

## HISTORY OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The establishment of the rural Clayton parish in the town of Vance Creek, Barron County was begun by Carpatho-Russian Orthodox people who came to America for a permanent life from Carpathian and Galician Russia, from the former Austro Hungarian Monarchy, present day Czechoslovakia. The old Austrian Empire suffered from severe economic changes and was shaken by national and religious controversies. These emigrating people's primary motives in moving were to escape from constricted conditions to the open opportunities of America.

Tilling and working the soil in the old country, these people came to the United States of America to make a better living. As usual with immigrants who came only with their passports and bare necessities, they settled in the east, doing manual labor in large cities. But soon this became very burdensome and they began thinking and talking about how to acquire some farm land and work for themselves. To obtain farm land they ventured further westward in America.

About the year 1896 these people started to form that new life for themselves near Clayton in Barron County, Wisconsin. At the time this area was in the last days of the logging era. The land was being sold for six to seven dollars per acre on installment and on easy terms to anyone who wanted to buy it. This land was mostly forest and heavy woods with very little means of transportation and communication. Railroads connected this place with large industrial cities. Anyone who came here had to work hard to make a living. The people that did come had to open new land for farming. A community grew around the original settlers.

In the Church Cemetery one of the tombstones reads, "Steven Vasvary Sr., first Russian settler in Vance Creek, Barron County." Born in 1825 and died in 1901.

The other first families to settle near Clayton were the Gregory Lentzisin, Peter Legus, Mike Simko, George Kuchman, Peter Glushyn, John Moskal Sr., and George Kupetz.

When they had cleared some land and built homes for themselves they began to think of building a church in order to have a place to worship on Sundays and Holidays and pray to the Lord for His Blessings, as they all believed that one cannot live right without God. This small group of people received 40 acres of land for the Church, rectory and cemetery.

Lohrbauer Land Company had a Russian speaking agent, Ivan Ognitch, to sell land to Russian people and bring them into the area. Harold J. Lohrbauer sold the property on December 10, 1896 to Nicholas, Bishop of Russian Orthodox Church in the United States of America, of San Francisco, State of California, for church purposes. Warranty Deed in the amount of \$1.00 was to be void unless church was erected within two years.

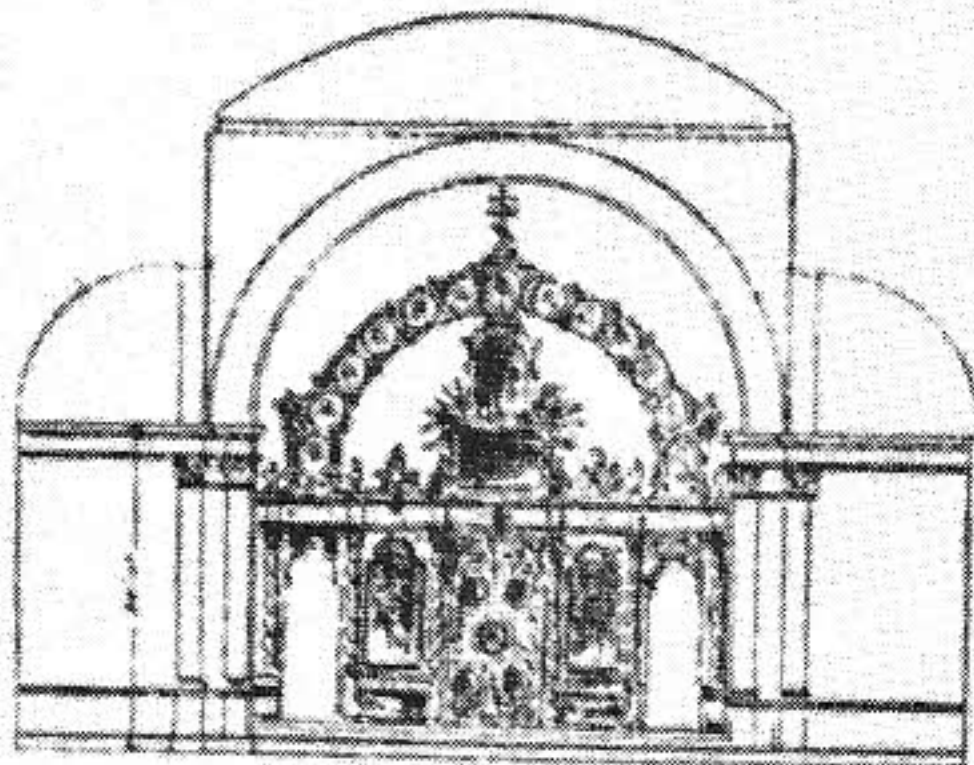
The 1897 Russian-American Orthodox Messenger, June to September issue, advertised a new Russian colony, "60 miles east of the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, State of Minnesota, a fine location, well supplied with good timber and pure water. The soil is rich, in great part black-mould, and the land has a gently rolling surface," to encourage people to come to this location and settle.

The John Hornick family came out here in the year 1898 from St. Paul. They had previously been living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Roslin, Washington, and Montana.

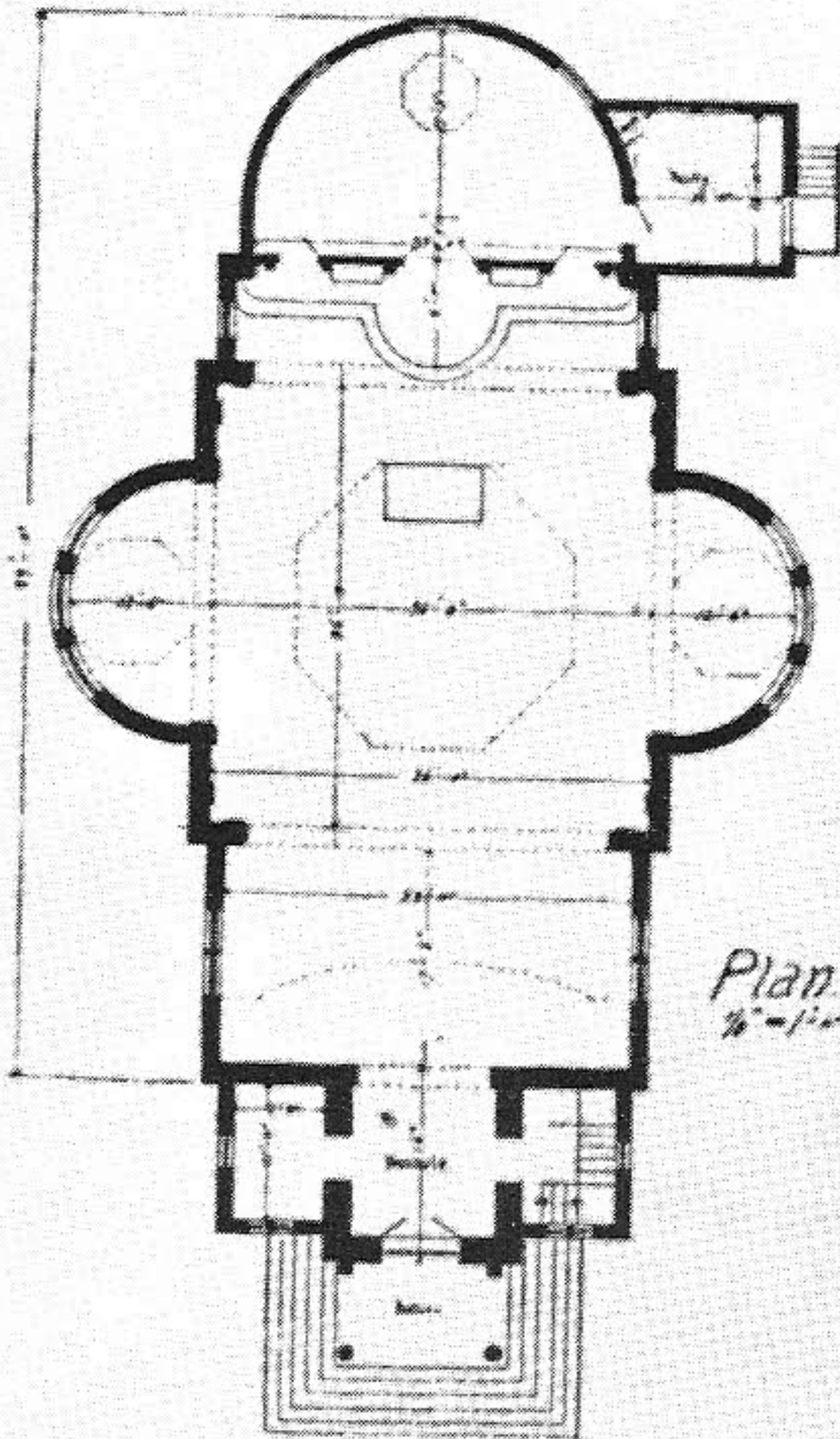
Max Ziwisky left Austria-Hungary and came to Chicago first. He married and several years later, 1898 or 1899, he brought his family to the Clayton area where he engaged in farming.

In another issue of the Russian-American Orthodox Messenger the building committee, composed of Ivan Ognitch, Ivan Mlinar, George Kupetz and Peter Liguz, published an appeal for funds towards the building of a church, a sketch of which reveals an exceptionally large and ornate structure that contrasts sharply with the building now existing on the land.





*Cross Section*  
1/8" = 1'-0"



*Plan*  
1/8" = 1'-0"



*Preliminary Sketch  
of Russian Church proposed  
at Luzon Co Wis  
V Cordella Archt.  
Milwaukee Wis*

*Sketch of Perspective View*  
1/8" = 1'-0"

отъ скудости своей,—каждый по достоя-  
нію и силѣ своей.

Христосъ Спаситель Своими небесны-  
ми милостями благословитъ и вознагра-  
дитъ добрыхъ и милосердыхъ даителей, —  
по горячимъ молитвамъ православныхъ лю-  
дей, въ пользу которыхъ идетъ сія жертва  
и которымъ суждено будетъ счастье воз-

сылать въ новомъ храмѣ къ Всеблагому  
Промыслителю моленія, прошенія и благо-  
даренія за создателей и благотворителей  
этого святаго храма.

Члены строительнаго Комитета:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Иванъ Огничъ,   | Иванъ Млишарь, |
| Георгій Купецъ, | Петръ Лигузъ.  |



