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

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OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 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 St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Rectory

Other names/site number St. Francis Xavier Church

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

2. Location

Street & number 7319 Route M | N/A | not for publication

City or town Taos | N/A | vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Cole Code 051 Zip code 65101

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

Toni M. Prawl 01/26/16

Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., 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:)

for Carson H. Beall 3.22.16

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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.)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	**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-related residence

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: Religious facility
Religion: Church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Brick
Stone
roof: Asphalt
other: Metal

X **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

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

1883

1923

Significant Dates

1883

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Vogdt, W.

Binder, Fred H.

Ludewig, Frank

Dreisoerner, Henry

[x] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION 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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3.2 acres

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

	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
1	38.507898	-92.068915	3		
2			4		

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger L. Jungmeyer, Ph.D., Professor of History, Lincoln University; Tiffany Patterson (additional research & writing)
organization _____ date September 2015
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: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Rectory

City or Vicinity: Taos

County: Cole County State: Missouri

Photographer: Samuel Schnieders

Date Photographed: June/July 2015

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

1 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church and School, looking southwest.
2 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church, south and west elevations, looking northeast.
3 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church, east elevation, looking northwest.
4 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church, north elevation, looking southeast.
5 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church, interior, looking northeast.
6 of 8: St. Francis Xavier Church, interior, looking southwest.
7 of 8: Rectory, northwest elevation, looking southeast.
8 of 8: Rectory, southeast elevation, looking northwest.

Figure Log:

Figure 1: Current floor plan, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Figure 2: Current floor plan, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Rectory
Figure 3: Historic photo with old rock church (second church) and St. Francis Xavier Church in background
Figure 4: Historic photo of church and school, c. 1900
Figure 5: Historic photo of church, c. 1955
Figure 6: Historic photo of church interior, c. 1895
Figure 7: Historic photo of school, c. 1921
Figure 8: Historic photo of rectory, 1954
Figure 9: St. Francis Xavier Church and rectory (right) and school (left), c. 1957
Figure 10: Location Map
Figure 11: National Register Boundary Map and photo key

Summary:

The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Rectory are located at 7319 Route M in Taos, Cole County, Missouri. The National Register boundary coincides with the legal parcels for the church and rectory, which total approximately 3.25 acres. The brick church building (1883) 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, and has Romanesque Revival architectural details. The building's tall tower with steeply pitched steeple roof gives the building a sense of verticality and its rounded arched window and door openings are typical of the Romanesque Revival style. The church was constructed in 1883 from specifications by the architects and builder, W. Vogdt and Fred H. Binder. The Rectory, located immediately to the north of the church was completed in 1923 from designs by Ludewig & Dreisoerner. The design may have been influenced by medieval German architecture as there are cross gables, bands of narrow windows and some faux half timbering at the peaks of the gables. In the broadest sense, the building could also be considered Tudor Revival in style due to these same characteristics. There have been additions to both buildings, notably the construction of comparably small additions to the rear of the church and a garage addition to the Rectory. Windows in the rectory and entrance doors to the church have also been replaced by modern fenestration. These changes do not significantly impact the character of the buildings, and they retain sufficient integrity to convey their architectural significance.

Setting:

The St. Francis Xavier Church and Rectory are located in Taos, a community of 878 in a rural area in eastern Cole County, near the Osage River and the border of Osage County (figure 10).[1] The land surrounding the church property is either agricultural or limited residential. The legal parcel southeast of Route M on which the church and rectory are situated is 3.25 acres in size (photo 1 and figure 11). Grassy lawns flank the long east and west sides of the church and rectory, with some trees located near corners. In addition to the church and rectory, the lot contains a large asphalt parking lot to the south and east. Sidewalks connect the parking to the church and extend to the rectory. To the east of the church property are agricultural fields and pastures. Along Route M to the northeast and southwest are residential properties.

Across Route M to the west are St. Francis Xavier School and the former convent (now parish offices) on a 2.9 acre lot. The school and its additions are tightly bunched at the south end of the lot and fronted by sidewalks. The school sits very close to Highway M with a narrow landscaped area fronting the building. To the northeast is a large concrete parking lot that separates the school from the parish office building. Behind the parking lot (to the west) is a playground with modern play structure and a line of swings. A small building once housing city

[1] Tiffany Patterson, *"Rural Church Architecture in Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945."* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011. The MPDF defines rural as towns of less than 2,500, or unincorporated areas of less than 10,000 population. Rural can also be described, per the MPDF, as areas with less than 1,000 residents per square mile.

waterworks sits below the grade of the playground/parking area. Beyond the church property is additional agricultural land up to the Moreau River at the city limits of Jefferson City. This area is either cultivable land or wooded area and likely reflects the historic appearance of the landscape at the time the nominated church and rectory were constructed. About 1.5 miles to the northeast of the St. Francis Xavier property is the town of Schubert, which contains St. John's Lutheran Church, parsonage and cemetery. To the south of the St. Francis Xavier property along Route M are the church's two associated cemeteries. A 0.66 acre c. 1849 cemetery is located approximately 1/10 of a mile to the southwest of the church and a 2.71 acre c. 1888 active cemetery is located about 6/10s of a mile to the southwest. Residences, a fire station, and businesses are located along Route M in the intervening space between the church and the cemeteries.

Individual Resource Descriptions:

St. Francis Xavier Church photos 1-6.

Exterior:
Construction of the church was completed in 1883 from specifications by the architects and builder, W. Vogdt and Fred H. Binder. The church is best categorized as a center steeple church type as described in the "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945" Multiple Property Documentation Form.[2] It is a brick, center steeple building measuring forty-two (42) feet in width by one hundred twenty-one (121) feet in length including the nave and apse. The foundation is of stone and brick exterior walls are twenty-two (22) inches thick. The main block of the building has a gabled asphalt shingle roof and, a one hundred ninety (190) foot centered tower. The building, which faces southwest, is fronted by a large stone retaining wall that provides stair and wheelchair access to the entrance from the parking lot. The retaining wall is lined by a cast metal fence (see photo 2). The retaining wall, steps, and cast metal fence were added in 2005.

Characteristic of the type, the most prominent feature of the church is the bell tower centered on the south façade (photos 2 & 3). The tower projects 20 feet from the main block of the church and is 190 feet in height. The height measurement includes the polygonal steeple covered by metal roofing and topped by a cross. Each side of the steeple has a slightly projecting gable at the base. The tower serves as the entrance foyer to the church. The primary entrance is located in an opening with three successive recessed arches, each the depth of one brick. The modern paired aluminum frame entrance doors have a single-pane aluminum frame transom. The rounded arch is filled with a glass block cross surrounded by herringbone pattern brick. Above the entrance arch is small marble plaque carved with the construction date of the church (A.D. 1883). Thin, stepped brick buttresses begin at both sides of the entrance and continue up the corners of the central tower and terminate at its third level. Secondary entrances (aluminum framed glass doors) are located in one-story shed roof wings to either side of the center steeple. These too are located in slightly recessed round arched openings (three successive arches)

[2] Patterson, F.5.

with the arches filled with herringbone pattern brick. The second level of the bell tower has a tall Palladian window with the two side windows separated from the center by brick pilasters and topped by corbeled brick arches. Multi-pane storm windows cover multi-light stained glass windows. The stained glass in these windows is not figural, but instead contains rectangular colored glass panes. Above the windows is an elaborate brickwork pattern in the shape of a gable. The gable is dentilated, and below the dentils is a pattern reminiscent of upside down crenellations or scrolled woodwork on the eaves of Carpenter Gothic buildings. The third level contains the belfry with wide brick arches. Within each arch is a slightly recessed brick wall containing round arch wood vents. The belfry contains three bells cast by the Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry of St. Louis, Missouri, dating from 1893. Each bell is of a different size and has its own name. The largest, Henry, weighs 2,000 pounds; the middle bell, Francis Xavier, is 1,300 pounds; and the smallest is John, weighing 800 pounds.

To either side of the tower, the primary façade has a dentilated cornice and brickwork similar to that seen on the faux gable on the tower. Each corner is marked by a brick buttress that extends just beyond the roof line. Each “step” of the buttresses is capped by stone and topped by a modern metal cap. Each side also has a round arch window located above the tower’s shed roof side extensions. These leaded stained glass windows are similar in design to those in the tower and are also covered by modern storm windows. They sit on stone lentils that extend from the corner buttresses to the central tower.

The main, gable roofed block of the building that houses the nave, is rectangular in plan. The east and west elevations are nearly identical (see photos 2 & 3). The brick walls are laid in an American common bond pattern. Both the east and west walls are divided into five bays by buttresses. As with the corner buttresses, these too have stone caps at each “step.” Brickwork at the cornice line between the buttresses is arcaded. Each bay has round arched windows with header course lintels and concrete sills. The windows are stained glass with religious themes, though the details are somewhat obscured on the exterior due to the installation of Plexiglas storm windows. The wall below the windows of the second bay from the south elevation on each side projects from the primary wall plane. This is reflective of insets on the interior of the building for religious artwork or artifacts. At the north end, the sacristy projects from the main block.

The north elevation is dominated by the apse and sacristy, though some architectural details can be seen at the parapetted gable. The squared peak of the parapet has two recessed crosses in the brickwork. A metal cross similar to that on the steeple is also attached to the top. Stepped buttresses extend just beyond the roofline at each corner of the main block. The apse extends well beyond the main block of the building, though its polygonal roof is much lower than the parapetted gable wall. The apse has a corbeled cornice and a polygonal (seven sided) footprint. Five of the walls have round arched window openings, though three of them are blind arches. This apse was a later addition constructed in 1905. The back of the building was further extended in c. 1945 with the construction of Reker Hall (photo 4). The hall is one story and surrounds the lower section of the apse. It has a rectangular footprint and flat roof. The basement/foundation is concrete and the walls are brick of a deeper red than the original parts of the building. Though inconsistent with the design of the original church and apse addition,

the addition does not obscure many of the significant architectural details of the apse, such as the roof, cornice or arched window openings.

Interior:
The church entrance is in the tower and is gained through paired exterior doors (see exterior description and figure 1). On the southwest side of the vestibule is located the tomb of Fr. Ferdinand Helias**.** This memorial has a rose granite or marble slab over the tomb with walls of the same material on three sides surrounding the tomb. Above the tomb on the west wall is a stained glass window with an outline map of Belgium, Father Helias' native land, with the inscription IHS. On the north wall of the memorial is a black marble slab with the names of the additional parishes founded by Father Helias. The nave is accessed by paired swinging doors at the central entrance and single doors on either side. These doors access the nave under the balcony, which is a five sided projection supported by four metal columns topped by simple capitals. The balcony is reached by a staircase located to the east of the entrance. The balcony measures 25' by 40' and currently holds the organ with pipes and seating for approximately seventy, including the choir. It is surrounded by a low wood balustrade with decorative panels (see photo 6).

The nave has a high coved ceiling which is thirty-five feet six inches (35' 6") in height. Like the exterior, the walls are divided into five bays by painted pilasters. Each bay contains a stained glass window with operable sashes. In the second bay from the entrance doors are recesses measuring 2' 7" by 8" 8" containing religious statuary. Pews are arranged on either side of a center aisle with narrower side aisles along the east and west walls (see photos 5 & 6).

The five stained glass windows on both the east and west side of the nave depict images that represent important aspects of Catholic beliefs or services. For example: on the east wall are depictions of the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, and Chalice. On the west wall are those windows depicting the Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Ghost, the Assumption, and Crown. Four of the windows on the east are twelve feet in height and four feet wide, the fifth is ten feet six inches in height by four feet in width. On the west, three windows measure twelve feet in height by four feet in width and two windows measuring ten feet six inches in height and four feet in width. Located on the second story of the nave and facing to the southwest are two windows measuring nine feet six inches by three feet six inches. On the east side is a window depicting the horn and on the west, the lyre or harp.

On the north end of the church, a chancel on a raised platform fronts the arched opening to the apse (see photo 5). In the center is the Central High Altar purchased in 1885, constructed by German orphans at the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. This altar measures twenty-six feet in height and thirteen feet in width. To either side of the opening wall are the side altars both measuring nineteen feet in height and eight feet nine inches in width. These were added in 1904, and were also constructed at the Josephinum. To the west side is the St. Francis Xavier Altar, to whom the first church was dedicated. It holds statues of St. Anne (on the west) and Elizabeth of Hungary (to the east). On the east side of the main altar is the St. Francis of Assisi Altar that holds statues of St. Joseph (to the west) and St. Anthony of Padua (to the east side).

Stations of the Cross are located on the east and west walls, and are original to St. Francis Xavier church. They are dated 1887 and were discovered in storage during the 1998 restoration and returned to their original locations.

Features of the apse are the arched stained glass windows on the two canted sides. On the domed ceiling of the central altar is a painting of Christ and the children. On the flanking walls are to the east, paintings of Saints John and Luke and on the west, Saints Matthew and Mark.

Rectory (Contributing):

The two and a half story rectory was constructed in 1923, at a cost of $26,000. Designed by Ludewig and Dreisoerner, the features of the stone building are not strongly indicative of any style (see photos 7 & 8). The design may have been influenced by medieval German architecture as there are cross gables, bands of narrow windows and some faux half timbering at the peaks of the gables. In the broadest sense, the building could also be considered Tudor Revival in style due to these same characteristics. The rectory faces north-northwest and measures twenty-eight feet in width and fifty-two feet in length (figure 2). The height from ground to roof line is twenty-four feet. The building is stone with random sized ashlar blocks laid in long rows. The rectory has a steeply pitched hipped roof with cross gables over two of the asymmetrical bays of the façade. The entrance is located in an off center, slightly projecting bay with gabled wall dormer. A small set of stone steps lead to the entrance that is covered by a flat wood canopy that is supported by two metal tiles. There are also knee braces on the underside of the canopy. All windows on the rectory's primary facade are modern replacements. The entrance is flanked by two 4/4 windows. Above the entrance on the second floor is a band of three 4/4 double hung windows with wood surrounds. A small 4/4 window is located in the peak of the gable underneath faux half timbering with voids filled with brick. To the proper right of the entrance (left to viewer, northeast) is a projecting one-story gabled room with squared bay window containing a band of tall, narrow, 6/8 window sash. To the proper left (right to viewer, southwest) are two asymmetrical bays. The narrower bay contains paired 4/4 windows on each floor. The corner bay is wider and is defined by the wide cross gable at the roof. Windows are similar in design to others on the façade and include a band of three windows on the first floor, a band of four on the second and two small windows near the peak of the gable.

The south elevation has a polygonal bay window centered on the first floor. The bay has a hipped roof. Bands of windows similar in design to the bay windows on the front of the rectory span all sides of the bay. Above and to either side of the bay window, on the second floor, are paired 4/4 (replacement) windows of similar size and shape of other units in the building.

The north elevation also has a projecting bay window on the first floor, this one located off center toward the rear of the house. This bay has a rectangular footprint, hipped roof, and bands of windows identical to those on other elevations of the building. Above the peak of the bay window's roof are paired 4/4 windows on the second floor. A smaller 4/4 window is also located on the second floor near the northwest corner. This elevation also provides the best view of the two car garage addition that was completed sometime between 1947 and 1949. The

flat roofed two car garage is connected to the northeast corner of the house. Like the rectory, it is constructed of stone, though the ashlar blocks appear to be more roughly hewn and the mortar joints less well defined than those on the rectory. The garage addition blends well with the original building and does not obscure any character defining features of the building.

The back (see photo 8) of the rectory has a large centered projecting cross gable with half timbering (voids filled with brick) roughly centered in the elevation. In the gable is a band of four 4/4 windows. Two sets of paired windows mark the second floor, and there is a projecting bay window on the first. To one side is a two story sun porch, possibly a former sleeping porch, that has been covered in modern siding. There are two pairs of 6/6 windows on each floor of this sun porch. North of the center bay, there are paired 4/4 windows on each floor. On this elevation, the basement level is exposed, and there is a projecting shed roof entrance at this level. The door is wood with a large pane of glass over a simple wood panel.

Summary:

The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Rectory are located at 7319 Route M in Taos, Missouri in Cole County. The buildings are locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Though owned by a religious institution, the buildings meet the requirements of Criterion Consideration A as its primary significance is architectural. The church and rectory are nominated for listing in association with the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri c. 1819 to c. 1945." The brick church, constructed in 1883, is a significant example of the center-steeple church type with Romanesque Revival architectural features in rural Cole County. 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 St. Francis Xavier Church is not surprising.[3] This type was also adopted by two other rural parishes in Cole County, though St. Francis Xavier is distinguished by its age and use of Romanesque revival details.[4] The significance of the St. Francis Xavier church is also enhanced by the existence of the revival style rectory. 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. St. Francis Xavier, however has flourished and as a result retains it associated resources including cemeteries established in 1849 and 1888, church (1883) school (1921), rectory (1923), and convent (1958). Due to significant alterations to the school building and other resources however, only the church and rectory are considered for nomination. The nominated church and rectory have two periods of significance: 1883 and 1923. The periods of significance correspond to the construction dates of the church and rectory; later minor additions to both buildings do not negatively affect integrity.

Historic background:

Taos, Missouri, located eight miles east of Jefferson City, the state capitol, was populated mostly by the descendants of Germans and Belgians who settled there in the 1830s. Taos was originally known as Haarville, for Henry and Gertrude Haar who owned land in and around the settlement community. The town later changed its name to Taos, in honor of the many local men of the Second Missouri Volunteers who fought in the Mexican-American War, some in the Battle of Taos. The small settlement was typical of rural crossroads, supporting a general store just south of the church complex.

The town and parish owe much to Jesuit (Society of Jesus or S.J.) Father Ferdinand Benedict Helias D'Huddghem (referred to as Father Helias), who founded the parish and counted it as his home. Helias, born August 3, 1796 in Ghent, Belgium, entered the Jesuit Order, being ordained

[3] Tiffany Patterson, F.6-7.
[4] See multiple property documentation form for definition of rural in evaluating rural church architecture in Missouri.

June 5, 1825. He arrived in the United States, at New York, in May 1833.[5] By 1835 he was in Missouri at St. Louis University and also served as priest to German immigrants. The Church sent Helias to establish a mission headquarters in central Missouri. By May 11, 1838, having traveled up the Missouri River, he arrived at the mouth of the Osage River. There, at a site called Cote-Sans Dessein he offered Mass in the home of a Mr. LeBlanc. He also went to New Westphalia, about 8.0 miles southeast of Taos, holding mass in a log church located there. After a brief time there, Father Helias moved on to a small settlement in Cole County, later to become known as Taos. At that location he held Mass in the home of Herman Nieters, on May 28th, 1838.[6] The immigrant families in the area then came together and organized a local parish, St. Francis Xavier.[7] Approximately twenty families in this group continued to meet in the Nieters home until they could build a church.

Due to his extensive missionary work, especially in Central Missouri, Father Ferdinand Benedict Helias D'Huddghem (Father Helias) is referred to as the "Apostle of Central Missouri." In central Missouri, he established seven parishes between 1838 and 1845: Taos, Jefferson City, Westphalia, Rich Fountain, St. Thomas, Loose Creek, and Cedron. St. Francis Xavier parish at Taos was the third of these. Additional parishes developed as a result of his work and are located at various small towns throughout the area including: Vienna, Freeburg, Koeltztown, Argyle, St. Elizabeth, Mary's Home, Folk, Brinktown, Meta, Osage Bend, Wardsville, and St. Anthony. Father Helias was also the first known cleric to attend to the spiritual needs of inmates of the Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City.

While a prolific missionary, Father Helias devoted much of his life to the St. Francis Xavier Parish. Helias led the congregation as they built a small log church in 1840, followed just five years later by a substantial stone building. The congregation laid the cornerstone for the second church building on April 6, 1844, and had the church ready for occupation on May 11, 1845 (figure 3). This second church was largely built and furnished through the generosity of Father Helias' mother Marie Helias D'Huddghem, Countess of Lens. Her contributions and others recorded from the years 1839 to 1854 are: from Marie D'Huddghem and/or family, $1,954.10; from the Bishop Barret of Liege $715.00; from the Society of Lyons, $100.00. Other individuals from Ghent, Belgium, Helias' birthplace, may have contributed as well.[8] In addition to building a new church, the congregation also sought to care for other needs in the parish, purchasing a 1.5 acre lot from John Eck in 1849 for use as a cemetery.

Father Helias died August 11, 1874, at the age of 80, at Taos having spent thirty-six years there. He was buried in the parish church cemetery at Taos. His grave was marked by a marble stone inscribed: "Here lies the Reverend Ferdinand Helias; born August 3, 1796; died August 11, 1874,

[5] *History of St. Francis Xavier Church, Taos, Missouri, 1838-1988, Illustrated*, St. Francis Xavier Sesquicentennial Committee, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1988, page 12.
[6] Ibid., p. 13.
[7] Ibid., p. 13.
[8] Huelsman, Fr. Willam, *History of St. Francis Xavier Parish of Taos, Cole Co., Mo. Fr. William Huelsman, Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Church, August 10, 1920*. (two page handwritten report).

RIP." His remains were exhumed February 29, 1964, and re-interred inside the Church on May 30, 1964.[9] The original grave stone remains in the cemetery where his remains were originally interred. Many of Helias's personal possessions and materials related to the period of his missionary work and the early history of St. Francis Xavier parish are located in the church, in a small museum established in 1988 under the direction of Father John Condit, then pastor.

Development of the Church Complex

Church

Father Ferdinand Benedict Helias D'Huddghem was the father of St. Francis Xavier Parish and saw it through its earliest period of growth. It was after his death in 1874, however, that the parish buildings as they are today began to take shape. Immediately after the death of Helias, St. Francis Xavier parish had no resident pastor for several months, but was attended temporarily by various priests. Among those serving the parish were Father Michael Haering, S.J., and Father Henry Schrage, assistant at St. Peter Church in Jefferson City. In 1875, the Rev. John Gruender was transferred from Koeltztown to Taos. He remained there until 1885.[10] Father Gruender worked to improve the parish including a school building and hiring a teacher for the school. In 1881, plans began for building a new church for the growing congregation. This third church was completed in 1883, dedicated in 1884, and continues to serve the congregation today.

The parish contracted with W. Vogdt, mason, and Fred H. Binder, architect and builder, to design and build the present church. Binder appears to be closely connected with Catholic Church construction in Cole County, and his selection may have had something to do with other ongoing projects in neighboring parishes. At the same time that St. Francis Xavier was under construction, Binder was also working on the new St. Peter Church (1881-1883) in Jefferson City as the building contractor (St. Peter's design was by Adolph Druiding).[11] The contract for the two men (Binder and Vogdt) lays out some of the specifications for the new building. Per the document, the walls were to be two bricks thick and set on a foundation constructed of rock from a nearby quarry. The tower was to be three bricks thick at the base to the third tier and two bricks thick above. The extra thickness at the bottom was required to support the height of the tower. The contract required that the exterior work be completed by November 1882.[12]

The Jefferson City Diocese dedicated the new St. Francis Xavier Church on September 20, 1884. Total cost of construction was $11,000. Like the St. Peter Catholic Church in Jefferson City, also

[9] *History of St. Francis Xavier Church, Taos, Missouri, 1838-1988, Illustrated*, St. Francis Xavier Sesquicentennial Committee, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1988, page 23.
[10] Ibid, p. 25
[11] *"Early Years," St. Peter Catholic Church*. http://www.stpeterjc.org/stpeterchurch.nsf/LinksView/4831D03D257C7FD486256F2D0050DB2E?Opendocument. Accessed 7/7/2015.
[12] *Contract for the Mason Work for the Catholic Church in Liberty Township, Cole County, Mo.*, W. Vogdt, February 4, 1882. and Fred H. Binder, Architect, Contractor, and Builder, February 13, 1883.

built by Fred Binder, the building is a large brick center steeple building. In contrast to St. Peter, however, the architectural details of St. Francis Xavier are more Romanesque than Gothic. The large steeple-bell towers of both churches, however, were outfitted with multiple bells from the Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry in St. Louis. The St. Francis Xavier bells were installed at a cost of $1,000 in 1893.[13]

Father Joseph Schmidt became pastor at St. Francis Xavier in 1885 and it was under his direction that many additions were made to the interior of the building (figure 6). Fr. Schmidt oversaw the installation of new pews and a high altar. This altar was constructed at the Josephinum in Ohio at a cost of $600. The Josephinium, now the Pontifical College Josephinium, was an orphanage that began in 1875 for orphaned boys. It was a trade school providing training in printing, church furniture construction, tailoring, shoe repair, baking, and farming. After 1877 it was located in Columbus, Ohio and remains in existence today. The Ladies Sodality donated (c. 1886) Stations of the Cross and pulpit for the church.[14] In 1888, a new cemetery site was acquired. In 1893, the bells (previously mentioned) were added to the bell tower, and the parish installed a thirteen-register Hinners pipe organ in 1898.

The early 1900s saw additional changes to the interior and exterior of the building (figure 4). In 1904, the church installed the St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis Xavier altars. These too were constructed by German orphans at the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio at a cost of $400. In 1905 an additional sacristy was built. Also, at that time a furnace room was added underneath the sacristy. This meant the stoves in the church could be removed.[15] In 1955 the church was renovated at a cost of $72,000, including new windows installed to replace those which had deteriorated (figure 5). The church was repainted and carpeted in 1974. Another major restoration project was completed in 1984 at a cost of $300,000. The restoration and decoration was overseen by Schettler Studios of Carroll, Iowa.

More recently, 1998 saw the completion of yet another major restoration and preservation effort. A restoration consultant was hired and a complete evaluation of the structure was undertaken. The exterior brick of the church was tuck pointed and waterproofed. The interior of the church was also restored with the removal of several layers of paint. This led to the evaluation of early photographs and stencils to determine proper restoration. The restoration included significant painting and stenciling in bringing the church to its original design. In the restoration for the interior, the darker colors were placed lower toward the floor with lighter colors gradually rising from floor to ceiling. More neutral colors were used for the larger areas with accent colors of blue, teal, and terra cotta corresponding with those found in the windows. Stencil work on the walls uncovered during the renovation was re-incorporated in both the sanctuary and narthex.

[13] Schmidt, Joseph Henry, *The Yearly History of The Catholic Church and Congregation in Taos, in Cole County in the State of Missouri, United States of America, as compiled and written by Joseph Henry Schmidt, Rector of the Mission, 1894, hereafter continued*. (this report continues through February, 1916).
[14] Ibid.
[15] Ibid.

The apse is painted to signify one of the stars of heaven. In the apse the larger more unique star signifying the "Morning Star" or Christ Star is placed on the eastern side of the dome. In addition the pews and kneelers were recovered and new carpeting was installed.[16]

The School and rectory

As with the church, Father Gruender also saw the growth of the St. Francis Xavier parish school. When the new church building opened in 1884, the parish converted the old church into a parish school and teacher's residence. Classes were first taught by Professor Herman Roesch, later replaced for a short period (1903-1908) by the Sisters of St. Francis from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When the Franciscan Sisters left, the Misses Catherine Fechtel and Rose Castrop took up the responsibility as teachers. In 1915 Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word came to teach in the school.[17] They served until 1988.

Fr. William Huelsmann became the pastor in 1918 and served until 1926. During his pastorate there was construction of a new school building (figure 7) and parish rectory (figure 8). Though neither building has a strong association with any common architectural style, they are of similar materials and have common features. The architects may have been striving to reflect a medieval German architectural influence through half-timbered elements, prominent wall gables and other features. The architectural firm of [Frank] Ludwig and and [Henry] Dreisoerner of St. Louis had extensive experience designing Catholic churches and related institutional buildings in Missouri and Illinois, some of which have been described as "German Gothic."[18] The School was to be completed in the Fall of 1920 and the Rectory in the Spring of 1921 (figure 9). The total cost for the two buildings was $35,000.[19] The stone building that once was the pastor's residence became the Sisters' convent until 1958 when it was replaced with new construction.

The rectory and school building campaign may have been a little too ambitious for the rural congregation as by 1926, the congregation was unable to pay the debt on the buildings. Father William Ebert oversaw transitioning the school into a state-supported institution. This effort was completed in 1935 through cooperation of the county superintendent of schools and required no change in teaching staff. Bus transportation also provided for children living more than two miles from school.[20] In 1936, the 9th and 10th grades were added to the school curriculum. In

[16] *Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Church* (brochure upon completion of restoration, 1998), St. Francis Xavier Church, 1998, p. 9, inside back cover.
[17] History *of St. Francis Xavier Church, Taos, Missouri, 1838-1938, Illustrated*, St. Francis Xavier Sesquicentennial Committee, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1988, p. 30
[18] In addition to St. Francis Xavier, Ludewig and Dreisoerner also designed St. John Catholic Church and School in Covington, KY; and buildings associated with Holy Family parish in the Oak Hill neighborhood of St. Louis, MO. Frank A. Ludewig was also the architect of the Josephinum College, Columbus, OH. Frank M. Ludewig and Donald M. Schlegel, "Notes on the Life of Frank A. Ludewig The Architect of the Josephinum College." Bulletin of the Catholic Record Society*, Vol. V, No. 5., pp. 411–413.*
[19] *Bid specifications,* Ludewig and Dreisoerner, Architects, St. Louis, MO, March 12, 1920.
[20] *History of St. Francis Xavier Church, Taos, Missouri, 1838-1938, Illustrated*, St. Francis Xavier Sesquicentennial Committee, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, p. 73.

1940, as the 11th and 12th grades were added the first high school graduation also took place in that same year. The facility for the high school became too small and in 1949, the high school was closed and students moved to Westphalia, eight miles distant. The Rev. Bernard H. Mers succeeded Father Reker as pastor and served from 1949-1961. During this time he managed the transition of the grade school from a public school back to being a parochial school. This was completed in 1952.

In April, 1963, Monsignor Gerard Poelker became pastor of the parish. During his tenure a new addition to the school was begun with a gymnasium, recreation hall, and four classrooms. A larger gymnasium was completed in 1975. Father John Condit arrived in 1977 and served until 1994. During this time the school became a priority with classrooms added; renovation of the old gymnasium into Helias Hall; and starting a kindergarten in 1978.[21] For the school, 1987 would mark the first time in 73 years that the school did not have a Sister of the Incarnate Word as principal.

Rural Church Architecture and Complexes in Cole County:

Outside of Jefferson City, there has been no systematic survey of residential, commercial, institutional or religious architecture in Cole County. Some reference to historic churches, including photographs of buildings inside and outside the county seat and largest community, Jefferson City, can be found on the website of the Cole County Historical Society.[22] This source included photographs of 30 church buildings spanning Jewish, Protestant and Catholic congregations. Of these, five (including St. Francis Xavier in Taos), were examples of the Center Steeple church type. The list and photographs excluded two other known rural Catholic Parish church buildings and complexes: St. Stanislaus in Wardsville, and St. Martins in St. Martins. Of these, only one (St. Stanislaus) is a Center Steeple church type, for a total of six known examples in Cole County.

All six known examples of the Center Steeple Church type in Cole County are associated with either Lutheran or Catholic churches. All also represented German immigrant congregations, or congregations consisting largely of Missouri-Germans. Only five of the six examples can be classified as “rural” based on the definition provided in the “Rural Church Architecture in Missouri” MPDF. These include:

- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Taos
- St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Wardsville
- Zion Lutheran Church, Jefferson City vic. (National Register Listed, 11/15/2000)
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Honey Creek
- St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schubert

[21] Ibid. p. 73
[22] See, *“Cultural Resources”* Tab, http://www.colecohistsoc.org/home.html. Accessed 7/7/2015.

Of the known examples, there is a distinct difference between those associated with Catholic parishes and those built for Lutheran congregations. The difference is in size, decoration, and in the complexity of the building footprints. The Lutheran church examples tend to be smaller and less elaborately decorated, though some stylistic elements such as Gothic or round-arched windows are found in all examples. The footprints of the Lutheran churches also tend to be less complex, usually a simple rectangle with projecting enter steeple. The more regular footprints represents a difference in the liturgy and practice of the church service. The Catholic church examples have apses, sacristies and other features that are important to the workings of the mass that are not required in Lutheran church services. These practices, in turn, impact the design of the buildings within the umbrella church type.

Both St. Francis Xavier and St. Stanislaus Catholic churches are good local examples of the historic center-steeple church type, though each represents a different aspect of the type in rural Missouri. The research on type completed for the "Rural Church Architecture in Missouri" MPDF noted that many churches of the center steeple type were second or third generation churches for the congregation, notably among Catholic Parishes. The type reflected the growth of the church and the relative prosperity of its congregants. St. Francis Xavier's history parallels this trend and the current church is the third to house the congregation. By contrast, the construction of the St. Stanislaus Church in Wardsville came just one year after the creation of the parish in 1880. This occurred approximately 40 years after Father Helias established St. Francis Xavier in Taos. The church building was begun on September 7, 1881[23], and finished a year or so afterward.

St. Francis Xavier and St. Stanislaus churches are also examples of the Romanesque Revival style, though they express different traditions within the style. St. Stanislaus is a large stone building with brick detailing between the multi-story arches on the tower and along the sides of the building. Its use of large stone block construction, smaller openings in the tower and belfry, and lower pitched roof on the steeple are more reflective of the Richardsonian Romanesque which is a stylistically "heavier" style. Richardsonian Romanesque buildings commonly show a mix of brick and stone, with an emphasis on the use of ashlar block stonework similar to what is seen on St. Stanislaus. In contrast, St. Francis Xavier is predominantly of brick construction with only minor stone accents. Its steeply pitched steeple and roofline, decorative brickwork along the cornice line that has vaguely Gothic details, and tall narrow windows give the building a more vertical emphasis.

Both of these rural Catholic churches have associated buildings, including school and rectory or convent. The school and rectory at St. Stanislaus are much newer than those at St. Francis Xavier (c. 1958), likely reflecting the relative age of the parish in comparison. They also lack the relative architectural sophistication of those found at St. Francis Xavier, reflected in its elements of medieval German residential design. The St. Stanislaus Rectory, for example, is a simple two story brick home with gable roof and asymmetrically arranged windows and door openings. The brick school has a broad front with low pitched hipped roof and cross gables. Its low-pitch

[23] *"Mission and Philosophy," St. Stanislaus School,* http://school.ststan.net/mission-philosophy/. Accessed 7/7/2015.

gabled entrance porches and low slung roofline give the school a vaguely Craftsman appearance. Like the school at St. Francis Xavier, the St. Stanislaus school also saw multiple additions after its construction in 1958, including additions in 1978, 1997, and 2002.[24] St. Stanislaus is also a much more compact district, with the church in the middle flanked on either side by the associated buildings. The sprawling nature of the St. Francis Xavier district may be indicative of its age and evolution from log building in 1840 to large parish district by the early 1960s.

Conclusion

Though the Center Steeple church type is relatively more plentiful in Cole County than in some of its neighboring counties, St. Francis Xavier Parish district still stands out as a significant local example of the church type and as a rural church complex as discussed in the MPDF. It represents an important property type often associated with rural Catholic congregations, and retains many of the property types historically associated with rural churches: rectory, convent, school, and two cemeteries. By itself, the church building meets the registration requirements outlined in the MPDF as a significant local example of a center steeple church property type. It is the associated resources, however, that make St. Francis Xavier 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 St. Francis Xavier may be one of the most complete.

[24] Ibid.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Church and Rectory: 3.25 acre tract: BEG 790 & 340 W of NE COR NENW6 SW ALONG M 390 (S) SE 130 NE 50 SE 150 NE 132 SE 126 NE 351

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundaries as described correspond to legal parcels and contain the church and rectory on 3.25 acres of land in Taos, Cole County, Missouri.

Figure 1: Current Floor Plan, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Source: Author's sketch.

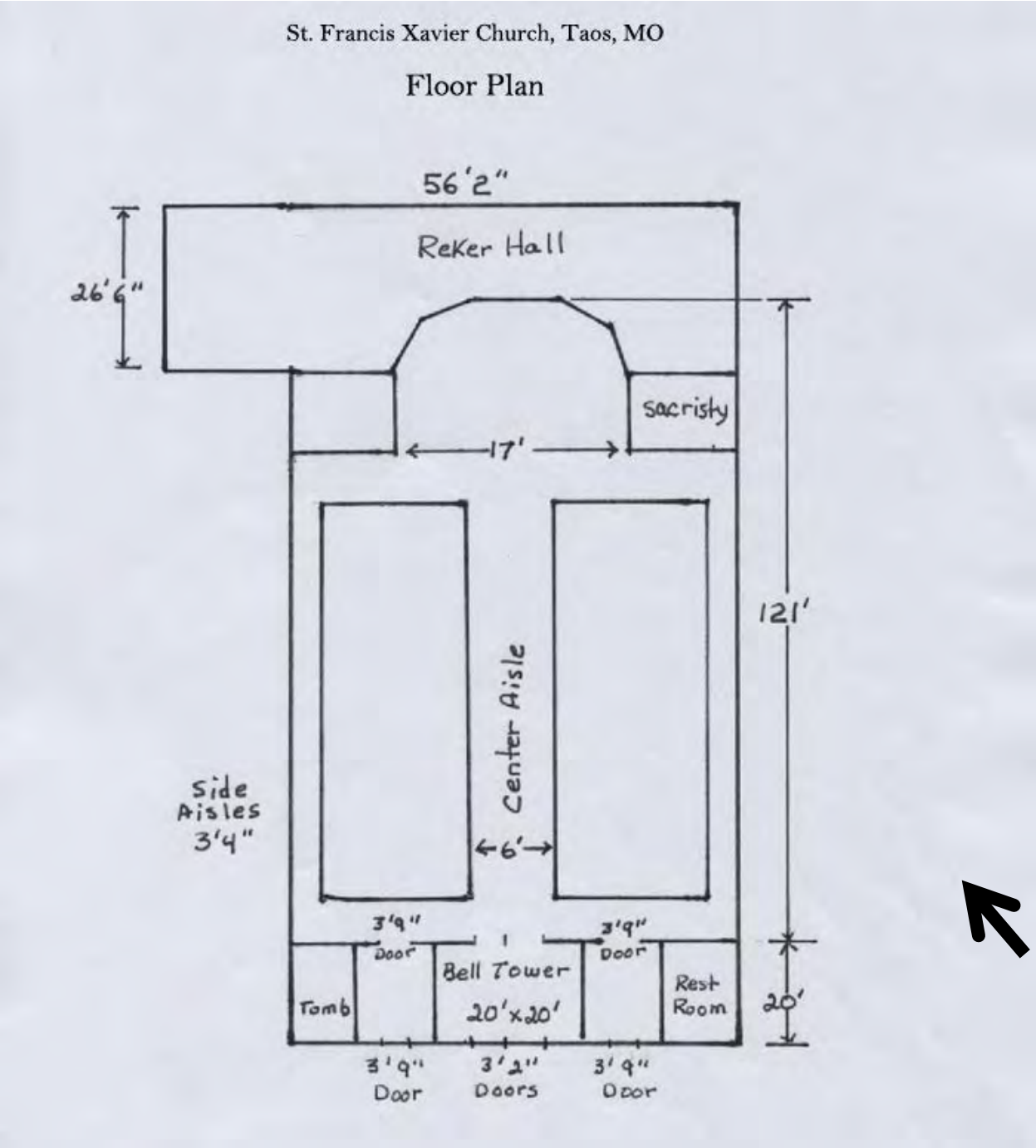


Figure 2: Current Floor Plan, First Floor, Rectory. Source: Author's sketch.

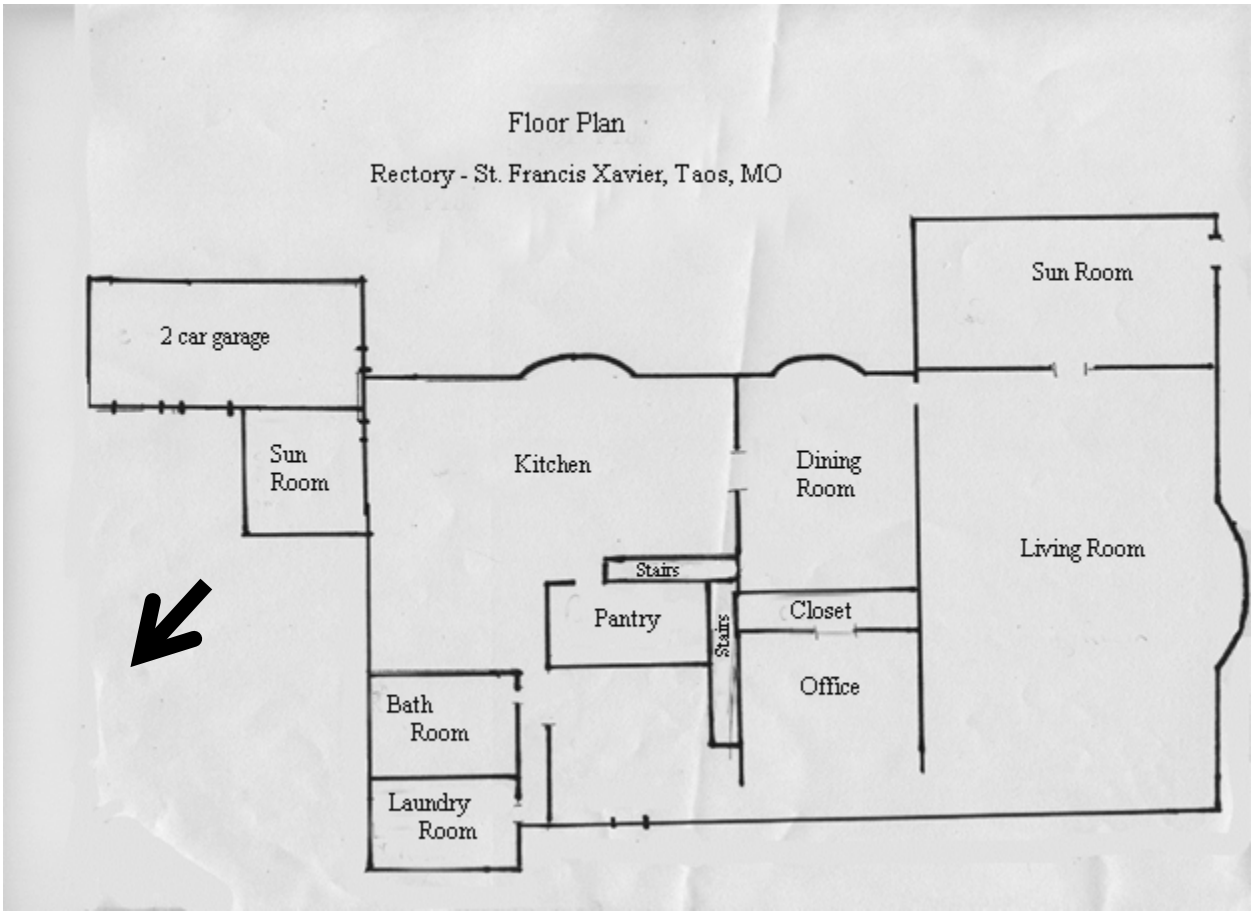
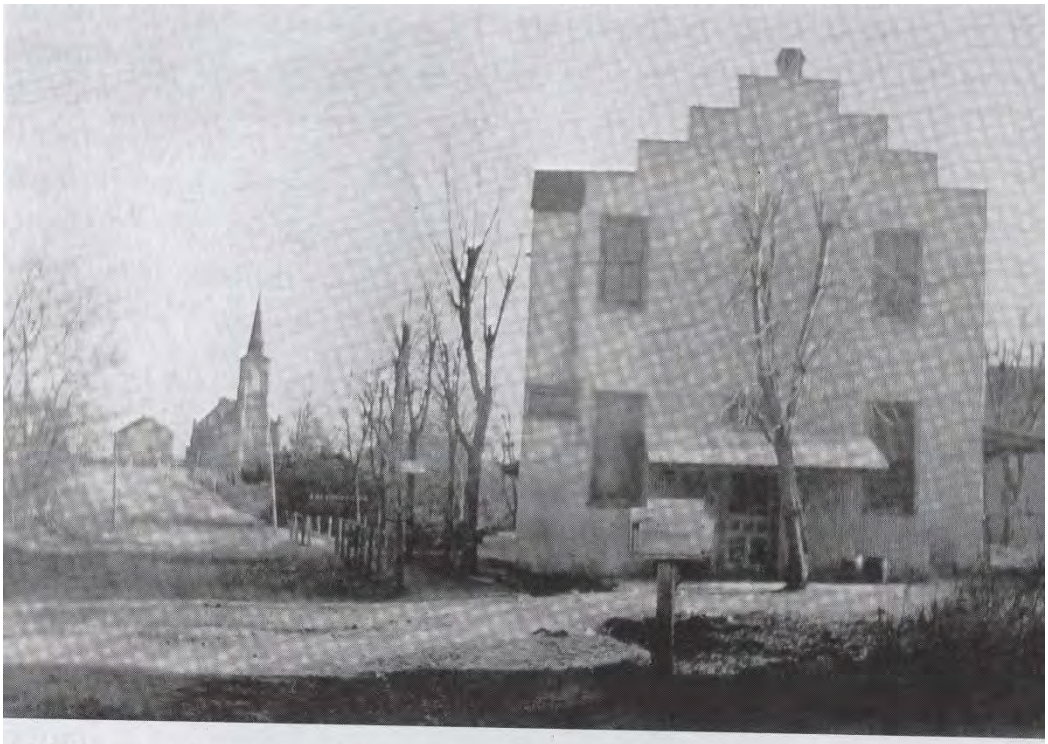


Figure 3: Historic photo of Taos with, old rock church (second church) and St. Francis Xavier Church in background. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.



Old Rock Church and the present church are in background with Schlueter's (Schnieders') Store in foreground. Dirt road is current Route M.

Figure 4: Historic photo of church and school, c. 1900. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

Figure 5: Historic Photo of church, c. 1955. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

Figure 6: Historic Photo of church interior, c. 1895. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

Figure 7: Historic Photo of school, c. 1921. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

Figure 8: Historic Photo of rectory, 1954. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

Figure 9: St. Francis Xavier Church, c. 1957. Source: St. Francis Xavier Church records.

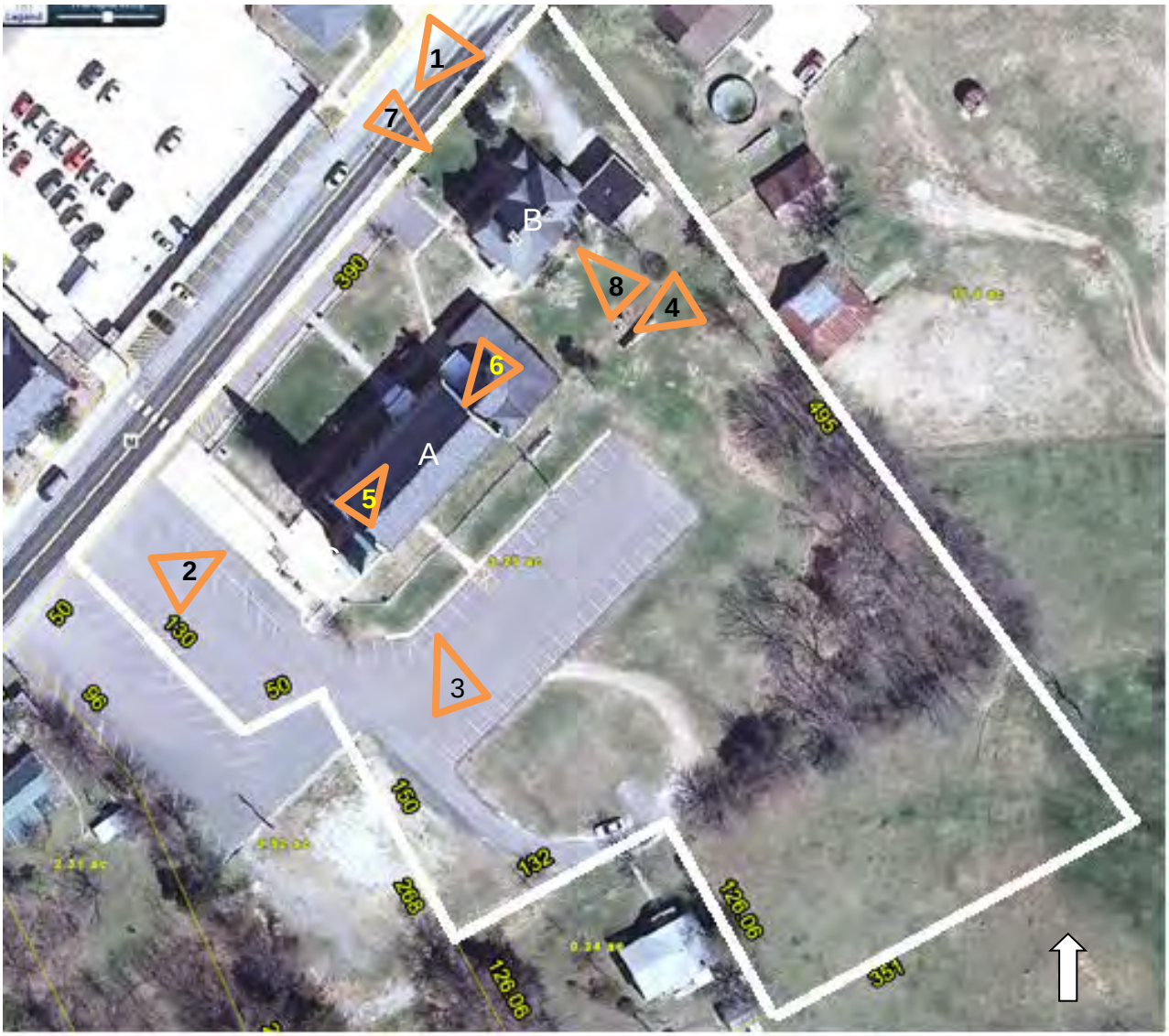
Figure 10. Location Map, not to scale.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Taos, Cole County, Missouri
Map from MidMOGIS showing Church/Rectory parcel (circled)
(http://www.midmogis.org/colesl/).

Latitude and Longitude Coordinates:38.507898, -92.068915

Figure 11: Site Plans and Exterior Photo Angles

Map 1: Church and Rectory National Register boundary in white. The National Register boundary corresponds to the current legal parcel. Source: MidMOGIS.



A. St. Francis Xavier Church (C)
B. Rectory (C)

Reker Hall
St. Francis Xavier
Catholic Church
Saturday 5:00
Sunday 7:00, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

PRAY
TO END
ABORTION