

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0681253

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 4 1978  
DATE ENTERED JAN 25 1979

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

St. Mary of the Assumption Church and School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

121 Park Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Park City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Utah

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Summit

CODE

43

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 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

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

121 Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Park City

STATE

Utah

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Summit County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Coalville

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic American Building's Survey

DATE

1967

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah Heritage Foundation

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary of the Assumption School and Church are both rectangular, stone structures. The two-story school typifies the small annex school of pioneer Utah, while the church is one story with an attic, and also has window openings on the attic level of the facade. The buildings sit side by side and are connected at the rear. Both have limestone foundations, and are constructed of buff-colored limestone. Roofs are wood frame, steeply pitched, with wood cornices. At present, the school's roof is covered with metal (originally tin), while the church roof is green asphalt shingles, which replaced a metal roof after a fire in 1950.

The school facade has one central entrance with a transom light. The windows throughout are two-over-two, double-hung wood frame; two windows flank the entrance door with two above on the second story level. In addition, two dormers exist on the south end, each with wood frame, two-over-two double hung windows.

A stone gothic arch, with a cast stone keystone adorning a cross, spans the central entrance of the church's facade. On either side of the entry are two nine-over-nine wood frame double-hung windows. Two window openings exist on the attic level, appearing as second story windows and symmetrical in appearance to those of the school. A stone marker, with a cross and engraved date of "1884", is above the attic windows. A bell-tower, topped with a cross, near the front of the roof, is much smaller and less ornate than the original.

The exterior of the buildings remains much the same; however, some door and window placements on the sides of the structures have changed throughout the years (evident in the Sanborn maps for 1889, 1900 and 1907).

A stone retaining wall that remains was added in front of the buildings between 1900 and 1907. Alterations and changes have occurred in the interiors. The building is still used as a church with the school occasionally used for missions and other events.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's is the oldest remaining Catholic Church in the state of Utah. The church and school, rebuilt in 1884 after a fire, represent both the successes of pioneer missionary efforts of the Catholic Church in Utah, as well as early educational endeavors in the mining town of Park City.

### History

Catholic missionary work effectively began in the Utah area with the efforts of Father Lawrence Scanlan.<sup>1</sup> In 1865 the Territory was placed under the jurisdiction of the Right Reverend Eugene O'Connell, Bishop of Marysville, California, with Father Edward Kelly appointed pastor. Kelly's tenure was ephemeral since in October, 1866 Utah was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Rt. Reverend Joseph P. Machebeuf, Vicar Apostolic of Denver. After the appointment of several priests to the area, Scanlan came to Utah in 1873, and promptly began to establish missionary stations in a vast parish which included all of present-day Utah and a portion of Nevada.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning in the late 1860's mining in Utah attracted numerous miners and entrepreneurs. Mining camps sprang up in many parts of Utah, and Irish Catholics were prominent among the mining population. Park City, Utah quickly attained the label of a "bonanza camp." Located some thirty miles east of Salt Lake City, the camp, comprising mostly non-Mormons (Gentiles), was visited in 1873 by Scanlan, who made regular trips until 1878.

Mass was said in Simon's Hall, the present site of the Claimjumper Hotel, and occasionally at Digman's Hall. Father Denis Kiely aided Scanlan, and between the years of 1881 and 1884, Park City priests were Fathers Donohue, Tierney, and Blake.<sup>3</sup>

These meeting places proved to be too small, therefore, in 1881 a frame church and school was erected upon a lot on the western slope of the canyon-Park City's first church. Scanlan had asked the Sisters of the Holy Cross to open a school in Park City, and the request met with compliance.<sup>4</sup> The necessity of both a church and school were viewed as important in fostering Catholicity. In 1882 Sisters Alexis, Martina, Aurea, and Joseph arrived in Park City from South Bend, Indiana, followed by Sister Elise, Superior. They taught school, which was attended by Catholic as well as Protestant children.<sup>5</sup>

Amid the festivities of July 4, 1884, a fire destroyed the church and school. Reports circulated that the fire was the work of an arsonist, who had threatened to take revenge upon the townspeople.<sup>6</sup> The fire began at about 8:00 p.m., near a door in the west end of the building. Firefighters experienced difficulty in laying a water line; thus, the structure was lost.<sup>7</sup>

Park City's Catholics quickly united and work commenced almost immediately on the

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dwyer, Robert J. "Pioneer Bishop: Lawrence Scanlan, 1843-1915," Utah Historical Quarterly, 20 (1952), 135-158.
- Fries, Louis J. One Hundred and Fifty Years of Catholicity in Utah. Salt Lake City, 1926.
- Goeldner, Paul Utah Catalog Historic American Buildings Survey. Salt Lake City, 1969.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1,2	4,5,8,2,3,0	4,4	9,8	7,0,0
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Philip F. Notarianni, Historian

May 1978

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

307 West 200 South, Suite 1000

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-6017

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William H. Abraham*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

July 25, 78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles S. ...</i>	DATE <u>1-25-79</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <i>William H. Abraham</i>	DATE <u>1-25-79</u>
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

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erection of a new church and school. By July 19, 1884 workers were in the process of construction, with reports stating that the two buildings were to be each 33 x 60 feet, with 10 foot walls, and iron roofs of a steep pitch. The two stone structures cost an estimated \$10,000, and by fall school had begun.<sup>8</sup>

St. Mary's church still serves the Park City community. High scholarship was always equated with the elementary school, which maintained a regular curriculum as well as such classes as bookkeeping, and sewing and fancy needlework. The school's excellence attracted both Catholic and non-Catholic students. In December, 1887, enrollment was listed at 145 students.<sup>9</sup> Economic fluctuations caused student numbers to rise and fall, but in 1933 the school closed.

Park City's St. Mary of the Assumption Church remains as the oldest intact, functioning Catholic Church in the state of Utah. The mining boom of the late nineteenth century accounted for much of the state's early Catholic population. In addition, the missionary efforts of Lawrence Scanlan, later Salt Lake City's first Bishop, are embodied in both the church and school. It is these structures which aid in the understanding of the link between mining and the "coming of the Gentiles" to Utah.

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<sup>1</sup>Other priests were in Utah prior to Scanlan, but his missionary efforts in all parts of the Territory, especially the mining camps, were most significant. See, Robert J. Dwyer, "Pioneer Bishop: Lawrence Scanlan, 1843-1915" Utah Historical Quarterly, 20 (1952), 135-158; Jerome Stoffel, "The Hesitant Beginnings of the Catholic Church in Utah", Utah Historical Quarterly, 36 (1968), 40-62.

<sup>2</sup>Dwyer, Lawrence Scanlan, pp. 144-146.

<sup>3</sup>Rev. Louis J. Fries, One Hundred and Fifty Years of Catholicity in Utah, (Salt Lake City, 1926), p. 94.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid. p. 135.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid. J. Weston Woodbury, "A History of the Park City School District," (M.S. Thesis, University of Utah, 1960), pp. 43-45.

<sup>6</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, July 6, 1884; Fries, Catholicity, p. 94. Also see, William M. McPhee, The Trail of the Leprechaun. Early History of a Utah Mining Camp (Hicksville, N.Y., 1977), pp. 65-66.

<sup>7</sup>The Park Record, July 5, 1884.

<sup>8</sup>The Park Record, July 19, 1884; The Salt Lake Tribune, January 1, 1885.

<sup>9</sup>Woodbury, Park City School District, pp. 43-45.

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McPhee, William M. The Trail of the Leprechaun. Hicksville, N.Y., 1977.

The Park Record, July 5, 1884; July 19, 1884.

The Salt Lake Tribune, July 6, 1884; January 1, 1885.

Sanborn Maps. Park City, Utah, 1889, 1900, 1907.

Woodbury, J. Weston. "A History of the Park City School District." M.S. Thesis, University of Utah, 1960.

Stoffel, Jerome. "The Hesitant Beginnings of the Catholic Church in Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly, 36 (1968), 40-62.