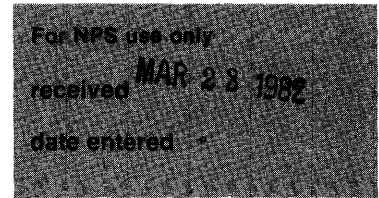


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 11

6. (N-5667):

A. Property Name: St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church is located at 200 East Main Street at the northeast corner of Chapel Street and East Main. The property being nominated includes the building and land on which it is situated, the latter having a frontage of 97.3 feet and a depth of 190 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 20, lot no. 241).

C. Owner: St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church Rectory, 14 North Chapel Street, Newark, Delaware, 19711

D. Property Description:

This one story rectangular church has a central entrance tower and three bays at the south front facade. Both east and west facades are built of natural red brick laid in American common bond with a seven to one repeat. Exterior brick pilasters form five regular bays and flank circular arched stained glass lancet windows at the side walls. Corner buttresses feature both corbelled brick courses and pyramidal roofs. The entrance tower at the main door exhibits a rose window over the main front door, a corbelled brick cornice, and a single bay porch with gable roof, boxed cornice and dentils under the eaves. The gable roof of the main building is covered with patterned slate; a square frame cupola with bell tower and arched frame louvers is placed at the south end of the roof ridge line.

E. Historical Background:

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church was built in 1883 to replace an earlier church, known as St. Patrick's. In 1868, the original Old Village Presbyterian Church, which stood at this location, was purchased by Charles A. Murphey. He proceeded to donate this purchase to the Diocese of Wilmington and the church building, renamed St. Patrick's, became a mission of the Church of the Immaculate Conception headquartered in Elkton, Maryland. On the morning of December 25, 1880, the floor of St. Patrick's collapsed and a decision was made to raze the church. The corner stone for the next church, St. John's, was laid on June 24, 1883. This second building was completed by December the same year. St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church remained unaltered until 1946, when major interior renovations were executed by Philadelphia architects, Gleeson and Mulrooney. Building modifications included the installation of twelve memorial art glass windows and a rose window at the south front facade. Minor changes were also made to the church's belfry which, originally built with a 50' tower, was damaged by lightning in 1953.

F. Significance:

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church is the first and only building built by and for Newark's Catholic community. The church is an excellent example of Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical architecture as interpreted by Newark builders.

SKETCH MAP Scale: 1"=100'

N-5667
St. John the Baptist Roman
Catholic Church

Property no. 20
Lot no. 241

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