

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Ludger Church and Rectory

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number St. Hwy. K, Germantown [ n/a ] not for publication

city or town Montrose [ x ] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Henry code 083 zip code 64770

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 [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ]. )

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

- [ ] entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- [ ] determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- [ ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- [ ] removed from the  
National Register
- [ ] other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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.

**Criteria Considerations**

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

**Periods of Significance**

1927, 1942

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person(s)**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Brinkman, Henry

Brinkman-Hagen

Meier, August

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**Primary location of additional data:**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

State Historic Preservation Office

previously listed in the National Register

Other State Agency

previously determined eligible by the National Register

Federal Agency

designated a National Historic Landmark

Local Government

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

University

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Other:

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Name of repository: Catholic Diocese of KC-St. Joseph

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2.6 acres

#### UTM References

A. Zone      Easting      Northing                      B. Zone      Easting      Northing

C. Zone      Easting      Northing                      D. Zone      Easting      Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Arlene Schussler  
organization St. Ludge Committee for Historic Preservation      date October 1, 1997  
street & number 397 SW 1100th Rd.      telephone 816-696-2438  
city or town Deepwater      state MO      zip code 64740

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Most Rev. Raymond Boland  
street & number P.O. Box 419037      telephone 816-756-1850  
city or town Kansas City      state MO      zip code 64141-6037

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St. Ludger Church and Rectory  
Henry County, Missouri

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

Late Victorian:

Italianate; Romanesque; Romanesque Revival

**SUMMARY:** Constructed in 1926-27, the St. Ludger Catholic Church is located in Germantown, Henry County, Missouri.<sup>1</sup> Germantown is a small village in a primarily agricultural area in west central Missouri. To help denote its location, it is on State Route Highway K four miles northwest of Montrose, Missouri, which is its nearest town and post office address. The Italianate Romanesque Revival church maintains a southern facade orientation and is bounded by State Route Highway K on the south and west, a county gravel road named High Street on the north, and a private gravel driveway/parking area serving the church property on the east. Overall measurements of the church are approximately one hundred and twelve feet north to south and seventy-three feet east to west. It was built to seat circa 400 people. The bell tower measures sixty feet in height. The variegated red brick Italianate Romanesque Revival church with an above grade three-coursed concrete foundation with partial basement is surmounted by French method shingled gable roofs. Two symmetrical pilasters punctuate the gable facade; a limestone gable capital surmounts each pilaster. Two pedimented pavilions project slightly from the northern-most bays of the east and west elevations forming a transept. A cross is located at the apex of each pediment. A five-sided apse projects from the center of the northern nave wall and is surmounted by a black shingled roof. Two, one-story, rectangular sacristy/vestry rooms are located in opposite corners on the eastern and western sides of the sanctuary/apse. A 1942 all-brick rectory stands west of the church and is included in the nomination. Both buildings are situated on lots 21 and 22 and are surrounded by a spacious lawn with several parking areas. The church lawn is landscaped. An additional lawn area (lots 23, 24, 25, 26) which is west of the present day church and rectory is included in the nomination. That part of the property is still defined by an old, iron rail fence. It was historically designated as a place for members of the congregation to hitch their horses.

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:** St. Ludger's Italianate Romanesque Revival church employs two symmetrical engaged columns to punctuate the gable facade, a basilica plan with shortened transept, and a five-sided apse to achieve its streamlined, twentieth century appearance. Mat faced, variegated red brick is employed in recessed panels and arches to provide textural diversity for the ecclesiastical form. Limestone waterable, window sills, facade arches, and coping provide visual articulation of form against the red brick body of the church. Delineation of the building's various roof shapes and heights are achieved with black asphalt shingles which were put on in the mid 1980's, replacing the original slate roof. The cornerstone

<sup>1</sup>The present church is the fourth one built for the Catholic congregation in this same general area. The third church, built circa 1858, was officially named St. Ludger's. St. Ludger had been a famous bishop of Westphalia, Germany, from where the early settlers had emigrated; thus the name was given to the present church, also.

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laid on Ascension Day, 1927, is located on the southeast corner of the building. Inscribed on the south face of the cornerstone is:

ST. LUDGER'S  
CHURCH  
1927

Combining brick and stone became a practical and decorative adaptation of the Italianate Romanesque churches. Varieties of interpretation were possible within the limitations of style that still could be defined as Romanesque. These features can be seen in the red brick church, visually enhanced with contrasting limestone details. The church is constructed of mat faced, variegated red brick which is broken by recessed panels, soldier coursing, and series of small brick arches at the top of the facade pilasters and under the raking front gable. The red brick is bonded to the common brick backing along every seventh brick course. The bonding course is laid with a repeating brick pattern of face-end-face. The foundation is constructed of concrete finished with a cement/sand mixture that is struck with one-half inch joints in a three-course pattern. The 19" thick foundation rises several feet from finish grade to the bottom of the stone watertable. Phenix cut limestone, which lends itself to carving and sculpting, is used for the watertable, window sills, facade and tower belt courses, facade and tower columns, imposts, facade arches, and gable roof coping to provide visual articulation of form against the red brick body of the church.

The south facade of the church is composed of two symmetrical, engaged columns that punctuate the roof gable. Here again, the Italianate spirit of the Romanesque is reflected in its three-door entry plan and set of three arched windows on the facade. The engaged columns frame the three main entryways and the set of three arched windows for the second floor choir gallery. The two side entryways are each framed by limestone pilasters. The central double door entryway is framed by limestone Tuscan columns. Both the pilasters and columns are surmounted by cut limestone pediment arches with semi-circular limestone transoms. The limestone pediment arches provide the most ornate display of sculpture on the church. Each limestone transom is defined with a carved circular symbol. An enlarged keystone with carved cross defines the central entryway arch. The pediments are capped with Tuscan cornices. The present glass front doors are a modern replacement of the original wood paneled doors. The glass panes, set in aluminum frames, are an energy saving measure that were added circa 1970. All limestone sculpture remains intact. The three arched choir windows are set in an arched recessed brick panel that is framed by end and rowlock courses of brick. Small brick corbeled arches are located near the top of the engaged columns and under the gable. The engaged columns extend above the gable and terminate with limestone pedimented capitals. The gable is capped with limestone coping. A cross is located at the apex of the gable.

The unique bell tower, located in the northeast corner of the floor plan, is a separate freestanding brick structure except for attachment to the main church building at the lowest elevation only. The bell tower's ground floor contains an east exterior entry with a stair rising up to the nave's main level and another stair down to the basement. The north and south facades of the bell tower each contain a pair of arched, stained glass windows at the lowest elevation, while the east facade contains a pair of wooden paneled entry doors surmounted by a stained glass semi-circular transom. Each facade of the bell tower contains a recessed

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brick panel that extends from the lowest limestone belt course to the belfry belt course and terminates with a series of small brick arches. The north, east and south recessed brick panels contain rectangular windows at mid-elevation and rectangular windows at the top just below the small brick arches. Each side of the tower's belfry is pierced by a set of three open arcades, the center of which is defined by limestone Tuscan columns. A hipped roof surmounts the bell tower with a cross at the apex. The belfry holds the historic bell ordered in 1892 from a Foundry Company in St. Louis, Missouri; also, another bell purchased in 1904.<sup>2</sup>

Fenestration is composed of arched, stained glass windows. Small sash windows pierce the basement walls.

Except for the bell tower, the east and west elevations are roughly symmetrical. Four arched, stained glass windows, a slightly projecting pedimented transept with another arched, stained glass window pierce each elevation. A five-sided apse projects from the north elevation of the building. The western and eastern elevations of the apse are each pierced by an arched, stained glass window at the uppermost level. Two one-story, rectangular sacristy/vestry rooms are fitted into opposite corners on the east and west sides of the apse. The west elevation of the west sacristy/vestry is pierced by a door surmounted by a stained glass fanlight and a 1/1 double hung sash arched, stained glass window. One arched, stained glass window pierces the north elevation. The east elevation of the east sacristy/vestry is pierced by two 1/1 double hung sash arched, stained glass windows. One arched, stained glass window pierces the north elevation.

The building's south entrance leads into the vestibule with a small vestry room on the east side. This room was originally a mothers room/cry room. The west side contains the stairway to the organ/choir gallery. Embedded in the vestibule walls are cornerstones of two previous St. Ludger churches.<sup>3</sup> Also displayed in

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<sup>2</sup>Coleman, Rev. Michael. This Far By Faith, Vol. II, Kansas City, MO Diocesan Archives: Marceline, MO Walsworth Pub. Co., 1992, p. 70.

<sup>3</sup>Inscribed on the cornerstones are these dates: May 1, 1858 - May 1, 1880; May 1, 1880 - August 23, 1926.

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the vestibule are two framed resolutions from the Missouri Legislature in recognition of the 150th year of the parish as a Catholic Church in the Germantown community.<sup>4</sup>

The organ/choir gallery projects from the building's south wall and forms a low ceiling entryway into the nave. Entry into the nave is gained through either one double, or two single interior doors. Each door is surmounted by a stained glass fanlight. The large, uninterrupted nave terminates at the shallow transept. Pilasters separate each stained glass grouping on the nave walls and provide an impost from which the semi-circular barrel ribs spring, typical of the Romanesque inspired churches. Two rows of oak pews fill the nave that can seat circa 400 people. A baptistry is located in the east transept and a confessional in the west transept.

The semi-circular, high domed sanctuary is formed from the projecting apse of the northern nave wall. Two sacristy/vestry rooms extend from the east and west walls of the apse. Placed along the back wall of the sanctuary is the original, main altar. The lower part contains a very ornate, Last Supper scene. However, after 1963, the sanctuary was changed to conform to the directives of Vatican II, that Mass be said with the priest facing the congregation. At that time, the main altar was dismantled and the altar table placed in the center of the sanctuary. In circa 1990, the altar was reassembled as nearly as possible like the original. A smaller, wooden altar table was then placed in the center of the sanctuary for Mass. Natural light shines into the sanctuary from the two upper level stained glass windows. There are two smaller side altars. One holds the statue of Mary, the Mother of Jesus; and the other, a statue of St. Joseph. The original statue of St. Ludger<sup>5</sup> holds a prominent place alongside the St. Joseph altar. The very ornate marble topped communion rails complete this section.

Interior doors are white pine and woodwork yellow pine: all with an oak finish. The oak, hardwood floors are visible in both sacristies, in the sanctuary, under the pews, and in the organ/choir gallery. All of the windows are stained glass and were donated by individuals or church organizations. Many display the names of the donors or a memorial name. The large windows which depict Biblical scenes or lives of the Saints are: Sacrifice of Melchisedeck, Supper at Emmaus, Saint Bernadette, Birth of Christ, Holy Family,

<sup>4</sup>This event was celebrated on May 29, 1983. The House Resolution was signed May 26, 1983, by Bob F. Griffin Speaker of the House, and presented by State Representative of the, then, 117th District, R. L. Dunning. The Senate Resolution was signed May 24, 1983, by John E. Scott, Pres. Pro Tem, and presented by State Senator of the 31st District, Harold Caskey.

<sup>5</sup>In 1884, Anthony Hendrichman died, leaving the parish \$100 for a statue of St. Ludger. It was imported from Germany, arriving in 1886. When the old church burned in 1926, the statue was rescued by young Andy Heibern who lifted it down by himself. (Ordinarily, three men are required to lift it.) This is recorded in various parish histories.

<sup>6</sup>Researched by Clark Welling, Montrose, MO, 1994.

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Christ the King, Agony in the Garden, Saint Theresa-Little Flower, Blessed Gasper Del Bufalo, Purgatory, Death of Saint Joseph, The Resurrection, Saint Cecelia, Saint Ludger, Saint Gregory the Great. The smaller windows throughout the church are of a more plain style.

A \$1,325 Wicks pipe organ was donated (anonymously) in 1938. At the time the organ was installed, the electric power for lighting and operating the motor driven turbine, which blows air into the pipes, came from an on-site generator. When power lines reached the area, the equipment was modified to use standard household current. No other changes have been made. All pipe work remains the same as installed. The organ consists of two, 61-note keyboards and a 32-note pedal board and 5 sets, or ranks, of pipes made of wood and zinc tin alloy, ranging from 2 2/3 to 9 feet long. the sets may be used individually or in any combination by means of stops or tabs. All mechanism is enclosed in an oak case, and volume may be controlled by a foot pedal which opens and closes shutter-like devices on the top of the case. The Wicks Pipe Organ Company remains in business today. The factory and offices are in Highland, Illinois.<sup>6</sup>

CHANGES AND MODERNIZATIONS: Except for replacement of the roof and front entry doors, the exterior of the church maintains its original appearance. Additional modernization and decorating of the interior through the years have included the following: globe light fixtures now hang in place of bare light bulbs, circa 1949, the church was redecorated, in 1956 a modern oil-burning furnace was installed. From 1967 through the early 1980s, the hardwood floors and pews were sanded and refinished, carpet laid in the aisles, interior walls painted, and some statuary repainted. The church sits atop a partial basement. After the school building burned in 1983, the basement was enlarged and decorated for use as a community center.<sup>7</sup> It was rewired and new lighting and window air conditioners were installed. Modern kitchen equipment was installed and the floor carpeted. Restrooms were added. All walls were painted. New tables and chairs were purchased for the meeting/dining area which seats 175 people.

The building shows some deterioration, mostly from moisture in sections of the walls. The exterior window frames and doors are in need of paint and repair. A few stained glass windows have small, broken sections. To address these problems, plans call for the first phase of repair work to be done in the Fall of 1997. This will include some tuckpointing, repair of the cap rock, repair of the flat roof over the baptistry, repair and painting of the exterior window frames and doors, and some interior paint repair. Phase two, yet to be decided, will include repair of the stained glass windows.

The St. Ludger Catholic Church maintains a high degree of exterior and interior architectural integrity as an ecclesiastical interpretation of the Italianate Romanesque Revival church.

<sup>7</sup>On May 8, 1983, the 91-year-old school building was destroyed by fire (apparently set by vandals). After 1959, when it no longer served as a school, it was still being used as a parish meeting hall and community center. It had just been renovated in preparation of the 150th anniversary celebration of the parish, planned for May 29, 1983.

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St. Ludger Church and Rectory  
Henry County, Missouri

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The coordinating eight-room rectory, also included in the nomination, was built in 1942 for approximately \$10,000: again, with a large amount of donated material and labor.<sup>8</sup> The all brick rectory was designed by the 1927 church architects, Brinkman & Hagan Architects, of Emporia, Kansas. It is believed that H. W. Brinkman was the main architect, although his name does not appear individually in the records as it did in the church records. The two thousand square foot rectory with full basement sits atop a stone faced foundation that extends several feet above grade and is capped by a rowlock brick course. The rectory's red brick, white door and window trim, and gable roofs relate to the church building. Brinkman and Hagan, architects, used a stepped floor plan and matching proportions to coordinate the two bath, three bedroom rectory to the church rectory. There is one alteration to the original floor plan; the garage is located on the northwest corner of the building instead of on the northeast as the original floor plan shows.

The former rectory remains nearly the same as built in 1942, except for some interior remodeling and decorating. It is presently rented to a local family.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>It replaced the old dwelling that had been built in 1867.

<sup>9</sup>The rectory was last occupied by a priest in 1978, before the status of the parish was changed.

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St. Ludger Church and Rectory  
Henry County, Missouri

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**SUMMARY:** The St. Ludger Catholic Church, built in 1926-1927, in Germantown, Henry County, Missouri, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an Italianate Romanesque Revival church. Christians have long indicated their understanding of Christ's teachings by use of visual symbolism in ritualistic liturgies, and especially in architecture. In this Italianate Romanesque Revival church, the Romanesque structural design dominates, while the Italianate-inspired decorative details create interest. The architect, Henry W. Brinkman of Emporia, Kansas, harmoniously combined these styles. Brinkman was a regionally prominent architect who designed schools, churches, and public buildings in the Midwest between 1910 and 1947. Keeping in mind the rural area where the St. Ludger Church is located, Brinkman used a simplified plan that still retained a sense of dignity and clarity; one that was feasible for the agricultural community to finance and maintain. The present church was built in 1926-1927 as a result of the third church (1858) being struck by lightning on August 23, 1926, and completely destroyed. Plans were being made as early as 1923 to build a better and larger church; the event of the fire expedited these plans. As had two previous log churches, the third (1858) church was becoming too small to accommodate the growing congregation.

The Church had always been the central focus of this Catholic community. It provided a place of worship, children were educated in the parochial school, and much of the social life was centered around parish events. From the early 1840s to 1991, the Germantown parish was an active parish. Then, because the Diocese could no longer furnish enough priests for all churches, the status of St. Ludger's was changed from a parish church to that of a chapel of ease. This meant that regular weekly religious services were discontinued, and the parishioners were asked to become members of Immaculate Conception Church in nearby Montrose, Missouri. St. Ludger's property was placed under the care of Immaculate Conception Parish. Today, only special occasion religious services such as weddings, funerals, and traditional prayer days are permitted at St. Ludger's; however, its importance as a community center continues, as many events are held there. These include the traditional Labor Day picnic (the largest parish fundraiser), 4-H Club meetings, family reunions, receptions, quilting sessions, tours, organ programs, etc. Its historic integrity still holds the interest of many people in the community and surrounding areas.

**NARRATIVE - CHURCH:** The Romanesque Revival style is characterized by massive articulated wall structures, round arches, and powerful vaults; this style was used primarily for churches. Romanesque architecture is based on Roman and Byzantine elements; it emerged in Western Europe in the early eleventh century and lasted until the middle of the twelfth century. The Romanesque Revival style became popular in America during the second half of the nineteenth century, and is most frequently applied in church design. Twentieth century interpretations are frequently seen in communities where the second and third generations built a new church.

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“Semicircular arches are used for all openings and sometimes where there are no openings, in a series as a form of wall enrichment; in such cases the arches may intersect one another. Nearly always the round-arch form is repeated in miniature in the arcaded corbel table. Under stringcourses and eaves, including the raking eaves of the gables, this is a feature-and may on occasion be the only feature-which distinguishes the Romanesque from other round-arched styles (such as Italian Villa). Buttresses are normally of slighter projection than Gothic. Towers may be finished off with parapets or topped with pyramidal roofs or-though these are strictly speaking Gothic-with spires. A favorite form of tower roof is pyramidal with concave slopes. Massing may be symmetrical or asymmetrical; in churches with two-towered facades one tower is often taller than the other. The wheel window (really a Gothic feature, like the spire, but with precedents in late Romanesque architecture of Italy) is common. Wall surfaces are broad and smooth.”<sup>10</sup>

The architectural advances of Greece and Rome became the general pattern referred to as Classic. There have been periods in Western culture when renewed interest in the Classics occurred; the fourteenth century Renaissance, the sixteenth century Baroque, and the eighteenth century Neo-Classic, referred to as “Italianate” or “Greek Revivalist.”

The St. Ludger Italianate Romanesque Revival church is a basilica plan with shortened transept and a five-sided apse projecting from the north elevation of the building. The bell tower is located in the northeast corner of the floor plan. Combining brick and stone became a practical and decorative adaptation of the Italianate Romanesque churches. Varieties of interpretation were possible within the limitations of style that still could be defined as Romanesque. To provide textural diversity for the ecclesiastical form, the church is constructed of mat faced, variegated red brick which is broken by recessed panels, soldier coursing, and a series of small brick arches at the top of the south facade. The pattern of the recessed panels with small brick arches is repeated on the upper elevation of each facade of the tower. The red brick is bonded to the common brick backing along every seventh brick course. The bonding course is laid with a repeating pattern of face-end-face. Phenix cut limestone, which lends itself to carving and sculpting, is used for the watertable, window sills, facade and tower belt courses, facade and tower columns, imposts, facade arches, and gable roof coping to provide visual articulation of form against the red brick body of the church.

The south facade of the church is composed of two symmetrical engaged columns that punctuate the roof gable. The engaged columns frame the three main entryways and the set of three arched, stained glass windows for the second floor choir gallery. The choir windows are set in an arched, recessed brick panel that is framed by end and rowlock courses of brick. Small brick corbeled arches are located near the top of the engaged columns and under the gable. The engaged columns extend above the gable and terminate with

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<sup>10</sup>Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, 1969).

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limestone pedimented capitals. The gable is capped with limestone coping. A cross is located at the apex of the gable. The two side entryways are each framed by limestone pilasters. The central double door entryway is framed by limestone Tuscan columns. Both the pilasters and columns are surmounted by cut limestone pediment arches with semi-circular limestone transoms. The limestone pediment arches provide the most ornate display of sculpture on the church. Each limestone transom is defined with a carved circular symbol. An enlarged keystone with carved cross defines the central entryway arch. The pediments are capped with Tuscan cornices.

Except for the bell tower, the east and west elevations are roughly symmetrical. Four arched, stained glass windows, a slightly projecting pedimented transept with another arched, stained glass window pierce each elevation. A cross is located at the apex of each pediment.

The bell tower, located in the northeast corner of the floor plan, is a separate freestanding brick structure except for attachment to the main church building at the lowest elevation only. The north and south facades of the bell tower each contain a pair of arched, stained glass windows at the lowest elevation, while the east facade contains a pair of wooden paneled, entry doors surmounted by a stained glass semi-circular transom. Each facade of the bell tower contains a recessed brick panel that extends from the lowest limestone belt course and terminates with a series of small brick arches. The north, east, and south recessed brick panels contain rectangular windows at mid-elevation and rectangular windows at the top just below the small brick arches. Each facade of the tower's belfry is pierced by a set of three open arcades, the center of which is defined by limestone Tuscan columns. A cross is located at the apex of the tower roof.

The building's interior space is defined by the vestibule, an organ/choir gallery projecting from the building's south wall, and the uninterrupted nave that terminates at the shallow transept. Additionally, interior architecture is defined in the sanctuary with its altars, ornate communion rails and statuary. The most decorative array is the interior view of the large, arched, stained glass windows which were donated by individuals or church organizations. The large windows which depict Biblical scenes or lives of the Saints are: Sacrifice of Melchisedeck, Supper at Emmaus, Saint Bernadette, Birth of Christ, Holy Family, Christ the King, Agony in the Garden, Saint Theresa-Little Flower, Blessed Gasper Del Bufalo, Purgatory, Death of St. Joseph, The Resurrection, Saint Cecelia, Saint Ludger, and Saint Gregory the Great. The smaller windows throughout the church are of a more plain style. Pilasters separate each stained glass grouping on the nave walls and provide an impost from which the semi-circular barrel ribs spring, typical of the Romanesque inspired churches.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: RECTORY**

The coordinating eight-room rectory was completed in 1942 at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Once again, much of the labor was donated by the parishioners. The all brick rectory was designed by Brinkman and Hagan Architects of Emporia, Kansas. The official blessing took place on March 26, 1942.

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The dwelling is located west of the church, and it replaced the one built in 1867. The rectory's red brick, white door and window trim, and gable roofs relate to the church building. The two thousand square foot rectory with full basement sits atop a stone faced foundation that extends several feet above grade, and is capped by a rowlock brick course. Brinkman and Hagan Architects used a stepped floor plan and matching proportions to coordinate the two bath, three bedroom rectory to the church building. There is one alteration to the original floor plan; the garage is located on the northwest part of the house instead of on the northeast as the original plan shows.

The first priest to occupy the new rectory was Father Rupert Landoll, C.P.P.S., who was assigned to St. Ludger's in 1942 and remained until 1947. Other priests who occupied the present dwelling were: Robert Stock, C.P.P.S., (1947-1954); George Spaeth, C.P.P.S., (1954-1959); Urban Iffert, C.P.P.S., (1959-1963); Michael Spegele, C.P.P.S., (1963-1967), Russel Friedrechs, C.P.P.S., (1967-1977); Kenneth Crique, (1977-1978). In 1978 St. Ludger's was placed under the care of the priests from nearby Montrose Immaculate Conception Parish. Since that time, the rectory has been rented as a family dwelling.

**Henry W. Brinkman, Architect**

Henry W. Brinkman, architect of St. Ludger's Church, Germantown, Missouri, was born in the German province of Westphalia on April 30, 1881. He learned to walk while on shipboard when the family subsequently emigrated to America. In 1895, the family settled in the thriving German settlement of Olpe in Lyon County, Kansas.

He graduated from the school of architecture at Kansas State College (now Kansas State University) in Manhattan in 1907. One of his earliest commissions was for St. Joseph's Catholic Church, built in 1910 in his former home town of Olpe, Kansas. This was immediately followed by a Methodist-Episcopal Church in Americus, Kansas. The next year saw the construction of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Emporia, Kansas. This prominent Gothic structure for his own parish was one of Brinkman's first major commissions, and brought him considerable attention.

He was the senior partner in a partnership formed with Stanley Hagan in 1925. This partnership lasted until 1948, when Brinkman retired. During his career, this Emporia, Kansas based architect designed schools, Catholic churches, and public buildings in the Midwest between 1910 and 1947. Henry W. Brinkman died on December 7, 1949.

"The Brinkmans were devout Catholics, very active in church affairs, and this may have led Henry to specialize in the design of churches and related facilities."<sup>11</sup> The following is a partial list of additional

<sup>11</sup>Brinkman Family Records; Emporia, Kansas: J. W. Brinkman.

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buildings designed by Brinkman: Kansas--Seven Dolors Catholic Church, 1920, Manhattan (Listed in the National Register in 1995); St. Peter's Cathedral, 1925, Kansas City; Emporia Civic Auditorium, 1939, Emporia; Kansas Avenue Elementary School, Emporia. Nebraska--St. Mary's Cathedral, 1926-28, Grand Island (Listed in the National Register 7/15/82). Missouri--St. Peter Grade School, Joplin; St. John Hospital addition, Joplin; Guardian Angels Church, 1922, Kansas City; Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 1922-1923, Kansas City; Holy Trinity, 1925, Kansas City; St. Ludger Catholic Church, 1927, Germantown.

Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kansas City, Missouri, recently marked its 75th anniversary. "Designed by architect Henry Brinkman of Emporia, Kansas, the church is noted for its bell tower with Roman arches. In his homily at the re-dedication liturgy, Sept. 7, 1997, Bishop Raymond J. Boland noted the history and 'the beauty of what is a gem of architecture.'"<sup>12</sup>

**August H. Meier, Builder/Contractor**

August H. Meier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meier, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, February 13, 1873. He died in Sedalia, Missouri August 1, 1953. For many years he had been a contractor and builder in Sedalia.<sup>13</sup>

**NARRATIVE: HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The present St. Ludger Church evolved from its predecessors which were two log cabin churches (built circa 1834 and 1840), and later a wood frame, native blue stone structure (built in 1858).

About the year 1830, a pamphlet written in the German language was circulated throughout Westphalia, Germany. Due to the social, political, and religious discord in Germany at that time, some families decided to emigrate to America. The year was 1832 when early settlers arrived in New York, traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, and followed the Missouri River into what is now Warren County, Missouri. They spent some time there, where some remained, while others made their way to land along Deepwater Creek and in an area later designated Henry County, Missouri. Other settlers came through New Orleans, up the Mississippi River, through Cape Girardeau and St. Louis, Missouri, and finally reaching Deepwater Creek.

The first two families arriving in the area were the Walberts and the Schmeddings. The Walbert family consisted of three brothers and a sister, whose names were Henry, Melchior, Anthony, and Catherine. The Schmeddings were four brothers, John Bernard, Theodore, Bernard, and Gerhard. Other founding

<sup>12</sup>Kline, Loretta Shea, Kansas City, Missouri: The Catholic Key, September 14, 1997.

<sup>13</sup>Sedalia Democrat, Sedalia, Missouri, August 4, 1953.

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families were the Juttenbachs, John Westhusings, Bernard Naubers, and Joseph Theimans.<sup>14</sup> Upon arriving, log houses were built for each family, and the planting of corn began in land that so resembled their homeland. They built a small, log church as a place of worship. More immigrants began to arrive and the settlement grew.

In 1840, Archbishop Rosati of St. Louis, Missouri, appointed the first resident pastor to serve the growing German Catholic settlement. Father John Henry Meinkman arrived, and the small church (first named St. Anthony), was established as a parish church under the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In the early 1840s, another site was chosen for a second church. The land was donated by the Schmedding brothers, apparently on unsurveyed government land. Here a better church, also of logs, was built.

About 1849, a school was begun in the church building. The first teacher was Catherine Juttenbach, who came to the colony in 1837. Also, 1849 several parcels of land were secured in anticipation of building a larger church to accommodate the growing congregation. Lots 21 and 22 (obtained from the Schmedding family), were included in one parcel, and this is the location of the present day church and rectory.

The first visit by a bishop to the parish took place in 1854, when Father Theodore Heiman was pastor. John B. Miede, S.J., Vicar Apostolic of Indian and Kansas Territory came to confirm on Ascension Day, 1854. He had come in a carriage drawn by oxen.

As the community grew, so too did the small trading post. It was first called Deepwater; then in 1857 the town of Germantown was established. More homes were built and more stores and shops were established. A larger church was needed.

Father Francis Ruesse was pastor of the parish from 1855-1862. During this time the third church was built in a central location, on lots 21 and 22. It was of wood frame and native blue stone, materials supplied by members of the parish. It was 40' wide, 80' long, 20' high, with the tower rising to 50'. The stone contract was given to John Cast and brothers. The carpentry contract was given to John Divinney. Of course, much of the labor was volunteer, supplied by parishioners. The cornerstone was laid May 1, 1858, and the people agreed that this church would bear the name St. Ludger. In 1859, the church was dedicated by Father Patrick Ryan, the Vicar General of the St. Louis Archdiocese.

<sup>14</sup>There are several Schmedding descendants and many Westhusing descendants still living in the area.

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As the Civil War era approached, the unrest that erupted along the Missouri-Kansas border put the settlement in danger. The lives of the farmers and their animals were being threatened, and crops were in danger of being destroyed by the guerrillas and bushwhackers who were roaming through the countryside. Men of the parish took turns standing in the bell tower of the church to ring the bells to warn the farmers of an approaching attack. The community and the church suffered severe damage during the Civil War. Union soldiers, along with their horses, used the church for shelter from 1862-1864. Nearly everything inside was destroyed. Father Francis Ruesse had left as he had been robbed and his life put in danger. He went to live at Hermann, Missouri. From 1862 to 1866, there was no resident priest.

After the war, the community and the parish began to rebuild. Father John Gruender was pastor from 1866-1870. In 1867 a combination school and parish house was built. Father Gruender taught the school and organized the first choir. He taught the choir to sing in Latin; prior to this, singing was in German.

By 1870 the town of Germantown had two stores, two saloons, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, a post office, a shoe shop, a millinery store, and a public well. A stagecoach line running from Sedalia, Missouri, to Fort Scott, Kansas, went through the booming town. A bright future was predicted for the community; however, soon after that the town was doomed as the mayor refused to sell the railroad company the right-of-way through his land. As a result, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, later known as "Katy", bypassed Germantown and located their depot about four miles to the southeast. This resulted in the founding of Montrose, Missouri, in 1871, and many of the Germantown merchants and tradesmen relocated there. This caused the decline of the town of Germantown; however, because of all the farmers in the area, the parish was well established and continued to grow. The last remaining general store would serve the area until the early 1960s when it also closed. Thus ended an era of Germantown being an important trading center.

A new wave of immigrants who had settled in other parts of the country soon heard of the new town of Montrose. They were attracted to the area because of the railroad, the good farmland, the churches and the schools. They came to the area and the new town grew rapidly. Among those arriving were many Catholic families. The priests from Germantown served the new community from 1872 to 1879, until a Catholic church was built in Montrose and a resident pastor appointed.

In the years 1872-1880, improvements were added to the St. Ludger parish. A new rectory was built in 1873, and the old one was converted into a residence for the two teaching nuns who came from the convent at O'Fallon, Missouri. Through the years, school had been held in buildings that were enlarged or rebuilt as the need arose.

During the years 1877 to 1887, Father Ivo Prass, O.M. Cap., was the resident pastor. Plans had been made many years before to rebuild and enlarge the 1858 church after the Civil War. However, it was not until

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May 1, 1880 (date on the cornerstone), that construction work proceeded. The completed rebuilt church was dedicated October 27, 1881, by Bishop John J. Hogan, the newly appointed bishop of the Kansas City Diocese. St. Ludger's then became part of the newly formed diocese. This building would then serve the parish until August 23, 1926. Also in 1887 a new order of priests, the Society of the Precious Blood from Ohio were given charge of the parish, Sisters of the Precious Blood from Maria Stein, Ohio, were secured to staff the school, and plans were made to build a new school.

By 1892 a new school was built in the town near the church. Officially it was called Maple Grove District No. 76. At this time there were 140 students. Because of the unique situation that all children in the district were Catholic, the parish paid for the building, and the State of Missouri paid part of the teachers' salaries. This lasted until the fall of 1953, when the issue of separation of church and state no longer permitted this. This school then became strictly parochial, known as St. Ludger's.

When the school was built in 1892, once again much of the labor and material was supplied by parishioners. It was built of native blue limestone and sandstone. The limestone was quarried and hauled by team and sled from Horn Branch on the farm of Bill Sickman. The sandstone came from the Lawrence Kalwei farm. A ramp was constructed in order to get Joseph J. Putthoff's old gray mare on top of the building in order to pull the stones to the top. Billy "Mac" Strauch was hired as the stone mason. He had worked in the brick factory at Deepwater, Missouri, and he was well qualified in his trade. This could be attested to by the sound condition of the building, 91 years later, until it burned to ruins on May 8, 1983. It had been a large, stately building with full basement. The first floor contained three large classrooms, two cloak rooms and a large hallway. The upper floor contained a large auditorium with stage, and a large kitchen. It had also served as a center for many school, parish and community activities.

A large bell was ordered for the church in 1892 from a Foundry Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Securing the bell is an episode in itself. By mistake, it had been shipped to Deepwater, Missouri, a town about 20 miles to the east of Germantown. It was a natural mistake as Germantown, at one time in its early history, had been called Deepwater. With a large wagon and a double team of horses, some men of the parish set out for Deepwater to secure the bell. They had no difficulty until they started the return trip when a thunderstorm turned the roads into mud, and the wagon overturned. The bell was tossed out of the wagon, so the men sought shelter for the night waiting for the rain to stop. The following morning with much effort, they were finally able to reload the 1700 pound bell and continue their journey to Germantown. They arrived in the afternoon and were greeted by the bishop and congregation, who had been waiting for hours for the ceremony of the blessing of the bell! A wooden bell tower, apart from the church, had been erected to house the bell. In 1904 a second bell was purchased, and the wooden tower was replaced by a more substantial one made of steel.

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In 1909, the sisters of Notre Dame from St. Louis, Missouri, came to teach in the school, and lots 22-26 were obtained from the Schmedding family. In anticipation of constructing a home for the sisters, lots 14 and 15 in the Original Town of Germantown, were obtained from W. J. and Teresa Kloer, dated August 5, 1913.

Father B. V. Holler, C.P.P.S., served the parish from 1919-1923. In 1919, the sisters' home was completed. It was a large, two-story brick building that contained enough individual rooms to house the sisters and those students who wished to board there during the week. It also contained its own small chapel. Once again with the help of volunteer labor, the cost was held to \$11,000. When Father Holler was still pastor, Bishop Thomas F. Lillis, of the Kansas City Diocese, had requested that a new, larger church be build. When Father Holler left, \$8,000 had been collect toward the building fund.

Father Benjamin Alt took charge in October, 1923, and continued the fundraising. Various activities were held to raise money: ice cream socials, card parties, bazaars and picnics. These events also provided a means for the people to gather and socialize, and were well attended. Although fairs and picnics had been held as far back as 1916, perhaps September 7, 1925, was the beginning of the annual picnic being held on Labor Day.<sup>15</sup> This began the tradition of the Germantown Labor Day Picnic which continues today. The building committee members selected in 1923 were: Father B. Alt, Herman Putthoff, George Tenholder, Wm. J. Cook, Sr., Wm. H. Sickman, John Brownsberger. Members of the church committee were: Barney Bettels, John A. Cook, John Rotert, and Henry Bettels.

An occurrence in August, 1926, gave a new urgency to the necessity of a new church. One of the entries made by Father Alt in the parish record reads:

"August 23, 1926, Date of the church being struck by lightning during the double wedding and completely burned. The double wedding of Joseph Daldrup and Blanche Cook; Clemence Wm. Rotert and Freda Cook was to begin at 8 a.m. Owing to a heavy cloud hanging in the northwest for a long time, the couples came earlier, as also did all the people. Mass was therefore started at 7:30 thinking that the service might be over and all get home before the rain came. During Mass, however, it began to get very dark, thunder and lightning and a very heavy rain fell. Just as the pastor, Rev. B. Alt, was chanting the Pater Noster, and when he came to the words, "Fiat Voluntae Tua", a terrible thunder crash was heard which struck the steeple of the church and immediately set it on fire. The church was filled with people; almost the entire congregation being present. Some began to scream, Mrs. Barbara Cook was carried out, benumb by the shock, else no one was hurt. The people all left the Church orderly and seeing it was impossible to save the church, all got busy carrying things out of the church to save as much as possible.

<sup>15</sup>Parish Financial Statement, 1925.

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The pastor hurriedly finished Mass and told the couple to go over to the Sisters Chapel, then he removed the Blessed Sacrament to the Sisters Chapel and all sacred vessels and vestments.”

The people all worked very faithfully and orderly; thus, many things such as statues, altar linens, sacred vessels, and candlesticks were saved. The nearly new pump organ was not saved, however. Three men, Ed Schussler, John Rotert, and John Cook, went to the choir loft, but realized they could not get the organ down the winding, narrow stairway so they had to leave it. The pastor's residence was also on fire. Only after the church steeple and roof had fallen in, with no hope of saving it, those fighting the fire set about to save the house and their efforts were successful. As evening came, the wedding celebration still had to be completed. After a very hard day, the guests made their way over the muddy roads to the home of Jerome Cook, (brother of the brides), where the wedding dance took place. The guests were served refreshments and enjoyed a bit of cheer! Although the destruction of the church had taken place, the day ended on a happy note.

Many personal stories of that day have been told by eyewitnesses who still live in the community. Leroy Brownsberger, then nine years old, was so proud of his new cap. After leaving the burning building, he remembered it and ran back into the building to get it.<sup>16</sup> Irene (Goth) Nold and her mother were also in the church that day. Irene, then a young teenager, remembers that she and her mother hurried from the building. They had their horse and buggy tied near the church, so were concerned about getting the horse away from danger. In their haste to leave, Irene picked up her little ten cent purse, but left a more valuable parasol behind.<sup>17</sup> Eunice (Westhusing) Schussler, then 6 years old recalls being hit on the shoulder by a large piece of plaster, broken loose by the force of the lightning strike.

Father Alt's parish record book states: "Work on the new church began October 25, 1926, on the 16th anniversary of the Pastor's Ordination to the Priesthood." In the meantime, religious services were held in the school basement.

At that time, there was no rural electricity serving the area; therefore, one of the first purchases made was a Western Electric light plant. The plant and the electrical wiring of the other parish buildings, complete with fixtures and bulbs, amounted to \$900. Much of the native lumber used for construction came from the timberland owned by the church and other farmers. Logs were cut and hauled to a sawmill located along Deepwater Creek. The sawmill was owned by parishioners, John W. Cook and Sons.

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<sup>16</sup>Interviewed by Arlene Schussler in 1995; Leroy Brownsberger, Parishioner, Montrose, MO

<sup>17</sup>Interviewed by Arlene Schussler in 1995; Irene Nold, Parishioner, Montrose, MO

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The architect for this Italianate Romanesque Revival church was Henry W. Brinkman of Emporia, Kansas. The contractor/builder was August H. Meier of Sedalia, Missouri. Designated in the specifications was the option that volunteer labor be used when possible. There were a few hired carpenters, but the majority of the work force was made up of men of the parish who provided volunteer labor. Father Alt's parish record book lists the names of 57 men who helped, some working as many as 150 days each. There were no hotels in the area at that time, so the hired workers stayed at various places in the community. The school hall was used for sleeping quarters for some. Mrs. Bill Goth who lived nearby, cooked the meals for the workers; they paid her twenty-five cents per meal.

The cornerstone was laid on Ascension Day in May of 1927. The Vicar General, Msgr. Wm. Konenhop of the Kansas City Diocese, was present for the occasion. Dinner and supper were served by the ladies of the parish. The first Mass was celebrated on February 19, 1928. The first group of children to receive their First Holy Communion in the new church was on May 1, 1928. This same group was confirmed on June 17, 1928, the date of the official dedication of the new church. Bishop Thomas Lillis of the Kansas City Diocese presided over both events. The men's choir from Immaculate Conception Church in Montrose joined the St. Ludger choir in singing the Latin Mass. A large number of guests attended. The church had been built at a cost of \$37,449.57. The interior furnishings and windows (mostly paid for by donations) amounted to \$8,696.45, making an overall total cost of \$46,146.02. With the wise planning of the pastor and congregation, most of the debt had been paid off before the Great Depression hit. The years 1930-1934 saw very few cash donations. These were followed by several years of severe drought; however, the church and the parishioners did survive.

A 1934 diocesan census shows there were 90 families, comprised of 424 individuals. There were 82 children of grade school age. In 1938, the School Sisters of Notre Dame were replaced by the Franciscan Sisters, then from Nevada, Missouri, and now from Independence, Missouri, to teach in the school. Also, in 1938 a pipe organ was given to the church. An entry in a parish record book written by Father Alt reads:

"1938, we received the greatest private donation, The Pipe Organ, \$1,325. Dedicated Thanksgiving Day, 1938. The donor wishes his name to remain unknown. May God Bless the Donor, forever!"

When the organ was dedicated, a parish celebration was held. One of Father Alt's nephews, Basil Alt of Chicago, Illinois, came to Germantown for the occasion. He was an accomplished organist and gave a much appreciated concert. In 1942 a new rectory was completed at a cost of circa \$10,000; once again much of the labor was donated by the parishioners.

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Although Father Alt was the pastor in charge during the planning and construction phases of both the church and rectory, he was assigned to another parish before he had a chance to occupy the new rectory. Father Alt had ministered at St. Ludger's parish for 19 years (1923-1942), the most lengthly of any clergy assigned to the Germantown parish.

Father George Spaeth served the parish from 1954-1959. By this time, many changes were taking place in the community which affected St. Ludger's parish. Peabody Coal Company had been established in Henry County, and they set about to buy land for their strip-mining operation. Some farmers were selling their land and moving away. It was becoming more difficult for young farmers to begin farming because of the high price for land and machinery. Some of the older people were moving to larger towns to retire. The population of the area was beginning to decline. In July of 1959, it became the sad duty of Father Spaeth to announce the decision made by Bishop John P. Cody that St. Ludger School be closed. It officially closed before the opening of the 1959-1960 school year. The enrollment had fallen to a mere 55 students. It became financially imprudent to continue to operate. It was a hard fact for the congregation to accept, but they were consoled by the fact that their children would be consolidated into St. Mary School in nearby Montrose, Missouri. The good people of Germantown made every effort to support the children there. Their largest parish fundraiser, the Labor Day Picnic, was then earmarked to pay the tuition. Thus ended an era of 110 years (1849-1959) that a parochial elementary education was possible in Germantown for those who chose it. Children who lived a long distance away had attended various public schools located nearer their homes.

Father Urban Iffert assumed the pastorate in August, 1959. Yet another change for the parish came on June 27, 1960, when Father Iffert was transferred to Immaculate Conception Parish, Montrose. With residence in Montrose, Father Iffert and his associate, Father Robert Stukenborg, had charge of the Montrose Parish and the missions of St. Ludger at Germantown and Holy Trinity at Urich. This was the first time since the Civil War era that St. Ludger's was without a resident pastor.

In 1963, the Diocese rearranged assignments and once again sent St. Ludger's a resident pastor. Father Michael Spegele, who was also in charge of Holy Trinity at Urich, remained until 1967. He introduced changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council: Mass was celebrated in English using an altar table facing the people: lay ministers were trained to assist the priest.

Father Russel Friedrichsen was pastor from 1967-1977. He was well suited for the rural area as he enjoyed planting a garden and working outdoors. He was adept at canning the garden produce, and his specialty was homemade pickles. Father Russel was an excellent cook, and many guests enjoyed his homemade spaghetti dinners served with freshly baked bread. Customers were attracted to the country store booth at the Labor Day picnic, especially to purchase homemade bread, canned pickles, and homemade noodles made by Father Russel. The ladies of the parish carried on this tradition, and the volume has grown to 350-400 bags of noodles made to sell each year at the picnic.

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However, Father Russel will mostly be remembered for his courageous leadership in getting the Missouri Legislature to pass a stripmine, land reclamation bill. He had become very troubled and concerned to see what stripmining was doing to the environment, especially around Germantown. His firm belief was that people must be stewards of the air, the soil, and the water. With the help of other concerned groups, Father Russel led the action for this cause. They made many trips to the State Capitol at Jefferson City, Missouri, to urge passage of this legislation. Eventually the bill did pass, but Father Russel did not live long enough to witness the results of his efforts. A sudden heart attack ended the pastoral career of Father Russel Friedrichman, C.P.P.S., age 51, at St. Ludger rectory in Germantown on March 5, 1977. In tribute to him, the 79th General Assembly of the State of Missouri issued special memorial commendations to the parish. These were in recognition of his priestly ministry and of his civic concerns during his ten-year pastorate at Germantown. The Senate Resolution was signed March 7, 1977, by Vinita Ramsey, Secretary of the Senate. The House Resolution was signed March 8, 1977, by Dwight L. Fine, Chief Clerk of the House.

On May 29, 1983, St. Ludger's parish celebrated its 150th anniversary as a Germantown church. A big dinner was to be held in the school hall as part of the celebration; however, the festivities were not meant to be in this building. A fire was discovered burning out of control at about 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 8, 1983. Despite help from all neighboring fire departments, the building and contents could not be saved. It took quite an effort to keep the fire from spreading to the church, rectory, and sisters' house. This time men stood watch in the bell tower—not for bushwhackers, but to watch for flying embers that may ignite the other buildings. All evidence pointed to the fire being started by vandals as the unoccupied sisters' house had also been vandalized. The ninety-one-year old school, a Germantown landmark, was completely destroyed. Not to be defeated, the determined parishioners continued to plan for the anniversary just three weeks away. The celebration on Sunday, May 29, began in church with Bishop John J. Sullivan principal celebrant of the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Other clergy taking part were Fathers Michael Clary, Michael Spegele, and Joseph Meisburger. The banner hanging from the podium appropriately proclaimed, "Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still". A delicious dinner was served under a large tent that had been set up on the lawn. The afternoon program was held there as well. Many church and civic dignitaries attended, and the 82nd General Assembly of the State of Missouri recognized the historical importance of the church.

Without the parish hall, arrangements were made to hold the 1983 Labor Day picnic in a large tent on the lawn. By the following year, the church basement had been converted into a meeting hall/community center. During the late 1980s, the number of parishioners continued to decline; many of the younger people were seeking employment elsewhere, death claimed many of the older generation, and some moved to other towns to retire. On October 12, 1990, Bishop John J. Sullivan announced that the St. Ludger property would be placed under the care of Immaculate Conception Church, Montrose. The two parishes

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became one, effective in 1991. A smooth transition was achieved. Nothing attests better to that fact than the annual Labor Day picnic, when all work together for a successful day. For many it is considered a homecoming. Each year circa 1,700 people come from a wide area of the state of Missouri, as well as from other states, to enjoy the festivities.

As of July 1, 1994, Father Robert Stone was assigned as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Montrose; Holy Trinity Church, Ulrich; and serving St. Ludger Chapel, Germantown. Historically, when the town of Montrose was established in 1871, their Catholic population was ministered by the priests from Germantown until 1879. Since 1835 to the present, there is a recorded list of 49 priests who ministered at the Catholic parish in Germantown.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 22

St. Ludger Church and Rectory  
Henry County, Missouri

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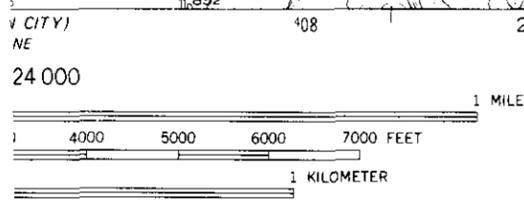
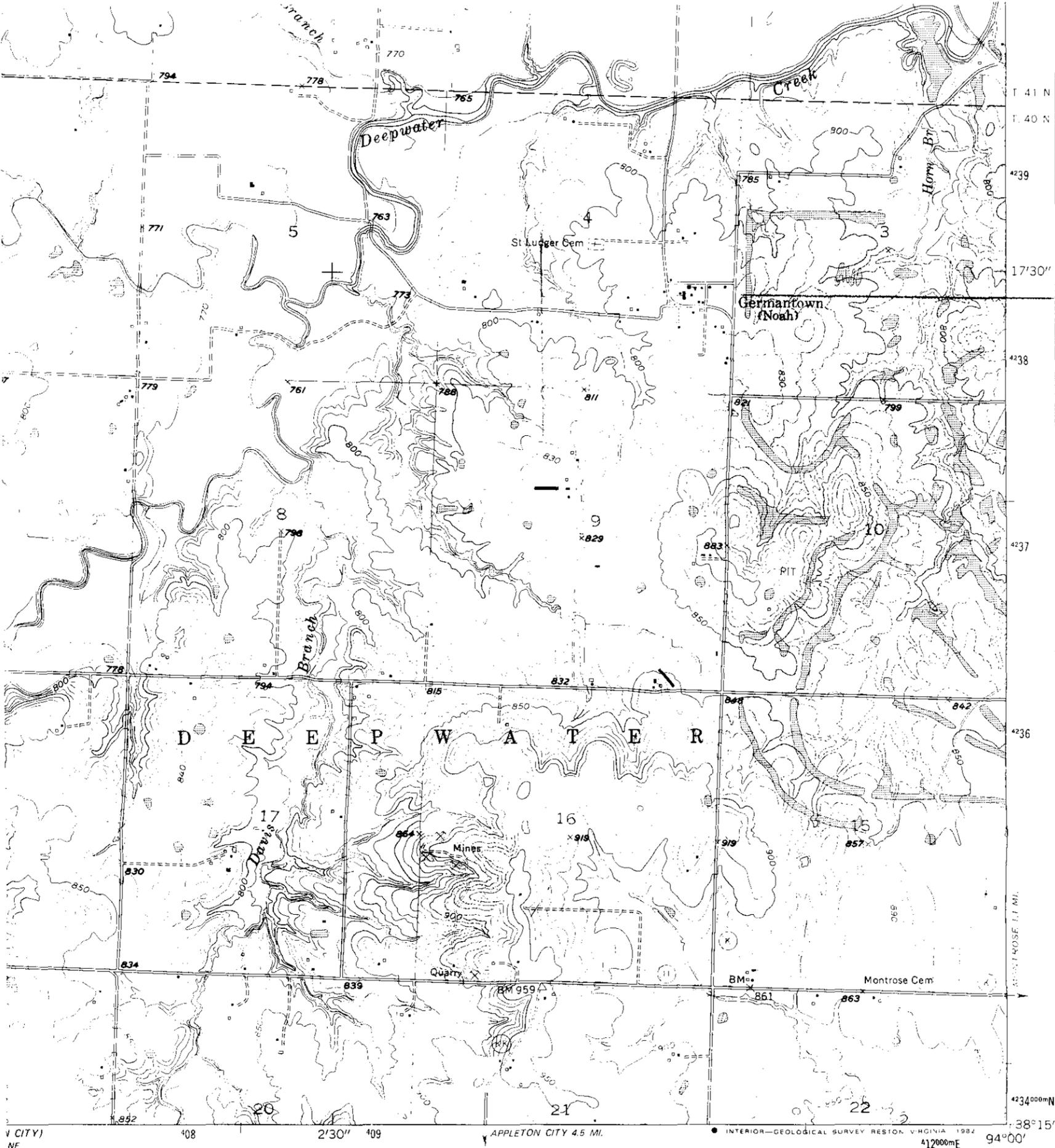
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the parcel are State Highway K on the west and south, a county gravel road named High Street on the north and a private gravel driveway/parking lot serving the church property on the east.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the land on which the church and rectory are situated and covers enough area to include the hitching rails located on two sides of the property.

ST. LUDGER CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 HENRY COUNTY, MO  
 15/410775/4238325



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

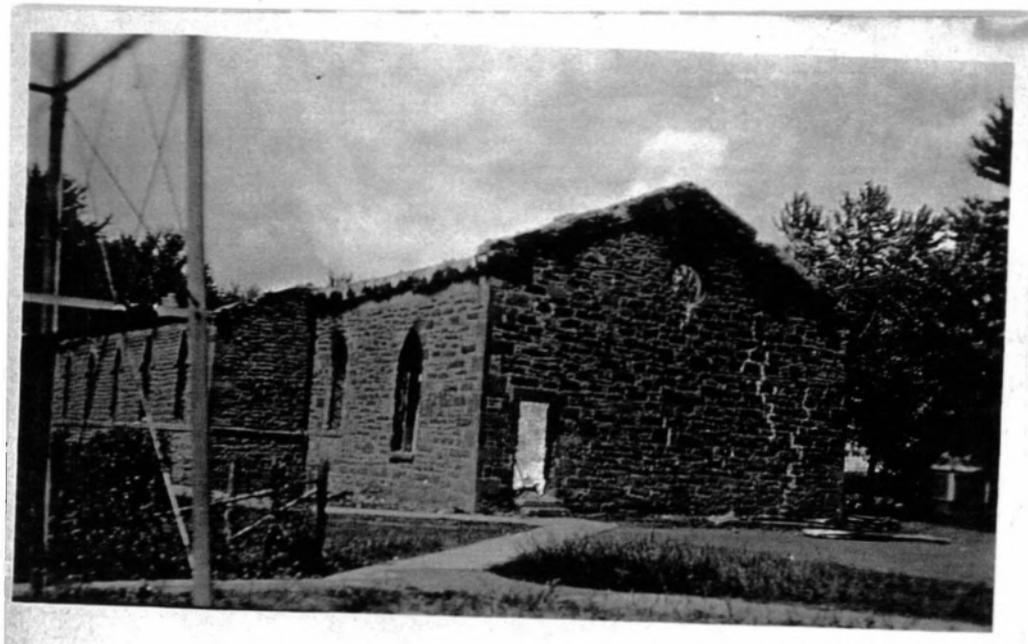
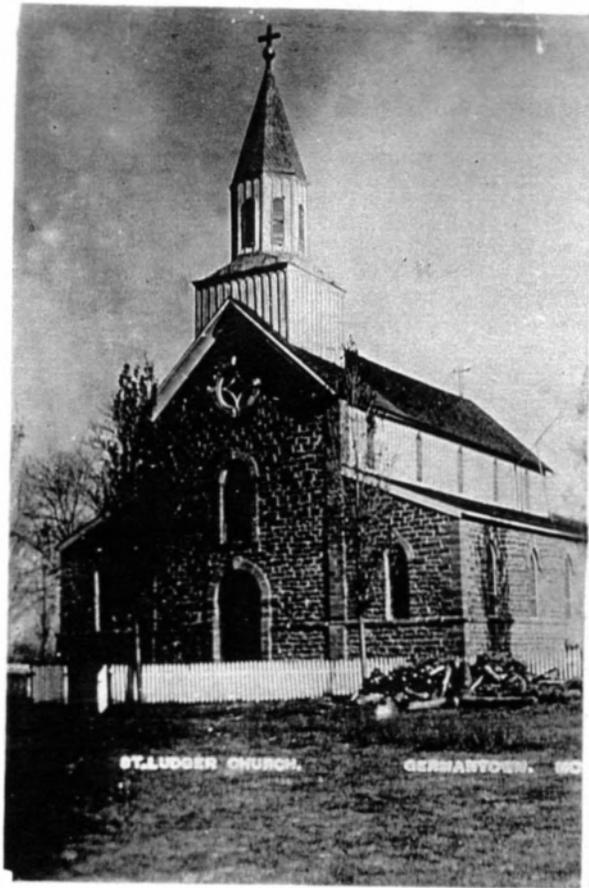
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		4 LANE 6 LANE	Light-duty	
Medium-duty		4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt	
		U. S. Route		State Route

ALL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
 GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY  
 RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

JOHNSTOWN, MO.  
 N 3815—W 9400/7.5  
 1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1981  
 DMA 7160 I SE—SERIES V 879

(MONEGAN SPRINGS NW)  
 7260 II NW



1. 1858 St. Ladger Church
2. Henry County, MO
3. Unknown
4. Unknown
5. Unknown
6. Front Facade - direction unknown
7. # 14 of 15

1. 1858 St. Ladger Church
2. Henry County, MO
3. Unknown
4. After Aug. 23, 1926
5. Unknown
6. After church burned - View From Rear
7. # 15 of 15



ST. ANNE'S CHURCH  
100 W. 10th St.  
St. Paul, Minn.

1. St. Ladger Church

2. Henry County

3. Unknown

4. June 17, 1928 - Dedication

5. Unknown

6. South facade, east elevation, looking northwest

7. #13 of 15





EXTRA  
PHOTOS







