

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 15 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 18 1978

**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
Calvary Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON
Calvary Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
821 South Fourth Street
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
3
COUNTY
Jefferson
CODE
21
CODE
111
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Calvary Episcopal Church
STREET & NUMBER
821 South Fourth Street
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Jefferson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
527 West Jefferson Street
CITY, TOWN
Louisville
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE
1971
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission, 401 Bridge Street
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Calvary Episcopal Church is located on the east side of South Fourth Street in Louisville. Two ecclesiastical structures currently listed on the National Register are within the same block; Temple Adath Israel (entered on the Register December 31, 1974) is to the southeast, and the Church of the Messiah (entered on the National Register April 21, 1976), is to the north.

Stylistically, Calvary Church is Victorian Gothic Revival. The structure faces west and was erected in two stages. The first occurred from 1872-76 and involved the construction of the sanctuary and part of the nave including the apsidal transepts and octagonal crossing (see floor plan). W. H. Redin provided the design. The second stage, 1886-88, dealt with the nave's completion and the construction of the asymmetrical west front. Henry P. McDonald was the architect for these portions. Combined, the two phases conform to the basic Latin cross plan. Locally quarried Indiana limestone was the material used for each, and McDonald was careful to provide a total harmony between the separate phases: "Except for the slight change in color of the masonry at the juncture of the two phases of construction, there is no visual indication of the different architectural hands in the design."¹

The main facade consists of a central gable pierced by a massive equilateral arch window, and two flanking towers of differing shapes and heights. These elements of the exterior announce the three-part division of the interior. A modest porte-cochere is attached to the square tower at the southwest corner where a spire achieves a height of 250 feet. The entrance occupies a centered position, and its arched portion is enveloped by a rather plain accolade, as is the entrance to the square tower.

The north and south sides beyond the towers are alike. Gabled roof projections foretell the narthex, and extending beyond the walls are the three-sided ends of the transept. Further east on either side is a square-shaped projection set at a diagonal; these house the vestry and organ.

Three aisles run the length of the nave and crossing, and a gallery is above the narthex. Between the nave and chancel, the crossing is treated as a giant octagon in which the transepts appear as great bays to the north and south. The chancel is recessed to remove it from the congregation, yet set behind a wide arch that seems to include it as part of the main octagon.

The ceiling rises to a height of 70 feet and is treated with superb timberwork whose execution is strikingly similar to that of the hammerbeam roof of the medieval Westminster Hall in London.² The tracery of the timberwork of Calvary Church is enhanced by light coming through almost nonvisible dormers.

(continued)

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 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 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 1872-1876, 1886-1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sanctuary, W. H. Redin
Henry P. McDonald

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Calvary Episcopal Church is significant in having preserved to a large degree the flavor of the Victorian Gothic Revival. It remains today as one of the most distinctive and best preserved of the series of churches erected in Louisville during the late 19th century (five of these being on Fourth Street). From the beginning, the structure was intended to be among the country's most magnificent edifices.

In 1860, the members of the congregation of Sehon Methodist Church seceded from the Methodist Church. They were accepted into the Episcopal Church and continued to meet in the Sehon Chapel until 1872, when the Reverend W. H. Platt inspired the vestry to undertake a new, larger church at a new location, Fourth Street between York and Breckinridge.

The commission was awarded to W. H. Redin, a prominent local architect with a reputation for ecclesiastical designs. He was responsible for St. James Church in Pewee Valley, several characteristic commercial cast-iron fronts on Main Street, and enlargements of Grace Church and Christ Church Episcopal (listed on the National Register August 14, 1973).

The architect was confronted by two particular conditions in designing Calvary. There was the "peculiar position" of the congregation's theological point of view: it was neither "high" nor "low". This meant that equal emphasis had to be allowed for both ritual and preaching. The second condition was that the edifice was to be erected in two stages, the first to include the sanctuary and part of the nave; the second, the remainder of the nave and the main West front.

Redin's solution to these requirements was an ingenious and effective one. He combined the traditional longitudinal forms with its relatively narrow nave and transepts, suited for liturgical processions and with the broad polygonal or circular form then popular for auditoria. He did this by treating the crossing between nave and chancel as a giant octagon in which the transepts appear as great bays to the North and South. The chancel is recessed to remove it from the congregation, yet set behind a wide arch that seems to include it as part of the main octagon. The rector's study and organ loft are also located in polygonal recesses. Thus, the church as originally built in 1874 was a vast centralized auditory.

The second phase of construction was delayed for a decade. The church itself was completed from 1885 to 1889 by the firm of McDonald Brothers.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Cornerstone Centennial Celebration of Calvary Episcopal Church 1872-1972."
 Unpublished pamphlet, 1972.

Ford, Henry A., and Kate. History of the Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties.
 Cleveland: L. A. Williams & Co., 1882.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,08	6,3,0	4,2	3,3	3,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C							D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Walter E. Langsam , Architectural Historian; Daniel L. Kidd, Architectural Historian, MCO

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

401 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Yelton

TITLE - State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7/29/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

1/18/78

DATE

1. 17.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In 1891 the chancel was altered to accomodate the church's final completion. Its screen was removed and marble steps were installed. The structure's windows that date from various periods contribute much to its character: "Both their subjects and their technique represent the different attitudes and achievements of the Late Victorian era."³

Footnotes:

¹ Cornerstone Centennial Celebration Brochure, (Louisville Calvary Episcopal Church, 1972), p.8

² Ibid. , p.4.

³ Ibid. , p.9.

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In spite of the later cornerstone calling McDonald "Architect," the front was actually executed according to Redin's original concepts. The wide nave, in which aisles are only suggested by pendants, continues the magnificent English medieval-inspired half-timbered roof of the octagon, thus integrating it with the now longitudinal nave. Both the southern spire and the northern octagonal turret are entirely of stone.

Calvary also has some superb church fittings, particularly a rather Byzantine brass prophyry, and mosaic pulpit, and a great range of stained glass, from the garish early Victorian survivors of Sehon Chapel, though unexcelled examples of the work of the Tiffany studios and their local imitators, to handsome examples of the later "Renaissance" style of painted glass.

So ambitious was the early congregation that a bishop's crozier crowns the lower stone spire, and until alterations occurred in the 1920s, a bishop's seat was in the chancel's center -- both reflections of the unfulfilled hope that the church would become the home of the bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky.

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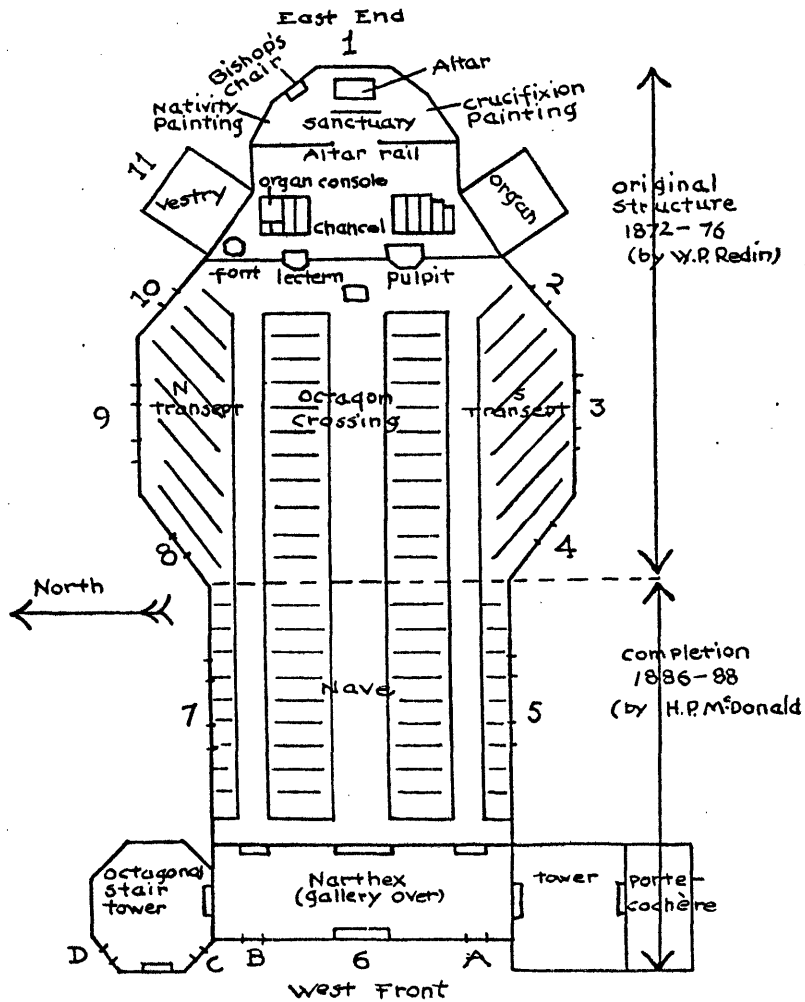
Calvary Episcopal Church
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PAGE 2

Thomas, Samuel, ed. Views of Louisville Since 1776. Louisville: The Courier-Journal, 1971.

Williams, Caroline. Louisville Scenes. New York: Doubleday & Co. Inc., 1970.



Generalized diagram to indicate position of windows, furnishings and traditional parts of church

Calvary Episcopal Church
Louisville
Jefferson County
Kentucky

Floor plan of Calvary Episcopal
Church.

1978
AUG 15 1977

Drawn by Eloise Kearney
Cornerstone Centennial Celebration
Brochure. (Louisville: Calvary
Episcopal Church, 1972).

Map 2.