

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Boniface Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number State ^{IN} Highway 545 not for publication

city, town Fulda vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Indiana code 018 county Spencer code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Archdiocese of Indianapolis

street & number 1350 N. Pennsylvania Street

city, town Indianapolis vicinity of state Indiana 46202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spencer County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Rockport vicinity of state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Boniface Church, erected in 1865, is a rectangular building with a semi circular apse. The church rests on a foundation of sandstone blocks quarried nearby, and is constructed of red brick that was manufactured on the site. The exterior was sandblasted, repointed, and waterproofed in 1978.

The exterior of the church is a simple version of the Romanesque Revival Style. Openings are semicircular arches, and the eaves line is decorated with round-arched corbelling. The tower, which contains the main entrance, is centered on the main facade. Sixteen stained glass windows, sixteen feet high and four feet wide, provide light to the interior. The building is 139 feet in length with a width of 55 feet, and the height from the ground to the top of the spire is 150 feet. A small brick addition was made to the side of the building in 1972, providing restrooms and a lounge.

Six slabs of sandstone form the steps leading up to the entrance. The main portal is expressed as a semicircular arch supported by simple columns, with a stained glass tympanum, and stone cross at the keystone. Directly above this is a small rose window, and farther up is a stone inset that reads "St. Bonifacius Kirche, 1865." The tower is surmounted by a wooden spire decorated with Romanesque detailing, with a gold-painted copper cross at the peak of its octagonal roof.

Entrance to the church is through a pair of tall wooden doors in the main portal. Just inside the entrance are modern aluminum and glass doors leading into a small vestibule. On either side of the vestibule are stairways leading to the balcony. The balcony contains an 80-year-old tracker oak console organ, containing 535 pipes. The organ was built by Edmund Giesecke, of Evansville, Indiana.

A second set of aluminum and glass doors opens from the vestibule into the nave of the church. The interior is supported by ten round pillars, five on each side. Twelve oil paintings of the Apostles and Saints decorate the nave walls. The ceiling and arches are ornamented with multi-colored stencil work, with light ochre walls and golden ochre pillars. The 80 pews in the nave of the church adequately seat over 300 persons.

Two architectonic wood altars flank the sanctuary. Paintings of Biblical scenes are located above the two side altars, with the Biblical text written in German. Two additional Biblical scenes are portrayed on the side walls of the apse, with the Biblical text written in Latin. The main altar is of oak, and is located at the rear of the sanctuary. Above it is a large painting depicting the martyrdom of Boniface, the patron saint of Germany and of this parish. A small picture above this one depicts Saint Boniface laying the cornerstone of the monastery he built in Fulda, Germany. Both pictures were painted in Munich, Germany, in 1876, and were purchased by Abbot Martin Marty, of St. Meinrad Archabbey, who had served as pastor of this church from 1861 to 1863.

All three altars feature twisted columns characteristic of the Baroque style. These altars were carved by Benno Gerber, of Ferdinand, Indiana.

The wooden floor of the church was replaced in 1976 by a concrete floor with carpeting, and the interior was painted.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
Specific dates	1865			
Builder/Architect	Mr. Reidinger, Architect			

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Boniface Church is significant as the embodiment of the German Catholic heritage of the community of Fulda. Fulda was founded in 1846, when Father Joseph Kundek negotiated a property transaction with Milton Jackson, who donated the property upon which the present church stands. Father Kundek had been assigned to minister to the spiritual needs of the widely scattered German-American settlers in Southern Indiana, and was the resident pastor for St. Joseph Parish in Jasper. By all accounts, Father Kundek was a man of immense energy, enthusiasm, and organizational ability. Within three years of his arrival, his activities had attracted many additional German families to the area. Arrival of these new settlers led Father Kundek to establish the parishes of Ferdinand, Celestine, Rockport, and Fulda. He was also instrumental in founding the important St. Meinrad Abbey.

The St. Boniface Church was begun in 1860, three years after Kundek's death. The Civil War delayed construction, and the structure was not completed until 1865. Its German-American architect, Mr. Reidinger, designed the church in a style that emphasized the German background of its congregation. The architectural significance of the structure lies in its architectural style and elaborate interior decorations, which were modeled after German examples; in particular, the Cathedral Church in Fulda, Germany, the monastery of which was built by St. Boniface, served as an inspiration for this church. Of particular note are the three altars, hand-carved by Benno Gerber, of nearby Ferdinand, Indiana.

After completion of the church building, the community experienced a surge of both population and economic growth. St. Boniface church remains a concrete expression of Fulda's rich German-American religious and cultural heritage, and has made a significant contribution to the development and growth of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gudorf, Gerald E. The History of the Parish and the Town of Fulda: (St. Meinrad Abbey Press: 1965).
History of Warrick, Spencer, and Perry Counties, Indiana. (Chicago: Goodspeed, Brothers & Co., 1885).

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fulda, Indiana

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	1	4	4	2	0	4	2	1	7	9	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The church building is a square lot 200 feet by 200 feet, bounded on the west by State Highway #545, on the south by County Road #155, on the north and east by a public alley and driveway.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rev. Alan McIntosh, O.S.B.

organization St. Boniface Catholic Church date 1-24-79

street & number _____ telephone 812/357-2483

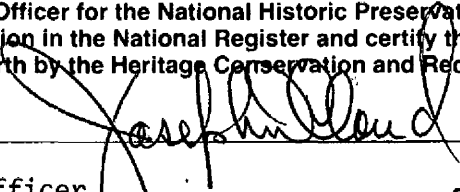
city or town Fulda state Indiana 47536

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

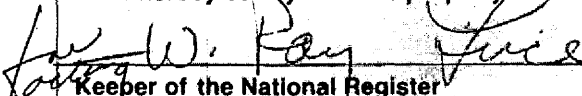
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-7-80

For HCRS use only

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

 date 10/23/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration