United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received NOV 2 1982 date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in the 1899-1907 period for a Polish parish, the St. Josaphat's Roman Catholic Church Complex includes the late Victorian Romanesque St. Josaphat's Church (1899-1901), a two-and-a-half-story brick rectory, a two-and-one-half-story Sisters' residence and a brick boiler house. The complex is located on East Canfield Avenue, immediately adjacent to the Chrysler Expressway (1-75), a six-lane depressed freeway. This area has been extensively redeveloped during the last two decades and now surrounding the church are new housing and the Medical Arts Complex.

The main facade of the church faces south. To the church's west are found the rectory, a parking lot, and the Sisters' residence. Adjacent to the rear of the church and also to the west is located the one-andone-half-story boiler house. The church is cruciform in plan and is constructed of red-orange brick and trimmed with Bedford limestone. During the 1970s the exterior of the building was sandblasted as part of a major rehabilitation campaign. The church has remained structurally unaltered. The church, which seats almost 1,200 and is 132 feet by 56 feet in plan, combines many elements taken from the northern European ecclesiastical tradition. Towered facades and triple tower groups were used extensively in northern Europe between 1000 and 1200 A.D. and are considered one of the most magnificent manifestations of early Romanesque architecture. Clearly derived from this tradition, the facade of St. Josaphat's is dominated by a large, central tower almost 200 feet in height which is flanked by twin buttressed towers containing secondary entrances. The round arch, also characteristic, is repeated in the portals and the arcaded fenestration of the towers.

The verticality of the facade is emphasized by the development of the square towers into octagonal spires, the transition being masked by the use of pinnacles at the corners of the towers. A fleche rises from the roof ridge at the transept crossing. The gables, which mark the ends of the transept, are punctuated with rose windows. The main body of the church consists of a higher nave flanked by lower aisles. The nave is covered by a steeply pitched roof which is typical of those found in northern European countries which receive heavy snowfall. The roof was once entirely sheathed in slate. It has been re-roofed with asphalt shingles and now only the spires retain the original grey slate.

The church's cruciform plan has at the north end of the barrel vaulted, three-aisled nave a broad transept which matches the central aisle in height. The apse is preceded by a short antechoir. Marble columns with gilded capitals carry round arches supporting the clerestory, which is lit by round-headed windows. The narthex, preceding the nave and aisles, is separated from the nave by a wall. Dual stairways lead to the choir loft, which is cantilevered out into the nave.

The strong eclecticism of the Victorian period is revealed in St. Josaphat's by the union of a strongly Romanesque plan with fine Baroque decorative detailing evidenced by the <u>bas-relief</u> angels found between the arches of the nave. The flat plasterwork surfaces are painted ivory and architectural details such as column capitals are gilded as part of the strong Catholic tradition of utilizing religious iconography as an important element of the church's decoration. St. Josaphat's has extensive ceiling frescoes. Events which are important in the history of Polish Catholicism are shown on the walls which separate the sanctuary from the side altars. On the eastern side is the Pilgrimage to Czestochova. Pilgrims annually travel on foot from Warsaw to Czestochova, the national shrine of Our Lady of Czestochova, the patron saint of Poland. On the west is the Miracle of the Wisla River. This painting was added to the church in the 1920s; it depicts a World War I battle which occurred near the Wisla River where a small band of Polish troops defeated Russian troops through, it is said, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Also depicted are such subjects as the Holy Trinity, the Birth of Christ, the Last Supper, the Resurrection, the Polish saints and Mary, Queen of Poland.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018 (3-82) Exp. 10-31-84 **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service For NPS use only **National Register of Historic Places** received **Inventory**—Nomination Form date entered Continuation sheet Item number Page DE SCRIPTION 7 2

The round-headed, stained glass windows illustrate the twelve apostles. The rose window in the eastern transept depicts St. Joseph and the western window depicts Mary, Mother of God. This rose window was wind damaged recently, but the original glass was saved with the exception of the central medallion.

The architectonic Baroque high altar is composed of five stages and polychromed in white and gold. Although essentially Baroque in character, the altar borrows its overall proportion and detailing from the Romanesque tradition. It is constructed of wood accented with polished marble. The central panel, which depicts St. Josaphat and Our Lady of Czestochova, is framed by marble columns with gilded Corinthian capitals surmounted by an arch enriched by classical mouldings.

The side altar on the east is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the side altar on the west dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The altars of the side chapels were taken from the original church of 1889. The organ was purchased from a Protestant church and installed in 1960. The pews, woodwork, and wainscotting are of white oak and are original.

A significant feature of the interior is the electric lighting system, unaltered since it replaced the original gas fixtures in the early part of the twentieth century. The apse and altarpiece are highlighted by bare bulbs installed along the ribs of the apse vault, the pendants of the ribbed vaults and the arches of the altarpiece being surmounted by a crucifix outlined in small bulbs.

Adjacent to the west side of the church is the rectory. The two-and-one-half-story building is constructed of red-orange brick. There is a double-door entrance and a porch which runs the length of the facade, its overhang supported by paired lonic columns. The shingled, hipped roof is punctuated by twin dormers. On the southeast corner of the house is a turreted, octagonal corner tower roofed with the same shingles as the roof. A stone string course stretches across the facade and partially around the sides. The lug sills of the windows are made of the same light colored stone. On the west side of the rectory is a large round-headed window.

On the lot west of the rectory is located a parking lot which was built after the school that originally stood on the site was demolished in 1961. At the rear of this lot is a one-and-one-half-story brick boiler house which is similar in style to the rectory. It has a small central portico flanked by double sash windows. The roof is hipped and like the rectory contains twin dormers. A large brick smokestack rises from the west side of the building. Next to this lot and also to the west is the Sisters' residence which was built in 1907. This simple two-and-one-half-story brick structure completes the St. Josaphat's church complex. It is built with the same materials as the other structures and is similar in basic design with its hipped roof and dormers. The plan of the building is square with an entryway and portico jutting out from the facade.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture X art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	Iandscape architecture	X religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Specific dates 1899-1907

Builder/Architect Joseph G. Kastler and William E. N. Hunter, Architects.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Josaphat's Roman Catholic Church Complex is significant as the home of one of Detroit's oldest Polish Catholic parishes, established in the late nineteenth century at a time of rapid growth of the Detroit Polish community. St. Josaphat's church itself is notable as an historic focal point of the city's Polish community. It is significant as an enormous and monumental example of late Victorian Romanesquestyle ecclesiastical design and is also important in artistic terms for its lavish interior fittings, stained glass, frescoes and for its intact, early electrical lighting system. Much of the interior decoration has an overtly Polish theme.

Polish immigrants from the Prussian-dominated sectors of Poland began to migrate to Detroit in the 1850s. After a disastrous revolution in Russian Poland in 1863, the numbers greatly increased. St. Albertus, Detroit's first Polish Catholic church, was established in 1872. In 1882 a dynamic Krakow priest, Father Dominich Kolasinski, was appointed its pastor. He was dismissed in 1886 after a dispute and sent to form a new parish in South Dakota. His dismissal caused great discord within the parish and resulted in Kolasinski's supporters seceding and forming the second east-side Polish parish, Sweetest Heart of Mary. Kolasinski eventually returned to Detroit in 1888 and became pastor of the new parish.

Unlike Sweetest Heart of Mary, St. Josaphat's, founded in 1889 and the third east-side Polish Catholic parish, was not the child of discord, but rather a result of the natural increase in the Polish population of Detroit. When the Canfield-Hastings (1-75) area was sufficiently populated to maintain a parish of its own, the intersection of these two streets was chosen as the site for St. Josaphat's Church. Joseph Nowakowski, a member of the new parish, owned a sizable acreage of land at Fremont (now Canfield) and Hastings Street. He donated twelve lots for the new church complex.

The cornerstone of the first church was laid on October 6, 1889 and the church dedicated on February 2, 1890. A two-story structure with a basement was built to house the church and school. The first floor was designated for a school and living quarters for the Sisters, while the second floor became the church proper. The basement contained a steam heat furnace and four classrooms. The classrooms doubled as a meeting room for church societies.

Within a few years the parish was outgrowing its facilities and plans were made for the construction of a new church, rectory and boiler house. Construction began under the direction of Joseph G. Kastler and William E. N. Hunter, a prominent Michigan early twentieth-century church architect; John Koch, mason; and the Harcus and Lang Company, carpentry. The latter contributed to the construction of the main altar. The side altars were built by Jermowicz Company, which was also responsible for the new pews. From the old church came the altars for the side chapels. In all the new structures totaled \$100,000 in cost, half of which was subscribed almost immediately. The church, rectory, and boiler house were completed in 1901 and the church was dedicated on August 5, 1901. Six years later the Sisters' convent was completed.

After 1915, a parish high school was constructed on the grounds. The high educational standards of the school were consistently upgraded and Father Gannas, who became pastor of the parish in 1926, gained accreditation for the school from the University of Michigan. By 1960, the Polish ethnic neighborhood that the church once served had relocated. The school was closed and, in 1961, the empty school building was demo-lished and replaced with a parking lot and the Sisters' convent was converted into the parish hall.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Diamond Jubilee Booklet, St. Josaphat Parish, 1889-1964, Detroit, Michigan. Heritage of Faith, Detroit Religious Communities Task Force, Detroit, Michigan, 1976. "St. Josaphat," Detroit <u>News-Tribune</u>, July 25, 1899. Interview with Rev. Francis Dolot, St. Josaphat Church, 30 June 1981.

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Keeper of the National Register		//
Attest:		date
Chief of Registration		

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In the decade of the Sixties, St. Josaphat's was faced with three major problems: the parish was dwindling as members transferred to other parishes; the structure was in need of some major repairs; and the survival of St. Josaphat's became questionable as the ever-growing Medical Center continued to seek additional land in the area. In the face of these problems, the parish chose to embark on an extensive rehabilitation.

8

SIGNIFICANCE

St. Josaphat's played an important role in the establishment and growth of a viable Polish community in Detroit. Taken as a group, the buildings of the St. Josaphat's Roman Catholic Church Complex are an example of an early twentieth-century religious complex being cohesive in design and building materials, and designed to meet their religious, social, educational and utilitarian needs of the Polish congregation.

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Substantive Review	
St. Josaphat's Roman Catholic Church Complex Wayne County	
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<pre> relating significance to the resource context relationship of integrity to significance justification of exception</pre>	
Justification of exception	

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ____ Quadrangle name ______ UMT References

14

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

date

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

13. Other

____ Maps

____ Photographs ____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _

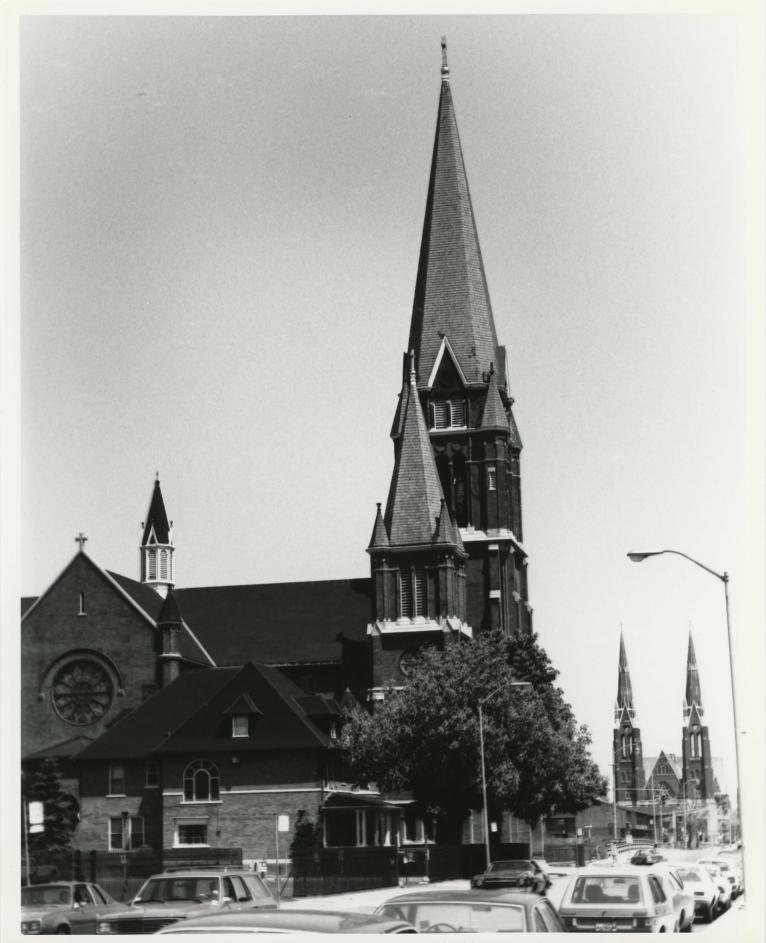
Signed	Date	Phone:	202	272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. Date: 1981

Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Building, Detroit, Mich. View: Looking north at Main facade Photo #1 of 13



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. Date: 1981

Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd.

202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Looking east toward rectory and church Sweetest Heart of Mary Church at right Photo: #2 of 13

At gesaphat's

R.C. Church "Rectory



Rectory St. Josaphat's R.C. Church 715 E. Canfuld Detroit, Mi.



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. Date: 1981 Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Looking north at boiler house and rectory Photo: #4 of 13

Rectory + Boiler Hs. (rear) St. Josaphats RC Church 715 E. Canfield Detroit, Mi

1473-0A



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. Date: 1981

Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

View: Looking NE at Sisters' Residence Photo: #5 of 13



ST JOSAPHAT CHRUCH 715 E. CANFIELD DETROIT, NI MAIN VIEW OF ALTAR FROM NAVE

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Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Board Date: 1981

Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd.

202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Main altar from south Photo: #7 of 13



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. Date: 1981 Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: General view of interior looking north Photo: #8 of 13

ST. JOSAPHAT CHRUCH 715 E. CANFIELD DETROIT, MI

VIEW OF ALTAR FROM NAVE

1451, 304



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Board Date: 1981

1451-1

Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

View: Detail of high altar and frescoes Photo: #9 of 13

Detail of thigh Attar in Sanctuary, North.



ST. JOSAPHAT'S Roman Catholic Church 715 E. Canfield Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Board Date: 1981 Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Detail of ceiling above the nave Photo; #10 of 13

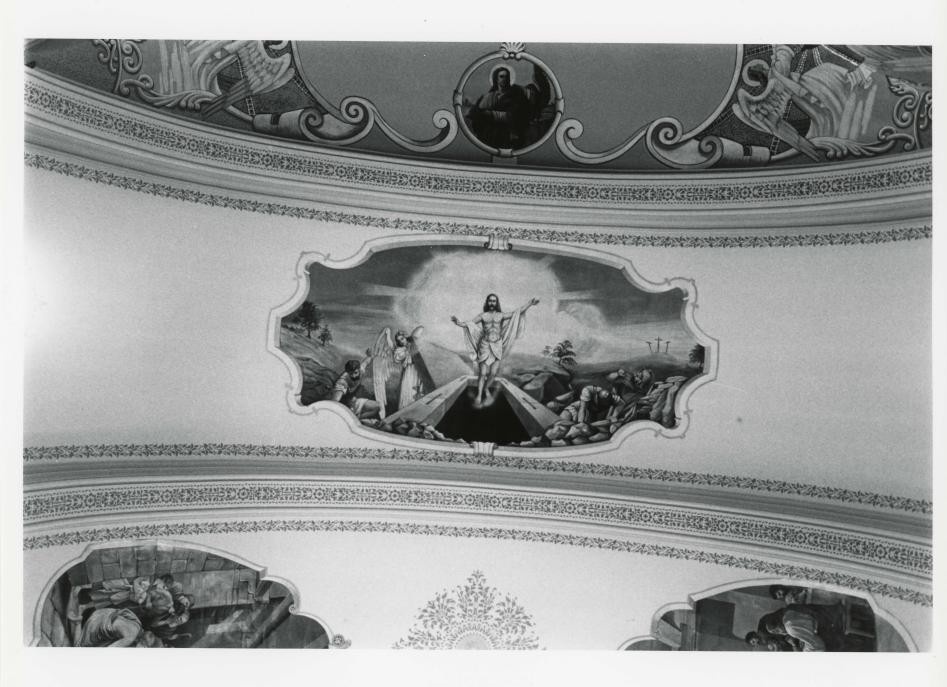
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ST JOSAPHIAT CHRUCH 715 E. CANFIELD

DETROTT, MI

DETAIL OF CEILING

1451, 36A



Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Board Date: 1981 Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Central transept area ceiling, detail of

fresco, "The Resurrection." Photo: #11 of 13

ST. JOS APHAT 715 E. CANFIELD DETROIT, MI

DETAIL OF FRESLO, "THE RESURRECTION", CEILING, CENTRAL TRANSEPT AREA

1451-2



ST. JOSAPHAT CHTUCH 715 E. CANFIELD DETROIT, NI

> ST. JOSAPHAT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 715 East Canfield Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

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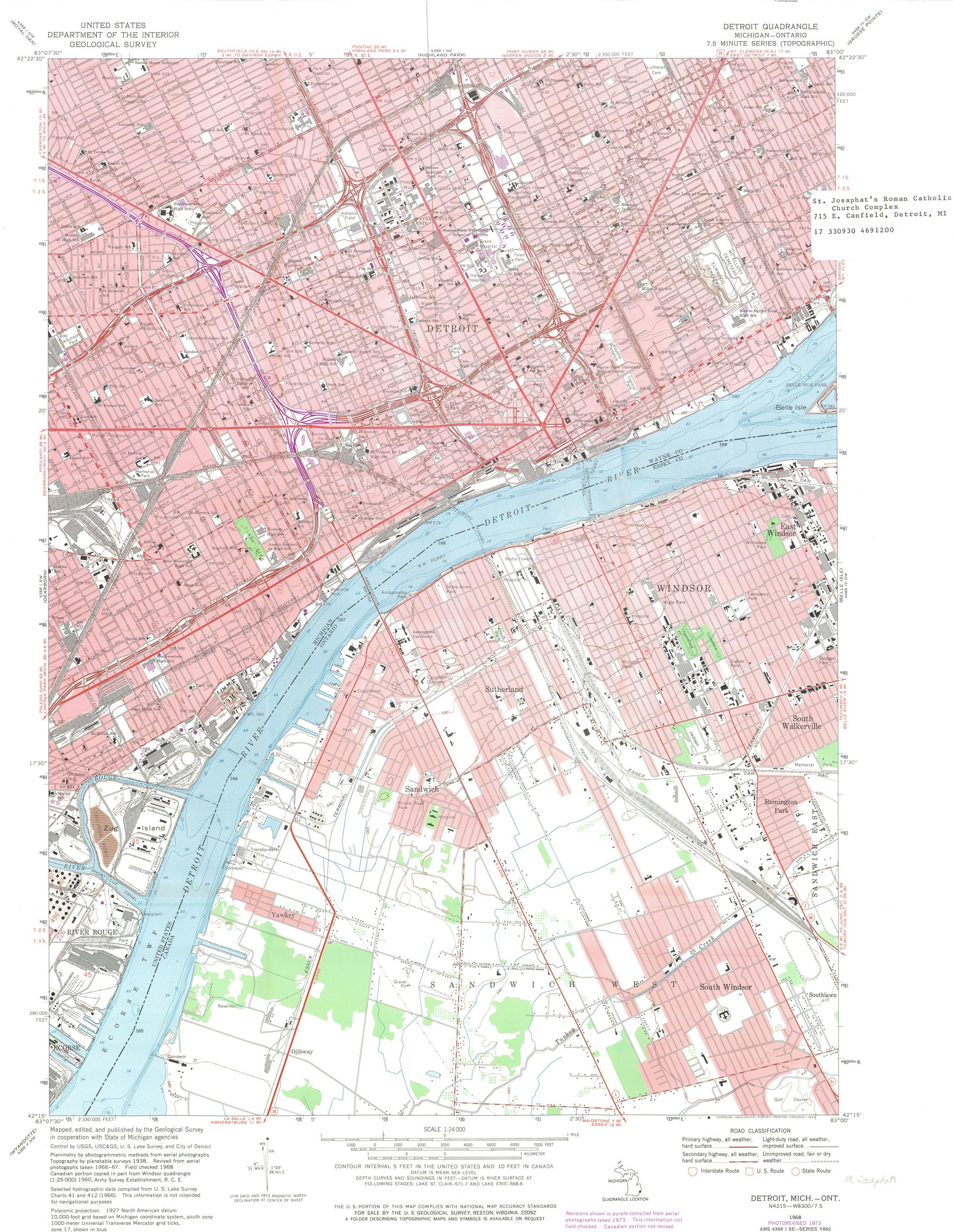


Photographer: Historic Designation Advisory Board Date: 1981 Negative: Historic Designation Advisory Bd. 202 City-County Bldg., Detroit, Mich. View: Fresco on east wall of Sanctuary of Pilgrimage to Czestochova Photo: #13 of 13

ST. JOSAPHAT 715 E. CANFIELD DETROIT, MI.

FRESCO: "PILGRIMMAGE TO CRESTOCHOWA," SANCTOARY, EAST WALL

1451-3



1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

October 12, 1982

SECRETARY OF STATE



MICHIGAN 48918

LANSING

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES 208 N. Capitol Avenue

STATE ARCHIVES 3405 N. Logan Street

STATE MUSEUM 208 N. Capitol Avenue

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 440 G Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register nomination materials for the St. Josaphat's Catholic Church Complex in Detroit, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All waiver-of-the-right-to-object forms, notarized statements of objection, and written comments concerning this property submitted to us during the commenting period are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Brian D. Conway, Historic Preservation Coordinator (517) 373-0510).

Sincerely,

Martha M. De

Martha M. Bigelow Director, Michigan History Division and State Historic Preservation Officer

MMB/ROC:tj Enc.

