 1962 and concluded in December 1965.] Clearly, Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn took into consideration the "full and active participation" component, which was to bring the congregation close to the altar. Although accommodating over 1,000 worshippers, the semi-circular, "church-in-the-round" floor plan results in the pew furthest from the altar being just twelve rows away. Although designed (and built) with a communion rail, it would be removed shortly thereafter (as a result of Vatican II).³¹

³⁰ The Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture, *Planning Church Buildings*, 59; Allison, "The Church and its Architecture," 125; Advertisement, Portland Cement Association, *Wisconsin Architect* 24:3 (March 1956), n.p.

³¹ "St. Mary's Church," Dedication booklet, 9; "St. Mary's Family: Growing Together, 1950-1975," n.p.

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Comparison Properties

The 2014 Historical & Architectural Resources Survey of Waukesha inventoried not only St. Mary's Church complex, but six other "modern" churches (built between the late-1950s and 1970) that offered enough architectural interest and integrity to merit survey. Modern church architecture did not manifest itself in Waukesha until the late 1950s, with the construction of the Waukesha Bible Church (1959) at 1200 S. East Avenue. Although containing a window wall of metal and stained glass, the structure (designed in 1954) was still relatively modest in its "modern" features. Furthermore, the stained-glass has since been removed and replaced with colored glass. The remainder of "modern" churches were completed in the 1960s. Of those, St. Luke's Lutheran Church (1966) at 300 Carroll Street, was also recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register as a very good example of Contemporary styling (in this case, an example from the 1960s). However, in 2017, significant interior renovations were completed that resulted in the WI SHPO staff rendering it as ineligible as of December 2019.³²

Interestingly, two churches in Milwaukee, each designed by different architectural firms and completed shortly after St. Mary's, share two primary design elements with St. Mary's—the prowlike-roof and a large stained glass window wall along the entrance elevation. The first, St. Veronica's Catholic Church, located at 4001 S. Whitnall Avenue, was completed in 1966 and designed by Herbst-Jacoby-Herbst (of Milwaukee). Like St. Mary's, St. Veronica's faceted glass window was also completed by Conrad Pickel. Despite being topped with a similar prow-like roof, side views of St. Veronica's expose clerestory windows along each side wall, while the central roof section rises higher at the center and adds additional clerestory lighting. The second church that provides for an interesting comparison is St. Matthias Catholic Church at 9306 W. Beloit Road in Milwaukee. Designed by Darby-Bogner and Associates (of Milwaukee), St. Matthias was completed in 1967. Like St. Mary's, St. Matthias features a sweeping prow-like roofline that protects a wall of faceted glass along its entrance elevation; in this case, the glasswork was completed by Helen Carew Hickman of Conrad Schmitt Studios. Instead of the free-standing bell tower at St. Mary's, St. Matthias is topped with a

³² "Three Year Old Church Plans Larger Edifice on South Side," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 14 August 1954, 5, includes rendering of proposed Waukesha Bible Church. Information regarding comparison structures was garnered through the *Historical & Architectural Resources Survey: City of Waukesha, Waukesha County, Wisconsin*, Prepared by Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI, July 2014 and the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD), Maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI. Alterations to St. Luke's include the installation of a new reredos, pews and lighting and, most significantly, new windows were cut into a formerly solid stone wall of the nave.

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geometrically designed, copper fleche. Although no official determination has been made regarding the potential eligibility of St. Matthias Church, it too appears to offer a significant degree of interior integrity, while also perhaps offering potential eligibility as a church complex.

In addition to the significance of the church alone, when considered along with the former combination school and convent (1953; 1960), as well as the rectory (1960)—all of which are attached to each other, the grouping of buildings stands as a very good and highly intact 1950s-1960s Contemporary/Mid-Century Modern religious complex.

As discussed previously, the initial structure to be built on the St. Mary's site was the first unit of the combination school/convent, which was completed in 1953. School design of the 1940s and 50s had changed drastically from the earlier period which most often employed the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture upon a multi-storied building. Indeed, public schools of the post-World War II period were largely one-story, flat-roofed examples that included regularly placed banks of windows. One-story buildings could employ lighter-weight construction that resulted in a less expensive and easier-to-build structure. While single-story parochial schools were built in locations where there was room to do so, urban parishes often had finite space within which to build a school and, therefore, often needed to build "up," resulting in a second level.³³

In the case of St. Mary's, the school building was originally designed to multiple stories. This approach would adapt to the parcel's hilly terrain, while also providing for living space for the Sisters. Despite being multiple stories, St. Mary's school/convent design followed that of post-World War II school design and incorporated flat roof lines with overhanging eaves and banks of regularly placed windows. Although the windows of the convent level are not set in banks but are, instead, singularly arranged, the continuous stone sill that runs beneath them accentuates the building's overall horizontal emphasis. Additionally, the school's natural building materials—consisting of brick, glass, wood and stone--as well as its lack of ornamentation, are also consistent with 1950s Contemporary/Mid-Century Modern design overall. Although the convent level was originally sheathed (in part) with corrugated Transite (an asbestos concrete material), its replacement with wood is consistent with the building's natural sheathing materials.

³³ Lindsay Baker, "A History of School Design and Its Indoor Environmental Standards, 1900 to Today," January 2012, Available online at www.ncef.org/pubs/greenschoolshistory.pdf, Accessed August 2021.

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Finally, the two-story plus basement rectory directly reflects the same horizontal emphasis seen on the school building, despite the fact that its original flat roofline has been replaced with a modestly pitched roof and overhang. Devoid of ornamentation, the building's sole design features are the regular placement of fenestration, along with its combination of natural materials—brick and wood.

Per the 2014 Survey of Architectural and Historical Resources of the City of Waukesha, there are no comparable church complexes in the city that date to the mid-twentieth century. Although two buildings (the church and convent) of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Complex are, in fact, listed in the National Register as part of the Multiple Resources of Waukesha nomination, the remainder of the complex was not included due to integrity issues.³⁴

Architects and Artisans

Both the rectory and the combined school and convent, as well as the 1960 school addition were designed by **John J. Flad & Associates** of Madison. Born in Madison in 1889, Flad apprenticed in 1907 with Madison architect James O. Gordon, after which he worked for Robert Wright. He then spent five years in Chicago, where he worked with such big names as George Nimmons and Howard Van Doren Shaw, while also gaining experience with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad and the Leonard Construction Company. For one-and-one-half years, he spent his evenings at classes at Chicago's Armour Institute (later the Illinois Institute of Technology). From 1914 to 1917, he joined the firm of Alvin Small; he rejoined Small (as a partner, Flad & Small) from 1922 to 1925. In 1925, Flad would partner with Frank S. Moulton and together they would operate Flad & Moulton until 1933. It was thereafter that he established his own firm, John J. Flad. Flad was joined by two of his sons, Thomas Hilary and Joseph Hilar, in 1940 and 1950, respectively.³⁵

Thomas Hilary Flad was born in Madison in 1914. After earning his degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1939, he joined his father in the practice of architecture in 1942, by which time the firm name had changed to John J. Flad & Associates. Thomas's brother Joseph Hilar Flad was born in

³⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Resources of Waukesha, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, #83004355.

³⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Dowling Apartment Building, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, #02001127; "John J. Flad-Wisconsin's New Fellow," *Wisconsin Architect*, July 1964, 10-12, 20; "John J. Flad Sr., 78, Dies; Headed Architecture Firm," *The Capital Times* (Madison, WI), 23 August 1967, 1, 4.

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Madison in 1922. Following graduation from Edgewood High School in 1940, Joseph attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, but left to join the Navy. Following service, he returned to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, from which he would ultimately earn a degree in business administration (in 1946), while also working at the family firm. From 1947 to 1950, he attended Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa, as a special student in Architecture. During his time in Ames, he worked (in 1948-1949) in the architectural office of Herbert Arthur. Upon becoming a registered architect in 1950, he too officially joined the family firm as a principal. It was but a short time thereafter that the firm received the initial commission for St. Mary's School and Convent.³⁶

John J. Flad died in 1967; just three years previous he had been named an American Institute of Architects Fellow, only the eleventh architect in the state to be named as such since 1911. Both Thomas and Joseph continued on with the firm for their lifetimes, with Joseph taking on more of the business end of things. Joseph was identified as responsible for the firm's growth from the 1950s through the 1970s. Thomas died in 1982, at which time he was the retired Chairman of the Board of Flad & Associates. In 2004, at the time of Joseph's death, Flad & Associates was identified as the largest architecture firm in the state and one of the biggest in the country. The firm continues today in Madison as Flad Architects, with offices in eight other states.³⁷

The architectural firm responsible for the design of the 1964 church, as well as 1966 classroom completion in the church's lower level was **Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc.** Comprised of Alvin Paul Wenzel, Walter Edward Zoller and George William Gunn Jr., the firm operated out of offices in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Established in 1963, St. Mary's was among the firm's earliest designs. Alvin Wenzel was born in Milwaukee in 1918, the son of machinist Ernest Wenzel and his wife Eleanor. He earned his degree in architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and, in 1942, he wed Virginia Gardner. He died in 2003, then a resident of Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Walter Edward Zoller

³⁶ George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory* (New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1955), 174; John F. Gane, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R.R. Bowker Co., 1970), 281; "Thomas H. Flad," Obituary, *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison, WI), 9 May 1982, 38; "Joseph Hilar Flad," American Institute of Architects Membership file, Available online at <https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/FladJosephH.pdf>, Accessed August 2021; "Flad Dies at 82," *The Daily Reporter*, 28 December 2004, Available online at www.dailyreporter.com/2004/12/28/flad-dies-at-82, Accessed May 2021.

³⁷ "John J. Flad-Wisconsin's New Fellow," 10; "Thomas H. Flad," Obituary, 38; "Flad Dies at 82." Information regarding current office locations from the firm's website at <https://www.flad.com/home.php>, Accessed August 2021.

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was born in Milwaukee in 1924, the son of plumber Walter F. Zoller and his wife Matilda. Walter Jr. earned degrees from Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and he married Angeline Stancampiano. In 1981, he served as the president of American Institute of Architects Wisconsin. He died in 1989, a resident of Brookfield, Wisconsin. Milwaukee-native George William Gunn Jr. was born in 1919, the son of locomotive engineer George Gunn and his wife Matilda. A graduate of the University of Illinois (with a B.S. in Architectural Engineering), he married Bernadine Konrad in 1946. George was a longtime member of the Waukesha Landmarks Commission and an award—the George Gunn Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation/Restoration—is given annually, if award is merited. He was also a longtime member of the St. Mary's parish and served as a trustee. The firm, which continued together until 1981-82, executed a variety of types of buildings, including residential, commercial, and medical/nursing home buildings. They also appear to have been “the” architectural firm for buildings associated with the Wisconsin Telephone Company.³⁸

The large faceted glass (also known as Dalle-de-verre or slab glass) and mosaic glass window wall of St. Mary's was designed by the **Conrad Pickel Studio** of New Berlin (and Vero Beach, Florida). Although the first faceted glass windows were produced in France following World War I, faceted glass did not become popular in the United States until the 1950s-1960s. Faceted glass, by definition, is large slabs of one-inch colored glass (dalles) that are cut to various shapes. The glass is then chipped or “faceted” (or “shelled”) along the edges to bend light for effect. The glass slabs are embedded in an epoxy resin and the various sections, which are cast in the studio, are installed in the church to form the design.³⁹

³⁸ Although all three were listed by name in the 1970 edition of the American Architects Directory, none had any write-ups with information. Their individual AIA membership files were also reviewed but they did not offer a significant amount of information either, AIA membership application, Form filled out by Alvin Wenzel, Available online at <https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/WenzelAlvinP.pdf>, Accessed February 2021; AIA membership application, Form filled out by Walter Edward Zoller, Available online at <https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-09/ZollerWalterE.pdf>, Accessed February 2021; “George W. Gunn, Jr.,” obituary, 13 June 2015, Available online at <https://strouffuneralhome.com/george-w-gunn-jr/>, Accessed March 2021.

³⁹ Faceted glass definitions found on various websites, including that of the Conrad Pickel Studio, “Stained & Faceted Glass,” Available online at <https://www.pickelstudio.com/>, Accessed July 2021; “The History of Dalle Stained Glass,” Available online at <https://www.kansascitystainedglass.com/2019/11/12/dalle-stained-glass-history/>, Accessed July 2021; “Special Glass Section,” (re: faceted glass), *Wisconsin Architect* (December 1965), 34.

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Specifically, the faceted glass and mosaic glass wall at the church entrance was designed by *Conrad Pickel* himself, with the remaining thirty-five, original stained-glass windows of the nave were executed by *Donald Camplin*. Conrad Pickel was born in Germany in 1906. At the age of fourteen, he joined Franz Mayer & Co. of Munich as an apprentice, earning twenty-five cents a week. He stayed on for four more years there, as well as went to the Academy of Fine Arts at night. In 1928, after reading a trade journal that advertised for stained glass workers in the United States, the twenty-one-year-old Pickel sailed from Hamburg, Germany to the United States on the S.S. Albert Ballin. After working briefly in Pittsburgh (where he resided with family), he moved on to Columbus, Ohio, where he met his wife Joan, the daughter of Karl Friedlmaier, a stained-glass artisan from Munich. While in Columbus, Pickel worked for the Von Gerichten Art Glass Company. Subsequent moves for work took him to Reading, Pennsylvania, New York, back to Columbus and then to Paterson, New Jersey. In circa 1937, Pickel ended up in Milwaukee, where his father-in-law was employed at the Gavin Mirror and Art Glass Company. Although Pickel never once mentioned Conrad Schmitt Studios by name when asked about his work history, he did clearly work for Schmitt, while apparently also doing some free-lance work. In 1947, Pickel began a studio of his own—first out of his house, then renting quarters in an old barn in New Berlin and, ultimately, constructing his own building/studio quarters at 21415 W. Greenfield Road (extant; however, heavily altered) in New Berlin.⁴⁰

In 1956, Pickel had established another studio in Vero Beach, Florida. By the early 1960s, he began working with faceted glass. By 1969, he had fourteen employees, some of which were from Europe. Two years later, his studio would build the world's largest stained-glass window (confirmed in the Guinness Book of World Records), which is located in the New Formalism-style mausoleum at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Justice, Illinois. In 1977, the New Berlin studio closed and all work moved to Vero Beach. At the time of his death in 1994, he was said to have glass work (either stained

⁴⁰ Bertha Kitchell Whyte, *Craftsmen of Wisconsin* (Racine, WI: Western Publishing Company, Inc., 1971; Dorothy-Anne Flor, "His Fanaticism Centers on Making the World Beautiful," *Fort Lauderdale (FL) News and Sun-Sentinel*, 7 January 1982, 3SL; *Columbus, Ohio City Directory*, 1929-1933; Scott Eyman, "Boynton Man Brings Light to Life with Stained Glass," *The Palm Beach (FL) Post*, 13 February 1990, 1D, 4D; Marie Puleo, "Local Light: Conrad Pickel," Available online at <https://pointpubs.com/local-light-conrad-pickel/>, Accessed March 2021; "Pickel (Conrad) Studio" in the Michigan Stained Glass Census, Available online at <https://www.michiganstainedglass.org/collections/studiosartist.php?id=208-791-88>, Accessed June 2021, the Michigan Stained Glass Census information indicates that Pickel also worked at the Gavin concern. The Pickel-designed window in Justice, Illinois, which is comprised of over 22,000 square feet of faceted glass, continues to hold the record as the largest single stained-glass window, Available online at <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/69121-largest-stained-glass>, Accessed August 2021; St. Mary's Catholic Church, Parish Directory, 2009."

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or faceted) in more than 700 churches (other sources cite over 800). The business continues today, run by his son Paul, who joined the business in 1965.⁴¹

Per Andrew Paremski (art glass craftsman and owner of Enterprise Art Glass in Hales Corners), the window wall of St. Mary's was the first large-scale, faceted glass and mosaic glass window made by the Conrad Pickel Studio. Paremski, who was responsible for the 2012 restoration of the window wall went on to say, "Pickel was a visionary for the faceted glass medium," and noted that "the design elements of Pickel's works are very defined and obvious," such that his work was truly unique when compared to others.⁴²

Donald Henderson Camplin was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 5 July 1922 and was living in Milwaukee with his maternal grandparents, sister and widowed mother by no later than 1930. In 1942, when registering for the Draft at the age of nineteen, he was working as a planographer at Mandel Engraving and Art Studio in downtown Milwaukee. Following service in World War II, he went on to earn a degree in advertising art from the Wisconsin Art Academy and worked for the Bruce Publishing Company as an illustrator. From there, and with no previous training in stained glass, he worked for Pickel Studios, where he learned the art. In 1951, he married Annette Kostner. It's unclear as to how long Camplin worked with Pickel, but he is confirmed to have worked there in at least 1964-1965. He died in 2003.⁴³

William Anthony Thalmayer was responsible for the 7-foot wood carving of Christ (made of sugar pine and executed in 1984) that hangs from the reredos behind the altar, as well as the statue of Mary

⁴¹ Patti Lyons, "Find New Avenues of Expression for Art Form of 13th Century," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 13 December 1969, 15; Nisha Pulliam, "Masters in Glass Produce Faceted Beauty," *The Palm Beach (FL) Post*, 4 October 1987, 6F. The faceted glass window at Justice, Illinois is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest in the world.

⁴² Andrew Paremski, owner of Enterprise Art Glass, Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, September 2021. Enterprise Art Glass was founded in Milwaukee in 1903.

⁴³ U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1930; "Donald Henderson Camplin," in U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, Available online at www.Ancestry.com, Accessed July 2021; a photo of Camplin working in the Pickel Studio is included in Chris Polacheck, "Ancient Art Revived in Today's Architecture," *Waukesha Freeman*, 11 December 1965, 15; "St. Mary's Catholic Church, Parish Directory, 2009," 12; Marriage, birth and death dates provided on his gravestone, a photo of which is included in U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current, Available online at www.Ancestry.com, Accessed June 2021.

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with the baby Jesus (which is located in the "upper new narthex"), both of which were designed to reflect the style of the statues of Mary and Joseph which hang on the wall on each side of the sanctuary, as well as that of "The Holy Family," which is now located in the "lower new narthex." Thalmayer was born in Hungary in 1909; at the age of sixteen, he entered the Budapest Industrial Arts Academy. Although wanting to study forestry, the country discontinued such program offerings during World War I. Wanting to work with wood, he learned the woodcarving trade and, at the age of seventeen, he was executing carvings on the exterior of the Hungarian Parliament building. Due to unrest in his country following World War II, the Thalmayer family (which included his wife Rose and two children) left in 1944 and moved first to Austria for a few months and then to Germany where William operated a small studio and soon earned a reputation for carving ecclesiastical-related items such as altars, Madonnas and other figures. In 1950, he came to Waukesha with the assistance of the Manitowoc Church Furniture Company--for which he worked for the next five years (in order to repay the owner for bringing him to the United States). He also worked for the Cathedral Craftsmen and, later, opened his own studio, St. Anthony's Studio, in Waukesha (no longer extant). In addition to having executed a significant amount of church furniture and other carvings (including carved statues of the three founding bishops of the National Register-listed Nashotah House Seminary), he also restored in the 1970s eight circus wagons in Baraboo. In 1976, in celebration of the Bicentennial, he was invited by the Smithsonian Institute to give demonstrations and lectures in woodcarving. Thalmayer, who went on to teach woodcarving at Waukesha County Technical Institute (now College) died in 2000 in Waukesha.⁴⁴

The contractor for the church's construction was **Voss-Hrdlicka Co.**, which was established in 1947 by Harold Voss and John Hrdlicka, two former Allis-Chalmers engineers. Gary Jorgenson and Tom Schueler joined the firm as principals in 1976 and 1978, respectively. Two years later, the name changed to Voss Jorgensen Schueler Co., Inc. and, today, is known more simply as VJS Construction

⁴⁴ Loren H. Osman, "Expert Shapes Up Lions, Dragons," *The Milwaukee Journal*, 10 January 1971; Darryl Enriquez, "Old World Artistry," *The Milwaukee Journal*, 19 January 1984, B1, B7; Laurel Walker, "Artist's Work Testament of Life He Once Led," unidentified newspaper, undated, 1-2; "William Anthony Thalmayer," obituary, *The Waukesha Freeman*, 5 June 2000; Amy Rabideau Silvers, "Thalmayer Carved His Mark Around the World," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 2000, this and the previous two articles in the St. Mary's Parish archives; "LTI Class Told Value of Training," *Manitowoc Herald-Times*, 18 May 1976, 1; "St. Mary's Catholic Church, Parish Directory, 2009." There are slight differences among the sources regarding Thalmayer's history and work experience; however, interviews with Thalmayer himself, as well as his obituary seem to be most reliable. Also, Thalmayer's last name is consistently spelled with two "l's" in many articles. However, a single "l" appears to be correct.

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Services.

The church furniture/pews in the church were made by the **Manitowoc Church Furniture Company**. The firm was established in Manitowoc by Two Rivers native, Charles F. Schuetze around the turn of the twentieth century under the name of the Manitowoc Church and School Supply Company. In 1913, following a move to Waukesha, he incorporated as the Manitowoc Church Furniture Company. As of 1948, and with approximately ninety employees, the firm was known as the largest of its kind in the country. Following Charles's death in 1958, the firm continued to craft church furniture under the direction of Charles's son Russell into at least the early 1970s. Formal dissolution of the firm occurred on 27 October 1992. Russell's obituary noted that in addition to St. Mary's, the company provided furnishings for many Waukesha-area churches including Trinity Lutheran and First United Methodist churches, along with churches throughout the Midwest.⁴⁵

The firm responsible for the 1998-99 addition was **Architecture 2000**, which was established in Milwaukee in 1993. Comprised of principals Robert L. Erdmann, Chuck Millmann and Allen L. Weitermann, their practice was on primarily elder care facilities and churches. Following their retirement in 2004, the firm was taken over by David Baum, who has been with Schroeder & Holt Architects since 1986. The firms have been merged to form SHA-A2K.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ A biographical sketch of Charles F. Schuetze provides conflicting information. It indicates he began in business for himself in 1896 after leaving the employ of the Manitowoc Seating Company; however, the 1912 sketch goes on to state, "During the six years of its existence...", which suggests a circa 1905 date of beginning, "Charles F. Schuetze," biographical sketch in Dr. Louis Falge, ed., *History of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1912), 2:484-486; Newsbrief (re: Manitowoc Church Furniture Co.), *The Furniture Manufacturer and Artisan* (February 1914), 17; May Merrill, "Waukesha Home of Nation's Largest Church Furniture Plant," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 30 January 1948, 7; "Charles Schuetze, Manitowoc, Dies," *Green Bay (WI) Press Gazette*, 26 December 1958, 3; "Russell M. Schuetze," obituary, *Herald Times-Reporter* (Manitowoc, WI), 18 May 2000, 2.

⁴⁶ The beginnings of Schroeder & Holt Architects go back to 1954 and architect Howard Schroeder. During the 1960s, he was joined by Rasche and Sprancy to form Rasche, Schroeder & Sprancy. In 1977, both Rasche and Sprancy left the firm and Don Holt became a partner to form Schroeder & Holt, information regarding the history of the firm included on the website of SHA-A2K, Available online at <https://www.sha-a2k.com/>, Accessed August 2021.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent and largely intact local example of a 1950s-60s Contemporary (or Mid Century Modern) religious complex. Collectively, the property includes all of the requisite buildings for a complete Catholic church complex. Furthermore, St. Mary's Catholic Church alone is an excellent and largely intact local example of 1960s Contemporary church architecture, both inside and out. Designed by the Elm Grove, Wisconsin firm of Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc., the church exhibits a dramatic combination of Lannon stone and glass and its dominating features include a soaring and overhanging prow-like roofline that protects a large wall of faceted glass and mosaic glass that was executed by artist and craftsman Conrad Pickel. Additional stained glass throughout the nave was executed by Donald Camplin, also of Pickel Studios and wooden statuary was completed in Germany, as well as by St. Mary's parishioner and artisan, William Thalmayer.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Due to its urban nature, no archaeology survey has been done on the subject parcel, and such work is outside of the scope of this nomination. Although no archaeological deposits have been reported, the archaeological potential for this are remains unassessed.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

In 2013, the City of Waukesha was awarded funding from the National Park Service (which was administered through the Wisconsin Historical Society) to complete an intensive survey update of the community, as the first one had been done over thirty years earlier (in 1982). The survey was completed in 2014. Five years later, the City of Waukesha was again awarded Park Service monies to fund the completion of a number of National Register nominations for properties that were recommended as potentially eligible in the 2014 survey report and this nomination is one of three nominations completed with that funding.

Regarding the preservation activities of the church itself, restoration work on the faceted and mosaic glass wall was completed in 2012 by Andrew Paremski of Enterprise Art Glass of Hales Corners, Wisconsin (formerly located in Milwaukee). Paremski and his crew spent three months removing

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loose pieces of the mosaic glass and attaching some 2,000 pieces of glass back to the surface of the faceted glass, whereas the faceted glass was inspected and restored where needed. Once complete, the entire window was covered with a protective layer of center, tempered glass. As well, when the 1998-99 addition was completed on the east side of the church, two sections of original stained-glass windows were removed and reinstalled in the chapel of the addition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

The activity that is the subject of this Nomination has been financed entirely with Federal Funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

 End of Statement of Significance

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 End of References

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 Insert Boundary Descriptions

Verbal Boundary Description:

The historic boundary is an irregular polygon that measures (beginning at the corner of S. Hartwell and E. Newhall avenues): 489.3 feet x 489 feet x 215 feet x 502.29 feet x 273.95 feet x 993.2 feet. See parcel boundary map.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary equates to the current parcel boundary, which is described as follows:
SEC NW11 T6N R19E COM NE COR HARTWELL & NEWHALL, N1 54' E489.3', S89 38' E504', S1 54' W215', S89 38' E502.29' S1 30' W273.95', N 89 38' W 1008.2' TO BEG--EXC W15' V539 P273 V859 P25 V996 P286 EXC V859 P27 V985 P267 DEEDS, as recorded at the office of the Register of Deeds, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

 End of Boundary Descriptions

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Insert Photo Descriptions

PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex

City or Vicinity: Waukesha

County: Waukesha

State: Wisconsin

Name of Photographer: Traci E. Schnell

Date of Photographs: 1-4, 10, 12, 19-20, 22, 25-27 (December 2019); 9, 11 (May 2021); 5-8, 13-18, 21, 23-24 (June 2021)

Location of Original Digital Files: State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

Number of Photographs: 27

Photo #1 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0001)

Perspective View (church and rectory) from corner of E. Newhall & S. Hartwell avenues, View to northeast

Photo #2 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0002)

Perspective View (Bell tower, church, modern entrance addition and school) along E. Newhall Avenue, View to northeast

Photo #3 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0003)

Perspective View (church and modern entrance addition) along E. Newhall Avenue, View to northwest

Photo #4 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0004)

Perspective View (school/convent) along E. Newhall Avenue, View to northeast

Photo #5 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0005)

Perspective View (school/convent) from parking lot to rear of complex, View to southeast

Photo #6 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0006)

Perspective View (modern entrance addition and rear of church and rectory) from parking lot to rear of complex, View to southwest

Photo #7 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0007)

Perspective View (east playground area) from parking lot to rear of complex, View to northwest

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Photo #8 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0008)
Perspective View (west playground area) from parking lot to rear of complex, View to northwest

Photo #9 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0009)
Church (south/entrance elevation), View to north northeast

Photo #10 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0010)
Church (west elevation), View to east southeast

Photo #11 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0011)
Church entrance detail (C. Pickel name in reverse in faceted glass wall above door), View to north

Photo #12 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0012)
Church interior (narthex), View to west southwest

Photo #13 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0013)
Church interior (east half of nave) from choir balcony, View to northeast

Photo #14 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0014)
Church interior (west half of nave) from choir balcony, View to northwest

Photo #15 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0015)
Church interior (Sanctuary/chancel) from choir balcony, View to north

Photo #16 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0016)
Church interior (view of faceted glass window) from sanctuary/chancel, View to south southwest

Photo #17 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0017)
Church interior (Blessed Virgin statue on north wall of sanctuary/chancel), View to north

Photo #18 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0018)
Church interior (Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in nave), View to south southwest

Photo #19 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0019)
Church interior (Stained glass window detail along east wall), View to west

Photo #20 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0020)
School/Convent (south/entrance elevation), View to northwest

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Photo #21 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0021)
School/convent (north/rear elevation), View to southwest

Photo #22 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0022)
School/convent (gymnasium wing at left, classrooms to right at center and convent level above) and one-story community room at forefront, View to southeast

Photo #23 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0023)
School/convent interior (first-floor classroom hallway), View to east

Photo #24 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0024)
School/convent interior (gymnasium), View to northeast

Photo #25 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0025)
School/convent interior (convent kitchen), View to southeast

Photo #26 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0026)
Rectory (west/entrance elevation), View to east southeast

Photo #27 (WI_Waukesha County_St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex_0027)
Rectory (kitchen), View to northeast

End of Photo Descriptions

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Insert Figures

FIGURES:

- 1) Photo of the 1963 Rendering of the proposed St. Mary's Catholic Church by Wenzel-Zoller-Gunn, Inc. Originally printed in the *Waukesha Freeman* on 16 September 1963. Image copy on file in the St. Mary's Church file at the Waukesha County Historical Society, Waukesha, WI.
- 2) St. Mary's Catholic Church Under Construction, 1964. Photo in possession of the Waukesha County Historical Society.
- 3) St. Mary's Catholic Church, Interior, 1965. Photo in possession of the Waukesha County Historical Society.
- 4) Partial view of St. Mary's Grade School as included in the dedication booklet for St. Mary's Church, 24 January 1965, page 29.
- 5) St. Mary's Rectory, 1963 photo with flat roof and original casement windows still intact. Photo in the St. Mary's Parish Archives, located at the church, Waukesha, WI.
- 6) Comparison Property: St. Veronica's Catholic Church (1965-66). Located at 4001 S. Whitnall Avenue, Milwaukee. Architects: Herbst-Jacoby-Herbst, Milwaukee.
- 7) Comparison Property, St. Matthias Catholic Church (1967). Located at 9306 W. Beloit Road, Milwaukee. Architects: Darby-Bogner and Associates, Milwaukee.

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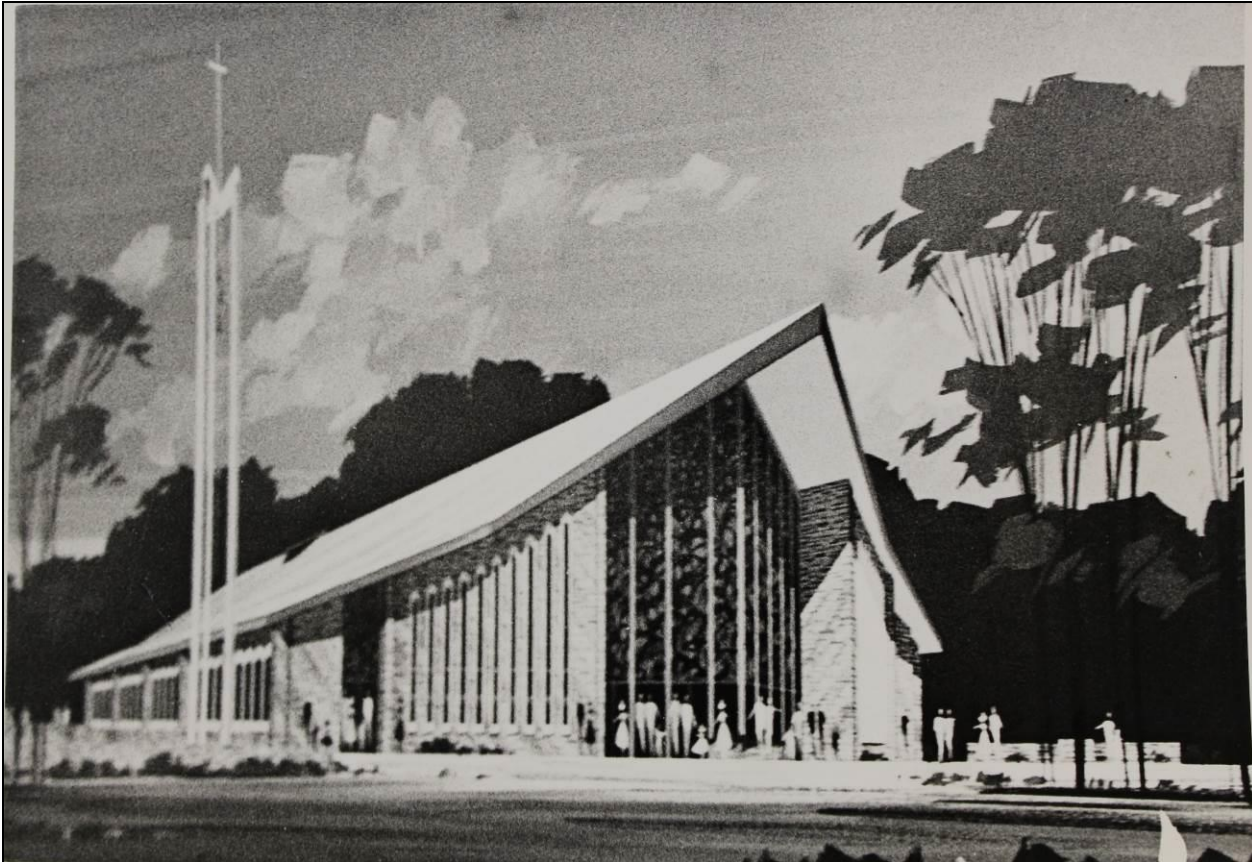


FIGURE #1: 1963 Rendering of the proposed St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waukesha.

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FIGURE #2: St. Mary's Catholic Church under construction, 1964.

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FIGURE #3: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Interior, 1965. The stained-glass windows along the west side of the nave have not yet been installed. The Communion railing remains around the sanctuary/chancel and the section of pew seating directly ahead is in place.

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FIGURE #4: Partial view of St. Mary's Grade School as included in the 1965 dedication booklet for St. Mary's Church.

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FIGURE #5: 1963 photo of the west and north elevations of the rectory with flat roof and original casement windows still intact. The gymnasium wing is visible to the rear, while a free-standing two-car garage (no longer extant) is located immediately adjacent to the rectory.

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FIGURE #6: Comparison Property, St. Veronica's Catholic Church (1965-66), Milwaukee.



FIGURE #7: Comparison Property, St. Matthias Catholic Church (1967), Milwaukee.

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 End Figures