

SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Nomination Form

97-1146

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Sixth Floor, City Hall  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

1) Identification

Historic Name Mount Saint Michael  
and or Common Name Mount Saint Michael

2) Location

street and number 8500 N. Saint Michael Road  
city/town Spokane vicinity of Hillyard  
state Washington county Spokane  
zip code 99217 Tax No./Parcel 36235.9085  
describe site access, restrictions, directions Go east on Francis to Freya. Turn left, go north on Freya to Lincoln. Turn right on Lincoln. Lincoln takes you to St. Michael Road. Mount Saint Michael is at top of bluff.

3) Classification

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

4) Owner of Property

name Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen  
street and number 8500 N. St. Michael Road  
city Spokane state Washington zip 99217

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## 5) Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse  
street & number 115 W. Mallon Ave.  
city, town Spokane state Washington 99201

## 6) Representation in Existing Surveys

Title Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen  
Date October 16, 1997  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Spokane County  
city, town Spokane state Washington

## 7) Property Description

Year Built 1915 Architect Julius Zittel

Located near Hillyard and Mead, six miles north of Spokane, Mount Saint Michael was built as a seminary high on a bluff some 500 feet above the valley floor. An imposing architectural presence, the building has been in continuous use as a religious educational facility since 1916. The exterior of the original Tudor-Gothic building has changed very little since it was built. The main change is the Collegiate Gothic addition on the west end of the building, constructed in 1929. In addition to the original seminary, the property includes several newer structures which are not historically associated with the building.

### Identifying features of the Tudor-Gothic Revival

Based on English Medieval models, the building has a flat roof with scalloped (castellated) parapet. Decorative polychrome patterns produced by bands of contrasting color occur principally around windows as horizontal bands on wall surfaces.

Tall narrow windows in multiple groupings have multi-pane glazing. Drip molds found above the windows are characteristic of the gothic style. Originally designed to protect windows from water running down the face of the building, this molding covers the top of the windows and continues downward before turning outward so that water will be deflected away from the window frame.

The main entrance features Renaissance detailing. A Tudor arch (flattened point) is used in the door surround and the arcade along the sides of the rear wing. Cusped arch tracery fills the frieze above the fifth floor windows in the tower. Cusped arch molded glazed concrete tracery mullions are used for the side lights and top light around the main entrance.

### Identifying features of the Collegiate Gothic Revival

The architect uses Gothic composition and details to express the ideals and function of the building as a residential educational campus. Mount Saint Michael is a place where students lived in an academic setting in college buildings, rather than scattered around in private lodgings throughout the area. The 1929 addition uses similar materials, massing and pattern to achieve a sense of belonging. This addition lacks some of the details of the original structure, such as the quioned brickwork around the windows, one-over-one double-hung windows used in place of six over six, and single unit windows rather than

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pairs or triple sets. The addition does help create an enclosed courtyard in the rear of the building, which functions like a campus ground for small gatherings or individual study.

## Description of existing building.

*When it was built it was the most up-to-date Jesuit building in the country and perhaps the world. Originally built in the form of a T, it rose one hundred feet from ground level to the point of the cross which surmounted the central tower. The red brick walls with coping cornices and battlements of mottled-white [molded concrete with glaze finish] produced a splendid example of Tudor-Gothic architecture. The main building, the horizontal bar of the T, with a length of 293 feet and a width of 40 feet, was four stories in height. [NW Jesuit, Mt. St. Michael's In the Beginning.... Winter 1978, Number 3.]*

The four story scholastic building is a T shaped structure with projecting bays. The building is constructed of concrete with a red brick facade and a poured concrete foundation. The foundation is approximately 65% above grade at the rear of the building. Windows in the rear foundation provide daylight to the basement rooms. Between the foundation and the brick cladding is a projecting water course of molded glazed concrete. Above the water course is four stories faced with red brick laid in common bond with quoin brickwork on the building's corners and down both sides of the window openings. The building is ornamented with mottled-white glazed concrete trim and details. The flat roof is hidden behind a castelled parapet.

The building is divided horizontally by rows of windows and molded glazed concrete belt courses. The sills of the first floor windows are located along the top of the water course. The windows on the first floor are tall, narrow, nine over nine, wood sash, double-hung windows. A second continuous molded glazed concrete belt course visually separates the first and second floor. The sills of the second floor windows also sit directly on this belt course. The second, third, and fourth, and fifth floors (on central tower) all feature wood sash, double-hung, six over six, windows. A third molded concrete belt course sits above the fourth floor windows, creating a cornice that visually defines the roof line from the parapet. The cornice is decorated with a symmetrically placed series of medallions, one large rosette between each set of windows and two small medallions equally spaced above the windows. The castelled parapet is red brick with molded glazed concrete coping.

The main facade consists of a central five story tower projecting from the center and projecting four story sections on each end. Each floor of the projecting end sections features a set of five wood sash double-hung windows that share a common drip hood and lug sill. The recessed sections of the facade feature six pairs of wood sash, double-hung windows. Each pair of windows has a single lug sill and drip hood. Originally this main portion of the building contained the classrooms, living area, libraries and recreation rooms.

The five story tower projects 12 feet from the center of the main facade. Within the tower are two double and one triple set of windows on the second through fourth floor level. The central three double-hung windows share one lug sill and a drip hood. On either side of the center windows are two coupled double-hung windows, both with a single lug sill and a drip hood. Between the top the drip cap of the center second floor window, and the lug sill of the third floor windows is a molded concrete frieze panel with ST. MICHEAL in raised letters.

The central tower rises one story above the third belt course and has a fourth belt course that separates the brick wall from the decorative molded glazed concrete parapet. The pediment is castelled and

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features an open bed pediment, topped with a cross, in the center. Gothic pattern molded glazed concrete tracery fills the front of the parapet giving the tower a "crowned" look.

A one story entrance vestibule projects from the center of the tower. A Tudor arch frames the front entry. Marble stairs stretch across the vestibule's full width leading to a landing in front of double doors centered in the arch. Sidelights and overhead lights fill the void between the doors and the arch. The arch and windows are framed with molded glazed concrete and trimmed with gothic tracery work made of the same molded glazed concrete. The parapet that tops the vestibule mimics the shape of the tower's roof line and includes a cross on top of the central crest. A niche below the pediment shelters a statue of the Virgin Mary.

The portion of the building that forms the shaft of the T is three stories and measures 160' x 59'. The separate floors housed the gymnasium and theater, the dining room and the chapel which is two stories high. A one story arcade covers the walkways along the east and west sides of this portion of the building. The gymnasium and a new pool have been moved to a newer building behind the main building.

In addition to the main building, there is a one story annex constructed of brick and finished with molded glazed concrete castellated trim on the rear of the three story section. This building originally housed the furnace, laundry facilities, bakery and chemistry laboratories.

In 1929, an addition was attached to the end of the west wing of the building, adding a two story tall library and bringing the total number of rooms to 172. This new L shaped wing is 165' long and 45' wide. The long side extends back in line with the center leg of the T enclosing the rear yard on three sides to create a courtyard. This Collegiate Gothic addition is similar in design to the original building using the same materials and parapet silhouette, but lacks much of the ornate detail. This section of the building was built on a modern scale with lower ceilings and wider shorter double-hung windows installed in single units rather than in pairs. Most rooms in the original building had very high ceilings, while those in the addition are approximately 8' feet in height. The lower ceiling affects the exterior elevation, so floor levels and window courses do not line up with the older portion of the building. To avoid obvious visual misalignment, this section of the building does not have the molded concrete belt course, and the windows are separated vertically by pilasters capped in molded glazed concrete instead of quoined brick trim.

The Chapel is approximately 59' x 27'. The ceiling of the chapel is ribbed and vaulted in keeping with the general tone of Gothic architecture. It is paneled in squares and decorated with simple molded glazed concrete arches. Pendent lights hang from the center of each square. A central arch is supported by a group of columns in the sanctuary and hides a semi circle of lights that illuminate the altar. The walls and ceiling are made of plaster and painted an off-white color. On each side of the chapel, there are four German made large triple panel stained glass windows that were added in the 1960's. The side altars, which were planned for this area, were never added because they took up too much space. Originally, the carving of the window tracery as well as that of the pews and sanctuary rail were gothic in finish. Both the pews and sanctuary rails were replaced with modern plain wood elements. A new gothic designed sanctuary rail was installed in the late 70's to replace the modern designed rail. A large choir loft is located in the rear of the chapel about 12 feet above the floor and is entered from the third floor. The original Otis elevator provides access to the chapel from the main entrance.

The current appearance of the building has changed very little over time. Except for modernized lighting, and the additions mentioned, little has been done to alter the building architecturally. The farm buildings are no longer used for agriculture, but some are still standing. The dairy building is gone.

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## 8) Significance

Designed by prominent Spokane architect Julius Zittel in 1914. Mount Saint Michael is both architecturally and historically significant as a representative of the influence of the Catholic church on the development of early Spokane. Historically significant for its association with the very early development of the Inland Northwest, Mount Saint Michael is one of Spokane County's best representatives of the early and significant role of the Catholic mission. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style.

It is interesting to note that the greatest civilizing agent of the Indians in eastern Washington was not the United States Government; it was the Catholic Church through the missionary activities of Jesuit Fathers. [Sister Maria Ilma Raufer, OP. *Black Robes and Indians on the Last Frontier*. Bruce Pub. Co., Milwaukee, WI, 1966.]

### Historical Significance:

In 1833 the Second Provincial Council of Baltimore placed the development of Indian mission of the Far West under the spiritual care of the Jesuits. But the Catholic faith had been brought to the Pacific Northwest many years before. Father De Smet's first trip to Spokane country occurred in the spring of 1855. Soon the Yakimas, Okanogans and the Spokanes were visited by black robed missionaries traveling through the area.

The Mount Saint Michael Seminary has its origins in the pre settlement days of Spokane Falls. Mount Saint Michael Mission was first established in 1864 when the Father Joseph Caruana, SJ, made a visit to the Spokane tribe. The mission was re-established two years later by Father Joseph Cataldo, SJ, founder of Gonzaga University. Father Joseph Cataldo, SJ, chose to live among the Spokane Indians on the property of Chief Baptiste Peone. Despite opposition of Chief Garry, a mission was built on Peone's land and was called Saint Michael.

In 1878 the mission was moved from Peone Prairie to Bigelow Gulch. This property was purchased by Father Cataldo in 1882 from the Northern Pacific Railroad. Most of the land for what is now Gonzaga University was purchased at the same time. Gonzaga was founded in 1887 and became the first Jesuit seminary west of the Mississippi. The Jesuits farmed the land at St. Michael's to supply fresh produce and dairy products to the Jesuit College at Gonzaga. Because of overcrowding at Gonzaga, it was decided to move the seminary.

In August 1911, a meeting was held in California to decide the site of the new seminary. The Jesuits from California and Oregon objected to the Mount Saint Michael site, alleging that the weather was too severe. A majority present at the meeting favored Spokane. The decision was appealed to Rome, but Father Louis Tealman, then president of Gonzaga made a strong argument for Mount Saint Michael. Citing the ideal weather conditions, the yields of the existing farm and the fact that the Jesuits already owned the land, the final decision was made to build the new seminary at the current location. In February 1912 the site was approved and Mr. Zittel was commissioned to design a building to accommodate 80 Jesuits. The corner stone was laid in 1914.

The preliminary survey of the site showed that it sat 320 feet above the plateau, which created a serious problem of how to get building materials to the site. The existing road had a 10% grade, and the cost for hauling wagon loads of material up the hill were prohibitive. The solution was to build a railroad directly

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up the bluff and put a cable tram on it to pull the loads up. A steam donkey engine was located at the top of the 1100 foot long line. This way, two tram cars could carry up three tons of materials at a time. It was estimated that two and one half million tons of brick were hauled up to the Mount. The faculty and the students of the philosophate moved from Gonzaga University's campus to the Mount on January 6, 1916. In 1929 a new wing was added.

From 1916 to 1968 the Mount was a self contained city. The Jesuit brothers who were farmers, tailors, backers, cobblers, bee keeper and horticulturists provided for all the seminary's needs. The mission also served as a villa for weary Jesuits and students. In 1968, because of a drastic drop in religious vocations, it was decided to close Mount Saint Michael and sell the building. The seminary was moved out and the building was used as a retirement home for the Jesuits until it was sold.

On January 26, 1978 the announcement was made that the Society of Jesus had confirmed the sale of Mount Saint Michael to Pillar Investment Company, who in turn leased it to the Traditional Latin Rite Catholic Church of Coeur d'Alene. Today Mount Saint Michael is owned by the Congregation of Mary Immaculate and serves as a center for the Traditional Latin Mass, and kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade private Catholic school. One wing of the building still serves as a cloistered convent.

## Architectural Significance:

### **Significance of Architectural Style:**

Built in 1915, Mount Saint Michael is architecturally significant both as an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style and as a representative of one of the most significant works of prominent Spokane architect Julius Zittel.

The Late Gothic Revival style flourished in the ecclesiastical, educational and commercial fields. Gothic revival was introduced at Bryn Mawr college as Collegiate Gothic in the early 1890's and then to Princeton University in 1896 by the firm Cope and Stewardson. James Gamble Rogers followed Princeton's example when designing Yale's Harness Quadrangle in 1917, and the style quickly became the standard for early 20<sup>th</sup> century college campuses.

Lewis & Clark High School is Spokane County's only other significant example of the Collegiate Gothic style. Designed in 1912 by Loren Leighton Rand, near downtown Spokane, Lewis & Clark features glazed terra cotta ornamentation and dark red pressed brick facade. Similar in size and massing both Lewis & Clark High School and Mount Saint Michael exhibit many of the elements of Collegiate Gothic design. Both are large four story buildings whose horizontal massing is interrupted by a vertical entrance tower which projects from the center of the front facade. Other Collegiate Gothic features on both buildings includes vertical elements that add visual height to the structure, large window areas and design elements whose over-all character has been skillfully determined by function. Arguably more intact than Lewis & Clark, Mount Saint Michael has only one addition, while Lewis & Clark has several. Lewis & Clark's central tower display's the school's initials, Mount Saint Michael's religious function is made clear with a prominent cross ornamenting both the entrance and the projecting tower.

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## Significance of Architect:

Julius Zittel was born in Germany, in 1869. Orphaned at an early age, he came to America and apprenticed to a Chicago architect. He moved to Spokane at the age of 18 and went to work for Herman Preusse. In 1893 he was admitted as a partner. The partnership lasted until 1910, when Preusse retired and it became the firm of Zittel and Rigg.

Zittel designed many prominent structures in Spokane. Prior to designing Mount Saint Michael, Zittel had designed the Administration building at Gonzaga University. The administration building was constructed in 1898 in the Romanesque Revival style. Among his many other designs were the Carnegie Library, "Old" City Hall, Finch School, St. Aloysius Church, Pacific Hotel, the Auditorium, Granite and Jamieson buildings. Many of these buildings still remain and are important features in Spokane today. The Eastern Washington University Historic District features the largest collection of Zittel buildings in the State of Washington.

Zittel became the unofficial State Architect in 1897 when John R. Rogers was elected governor. He was officially appointed to the position in 1912. He designed nearly every state job in Eastern Washington after his appointment. He was president of the Spokane Hotel, and eventually retired from his architectural practice in order to manage that hotel. Julius Zittel died May 7, 1939, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane.

## 9) Major Bibliographical References

### Written sources

Alaska Northwest Exchange, Mt. St. Michael's In the Beginning, January 1978, Volume 10/Number 1 Eastern Washington State Historical Society. Spokane Skyline: A Century of Architecture, 1889-1989. Spokane Washington.

Fahey, John, Inland Empire, Unfolding Years, 1879-1929, University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. McAlester, Virginia, and McAlester, Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf: New York, NY, 1993.

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Patton, Sara, Historic Preservation Spokane county Planning Department, Spokane County Historic Property Inventory. Unpub. January 24, 1979.

Raufer, Sr. Mary Ilma, o.p., Black Robes and Indians on the Last Frontier, Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1963.

Ruby, R.H., and Brown, John A., Spokane Indians Children of the Sun, university of Oregon Press, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., Corvallis OR, 1970.

Schoenberg, Rev. Fr., SJ, Paths to the Northwest, Gonzaga University 1982, C2, BX 3750 07 S3, Spokane, WA

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to Style, M.I.T. Press: Cambridge MA, 1969.

Woodbridge, Sally B., and Montgomery, Roger, A Guide to Architecture in Washington State, University of Washington Press: Seattle WA, 1980.

## 10) Geographical Data

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_ Field No. \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle/ Map Reference Spokane NE, Washington

Township 26 Range 43 Section 23 Q \_\_\_\_\_ QQ \_\_\_\_\_ QQQ \_\_\_\_\_

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City Plat: Lot(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Block(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Acreage 31.65

UTM Reference: Zone 11 Easting \_\_\_\_\_ Northing \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage of nominated property 16 Acres more or less in parcel #36235.9085

Verbal boundary description and justification. A parcel of land in Section 23, T26, R43, EW Meridian, described as follows: The East 330 ft. of the North 870 ft. of the SE, SW, and the East 830 ft. of the Se, SW, in Spokane County, Washington.

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

state Washington county Spokane  
state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a detailed printed map, with the location of the property and its boundaries clearly marked.

## 11) From Prepared By

name/title George Sinnott, Development Office  
organization Mount Saint Michael date October 17, 1997  
street & number 8500 N. St. Michael Road telephone (509) 465-0653  
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99217

name/title Eva M. Krause, Survey Coordinator  
organization Office of Historic Preservation, Spokane City/County date Sept. 30, 1997  
street & number 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. telephone (509) 625-6983  
city or town Spokane state Washington Zip code 99201









