

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received OCT 15 1984  
date entered NOV 15 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Saint, Mary's Episcopal Church

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number 131 Edgewood Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Middlesborough \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Kentucky code county Bell code

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

## 4. Owner of Property

name Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, c/o The Rev. Bill E. Burks, Rector

street & number 131 Edgewood Road

city, town Middlesborough \_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bell County Courthouse

street & number Pine Street

city, town Pineville state Kentucky

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Ken. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is located on the south side of Edgewood Road in Middlesborough, Kentucky. The building is a short distance (one city block) north of the main downtown area. This downtown area was included on the National Register in 1983. The church was built in late 1890 and first opened for services on February 15, 1891. It is located on the original site. There have been some very minor changes in the outside appearance of the structure. These have been primarily in different colors of paint used from the original shade. The interior of the church has not changed from its original appearance with the exception of the basement. None of the minor alterations, both interior and exterior, detract in any great fashion from the church's historic character. A parish house is located on the lot (built 1938-41) but is not attached to the church.

The church is 60' long and 24' wide. It is shaped in the classic gothic style of a cross. The Nave is 43'9" long and has a single center aisle. There are 23 pews, all of which date to the construction of the church. The choir is 12'8" long and contains the original pulpit and eagle lectern that were donated by those who originally established the parish. The sanctuary is 13' by 17'8" and has an unusual recessed back wall. The front entrance of the church has a 10' by 10' porch. The steep pitched roof is 30' high at the highest point. On the northwest end of the roof is an 18' high belfry topped with a cross. The original bell is still functional and rung regularly. It should be noted that the alter, church bell and two chancel chairs (all still in use) were given by Alexander A. Arthur.

An especially special feature of the structure is the large stained glass window in the south transept. This large, three part window was purchased at the time of the church's construction from Tiffany and Company of London, England. A picture of the window is included in this 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 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 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** 11/11/1890 (built) **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church should be included on the National Register for two reasons. First, the church served as the religious home for wealthy British investors who worked to exploit the resources of the area in a large scale venture at the close of the 19th Century. Secondly, the church survives as one of the finest examples in Southeastern Kentucky of gothic revival architecture. The church is one of the few wooden buildings that survived a series of fires during Middlesborough's boom era. Therefore, its architecture reflects that of the wooden structures in Middlesborough that were replaced with brick buildings after the fires.

The American Association Ltd. was founded by Alexander A. Arthur to attract investment in the area by wealthy British investors. Many of the new British residents were members of the Church of England and found the Episcopal Church a logical church home in this country. Alexander Arthur, Frank and Edgar Watts and others were all part of the early founders of Saint Mary's Church. One of the first five churches built in Middlesborough, it played an integral part in the early efforts to "Christianize" the boom town atmosphere of the area. Many of the objects associated with the church were given by wealthy English residents, but also by generous individuals in England. All of these early gifts are still in the church and in use today.

Its significance is also derived from its architecture and construction. Although the builder/designer is unknown, it survives virtually unaltered as an example of gothic revival style as interpreted in a church structure. During the town's building in the late 1880's and early 90's, the first structures were almost entirely made from wood as was Saint Mary's. The corner stone was laid November 11, 1890 and construction was completed February, 1891. The lots for the church were donated by the Middlesborough Town and Land Company, a subsidiary of the American Association Ltd..

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kincaid, Robert L., The Wilderness Road, Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1947.  
 Caudill, Harry M., Theirs Be the Power: The Moguls of Eastern Kentucky,  
 University of Illinois Press, 1984.  
 Smith, Rev. Claudius R., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Publisher Unknown, 1933.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one-half acre

Quadrangle name Middlesboro South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	7
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2	5	6	0	2	0
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4	0	5	4	7	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 109 N.E., Lots No. 911 and 12. Beginning at the southeast corner on Lothbury Ave. running northwest 33° for 190' to the northeast corner on Edgewood Rd. west 81° for 119' to the northwest corner then (continued)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred Boyles, Vestry Member

organization Saint Mary's Episcopal Church date 6/1/84

street & number 412 North 24th Street telephone (606) 248-0155

city or town Middlesboro state Kentucky

# 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 David L. Morgan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 3, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 11-15-84

for [Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Continuation sheet Bell County, Kentucky

Item number 10

Page 2

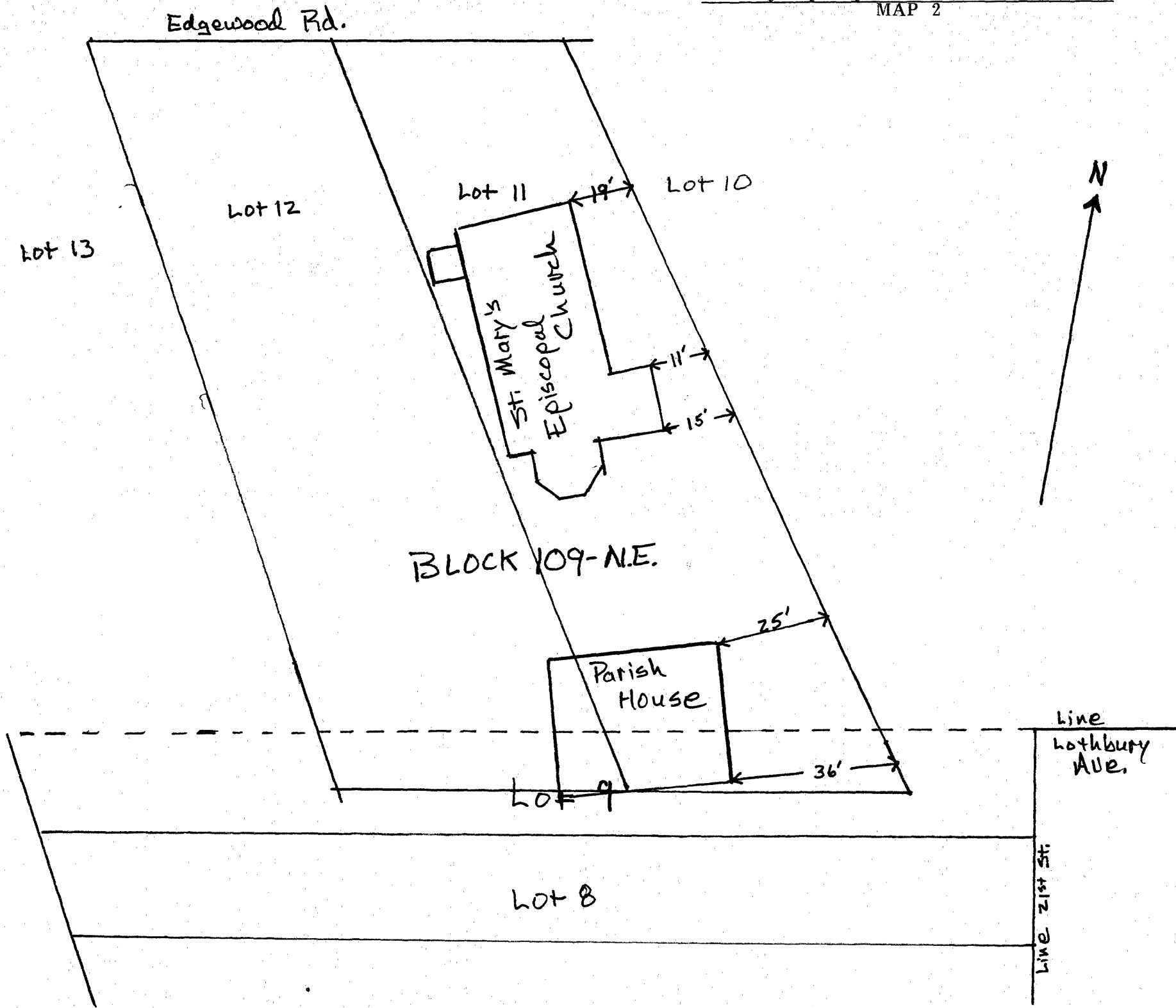
10

4

Verbal boundary description and justification - continued:

southeast 27° for 181' to the southwest corner, then east 82° for 143'.

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Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	2	5	6	0	2	0	4	0	5	4	7	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

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Entered in the  
National Register

date 11-15-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

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