

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 21 1980
DATE ENTERED 11 1982

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
Holy Family Cathedral, Rectory, School *and*
AND/OR COMMON
Holy Family Cathedral Block

2 LOCATION

W. 8th St. and S. Boulder Ave.
STREET & NUMBER Cathedral and Rectory: 122 W. 8th Street
School: 820 S. Boulder Avenue

CITY, TOWN Tulsa
STATE Oklahoma
VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1
COUNTY CODE Tulsa 143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
 BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK
 STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
 OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
 BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
 NO MILITARY OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Eusebius J. Beltran, Bishop of Diocese of Tulsa and his
successors in office
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 2009
CITY, TOWN Tulsa STATE Oklahoma
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk
STREET & NUMBER 500 Civic Center
CITY, TOWN Tulsa STATE Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey/Tulsa Historic Preservation Office Inv.
DATE 1978/1977-1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Tulsa Historic Preservation Office, 411 S. Denver
CITY, TOWN Tulsa STATE Oklahoma

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

The Holy Family Cathedral Block is a city block in downtown Tulsa. The block is comprised of four related buildings and a parking area. Three of the buildings are architecturally noteworthy. Holy Family Cathedral, with its adjoining rectory (122 W. 8th St.), is of outstanding architectural significance. Holy Family School (820 S. Boulder Avenue) is compatible in style, materials, and color. The Catholic Center (824 S. Boulder Avenue), the fourth structure on the block, is the only non-conforming building.

The block is part of a larger Cathedral Square area which is significant for its concentration of several fine examples of ecclesiastical architecture within the Central Business District. The buildings, dating from 1912 to 1926, are compatible in scale, materials, and colors. The spires, domes, and monumental facades of the cathedral, a former synagogue and several churches are the most striking architectural elements in this area. The small city-owned Cathedral Square park, with its fountain and wrought iron benches, further unifies the area, by its name and age as well as its location. The individual structures in the Cathedral Square area possess integrity and the visual impact of the streetscape makes the area significant. Viewed from the south, the warm colors and pleasing shapes of the cathedral's roof and spires contrast well with the stark, modern Cities Service Building.

The cathedral's masonry load bearing walls and steel framed spires are faced with stone and brick. The cathedral is 200 feet long, 74 feet wide at the nave, and 94 feet wide at the transept. The cathedral has three spires, each representing a member of the Holy Family. The 251 feet tall main spire is faced with four large clocks. The cathedral has 163 windows; most are of stained glass. Stained glass windows from the original Holy Family Church (demolished) were removed and placed in basement windows of the cathedral. The cathedral has one of the largest Gothic altars in the nation.

The school's dimensions are 104 by 125 feet. It was built to accommodate 700 pupils.

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HOLY FAMILY CATHEDRAL BLOCK

CONTINUATION SHEET

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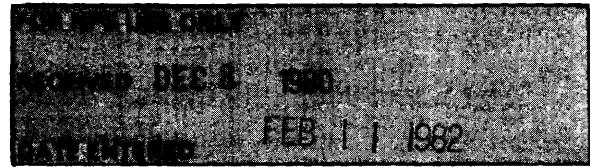
7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.):

Alterations to the cathedral have not compromised its integrity. Original slate roof shingles were replaced with aluminum shingles. A fire in the main spire in the 1940s destroyed the slate. Wooden main entry doors destroyed by a fire in 1973 were replaced with glass doors. Three concrete stairways at the east elevation entry have been removed and replaced with open steps and ramp for the handicapped.

Two floors of Holy Family School are being converted for use as diocesan offices. When the conversion is complete the Catholic Center will be demolished and the site paved and landscaped for additional parking.

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Holy Family Cathedral
Tulsa, Tulsa County
Oklahoma

The Catholic Center was not a part of the cathedral. It has been demolished, and the space where it stood is now used for parking.

The center is thus excluded from the nomination.

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 checked="" 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 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 Cathedral, 1914; **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** J.P. Curtain, arch.
 Rectory and School 1919 A.E. Wasieleski, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Family Cathedral, Rectory and School are historically as well as architecturally significant. The Catholic Center is neither architecturally compatible nor historically significant. Holy Family Cathedral is listed individually in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. The Holy Family Cathedral Block entire is listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory as part of a larger Cathedral Square District. The churches in the Cathedral Square District remain strong institutions despite the tendency of large congregations in the central business districts of other cities to abandon their inner city churches for suburban locations. Tulsa's in town congregations have remained and prospered and contribute to the stability of the Central Business District.

In 1895, Oklahoma's first Catholic bishop obtained permission from Legus Perryman, chief of the Creek Indians, to build a church. The first Holy Family Church (now demolished) was built on the block between Third and Fourth Streets and Elgin and Franklin Avenues in 1899; it was doubled in size in 1908. Ground was broken for the present church on May 23, 1912. The building was completed in April, 1914. In June, 1919, the rectory was begun, and in July, 1919, the school building was started.

The dedication of Holy Family Church was preceeded by a grand parade which was pronounced the finest event ever held in the city. A contemporary testimonial to the church's place in the hearts of Tulsans read, "Thus was completed the Tri-Spired Gem, the Holy Family Church of Tulsa, The City's Pride, The Catholic's Boon, The House of God and of Blessings to All." After the successful "Whirlwind Campaign" of May 16-23, 1916, raised \$100,000, newspapers stated "Holy Family Parish never fails and Tulsa always makes good." Holy Family Cathedral (originally Holy Family Chruch) was the first church of its size to be built in Oklahoma. The church was the tallest building

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet Item 9 Page 1.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one.

QUADRANGLE NAME Tulsa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 231000 4004250
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North: 8th Street, east: Boulder Avenue,

South: 9th Street, west: Cheyenne Avenue

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Stewart, Assistant Director ; and staff

ORGANIZATION

Tulsa Historic Preservation

DATE

February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

411 S. Denver

TELEPHONE

(918) 585-2681

CITY OR TOWN

Tulsa

STATE

Oklahoma

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

[Signature] 12/14/81
[Signature] 2/11/82

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/11/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.):

in Tulsa and remained so until the construction of the Mayo Hotel in 1923. The cathedral is still one of Tulsa's best known landmarks.

The Church's construction corresponded to the period of rapid growth and development in Tulsa following the discovery of oil in surrounding areas. The early congregation included oilmen such as Harry F. Sinclair and Joseph L. LaFortune. Between 1905 and 1917 Holy Family parish grew from 165 to 4,000 parishioners. Msgr. John Heiring, third pastor of Holy Family, was instrumental in establishing Tulsa's St. John's Hospital; and during the devastating race riot of 1921, the Church basement was used as a shelter for some two hundred women and children. Holy Family Church was named co-cathedral of the Diocese of Tulsa and Oklahoma City in 1931. Holy Family became a see church when the Diocese of Tulsa was established on December 19, 1972.

Money for building St. Theresa's Institute (predecessor to Holy Family School) came in 1899 from Mother M. Katherine Drexel, heiress to the Drexel banking fortune of Philadelphia. The contribution was for "the erection of a school in Tulsa, Indian Territory, to be used for the benefit of Indian and Colored People of the Territory of Oklahoma and Indian Territory." Holy Family School began admitting children of all races in 1909. According to C.B. Douglas's The History of Tulsa, Oklahoma (1921), "The school embraces in its courses grammar grades, high school and business courses; also, voice culture, singing, and art painting." Holy Family School's penthouse was not a luxury, but a necessity for teaching sisters who were a semi-cloistered order. Two roof gardens provided a private place for outdoor recreation, including winter snowball fights.

(See Continuation Sheet Item 8 Page 2.)

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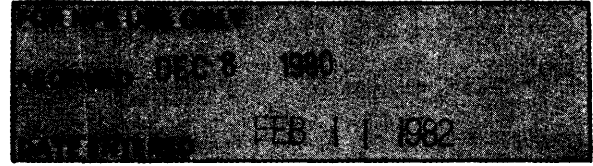
PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.):

Holy Family Cathedral and School have had a profound effect upon the growth and development of Tulsa and of Oklahoma. The rectory has been the home of priests who were numbered among the city's most influential boosters. More than ten Tulsa parishes were established from Holy Family. These became centers for further community development. Nine missions were established in other Oklahoma towns from Holy Family. These led to further Catholic migration into and within the state and to the establishment of additional parishes. The Holy Family Cathedral Block is a reminder of the boundless confidence in the city's future shared by all Tulsans in the oil boom years.

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Tulsa, Tulsa County
Oklahoma

The Holy Family Cathedral is of architectural significance. It achieves this significance in that it is the only structure within the City of Tulsa of this style.

The cathedral is one of the most noted landmarks in the city. The members of the congregation, as well as other citizens of Tulsa, point to the cathedral with pride. There is much interest in the preservation of this architecturally significant structure.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

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Tulsa World, "Nuns Played in Holy Family Penthouse." October 22, 1978

Tulsa World, "Inspiring Aspect." August 29, 1979.