

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------------|
| STATE: Oregon |
| COUNTY: Multnomah |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE MAY 1 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Rectory

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1635 N. W. 19th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First Wendell Wyatt

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41** COUNTY: **Multnomah** CODE: **051**

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

STREET AND NUMBER:
2838 East Burnside Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
1021 S. W. 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

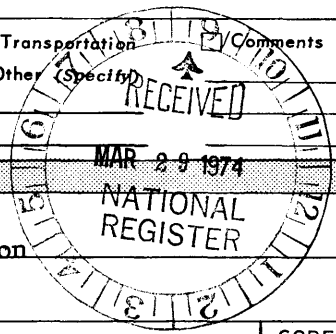
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Parks and Recreation Branch

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oregon State Highway Division

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church and Rectory are located in Northwest Portland in an historic neighborhood where few residential buildings remain. A paved parking lot owned by a major Portland trucking firm virtually surrounds the property. An elevated, double-decked, eight-lane freeway passes within one-half block of the church. The church is today, as when completed in 1891, the prime landmark of the industrial or "Slabtown" section of Northwest Portland.

The building was designed by architect Otto Kleeman, whose plans called for brick masonry. The cornerstone at NW 19th and Savier does, in fact, rest on brick. But, between March and May 1889, bids were put out on stone masonry, instead. Mr. James Barrett, a Portland masonry contractor, was awarded the contract. The stone was rough basalt, quarried in Clackamas County. On March 17, 1889, the 500-pound basalt cornerstone was laid in place and dedicated.

Workmen completed construction of the church in time for a dedication service on March 17, 1891. The building plan is cruciform. It measures ca. 120 feet x 65 feet and ca. 40 feet in height. The dome and spire extend ca. 35 feet above the ridge of the roof. The foundation is brick, which was manufactured locally. Colossal pilasters of the Ionic order extend from buttresses projecting several inches beyond a high basement to the entablature. They mark off each bay. Openings in the second story, or main floor, are elongated, and several are covered with stained glass depicting Irish saints. The stone surrounds are comprised of sills, brackets, pilasters and full entablatures. Clerestory openings abutt and are aligned with the windows of the nave. The fenestration and two-story pilasters provide vertical elements and contrasting color and textures to a facade which otherwise would have been somber. The frieze of the entablature is decorated with Latin inscriptions. The hipped roof and dome are covered with tin. The drum has openings and pilasters similar to those of the main block of the church. Louvered circular openings decorate and ventilate each of the eight sections of the dome. Surmounting the dome is a large cross, which at one time housed a set of electric lights. The pedimented gable ends of the cruciform are decorated with conventional religious symbols in the tympanae.

The facade, or east end, originally had a portico and high masonry stairway leading to the main story, or nave. These were removed in 1960 to meet certain requirements of the building code. Tentative plans call for the restoration of the portico and the stairs.

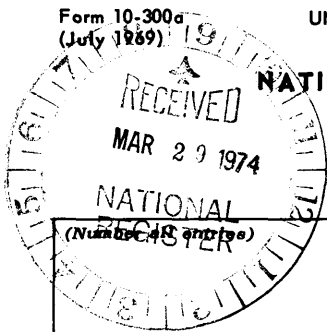
Construction work on the interior of the church proceeded in stages until it was completed in 1914. In the late 1890s, lath and plaster were installed on the interior walls which had been bare to that time. Decoration of the interior came in 1914 during preparations for the Silver Jubilee of the parish. Fr. Murphy commissioned Professor Staehli to copy pictures of early Irish saints from Trinity College, Dublin and reproduce them on the pillars and walls of St. Patrick's. This work constituted the major portion of a \$10,000 fund established to decorate the interior. Above the high altar is a fresco of the Ascension. Life-size figures of St. Patrick and St. Bridget ornament the apex of the nave. At the crest of each pillar is a medallion depicting St. Columba, St. Kiernan, St. Fridolin, St. Canice, St. Coleman, St. Gall, St. Virgilus, St. Columkille, St. Brendan, St. Jarith, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Malachy and St. Ailbe. The frescoes have been cleaned. A few are damaged and need restoration.

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| MAY 1 | 1974 |



ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND RECTORY

2. Location

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church is located in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 28, T. 1 N., R. 1 E. of the Willamette Meridian, in Multnomah County, Oregon. It is situated in Lots 1, 2 and 6 in Block 262 of Couch's Addition to Portland.

7. Description (Continued)

The interior, organized into a nave and side aisles, is lighted by 22 stained glass windows, each of which has been restored. Broken sections were replaced with new stained glass, re-leaded, soldered, reinforced and waterproofed. The work has been undertaken by Mr. Bert Williams of Scappoose, Oregon, a master craftsman who will spend six months on the project.

Hand-carved oak pews, which date from the early days of the church, have been restored, as have the altars of carved oak. The cracked and peeling sections of wall plaster have been repaired.

Where possible, the interior has been or is about to be returned to the motif of the 1914 Silver Jubilee period. The major portion of the restoration project, that of repairing the framework and replacing the tin of the dome and roof, has been accomplished at a cost of nearly \$50,000.

Located ca. five feet to the south of the church building is a Rectory, which was constructed in 1888. The two-story building, rectangular in plan, measures ca. 25 feet by 50 feet. Four small posts support the porch roof. Exterior walls are covered with shingle siding in an imbricated pattern. Fenestration is regular with double-hung sash windows. The transom over the front door still retains the original street number in colored glass. The hipped roof has a plain boxed cornice and plain frieze.

The interior was redecorated and additional partitions placed in the second story rooms in 1925 to accommodate nuns for the school. In the first story is a parlor, den or library, diningroom and kitchen. Bedrooms occupy the second story. Wood trim and the parlor chimneypiece are elaborate, possibly catalog-ordered. The Rectory is to be restored and utilized by the parish. Renters currently lease the house.

8. Significance (Continued)

Germany, on March 13, 1855. He attended Ostrow College, province of Posen, and the Architectural Polytechnicum of Holjminden. In 1874 he embarked for the United States, arriving in San Francisco, where he entered practice with a firm, married and raised three children. Late

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, completed in 1891, is the second oldest surviving church building of any denomination in the city of Portland still used for religious purposes. St. Patrick's played an important role in the religious, cultural and educational activities of several Northwest Portland ethnic settlements, especially the Irish and Croatian populations. For many who worked in the lumber mills, coal bunkers, Northern Pacific Railroad yards and the navigation yards located on the west side of the Willamette River in Portland, St. Patrick's was an important landmark in "Slabtown". Slabtown got its name from huge piles of slab piled around the lumber mills in the area. The Portland City Council designated the property a Portland Historical Landmark. The church and rectory are protected by city ordinance from precipitous demolition and unapproved exterior alterations.

In 1885, in the developing residential area of northwest Portland, a site was chosen for a new Catholic church and parish school. A one-story building was erected, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, and opened with about forty children enrolled. Within a year, Fr. D. Faber brought the enrollment up to 130 youngsters. In 1919, the school building, which was situated behind the church, was replaced by a larger facility which since has been demolished.

Fr. Patrick Gibney became the first full-time pastor in 1888 and was charged with building a new church and parish house on adjacent lots purchased the previous year from Portland pioneers, Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Glisan. Fr. Patrick Gibney, a devout Irishman, apparently influenced the Archbishop to make St. Patrick the titular patron of the new church.

Fr. Gibney's first task was to supervise construction of a rectory for St. Patrick's. The rectory was a rather plain two-story frame building with surface detail derived from the Queen Anne style. Interior woodwork and chimneypieces were more elaborate. Essentially unaltered, the rectory is undergoing restoration.

The laying of the cornerstone of St. Patrick's was celebrated during a widely attended ceremony on March 17, 1889, St. Patrick's Day. Over 5,000 Portlanders, many of whom had just paraded from downtown Portland, watched in the rain as the 500-pound locally-quarried stone was hoisted into place at the corner of what is now NW 19th and Savier streets. Inside the cornerstone the group had placed numerous mementos of the times, both from Ireland and Oregon. Oregon's Governor Sylvester Pennoyer and Catholic Archbishop Gross conducted the ceremony.

The architect of St. Patrick's, Otto K. Kleeman, designed several notable Catholic buildings in Oregon. Kleeman was born in Ostrow,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Program of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Laying of the Cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church, Portland, Oregon, March 17, 1889. March 19, 1939.

HR
10/524220
5042210

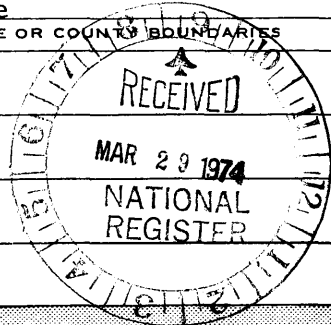
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | | LONGITUDE | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | 45 ° | 32 ' | 05 " |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | 122 ° | 41 ' | 26 " |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 1/4 acre

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 |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul B. Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: March 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: March 18, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 4.30.74

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8. Significance (Continued)

in 1880 Kleeman moved his family to Portland, where he lived until his death in 1936. His works in the state included a number of commissions for Catholic monasteries, convents, and churches, among them St. Mary's Academy, Portland (recently destroyed), St. Peter's Church, The Dalles and Mount Angel College in Mount Angel. Kleeman was later a consulting architect on the Oregonian Building, an early twentieth century skyscraper in downtown Portland.

The plans as drawn up at the time the cornerstone was laid (1889) were not followed precisely. Kleeman intended the structure to be of brick masonry instead of stone. The foundation on which the cornerstone rests is of brick. A large portico surmounted by a statue of St. Patrick, eleven feet high was not built according to design. The builders followed Kleeman's concept for the remainder of the edifice.

The building of St. Patrick's, which was dedicated on the Saint's day, March 17, 1891, made heavy demands on parish funds. Bazaars, fairs, dinners and auctions were held in 1889, 1890 and 1891 to raise capital. Upon completion of the exterior, the interior was left entirely bare, with the rough inner surfaces of the stone walls exposed. The nation was in an economic recession and fund raising was a difficult task.

Fr. Edward Donelly, who served the parish from 1896 to 1899, reportedly was an excellent designer. He drew the plans for the interior finish and supervised the covering of the interior with lath and plaster. Fr. Donelly departed St. Patrick's before he was able to carry out a decorative program.

In preparation for the Silver Jubilee of the parish in 1914, the parishioners commissioned a Professor Staehli, who had studied art in Rome, to paint frescoes on the interior walls. Nearly the entire \$30,000 debt derived from the construction of St. Patrick's had been paid by 1914 and funds (\$10,000) were available for the interior decoration. Professor Staehli based some of his frescoes upon renderings of early saints of Ireland displayed in Trinity College, Dublin.

Fr. Charles Smith became St. Patrick's ninth pastor in 1918 and devoted his energy to developing the school. He tacked rooms onto the sanctuary and remodeled the rectory for the Sisters of St. Francis, who arrived in 1925.

Fr. Theodore Bernards, Fr. Smith's successor, installed a heating system, replaced antiquated wiring, surfaced the floor in hardwood and redecorated the interior of St. Patrick's during his administration from 1927 to 1934.

In 1934 Archbishop Howard appointed Fr. Louis Sander to St. Patrick's and a Croatian Franciscan priest, Fr. Zvonko Manduric, O.F.M., to assist him. In 1938, St. Brigitta's parish in Linnton was attached to St. Patrick's as a mission.

From June, 1944 until December 1966, St. Patrick's was served by Fr. John J. Mitchell, who was pastor longer than any of his predecessors. After temporary administration by the Cathedral parish's pastor Fr. Francis Schaefers, Fr. Franz Schubert took charge from 1967 to 1971.

continued

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued)

In 1972, Fr. Milan Mikulich, pastor of St. Brigitta's assumed administrative duties for St. Patrick's. Today, however, St. Patrick's requires less time than that which was once required by its mission in Linnton. Fr. Mikulich lives at St. Brigitta's and the rectory for the first time in 80 years is unoccupied.

Enrollment in St. Patrick's School, which had been as high as 280 children during the 1920s, had dropped to 152 by 1938. During the Second World War, enrollment climbed back to 350 before the steady decline to 80 students in 1954.

The 1930s marked the beginning years of industrial development in Northwest Portland. In the 1940s, entire blocks were being purchased for industrial expansion, and parishioners were moving to the suburbs or across the river. Without the benefit of younger families, F. Mitchell faced a dwindling enrollment. The school had been served by various teaching orders: the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the Sisters of St. Mary and the Sisters of Mercy, as well as the Sisters of St. Francis who staffed the school for thirty years.

In 1966, the school building was torn down and the school property sold. Two years later it was acquired by Consolidated Freightways. The church and rectory faced a similar fate in 1972. The imposing Renaissance Revival structure which had played a prominent role in the lives of Slabtown residents for over eighty years suddenly was bordered on one side by towering freeway ramps. A restoration effort, coupled with a drive for additional members begun on St. Patrick's Day in 1973, is helping to rejuvenate the parish.

