



SAGUACHE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Saguache
504 San Juan Avenue, Po Box 417
Saguache, CO 81149

APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Property Identification

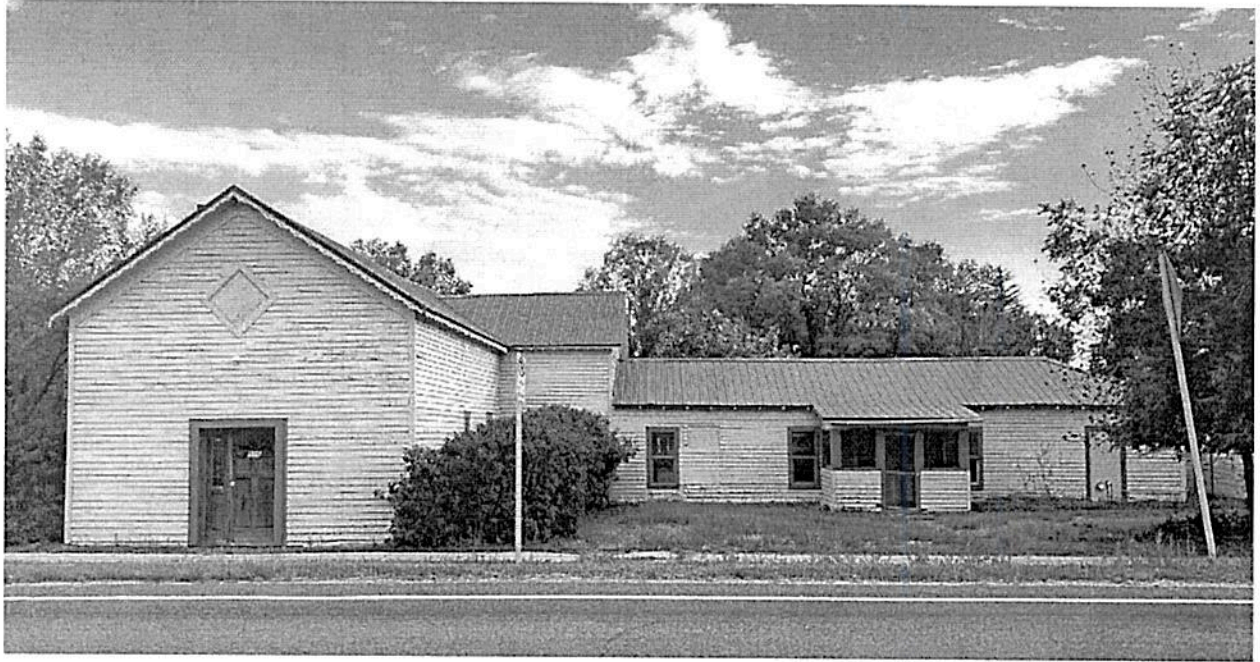
1. Address (Location) of Property: **505 Gunnison Avenue, Saguache, CO 81149**
2. Historic Structure Name, if applicable: **St. Ignatius Church**
Current Structure Name, if applicable: **St. Agnes Parish Hall**
3. Legal Description of Property: **Township 44N Range 8E Section 6 SW ¼ SW 1/4 or North 50' of Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 18 of the Jones Addition of Saguache**
4. Historic Use: **Church, Temporary Rectory, Religious Classroom, Event Center, Summer Residence of Visiting Nuns and Priests.**
Present Use: **Parish Hall**

Historical Data Summary

5. Year of Construction: **Unknown; Pre 1889, possible 1880**
Source of Information: **The Saguache Crescent, June 30, 1889, attached**
6. Architect or Builder: **Unknown**
Source of Information: **N/A**
7. Original Owner: **Possible R.H. Jones, transferred from Stella A Baker to Nicholas Matz, Bishop of the Catholic Church for the Diocese of Colorado in 1899**
Source of Information: **Saguache Clerk, Property Abstract**

Photographs

8. Attach at least two current 5x7-inch or larger photographs, black and white or color, showing views of the property from public rights-of-way and any important features or details. Interior photos are encouraged when relevant



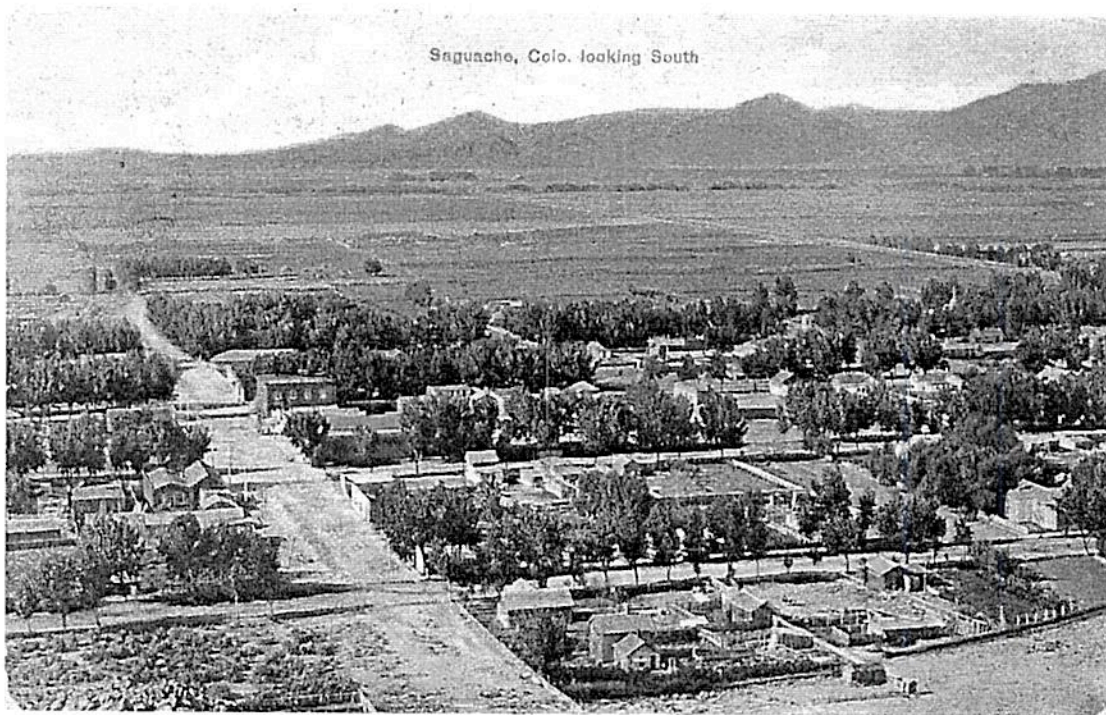


If available, attach copies of historic photos of the property.

About 1915, courtesy of Bill Hazard:



Pre 1910, courtesy of Bill Hazard:



Statement of Significance

Landmarks and contributing structures must generally be fifty (50) years old and meet two or more of the criteria for architectural, social or geographic/ environmental significance as described below. Exemption from the age standard could be found if the properties or features are found to be exceptionally important in other significant criteria.

9. Explain how the structure meets two or more of the criteria listed below. Please cite specific criteria in the summary.

St. Agnes Parish Hall exemplifies the cultural and social heritage of Saguache, enhances a sense of identity of the community, and is an established and familiar visual feature of the community.

A. Architectural

1. Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period;
2. Example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, statewide, regionally or locally;
3. Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value;
4. Represents an innovation in construction, materials or design or a style particularly associated with the Saguache area;
5. Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history;

6. Is a pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of the above criteria;
7. Is a significant historic remodel.

B. Social

1. Is the site of a historic event that had an effect upon society;
2. Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community;
3. Is associated with a notable person or the work of a notable person;

C. Geographic/environmental

1. Enhances a sense of identity of the community;
2. Is an established and familiar natural setting or visual feature of the community.

Architectural Description

10. Concisely describe the property and its surrounds.

- a. Describe location and setting, including physical context and relationship to neighborhood and other historic structures.

St. Agnes Parish Hall is located at the corner of 5th Street and Gunnison Avenue/Highway 285, on the northeast corner of its property. It is directly east of St. Agnes Catholic Church, which is landmarked on the National and State Historic Register. St. Agnes Catholic Church is a 1947 building and an unusual vernacular expression of Pueblo Deco, a melding of Art Deco with Southwest Indian designs. The Parish Hall and the Catholic Church are a complex of St. Agnes buildings that share grounds. The buildings are surrounded by maintained lawns and plantings.

- b. Describe the architecture of the property, including major features, uncommon design features, ancillary structures, and important landscape or site features. Also describe interior spaces with extraordinary design features, if any.

Exterior

The eastern building of St. Agnes Parish Hall is of the Carpenter Gothic Revival style with an asymmetrical, projecting cross gable wing on both sides of the building, creating an offset cross plan. The western building is a vernacular style with a half-hipped, side gable roof. It is attached to the west projecting cross gable wing of the eastern building and extends to the west in a rectangular plan. Both buildings have horizontal wood siding and most of the historic, double hung wood windows remain. The west building retains its decorative window trim and decorative verge board.

It is clapboard with carpenter trim; metal roof; 4 mid 20th century stained glass windows and 1 etched glass window. Its square footage is 1445 square feet in the old church, 651 square feet in the rectory, for 2096 total square feet. The old church has a medium gable with carpenter trim; 2 stained glass windows on East side and 2 stained glass windows on West side; main entry on North side with new door and window above, and window above above boarded up; etched glass on inner door not ecclesiastical; East wing with 2 windows either side of door with rounded window light and full window over door; South was altar area, with raised platform; West wing opens on South side to new bathroom (now demolished) and to former rectory; small porch on North facade of old rectory and medium hipped roof at West end; rectory is divided into 2 narrow rooms at East and West ends and large room in the middle.

The building has seen a few changes through the years, but it is difficult to date those changes. Several of the historic wood windows have been removed. In 1992, the metal roof was installed, and the interior of the west building was rehabilitated in the 1980s.

Interior

The sanctuary was renovated last in the 1990's. A recent major water leak caused extensive damage to the interior of the Parish Hall. Most of the floors buckled and drywall was damaged. Partial demolition occurred to remove the damage and begin stabilization of the building.

History of the Structure and its Associations

11. Describe the history of the structure and its associations with important individuals, groups, architect, builder, and owner for the original property and any significant additions.

- a. Provide details about the circumstances of construction, if known.

Specific details not known, built during the first construction boom in Saguache with vernacular style and materials of 1880's period. Possibly built as home, possibly added onto with additions of structures from areas West or North of Saguache.

R.H. Jones was one of the original settlers in the San Luis Valley and had much to do with the founding of Saguache. He was the first mayor of Saguache. His brother P.M. Jones had a grocery on 4th Street, where the post office is now. They formed the Jones addition to the town, which is the north part of the town. The Jones were the first owners of the property, according to the abstract.

Ramón Mondragon, 1992 Mayordomo of St. Agnes Mission Church, says that part of the building was moved to Saguache from Villa Grove and part was moved from Cotton Creek, but there is no confirmation of these claims. Other community members report that part of the building came from Philadelphia and Chicago, near Cotton Creek. The impressions given by the etched glass window and by the exterior appearance of the East wing do suggest that the old church portion may have had a different original purpose or use. The current stained glass windows in the East wing were made by parishioner Cheryl Hammel in the late 1970's.

- b. Describe specific historic associations including why this structure has direct association with the individual, group, event, or historical trend.

An unidentified newspaper article (see attached photocopy) says that the first Catholic church was "erected about 80 years ago" (1867?) and was called St. Joseph's. Next a new church was "erected" and called St. Ignatius. Possibly St. Ignatius Church is the large part of the parish hall. The style and materials of the Parish Hall differ from those in most other small, Catholic Mission churches in the San Luis Valley, where many are adobe. Saguache was founded by German, Russian, and Jewish Immigrants; Anglos; and Spanish Settlers from Northern New Mexico. The town originated in 1866, although some Spanish speaking people were already in the area, with settlements in Chicago and Philadelphia west of Saguache. Indian workers also came with the new settlers, and Indian tribes indigenous to the area were in social and economic relationships with the new settlers. The Spanish-Indian elements were dominated by the English-speaking population, which affected architecture and other culture and economic developments. Despite a large Hispanic membership, this Parish Hall reflects a mixture of influences and tastes. Continuous use for more than a century has occurred. St. Ignatius Church became the St. Agnes Parish Hall with the construction of St. Agnes Catholic Church in 1947.

- c. Describe other properties that have similar associations, if any, and the relationship of this property to them.

St. Agnes Catholic Church is directly West of the Parish Hall. St. Agnes Mission Church is easily seen from U.S. Highway 285 as it goes through Saguache. Facing the highway, the church sits on the west half of the block between 5th and 6th Streets. Large cottonwood trees and an old irrigation ditch separate the church from the highway. Landscaping of grassy expanses with areas of pea gravel surrounds the church. There are a few scattered small evergreen trees, and several juniper bushes follow the east wall.

Provide a list of research sources used in completing this application.

Historic Building Inventory Record, November 1992, surveyed by Virginia Simmons, citing: Interviews with Margaret Finnerty, 7/25/92 and 11/8/92; Interview with Ramon Mondragon, 7/25/92, Undated Newspaper clipping, Saguache County Assessor's Office; and Virginia Simmons "Hispanic Place Names of the San Luis Valley," The San Luis Valley Historian, XXIII, 3 (1991).

Interview with Bill Hazard, September 2022.

Interview with Toni Mondragon, September 2022.

Property Abstract for Parish Hall.

Application Information

12. Present Owner: Diocese of Pueblo

Mailing Address: 101 North Greenwood, Pueblo, CO 81003-3164

Physical Address, if different from mailing address: Same

Telephone: 719-544-9861, ext 1141

E mail: jdaneluk@dioceseofpueblo.org

Local Contact:

Association of St. Agnes Catholic Community

Representative of Association of St. Agnes: Toni Mondragon

Mailing Address: PO Box 274, Saguache, CO 81149

Telephone: 303-756-6600

E mail: stagnessaguache@gmail.com

NOTICE.

The Ladies Aid Society wish to announce to the public that they carry a full line of extracts, spices and sachet powders, manufactured by the W. C. T. U. of Chicago. The goods will be found at Mrs. L. C. Daniels' at Saguache, and at Mrs. Holcomb's at Moffat, Colo.

Father Good and the Catholic ladies of this place are endeavoring to raise funds to buy the Baker residence which they propose turning into a chapel. They have met so far with very encouraging success.

The best galvanized wash tub for the least money at Fullertons.

Rio Grande

Bishop Matr' Visit.

The official visit of Rt. Rev. N. C. Matr the second Catholic bishop of Colorado, has been a red letter day for this important part of our community. The bishop came in on the stage with Father Brucker last Tuesday afternoon. He is a tall, stout, pleasant looking gentleman of forty. A Frenchman by birth, he came to this country at fifteen years of age, and speaks fluently French, German, English, Italian and Spanish. He worked for three years at the Denver cathedral as assistant, then was appointed to the Del Norte and Saguache district, sixteen years ago, but took possession only this year, as he himself pleasantly stated. He had shown special business abilities for eight years at Georgetown, and for a short time at Denver, when he was selected as coadjutor to the pioneer bishop of Colorado, Rt. Rev. Machebeuf, and succeeded him a little over a year ago.

On Wednesday the young bishop held confirmation service at the Union Hall in presence of a very large audience. We remarked, among those confirmed, several representatives of the following families: Lamb, Marold, Doyle, Lyons, MacDonnld, besides a number of Mexicans from town and from the plaza. The bishop spoke first in Spanish and then in English. His eloquence is characterized by facility, earnestness and forcibility. No doubt that this visit of the supreme head of the Catholic church in Colorado will give a fresh impulse to the preparations contemplated by our Catholic fellow citizens.

SAGUACHE CRESCENT.

(FORMERLY SAGUACHE DEMOCRAT.)

Entered at the post office at Saguache, Colo.,
for transmission through the mails as second-class
matter.

X Alonzo L. Baker has just been granted
and invalid pension.

Charles B. Phillips is getting comfortably
settled in his new office in the CRES-
CENT block.

X Rev. Jay Kirkendall well known at
this place is now located at 72 Mt. Ver-
non street, Boston, Mass.

George R. Loucke is back from Crested
Buttes, and is settled back at work again
behind his barber's chair.

Father Montenarelli, S. J., will hold
Catholic services at the Mexican chapel
on Tuesday next, Jan. 24th.

Chas. D. Jones returned from Buena
Vista the first of this week, and expects
a decision on the case he tried this week.

X John Sheek well known at this place,
was married at Farmington, N. M., on
the 2d inst., to a Miss Sarah Huntington.

The circle rabbit hunt that occurred
south of town last Saturday, resulted in
the death of about two hundred of the
furry pests.

George Jeep is having his commodious
ice house filled this week. He has

(Communicated.)

Catholic Church Notes.

Last Sunday, August 5, was a red letter day for the Catholics of this place; in fact for the community at large. Your readers know already that Rev. A. Brucker, S. J., who for a time has charge of the Catholics of this section, had lately succeeded in securing the donation of three lots for church and school. The reverend gentleman, by special direction of Rt. Rev. J. P. Machebeuf, Catholic Bishop of Dever, came to Saguache on earnest business. As announced in the DEMOCRAT, he held religious service at the public school house, (which had been kindly put at his disposal). After the service, which was largely attended, took place a business meeting, when official communication was made of the Bishop's acceptance of the donation, and of his earnest intention to have a church built at this place as soon as practicable. A resident pastor will be appointed for this section in a few weeks, informations completed, and a subscription list started,—work at the building is to begin in the early spring. A list of over thirty Catholic families had been made out in two days, and Father Brucker's faith in the future of this place has inspired confidence to the most downhearted.

In the evening, a masterly lecture on the subject: "Why am I a Catho-

Gmail st.a-: StagnesChurch!#22

Carrie Wills <cwills@dioceseofpueblo.org>

Wed, Oct 19, 2:37 PM

To: Steven /T.M. Mondragon <stagnessaguache@gmail.com>

Good afternoon Toni,

Here is the signature page from Bishop Berg.

Thank you

Carrie Wills

General Ledger Accountant/Properties

101 North Greenwood Street

Pueblo, CO 81003-3164

719-544-9861, Ext 1146

<https://www.diopueblo.org/>

From: Steven /T.M. Mondragon <stagnessaguache@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 12:28 PM

To: Carrie Wills <cwills@dioceseofpueblo.org>

Subject: Gmail st.a-: StagnesChurch!#22

Notice: EXTERNAL SENDER.

[Quoted text hidden]

St. AgnesSaguache Grant Letter 10-22.pdf #2.pdf

12. Present Owner: Diocese of Pueblo

Mailing Address: 101 North Greenwood, Pueblo, CO 81003-3164

Physical Address, if different from mailing address: Same

Telephone: 719-544-9861, ext 1141

E mail: jdaneluk@dioceseofpueblo.org

Local Contact:

Association of St. Agnes Catholic Community

Representative of Association of St. Agnes: Toni Mondragon

Mailing Address: PO Box 274, Saguache, CO 81149

Telephone: 303-756-6600

E mail: stagnessaguache@gmail.com

13. Owner Consent to Designation

I/We the undersigned, acting as owner(s) of the property described in this application for landmark designation do hereby give my/our consent to the designation of this property as a landmark by the Town of Saguache Historic Preservation Commission.

Signature: + [Signature]

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Date: _____

Note: A letter signed by the owner(s) of the property may be appended to this application and stand in lieu of the owner(s) signature(s) on the application.

9/28/2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I have many fond memories of the parish hall growing up in the Saguache community. I have been lucky enough to have been raised in Saguache and as part of the Catholic community. My grandma was very active in the Church, and I remember spending a lot of time at the parish hall cleaning and preparing the hall for others to use. I remember many hours spent there cooking for families who were using the hall for funerals, rosaries, and other functions. I remember going with my mom, grandma and grandpa, and aunts to play bingo in the hall many times. It was an event that my family enjoyed very much. Lastly, I remember going to catechism classes with my friends. Every Sunday after Church, we would go to the parish hall and attend class and spend time with friends and learning about our Catholic faith. I have so many great memories from then. What a great accomplishment it was for us to make our first communions and later our confirmations. Which were made possible because of the parish hall. My family and friends have spent many hours together at the parish hall, it's a part of our community and our family, and I hope it will be able to remain that way for future generations.

Stacie Martinez
martinez.stacie@yahoo.com
(719) 849-1564

September 30, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Not having the use of St. Agnes' Parish Hall has been a great loss to our congregation and community. It not only signaled the closing of our beloved church, but it also served as a reminder that its shuttered doors were closed to everyone. It was more than a place where people could meet, share meals with each other, or come together for special events. The Parish Hall was viewed as a cherished member of our community. It welcomed everyone with its doors outstretched and hosted people of all races and denominations to join together under its roof. Inside its walls, we were able to build memories of the people we befriended and loved. Throughout the decades, it was a place for the people of Saguache, visitors, and religious and nonreligious dignitaries to gather.

Throughout my years of residing in Saguache, the Parish Hall was a place where I learned the unwritten history of Saguache and the contributions that Hispanic and Indigenous people made in the development of the town. I heard stories of how families struggled and sacrificed to have a place to worship and gather. Despite the hardships, the people who built the church and hall found pride and happiness in their accomplishments. I got to know the residents of Saguache through events held in the Parish Hall. It was a place we could gather to celebrate rites of passage and personal accomplishments, grieve the loss of loved ones or close friends, share a cup of coffee and meal, or play Bingo. The hall also served as the site where religious classes were taught. It provided a place to stay for visiting priests or nuns who came to provide a variety of services or classes to our community. Most importantly, those who were hesitant to enter the church felt comfortable to enter the Parish Hall.

Sincerely, Paula Brjan

My name is Thaddeus (Thad) J. Englert and I am eighty-six years old. I was baptized at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Garden City, Kansas. My family moved to Colorado in 1947-1948 where I served mass as an altar boy and later sang in the choir where my mother was the director. After a failed marriage of nearly twenty years (this woman is now deceased) and four children, I returned to graduate school and earned a PhD in physics. Forty plus years ago I married a former student, Sue Ellen, also now a PhD physicist. For the past thirty plus years we have been active in the Catholic Church having been members of the choir at St. Anthony's, a small mission church at Tajique, NM, moved to Saguache County during 2001-2002 and joined the mission of St. Agnes. There we were the choir for nearly twenty years but had to quit because of health problems. We have continued to attend and support St. Agnes mission up to the present time and pray for the continued religious health of this mission. We are offering our participation as the choir again.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thad Englert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

From: Maria Archuleta mcarchuleta@hotmail.com
Subject: Letter with Letterhead
Date: Oct 3, 2022 at 11:32:00 AM
To: Toni Mondragon
thecolourdragon@icloud.com



October 3, 2022

State Historical Fund (SHF)
Attention: Barbara Darden

Dear Ms. Darden,

I would like to offer my support to the Association of St. Agnes Catholic Community who have been working over the past three years to organize and identify resources to protect their community church and buildings. Because of the tenacity they have demonstrated to meet their mission, they have established their Association as well as built community support for their efforts. They have also worked very hard to identify various financial resources to further help address their mission so the St. Agnes Catholic Church community will continue for future generations. They are committed for the long-term.

Saguache is a very small community as are other small towns located in the San Luis Valley. It is unfortunate that many of the small community Catholic churches have lost financial support from the Pueblo Catholic Diocese to maintain these buildings where local residence can celebrate their faith. Historically, these are places where Saguache Catholics have come together to celebrate major events whether it is a baptism for a newborn or mourning the loss of an older resident. Faith has always been a cultural part of Saguache resident's daily lives – a support community comprised of Hispanics, Anglos, and Native Americans with a long history connected directly with Saguache. These are people who work hard on ranches, farms, local small business and any form of available jobs. These are people that I am proud to say are my friends, neighbors and fellow Catholics.

I hope that you will consider this organization in helping them help their community.

Sincerely,

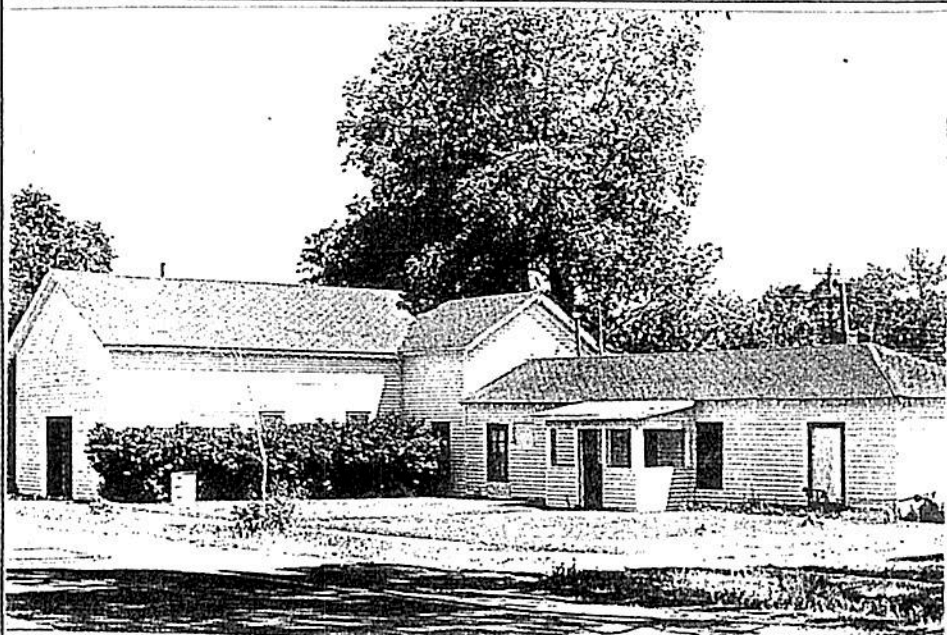
Maria C. Archuleta

Maria C. Archuleta
The Archuleta Family Foundation



Historic Building Inventory Record

ELIGIBLE
DET. NOT ELIGIBLE
NOMINATED
CERTIFIED REHAB
DATE

project name		county	city	state ID no.	
		Saguache	Saguache		
current building name		owner			
St. Agnes Church Parish Hall		Bishop of Diocese of Pueblo (Roman Catholic)			
address		township 44N range 8E section 6 SW 1/4 SW 1/4			
U.S. 285 at 5th Saguache, Colo. (In St. Francis Jerome Parish, Center, Colo.)					
historic name		USGS quad name			
St. Ignatius Church (?)		Saguache, Colorado 1967 yr. X 7.5' 15'			
district name		block lot(s) addition yr. of addition			
		18 N 50' of 1, 2, 3 Jones 1880			
film roll by V. Simmons		negative nos.	location of negatives	date of construction	
Sno.			Simmons	? estimate actual source	
		use			
		Parish hall present Church worship & temporary rectory, later summer residence of historic visiting nuns			
		condition			
		X excellent fair good deteriorating			
style		extent of alterations			
Vernacular wood frame gabled cruciform with hip-roof ell		minor moderate X major describe: Originally used as a sanctuary by church but may have been a remodeled house; church & wing remodeled for use as parish hall.			
materials		square footage			
Clapboard with carpenter trim; asphalt shingle roof; 4 new stained glass windows; 1 etched glass window		1445-old church 651 old rectory 2096 total			
architectural description		National Register Eligibility			
Old church-medium gable with car- penter trim; 2 stained-glass windows on E. side & on W. side; main entry on N. with new door & window above & window above boarded up; etched glass on inner door not ecclesiastical; E. wing with 2 windows either side of door with rounded window light & full window over door; S. was altar area, with raised platform; W. wing opens on S. to new bathroom & to former rectory; small porch on N. facade of old rectory & medium hipped roof at W. end; rectory ell divided into 2 narrow rooms at E & W ends and large room in middle.		Individual: yes no Contributing to district: yes no local landmark designation: name date associated buildings? yes type 1 single garage with low gable if inventoried, list ID nos.			
additional pages		yes X no			

	Unknown	Uncertain
	source	When first used as church, it belonged to Bishop of Diocese of Denver.
	builder/contractor Unknown	
source		theme(s)

construction history (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)

Ramón Mondragon, the present mayordomo of St. Agnes Mission Church, says that part of the building was moved to Saguache from Villa Grove and part was moved from Cotton Creek, but there is no confirmation for these claims. The impressions given by the etched glass window and by the exterior appearance of the E. wing do suggest that the old church portion may have had a different original purpose or use. (See below) continued ☒ yes ☐ no

historical background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)

(Continued) An unidentified newspaper article (see attached photocopy) says that a first Catholic church was "erected about 80 years ago" (1867?) and was called St. Joseph's. Next, a new church was "erected" and called St. Ignatius. Possibly, St. Ignatius Church is the large part of the parish hall. The style and materials of the parish hall differ from those in most other small, Catholic mission churches in the San Luis Valley, where many are adobe. Saguache was founded by European Americans, several being German and Russian and Jewish, as well as Anglos. The town originated in 1866, although some Spanish-speaking people were already in the area. Indian workers also came with the new settlers. The Spanish-Indian elements were dominated by the English-speaking population, which affected architecture and other cultural and economic developments. continued ☐ yes ☒ no

significance (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

architectural significance: <input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master <input type="checkbox"/> possesses high artistic values <input type="checkbox"/> represents a type, period or method of construction	historical significance: <input type="checkbox"/> associated with significant persons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with significant events or patterns <input type="checkbox"/> contributes to an historic district
---	---

statement of significance

Despite a largely Hispanic membership, this parish hall and the newer church building to the west reflect a mixture of influences and tastes. Continuous use for perhaps more than a century has occurred, but the mission never has had a resident priest.

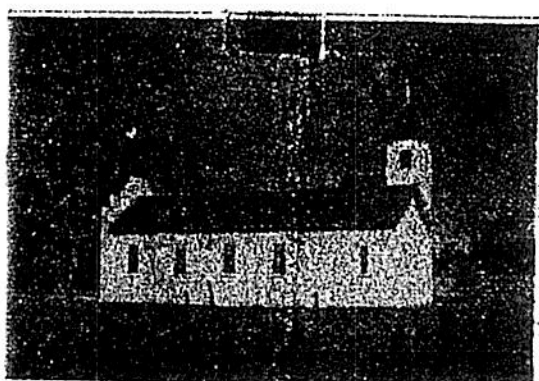
continued ☐ yes ☒ no

references (be specific)

Finnerty, Margaret, interviews, Saguache, 7/25,92 and 11/8/92.
 Mondragon, Ramón, interview, Saguache, 7/25/92.
 Newspaper clipping (attached), n.p., n.d.
 Saguache County Assessor's Office.
 Simmons, Virginia, "Hispanic Place Names of the San Luis Valley,"
The San Luis Valley Historian, XXIII, 3 (1991).

continued ☐ yes ☐ no

surveyed by Virginia Simmons	affiliation	date November 1992
---------------------------------	-------------	-----------------------



Above is the new St. Agnes church, built at the cost of \$15,000, but is worth much more because of the hard work of the Catholics of this community, which was dedicated Oct. 19 by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Willing, Bishop of Pueblo, in the most elaborate religious ceremony in the history of Saguache. The Most Reverend Bishop was greeted on the outskirts of the city by hundreds of the Catholic residents of the region. After vesting under an arch of banners and flowers, set up to welcome the Bishop, the Ordinary proceeded to the church for a distance of four blocks. He was led by the societies of the men and women of the Saguache church. The Daughters of Mary sang the Lourdes hymn in the procession and vested altar boys carried candles. At the doorway of the church, the Bishop was greeted by Joe Chacon, chairman of the building committee. Mr. Chacon delivered an address of welcome before Bishop Willing and the clergy made the circuit of the outside walls as the Bishop blessed them. The Bishop was assisted by the Very Rev. Martin Millet, S.F., Superior General of the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family; the Rev. Joseph Rosell, S.F., pastor of the Del Norte parish, of which Saguache is a mission; the Rev. Joseph Cubells, S.F., assistant pastor of the Del Norte parish; and the Rev. Patrick Stauter, editor of the *Southern Colorado Register*. Father Millet celebrated the solemn Mass *coram Episcopo*. Father Rosell served as deacon and delivered the sermon. Father Cubells was subdeacon and Father Stauter was master of ceremonies and chaplain to the Bishop.

NEW SAGUACHE CHURCH Dedicated by Bishop In Impressive Rites

Built at Estimated Cost of \$15,000, Edifice
Stands as Memorial Tribute to Hard
Work of Parishioners

Saguache.—St. Agnes' church, a memorial tribute to seven years' hard work on the part of the Catholics of this community, was dedicated Oct. 19 by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Willing, Bishop of Pueblo, in the most elaborate religious ceremony in the history of Saguache. The Most Reverend Bishop was greeted on the outskirts of the city by hundreds of the Catholic residents of the region. After vesting under an arch of banners and flowers, set up to welcome the Bishop,

IMPRESSIVE RITES MARK BLESSING OF ST AGNES' CHURCH, SAGUACHE

(Continued From Page One) The house of studies recently established by his religious congregation in Washington, D. C.

The building committee was headed by Mr. Chacon, who was assisted by Librado Mondragon and Felix Lobato. Approximately 50 men from the parish took part in the active construction of the church at various times. Because of the great amount of donated labor, the cost of the building was limited to an estimated \$15,000. Many delays in construction were experienced owing to the building conditions brought on by the war, as well as to long periods of harvest and planting when the construction workers were occupied in these tasks.

The money for the project was raised in great part by the Catholic women of the community, who banded together under the name of the Catholic Social club and staged money-raising activities over a long period of years.

The walls of the church were completed in 1943, but it was not until this year that the interior finishing and roofing were completed. The building was started in 1940 under the direction of the Rev. Dominic Mórera, S.F., now pastor of the Spanish parish in Greeley. It was continued by Father Joseph Teres, S.F., now pastor of Sacred Heart church, Gardner. Father Ruensa's guiding hand directed the details. Father Rosell, appointed pastor of the Del Norte parish last fall, brought the work to completion.

Bishop Willing addressed the hundreds of people in the congregation to thank them officially in the name of the Diocese of Pueblo. Father Rosell delivered the sermon in English and Spanish at the Mass and outlined the long history of the building project. He also said that because of the new church, Mass will be celebrated in Saguache twice a month instead of once a month as in the past. A choir of six sisters from St.

Joseph's hospital, Del Norte, furnished the music for the Solemn Mass. Mother Collette of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet was the organist. After the ceremony, a dinner was served in the Saguache hotel to the Bishop, the clergy, the sisters, and various members of the parish. Present at the dinner were Mayor E. B. Noland and E. G. Gotthelf, president of the Saguache County National bank.

Name of Church Changed
The name "Saguache" is of Indian origin and is one of the tongue-twisters of Colorado's names. It means "Blue Spring," and was given the region because of a spring of azure-colored water which comes out of the earth about a half mile from the city. In the 1880s, the settlers of the region were caused a lot of trouble by predatory Indians. The idea came to the Spanish inhabitants that a church might invoke the blessing of God against these raids. The first church was erected about 80 years ago and was called "St. Joseph's." It was serviced by the Jesuit priests from Conejos only once a year on the Feast of St. Joseph.

Later on, a new church was erected and given the title of "St. Ignatius." This church was one of the works of Father Edmund E. Behiels, S.J., who died in Pueblo last August. By this time the Jesuits had taken over Del Norte as the home of a resident priest. Until that time Del Norte also had been served mainly as a mission from Conejos. With Jesuits living in Del Norte, Masses were celebrated more frequently in Saguache.

The new church is dedicated to St. Agnes, because that was the wish of the donor from the Catholic Extension society of Chicago. The Sons of the Holy Family administer the parish from Del Norte. With its 30,000 adobe bricks covered with stucco, St. Agnes' church, seating 250 persons, is the outstanding church

the Ordinary proceeded to the church for a distance of four blocks. He was led by the societies of the men and women of the Saguache church. The Daughters of Mary sang the Lourdes hymn in the procession and vested altar boys carried candles.

At the doorway of the church, the Bishop was greeted by Joe Chacon, chairman of the building committee. Mr. Chacon delivered an address of welcome before Bishop Willing and the clergy made the circuit of the outside walls as the Bishop blessed them. The Bishop was assisted by the Very Rev. Martin Millet, S.F., Superior General of the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family; the Rev. Joseph Rosell, S.F., pastor of the Del Norte parish, of which Saguache is a mission; the Rev. Joseph Cubells, S.F., assistant pastor of the Del Norte parish; and the Rev. Patrick Stauter, editor of the *Southern Colorado Register*. Father Millet celebrated the solemn Mass *coram Episcopo*. Father Rosell served as deacon and delivered the sermon. Father Cubells was subdeacon and Father Stauter was master of ceremonies and chaplain to the Bishop.

Work of Parishioners
The light cream-colored church building measures 29 feet by 65 feet and is constructed of adobe bricks, with stucco facing and light maple flooring. There is a 50-foot tower in the rear of the church and the front is decorated in blending colors of cream and tan. The building is a monument to the love and devotion of the people of Saguache, most of whom are of Spanish-speaking background. The people of the district did most of the labor themselves on plans designed by the Very Rev. Joseph Ruensa, S.F. The Extension society gave \$2,500 for the erection of the church. Father Ruensa was pastor of the Saguache parish for almost 25 years. He now is director of the

(Turn to Page 2—Column 4)

Oct 1944
Oct 1946

Dedication of Saguache Church



St. Agnes' church, Saguache, was dedicated Oct. 19 by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Willging, Bishop of Pueblo. Assisting his Excellency are, left to right, the Rev. Patrick Stauter, the Very Rev. Martin Millet, S.F., Superior General of the Holy Family Fathers; the Rev. Joseph Rosell, S.F., pastor of Holy Name of Mary parish, Del Norte, of which Saguache is a mission; and the Rev. Joseph Cubella, S.F., assistant pastor of the Del Norte parish.

The church was built over a period of seven years according to plans drawn up by the Very Rev. Joseph Ruena, S.F. The parishioners did most of the work themselves and raised the money for the project. They were aided by a \$2,500 gift from the Catholic Church Extension society of Chicago.



Payment Receipt

Town of Saguache-General
504 San Juan Avenue
PO Box 417

Received From:

St. Agnes Catholic Church
St. Agnes Catholic Church

Date Received 10/25/2022
Payment Method CHECK
Check/Ref. No. 1026

Payment Amount \$25.00

Invoices Paid

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount Applied</u>
10/25/2022	2978	-\$25.00