

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 13 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 15 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

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

74 Cianci Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paterson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

New Jersey 07505

VICINITY OF

CODE

34

COUNTY

Passaic

CODE

031

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

R. C. Diocese of Paterson

STREET & NUMBER

24 De Grasse Street

CITY, TOWN

Paterson

STATE

New Jersey 07505

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Passaic County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Hamilton Street

CITY, TOWN

Paterson

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Michael's R.C. Church was designed by architect Joseph Bellomo in 1929 and cost \$175,000. The church has a frontage of 63 feet and a depth of 95 feet. The lower section is built of cast granite while the upper section is built of light, mottled-faced brick trimmed with solid granite steps, while the campaniles on each side are trimmed with terra cotta. In the center, spacious double entrance doors are flanked on either side by smaller doors forming the base of 96 feet high dome-topped campaniles upon which rests a large cross. Above the main entrance is an alto-relief of St. Michael the Archangel, Patron of the Church, which was executed and donated by the Paterson sculptor Gaetano Federici.

The main entrance doors open into a large vestibule with terrazzo flooring and block-effect wainscoting. Under one campanile is the Baptistry and under the other is a side entrance. Stairs lead from the vestibule to the choir and organ loft.

Pure Roman architecture prevails throughout the interior. A high vaulted ceiling harmonizes with the arches resting on ten (5 on each side) elaborately scrolled Corinthian capitols set on tall columns and enclosed in antique marble bases. There are also statue niches on each column. Sixteen high transept windows plus eight lower windows are each double glazed with stained glass on the inside and white frosted outside.

The Sanctuary measures 27 feet wide and 20 feet deep and is flanked on either side by 13 feet by 14 feet chapels each having a sacristy at the rear. The main and side alters are made of imported white and yellow sienna marble imported from Carrara, Italy.

Oak pews seating 600 people as well as the two rear confessionals stand on hard wood flooring.

A modern electroneumatic action organ, installed by the Peragallo Organ Co. of Paterson, New Jersey, fills the church with music.

A 12 feet high finished basement underneath the church ediface is used for church activities.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1836, 1837, 1838, 1905, 1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Bellomo

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Michael's R. C. Church is situated on land originally purchased for a church by a small group of Methodists in 1836. At that time, a 74 foot x 75 foot plot of land was bought for \$3,000 and construction of a small church at the corner of Cross (now Cianci) Street and Elm Street was completed in October, 1836.

During the next year, two significant historical events occurred at the site. During 1837-38, a year following the establishment of public schools in New Jersey, the school committee rented the basement of the Methodist Church and held the first public school classes in Paterson there. Then in Spring, 1837 the first term of the Passaic County Court was held in this church.

However, the present church history dates to March 7, 1903 when Father Felice Di Persia was sent from his parish in Hoboken, N.J. to investigate the spiritual status of the Italians in Paterson. His trip resulted in the incorporation of St. Michael's as a National Parish for the Italians of Paterson on June 12, 1903 and the old Methodist Church was purchased and the first Mass was said on July 26, 1903.

Next, in 1905 Father Felice Cianci became Pastor of St. Michael's and through his work 3 other Italian parishes were formed in Paterson: St. Anthony's, Blessed Sacrament, and Our Lady of Pompei.

Then, in February, 1928, under the direction of the next pastor, Father Carlo Cianci, Joseph Bellomo, Paterson architect, was contracted to build the present church. The Most Reverend Thomas Walsh, Bishop of Newark, laid the corner stone of Sept. 23, 1928 and dedicated the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in 1929. The interior of the church was first decorated in 1935 by D'Ambrosio Ecclesiastical Studios of Pelham, N.Y. which also cleaned and restored the church in 1953.

Since the second Father Cianci, the pastors of St. Michael's have been Father Joseph Ferrito, Father Alfonso Tuozzo, and the present pastor, Father Michael Castrilli.

St. Michael's R. C. Church is located one block from the Great Falls/S.U.M. Historic District, a National Historic Landmark (also listed in the National Register of Historic Places Inventory). The Church is a Landmark and focal point for the Multi-Ethnic Historic Dublin Neighborhood so named after the early Irish immigrants who first settled there.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Souvenir journal of the Golden Jubilee Celebration commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Michael The Archangel, Paterson, New Jersey, 1903-1953.

The Paterson Press Guardian 9/23/28

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.27 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 569470 4529420  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at the intersection of the western R.O.W. line of Cianci St. and the northern R.O.W. line of Elm St.; thence for a distance of 100 feet in a westerly direction along the northern R.O.W. line of Elm St. to the rear property line; thence, for a distance of 125 feet in a northerly direction along the rear property line to the northern property line; thence for a distance of 100 ft. along the northern property line to the western R.O.W. line of Cianci St; thence for a distance of 125 ft. along the western R.O.W. line of Cianci Street to the point and place of BEGINNING.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack R. Stokvis

ORGANIZATION

Department of Community Development

STREET & NUMBER

100 Hamilton Plaza

CITY OR TOWN

Paterson

DATE

2/15/77

TELEPHONE

201/684-3000

STATE

New Jersey 07505

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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.

Deputy [Signature]  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE 5/23/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12.15.78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE Dec 14, 1978

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Paterson

Passaic County, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER    8    PAGE

Joseph Bellomo, Architect, (Born 1885 - Italy - Died May 16, 1958 - Paterson, N.J.)

Born in Italy, he came to Paterson in 1908 and opened his architectural office in 1910 at 202 Market Street. He designed several major buildings in Paterson and surrounding towns.

St. Michael's church played an important role in Bellomo's life. He was a communicant of St. Michael's church, married his wife there in 1919, designed the magnificent new masonry church building in 1928, and was buried from there in 1958.

He practiced as a registered architect in Paterson for 48 years until his death in 1958. He resided at 806 Market Street, Paterson.

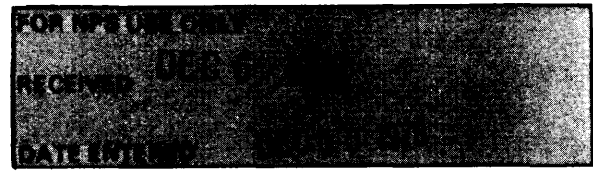
Reference:

Paterson News, obituary May 7, 1958.

*Hald*

*B. Braham*

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Architecture

ADDENDUM

Architecturally, St. Michael's Church is a good local example of a prevalent 1920's church type which draws its stylistic details from earlier church precedents. The choice of a style dependent on Italian Gothic and Renaissance sources, is appropriate in an associative sense for the architect and the Italian congregation the structure represented. St. Michael's architect, Joseph Bellomo, a native of Italy, was an active member of the church congregation and his design attempts to bring parts of Italian architecture into Paterson.

Sculpture

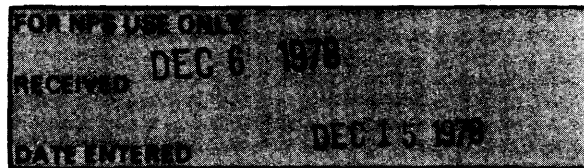
Over the entrance of St. Michaels Church is a lunette entitled "St. Michael and Lucifer". This alto-relievo of St. Michael the Archangel, Patron of the church, was executed and donated by Paterson sculptor Gaetano Federici in 1928.

Federici produced more than one hundred pieces of sculptural art, in a great variety of forms, during a period of more than fifty years.

Born in 1880 at Castel Grande, in the province of Lucania, Italy. Gaetano and his family came to the United States in 1887 and settled in Paterson, New Jersey.

As a young man Federici excelled in the Mechanical Arts program in which he was enrolled at Paterson High School. A creative individual, Gaetano was quite bored with the traditional high school format and, after two years, withdrew to register in a three year course in sculptural art with Guiseppe Moretti in New York City.

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ADDENDUM

Later Federici studied with William Ordway Patridge of Brooklyn and worked with celebrated sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus. In 1903 Federici opened a studio in Paterson.

Among his most noteworthy creations are: "The Pilgrim" (1916) marking the Brandes family plot in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery; "The Crucifixion" (1902) a bronze relief memorial for Father Dowling in the Port Chester, N.Y. cemetery; "Congressman James F. Stewart" (1905) and "U.S. Senator William Hughes" (1927) bronze and granite monuments on the lawn of the Passaic County Courthouse; "Reverend Dean William McNulty" and "A Boy" (1924), statues on the lawn of St. Johns Cathedral, Paterson (National Register 12/16/77); a public monument in bronze and granite of Count Kasimierz Pulaski in East-side Park of Paterson; "The Laughing Girl" (1931), a marble bust which won the Gold Medal at the Exposition of Bologna, Italy; and "Dublin Spring" (1931), Paterson.

References; Bulletin of the Passaic County Historical Society,  
"Gaetano Federici-Sculptor." Vol. IV, June, 1955