

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Hennepin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 26 1975

1. NAME

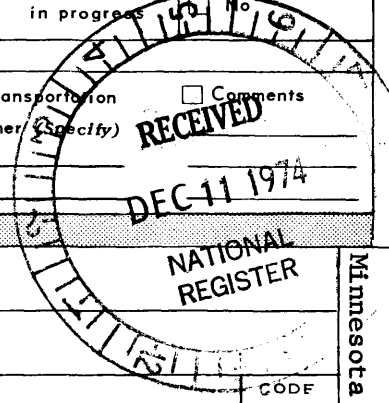
COMMON: Basilica of Saint Mary
AND/OR HISTORIC: Procathedral of Saint Mary/Church of the Immaculate Conception

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Hennepin Avenue at 16th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th	
STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Hennepin	CODE 053

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis			
STREET AND NUMBER: 240 Summit Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul		STATE: Minnesota	
		CODE 22	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hennepin County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Third Avenue and Third Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis		STATE: Minnesota	
		CODE 22	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Significant Architecture in the History of Minneapolis			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minneapolis Department of Planning and Development			
STREET AND NUMBER: 850 Pillsbury Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis		STATE: Minnesota	
		CODE 22	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Hennepin
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 26 1975
DATE: MAR 26 1975

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ground was broken on the present site at 16th and Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis and construction begun in the fall of 1907. By spring of 1908 a foundation 140 feet wide by 274 feet long was under construction. The foundation is of Rockville granite. Above this, walls of white Vermont granite tower seventy feet from floor to eave-line. This material is of the same type as was used in the construction of the Wisconsin State Capitol. It is known for its strength, one-third greater than ordinary granite and three times greater than marble.

The main entrance is composed of a colonnaded portico flanked by two spires, each 116 feet in height. The center boasts a rose window fifteen feet in diameter which opens into the choir loft on the interior. A richly sculptured figure of the Virgin Mary fills the upper portion of the gable. The general design of the south facade (entry) is of a Classical/Baroque flavor as is the design carried throughout the building.

The main body of the building is composed of a clerestoried nave with an aisle on either side. The nave is lighted by five large arched stained glass windows. These windows on the exterior are set in bays clearly defined by pilasters. (A total of sixty stained glass windows are found in the Basilica.) The barrel-vaulted nave measures eighty-two feet in width and has been acclaimed at the time of its construction to have been the widest in the world, exceeding St. Peter's by two feet. The nave offers seating space for approximately two thousand persons, however, with use of the aisles and the ambulatory, the capacity is increased to 3000. The roof above the central space is supported by a steel girder and six-truss system which rests on piers four feet thick. Each of these trusses is estimated to weigh seventeen tons.

The sanctuary is located at the north end of the nave. Above it rises a magnificent dome which measures forty feet square at the base and rises 138 feet above the floor. It is lighted by sixteen round dormer windows. Above the dome is a flesche (or lantern) surmounted by a bronze cross which rises yet another sixty-two feet above the summit of the dome, making the total height above floor level 200 feet. The whole is covered with sheet-copper roofing as are the roofs of the spires on the south facade.

A marble altar is set beneath a marble columned baldacchino fifty feet in height. Surrounding the sanctuary is a marble colonnade with wrought iron grillwork. This provides a base for statues of saints which ring the ambulatory and separate it from the sanctuary. Beyond the screen in the apse is the elaborately decorated Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This space is thirty-six by twenty-six feet and is lit by five long stained glass windows. Flanking the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary are the less elaborate Chapel of Saint Joseph and "The Founders' Chapel".

Floors throughout are of yellow finished Kasota marble. Walls, altar, pulpit confessionals and sculptured figures are of marble or Mankato stone. Pews and other furnishings are of oak.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	
Minnesota	
COUNTY	
Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 26 1975

RECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

DEC 11 1974

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER

7. Description

One bell weighing 3000 pounds is located in the east tower of the south facade. It was transferred there from the old Immaculate Conception Church which the Basilica replaced. The bell (in F sharp) was dedicated by Bishop John Ireland on 7 January 1877.

In 1953 the interior of the Basilica was redecorated at a cost of \$40,000, restoring the original color scheme. The colors used are those of the Virgin Mary as stated in the doctrines of the church. These are: white for purity, blue for truth, red for love, and gold for glory. All ornament is highlighted by the application of gold leaf. Sculptured and molded figures and cartouches throughout the church have been executed and highlighted according to the aforementioned scheme. One of the most impressive spaces is the interior of the dome executed in blue (symbolic of the firmament) and gold (rays of glory).

The Basilica is in an excellent state of preservation (exterior cleaned in 1955) and continues to serve its original function while remaining true to original design. The architect of the Basilica, E. L. Masqueray, described the building and design in 1910:

"For the ProCathedral of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, the conditions were somewhat different [than for the Cathedral in Saint Paul]. The grounds are much larger in proportion to the area needed for the building, the required seating capacity not quite so large, and the money available also much less. For these reasons it was deemed best to work on different lines from those of the 'Greek Cross' plan of the Saint Paul Cathedral. The great churches of Aquitaine and Perigord, with their wide naves, were inspected and it was found that a modern design on the same general lines would be aesthetically appropriate and well adapted to modern religious conditions in the United States.---"

"As the ground plan of the Procathedral shows the main nave, eighty-two feet wide and one hundred thirty-five feet long, affords the whole congregation an unobstructed view of the sanctuary. The length of the nave is divided into five bays, the lower part of which is occupied by two arches opening into the ambulatories. Above are very large double windows.... Over the large entrance vestibule is the organ and the music gallery which will accommodate a choir of two hundred."

The entire block upon which the Basilica is located is devoted to functions associated with it. Immediately to the west and linked to the Basilica through the sacristy is the Basilica residence constructed in 1927 in a complementary architectural style. To the north of the Basilica is the brick, three storey, Basilica school contemporary with the Basilica itself (1912-1913). A convent of small scale and recent vintage is located to the immediate east of the Basilica. All are well maintained and situated in a park-like setting.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plans to construct a new church to replace the Church of the Immaculate Conception were announced by Archbishop John Ireland on Christmas Day of 1903. The old church, constructed in 1871 at Third Street and Third Avenue North had been engulfed within the expanding warehouse and industrial district of downtown Minneapolis. Plans were also announced at this time to construct a new school building in conjunction with the proposed church. In 1905 Lawrence S. Donaldson donated the one-block parcel on Hennepin Avenue near Loring Park for the site of the buildings. Commission for the design of the new Church of the Immaculate Conception was awarded to Emmanuel Louis Masqueray, architect of the new Saint Paul Cathedral. Masqueray proposed to construct the new edifice in a variant on the Classical/Baroque style.

Ground was broken on 7 August 1907 and construction of the foundation progressed through fall and early winter. By May of the following year preparations were being made for the laying of the cornerstone. Ceremonies were held on 31 May 1908. These began with a parade of an estimated 30,000 Catholics. Twenty bishops, 300 priests and levites from Saint Paul Seminary and 500 cadets from the College of Saint Thomas were among those in the procession. Among those addressing the ceremonies were Apostolic Delegate Most Reverend Diomedea Falconio, (who brought wishes from Pope Pius X), Archbishop John Ireland, James J. Hill, and Governor John A. Johnson (who read a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt).

A quote from the Catholic Bulletin described the significance of the event:

"To the Catholics of Minneapolis, the event was especially important. The new edifice was to be a testimony to their faith and zeal."

"It meant much to the Catholics of the state as well, and to all the people of Minneapolis, irrespective of creed, because of its civic importance. A new edifice, a dream in architecture, was to be added to the city's buildings."

Construction continued on the building and on the new school building (which was begun in 1912 and finished in 1913). Great interest in Masqueray's architectural genius led to comparing progress and design of the new church in Minneapolis with the Cathedral of Saint Paul (both under construction). In 1910 American Architect published drawings of both edifices and commented, "The two Catholic Cathedrals will be, --- when completed, noteworthy achievements in church building

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minneapolis Journal, 25 December 1925
 The Catholic Bulletin, 1911-1914
 American Architect, Fall 1910
 Archives of the Diocese of St. Paul, Chancery Office, St. Paul, Minnesota
 Reardon, Rt. Rev. James M., P.A., The Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Paul, 1952
 Reardon, Rt. Rev. James M., P.A., The Basilica of St. Mary of Minneapolis, 1955

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

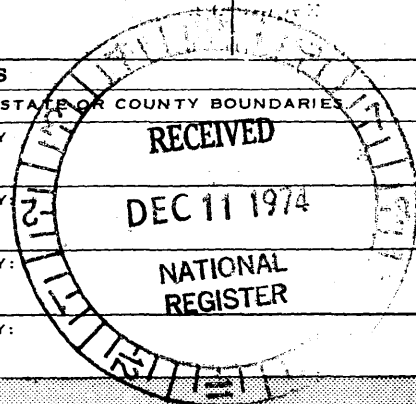
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		44 0 58 . 23	93 0 17 . 10	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

15/477450
4979780

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 1/2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Nelson - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 28 October 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Russell W. Fridley</u> Russell W. Fridley, Director</p> <p>Title <u>Minnesota Historical Society</u></p> <p>Date <u>December 7, 1974</u></p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Charles W. Nelson</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>3/26/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>3-25-75</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 26 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

for any period; in extent and splendor they promise to surpass anything yet attempted in ecclesiastical work in the United States."

Civic dedication took place on 4 November 1913 and the church was informally opened on 31 May 1914. It was referred to in publications and discussion as the "Pro-Cathedral" since its beginning, however, it officially retained the name of the Church of the Immaculate Conception until 21 September 1921 when this title was changed to the Procathedral of Saint Mary.

The building was used for religious purposes since its opening in 1914, however the interior decoration, windows, and plaster work was not completed until 1925. On Christmas Day of that year the ProCathedral was honored by a decree from Pope Pius XI. A quote from the Minneapolis Journal for that day states: "The Procathedral of Saint Mary today was elevated by Pope Pius XI to the rank of a minor basilica, the first church in the United States to be given the honor."

"Henceforth the official name of the church will be the Basilica of Saint Mary."

Installation of eight double bronze doors containing symbols of the apostles and the evangelists was made in 1954. This installation, according to Msgr. James M. Reardon, then Basilica Pastor, "completes the structural requirements that make a church a basilica". These doors are the only such doors in the Upper Midwest.

In summary, the Basilica of Saint Mary derives its significance from three major areas. Firstly, it exemplifies great design in architecture and engineering. Designed by Masqueray, it ranks with the Cathedral of Saint Paul as an expression of Baroque influence in church architecture of the early twentieth century. Secondly, the Basilica is a testimonial to the religious movements and their roles in the development of Minnesota's heritage. And, thirdly, the building was the first such church to be proclaimed a basilica in the United States.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Basilica of St. Mary in Hennepin
County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75000985

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Hennepin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Basilica of St. Mary (Catholic)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date