

United States Department of the 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. Joseph School
other names/site number 141-597-36324

2. Location

street & number 210 N. Hill St. N/A not for publication
city or town South Bend N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46617

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 36CFR 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] 12/23/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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
 removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

St. Joseph School

St. Joseph IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

East Bank Multiple Property Listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Church School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Church School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

STONE

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

St. Joseph School
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Freyermuth & Maurer, Architects

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

St. Joseph School
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property < 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 16 | 563040 | 4614100
Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | |

3 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille B. Fife, President
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date 06/30/97
street & number 556 W. 1175 N. Rd. telephone (812) 696-2415
city or town Farmersburg state IN zip code 47850

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 Diocese of Fort Wayne
street & number 226 N. Hill St. telephone
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46617

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. Joseph School
St. Joseph County, Indiana

7. Description

The St. Joseph School is a two and a half story building with a ground or basement floor which is partially above ground level. The building has an irregular, T plan, with a main, rectangular section parallel to Hill Street and a rear wing projecting on the east side. Two main entrances on the front elevation are available for the students and rear access is gained through doors in the main wing, opposite the front doors.

The building has a stone clad foundation and tan brick walls, mostly in a stretcher bond with various decorative brickwork. Trim is done in limestone. The main facade is divided into three sections by two projecting entry bays, which rise well above the roof line. These elements are comprised of a recessed gothic arched entry, with a carved stone archivolt which is surmounted by a vertically panelled stone architrave which follows the line of the arch and end, above as a flat base for the upper elements. Framing this element are gently stepped, brick and stone pilasters, which carry above the roof line. Between these, on the upper floors are three narrow windows, separated by slightly projecting vertical brick bands. All windows have been replaced with modern, dark brown aluminum lights. The main doors are double leaf, modern aluminum with a plain transom above. The projecting entry bays have crenellations at the top, with decorative elements comprised of vertical projecting bands of dressed stone ending in a finial at the top and a center element comprised of a vertical stone panel with a pointed arch at the top. All of the roof line elements are capped with a dressed stone coping.

The outer bays of the building are devoid of fenestration on the main facade, but contain, above a stone belt course, a large tripartite panel in corbelled brick with corner inserts of stone. Above the panel, vertical stone panels carry above the roof line, with pointed arches reminiscent of the detailing of the projecting entrance bays. In the center of this composition is a square stone panel with a quatrefoil incised.

The central section of the main facade contains three rows of double hung windows, the lowest showing half above the ground level. These are divided into two ranks by a central brick divider and each window is separated from its neighbor by a vertical brick pilaster which rests on a belt course of stone at the head of the ground floor windows. These pilasters are capped, above the upper window line by carved stone medallions. The upper portion

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St. Joseph School
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of the section is decorated by an irregular roof parapet which contains raised panels and medallions. At the center of this face, is a stone identification panel, which is carved in the shape of a stylized, open scroll -- an appropriate association for the academic nature of the structure.

The first floor interior of the main rectangle contains a central hall down its long axis, on either side of which are classrooms, as well as at either end, except on the center of the east side, where the east wing intersects the main building. Here, two sets of stairs lead up to the main floor of a large auditorium complete with an elevated proscenium stage. From the main hall in the first floor, stairs lead down to recreation space in the basement. On the second floor, similar stairs lead to the auditorium balcony. On the basement and second floors, classrooms are located in the same places as on the first. (Except that, inside the north entry to the building, on the first floor, space is dedicated to the school secretary and principal's office.) Interior finishes in the building include terrazzo floors, mahogany doors, and tan tile wainscoting, shoulder high on all floors. The two main entries contain steel stairs, rails and newel posts. They are lit by light from the exterior through multi-paned windows. In the mezzanine between floors, part of the space between the stair hall and the outside of the projecting bay within which it is contained is taken up by a small classroom/office with full multi-light windows and a door which opens onto the stair landing. Classrooms are spacious, with built-in dark-stained wood cupboards with folding doors and one wall of large windows for extra light.

The building is set on a slightly sloping site, and is raised on a plinth above the street level. A rough-course rubble stone retaining wall has been used to hold the bank and adjust the level to the slope. Grass has been planted around the building and there are low, foundation plantings as well as a few, modest trees. Concrete steps lead from the street level and a second set of steps carry one to the building doors. To the rear of the building are play yards and to the northeast, parking lots for the staff.

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8. Statement of Significance

The building is significant for its association with industrial development and education in the East Bank (See Section E., East Bank Multiple Property Listing.) Under Criterion C, it is significant because of the quality and design of its architecture. It is the work of local masters, the architects Freyermuth and Maurer. In addition, under Criterion A, it is significant on the local level for its association with education, one of the growing amenities needed in the East Bank area after the turn of the century as demanded by growth and development.

St. Joseph's School was built in 1925 and dedicated in January of 1926. It was a major undertaking of St. Joseph's parish and a monument to the dedication to education which they maintained. The building committee contained no less than 21 members, among them names of consequence in the community, like Joseph Coquillard, William N. Bergan, Sr. and William P. Cass. The pastors of the church were both members of Father Sorin's order, the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

The architects designed an institutional building which typifies the first decades of the twentieth century, when the notion of an eclectic use of symbolic, classically inspired elements was popular. Many of the young architects of this period were influenced by (or trained) in the Beaux Arts tradition, which emphasized studio work and looked back to classical traditions. These designers, however, interpreted these traditions in a streamlined, often playful manner. In the St. Joseph School, this can be seen, particularly in the parapet treatment, where tudor and gothic arches are symbolized by thin bands of stone and tiny points, where playful finials imply the soaring elements of European models and the gently stepped blocks framing the doorways recall sturdy buttresses. The traditional gothic arched doorway, on the other hand, anchors the building entrances -- those who enter here, it seems to say, will be steeped in classic (and perhaps sacred) lore.

The architects used a light tan brick, which evoked the buildings of Notre Dame, the inspiration for much academic effort in the East Bank and South Bend. Typical of the 1920s, the brick work on the facades is notable and utilizes corbelling and other details to highlight the design. In addition, the designers have sought to provide vertical relief through many elements, such as elongated windows, vertical bands of stone and brick, division of the horizontal bays and parapet details. This also shows the influence of the Art Deco movement, which was popular at the time.

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Freyermuth and Maurer were not afraid to experiment with these movements in an eclectic fashion.

R. Vernon Maurer (1847-1963), was born and raised in South Bend. After high school he studied art at the Chicago Art Institute and worked as a draftsman in Chicago. This experience may have exposed him, in this great midwestern architectural center to the ideas of the Beaux Arts and Art Deco movements. His partnership with George Freyermuth began in 1897, a few years after his return to South Bend. Freyermuth was born in Philadelphia, but grew up in South Bend. He gained his architectural training in a more practical way than his partner, learning from his father who was a successful local contractor. Together they completed commissions for schools, such as St. Joseph School, for churches, residences and several notable commercial buildings. The partnership ended when George Freyermuth was elected mayor of South Bend in 1934. Maurer continued in architectural practice with his son, as Maurer & Maurer.

Education was a primary concern for families in the East Bank area. With the rapidly growing complex at Notre Dame and St. Mary's to the north, it was logical that, in addition to public schools, the development of parochial educational facilities was rapid. In addition, the population consisted of large groups of Irish immigrants, who desired to educate their children within the confines of religious traditions from abroad. Thus, the French background of the priests attracted by Father Sorin to Notre Dame and their successors appealed to the upwardly mobile population of the East Bank. St. Joseph's Church, located north of the school, was the oldest Catholic church in South Bend, built by Father Sorin in 1853. The same building served as a school under the guidance of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, evidence of the importance placed on education. A local history related:

"Thus hand in hand together started school and church, and the wise pioneers appreciated the fact that the school is the more important of the two. The school received from the beginning a full corps of resident teachers, whose kitchen was regularly supplied by the commissioner of Notre Dame." ¹

From this early school, several subsequent entities evolved, including the Assumption School north of St. Joseph's Church and a Parochial School just south of the church, by 1917. When the large modern institution was

¹ Timothy Howard, *A History of South Bend*, p. 419.

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constructed in 1925, encompassing the whole of a city block, it was sure evidence of the East Bank's growing prosperity and sophistication.

St. Joseph School is presently used for its original purpose, education and houses the elementary level parochial school for St. Joseph parish on the East Bank. This is an active and lively school during the academic year, bustling with the sound of children's voices and teacher's instructions.

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St. Joseph School
St. Joseph County, Indiana

9. Bibliography

Schlereth, Thomas J. *The University of Notre Dame, A Portrait of Its History and Campus*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1976.

Howard, Timothy Edward. *A History of St. Joseph County, Indiana, Vols. I & II*. Chicago/New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.

Other Sources

Sanborn Insurance Maps for the City of South Bend: On microfilm in the collection of the South Bend Public Library.

Survey Form, South Bend Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 6/8/79, 6/1988, Dedication Program, "New St. Joseph School."

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of Lots 134 and 135 of the original plat of the Town of Lowell, now part of the City of South Bend.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property has not changed in the last fifty years.

11. Contemporary and historic photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted.

1. St. Joseph School
210 North Hill Street
2. St. Joseph County, Indiana
3. Camille Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc.
4. May-June, 1997
5. 556 W. 1175 N. Rd., Farmersburg, IN 47850
6. View looking south/southeast from the west side of N. Hill Street toward the main facade of the building.
7. Photo No. 19

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6. View looking east toward the west elevation of the building, showing the details of the northernmost of the two main entrances.
7. Photo No. 20
4. May, 1998
6. View looking north from Colfax Avenue, toward the south facade of the building. The main wing, rear wing and play area are visible.
7. Photo No. 20a
4. May, 1998
6. Photo taken from the back yard of the Hoban House, looking west toward the rear elevation of St. Joseph School, showing the east wing.
7. Photo No. 20b
4. May, 1998
6. An image of the interior hall of of the school, looking north along the hall, showing the glazed brick walls, segmental arched openings and multi-light doors.
7. Photo No. 20c
4. May, 1998
6. An interior photograph, looking west toward the south entry and stair hall, showing the terrazo floor, steel stairs and multi-light front windows.
7. Photo No. 20d
4. May, 1998
6. An interior image of a classroom on the second floor, looking east, southeast at the back wall of the room, with its wooden wall of closets.
7. Photo No. 20e

