Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORY ALES

STATE:		
	Missouri	
COUNTY:		
	Adair	
	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Church, Adair, Missouri, is a rectangular-plan, one-story, Romanesque Revival-style building. Octagonal and square-plan towers dominate the front (west) facade. An arcaded porch protects the front (west) entrance.

#### EXTERIOR

#### Over-all dimensions

Over-all dimensions of the church are 88' 4" by 52' 2". The northwest tower is 12' 4" square; the octagonal (southwest) tower is 10' 8" in diameter, 4' 5" on each side. The entrance porch is 25' 8" wide.

#### Construction materials and colors

Rough-cut stone blocks form the foundations. The wood-frame walls are sheathed with horizontal pine siding painted white. The main roof is of composition shingles; the square and octagonal towers' roofs are covered by composition shingles and metal respectively. Red brick is used for the chimney stack.

### <u>Openings</u>

<u>Windows</u>. Rectangular portion. Seven round-arched windows line the north and south facades of the church's rectangular portion. Each is filled by two one-over-one light, double-hung sash and bar tracery. The original stained glass remains: gold and purple for the lower and upper lights of the double-hung sash and blue and green for the circular and triangular lights of the tracery respectively. A hood molding trims each window; the stringcourse serves as sills.

Two three-light, round-arched windows are to either side of the main (west) entrance. A modified Palladian window (all one-light portions are round-arched) is in the gable. It is trimmed by a sill and hood molding.

The rear (east) facade has a similar modified Palladian window on the lower portion of the wall. A five-light, round-arched window with hood molding and sill is centered in the gable.

Octagonal tower. Each side of the tower is pierced by a tall, narrow, one-over-one light, double-hung sash window. Head and side surrounds of wide, smooth planks emphasize the narrowness of the windows. Continuous hood moldings trim the upper edges of the windows; sills are a continuation of the south facade stringcourse.

Square tower. Modified Palladian windows trimmed by hood moldings and stringcourse sills and tall, narrow, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, round-arched windows are on the north and west sides of the tower.

<u>Doorways</u>. There are five entrances: one on the west facade, one on the south facade (basement entrance), two on the east facade, and a fifth on the south side of the square tower.

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Adair	
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7. #1

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The main entrance which provides access to the sanctuary of the church is centered on the west facade. Rectangular-shaped, it is filled by a double-leaf, wood and glass door. A Classic-style lintel trims the opening. Each leaf has a single, round-arched light over a single wood panel.

The tower entrance is similar to the main entrance, but is one leaf in width. It has an identical Classic-style lintel.

A single-leaf wood door topped by a single-light fanlight fills each roundarched east entrance. Each is trimmed by a hood molding. Only the southernmost east entrance has a short flight of steps leading to it.

#### Chimney

A single chimney, now deteriorated, services the church. Composed of a single stack, it is attached to the south wall of the rectangular portion, immediately east of the third window.

#### Roofs

The rectangular portion of the church is covered by a gable roof. An octagonal dome and a four-sided pyramidal roof cover the southwest and northwest towers respectively. The entrance porch roof is flat.

#### Towers

Wood-frame towers of unequal heights flank the west facade of the rectangular portion of the church. The southwest (octagonal-plan) tower is capped by a dome supported by an octagonal drum. Each side of the drum is pierced by a round-arched opening trimmed by a hood molding and cast-iron Corinthian-style pilasters. The square-plan (northwest) tower serves as the bell tower. A base, each side having a four-part arcade trimmed by a continuous hood molding and decorated spandrels below, supports its pyramidal roof.

#### Decorative features

Decorative details include: the lintels and hood moldings of the doorways and windows (already described), a stringcourse which also provides sills for the windows, the boxed cornice with modified dentil-trimmed freize, and elongated H-shaped spandrels over the arched openings of the front (west) porch.

#### INTERIOR

#### Basement

A partial basement, which houses the heating facilities, is under the eastern

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7. #2

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

end of the rectangular portion of the church. Its stone walls have been reinforced with cement. Access to the basement is by an exterior entrance centered on the south facade and covered by a trap door.

#### First floor

The first floor is composed of three rooms: a large sanctuary encompassing most of the rectangular portion and two approximately square rooms (vestries) placed in the southeast and northeast corners of the sanctuary. Finishing treatments of the sanctuary include: tongue-and-groove pine flooring painted gray, yellow pine wainscoting, and pressed Florentine metal wall and ceiling coverings painted pale blue and white respectively. Rows of wood pews (not original) line the north and south walls.

A semi-circular balcony containing additional pews spans the rear (west) wall of the sanctuary.

The vestries continue the finishing treatments of the sanctuary with the exception of the northeast vestry which has plaster board walls replacing the original Florentine metal sheathing. Hand-carved, five-panel, single-leaf pine doors with Classic-style lintels allow access to these rooms from the sanctuary.

The octagonal tower contains a Sorrowful Mother statue. Its plaster board walls are painted pale blue to match those of the sanctuary.

The square tower houses the L-shaped stairway which provides access to the sanctuary balcony. The walls and ceiling are sheathed in Florentine metal.

#### Attic

No access to the unfinished attic is provided.

#### ALTERATIONS

Although alterations have been made, most of the original integrity of the church has been maintained. Alterations include:

- 1. lowering of the square tower!
- addition of a furnace and accompanying floor vent grates in the center aisle of the sanctuary
- 3. replacement of original wood roof shingles on the main (rectangular) portion and the square tower
- 4. removal of Florentine metal wall coverings in octagonal tower and northeast room (vestry)
- 5. sealing off of the octagonal tower at the balcony level.

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7. #3

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

#### CONDITION

St. Mary's Church is in fair condition; window sash mullions are deteriorated, the exterior needs painting, portions of the chimney stack have collapsed onto the roof causing it to sag under the weight of the bricks, and portions of the Florentine metal wall and ceiling coverings are rusting due to water leakage.

#### PRESENT STATUS

The future of St. Mary's Church is uncertain. As the church has been closed for several years following consolidation of its congregation with others, the parish priest feels that the church should be disposed of. A small group of former church members would like to see the church retained and possibly restored as a memorial or shrine. These parishioners hope to influence the priest to reconsider his position on the fate of the church and to allocate funds for immediate maintenance (new roof, etc.) to stave off further deterioration. They feel that National Register enrollment may aid them in their efforts to save the church.

#### SITE

St. Mary's Church, situated on the highest point in Adair, overlooks Tupper Street (a dirt road). Highway 11 parallels the church property to the north. The church cemetery is immediately to the south. Open fields lie north of Highway 11 and south of the cemetery.

Other buildings surrounding the church property include: the old parsonage (now a private residence) to the east, a church hall (portions being part of the old frame church built in 1869) to the southeast, and several dilapidated structures (remnants of the original town) across Tupper Street to the west.

#### **FOOTNOTES**

1. E.M. Violette, <u>History of Adair County</u> (Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911), p. 146; statement by Raymond Glidwell, personal interview, July 23, 1974; and statement by Mrs. George Moore, personal interview, July 23, 1974. (Glidwell is a non-practicing architect in Kirksville; Mrs. Moore is a former parishioner of St. Mary's Church).

PERIOD (Check One or More as .	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known)	1904-05	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
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Communications	Military	Theater	<ol><li>instrumental in</li></ol>
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1904-05, St. Mary's Church, Adair, Missouri, is significant for its architectural style, interior detailing, and near original integrity. It is the only major building surviving in the village of Adair, once a thriving rural community. Historically, the church is noteworthy for its role in the furthering of Catholism in northeast Missouri and the founding of Adair.

St. Mary's Church is a unique example of a wood-frame country church in the Romanesque Revival style. The interior finishing of the walls in pressed Florentine metal is unusual for its locale and possibly the state. The church may be one of only 13 examples of its kind in the United States. Although now somewhat deteriorated from a lack of maintenance over the last two years, most of the building's original integrity remains intact.

### History of St. Mary's Church and Adair Parish

For some years prior to the Civil War, Catholics from Ohio began to settle in and around Edina, Knox County, Missouri. Soon a strong Catholic church was organized there. Within a few years the Catholic settlement began to spread westward from Edina; a few families settled in Clay Township, Adair County. Father McNamee, then assistant parish priest at Edina, urged the half dozen families in Clay Township and nearby Knox County to make a start toward founding a church and arranged to celebrate mass at the home of Daniel McGonigle until a church building could be erected.<sup>2</sup> A log church was completed in 1860.<sup>3</sup>

When time came to establish a separate parish, a large missionary district was laid off. It included the territory from Memphis to the Chariton River and from Macon to the Iowa line. To get matters organized and to prepare the way for a regular pastor, priests were sent at regular intervals from St. Louis by Archbishop Kendrick. Among the first priests were Fathers Madden and Daley in the early 1870's. Neither was assigned to this work for more than a few months. The church was finally established on a regular basis with the appointments of Father Ryan in ca. 1877 or 1878 and Father O'Shea in 1888. Under Father O'Shea a mission church in Kirksville was established in 1888.

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#### 8. #1

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

In 1904 the original frame church, built in 1869, was moved to another site, and the construction of the present church was begun. On June 15, 1905, the new building was dedicated with Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis officiating. The church building cost, completely furnished, \$10,000.5 John Barker of Edina, Missouri, was the carpenter.

#### Village of Adair

Coincident with the establishment of St. Mary's Church was the founding of the village of Adair. The area had been settled by Catholic families from Edina prior to the Civil War. In April, 1879, the town was surveyed and platted for Michael C. and Mary E. Cody by Thomas J. Dockery. As surveyed, Adair had two blocks of eight lots each with Tupper Street running north and south between the blocks. By 1888 the town's business circle included: a druggist/physician, merchants of various trades, a saw mill operator, a milliner, a broom maker, game dealers, a shoemaker, a notary, a wagon maker, contractors, a hoop maker, a hotel keeper, a blacksmith, livestock dealers, and livery men. It even boasted of a post office.

Adair continued to prosper in the twentieth century until the young people began leaving the rural community to find work in the city. Today only the Catholic church and six residences remain to mark the previously thriving community.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in the "Missouri State Historic Preservation Plan." St. Mary's Church is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Society."

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- 1. Statement by Raymond Glidwell, personal interview, July 23, 1974.
- 2. E.M. Violette, <u>History of Adair County</u> (Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911), p. 145.
- 3. Statement by Mrs. George Moore, personal interview, July 23, 1974.
- 4. Violette, p. 145.
- 5. <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 147.

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8. #2

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

- 6. Moore, personal interview, July 23, 1974.
- 7. <u>History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri</u> (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888), pp. 371-372; and Floyd C. Shoemaker (ed.), <u>Missouri Historical Review</u>, Vol. X, No. 3 (April, 1916), p. 201.
- 8. <u>History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri, pp. 371-372.</u>
- 9. Moore, personal interview, July 23, 1974.

### . 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Glidwell, Raymond. Personal interview. July 23, 1974.
- <u>History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam, and Schuyler Counties, Missouri.</u> Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, pp. 371-372, 407-408.
- Moore, Mrs. George. Personal interview. July 23, 1974. 3.
- Shoemaker, Floyd C. (ed.). Missouri Historical Review, Vol. X. No. 3

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	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:									in the	
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j 1	NameJames L. Wilson					Date					
	Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer					Keeper of The National Register					<del></del>
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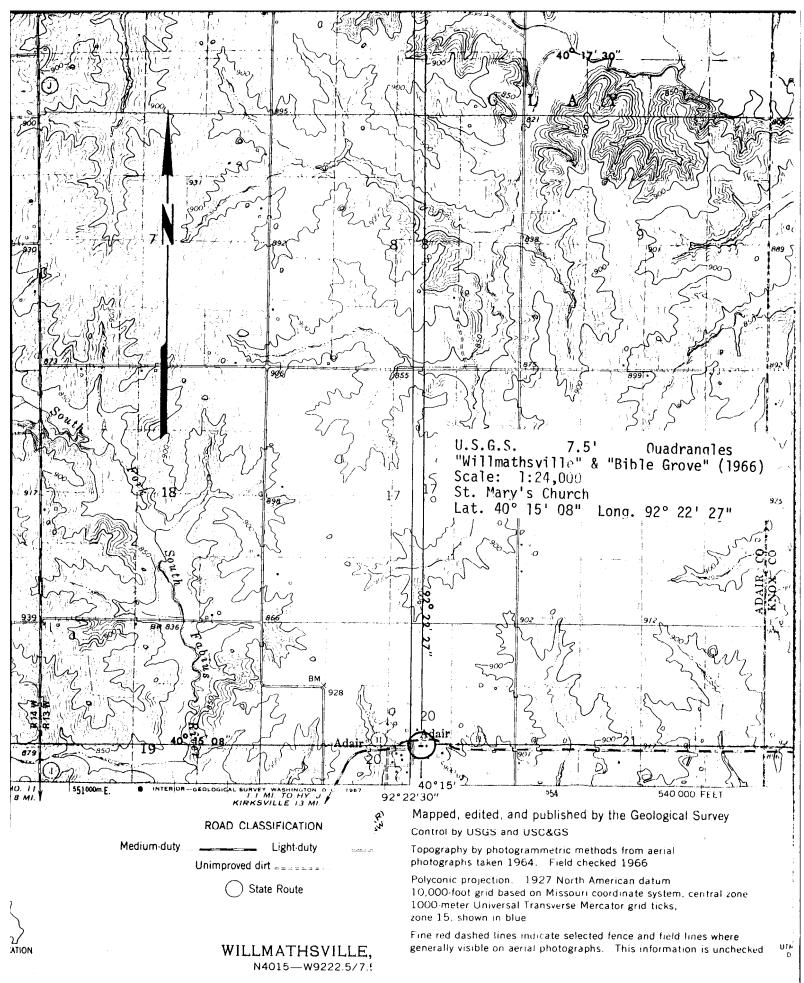
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9. #1

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

- 5. Violette, E.M. <u>History of Adair County</u>. Kirksville, Missouri: The Denslow History Company, 1911, pp. 145-147, 423.
- 6. Williams, Walter (ed.). A History of Northeast Missouri. Vol. I. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1913, p. 178.



#### St. Mary's Church Adair County Photo Log

The following is true for all photographs:

St. Mary's Church MO 11 Adair County, MO

National Register listed: 12/16/1974

#### Photographs:

- 1. Primary (west) façade, looking east. Photographer: MP Holmes. Date: 2/3/1969
- 2. Primary (west) façade, looking east, Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 3. Primary (west) façade, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 4. Primary (west) façade, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 5. Entrance detail, primary (west) façade, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 6. Gable detail, primary (west) façade, looking southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 7. West and south facades, looking northeast. Photographer: Fred Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 8. West and south facades, looking northeast. Photographer: Nancy Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- South façade and cemetery, looking north and east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 10. South façade and cemetery, looking north. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 11. South and east facades, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 12. South and east facades, cemetery in foreground, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 13. South and east facades, cemetery in foreground, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 14. South facade, looking northeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 15. Northwest tower, looking south southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 16. Northwest tower, looking south southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 17. North and west facades, looking south southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Bremc. Date: 7/23/1974
- 18. North façade, looking south. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 19. East and north facades, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 20. East and north facades, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 21. East and north facades, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 22. East and north facades, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B, Breme. Date: 7/23/1974

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- 23. North façade and neighboring house, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 24. Entrance detail, primary façade, looking northeast. East and north facades, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 25. Crest detail on entrance foyer, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 26. Cornice detail, west façade, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 27. Cornice detail, west façade, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 28. Detail of capital, southwest tower, looking southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 29. Northwest tower detail, looking northeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 30. Southwest tower, looking north. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 31. Southwest tower detail, looking northeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 32. Southwest tower detail, looking northeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 33. Northwest tower detail, looking southeast. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 34. Interior, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 35. Interior, pressed metal, comice and ceiling detail, looking east or west. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 36. Interior, southwest tower, looking southwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 37. Interior, ceiling detail behind altar. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 38. Interior, ceiling detail. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 39. Interior, carved altar detail, looking east. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 40. Interior, entrance under balcony, looking south, Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 41. Interior, paneled door. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 42. Interior, staircase. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 43. Interior, balcony landing and stair? Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 44. Interior, balcony, looking north. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 45. Interior, wall, comice and ceiling detail in sanctuary. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 46. Exterior, entrance door to northwest tower, looking north. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 47. St. Mary's Cemetery. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 48. St. Mary's Cemetery. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 49. Detail of tombstone. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 50. St. Mary's and environs, lookingnorthwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 51. St. Mary's setting, looking west? Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 52. St. Mary's setting, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Bremc. Date: 7/23/1974
- 53. St. Mary's setting, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 54. St. Mary's setting, looking northwest. Photographer: Nancy B. Bremc. Date: 7/23/1974
- 55. Barn near St. Mary's Church, Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
- 56. Building near St. Mary's Church. Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974

- 57. Building near, St. Mary's Church, Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974
  58. Building near, St. Mary's Church, Photographer: Nancy B. Breme. Date: 7/23/1974

