

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Holy Family Catholic Church

Other names/site number Old Holy Family Church, R.C. Church, German Church of the Holy Family

Name of related Multiple Property Listing NA

2. Location

Street & number 911 East Ninth Street (301 East Ninth, legal description)

City or town Eudora

State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 45 Zip code 66025-0151

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ national ___ statewide ___ local Applicable National Register Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date _____

Kansas State Historical Society
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

1864 Holy Family Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone: sandstone

walls: Stone: sandstone

roof: Asphalt shingle

other:

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

Built in 1864 and added to over a 40-year period, the sandstone Holy Family Catholic Church on lots 1,2, and 3, in Block 204 at the southwest corner of Ninth and Church Streets faces Ninth Street to the north in a residential neighborhood southeast of downtown Eudora in Douglas County, Kansas, and is a block southwest of the 2-acre Holy Family Catholic Cemetery first used in 1872. Considered to be the oldest extant German-Catholic church in Kansas and one of a few nineteenth-century stone buildings in Eudora Township, the original 20' by 48' church expanded with an 18' by 18' one-room sacristy in 1891 on the church's southeast corner and an 1896 26' by 20' southern addition with vestibule. Supported by a stone foundation with an underground space dug in 1922 by the east elevation to house a furnace, the church's exterior walls are faced with patterned sandstone interspersed with 18 pointed-arch windows with sills that reflect the Gothic Revival architectural style evident also in the building's square stone tower and cupola. While the Gothic Revival spire on the steeple was removed, the original glass windows have been replaced with stained glass, also a Gothic Revival characteristic.¹ Today the rear-facing L-plan church covered by a front-gabled, slate-shingled roof with normal slope and slight eave overhang has access through a back entrance with step on the east and through the south-facing recessed, double-entry door adorned with two, incised simple crosses.

Elaboration

A brief history of Catholic settlement in Kansas. Following the 25 Eastern tribes forced to reservations in what would later be Kansas after the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the Catholic Church established six Indian missions in pre-Territorial Kansas, including missions north of Fort Leavenworth for the Kickapoo in 1836, the first permanent mission in Kansas; St. Mary's; and St. Paul.² By the time Kansas became a state in 1861, the first Catholic church had been built (the 1851 24' by 40' log-hewn St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception), and St. Joseph's German Catholic Church (1857) with Catholic boarding school (1858) in Leavenworth.³ Overseeing the Catholic faith was the Vicar Apostolic of the Indian Territory, Bishop John Miege. First based in St. Mary's to oversee a territory that comprised an area that would be Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nebraska, Miege then operated from Leavenworth and frequently visited his congregation scattered in remote areas and fledgling towns such as Lawrence that had its first Catholic church built in 1860 later replaced with a 45' x 80' foot brick church in 1871.⁴ By 1869, 55 churches, most "four walls and a roof" had been built in Kansas, and 82 missions without churches were visited by traveling priests.⁵ By the time Miege resigned in 1874, 71 churches had been built in Kansas.⁶

Besides worshiping their faith with visits from traveling priests, Catholics traveled to priests who held services. For instance, in Eudora, Catholics rode horseback or walked to Lawrence to attend services by a missionary priest. The trip entailed going through BlueJacket Crossing over the Wakarusa and through the Franklin river bottoms. Because of these exhausting, sometimes dangerous trips, in 1859, Eudora area Catholics appealed to Miege to send a missionary father to Eudora to say Mass. The bishop granted the request and sent Father Lewis Guenther, a missionary from Shawnee

¹Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*, (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994); John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Jr., *What Style Is It: A Guide to American Architecture* (Hoboken NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2003).

²Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912); T. Habiger, *The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas: 150 Years of Faith: 1850-2000* (Strasbourg, France: Editions du Signe, 2000).

³William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883); James McGonigle, "Right Reverend John B. Miège, S.J., First Catholic Bishop of Kansas." *Missions Among the Indians. Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society* 9, 1906.

⁴<https://sjevangelist.com/about/>

⁵Todd Habiger, *The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas: 150 Years of Faith: 1850-2000* (Strasbourg, France: Editions du Signe, 2000).

⁶Richard Henry Clarke, "Right Rev. John Baptiste Miege. *Lives of the Deceased Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States* (3rd ed.)(New York: NP, 1888).

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Mission, Kansas, and later sent Father Anton Kuhls of Leavenworth one Sunday each month to a Eudora Main Street store building owned by Jewish brothers George and John Andreas. On other Sundays during 1864, physician Carl Neumann held Catholic services in a Eudora Main Street home.

By 1863, Catholics in the Eudora area had grown in number to justify a need for a dedicated building of worship. Twenty families with a total of 32 members (that number would double in the next 10 years) organized the Church of the Holy Family. Kuhls traveled 40 miles by horseback one day a month to oversee construction of their 24' by 40' sandstone church not to exceed \$3,000 in cost and to be titled "Holy Family Church."⁷

Initial construction. The church's site on lots 1,2, and 3, in Block 204 was donated by spouses Bernhard Herman Tegder and Anna Catharina Tegder along with Peter Anton Hartig and Franciska Hartig, to John B. Meige, Catholic bishop of Leavenworth.⁸ Hartig also donated two acres for the cemetery two blocks east considered for many decades to be "just out of town."⁹ After blasted sandstone in John Kellerman's quarry outside the eastern city of Eudora limits was cut, parishioners Jacob Pabst, Mike Branagan, John Welch, and James Brazil hauled the donated rock to the church site.¹⁰ With sand for mortar transported to the site from the nearby Kansas River, "a band of 15,"¹¹ including parishioners Casper Weber and Franz Blechel, who dressed most of the stone, along with several Eudora Lutherans, laid the stone on the church's regular coursed masonry elevations. Herz, Hartig, Kellerman, and other expert cabinet makers built the Gothic-arched windows. They also built a double-entry door with diamond-pattern carving with an arched frame enclosing a six-pane, glass sunburst and topped with a stone arch.¹² After construction of the church exterior exhausted the initial \$3,000, the congregation raised additional funds to complete the interior a year later.¹³

Kellerman, said to be the equal of any of expert cabinet makers in Chicago where he lived before he came to Eudora,¹⁴ made the altar with a 10' high round pillar on each side. Atop the altar was a cross that almost reached to the ceiling and behind the altar the sacristy's built-in cases and drawers stored vestments for the priest and altar boys.¹⁵

Both Eudora's Protestants and Catholics donated funds for the purchase of the church's bell under the stipulation that it would be rung at seven, twelve, and six o'clock to signal the start and of daily employment tasks.¹⁶ In 1864, the church purchased a bell in Kansas City that had been cast in 1852 at the Massachusetts foundry established by American patriot Paul Revere.¹⁷ A frame rack was built beside the church from which the bell was suspended because the church lacked a tower to place the bell.¹⁸

Subsequent additions. The congregation, which numbered about 75 families in the 1870s,¹⁹ maintained the church such as putting on a new roof in 1879,²⁰ and discussed enlarging the church that had a cupola on the front roof built by parish carpenters in 1882. After his 1886 appointment, Father Gerlach attempted several times and failed to raise funds projected to total between \$3,500 to \$5,000²¹ for a new church to house the growing membership.²² Wrote the *Eudora Weekly News* May 30, 1889: "Arrangements are being made to erect a new Catholic Church on C. street much larger than the old one." However, Gerlach wasn't able to accomplish his goal but did have the church painted and "grained."²³ He also oversaw the 1891 addition of an 18' by 18', one-room sacristy of sandstone that matched the church

⁷Perl Wilbur Morgan, *History of Wyandotte County Kansas and its People* (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911; Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* states that the church was officially organized as The German Church of the Holy Family on October 1, 1864 but this is the only source found referencing that name. In October of 1864, Kuhl was sent to Wyandotte and lived in the sacristy of an 1858 brick 20' by 40' Catholic church.

⁸The Deed Book Lm March 13, 1865, 287 and also original abstract.

⁹John Bauer, *Holy Family Parish*, Eudora, KS (1935).

¹⁰Cindy Higgins, "Where the Wakarusa Meets the Kaw," <http://eudorakshistory.com/>. Note: Brazil who lived eight miles south of Eudora was buried in the Deay Cemetery (Eudora Weekly News, May 11, 1911), which indicates he may not have been a parishioner.

¹¹*Eudora Weekly News*, December 9, 1915.

¹²March 28, 1890 photo of Young Virgins Society.

¹³John Bauer, *Holy Family Parish*, Eudora, KS (1935).

¹⁴*Eudora Weekly News*, Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, April 30, 1936

¹⁵John Bauer, *Holy Family Parish*, Eudora, KS (1935).

¹⁶*Eudora Centennial Magazine* (supplement to the Eudora News), 1957.

¹⁷*Lawrence Journal World*, April 20, 1967.

¹⁸Cindy Higgins, "Where the Wakarusa Meets the Kaw," <http://eudorakshistory.com/>

¹⁹*Kansas Catholic*, September 1, 1883.

²⁰*Kansas Daily Tribune*, May 23, 1879.

²¹*Eudora Weekly News*, October 10, 1889; *Eudora Weekly News*, May 8, 1890.

²²William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Cutler wrote membership had grown to 70 families.

²³*Eudora Weekly News*, July 11, 1889.

1864 Holy Family Church

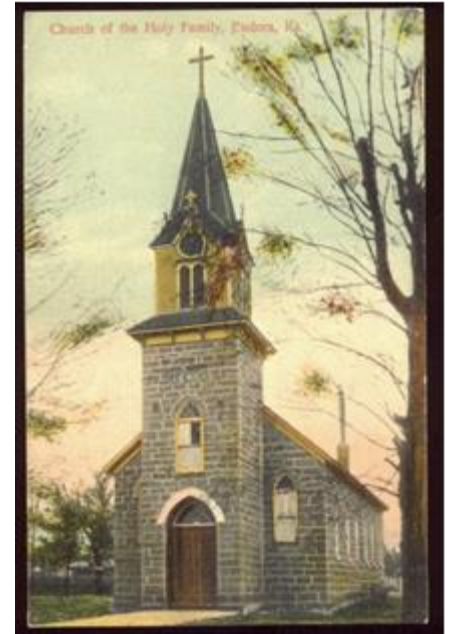
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

exterior.²⁴ It housed the altar, which was moved back to the wall at the south end, making more room available around the altar and communion rail.²⁵ Built on the southeast corner of the church and the same height of the church, the addition was of small expense as Alois, George, and Stephen Hadl did the masonry work, and Franz Blechel dressed and faced the rock.

Upon the arrival of Rev. Michael Simmer in 1896, discussions began to build a church addition²⁶ that could accommodate the 200 church members,²⁷ a peak number that would gradually drop in ensuing decades. Construction on the addition commenced the next year.²⁸ Parish members obtained stone from the Charles Willsdorf quarry, three miles southwest of town, to complete a 26' by 20' addition,²⁹ which was half of the planned size, with interior plaster walls. Double-hung, clear, six-paned windows with an arched Gothic, five-unit sunburst pattern were installed to match existing windows. Also added were a 10' by 10' vestibule and a 60' high steeple with a 5' cross on top that replaced the earlier steeple³⁰ and remained in place till 1959.³¹ The planned town clock in the steeple didn't materialize but a new bell did.³² Valentine Anton and his wife, original townsites who moved to Lawrence, purchased a new 610-pound bell that arrived in June 1897 for placement alongside the original bell.³³ The church was dedicated and blessed by Rev. Bishop Fink on August 11, 1897 and celebrated with a parish dinner and dance.³⁴



Church improvements continued: a "neat, substantial wire fence" around the churchyard perimeter (1898),³⁵ iron running rods installed to strengthen the east and west walls (1901), and a vitrified brick walk on the church west side (1902).³⁶ In 1905, a fresco artist, "Mr. Miller," painted biblical scenes on the interior's freshly-painted walls.³⁷ Also in 1905, Theresa Hartig donated a statue of St. Anthony in memory of her husband Peter that remains in the original church on the east wall. Lightning struck the church steeple in 1911, and while a hole several inches in circumference was made and some shingles were torn off, no other damage was apparent.³⁸ As early as 1916, the church may have had electricity installed because that is when the city of Eudora voted to erect a transmission line to supply the city with electricity. The January 1927 Sanborn map does show electricity installed in the church. The steeple and cross were repainted in 1922 and straightened to prevent leaning to the southwest.³⁹

According to the April 4, 1922 Pastoral Council Minutes, Father Joseph Reich who became the pastor in 1922, was given the "go ahead with his 'new broom,'" to put a roof on the church, fix the sagging church floor, and manage other repair needs depending upon money obtained.⁴⁰ To replace the wood-burning stove that heated the church, a room large enough to house a furnace was dug out from under the east side of the church with an outside entrance in the early

²⁴Eudora Weekly News, June 25, 1891; Eudora Weekly News, July 30, 1891.

²⁵John Bauer, Holy Family Parish, Eudora, KS (1935).

²⁶Eudora Weekly News, December 10, 1896.

²⁷Jeffersonian Gazette, May 6, 1897.

²⁸Eudora Weekly News, April 15, 1897.

²⁹Lawrence Daily Journal, July 29, 1897.

³⁰John Bauer; Eudora Weekly News, August 22, 1889 refers to the repair of a steeple needing a "new draw and crosspiece."

³¹Lawrence Daily Journal-World, October 9, 1964.

³²Eudora Weekly News, April 15, 1897. The clock was to strike "the hour and half hour, and be heard all over the city."

³³Eudora Weekly News, June 17, 1897.

³⁴Eudora Weekly News, August 12, 1897.

³⁵Eudora Weekly News, July 7, 1898.

³⁶Eudora Weekly News, October 23, 1902.

³⁷Eudora Weekly News, September 28, 1905.

³⁸Eudora Weekly News, June 15, 1911.

³⁹Eudora Weekly News, October 19, 1922.

⁴⁰Holy Family Church Pastoral Council Minutes (July 14, 1923).

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

1920s. Originally wood burning, this furnace was later converted to coal and ultimately gas⁴¹ after natural gas became available in Eudora in 1929.⁴²

Father Gerald Hart, appointed pastor in 1926, led efforts to update the interior of the church and asked parishioner Frank Sommer to build a new altar, which he did in his basement of his home at 813 Maple.⁴³ The white enameled altar is in the Roman style and dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 10, 1927.⁴⁴ The altar floor also was redone, and Hart purchased statues of the Sacred Heart and St. Theresa still in the church. During the 1926-1927 interior remodel, Joe Blechel (son of the original parishioner and mason Franz Blechel) painted the original clear glass windows to resemble stained glass, a popular treatment, especially during this time period when stains and paints continually were applied to glass and fired to build up color layers. Replaced with the current stained-glass windows in 1942,⁴⁵ the painted glass windows are on display now in the church.

The exact removal date of the 60' steeple cannot be pinpointed. According to an interview conducted in 2009 on the church's 150th anniversary, parishioner Jay Grosdidier remembered that a tornado struck the steeple in the mid-1950s damaging the steeple. According to Grosdidier, the steeple was then removed and the 5' cross placed on top.⁴⁶ The *Lawrence Journal World* printed the steeple was cut down in 1959.⁴⁷ Tom Pyle, a parishioner since 1950, stated that his brother-in-law Carrol Shopper tied a rope to the steeple and brought it down.⁴⁸ The bells remained in the smaller steeple until 1965, and after refurbishment by the Verdi Company of Cincinnati, they were installed in a 46' steel tower at the 1963 Holy Family Church.⁴⁹ Holy Family Parishioner John Gilroy repaired the smaller portion of the bell tower and placed a 5' cross on top in 1965.⁵⁰

Other than Nu-Wood low-density fiberboard panels installed in the interior of the church in 1946,⁵¹ the interior of the church remained virtually unchanged throughout the 1950s and still has its polyester floor with kaolin filler and cellulose paper interior siding. When the United States War Department announced March 25, 1942 that an ammunition plant would be built four miles east of Eudora and employ thousands of workers,⁵² the population of Eudora expanded tenfold, and the Holy Family Parish expanded as well. A General Campaign committee was formed in 1961 to build a new school and "temporary church" on the lower level that would eventually become a cafeteria and gymnasium when a new church was built. The building was dedicated on July 21, 1963. The last mass at the original Holy Family Church was Sunday, July 14, 1963.

The door locked, the stained-glass windows boarded, and the 1852 bell placed in the new church, the 1864 Holy Family church stood idle for almost 20 years. In early 1981, a small group formed the "Committee for Remedial Repair of Old Holy Family Church" and raised money for restoration that began that year, e.g., repaired stained-glass windows; tuckpointed masonry; installed new guttering and trim boards; shingled bell tower; painted window frames, trim boards, bell tower, and doors; fixed flooring; stained interior woodwork; and placed a new front door. A sign with the church's name made from native stone and shingles to match the church also was erected.⁵³ In more recent years, Father Ray Berger installed carpeting, central air and heat, several pews (although not original to the church), and a passcode lock. The church is now open for adoration at any time. Mass is held on the first Saturday of each month.

The current church, on the north side, has a wooden double-door entry topped by a stained glass window with the lettering "Holy Family." The doors have a reveal on either side of the with two 20" by 9.5" double-framed panels sandwiching a 10" by 9.5" panel and lead to a 7' long by 6' wide small narthex under the bell tower.

⁴¹Jay Grosdidier, a Holy Family Church parishioner from 1918-2011, interview by Janet Campbell, September 2009.

⁴²*Eudora Weekly News*, July 18, 1929.

⁴³Frank Sommer, personal communication to granddaughter Janet Campbell, 1963.

⁴⁴*Eudora Weekly News*, April 7, 1927.

⁴⁵*Lawrence Journal World*, December 8, 1980.

⁴⁶Jay Grosdidier, a Holy Family Church parishioner from 1918-2011, interview by Janet Campbell, September 2009.

⁴⁷*Lawrence Daily Journal World*

⁴⁸Tom Pyle, Holy Family parishioner, interview by Janet Campbell, October 2018.

⁴⁹Verdin Company contract, January 9, 1965.

⁵⁰Pauline Gilroy, Holy Family parishioner, interview by Janet Campbell, October 2018.

⁵¹*Axtell Standard*, February 7, 1946.

⁵²*Lawrence Journal World*, March 25, 1942.

⁵³Pamphlet of the Committee for Remedial Repair of the Old Holy Family Church (1981).

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Another set of double doors, 5' wide by 7.5' tall, opens to nave (26' wide by 58.5' long). At the nave's northern end, the choir loft (20' by 12.25' long) with wooden rail can be accessed by a wood stairway in the northeast corner of the church. At the sixth step and to the east, a small landing has two stained glass windows. On the north wall, one window depicts the symbol for Roman Peace; the other depicts the Latin abbreviation for "Jesus Savior of Men" behind the confessional in the northwest corner of the church and into the choir loft area. Steps from the landing upward and to the south finish the ascent to the choir loft built above the confessional (6.5' tall by 3' wide by 5' long). North of the choir loft, a set of double doors leads to the bell tower. A stained glass window depicting a harp is on the north wall of the bell tower. The lower part of the bell tower is 6' wide (east to west) and 7' long (north to south) and 10' high. The upper part of the bell tower is 6' wide by 6' and 4" long with 6' feet stone walls at the base and is accessed by a built-in ladder. A wood frame with wood siding rises above the stone walls 10' to the roof area that rises another 2' to the highest interior point of the tower. The south wall of the upper bell tower has access to the church attic.

On the east and west walls on either side of the two pew sections separated by the aisle, six stained glass window sets adorn the church. Windows on each side are either the same (e.g., the northernmost set that depicts the Sacred Heart of Jesus) or similarly themed. From north to south, the sets depict grapes (west wall) and wheat (east wall) followed by two sets of windows with saints' names and their symbols (Saint John, Rising Eagle and Saint Luke, Winged Ox on the west wall, and Saint Matthew, angel with Saint Mark, Winged Lion on the east wall); a dove with an olive branch on the west wall and a lamb on the east wall; and (before the apse) a chalice on the west wall and a tabernacle on the east wall. Past the chalice window, a small cabinet holds anointing oil, and a stature of Saint Joseph is in a recessed wall on the right side and a statue of the Blessed Mother Mary on the left.

Two steps and a 2.5' high by 5' long white communion rail on either side of apse separate the nave from the apse. Two white swinging communion rail gates (2.5' tall by 2' long) are attached to the communion rails. The trapezoidal-shaped apse, 19.5' wide at the entry and 12' wide at the back wall has angled sides 12.25' long. On the west wall, a stained glass window depicts the Holy Family with an infant Jesus. An enameled white altar raised one step above the rest of the apse is in the center. The east apse wall has a door leading to the sacristy 12' wide (north to south) with an entry door on the east; a small, damaged stained glass window is above the door. A stained glass window on the north sacristy wall depicts the Holy Trinity, while the south wall has a stained glass window depicting St. Lawrence.

On the church exterior, plexiglass covers the stained glass windows, including the north-facing tower window, above the entry door and one on each tower side; six east-facing windows; a rear, south-facing window with a pattern similar to the original windows with a five-framed inserts surrounding a rounded, triangular shape; and seven on the west, including one on the back curved addition. Most window frames consist of a white rectangular-framed lower section with a white framed arched semi-circle.

With wide eaves, each with four end posts and anchor beam braces, the stone tower with a projected cornice supports a cupola with two, adjoining, round-headed louvred vents topped with a decorative frame treatment on each side. Fish-scale shingles cover the majority (about five-eighths) of the cupola; diamond-scale shingles cover the rest. Both are painted white as is the simple cross on the cupola's top. A brick chimney on the east elevation replaced earlier chimneys.

City sidewalks front the church and also line the west side. The church has its own sidewalk to the entry that extends in a y-pattern on the east side. An alley separates the church from the current parsonage to the east.

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1864-1963

Significant Dates

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The original church was built in 1864 and in continual use until 1963 when a new Holy Family Church with school was built.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

The 1864 Holy Family Church in Eudora, Kansas, meets Criteria A registration requirements because the property is associated with the founding of Eudora and also Catholicism in northeast Kansas. It also meets Criteria C registration requirements because it is an exceptional and unique example of early ecclesiastical architecture in the state of Kansas.

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

Not only is Holy Family Church one of the oldest structures in the Eudora community, it is the oldest Catholic church still standing in the state of Kansas and in use.⁵⁴ This building is significant also for being a German-Catholic church in a farming community that began as a German for-profit town settlement; its spirit of continual donated labor and funds by church members and also from non-Catholic community members; association with initial Eudora settlers in terms of labor, land donation, and church membership; an example of a Gothic Revival rural church; and long-term meeting place of the local Catholic community.

⁵⁴*Eastern Kansas Register* (October 9, 1964) mentioned its distinction as one of the oldest; Archdiocese listings of Catholic churches in Kansas show the 1859 Annunciation (20' by 30') in Baldwin was built of stone but has been razed, and St. Patrick, Atchison, also built of stone two years after Holy Family Church, still stands (see Marie Louise Krenner. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination: St. Patrick's Catholic Church." National Park Service, 1997).

1864 Holy Family Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State



(1) Original Holy Family Church with 1889 congregation

Elaboration

A desirable area because of land opportunities, geographical features, and location on a heavily-trafficked travel route between the East and western United States, Douglas County attracted numerous settlers. Germans, either from their home country or moving westward from their original U.S. landing site, were many of those first Douglas County settlers. In 1854, a group of German emigrants in Chicago formed a settlement company known variously as the Deutsche Ansiedlungs Verein (German Settlement Society), Neuer Ansiedlungsverein (New Settlement Association), Eudora Town Company, or Eudora Homestead Association. Unlike other German communities in Kansas (e.g., Humboldt,

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Bremen, Stuttgart, Olmitz, Bern⁵⁵), Eudora was founded as a business venture. The 600-member settlement company bought 774 1/2 acres in the Eudora area recently received by the Fish Tribe from the U.S. government for land speculation purposes. To set up the city and increase the price of town lots, the company sent 16 shareholder members representing different trades and professions to Eudora with funds for buildings; furniture; six yoke of oxen; and mills for corn, grain, and lumber. The "Sixteeners" left Chicago and arrived in the city they would call Eudora on April 18, 1857. By the time Eudora was incorporated as a city under territorial laws February 8, 1858, additional settlers also came to live in the Eudora area, and the 1860 census recorded 599 people living in Eudora Township.⁵⁶

Wrote the *Herald of Freedom* editor, "It is settled and surrounded with a large German population, who may be complimented, justly for their intelligence and energy of character."⁵⁷ Throughout ensuing decades, Eudora's large German population was noted, such as (1868) "The town of Eudora, while retaining its German appearance and German customs, . . .,"⁵⁸ (1886) "The inhabitants of Eudora are principally German,"⁵⁹ (1894) "Prof. Carruth will address the people of Eudora in German on the suffrage question Saturday evening August 4,"⁶⁰ (1897) "Eudora is strictly a German settlement and as may be expected, is surrounded and composed of industrious thrifty people,"⁶¹ (1909) "Eudora was settled and is surrounded by that class of citizens who are known the world over for their thrift and capacity of promotion a substantial growth—the Germans;"⁶² and (1937) "Newspaper men and other early writers wrote volumes about the good, earnest, home-loving people in this little German community."⁶³

A significant number of the Eudora first settlers were German Catholics who benefited from the established Catholic strongholds particularly in northeast Kansas and proximity to Leavenworth, the base of Catholicism in Kansas.⁶⁴ The Catholic church facilitated German accommodation to fledgling Kansas communities,⁶⁵ including members of Holy Family, the first known church built in Eudora, which had a congregation consisting of many original settlers of Eudora. Joseph Herz, one of the original townsites Sixteeners, and ___Piper were recorded as being the \$3,000 church's principal benefactors,⁶⁶ and, as stated earlier, Peter Anton Hartig and his wife Franciska Hartig donated land for the church. Hartig also was the leader of the Sixteeners sent from Chicago to establish Eudora. Other original church members included Anthony Getker (1824-1904), from Hanover who came to Eudora in the latter part of 1857 to be the town carpenter and undertaker; Franz Paul Vogl (1826-1907), born in Landgericht, Wolfstein, Germany, who settled in Eudora in May 1858 as a liveryman with his wife and 10 children. William Stadler, editor of an early Eudora newspaper, wrote: "Several of the original townsites were Catholic and those that immediately followed them such as Fred Faerber, the first mayor of Eudora, Anton Gufler [(1832-1915) who came to America from Bavaria, in 1854]; L. W. Pfeifer and Lao Vitt [from Baden]. Other early parishioner families originated in German countries, including those with the surnames of Schehrer or Pfeiffer (Alsace-Lorraine), Ziesneis (Hanover), Anton (Prussia), Prang, (Hesse-Cassel), and Bauer (Wurtermberg). Several came from Bavaria (Hadle, Eder, Hartig, Stadler, Seiwald, Blechel, Rothberger, Sommer, Madl, Greiner); Austria (Kellerman, Weixeldorfer, Kasberger); and Baden (Speicher, Vitt, Moll)."⁶⁷

⁵⁵Kansas State Historical Society, "German Settlers in Kansas," Kansaspedia, <https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/german-settlers-in-kansas/16710>

⁵⁶Cindy Higgins, "Where the Wakarusa Meets the Kaw," <http://eudorakshistory.com/>

⁵⁷*Herald of Freedom*, October 9, 1858.

⁵⁸*Lawrence Tribune*, September 16, 1868.

⁵⁹*Lawrence Gazette*, August 18, 1886.

⁶⁰*Lawrence Daily Gazette*, August 2, 1894

⁶¹*Jefferson Gazette*, May 6, 1897.

⁶²*Lawrence Daily World*, April 16, 1909.

⁶³*Emporia Gazette*, May 12, 1937 (son of original townsiter memory).

⁶⁴William D. Keel, "Deutsch, Däätsch, Düütsch, and Dietsch: The Varieties of Kansas German Dialects After 150 Years of German Group Settlement in Kansas," Preserving Heritage: A Festschrift for C. Richard Beam, ed. Joshua R. Brown and Leroy T. Hopkins, Jr., *Yearbook of German-American Studies, Supplemental Issue 2* (Lawrence, KS: Society for German-American Studies, 2006), 27-48.

⁶⁵Eleanor L. Turk, Germans in Kansas, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 28 (Spring 2005): 44-71.

⁶⁶Morgan, *History of Wyandotte County, Kansas*. "Piper" could have been Louis Pfeif, (also spelled Pfeiffer) an original townsiter and Chicago draftsman who plotted the town into individual lots or Jacob Pfeiffer, a stone cutter, who was a trustee of the Catholic Congregation of Eudora in 1868 with Hartig and Sebastian Prang.

⁶⁷Cindy Higgins, "Where the Wakarusa Meets the Kaw," <http://eudorakshistory.com/>

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

By 1883, the city of Eudora hosted four churches that conducted service in the German language: German Lutheran, German Methodist, [German Evangelical] United Brethren, and Holy Family, which still held confession in the German language till at least 1922.⁶⁸ The association with Germany continued with the German language spoken at the Holy Family parochial school and in news items, (e.g., the 1890 mention that the Eudora German Catholics had a picnic at Hartig's Grove.⁶⁹)

Noteworthy of the church throughout its lifespan has been the congregations' donation of labor and materials to build, expand, and maintain the church. This collaborative spirit extends to the community and non-Catholics as well who also have donated to the church, for example, initial construction and the original bell. According to Eleanor Turk, this cooperation demonstrates that the Eudora German immigrants overcome historical regional rivalries among their transplanted churches and is evidence of the "two-stage process of community building, first among themselves, and then together with their American neighbors."⁷⁰ The 1981-formed Committee for Remedial Repair of Old Holy Family Church also was comprised of community members of all religious faiths, and on Sunday, December 14, 1981, the church was opened to the public for a Christmas Community Caroling Service,⁷¹ an annual tradition that continues and is a shared church event open to all.

⁶⁸ *Lawrence Gazette*, February 8, 1883; *German Catholic*, June 20, 1889.

⁶⁹ *Eudora Weekly News*, June 5, 1890.

⁷⁰ Eleanor L. Turk, Germans in Kansas, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 28 (Spring 2005): 44–71.

⁷¹ *Lawrence Journal World*, December 11, 1981.

1864 Holy Family Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Eudora Weekly News and see footnotes.

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:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.943181 -95.095668 3
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 4
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

OR

UTM References

 NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1 3
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 4

1864 Holy Family Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries include the property located within the lots 1,2, 3, and 4, in Block 204 (200 x 100) in the town of Eudora. The property is bounded on the north by Ninth Street, the west by Church Street, the east by an alley, and the south by property lines.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries include all property historically associated with the 1864 Holy Family Church, which includes the lots.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cindy Higgins, Janet Campbell, and Mark Schieferecke
organization _____ date March, 2019
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town Eudora state KS zip code 66025
e-mail Jcampbell@ku.edu

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Kansas City
street & number 12615 Parallel Pkwy telephone _____
city or town Kansas City, KS 66109-3748

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 100 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.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

Photograph Log

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

Name of Property: _____

City or Vicinity: _____

County: _____ State: _____

Photographer: _____

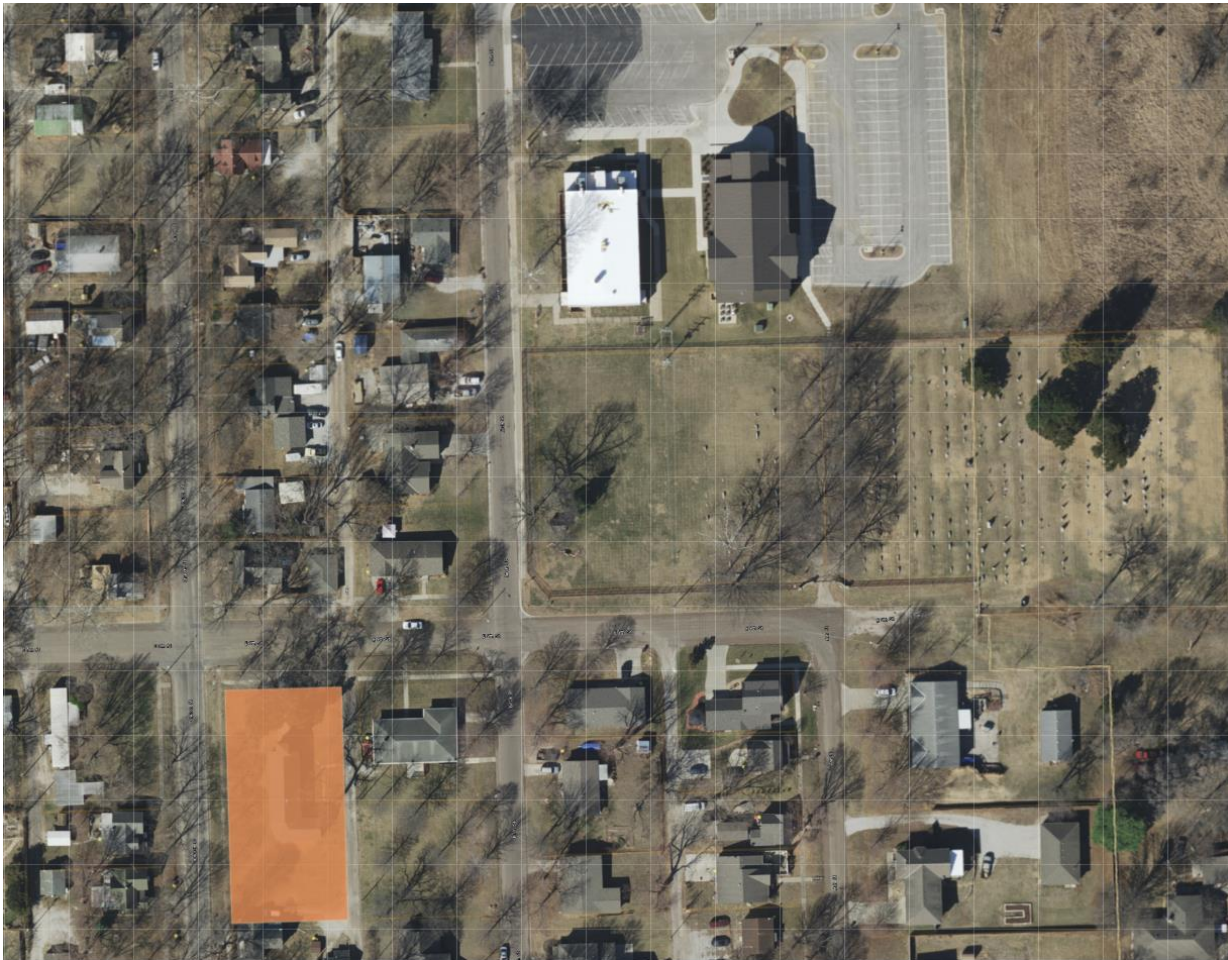
Date

Photographed: _____

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

1 of #:

Figures



(2) Aerial view of church (orange area) with 1963 Holy Family church (upper left) next to current Holy Family church and cemetery

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State

(4) 1927 Sanborn map showing church



1864 Holy Family Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas
County and State

(5) Present altar built in 1926. Photo by Cindy Higgins (2019)



(6) Original glass windows painted to resemble stained glass. Photo by Cindy Higgins (2019).

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State



(7) Steeple shown in early twentieth-century photograph

1864 Holy Family Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas

County and State



(8) East elevation. Photo by Cindy Higgins (2018)