

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Cathedral of Saint Helena (Roman Catholic)
and/or common Cathedral of Saint Helena (Roman Catholic)

2. Location

street & number 530 North Ewing Street _____ not for publication
city, town Helena _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district
state Montana code 30 county Lewis and Clark code 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena
street & number 612 Harrison Avenue
city, town Helena _____ vicinity of _____ state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis and Clark County Clerk and Recorder,
City-County Building
street & number _____
city, town Helena _____ state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Dehaas Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1973 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Built, between 1908 and 1924, of tawny-colored Bedford Indiana limestone, and topped by a steeply-pitched red-tile roof, the Cathedral of Saint Helena is a forthright Gothic-Revival structure ("Geometric" Gothic, to be exact), loosely patterned after the great cathedral of Cologne, Germany, and a near replica of the "Votive Church" of Vienna.

It follows the traditional cruciform plan of large Gothic churches. The main (west) entrance opens upon a long nave, flanked by single-story aisles, which is separated from a semi-circular apse (containing the sanctuary and main altar) by twin transepts (accomodating the north and south entrances) and a central crossing. Twin side-chapels, one opening into each transept, flank the apse.

A striking feature of the cathedral is its stained glass. Two tiers or stories of tall and relatively-wide windows (at the aisle and clerestory levels) contain geometric tracery and a total of 11,696 square feet of art glass. 59 of the windows depict a sequence of events from the Old and New Testaments and subsequent Church History.

The glass is of exceptionally high quality, having come from the world famous firm of F. X. Zettler of Munich, and is entirely intact at this time. (40,000 pounds of half-inch plate glass was installed outside the art glass, as a protective measure, during the cathedral's 1956-1959 restoration.)

The quality of the glass, its condition, the unified sequence of events depicted, not to mention the sheer volume, make it a resource of great significance.

The Cathedral of Saint Helena is the tallest structure in Helena; The matched spires are 230 feet tall, and the building's physical prominence is made even greater by its location on the top of a hill at the head of Lawrence street, a major east-west connector crossing the central business district.

The north tower contains 15 hand-cast bells, made by the McShane Foundry of Baltimore, which are operated from a keyboard in the choir loft.

A feature of the building's exterior is the collection of life-size statuary on the west front and on the north and south sides of the towers. 29 statues, depicting Saints and such figures as Copernicus, Dante, Ampere, Gutenberg, Pasteur, and Christopher Columbus are placed there.

The cathedral's exterior has remained essentially unchanged since its completion in 1913, but the interior was considerably adorned during an extensive restoration program undertaken between 1956 and 1959.

(continued on form FHR-8-300A)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908 - 1924

Builder/Architect

A. O. Von Herbulis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cathedral of Saint Helena is significant primarily as a work of Architecture and as the setting for what may be one of the world's great collections of Art-glass; and secondarily as a testament to the generosity and aspirations of a group of men prominent in the early history of Montana.

The Architectural and Artistic merit of the building are described under section 7.

It took Helena about thirty years to grow from a mining camp to the financial and political center of Montana; but, once having achieved that position, and for a brief period of time (roughly between 1880 and 1920) Helena had all of the requisites to build on a grand scale: a concentration of wealth, great optimism and civic pride on the part of those holding it, the availability of highly-skilled and relatively inexpensive labor, and of a wide range of building materials, and an enormous city-wide sense of confidence. Add to this the personalities of a few key men, including Bishop Carroll, Thomas Cruse, and Senator J. A. Walsh, and the result was a spectacular concentration of the best of the period's characteristic architecture. The Cathedral of Saint Helena is the crowning achievement; the result of one of those fortunate combinations of historical accident which is unlikely to repeat itself.

The building's greatest contributor (he gave something in excess of \$ 100,000) was Thomas Cruse, a shrewd Irish prospector who found the famous Drumlummon lode and built the town of Marysville and who became one of the most outstanding figures in Montana's mining history. The recent loss of Cruse's Home and of the Drumlummon mine buildings leaves the Cathedral as the last substantial physical reminder of the man.

Other very large contributors included Thomas C. Power, Peter Larson, Senator Walsh, and others prominent in Helena's and Montana's history. The catalyst of the project was Bishop John P. Carroll Himself, a man a single-minded determination who also raised the money for Carroll College and a wide assortment of other church-owned buildings during his career (1904 - 1925)

The Cathedral of Saint Helena has been, since its first Mass in 1914, the principal church of the Helena Diocese, very much a working building

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rev. Victor Day, The Cathedral of Saint Helena, 1938, Standard Pub. Co.
the Register, Western Montana Addition, Sun., April 19, 1959
 a special "Double Anniversary" supplement.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property ~~##~~ 65,400 square feet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED 62,500

Quadrangle name Helena, Montana

UMT References

A

1	2	4	20	9	00	5	1	5	9	9	2	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						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The site of the cathedral consists of all of block 425 of the Allen Addition to the City of Helena. It is within the platted city limits of Helena

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N. A.

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis H. McCahon

Dennis H. McCahon,

organization Writing & Urban Planning Services date Jan. 4, 1980

street & number 1934 Hauser Blvd. telephone 442-3076

city or town Helena, state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

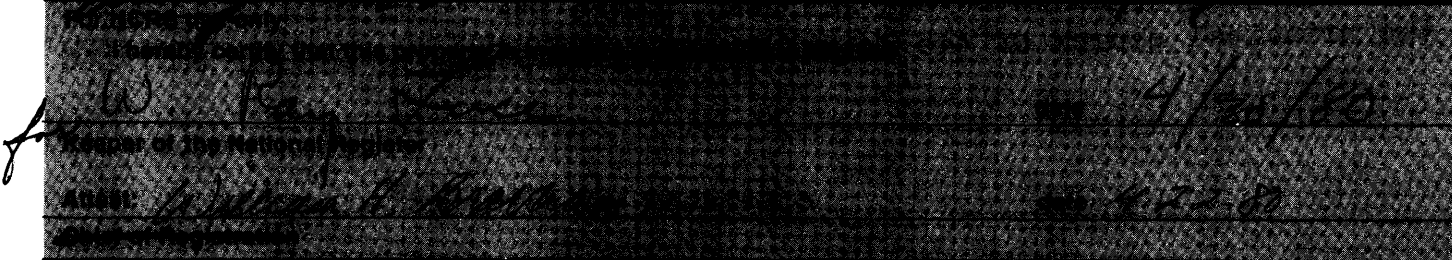
national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*

title Director SHPO

date 5/21/80



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 26 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

Physical Appearance

Additions to the interior made during the 1956-1959 restoration include an elaborate bronze canopy over the high altar and bronze grilles filling the arches on either side of the altar, done by studio of Carl Wyland of Cologne, Germany; new bronze and glass light fixtures; repairs and repainting (polychrome and gold-leaf) of all interior plaster; a new marbelized rubber tile floor, a new forced-air heating system, and a new finish on all of the cathedrals hand-carved oak woodwork.

Work on the exterior was limited to needed repairs, repointing, roof-drainage improvements, and the installation of the protective plate glass over the art glass.

Recent changes in Catholic liturgy have necessitated the installation of a new high altar facing the congregation, but the original high altar was left unchanged.

The Cathedral of Saint Helena measures approximately 246 feet by 150 feet, the ceiling vaults are approximately 65 feet above the floor, and the twin spires are 230 feet tall. The building site is a full city block, a site of approximately 65,400 square feet.

Statement of Significance

and not a museum; and has recently gained considerable recognition as a place for musical concerts, serving all of Helena.

It has long been one of Helena's outstanding tourist attractions, receiving thousands of visitors yearly; and, according to a careful survey* conducted by the Helena planning dept. in 1975, it is Helena's most frequently-mentioned physical landmark, an indispensable part of most peoples' mental image of Helena, filling a role analogous to that filled by Capital Dome in Washington, the World Trade Center in New York, The Eiffel Tower in Paris, or of the great European Cathedrals, in their respective towns.

* an "Image of the City" survey, based upon the approach and the objectives outlined by urban planning theorist Kevin Lynch, in his book, The Image of the City, 1960, the M.I.T. press