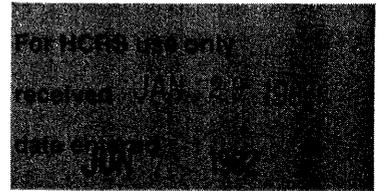


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen Thematic Resources

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number various - see continuation sheets (Item 7) not for publication

city, town St. Nazianz vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Wisconsin code 55 county Manitowoc code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition N/A	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name various - see continuation sheets (Item 7)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Manitowoc County Courthouse

street & number 1010 South 8th Street

city, town Manitowoc state Wisconsin 54220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978, 1980, 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Introduction

The Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen thematic nomination includes those properties constructed by the colony during its communitarian phase (1854-1873) that have maintained sufficient integrity. They are St. Gregory's Church (1864-66), St. Mary's Convent (1865-66), and the Loretto Shrine Chapel (1870-72). These three properties best illustrate the history and significance of the Association of St. Gregory of Nazianzen, a colony of "Catholic communists" from Baden, Germany who settled in east central Wisconsin in the 1850s.

Survey Methodology

The remnants of the Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen were first identified in a reconnaissance survey of Manitowoc County, as part of the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, conducted by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in the summer of 1978. Several properties were identified in that effort and further field visits by staff identified other properties that date from the communal phase of the colony. Further staff research employing a translation of the chronicles kept by the colony, historic photos and maps were used to document the existing properties that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Because the Colony was confined to the village of St. Nazianz, survey efforts occurred within present village limits.

General Description

Surrounded by a patchwork of marsh, farmland, and wooded ridges, the village of St. Nazianz rests on the north slope of a range of kettle hills that typify southwestern Manitowoc County. The first structures erected by the colony were made of timber cut at the heavily forested site that became the future village. Several log houses and the first St. Gregory's Church were erected in the summer and autumn of 1854. The first church was a fine, hand-hewn structure with an upstairs chapel and downstairs lodgings for the colony's leader, Father Ambrose Oschwald. This church was demolished in 1949; a stone "altar" marks the spot. The following year, a sawmill was built and several more buildings, both houses and shops, were erected. However, further construction was hampered by total crop failures and drought in 1856 and 1857. A fire destroyed much of the village in the latter year. Following these lean years the colony prospered and this prosperity was reflected in a building boom. Between 1857 and 1860 the sister-house or "pink convent" for celibate women was constructed of sun-dried brick which was later covered with a pink-tinted stucco. This was followed by the "Loretto Monastery" for celibate men in 1862. Both were demolished around 1950.

In 1864 work began on the present St. Gregory's Church, constructed of fieldstone. Other structures erected by the colony include a seminary in the village and a fieldstone boarding school at nearby Charlestown, now demolished. As a complement to the boarding school, an orphanage and hospital was built in 1866-67 at St. Nazianz. This fieldstone and sun-dried brick building, stuccoed in the style of the village, became St. Mary's Convent in 1896 when the Sisters of the Divine Savior assumed control.

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Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen Thematic Resources
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Between 1870 and 1872 Father Oschwald built the Loretto Shrine Chapel, the last structure erected by him. Located a half mile south of the present St. Gregory's Church atop a wooded hill, this small rectangular building is also of stuccoed, sun-dried brick.

While the major community buildings of the colony were constructed of brick, most family residences were made of wood (light members and clapboard produced at the colony's saw-mill). Only the stuccoed-brick residence of Anton Stoll, chronicler of the colony, and the Greek Revival house at 217 Church Street, of like construction, may be attributed to the communal period of the colony. Stoll's residence was unfortunately covered with aluminum siding in 1979. 217 Church Street, by contrast, is in near original condition but is not included in the nomination as no definite link has been established between it and the communal phase of the colony. If further research can document a connection with the colony, an amendment to the original nomination will be made.

The colony also erected a number of shops, a parochial school, a grist mill, and assorted other structures, all of which have been either demolished or so severely altered that all integrity has been lost.

Description of Individual Properties

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH (1864-68)

Location: 212 Church St.
St. Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

Owner: St. Gregory's Parish, Father Lester Goreschl, pastor
214 Church St.
St. Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

Constructed between 1864 and 1868 of quarried stone/fieldstone and concrete in the "Country Church Gothic" tradition, the single-story, gable-roofed church is 120 feet long by 55 feet wide, with a projecting steeple originally crowned by a spire rising 148 feet. Tall, paned, pointed-arch windows alternate with truncated projecting stone buttresses along the side walls. A pointed-arch louvre marks the top stage of the steeple on each face, an oculus and "arrow slit" vents punctuate the stage below, and a single tall window and entrance distinguish the two lower stories. The church suffered extensive interior damage in a fire on May 2, 1955. Remodelling followed in 1958 with a dome with cross affixed to the top replacing the original spire. The interior, built after the 1955 fire, is unremarkable. An addition between the church and the parochial school was also built at this time.

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ST. MARY'S CONVENT (1865-66)

Location: 300 South Second Ave.
St. Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

Owner: Sisters of the Divine Savior
Sister Patricia Wieloch, S.S.S., Mother Superior
300 South Second Ave.
St. Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

In 1865/1866 an orphanage/hospital was constructed southeast of the present St. Gregory's Church. The lower floors of this three-story rectangular structure are constructed of poured mortar and rock. The upper floors are supported by timber framework and locally produced sun-dried brick. Spikes were driven into the walls with wire meshed around the protruding ends. Mortar was then applied, producing a wall of finely stuccoed brick. A chapel of stuccoed brick was added to the south side of the building in 1909 of similar style and scale. The entire complex was then renamed St. Mary's Convent by the Sister of the Divine Savior who assumed control of the orphanage in 1896.

LORETTO SHRINE CHAPEL (1870-72)

Location: behind JFK Prep on a small wooded hill (about one-half mile west of CTH "A")

Owner: Salvatorian Fathers
Attn: Father David Cooney
St. Nazianz, Wisconsin 54232

In 1870 construction began on this small chapel employing the same building technique used in St. Mary's Convent. In 1872 the chapel was extended and surmounted by a small, louvred bell tower. In its present form, the small, one-story stucco structure is covered by a gable roof, and retains the 1872 tower. Except for a small off-center entrance on the east side, a single round window in each wall, and wood timbering along the corners, foundations, and eaves, the walls are unarticulated. In 1926 a mausoleum was built at the foot of the hill just south of the chapel to house Oschwald's remains. The vault has a fieldstone base with a round steel roof. The original fieldstone facade was covered with an additional stone veneer in the mid-1970s. The cemetery is not included in the nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1864-68¹; 1865-66²; 1870-72³ **Builder/Architect** Rev. Ambrose Oschwald⁴

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of significance: 1864-1873

The thematic resources of the Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen are significant as remnants of a peculiar cooperative society, one of many common in the three decades or so prior to the Civil War in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the United States. Unlike other cooperative experiments in Wisconsin, the Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen was primarily a religious venture that combined secular and spiritual needs in a primitive communist framework. The colony is also locally significant for its role in the settlement and development of this particular corner of Manitowoc County, an area primarily settled by German immigrants, many of whom were drawn to the region by the fame of St. Nazianz.

Historical Background

The origins of the Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen lie in Baden, Germany in the 1840s. There, Father Ambrose Oschwald set in motion plans for a cooperative community that would prosper for some twenty years, considerably longer than the other utopian movements of the time. Born in 1801, Oschwald had become something of a controversial figure in German Catholicism in southern Germany. In 1852, after nineteen years of serving in the Archdiocese of Freiburg, Oschwald was removed from his pastorate for the authorship of spiritual and prophetic works, among them Mystical Writings.⁵ The church disliked his apocalyptic visions and sought to censure him as his influence was gaining amongst the peasantry. His ambitions blocked in Baden, Oschwald set his mind on founding a religious colony in America. Wisconsin was the obvious choice as land was cheap and the area was still sparsely settled and there were promising reports circulating throughout Germany from recent immigrants to the state.

In the last week of August, 1854, an advance party of the Association of St. Gregory of Nazianzen, as the group termed themselves, arrived at the future site of St. Nazianz in southwestern Manitowoc County.⁶ Immediately, a crude cross was planted and shortly afterward, a few log houses and a simple church, named after the Greek saint, Gregory of Nazianzen, were erected. Two stuccoed cloisters were later constructed; the pink "convent" for celibate women was built in 1857 which was followed by the establishment of the "Loretto Monastery" for the celibate men in 1862.⁷ By 1864 the population and prosperity of the colony had increased enough to warrant construction of the present St. Gregory's Church. The completion of this imposing structure marked the high point of the communal experiment. Other buildings erected by the colony include an orphanage/hospital and a boarding school (demolished). The former is presently being used as St. Mary's Convent and was built in 1865-66. Prior to his death in 1873, Father Oschwald began construction of the Loretto Shrine Chapel. Numerous residences and shops were also built by the colony for its members.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

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Until his death in 1873, Oschwald guided the colony and served as priest and physician to farmers in the area. He held the community together by force of his personality and administrative skills. When he died, there was no successor his equal, so the community began to disintegrate. Lengthy litigation over Oschwald's will and demands by some members for past wages added to the problems of a loss of leadership. Eventually the communal form of association was abandoned and was replaced with a joint stock corporation, the Oschwald Association, administered by a board of directors.⁸ However, by 1896, St. Nazianz was faced with another problem that all communitarian movements have suffered from: declining population. Having practiced a policy of cultural isolation which was compounded by the celibacy of so many of its members, the colony was now faced with extinction. To counter this, the "Association" invited the Salvatorians, a missionary order whose headquarters were in Rome, to found a seminary and a convent at St. Nazianz, an offer which the Salvatorians gratefully accepted. Following this, the Oschwald Association was dissolved although any semblance of an active communal society had long been abandoned. Today, little remains from the original colony although the village of St. Nazianz still has a decidedly old world religious air.

Community planning. The Association of St. Gregory of Nazianzen is unique among cooperative societies active in Wisconsin during the mid-nineteenth century in that it was primarily religious in nature. There were three primary units in the structured communal development of St. Nazianz: the brotherhouse, the sisterhouse, and the family groups. The central administration of this entire setup was in the hands of the founder, Father Ambrose Oschwald. All property was held in common; all work was done for the common good under a strict routine. A typical day began at 4:45 a.m. Prayers and domestic chores filled the early hours. Breakfast was taken at 7 a.m. in common and in silence. Manual labors followed from 7:30 until 11:30. A brief dinner, spiritual readings, and vespers occupied the colony until 1:30 p.m. Work was then resumed until 6:30 when the evening meal was taken, again in silence. More prayers and private work projects were then taken up by the colonists until the final prayers at 9 p.m. with lights out by 9:30.⁹

The village families occupied a special place in the community as they were the principal source of new members for the brotherhouse and the sisterhouse. The families worked for the settlement, each having its own house although these were erected and owned by the colony as a whole. Each member of the colony, outside of the cloistered groups, was furnished a house, a lot, and a shop, plus whatever else his particular occupation required. Provisions were received from the common storehouse and while the families cultivated their own land and garden, these remained community property.¹⁰

Exploration/settlement. An advance party of the Association of St. Gregory of Nazianzen reached the site of the village of St. Nazianz on a rainy Sunday in August of 1854. During that first summer, the colonists erected a log church and several log cabins. By the end of that year a community kitchen, a stable, and a blacksmith shop were completed. The following year more land was cleared and corn and potatoes planted. During

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the summer, a sawmill and several more houses were built, all under the direction of the visionary priest Father Ambrose Oswald. In 1857 a fire destroyed much of the village which along with a drought that year added to the colony's hardships. In 1859 there was a near total crop failure and the colony had to be maintained by contributions from philanthropic Catholics from throughout the country. However, this was the last time the colony would need outside assistance.

The colony served as a focal point for the predominantly German-Catholic immigrants who were drawn by the settlement into this area in the 1850s and 1860s. Until their own little hamlets were established, St. Nazianz would meet their spiritual and material needs. The colony was the sole source of teachers for the area until the 1870s. An orphanage and hospital was built in 1865-66 under the direction of Father Oswald who had received medical training at the University of Munich and was one of the few doctors in southern Manitowoc County at the time. By 1870 the colony had a population of about six hundred and was known not only for its unique social organization but also for its fine cheese, beer, straw hats, and felt shoes.¹¹

Survey Comprehensiveness and Results

The initial survey and subsequent field visits by staff upon which this nomination is based encompass all surviving properties of the Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen that meet the eligibility requirements for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. Properties nominated are limited to those erected by the colony during its communal phase (1854-1873) and that have maintained sufficient integrity. After an extensive literature search and field visits, staff feels that all properties associated with the colony have been identified. These have now been included in the Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places. The village of St. Nazianz, although well aware of its unique history, has taken a renewed interest in the preservation of what remains of the original colony founded by Father Ambrose Oswald over 125 years ago.

¹ Construction dates of the present St. Gregory's Church. Manitowoc Herald Times (November 9, 1968), p. 9.

² Construction dates of St. Mary's Convent. W.A. Titus, "St. Nazianz, A Unique Religious Colony," in Wisconsin Magazine of History, V, (December, 1921), p. 164.

³ Construction dates of the Loretto Shrine Chapel. Frank S. Beck, Chris Communists, p. 126.

⁴ Ralph G. Plumb, History of Manitowoc County (Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Brandt Printing & Binding Co., 1904), p. 209.

⁵ Beck, Christian Communists, p. 145.

(footnotes continued on next page)

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Footnotes (continued)

- 6 Montgomery Eduard McIntosh, "Co-operative Communities in Wisconsin," in Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, no. 51, p. 109.
- 7 Plumb, History of Manitowoc County, p. 208.
- 8 Beck, Christian Communists, p. 112.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 St. Nazianz, 1854-1954, St. Nazianz, Wisconsin: Salvatorian Press, 1954, p. 55.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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COLONY OF ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZEN THEMATIC RESOURCES, MN Co., WI
Continuation sheet

Item number 8., 10.

Page 4.

ADDENDA, April 19, 1982

8. Significance

From the time of its construction in 1870, the Loreto Shrine Chapel, like the Church of St. Gregory and the former orphanage/hospital, was used by the Colony of St. Nazianzen, as well the villagers. The small building was used as a private devotional chapel, a place of temporary retreat from the larger community in which meditation and prayer could be offered. More recently, the chapel has been used by the Salvatoran Fathers, for the same purpose. Not architecturally significant, the small simple building, topped by a small spire, is nonetheless its own statement of use.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A. St. Gregory's Church: the nominated property shall consist of the southern ^{WESTERN SIXTH} one-third of a parcel ²²⁵525' x 535' commencing approximately 100 feet ^{WEST OF} from the intersection of Church Street and Park Lane in the NE¹/₄ of the NE¹/₄ of Sec. 25, T18N, R21E., and constituting approximately ^{1.03}2.06 acres.

¹ April 19 interview with Fr. David Cooney, Slavatoran Fathers, St. Nazianz.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beck, Frank S. Christian Communists in America: A History of the Colony of St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, During the Pastorate of its Founder, Father Ambrose Oeschwald, Master's Thesis, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1959.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UMT NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property A: 2.06, B: 0.2, C: 1.3

Quadrangle name Valders, Wis. (A., B.)

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References School Hill, Wis. (C.)

1:24000

A

1	6
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4	2	5	7	3	0
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4	8	7	2	6	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	6
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4	2	5	9	3	0
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4	8	7	2	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
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4	2	5	5	2	0
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4	8	7	2	0	0	0
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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification (also, see Continuation Sheet and Addendum 4/19/82)

- A. see Addendum, 4/19/82, labeled Item 8., Continuation Sheet Page 4.
- C. see Continuation Sheet for Items 9., 10., 11. Church Street and Park Lane.
- B. part of the south 1/2 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 25, T18N, R21E, said parcel measuring 82' x 100' commencing 200' south of intersection of Second Avenue.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael R. Matucheski, Researcher, Historic Preservation Division

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March 30, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Kenney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 3/20/82

For HCRRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for listing date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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date entered

Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen Thematic Resources
Continuation sheet

Item number 9, 10 & 11

Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Levi, Kate Everest. "Geographical Origins of German Immigration to Wisconsin," in Wisconsin Historical Collections, XIV, 1898, pp. 341-393.

McIntosh, Montgomery Eduard. "Co-operative Communities in Wisconsin," in Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, no. 51, pp. 99-117.

Manitowoc Herald-Times (November 9, 1968).

Plumb, Ralph G. History of Manitowoc County. Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Brandt Printing & Binding Co., 1904.

St. Nazianz, 1854-1954, St. Nazianz, Wisconsin: Salvatorian Press, 1954.

Titus, W.A. "St. Nazianz, A Unique Religious Colony," in Wisconsin Magazine of History, V, (December, 1921), pp. 160-165.

Geographical Data (continued)

C. part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 25, T18N, R21E, said parcel measuring 300 by 200 feet commencing at the end of Seminary Drive (at Loretto Shrine Cemetery).

For Prepared By (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison

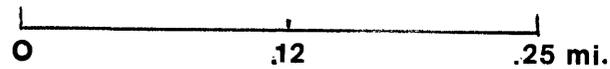
June, 1980
608/262-2970
Wisconsin 53706

COLONY of ST. NAZIANZ

ST. NAZIANZ, WI.

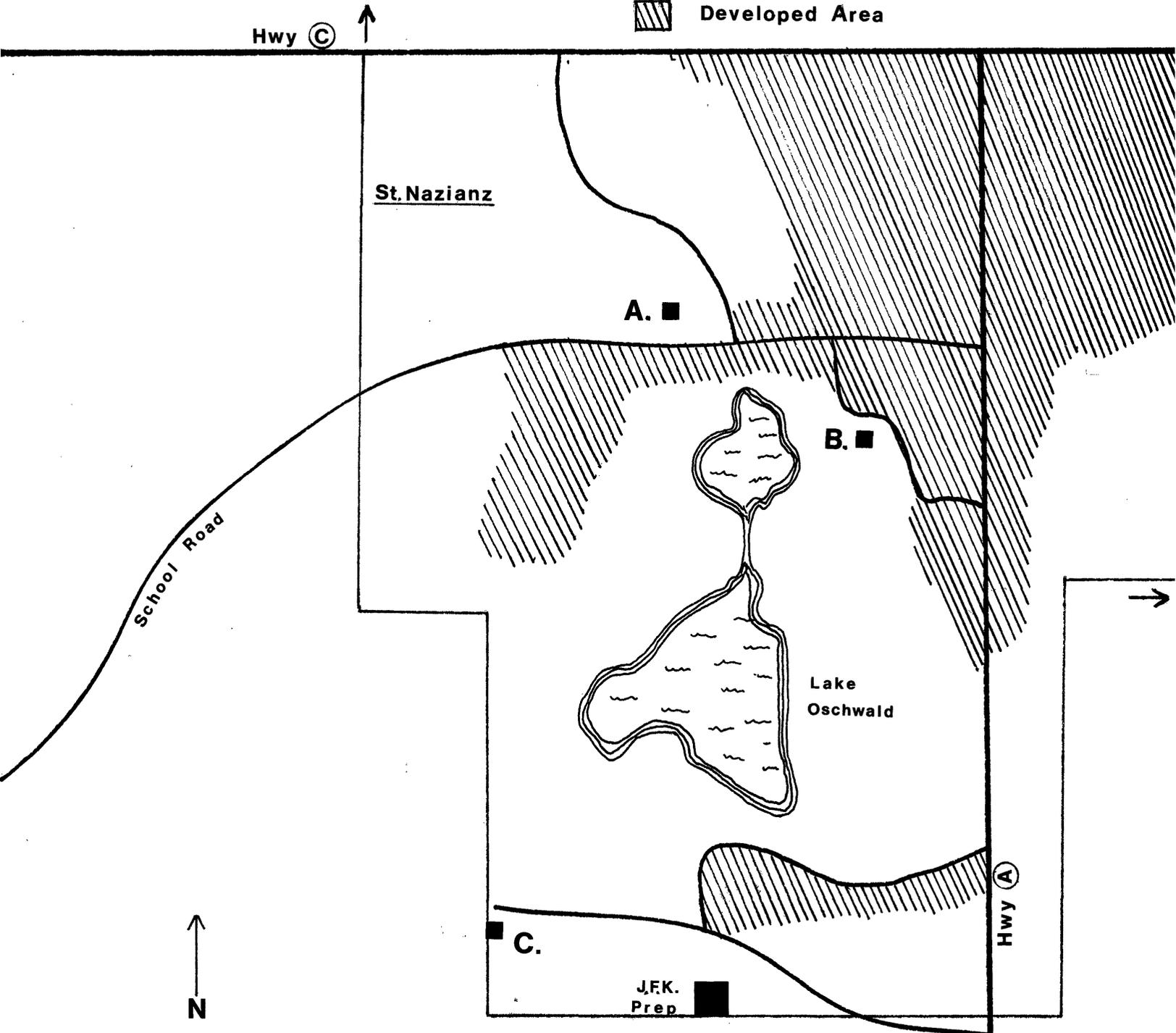
SCALE 1:12000

- A. St. Gregory's Church
- B. St. Mary's Convent
- C. Loretto Shrine Chapel



OCT 28 1980

- Village Limits
- ▨ Developed Area



Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Colony of St. Gregory of Nazianzen Thematic Resources
State Wisconsin Manitowoc County

Nomination	Type of Review	Decision
1. St. Gregory's Church	Substantive Review	<u>Deny per Angel 6/7/82</u>
2. Loretto Shrine Chapel	Substantive Review	<u>Deny per Angel 6/7/82</u>
3. St. Mary's Convent	DOE/OWNER- OBJECTION <i>Attorneyed illegible for</i>	<u>Deny per Angel 6/7/82</u>
4.	-	_____
5.	-	_____
6.	-	_____
7.	-	_____
8.	-	_____
9.	-	_____
10.	-	_____
11.	-	_____
12.	-	_____
13.	-	_____
14.	-	_____
15.	-	_____
16.	-	_____
17.	-	_____
18.	-	_____
19.	-	_____
20.	-	_____
21.	-	_____
22.	-	_____
23.	-	_____
24.	-	_____