

**PRELIMINARY PROPERTY EVALUATION FORM**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

**HISTORY COLORADO**  
**Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**  
**1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203**

COUNTY: Mesa

CITY: Grand Junction

HISTORIC BUILDING NAME(S):  
 St. Joseph Catholic Church

CURRENT BUILDING NAME:  
 St. Joseph Parish Hall

BUILDING ADDRESS:  
 330 White Avenue  
 Grand Junction Colorado 81501

OWNER NAME & ADDRESS:  
 St. Joseph Catholic Church  
 PO Box 246  
 Grand Junction Colorado 81502-0246

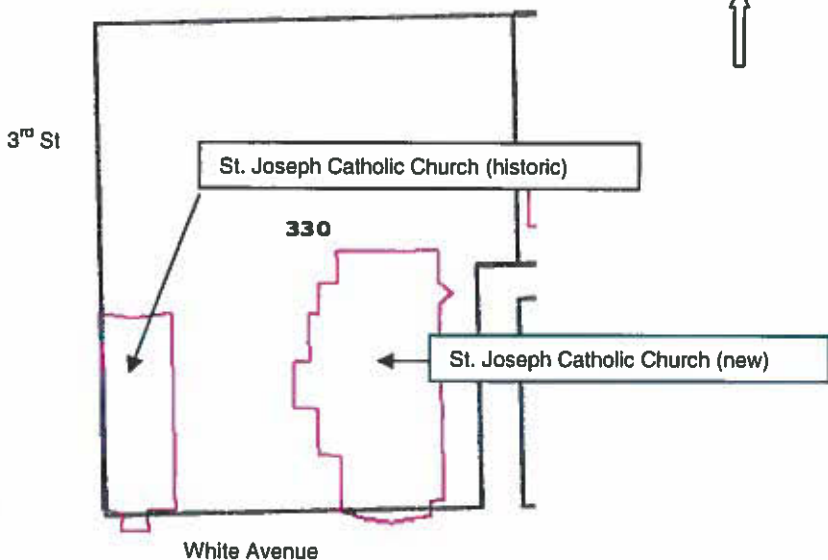
ORIGINAL OWNER: St. Joseph Catholic Church  
 Source of information: Property deeds reported with the records of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

HISTORIC USE(S):  
 Roman Catholic Church

PRESENT USE:  
 Parish Hall

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION:  
 yes  no Date of designation:  
 Designating authority:

PLAN SHAPE: north arrow



LEGAL LOCATION:  
 P.M.: Ute Township: 1 S Range: 1 W  
 NE ¼ of NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Section: 14

USGS quad name: Grand Junction  
 Year: 1973 [X] 7.5' [ ] 15'

Lot(s): 29 through 32 inclusive  
 Block: 2  
 Addition: Grand Junction Original Town Plat  
 Year of addition: 1882

original location  moved  
 Date of move(s):

CONSTRUCTION DATE: estimate: actual: 1906-1907  
 Source of information: Mesa County Assessor Office and records of St. Joseph Catholic Church

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: No contractor. Father Thomas Conway supervised all aspects of the construction of the church.

Source of information: The Daily Sentinel – March 25, 1907

EXTERNAL MATERIALS: Brick, Wood

STORIES: 1 BUILDING DIMENSIONS: 115' x 40'

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS:  
 yes  no  
 Building types: Church (new)

**OFFICE USE ONLY BELOW**

STATE SITE NUMBER:

Eligible for National Register \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
 date \_\_\_ initials \_\_\_  
 Criteria \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_  
 Contributes to a potential National Register district  
 \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ No district name:

Eligible for State Register \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
 date \_\_\_ initials \_\_\_  
 Criteria \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E  
 Areas of significance:

Period of significance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Needs data \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ initials \_\_\_\_\_

Style:

Building type:

UTM REFERENCE: NAD27 NAD83  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 Elevation:

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** (remember to provide photographs of the building with this form):

St. Joseph Catholic Church is a simple rectangular church structure with a prominent square, center steeple. Overall, there is very little ornamentation but the minimal details are of Victorian Gothic Revival Style. The center steeple dominates the front (south-facing) façade, above the gabled roof of the sanctuary space. The tower and entry project slightly from the front façade. The central main paired doors enter on a low porch with one Gothic-arched window above. The corners of the front façade are accentuated with a protruding brick column with small concrete caps. The lantern portion of

  X   additional page(s)

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):

The original two-room building constructed (date unknown) on the northeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and White Avenue served as a church on Sunday and as a school during the week. In 1907, the original building was replaced and a new church was dedicated. In 1916 a new school building was completed to the rear of the church. The stone-clad structure was not attached but very close to the Church building. A recent fire destroyed the school building but the Church did not sustain any significant damage. In 1993, the St. Joseph parish had a new church constructed next door to the old church. At that time, the old church was slightly remodeled to be utilized as the Parish Hall as it continues to be used.

       additional page(s)

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (discuss important persons and events associated with this building): When Father Thomas Conway came to Grand Junction as the priest of St. Joseph's church on Feb. 1, 1898, he faced a debt of \$2,000, plus interest and a church with a settling foundation and cracking walls. Father Conway started about persuading the parishioners to raise the money to pay off the debt and then raise even more money to build a new church. The new church was opened on March 24, 1907, at a cost of less than \$13,000. Father William Carr, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in 1895, is the priest who approached the Sisters of Leavenworth, Kansas, the year he became the pastor at St. Joseph's, to urge the Sisters of Charity to locate a hospital in Grand Junction. The hospital was opened in 1897.

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**INFORMATION SOURCES** (be specific):

Mesa County Assessors Records  
Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Records  
St. Joseph Catholic Church website: gsjstjoseph.org  
St. Joseph Catholic Church The First 100 years 1884-1984.

       additional page(s)

**SIGNIFICANCE** (check appropriate categories)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Architectural significance:   | Historical significance:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master                      | <input type="checkbox"/> associated with significant person(s)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> possess high artistic value                          | <input type="checkbox"/> associated with significant event  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> represents a type, period, or method of construction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with a pattern of events/town building/community development |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> contributes to a historic district   |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (briefly justify the significance checked above):

This property embodies the principles and practices of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century town building in the West. George Crawford and his Grand Junction Town Company created a plat of the original square mile of Grand Junction in 1882. In order to plan a complete community, the original town plat not only laid out a grid system of streets but also indicated the location of parks, city hall, county courthouse, schools and churches. The northeast corner of White Avenue and the cross streets of 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Streets were indicated as church sites. Four of the five corners still have a church building on them, one of which is the St. Joseph Catholic Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and White Avenue.

       additional page(s)

**FORM COMPLETED BY**

**NAMES:** Kristen Ashbeck and Kathy Jordan  
**ADDRESS:** 250 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Junction Colorado 81501

**PHONE:** 970.244.1491

**DATE:** December 20, 2011

**MATERIALS REQUEST**

Following the review of this evaluation form, I would like to receive the following materials:

- National Register of Historic Places nomination form and instructions
  - electronic format or  hard copy version
- State Register of Historic Properties nomination form and instructions
  - (note that properties listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register)
  - electronic format or  hard copy version
- Federal Investment Tax Credit information (OAH1515)
- State Income Tax Credit for Historic Preservation information (OAH1322b)
- State Historical Fund grant information (OAH1510)

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)**

the steeple is of wood cladding and has smaller rectangular windows on all four sides. The steeple roof is a six-sided spire that is adorned with crosses. On either side of the steeple, there are single wooden doors with one Gothic window above. The east- and west-facing facades are similar in design with the east facing façade having symmetrical fenestration of seven Gothic windows and a single wooden door towards the rear of the building. The west-facing façade also has seven Gothic windows along the side but instead of a door towards the rear of the building, there is a smaller Gothic window at the back. The simple facades are broken up with slightly protruding partial columns between pairs of windows. The rear or north-facing façade has only two small Gothic windows with no other ornamentation.

PHOTOS



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Grand Junction (date unknown)  
From southwest, showing adjacent school building to the rear



St. Joseph Parish Hall (former Church), Grand Junction (current)  
Front, south-facing façade



St. Joseph Parish Hall (former Church), Grand Junction (2011)  
East- and north-facing facades



St. Joseph Parish Hall (former Church), Grand Junction (2011)  
West-facing façade



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Grand Junction (new, current)  
From southwest, constructed 1993