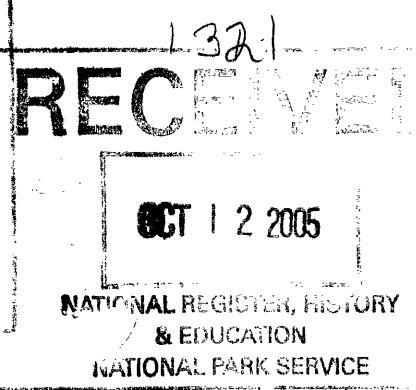
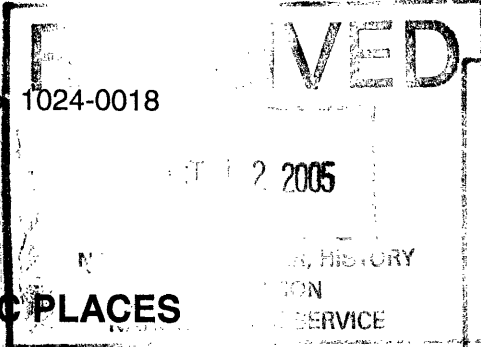


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. Augustine Church Complex

other names/site number KE-C-351

### 2. Location

street & number 1839 Euclid Avenue

not for publication N/A

city or town Covington

vicinity N/A

state Kentucky code KY county Kenton code 117 zip code 41014

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO

10-6-05

Date

**Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office**

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

Signature of certifying official / Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

11-25-05

Property Name

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Number of Resources within Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 4            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 4            | 0               | Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

(Do not count the number of previously listed resources above.)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)

Cat: Religion/religious facility

Sub: Church

Sub: Church School

Sub: Parsonage

Current Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)

Cat: Religion/religious facility

Sub: Church

Sub: Church School

Sub: Parsonage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Cat: Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals

Sub: Italian Renaissance

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Slate

walls Brick

other Copper, Stone, Terra Cotta

Narrative Description

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

Property Name

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes)

- 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.)

- 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**

Ethnic Heritage: European

**Period of Significance**

1913-1954

**Significant Dates**

1913, 1916, 1954

**Significant Person**

N / A

(enter only if Criterion B selected)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N / A

(enter only if Criterion D selected)

**Architect/Builder**

Davis, David (Architect)

McClorey, Howard ( Architect)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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
- 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:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington

Property Name

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 2.0 acres

| <b>UTM References</b> | <b>Zone</b> | <b>Easting</b> | <b>Northing</b> | <b>Quad Name</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Coordinate 1:         | <u>16</u>   | <u>715180</u>  | <u>4326840</u>  | <u>Covington</u> |

**Verbal Boundary Description** See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** See Continuation Sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

|                 |   |           |                     |  |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------------|--|
| name/title      | <u>Kate Carothers, Historic Preservation Specialist</u> |           |                     |  |
| organization    | <u>City of Covington</u>                                |           |                     |  |
| street & number | <u>638 Madison Avenue</u>                               | telephone | <u>859-292-2171</u> |  |
| city or town    | <u>Covington</u>  | state     | <u>KY</u>           | zip code <u>41011</u> date <u>12/06/04</u> |

**Additional Documentation**

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 **Scaled Floor plan** 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)

**Property Owner**

|                 |  |           |                     |                       |
|-----------------|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| name            | <u>Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington</u> |           |                     |                       |
| street & number | <u>947 Donaldson Road</u>                  | telephone | <u>859-283-6200</u> |                       |
| city or town    | <u>Erlanger</u>                            | state     | <u>KY</u>           | zip code <u>41018</u> |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

**Section 7 Page 1 St. Augustine**  
**Kenton County, Kentucky**

Description

The St. Augustine Church and School complex (KE-C-351) consists of four buildings along the north side of 19<sup>th</sup> St. between Euclid and Jefferson Ave. in the Peaselsburg neighborhood of Covington, located in the southwestern part of the city. The church complex is located in the heart of the Peaselsburg neighborhood, and the 1914 church is a landmark in the area. The bell tower of St. Augustine is readily visible from I-71/75 through Covington and to those looking east. The church is a prominent fixture in the area, befitting its status as the local parish and the only Roman Catholic Church in the Peaselsburg neighborhood. The physical address of the property is actually 1839 Euclid Ave., which is a one-way street running north and south. The complex consists of 4 contributing buildings: the church, school, gymnasium, and rectory.

The church and school complex is located in the Peaselsburg neighborhood, which is made up of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century working and middle-class dwellings. The church is surrounded by primarily single family homes, with some local convenience stores and saloons located at the corners of the surrounding streets. A few smaller neighborhood businesses are scattered along some of the surrounding streets as well, including a Laundromat. Glenn O. Swing elementary school is located just south of St. Augustine school.

The complex is surrounded by both grassy areas in the front (south), as well as paved areas. Two sets of concrete steps, slightly wider than the three entrances, provide access to the church from 19<sup>th</sup> St. On the east side of the church is a grassy area with trees, and a sidewalk running along side the church. At the rear (north) of the church is the c. 1910's rectory, which has a large, somewhat steep front yard planted with grass and trees. A paved area runs between the church and rectory. To the west of the rectory is a gold brick gym building, built c. 1954. To the southwest of the rectory, and immediately west of the church, is the 1916 St. Augustine school. There is a large paved parking area between the school building and the gym, and a paved area between the church and school, as well. Entrance to the parking area is from the west, between the school and gym. A low concrete wall topped by a wrought iron fence runs along the front (south) and west side of the school building.

St. Augustine church and school are both composed of a dark red brick, and the rectory is also composed of the same dark red brick, so all three buildings are visually compatible and are recognized as being a homogenous complex. The 1954 gym building is composed of a buff brick, and is recognizable as a later structure in the complex, although it is contributing, having just reached the fifty-year mark.

Individual Feature Descriptions

**St. Augustine church** is an imposing red brick building with two slightly projecting square towers flanking the front-gabled front (south) facade. The church rests on a rusticated stone foundation with a stone water table immediately above the foundation, and has a cross-gabled slate roof. The tower on the east is a good deal taller than the western tower, and functions as a bell tower; the bells are located in the uppermost section of the tower, which is an octagonal section atop the square base. This portion of the tower is topped by a slightly domed Spanish clay tile roof with a copper cross centered at the tallest

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**Section 7 Page 2 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

section. The central section is dominated by a large circular stained glass window centered in the middle of the building above the three entrance portals. There is a corbelled belt course at the second level separating the window and the three entrances; this corbelling continues across both towers. Above the paired entry doors is a stained glass transom. The central portal is flanked by fluted, cream-colored terra-cotta columns with "1870" inscribed in the capital of the western one, and "1913" inscribed in the eastern one. The columns support an entablature which is inscribed with "St. Augustine." Above the entablature is a terra cotta arch which contains a bust of St. Augustine, backed by a green tile background within the arch. The other two sets of paired entry doors are flanked by fluted terra cotta columns supporting an entablature. These two entrances are slightly shorter than the central, main entry. On the western tower, there is a small, narrow, rectangular stained glass window on the first level. Above this is another narrow stained glass window, only with an arched top. The top of the tower has a corbelled cornice and a copper box gutter which is actually wider than the square roof of clay Spanish tiles. The central section is topped by terra cotta coping along the gable ridge, with a copper cross located at the top of the gable.

The eastern bell tower has a small, narrow rectangular stained glass window on the first level, identical to the window in the western tower. On the second level, above the corbelled belt course, are two arched top stained glass windows with brick arches and a narrow stone colonnette between them. Above these windows, in the highest part of the square tower, are three arched top stained glass windows topped with brick arches, and again with stone colonnettes between them. The corbelled cornice is topped by a copper box gutter supported by brackets. On the clay tile roof of the square tower rests the octagonal top of the tower, which is brick, with openings on all eight sides. Arched top openings with narrow stone colonnettes between them rest atop a stone belt course, with a stone keystone at the top of each arch. The bells are located within this octagonal section, which is again topped with a clay tile roof with small brackets supporting a copper box gutter.

On both the east and west elevations are four large stained glass windows with a corbelled belt course above them. The windows are separated by brick pilasters which begin at the water table and extend up to the corbelled belt course. The windows are located behind the square bell tower at the corner, and the wall is recessed in from the tower. Immediately past the fourth stained glass window is another projecting section of the building. On the south end of this section is a set of double doors with a gabled crown supported by brackets. Above the double-door entry is a stained glass transom. Back on the eastern elevation, brick pilasters flank this section, which rises up to a gabled end with a corbelled cornice. Copper coping rests atop the gable, which has a copper cross at the pinnacle. On the first floor, set up high in the wall, is a ribbon window of five long, narrow arched top stained glass windows with brick arches. Above the first floor windows is a large circular stained glass window identical in size to the one on the front (south) elevation. Behind this projecting section, the wall steps in again and there is a fifth large stained glass window, again with a corbelled belt course above it, and a copper box gutter atop the wall. At the very rear is a one-story brick section with a one-over-one double-hung wood window on this elevation. The window has a stone sill and lintel. This one story section houses the sacristy and other storage rooms.

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**Section 7 Page 3 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

On the north (rear) elevation is a semi-circular projection from the rear wall. The semi-circular area contains six narrow, evenly-spaced rectangular stained glass windows with brick arches. A chimney is located on the eastern side of this semi-circular projection, and the roof ends in a gable, topped with copper coping and a copper cross at the pinnacle of the gable. The semi-circular projection rises up from the one-story brick section at the rear, which has a hipped slate roof and copper box gutters. The roof of the semi-circular projection has a conical slate roof and a copper box gutter, and ends a few feet below the gable of the rear wall. Immediately above the conical roof are three arched air vents. On the one-story section are four windows and a door on the rear; all of the windows have stone sills and lintels, and the door has a stone lintel.

The western elevation is identical to the eastern elevation, with the exception of two small, square stained glass windows, one located on the first level, and one immediately above the corbelled belt course running between the first and second floors of the building. These windows are located on the north side of the tower. On the western side of the tower are narrow stained glass windows on the first and second levels of the tower. The lower window is rectangular, while the upper window is arched. These windows are identical to the windows on the front (south) elevation of this tower.

The interior of the church is accessed by one of the three entrances on the south elevation. At the entrance of the carpeted vestibule are three sets of original burgundy leather-covered double doors which lead into the sanctuary of the church. On either end of the vestibule are wooden doors which lead up into the bell towers on either end. The sanctuary itself is a barrel-vaulted space with terra cotta tiles on the ceiling. Six large multi-light iron lamps drop from the ceiling out of gold leaf rosettes along both sides of the church (three on each side). One larger lamp is situated towards the front of the sanctuary, closer to the altar. These lamps are operated by a mechanical crank, and can be raised or lowered as needed. The overall color scheme on the ceiling is gold leaf with green and burgundy accents. The four large stained glass windows along both sides of the sanctuary are primarily done in shades of gold and green, with bits of burgundy, blue, purple, and other colors mixed in. These windows represent the saints and apostles, scenes from the Bible, and the sacraments. The large circular window in the balcony area is more multi-colored than the windows along the walls of the church, with hues of gold, green, blue, red, and purple. The original 1914 pipe organ is intact, and fills the entire balcony, but it is currently not in operation due to mechanical problems.

The floor of the sanctuary has been carpeted in a light grey carpet, which hides the original floors, presumed to be tile. The plaster walls of the sanctuary have been painted a light beige color. The twelve Stations of the Cross, six on each wall, are hung in gilt-frames in the sanctuary. The church has a center aisle, with rows of wooden pews on either side. There is a walkway along the outer edge of the pews as well. In the transept is a somewhat Gothic triple-confessional under the western window, with the choir area located beneath the eastern window. A stone grotto with a statue of Mary is also located in the eastern end of the transept. Both walls of the transept have been covered with beige acoustical tiles. About ten feet up the wall are four painted vignettes of the saints and the apostles, with the four gospel writers featured on the western wall, and four other patron saints (including St. Augustine) painted on the eastern wall.

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**St. Augustine Church Complex**  
**Kenton County, Kentucky**

The altar has a Gothic wooden prayer rail running along the perimeter, with statues of the saints and Jesus at either end of the altar. The altar itself is actually quite plain, having been renovated in c. 1957 to its more modern appearance. The previous altar was much more decorative and highly ornamented. The altar area is presently covered with a dark orange carpet, added c. 1980. The altar area includes the semi-circular area of the rear wall, with the six small stained glass windows. This area of the church is noticeably darker than the sanctuary, due to the much smaller windows. At either end of the altar (east and west) are doorways which lead to the sacristy and other small storage rooms. The largest room off to the east, the sacristy, is a white tiled room with dark woodwork and a fireplace on the southern wall.

**The St. Augustine elementary school**, built in 1916, is a rectangular two-story building on a rusticated, raised stone basement. The central section is flanked by two projecting ends, each with four bays on the south (front) elevation. A central, double door entry with a clear glass transom above has a large terra cotta surround composed of fluted columns supporting an entablature with the words "St. Augustine School" inscribed in it. Above the entablature is an arched terra cotta surround with a carved medallion in the middle, topped by a terra cotta cross.

Replacement glass block windows fill the basement openings along all four elevations of the school. Replacement vinyl windows fill the square and arched-top openings along all four elevations as well. The building has brick corbelling in the gabled projecting ends of the building, as well as in the central section. Terra cotta coping runs along the roof line of the entire building, with a smaller terra cotta belt course underneath. Brick pilasters flank either side of the two projecting ends.

The c. 1910's **Rectory** (or priests house), is composed of the same dark red brick as the church and school, and is oriented towards the east. The building is a two-story Foursquare with some Arts and Crafts influence. Attic dormers are located on either end (east and west) of the hipped slate roof. There is a second floor wooden balcony which spans the eastern end of the building. A leaded glass door and sidelights provide entry to the house, which is flanked by large three-part picture windows on either side.

The c. 1954 **Gym Building** is a buff brick, two-story building with an entrance on both the west and east elevations, and featuring two gymnasiums, locker/shower rooms, two classrooms, and a kitchen. The south elevation faces the parking lot, and features five windows in the upper story.



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**Section 8 Page 1 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

**St. Augustine Church Complex – Significance**

St. Augustine Church and School complex (KE-C- 351) is being nominated under criterion A, and criterion consideration A for its local contributions to the settlement and integration of the German immigrants into their American community. St. Augustine is located in the Peaselburg neighborhood, located in the southwest central section of the City of Covington. The period of significance is from 1913 -1954, the first date being selected as the time when construction began on the current church building on Euclid Ave. The end date of 1954 was chosen to fit within the 50 year framework associated with National Register listing. For National Register purposes, the complex is being evaluated as an important German institution in the Peaselburg neighborhood in the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. The importance of the church and school complex continues today, as both are still an active part of the Peaselburg community. The church and school complex is well-maintained and in excellent condition.

St. Augustine is a well-known and highly visible landmark in the Peaselburg neighborhood, which is a working and middle-class neighborhood settled primarily by German immigrants in the 1860's – 1890's. This area was originally a separate entity, also known as the known as the City of Central Covington, until it was annexed by the City of Covington in 1906. The City of Central Covington was annexed because the smaller city was unable to maintain its streets and other infrastructure with the growing population of the area. The smaller city was on the verge of declaring bankruptcy when they were annexed by Covington. According to an early map of the area, Central Covington was bounded on the east by the railroad tracks, on the north by Twelfth St., on the west by the Benedictine monastery (Benton Rd.), and on the south by approximately 22<sup>nd</sup> St.

The Peaselburg name has its roots in urban lore, with several origins of the name being put forward as true. The most well-known origin of the name comes from several small German farms in the area that kept geese, along with the location of a small river, Willow Run, that ran through the area. With a lot of geese in the area, and the attraction of the water, there were lots of goose droppings around. The droppings, known as "peasel" in German, are supposedly where the neighborhood got its name. According to a 1968

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**Section 8 Page 2 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

article in the *Kentucky Post*, there was a German man named Peasel that lived in the area, and the neighborhood was named after him. A final story states that the German families grew peas in the area, hence the name Peaselburg. Whatever the origin, the name has survived, and today the Peaselburg area is defined as the area bounded on the north by 15<sup>th</sup> St., on the east by the railroad tracks, on the west by Benton Rd., and on the south by 22<sup>nd</sup> St., and including parts of Russell, Holman, Banklick, Jefferson, Euclid, and Highland Ave., along with several smaller and numbered streets in between.

**History of German Immigration to Northern Kentucky**

The history of St. Augustine begins with the immigration of Germans to the Northern Kentucky area beginning in the 1840's, and reaching its highest peak in the 1890's. The German influx of immigrants to the area was due to economic hardship, religious persecution and the harsh treatment by the Prussian government. Advertising played a large part in enticing the Germans to the Ohio River Valley of Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. Placards appeared in the railway stations of small German towns, extolling the unlimited opportunity for anyone who would migrate to Kentucky (Kampsen, 135). A staple such as bacon had a profound influence on the Germans, as the market price for American bacon sold below that of the price of bacon in Germany. Cincinnati and the Northern Kentucky area were large pork-producing areas, with Cincinnati being nicknamed "Porkopolis" for the vast amount of hog farms, slaughterhouses and meat-packing plants. To the German native, this staple was an important necessity, and advertisements touting the lower prices of such staples had an impact on their choice of location in which to immigrate.

Germans began to immigrate to Northern Kentucky in the 1840's and many of them settled in what is today Covington's Main Strasse area. Many of the immigrants were artisans, although merchants, industrialists, and professionals were among those who settled in the Covington area (Langsam, NR 1983). The establishment of the Kentucky Central Railroad in the 1850's, and the C & O Railroad in the 1880's, led to increased development of the west side of the city. From 1865-1875 the influx of Germans grew, and by 1890, it had reached its highest peak. The Germans had a profound influence on Covington, as they settled in parts of the city and developed German-associated businesses, such as breweries and malt houses. The Main Strasse area was home to several beer brewing companies and malt houses, and was a well-established area by

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Kenton County, Kentucky**

1877. The continued growth and development of the city led the Germans to expand southward, into other less established areas.

In the 1860's and 1870's, the Germans began to move into the southwestern part of the city, which at that time was a separate entity, the City of Central Covington, or Peaselburg, as it was more commonly known. Land was cheaper beyond Holman Street, and many German pioneers settled in the area south of the established Main Strasse area. The German Catholic population in this area began to petition Bishop William Robbers for a new parish church in the 1860's, although it was little more than a small village of scattered homes at the time. In 1870, a new combination church and school was established on what is today Augustine Street. Three classrooms were located on the first floor, with the church sanctuary located on the second floor. By 1877, the southern portion of the congregation had grown so large that a new parish was needed. St. Anthony parish was established in 1878 in the Decoursey Pike area, in what is today the city of Taylor Mill.

Mutter Gottes Kirche, or Mother of God church, was the mother church of the German pioneers and the first German parish established in the city. Other German parishes on the west side of town, such as St. John's (1848) and St. Aloysius (1865) were spun off from Mother of God. St. Joseph, (1859) on the east side of town, was an Irish Catholic parish. St. Augustine was the fifth Catholic parish established in the city. On June 19, 1870, the cornerstone for the new building was laid. On October 16, 1870, the bishop of Covington dedicated the new parish of St. Augustine Church. The church was named in honor of the patron saint of the bishop of Covington, Bishop Augustus Maria Toebbe (church history file).

**St. Augustine Parish History**

St. Augustine parish got off to a rocky start. The first pastor appointed by the bishop was not even at the parish for a year, before Reverend Joseph Goebbels replaced him as pastor in 1871. Fr. Goebbels was concerned about paying back the debt the church owed, which was incurred during the building of the combination church/school. In order to remedy this, he involved himself in several business ventures, including a wire nail factory and a brick factory. Father Goebbels even went so far as to travel back to Germany to acquire the equipment needed to make wire nails (*Geaslen, Ky. Post*). Father Goebbels encouraged the parishioners to invest in these companies as well. Many of the

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**Section 8 Page 4 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

parishioners, following his lead, invested their life savings into the businesses, hoping that their success would pay for the parish debt and enrich their pockets at the same time.

Unfortunately, both businesses were a failure, and many parishioners lost their life savings in the failed venture, engendering a bitter attitude towards Father Goebbels and the parish. The parish was forced to declare bankruptcy. Church property was sold at auction to recoup the debts of the parish. A story is told of how some of the men of the parish attended the auction, determined to at least save the church bell. At the auction, the men made their bid. When another bidder attempted to speak up, he was silenced by the committee from St. Augustine. No other bids were made, and the men of the parish were able to save the bell. The bell is still in use today at the current St. Augustine church.

In 1877, Father William Robbers was appointed to replace Father Goebbels. Father Robbers made it his duty to recoup the losses of the parish. In 1881, the Board of Trustees organized a corporation known as the Roman Catholic German Church of Central Covington. The corporation stated, as a condition, that the parish could not incur debts of more than \$15,000, in order to avoid any other financial losses like the one that occurred in 1877. The corporation was able to buy back the church and reimbursed parishioners for their loss in the failed business ventures as much as possible.

Father Robbers left the parish in 1879, and his successor, Father Clement Jesse, was in poor health for most of his time as pastor. In 1883, Father Paul Abeln was appointed pastor upon Father Jesse's death. During his tenure, which lasted until his death in 1911, Father Abeln was able to accomplish many things, including bringing the parish back to a sound financial footing, after years of mismanagement and financial failure. Father Abeln was able to repay the corporation notes and begin the process of re-building the trust and spirit of the parishioners. He began the process of collecting for a new church building prior to his death.

The current church building was completed during Father William Kathman's tenure as pastor of St. Augustine. Kathman was a native of Covington appointed as Abeln's successor in 1911. The old corporation limiting the church to debts of no more than

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**Section 8 Page 5 St. Augustine Church Complex  
Kenton County, Kentucky**

\$15,000 had expired by this time. During Father Abeln's time, \$34,000 was raised towards a new building. On May 7, 1912, the site at 19<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Streets was purchased for \$16,000, and was to be the site of the new church. The parcel of land, fronting on 19<sup>th</sup> St., consisted of 6600 square feet, and contained four buildings on it when purchased. The two frame buildings on the site were sold, a brick residence was moved to a new location on Jefferson St., and the fourth residence was left where it was, to serve as the rectory for the priests.

Construction began on the new church on May 8, 1913, and was under roof by June, 1914. The church was designed by local architect David Davis (1865-1932), who also designed the 1910 Covington Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, listed on the National Register in 1975. Surprisingly, little documentation has been found on Davis, considering he designed two prominent churches in the city.

St. Augustine church was dedicated by Bishop Camillus P. Maes on December 20, 1914. The church was designed in the Italian Renaissance style, and it stands 60 feet high, with a width of 52 feet in the sanctuary, 92 feet in the transept, and 160 feet long, with a seating capacity of 1000 (Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1920). The dedication took place with much fanfare, as local bands played, children marched to the new church from the old waving flags, and parishioners marched along with them, again signifying the importance of the institution to the community it served.

Once the new church was dedicated, the parish looked to establish a parish school. During construction of the church, space was left on the west side of the church expressly for this purpose. An important tenet of the church was to provide a Christian education for the school-aged children of the parish. The school of St. Augustine was an integral part of the community. In 1875, Bishop Toebbe invited the Sisters of Notre Dame to staff a school for the children. The Sisters arrived to assist with teaching the children of the parish, and have remained there since then. Sister Mary Lynette Shelton, SND, is the current principal.

Construction on the current school building began in 1915, and was completed in September 1916. The current school building is constructed of the same dark red brick as the church. The total cost to construct both buildings was \$145, 572 (St. Augustine church directory, 1995, p.9). The new school had eight classrooms and was staffed by seven Sisters of Notre Dame. At its opening, there were 300 students attending the

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primary, intermediate, and grammar grades (Golden Jubilee souvenir, 1920). Upon completion of the school, the residence immediately behind the school complex was purchased as the Sisters' residence. By 1920, the fifty year anniversary of St. Augustine, the parish and school were thriving with 210 families, and it was one of the most organized and best run parishes in the City of Covington, as evidenced by the large number of religious groups and societies located at the church (St. Augustine church directory, 1995, p. 9).

The period of significance for the St. Augustine Church complex includes several turbulent eras in German-American history – the First and Second World Wars and the Prohibition. During his tenure between 1911 and 1926, Father William Kathman, of German heritage but born in Covington, shepherded his congregation at St. Augustine's through much of these difficult times.

The German community in Covington, as elsewhere in the country, was in support of the United States playing a neutral role in the First World War; local newspaper articles reported several large gatherings promoting neutrality. Unfortunately, when the U. S. did finally enter the war, these same German-Americans became targets, accused of non-patriotic activities or even worse. Anti-German sentiment ran strong and many traditional German-American communities quickly Americanized, in proof of their loyalty to the U.S. Covington was no different, buildings and streets were renamed and the German language was suppressed.

The parish had long played a role in encouraging the continuation of its German heritage, now it needed to assist its members in becoming Americans. According to a 1951 paper written by Reverend Leo G. Kampsen, Father Kathman was the man who brought the Germans around to being Kentuckians. Perhaps already indicative of his influence, both the new St. Augustine Church and School had their names carved in English over their doors, not in German, like many other German churches and schools. The parish's American patriotism was certainly evident by the 48 members who participated in the Armed Forces during the First World War, a fact proudly proclaimed in a 1918 Kentucky Post newspaper article.

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Upon returning, the veterans were to face an even more drastic change in their community when the United States passed the Prohibition amendment in 1919. Gone were the local taverns and beer gardens; gone was a way of life that practically defined the German-American experience since the mid-nineteenth century. Many viewed the passing of the Prohibition as a continuation of wartime anti-German sentiment but they had no choice except to accept the ban on alcohol. Thus the Church/parish took on an even larger role; it became the social center of the neighborhood. Not only was the congregation's spiritual health a concern, so was its mental and physical health. During the 1920's St. Augustine Parish began sponsoring scout troops, bazaars, fetes, parish picnics, a dramatic club and even a pennant winning baseball team.

Father Kathman passed away in 1926, and was succeeded by Monsignor Charles Woeste, who was appointed as pastor. Father Woeste was the longest-serving pastor, serving at St. Augustine for 31 years until his death in 1957. Several important projects occurred under his watch. In 1927, a Three Manual Austin Pipe organ was installed in the church balcony at a cost of \$13,000. Maintenance of the church and school roofs, electrification of the bells and Angelus, and installation of a rubber tile floor in the church sanctuary all occurred from 1929-1938. In 1945, the church underwent an interior renovation, including the installation of acoustical tiles along the ceiling and walls of the church, correcting a twelve second echo (Ryan, p. 500). In 1953-54, a new parish center building was erected, including 2 gymnasiums, 2 large classrooms, a kitchen, and shower/locker rooms. St. Augustine School has always been an elementary school; such a large center was obviously for the needs of the parish as a whole, not just for the students. In 1955-56, the interior of the church was re-painted, and the exterior copper gutters were repaired, along with the pipe organ. During Father Woeste's tenure, the parish thrived. Not only did it remain out of debt, St. Augustine's was able to update its existing buildings as well as fund the construction of a large addition to the complex.

Monsignor Joseph Lubrecht, who succeeded Father Woeste in 1957, served as pastor of the church for 19 years. During his tenure, a \$100,000 renovation of the church was completed after the passage of Vatican Council II, in 1962. The altar was changed, along with the light fixtures, and the backdrop of the altar was changed as well. Successive pastors have continued the success of their predecessors, and the current pastor, Father Leo Schmidt, has served since 1992.





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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The parcel proposed for listing measures approximately 308' x 311', which corresponds to approximately 2 acres. The existing site is composed of lots 42-56, and one-third of lot 57 of Hawthorn's Subdivision, plats 102 and 103, as indicated in Covington Plat Book No. 10, page 4, corresponding with the address 1839 Euclid Ave.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the full extent of the significant resources; i.e., the four architecturally significant buildings on the site, including the church, school, parsonage (rectory), and gym building. The parcels on which the church and related buildings sit are the same parcels on which the church and related buildings were originally located or constructed on from c. 1910 to 1954. The boundaries of the site have not changed since the land was purchased in 1913.

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**Additional Documentation: Photographs**

All photographs were taken by Kate Carothers, the City of Covington's Preservation Specialist, in October 2004. The negatives are on file with the Preservation Specialist, Economic Development Department, 638 Madison Ave., Covington, KY. 41011.

Photograph #1 - St. Augustine Church, front (south) elevation, facing northeast

Photograph #2 - St. Augustine Church, front (south) middle entrance detail

Photograph #3 - St. Augustine Church, front (south) entrance, rosette window detail

Photograph #4 - St. Augustine Church, east elevation, facing southwest

Photograph #5 - St. Augustine Church, rear (north) elevation, facing southeast

Photograph #6 - St. Augustine Church, rear (north) and east (partial) elevations, facing southeast

Photograph #7 - St. Augustine Church, northwest elevation, facing southeast

Photograph #8 - St. Augustine Church, interior, balcony and front window detail, facing south

Photograph #9 - St. Augustine Church, interior altar detail, facing northeast

Photograph #10 - St. Augustine Church, interior transept detail, facing east

Photograph #11 - St. Augustine Church, stained glass window detail

Photograph #12 - St. Augustine Church, interior leather door detail

Photograph #13 - St. Augustine Rectory, front, east elevation, facing west

Photograph #14 – St. Augustine Rectory, front, east elevation detail  
NPS Form 10-900-a OMB No. 1024-0018  
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Photograph #15 – St. Augustine School, front (south) elevation, facing northwest

Photograph #16 – St. Augustine School, front (south) entry detail

Photograph #17 – St. Augustine School, rear (north) elevation, facing west

Photograph #18 – St. Augustine School, west elevation, facing east

Photograph #19 – St. Augustine Gym Building, south elevation, facing northwest