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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District

Other names/site number: Cedron Church; Assumption Catholic Church

Name of related Multiple Property Listing: Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945

2. Location

Street & number: Northwest corner of intersection of Cedron Road and Zey Ln. | N/A | not for publication

City or town: Jamestown, MO vicinity | X | vicinity

State: Missouri Code: MO County: Moniteau Code: 135 Zip code: 65046

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B X C ___ D

Mark A Miles — Dec. 6, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO — Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Joe Nelson for K. Beall — 2.5.14

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District
Name of Property

Moniteau County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

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

X	Private
	public – Local
	public – State
	public – Federal

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

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
5		**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious facility
Religion: Church School
Religion: Church related residence (Rectory)
Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious facility
Recreation and Culture: Hall
Domestic: Single dwelling
Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Center Steeple Church
Other: Gable front schoolhouse
Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals/
Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Brick
Wood: Weatherboard
roof: Asphalt
other:

X **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District — Name of Property

Moniteau County, Missouri — 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.
- [X] 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:

- [X] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1867-1914

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sprouce, O.E.

[X] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District | Moniteau County, Missouri

Name of Property | County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.5 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	38.773662 (Latitude:)	-92.568050 (Longitude:)	3	_____ (Latitude:)	_____ (Longitude:)
2	_____ (Latitude:)	_____ (Longitude:)	4	_____ (Latitude:)	_____ (Longitude:)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger L. Jungmeyer, Professor of History, Lincoln University; Tiffany Patterson (additional research & writing)

organization Friends of Cedron | date July 2013

street & number 1103 Moreau Dr. | telephone 573-681-5223

city or town Jefferson City | state MO | zip code 65101

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jamestown vicinity

County: Moniteau County State: Missouri

Photographer: Samuel Schnieders

Date Photographed: June 20, 2013

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

1 of 15: View of Assumption Catholic Church and school from Cedron Road, looking west.
2 of 15: Assumption Catholic Church, school and cemetery looking south southwest.
3 of 15: Assumption Catholic Church and Cemetery, looking south southwest.
4 of 15: Assumption Catholic Church and School, looking north.
5 of 15: West elevation, Assumption Church, looking east.
6 of 15: Assumption Catholic Church, north elevation, looking south southeast.
7 of 15: Assumption Catholic Church, west elevation, looking west southwest.
8 of 15: Interior, Assumption Catholic Church, looking east.
9 of 15: Interior, Assumption Catholic Church, looking west.
10 of 15: Example, stained glass window, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, behind altar, looking west.
11 of 15: Example, stained glass window, transom over entrance, looking west.
12 of 15: Cemetery, looking north
13 of 15: Privy, looking southwest.
14 of 15: Schoolhouse, rear (north) and east elevations (see photo 4 for front), looking south southwest.
15 of 15: Rectory, looking south southeast.

Figure Log:

1. Geographic Data Map
2. Location Map
3. Site Plan
4. Plan of Sanctuary and Sacristy, O.E. Sprouce, 1903
5. Cross Section at altar rail, O.E. Sprouce, 1903.
6. Historic photograph of Assumption Catholic Church, c. 1888
7. Historic photo of Assumption Church and School, c. 1930s
8. Historic photo of School, 1911
9. Historic photo of Rectory, c. 1940

Summary:

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District is located at the intersection of Cedron Road and Zey Lane in Cedron, Moniteau County. The Cedron settlement is approximately four miles west of Jamestown. The church is representative of the center steeple church type as described in the "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri c. 1819 to c. 1945" Multiple Property Documentation Form. Originally a brick gable-end church, constructed in 1867-1872 as the congregation outgrew its earlier log structure, the brick church took on its current center-steeple appearance in 1903. At that time a three-tiered brick bell tower and sacristy (including apse and vestry) were built from plans by O.E. Sprouce. The church entrance faces west under the bell tower. The church is the center of a small historic district containing four contributing buildings and one contributing site. Typical of rural Catholic parishes, the congregation supported a school, rectory, and cemetery which remain on the 4.5 acre property. The cemetery lies on the north side of the church and contains approximately two hundred eighty-five (285) graves with the earliest dating from November 1841. The one room schoolhouse is a frame, gable front building constructed, c. 1900. A recently restored historic shed roof privy is located west of the church. The rectory, an L-Plan house is located south of the church and was constructed in 1908.

Setting:

The property is located in a rural area in northwestern Moniteau County, near the border of Cooper County. Historically, the district was part of the Cedron settlement that in addition to the church complex supported a blacksmith shop, general store and several residences. There are still scattered residences in the area, but much of the land surrounding the church is either agricultural or in public ownership. To the east and south of the church property are terraced agricultural fields and pastures. To the north and west are public lands owned and managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Conservation property is largely wooded.

The district property is L-shaped with the cemetery, church, school, privy and church yard in the upright (north) section of the L. The bottom of this section comes to a rough point due to the curve of Cedron Road that cuts through the property at a northeast-southwest angle. The forests of the Missouri Department of Conservation land mark the north and east boundary of the property, and Zey Lane marks the eastern boundary of the church yard and cemetery. The church and cemetery portion of the district is flat. The church and school are surrounded by grass lawns as are the rows of grave markers in the cemetery. Other than grass and trees lining the property boundaries, there is no significant vegetation or landscaping.

The lower (south) leg of the L includes the rectory and associated property. The northern boundary of this section is marked by Cedron Road which is lined to the south by a windbreak

of trees. More trees are scattered to the east of the rectory and there are vegetable gardens and other informal landscaping and plants scattered throughout the yard.

Individual Resource Descriptions:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, exterior:

Construction of the church began in 1867 and the nave was completed in 1872. (See Figure 6) Originally a gable-end church type with parapetted front and rear walls, the building took on its current exterior appearance in 1903 with the addition of a tower and sacristy. (See Photos 4-7). The church has Gothic Revival style details most notable in its fenestration. However, it is best categorized as a center steeple church type, a type described in the "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It is a brick, center steeple building measuring 31 feet by 80 feet with a stone foundation under concrete parging and brick exterior walls. The main block of the building has a gabled asphalt shingle roof, a centered tower with steeply pitched polygonal roof (steeple) is at the front (west) side of the building, and an apse/sacristy addition is to the east.

Characteristic of the type, the most prominent feature of the church is the three tiered bell tower centered on the west façade flanked to either side by blank brick walls. (See Photos 4, 5, and 6). The projecting tower measures 12 feet by 12 feet in depth and width and is 100 feet in height. The height measurement includes the polygonal steeple covered by metal roofing and topped by a cross. The tower serves as the entrance foyer to the church, and paired wood paneled (2/2) doors topped by a Gothic arched transom provide interior access. The transom was originally clear or colored glass with tracery-like mullions later replaced (c. 1914) by a stained and leaded glass window. (See Photo 11). Single Gothic arch stained glass windows with stone sills are found on the north and south elevations of tower's first floor. Above the entrance are paired Gothic windows with stone sills. These windows are multi-light with thin tracery-like mullions and may be those specified by O.E. Sprouce's design. The belfry (third tier) was originally open with large Gothic arch openings on all four sides. The belfry has been partially bricked in to hold Gothic lancet arch louver installed to protect the bell and limit water infiltration into the interior of the tower, a common alteration in many examples of the rural center steeple church type.

The main, gable roofed block of the building that houses the nave, is rectangular in plan. The north and south elevations are nearly identical. (See Photos 2: north elevation and 4: south elevation). The brick walls are laid in an American common bond pattern. Both sides have four evenly spaced Gothic arch windows with header course lintels and concrete sills. The windows are stained glass with figural themes, though the details are obscured on the exterior due to the installation of Plexiglas storm windows. At the east end, the sacristy addition projects from the main block. A small 4/4 wood sash segmental arch window lights the sacristy rooms of the addition.

The east elevation is dominated by the apse and sacristy addition constructed in 1903. (See Photo 7). It consists of the five sided, hipped roof apse flanked by the lower squared sacristies. The east and two canted walls of the apse contain Gothic arch windows with small keystone details and concrete sills. The original multi-light double hung windows were replaced c. 1914 by stained and leaded glass. Like the other stained glass windows in the church, the design is obscured from the exterior by Plexiglas storm windows. The rear walls of the flanking sacristies contain a door (south) and a 4/4 wood sash segmental arch window (north).

As noted above, the exterior of the church has seen some minor alterations since the end of the period of significance in 1914. The most notable change is bricking in of the large Gothic openings in the belfry to insert smaller Gothic lancet shaped louvers. The wood steps noted in the architect's drawings for tower have been replaced by brick and concrete steps, and the stone foundation has concrete parging. These alterations do not significantly impact the character defining features of the building type.

Interior:

The church entrance is in the tower and is gained through paired exterior doors (see exterior description). The foyer is a simple square room painted an off-white color. The most distinctive features of the room are the stained and leaded glass windows. Over the entrance is a Gothic-arched transom depicting the IHS monogram (derived from the Greek and Roman spelling of Jesus) surrounded by lilies. There is also a bible and candle window in the north wall, and a cross and crown in the south. The nave is accessed by paired swinging doors. The doors access a small narthex under the balcony, which is a three sided projection supported by four Doric wood columns. The balcony is reached by a curving staircase located to the north of the entrance. The balcony currently holds the organ, confessional and HVAC system and is surrounded by a low plain wood balustrade. To the south of the entrance is a small interior restroom added in 2001. (See Photo 9).

In the nave, wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle with narrow side aisles on both the north and south sides of the church. The ceiling is clad with pressed metal panels, installed in c. 1914 when the stained glass windows were added. The walls are plaster overlaid with sheetrock, and painted an off-white color. Along both the north and south sides of the nave are four (4) stained glass windows depicting various religious themes (see below). The glass windows are 8 feet, 8 inches (104 inches) tall and 35 inches wide.

The stained glass windows lining the north and south side of the nave depict images that represent important aspects of Catholic beliefs or services. For example, the chalice, host, grapevine and wheat window on the south side of the nave represent the Eucharist. Also on the south side are windows depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and an IHS monogram surrounded with decorative naturalistic patterning. Along the north wall are

the Cross and Anchor window, symbolizing hope and saving of spiritual lives; the Agnus Dei, Lamb of God window; one depicting Mary as a mediatrix between believers and God; and one with an ascending dove denoting the Holy Spirit.

On the east end of the church a shallow chancel on a raised platform fronts the Gothic arched opening to the apse. (See photo 8) To either side of the opening are wall niches holding statues of Jesus (south) and Mary (north). The most notable features of the apse are the Gothic arched stained glass windows onthe rear and two canted sides. At pride of place in honor of the church's namesake is the Assumption of the Virgin Mary window located behind the altar in the center wall of the apse. The window depicts a haloed Mary in white and blue robes. In the canted wall to the right (south) of Mary is the St. Aloysius. St. Aloysius, patron saint of young students and Christian youth, died at age 23 and is depicted as a young man in white and black cassock. To the left of the Assumption of Mary window is one showing St. Agnes. Like Aloysius, Agnes died young and is depicted as a beautiful teenaged girl with lamb.

Assumption Cemetery:

The Assumption or Cedron Cemetery is located on the north lawn of the church and is considered a contributing resource on the property. (See Photos 2 and 3). The graves are arranged in north-south rows, facing east. A number of the oldest graves are on the north side of the cemetery, near the tree line, and face south. These may pre-date the consecration of the cemetery by the Catholic Church and subsequent arrangement of graves in the more typical east-facing, north-south rows. The tombstones are primarily of granite and limestone. Markers range in size and design. Older markers are simple slab headstones, generally limestone. Typical of late Victorian and early 20th century cemeteries, the property also contains numerous cross-topped pedestal and obelisk markers. The most common types of more recent vintage are block on base or simple block markers. The earliest interment is dated November 1841. The cemetery has been in use since the 1840s and presently contains approximately 285 graves. The cemetery is still active, though space for new interments is limited.

School:

The congregation supported a small parochial school on the grounds from 1857 to 1931, constructing three different schoolhouses (c . 1857, 1886, and 1900) to accommodate students. The c. 1900 one-room frame school is still standing and contributes to the significance of the rural church property. (See Photos 4 and 14, and Figure 8). The building faces south and is of gable-front design, has a stone foundation, and measures 22 x 30 feet. The metal clad roof is gabled and a small brick chimney, formerly used for an interior wood stove, sits at the peak on the north end. The entrance, a 5-panel door, is centered on the south side and is sheltered beneath a small awning roof supported by knee braces. A square window, currently boarded over, is centered below the roof peak. Three evenly spaced 4/4 double-hung wood windows are

located on the east and west elevations. A secondary entrance on the rear (north) wall is offset to the east. Like the front, this entrance is also a 5-panel wood door. The interior has simple plaster walls and wood floors.

Privy:

A short distance to the west of the school is a small frame privy with shed roof. The two-door privy is clad in vertically laid wood siding. The plank doors have small half-moons for ventilation. The small building was restored to its original appearance in 2008. Privies were typical features of rural church properties well into the mid-20th century and this frame building is considered to be contributing. (See Photo 13).

Rectory:

The rectory, now privately owned, was constructed in 1908 at a cost of $1800 and replaced an 1884 building. (See Photo 15, and Figure 9). It sits south across Cedron Road from the church and its primary elevation faces north. It is a vernacular house type commonly called an L, or T-plan house type. Its characterizing features are a prominent front gable at the east end which projects from a long perpendicular recessed core. Though the type can come in one and two-story variations, the Assumption rectory is a two-story frame example. The roof is metal front-gable and hip with a lower gabled dormer on the west end. The walls are clad in painted cedar siding that replaced the original deteriorated wood weatherboards.

The north (primary) elevation is divided into three bays, one consisting of the projecting front gable, and two in the west wing. On the first floor of the projecting gable (eastern most bay) are grouped windows with a wider centered 1/1 wood double hung sash flanked by equally tall but narrower 1/1 wood double hung windows. The second floor of the front gable has a single centered 1/1 double hung wood sash. Originally, woodwork in peak of the gable provided the appearance of a pediment, though the entablature and cornice have since been removed. The west wing is fronted by a one story shed roof porch supported by turned posts. The porch shelters the front entrance that is roughly centered in the overall façade (center bay). In the west bay are paired 1/1 wood sash windows. The second floor has one 1/1 wood double hung window over the entrance, and a similar window in the west bay.

The west elevation shows the evolution of the house from rectory to family home after its sale to a private owner. The north section is the original house and has two evenly spaced 1/1 windows on the first and second floor. Above this is a gabled dormer that retains its simple wood entablature. The center section of this elevation is a later addition and consists of a lattice-work enclosed shed roof porch that acts as a breezeway connection between the rear ell of the house and the large two car garage to the south. The garage is a large Butler-type

building with vertical metal siding and a metal-clad gable roof. The gable faces Cedron Road to the west and contains two garage doors.

Access to the east and south elevations was limited due to private ownership of the property. The east elevation of the original section of the house (north portion) can be seen on aerial maps and contains two evenly spaced windows on both the first and second floors, likely of similar configuration to those on the north façade. The southern section of this elevation is the side wall of the rear one-story ell, a gable-roofed addition of unknown vintage. The south elevation is obscured from public view from Cedron Road by the large garage.

The residence has seen several changes since its 1908 construction date, including the removal of decorative porch elements and the addition of ells and garages to the rear (south). However, the massing and character-defining features are still evident on the north façade. Also, as viewed from the church yard the rear additions and garage are not readily apparent so the district's larger sense of time and place are retained. The importance of a rectory to historic rural Catholic Church parishes, the retention of character defining features, and use of like if not original siding materials are sufficient to evidence integrity and contribution to the district.

Summary:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District, at the intersection of Cedron Road and Zey Lane in the rural settlement of Cedron, Moniteau County, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Father Ferdinand Helias, known as the "Apostle of Central Missouri," founded the congregation in 1838. In its formative years, members met at nearby farms but soon constructed a small log church building on the current church property. By the 1860s the congregation was overflowing the original building and constructed a new brick gable-end church in 1867-1872. In 1903 architect O.E. Sprouce designed front and rear additions, transforming the church's appearance. The church is a significant Moniteau County example of the center-steeple church type as described in the "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945" Multiple Property Documentation Form. State-wide the center-steeple type is the second-most common rural church, though its popularity varied by county and its use can be loosely linked to the culture and denomination of the founding congregation. The center-steeple church type was particularly popular among rural Catholic congregations, so its adoption by Assumption Church is not surprising.[1] As the Catholic population of rural Moniteau County was historically small, examples of the church type in the county are uncommon—with only two (both Catholic) identified in the survey sampling used for this nomination. The significance of the Assumption church is enhanced by the existence of auxiliary buildings and sites. Rural churches, especially rural Catholic churches, were often centers of small complexes that included schools, cemeteries, outhouses, and rectories. As parishes disbanded or populations changed, auxiliary structures were often lost. Assumption, however, retains it associated resources including a contributing cemetery (est. 1841), one-room school (c. 1900), rectory (1908), and privy (c. 1900). These are important features of historic rural church complexes, and resources that are increasingly rare in rural parts of the state. The period of significance for the district is 1867 to 1914, the date of initial construction of the church through the period when the last of the stained glass windows were installed. The period represents the evolution of the church into a center steeple church type and the development of its significant associated resources. The property meets the requirements of listing under Criterion Consideration A as the property derives primary significance from its architectural design rather that historic religious use.

Historic background:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church is located in the small settlement of Cedron. The village took its name from the biblical Valley of Cedron that runs a course from near Jerusalem to the shores of the Dead Sea.[2] German immigrants, primarily Catholic, settled in the area in the early to mid-1800s. The small settlement was typical of rural crossroads, supporting a general store just west of the church complex. Cedron briefly had a post office (1896-1907) in the general store, and for several years supported a blacksmith shop next door.

[1] Tiffany Patterson, "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011, F.6-7.
[2] "Brook of Cedron," *Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume III*, Robert Appleton Company, 1908, published online at https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=2714, accessed July 25, 2013.

The church, school and some historic housing remain, though the commercial buildings were torn down in 1979 when the land north and west of the church became a conservation area.[3]

The earliest records of Assumption Catholic Church date from 1838 making the parish the oldest of its denomination in Moniteau County, Missouri. Jesuit (Society of Jesus or S.J.) Father Ferdinand Benedict Helias founded the parish, the fifth of seven parishes he founded in Central Missouri. Fr. Helias' prolific church building campaigns garnered him the appellation, "Apostle of Central Missouri." It is believed that the first masses in Assumption parish were celebrated in 1838 at the homes of a Mr. Weber and John Fay in the Pisgah settlement (in the Cedron Parish).[4]

The founding of the parish predates the construction of the earliest church on the nominated site by five years. The original log church was constructed on two acres of land donated by Ignatz and Barbara Becker in March 1843. The couple migrated to the United States from Baden, Germany about 1830, living briefly in Washington, D.C. and Ohio before moving via oxen drawn covered wagon to Linn Township, Moniteau County in 1841. Their first Moniteau County home was a small log home measuring 14 feet square, later expanded by constructing an 18 feet by 20 feet cabin.[5] The church was at first known as Becker's Church.[6] The first church building was a 30' x 32' log structure, costing $50.00 to construct. Later it came to be known as St. Mary's Assumption Church of Moniteau, then St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church of Cedron, and later as Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church (Assumption) of Cedron.[7]

The current church building dates to 1867-1872, when the expanding congregation constructed a brick gable-end church with a small belfry at the peak of the roof. (See Figure 6). The belfry may have been added in c. 1888 after John and Mary Heinen donated a bell that is still in use at the church. The new gable-end church measured 30' x 50' and was constructed at a cost of $3000.[8] In 1903 the church commissioned California, Missouri, architect O.E. Sprouce to design a new bell tower, apse and sacristy. (See Figures 4 and 5). These additions extended the church 31 feet and were completed at a cost of $2,456.[9] The newly designed and constructed additions respected the Gothic style adopted by the original structure, but with more "high style" flair, including a Gothic entrance with tracery transom and steeply pitched steeple roof. Re-styled in the center-steeple type by the addition of a prominent central tower on the facade, the church reflected a popular form adopted by many rural Catholic Church congregations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The church, its associated buildings, and cemetery are typical of the arrangement for such rural congregations and the Assumption Parish district is a

[3] Assumption Catholic Church Committee. *Remembering Our Heritage, Assumption Catholic Church 1838-2004*. Heritage House Publishing, 2005, 20.
[4] *Our Diocese, The People of the Diocese of Jefferson City, 1956-1984*. Diocese of Jefferson City, MO, 1984, 30.
[5] J.E. Ford. *History of Moniteau County Missouri*. California, MO: Press of The California Democrat, 1936, 111.
[6] The Becker name later shows up in the historic record as Baker.
[7] It is unknown exactly when the name changed, and it likely that some names were used in the official record and some colloquially or locally by parishioners.
[8] Assumption Catholic Church Committee, 13.
[9] Ibid.

significant example of a rural church complex. The complex is also a significant rural landscape representing the settlement pattern of the area around an important religious and social center.

The original log and later brick church became the center of the small Cedron community, home to baptisms, marriages, burials and schooling. The parish's first baptism occurred before the construction of the church buildings and was conducted by Father Helias on August 6, 1839.[10] The first recorded baptisms of parish congregants were in 1852 and 1853, likely conducted in the original log building.[11] The cemetery also pre-dates the original church building (c. 1843), with the first interment in 1841. The early date of interment may explain why some of the early graves face north-south instead of east-west, as they pre-date the donation of the property to Assumption congregation and subsequent consecration by the Catholic Church.[12] By 1841, the Cedron Parish consisted of eight families, later growing to forty families and by 1889 to sixty-five families.[13]

The growing congregation brought with it demands for parochial education for the church parish's children. The construction of the first school at Assumption in 1857 corresponds with the development of Catholic school education nationally, in large part due to the perception of blatant Protestant teachings and leanings in developing public school systems.[14] Assumption's school offered an alternative to rural township schools that were opening in Moniteau County in the mid-to-late 19th century. The log school house, 16 feet square, cost approximately $20 and had an enrollment of 20 children taught by Joe Schweitzer. A new frame school, 24' x 30,' was built in 1886 costing $403 with 35 children enrolled.[15] This building was replaced by another frame school building, 22 feet by 30 feet in c. 1900. This building served as a school until 1931 and is still used to support events on the property. [16]

Since the parish was established some thirty priests have served at Cedron. In 1970, the Assumption Church became a Mission of Annunciation Parish, California, Missouri but closed as a mission church in 1993. Though still owned by the Diocese of Jefferson City, the property is maintained by The Friends of Cedron. The group keeps the church open for weddings, funerals, Christmas and other special occasions.

[10] Assumption Catholic Church Committee, 13.
[11] *1837-1987, Jamestown Missouri Sesquicentennial.* Versailles, MO: B-W Graphics, 1987, 88.
[12] Without cross checking church records with recorded burials, it is unknown if all burials were members of the parish. Due to typical Catholic burial practices, however, Catholic church associated cemeteries would not generally be considered "community" burial grounds open to any nearby resident. The earliest graves, predating the donation of the property to the Catholic Church, may be of early residents or community members.
[13] Assumption Catholic Church Committee, 14.
[14] Joseph Moreau, "Rise of the (Catholic) American Nation: United States History and Parochial Schools, 1878-1925," *American Studies,* 38:3, fall 1997, 71.
[15] Assumption Catholic Church Committee, 12.
[16] Ibid.

Rural Church Architecture and Complexes in Moniteau County:

To date, there has not been a comprehensive survey of historic resources in Moniteau County. However, a sampling of known rural churches were identified and evaluated to in an effort to better understand the architecture of Assumption Catholic Church and its significance in the context of rural church architecture in the county. A history of the county published in1889 specifically noted 34 churches (with buildings) and societies meeting throughout the county.[17] The published list was likely incomplete as the author complained of the Methodist Church, South denomination that "several classes" of the church met throughout the county but their records were too poor for historic purposes. Nearly 125 years later, a website dedicated to historic and current information on Moniteau County, listed approximately 66 current and defunct churches established (or assumed to be established) prior to c. 1945.[18]

Using the list of 66 churches the preparer sought readily available photographic information on church websites, historic forums, and other sources in order to identify and classify rural church property types county-wide. For the purposes of the sampling all pre-1945 churches for which photographs could be found were utilized, regardless of location within the county. The towns of Moniteau County are relatively small in population, with California topping out at just over 4,000 so most church examples could be classified as "rural" based on the definition provided in the MPDF. Photographs for 42 churches on the list were found, though three were modern (post c. 1945) replacements for earlier church buildings. As some of the photographs were historic, it is unknown if all of these still exist.

By far, the gable end church type was the most common in the county with 26 out of 42 examples representing that property type. Somewhat unusual for a rural county, the next most common type was the Twin-tower type—with four examples found. As noted above, some of the examples of this type have since been replaced. The sampling also included two or three examples each of the steepled-ell, temple front, and side-steeple types.

The sampling also contained two examples of the center steeple church type: Assumption Catholic Church in rural Moniteau County, and St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Tipton. Assumption and St. Andrew's are two of only three Catholic Parishes in Moniteau County, with Annunciation Catholic Church in California being the third. In the state-wide sampling used for the "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri" MPDF, rural Catholic churches had a distinct preference for the center-steeple property type. Interestingly, Annunciation, in California, has a modern derivation of the center steeple church type built in 1984 to replace its historic twin-tower type church building.[19]

[17] *History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, 343-352.
[18] Alan Sparks, ed. "Moniteau County Churches." http://ww.moniteau.net/churches.htm, accessed July 9, 2013.
[19] Alan Sparks, ed. "Annunciation Catholic Church," http://www.moniteau.net/church/catholic/annunciation/annunciation.htm, accessed July 9, 2013.

Both St. Andrews and Assumption are good extant local examples of the historic center-steeple church type, though each represents different aspects of the type in rural Missouri. St. Andrews is a "town" church and was designed by St. Louis architect, A. Druiding, and built by contractors out of Jefferson City in 1883-84.[20] Because it served a town parish, St. Andrews is larger, has a more complex floorplan, and more high-style Gothic detailing. It also has a much larger school building (c. 1940 and 2008) and rectory (1952). By contrast, Assumption is a truly "rural" Catholic church in the county. It is located several miles from the nearest town, though historically the Cedron community had some services including a general store and blacksmith shop.[21] Assumption also retains its pre-1945 auxiliary resources including a school, privy, rectory and cemetery.

Architecturally, Assumption also shows the evolution of the center-steeple church type. Though most examples identified in the state-wide sampling used for the "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri" MPDF were built originally as center-steeple buildings, some examples evolved from a gable end to center-steeple type through additions. Assumption is one such example. Historic photographs from c. 1888 (see Figure 6) show a brick building with parapeted gable-front roof and some Gothic detailing in the side windows and entrance. As the parish became more established, the church hired architect O.E. Sprouce in 1903 to design new entrance, apse and sacristy additions. The grand center steeple tower acted as both entrance foyer and belfry to the church and its 100 foot height makes it a landmark in the surrounding environs. The apse addition provided a more elaborate space for the church altar and the sacristy made room for the priest and his vestments. The replacement of original double-hung multi-light windows by with stained glass, and installation of decorative pressed metal ceilings in 1914 demonstrates the congregation's continuing investment in the building and its beautification.

As noted in the "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri" MPDF, rural churches often formed the nucleus of small complexes. Historically, privies were nearly ubiquitous—a necessary service for most private, public or institutional venues in rural areas. Few rural churches in Moniteau County retain their privies, most having been removed as indoor plumbing in rural institutions became the norm by the mid-20th century. Assumption's is intact and was restored in 2008, though it is no longer in use (an interior restroom was installed for special events and services in 2001). Cemeteries were also common associated resources for rural churches of all denominations. Depending on the congregation, the complex could be larger to include parochial school for the children of members and a parsonage or rectory for the minister. In Missouri rural church schools and rectories or parsonages were most commonly associated with Catholic parishes and churches formed by close-knit ethnic populations.[22] Assumption is one such example of a rural church complex, and the most intact historic example in the Moniteau rural church sampling. While the sampling is by no means exhaustive, the information that is available provided few comparable properties. Most of the churches in the sampling had and retained their associated rural cemeteries. Cemeteries are the most common resource associated with rural church types, and often long outlive their associated church buildings. The

[20] Alan Sparks, ed. "St. Andrew Catholic Church," http://www.moniteau.net/church/catholic/standrews/standrew.htm, accessed July 9, 2013.
[21] Assumption Catholic Church, 20.
[22] Patterson, E. 10.

cemetery at Assumption is typical of rural church cemeteries. Graves are laid in long north-south rows and most graves face east.

Rectories are common resources associated with rural Catholic churches, though rectories and parsonages associated with protestant churches are less so. Ministers for rural Baptist and Christian churches were generally part-time positions, so preachers also had other jobs or farms. Rural Methodist churches were often on a circuit, sharing the services of a minister who may have lived in town or at one of the several churches he served. Assumption's historic rectory is still extant and lies across the road from the church, school and cemetery. The house is now in private ownership but retains its character defining projecting gable and side wing. Though altered, it contributes to the rural complex. Only one other rural church located outside one of the county's larger towns, the Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church (originally "Der Evangelischein Advents Gemeinde") specifically noted the construction of a rectory/parsonage. The Evangelical Advent's parsonage, however, was torn down in 1985.[23]

While most rural churches historically had privies and associated cemeteries, church-supported school buildings were less common. Rural churches that had schools were often either Catholic, or associated with an immigrant community. German Catholic, Lutheran and Evangelical denominations in Missouri, both in rural and more urban areas, often supported schools taught in German or in German and English. Use of the German language in parochial schools died out with anti-German sentiment leading to and following World War I and II, and many rural Protestant churches also disbanded their parochial schools in favor of public institutions around that time. Historic rural parochial school buildings were often converted to other uses, or torn down. In Moniteau County, only one other rural church in the survey retained an associated schoolhouse. The Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church, a congregation founded by German-Swiss Evangelicals in the 1840s, supported a parochial school until 1918. It was about that time when services in German were also discontinued.[24] Both the Evangelical Advent and Assumption congregations built frame gable-front schoolhouses and both are still extant. Assumption's is a larger building and retains its original windows, doors and siding. The Evangelical Advent school retains its windows and original roof, but has been clad in vinyl siding. Assumption's school also continued to operate until 1931, likely due to the tradition of Catholic-supported education rather than the desire to protect German language and culture.

O.E. Sprouce, Architect

The original section of the Assumption church was a simple brick gable end building, likely constructed by a local builder or by parishioners. Feeling pressure to enlarge the church for the growing membership, the parish commissioned architect Oliver E. (O.E.) Sprouce to design the large tower addition, and the eastern apse addition in 1903. Sprouce was a likely candidate for the project due to the location of his office in nearby California, and his association with the design of the Annunciation Catholic Church in California. According to the "California

[23] Sparks, Alan, Ed., "Moniteau County Churches, Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church (1848-Present)," http://www.moniteau.net/church/nondenominational/moniteauadvent/moniteauadvent.htm). Accessed, July 8, 2013.
[24] Ibid.

Commercial District Survey Report,"[25] Sprouce is credited with the design of Annunciation's 1901 church (replaced in 1984). The relationship was further influenced by the connection between the Annunciation and Assumption parishes. The two congregations often shared a priest and administrative duties.

Biographical information on Sprouce is limited. Credit given to him for designing several buildings in California, Missouri indicate that he was active in the building trades there in the early 20th Century. He designed at least four churches in the community (Presbyterian, Christian, Baptist and Catholic) utilizing a variety of types including twin tower, steepled-ell and a temple front design. He also designed several prominent commercial building such as Keily Hardware, Heck Saddlery Building, Burkhardt building, Eitzen Block and the 1894 Finke Building.[26] Several of these buildings are extant and identified in the "California Commercial District Survey" noted above. According to 1910 and 1920 US Census Records, he was born around 1861 in Virginia. Both records list him as working as a carpenter or contractor. He was unmarried and living with both parents in 1910 and his mother in 1920.

Conclusion

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church stands out in Moniteau County as a significant local example of the center-steeple church type. As one of only two historic (pre. 1945) examples of the type identified in the survey sampling, it represents an important property type often associated with rural Catholic congregations. It also represents the evolution of the type, which was often derivative of the gable-end church type. Originally a gable-end church, the building shows continued investment by the local congregation in its additions of 1903 that transformed it into a center-steeple church and in the installation of stained glass windows and decorative metal ceilings in 1914.

By itself, the building meets the registration requirements outlined in the MPDF as a significant local example of a property type. It is the associated resources, however, that make the historic district stand out as an increasingly rare example of a rural church complex. Examples of resources historically associated with rural churches—cemeteries, privies, schools and parsonage/rectories—can be found in the county but Assumption is the only complete complex retaining all of its historic satellite resources.

[25] Patrick Steele. "California Commercial District Survey Report," November 8, 2010, http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/survey/MUAS002-R.pdf, accessed August 26, 2013.
[26] Ibid.

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Sprouce, O.E., architect. "Plan of Sanctuary and Sacristy." California, MO, 1903. On file with Jim Imhoff, California, MO.

Steele, Patrick. "California Commercial District Survey Report," November 8, 2010, http://www.dnr.mo.gov/shpo/survey/MUAS002-R.pdf, accessed August 26, 2013.

Verbal Boundary Description:

All that part of the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 46, Range 15, Moniteau County, Missouri, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 4; thence North 140 yards; thence West 70 yards; thence South 140 yards; thence East 70 yards to the point of beginning.

Also, all that part of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 46, Range 15, Moniteau County, Missouri more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 4; thence South 70 yards; thence West 70 yards; thence North 70 yards; thence East 70 yards to the point of beginning. Except that part South of the Public Road leading from Jamestown to Pisgah, as the same is now located.

The church property equals 2.5 acres as described above.

The Rectory property boundary description is

Two acres of land, more or less, part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 46 North, Range 15 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of said quarter quarter section and running East 600 feet, thence south 145 feet 6 inches, thence West 600 feet to the West line of said quarter quarter section, thence North 145 feet 6 inches to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundaries as described contains the church, school, privy, cemetery, and rectory for a total of 4.5 +/- acres of the original 5.5 +/- acre property. The boundaries include all of the contributing resources associated with this rural church complex, though not all of the land historically associated with the church. Excluded land does not retain any significant district related resources and is currently under separate ownership.

Figure 1. Geographic Data Map

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District
Jameston vic., Moniteau County, Missouri
Lat: 38.773662
Long: -92.568050

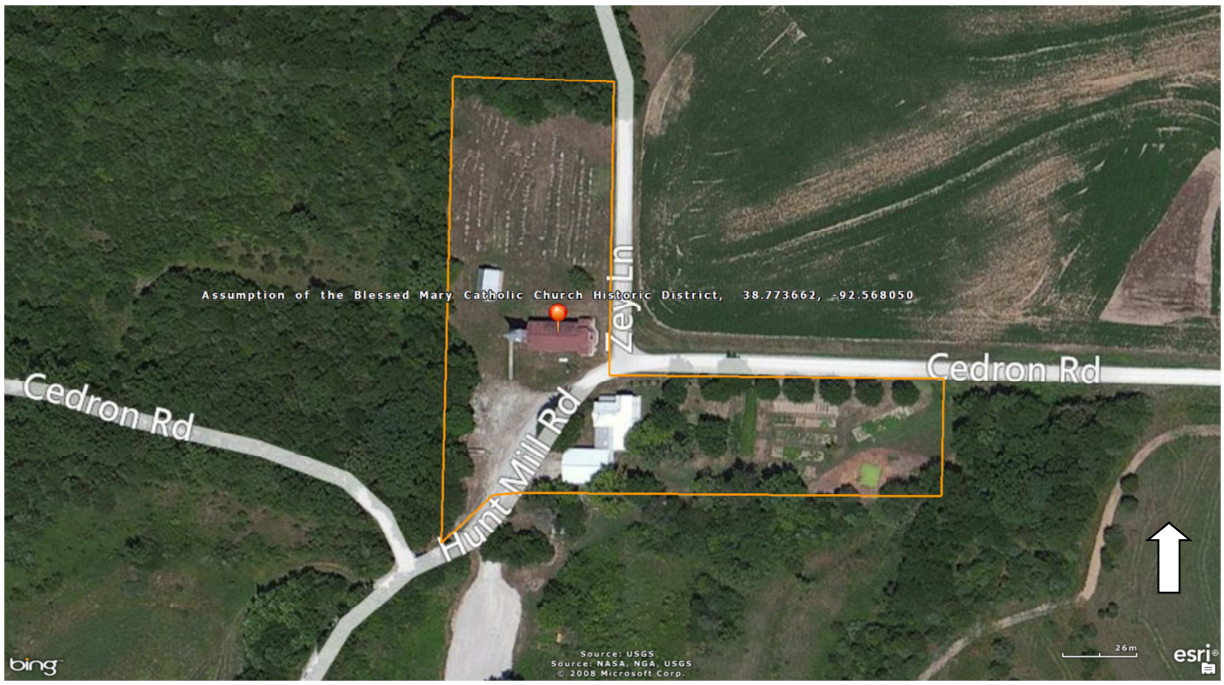


Figure 2: Location Map: Showing Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District in relation to nearest towns and major roadways.

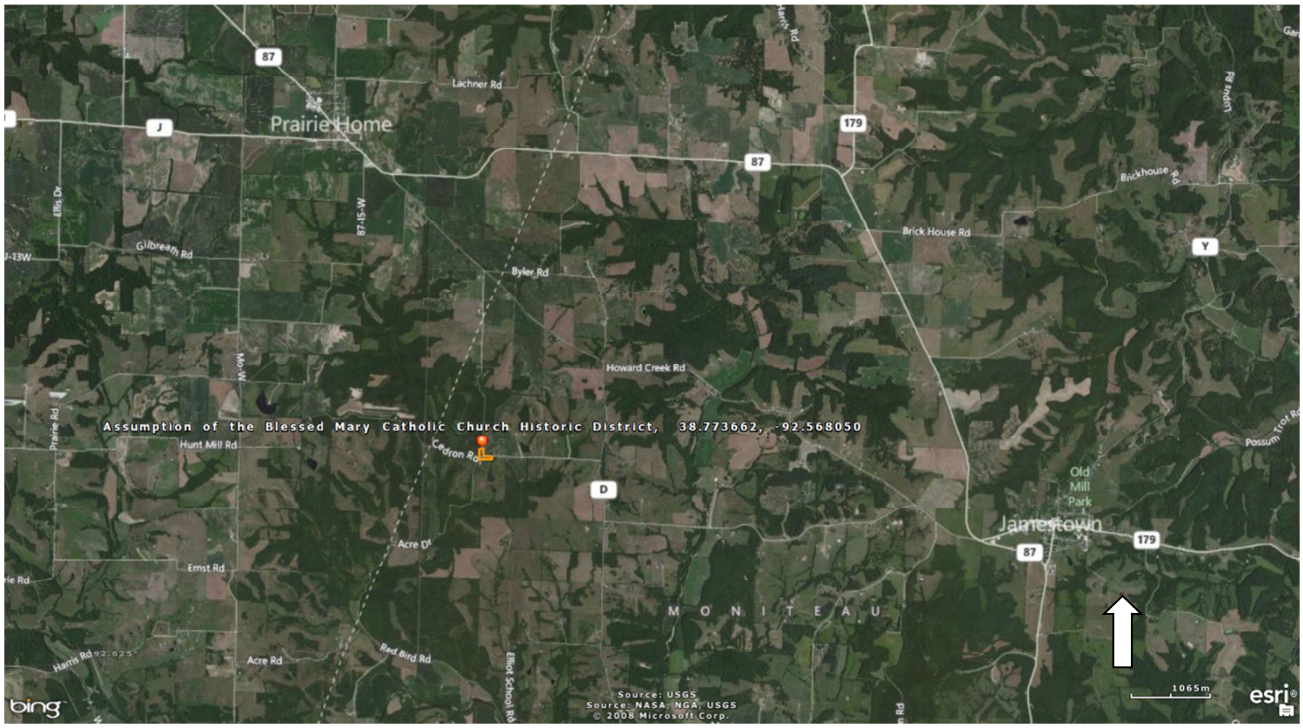
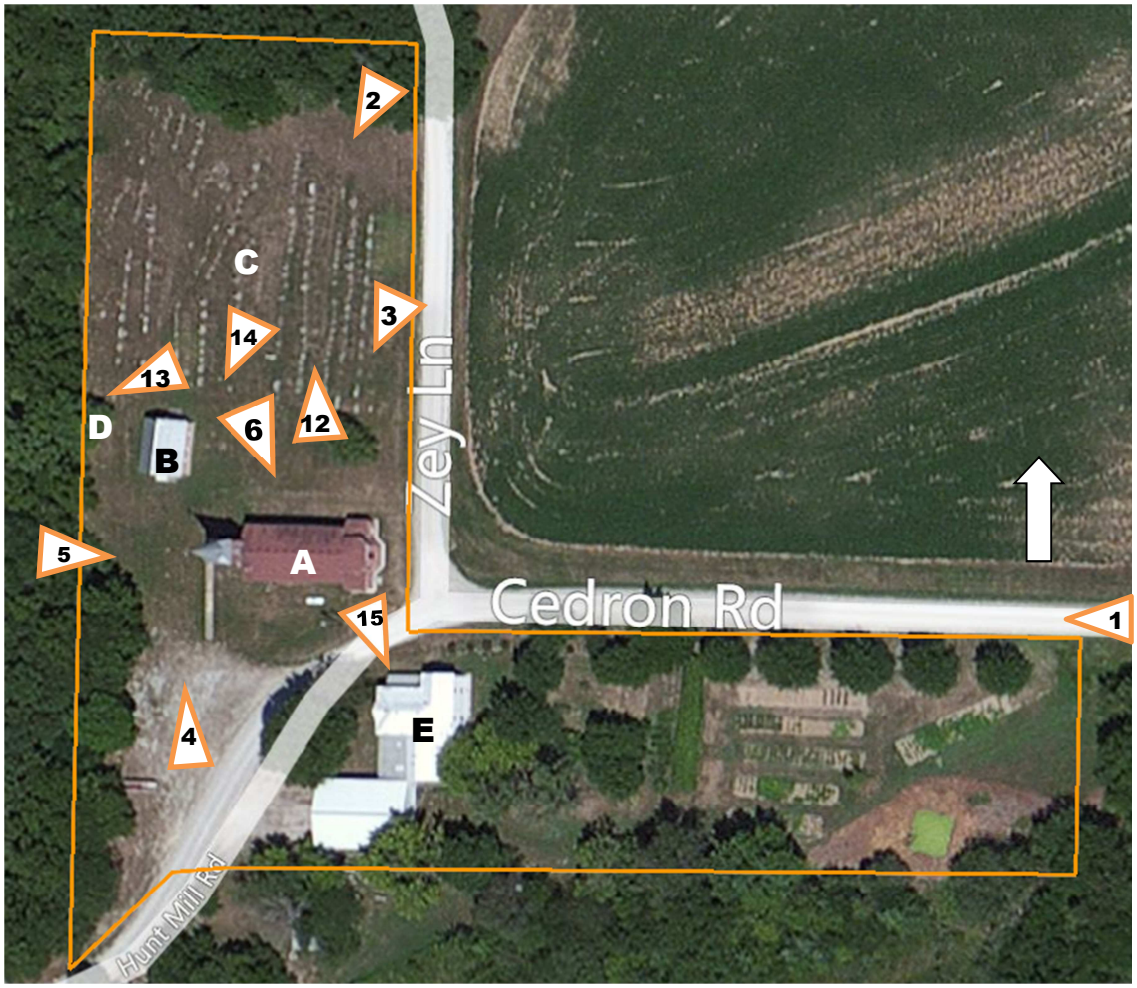


Figure 3: Site Plan and Exterior Photo Angles, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Historic District



A. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, contributing
B. Assumption School, contributing
C. Assumption Cemetery, contributing
D. Privy, contributing
E. Rectory, contributing

1 Exterior Photo Angles

Figure 4: Plan of Sanctuary and Sacristy with photo angles added, O.E. Sprouce, 1903.

1 Interior Photo Angles

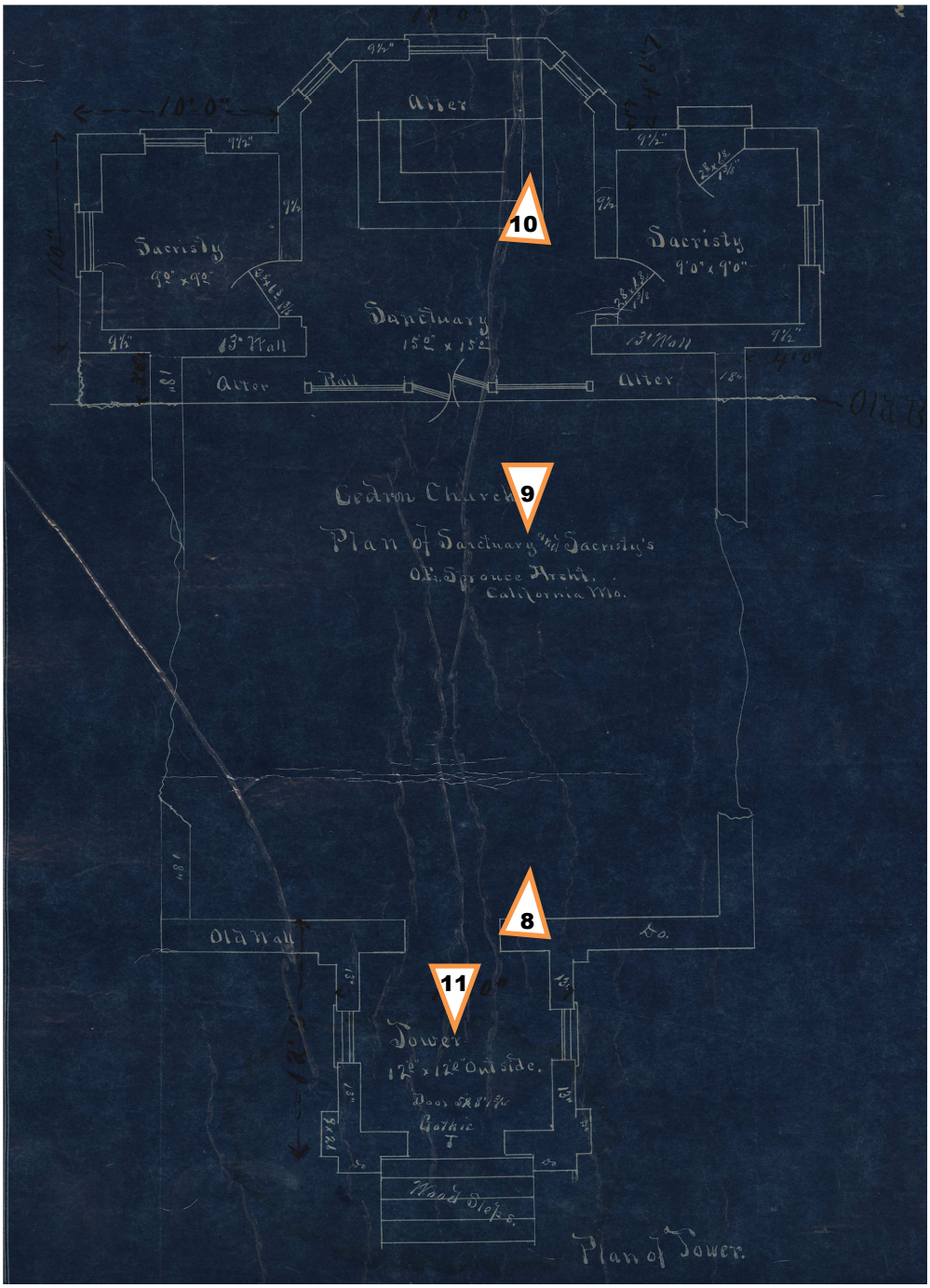


Figure 5: Cross Section at altar rail, O.E. Sprouce, 1903.

Figure 6: Historic photograph of Assumption Catholic Church, c. 1888

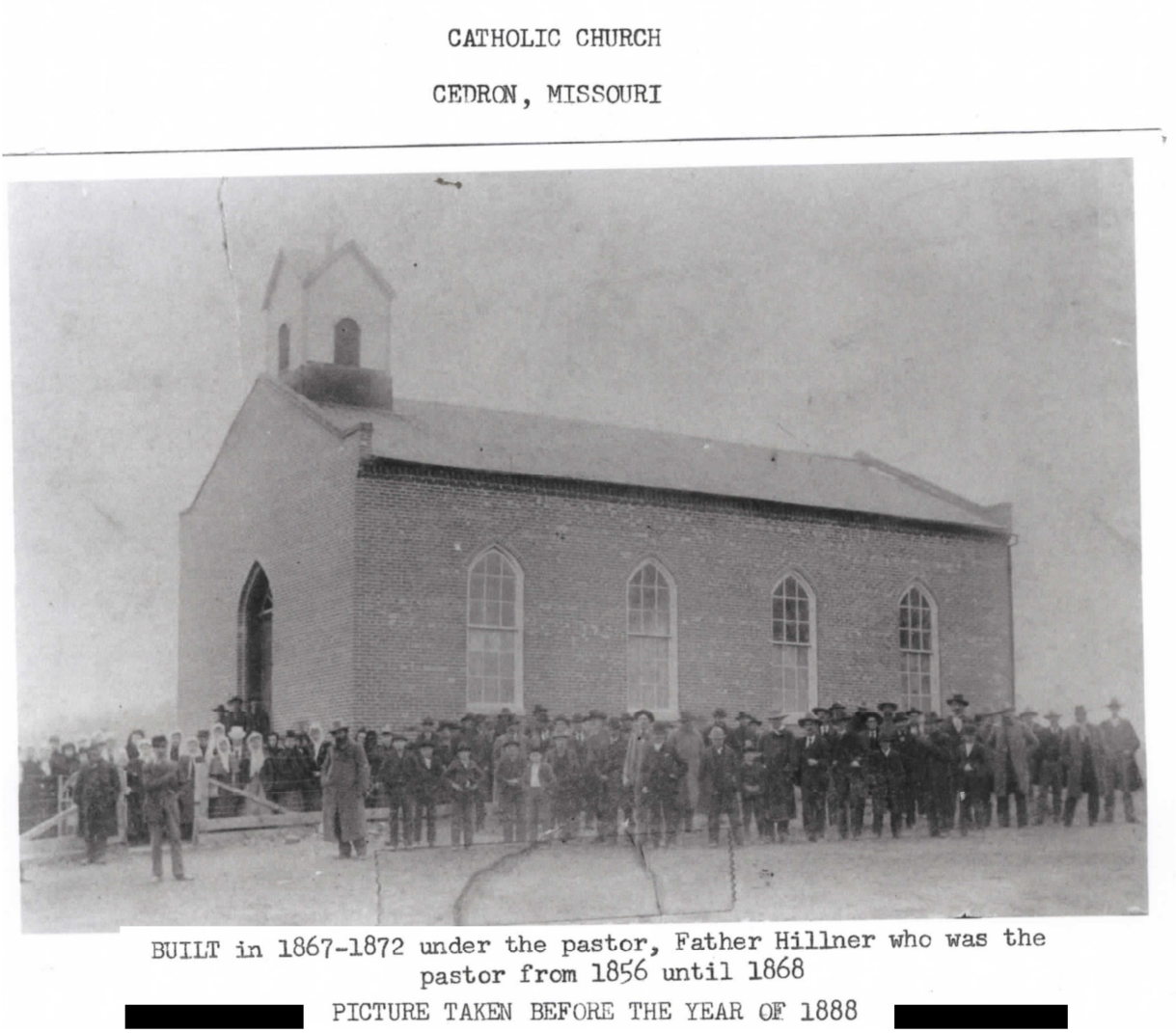


Figure 7: Historic photo of Assumption Church and School, c. 1930

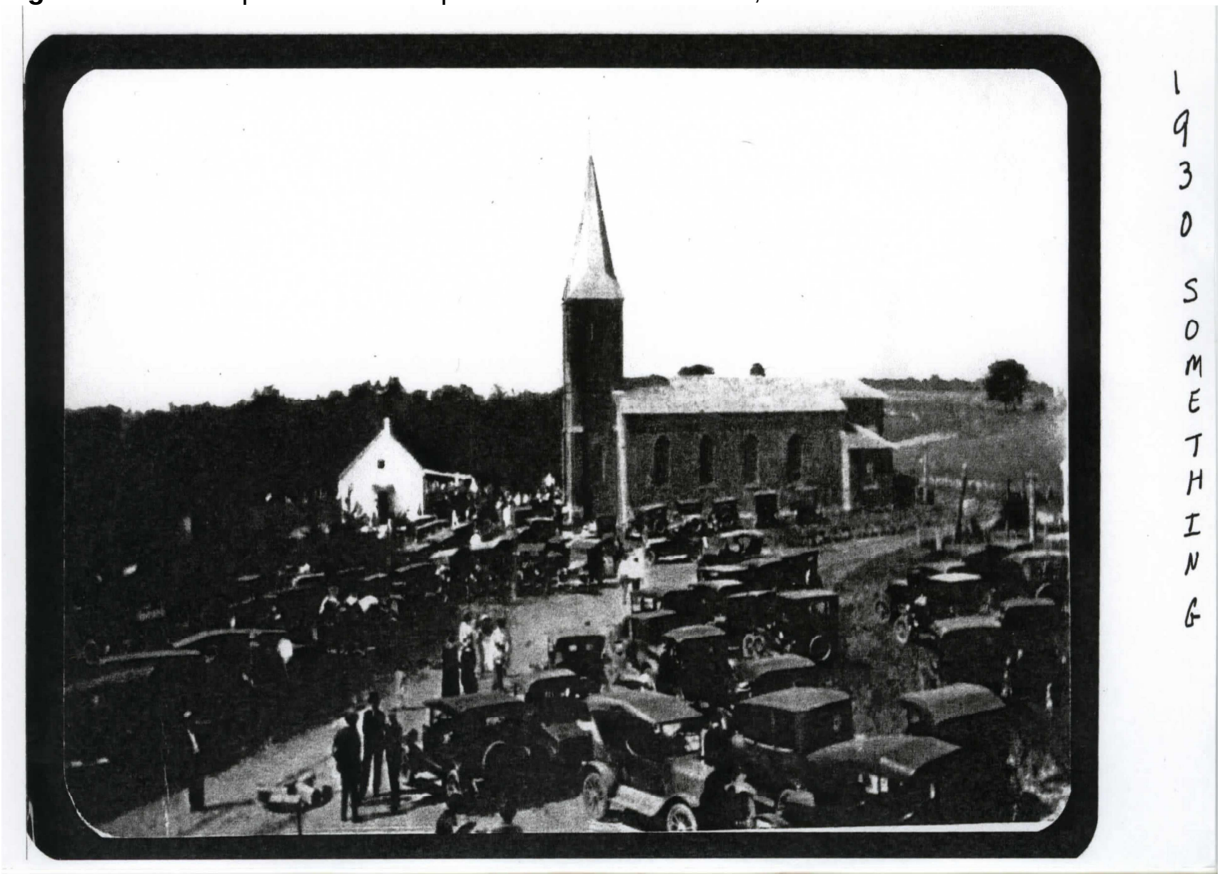


Figure 8: Historic photo of School, 1911

1911
School House Cedron, Mo.

Figure 9: Historic Photo of Rectory, c. 1940

Chas. and Wm. Scheidt

IHS
Gloria Patris Angelorum
Peter, Jos. and Cath. Felder