

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

RECEIVED 413  
OMB No. 1024-0018  
1080

AUG 9 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**1. Name of Property**

historic name St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

other names/site number St. Pat's

**2. Location**

street & number Oak Avenue (no street number) Higgins Hill not for publication n/a

city or town Bisbee vicinity n/a

state Arizona code AZ county Cochise code 003 zip code 85603

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Saurin'  
Signature of certifying official

SHPO

July 12, 1995

Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Ball*

Entered in the  
National Register

9/7/95

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Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing          |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u> buildings       |
|              | <u>      </u> sites      |
|              | <u>      </u> structures |
|              | <u>      </u> objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u> Total           |

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 1--Contributor,  
Bisbee Historic District (listed 1980)

**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

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**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion  
Social

Sub: Religious facility  
Meeting hall

## **7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

## Late Gothic Revival

**Materials (Enter categories from instructions)**

foundation concrete  
roof slate  
walls brick  
-terra cotta trim-  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
stained glass windows

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### **8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
  - B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
  - C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
  - D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- xx A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

      B. removed from its original location.

      C. a birthplace or a grave.

      D. a cemetery.

      E. a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

      F. a commemorative property.

G. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)**

architecture

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**Period of Significance** 1915-1944

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**Significant Dates** 1915-1917

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**Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)**

**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder** Albert C. Martin/John Steffes  
Los Angeles, CA/Bisbee, AZ

**Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)**

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register -- Bisbee Historic District (7/3/1980)  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: Diocese of Tucson, Tucson, AZ

Shattuck Memorial Library  
Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum  
Bisbee, AZ

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing |
| 1 12 602450           | 3479190 3             |
| 2                     | 4                     |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

name/title Eva Adair Rylance, 102 Coconino Ave, Bisbee, AZ 85603

Robert John Lehr, POB 34, Bisbee, AZ 85603

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date Sept. 22, 1994

street & number 102 Coconino telephone (602) 432-3114

or 432-4652

city or town Bisbee state AZ zip code 85603

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)**

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Diocese of Tucson

street & number 192 South Stone Avenue (POB 31) telephone (602) 792-3410

city or town Tucson state AZ zip code 85702

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**RECEIVED 413**

AUG 9 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church,  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona.

**Narrative description**

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Bisbee Arizona, stands at the western end of the Old Bisbee Historic District. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 3, 1980. It is about 200 feet up the northerly side of Higgins Hill, on the southerly side of Tombstone Canyon approximately one-half mile to the west of its convergence with Zacatecas Canyon in the Mule Mountains of Cochise County in southeast Arizona.

The building is late 19th, early 20th century Gothic Revival design. It has a concrete foundation, which at the back of the building extends above ground level on the east side where the main entrance to the basement meeting hall is located. The walls are of light tan brick with terra cotta trim. The roof is slate. The interior is plastered, with a ribbed vaulted plastered ceiling.

The measurements of the inside of the building are all approximate and except for the ceiling height are within +/- one foot. The length from the front of the narthex to the back of the apse is 103 feet. The width of the nave including the side aisles is 44 feet. The transept is 66 feet in width. The ceiling is approximately 40 feet in height at the apex of the vaulting.

The south side of the building, the front, is on a paved street, Oak Avenue, and faces the Cochise County Court House and other County administration buildings. To the west of the building is a parking lot, about 75 ft. in width and directly to its west is the Loretto Academy building, not a part of this nomination. To the north of the building terracing down the hill towards Tombstone Canyon is a large parking lot. On the east side about 25 ft. from the main part of the building sits the rectory, a non contributing resource that sits primarily upon the adjoining lot.

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**description (continued)**

The property is in very good condition. The interior is virtually as it was when the church was originally built. Only one exterior change has been made and that is not readily apparent to the casual observer. During the early 1980s acrylic shield covers were added to the exterior of the windows to protect them from vandalism. This was done in such a manner, by duplicating the major tracery designs within the windows, that the additions are not noticeable except on studied observation.

The building design incorporates architectural features normally considered as hallmarks of English Gothic Design.

The following design motifs substantiate the building designation:

- Apse
- Buttresses
- Lancet arches
- Narthex
- Nave
- Pinnacle with crocket (cross)
- Pointed (Gothic) arches
- Quatrefoiles
- Slate roof
- Tracery windows
- Transept
- Turreted corners

Glazing is of particular interest due to the brilliance of the colors. The Victorian stained glass windows are made using the technique where fine lead crystal glass is painted with designs and then fired resulting in high translucency with marvelous gradations of color, hues and textures.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**description (continued)**

The church contains three large windows. The south (front) window depicts the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven. The window on the east end of the transept depicts the Ascension of Christ into heaven. The window on the west end of the transept depicts the Nativity. There are ten clerestory windows in the nave, five on each side. The one furthest towards the front is a stylized Gothic repeating design, the remaining four depict scenes from the bible. There are sixteen smaller windows on the main floor, eight along each side aisle of the nave, depicting scenes from the bible. There are twelve minor windows, in various areas of the the structure all with painted designs, as there are no unpainted windows above the basement level of the building.

The altars are also of interest. While they appear to be marble they are actually wood, being painted in the trompe l'oeil (to fool the eye) technique. Their design has strong gothic influences.

The stations of the cross, baroque in design, are also of great interest and some say do not fit the Gothic Revival characteristics of the church.

In the basement there is a church or parish hall. It is a multi-purpose area with a seating capacity of approximately 200. Included in the hall is a stage, as well as bathrooms and a large, fully equipped kitchen.

**Narrative statement of significance**

This property, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Bisbee Arizona is being nominated at the local level of significance under National Register Criterion, category C, because it embodies distinct characteristics of the Late Gothic Revival period of architecture and high artistic value in its decorative fittings, most specifically the stained glass windows and alters.

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Section number 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4 \_\_\_\_\_

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

Nestled in the Mule Mountains, a little over a mile above sea level, in the heart of Tombstone Canyon, in Bisbee, Arizona stands a structure known as St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church; the first permanent church in the area, as well as a center of social activity from the earliest times. The architecture, means of erection, as well as the social history surrounding the edifice make interesting reading for even the most discriminating tastes.

**Historical background and significance:**

Bisbee, Arizona is one of the best preserved post-victorian, early 20th century cities in the Western United States. With only 7 commercial structures built after 1918 and none built after 1939 the Old Bisbee Historic District retains an architectural purity seldom found today.

Because the age of electricity created an unprecedented demand for copper the mining camp that was to become known as Bisbee, which had come into existence between 1878-80, had by the end of the 19th century become one of the largest copper producing areas in the world. The city that grew around the mines and early smelter had attracted over 10,000 people to the area by the turn of the century. As many of the miners coming to Bisbee were of Welsh and Irish descent there had been a Catholic church here since the 1880s.

By 1903-05 the smelter had been relocated to the newly established town of Douglas Arizona, 25 miles east, and the local major mining company, the Copper Queen Consolidated, had built an imposing building as its headquarters office, which, by 1901, had become the offices for the entire Phelps Dodge western mining operation. In addition a second major mining company, the Calumet and Arizona, had been established and the area had become a crossroad of Western mining and commerce.

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St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

The business district had inched westward up Mule Gulch from "Copper Queen Plaza", the site of the mining company offices. Banks, retail stores, restaurants, hotels and rooming houses had been built. A fire in 1908 destroyed much of the western end of Main Street. This only increased the building demand and many of the best examples of downtown buildings, existing to this very day, were built between 1909 and 1918 as a direct result of this fire.

It was within this background that in 1915 a new Catholic Church was to be erected. The Church edifice built between 1915-17 is possibly the crowning example of the exuberance of expansion of the City of Bisbee (incorporated, 1902) from a small, primitive mining camp in the 1880s to one of the largest population centers and richest commercial centers in the State of Arizona by the time of the construction of the church.

The idea for the new building was the brainchild of a young French priest, Fr. Constant Mandin. Arriving in San Antonio, Texas from France in 1903 the young seminarian was ordained a secular priest in 1904. He left for Tucson shortly thereafter, being lured to Arizona by the glowing description of life in the Territory by the then Bishop of the Tucson Diocese, Bishop Henri Granjon. His first parish was in Morenci, Arizona where he remained until 1913 when he came to Bisbee.

On his arrival he assumed the parish known as St. Patrick's, fondly referred to as St. Pat's by the local populace to this very day. The Church was named for the patron saint of Ireland due to the fact that a great number of the parish membership were of Irish descent.

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

At that time the parish included a frame church building on Clauson Avenue and a private boarding school, Loretto Academy, on Higgins Hill. Together they had a standing debt of around \$13,000.00.

Fr. Mandin soon organized the parish flock into a smoothly operating unit. At meetings he explained the problems of the parish to the congregation and enlisted their aid in his venture to pay off the debt and build a new edifice.

His vision was to build a beautiful new church on Higgins Hill next to the Loretto Academy. The ground for the new building was donated by Thomas Higgins, a recent convert to Roman Catholicism and a close friend of Fr. Mandin. Mr. Higgins, a mine owner, owned all of the land in this area which is known as Higgins Hill to this day. He made but one stipulation in the gift, the church must face the hill instead of Tombstone Canyon.

Two things remained, the first was to get a design for the structure and the second was to work out the financing required to build it.

In looking for an architect, Fr. Mandin journeyed to Los Angeles and met with Albert C. Martin. Mr. Martin, a well known architect, who had designed some very important buildings; the Ventura County Court House (Beaux Arts), Ventura, CA; Second Church of Christ, Scientist, (Greek Revival) and St. Vincent's Catholic Church, (Spanish Baroque), both in Los Angeles, and buildings at the University of Southern California among others; was selected by Fr. Mandin to submit a design for the new St. Patrick's.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

The initial budget was about \$40,000. and plans based upon that figure were drawn up. However Fr. Mandin did not feel that the specifications for a structure designed under the constraints of this proposal would allow for a large enough church to meet the needs of the growing congregation.

The parish decided to give the pastor the authority necessary to design and erect a structure that would fit the needs of the growing congregation and fulfill his desires to have a building worthy of the Catholic people of the community. Plans for a new edifice costing \$150,000 were settled upon and the next phase, the raising of the funds and the construction, began.

An initial pledge drive netted \$5,000 all in small donations and soon the actual construction was able to get under way. Mr. John Steffes of Bisbee was selected as the contractor. Labor Day of 1915 was the day chosen to start the grading and excavating for the foundation of the new church.

Being a mining town Bisbee had no shortage of skilled workers used to digging in the earth. As the majority of the parish congregation was of Irish or Welsh descent, the miners who generally had the jobs of drilling and blasting, the men of the congregation were right at home in helping to erect the structure. Men who worked the night shift would work on the church from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM and those who worked the day shift would come to work at 5:00 PM and work into the night, usually until 9:00 PM.

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

Fr. Mandin was not above pitching in, donning work clothes and joining the laboring members in various tasks. So finally, his dream of a magnificent new church edifice took form and was ready for its first service of mass on Sunday, Sept. 30, 1917. Bishop Granjon of the Diocese of Tucson came down and conducted the services.

The women of the parish played their part as well. By the time the church was completed and dedicated the indebtedness had been reduced to \$118,000, due much in part to the women of the congregation. All types of "social functions" were undertaken by them and through their diligent efforts the debt was rapidly reduced, until the time came the parish was able to "burn the mortgage". Their efforts at raising money and helping the congregation continue to this very day.

Probably the most outstanding architectural feature of the church is its stained glass windows. These windows were made in St. Louis, Missouri, by a company that at the time the church was built was called the Emil Frei Art glass Co. The man who made the windows was Emil Frei I who had migrated from Munich Germany around the turn of the century and had settled in St. Louis in 1904. He had learned the art of making stained glass in Munich where he had attended the Munich Academy of Art.

Mr. Emil Frei I, who passed away in the early 1940s, was renowned throughout the midwest for his magnificent stained glass. One of the outstanding features of his glass was the faces with their fine almost life-like skin texture. This was considered one of his hallmarks. This company is still in existence today and is operated by the great-grandsons of the founder.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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St Patrick's Roman Catholic  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**statement of significance (continued)**

The altars were made by a company called the Daprato Statuary Co., Chicago and New York City, copyrighted 1916. It is no longer in business, but according to information supplied by the Daprato Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, in existence today, 1994, and founded by the same family, but not a successor to the former company, they had a manufacturing facility in the Chicago area in 1916 where the altars were most likely manufactured.

As to the stations of the cross, we have removed one of them from the wall and could find no indication of where or when they were manufactured. However, elderly members of the congregation, with recollections dating back to the 1920s, remember them as always having been a part of the original church decoration.

The building has served as a spiritual home for more than 75 years to as many as 2,000 families in the early years. At the present time there are some 750 families using the facilities and services of the parish. Mass is said daily.

The parish hall in the basement is used for both public and private functions, including wedding receptions, parish dinners and dances, the annual parish festival and the American Red Cross blood bank drive.

The church building is central to the parish and to its congregation. It is also an eternal memorial to the vision of Fr. Mandin.

For the city and all people of the area it is a symbol of the dedication and hard work of those early day individuals who wanted to build and dedicate this magnificent monument to the glory of God. It is also a symbol of the vibrance and character of the early mining camp that became the "Queen of the Copper camps."

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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St Patrick's Roman Catholic church  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

**Bibliography**

Blumenson, John J.-G. Identifying American Architecture, a pictorial guide to styles and terms, 1600-1945. AASLH Press, American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee. Second edition. 1981: § on Gothic Revival.

Bisbee Daily Review, March 3, 1929. Article entitled "Growth of St. Patrick's is due entirely to ability of Father Mandin, members say"

The Horizon Book of Great Cathedrals, Edited by Horizon Magazine, American Heritage Publishing Co., New York, NY, 1968. Glossary only.

Clevengewr, Martha Ramsey. Emil Frei, Jr. Collection, Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO, division of library archives, 1986.

**Verbal boundary description**

Lot on Aurora surf to a depth of 40' of a pt of Aurora Surv #1387, pat mine in Warren mining dist by M&B: Beg N27deg 42min E248.84' from SW Cor #5 of Aurora Thence S27deg 18min E209.96' to TPOB N17deg 29min E132.51' S66deg 44min E113.60' S7deg 44min W104.50' S72deg 18min W22.90' S68deg 10min W8.50' N72deg 14min W105.42' to beg being. St. Patricks Church, Lot 23 Blk Q, book 103, map 61, Cochise County, Arizona.

**Verbal boundary justification**

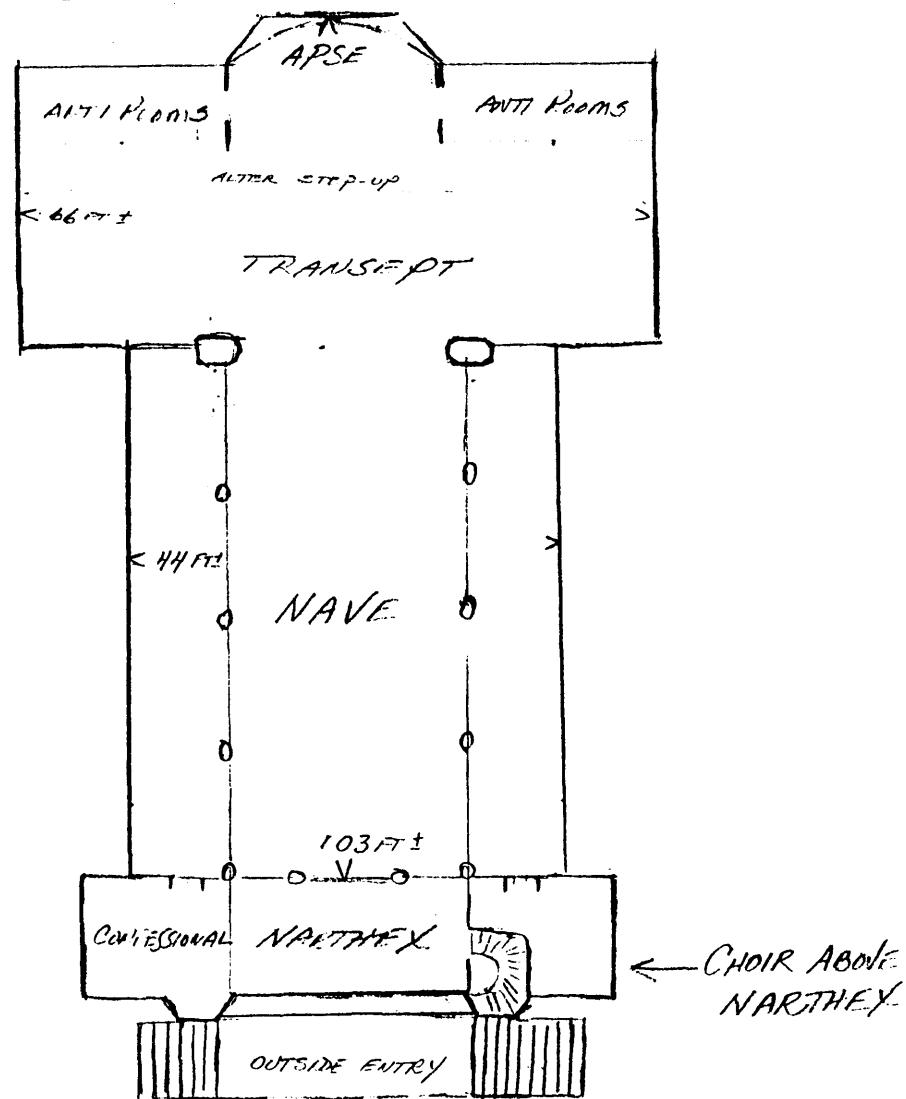
Boundary traditionally associated with church building and rectory.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church,  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona



FRONT OF CHURCH



SCALE 1"-20'

RJL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church,  
Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona

