

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 7 1982  
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1982

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. Mary's Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Mary's Catholic Church

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

26 W. Kiowa Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Colorado Springs

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

El Paso

CODE

041

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
NA DISTRICT	NA PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	NA AGRICULTURE
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	NA UNOCCUPIED	NA MUSEUM
NA STRUCTURE	NA BOTH	NA WORK IN PROGRESS	NA COMMERCIAL
NA SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	NA ACCESSIBLE	NA PARK
NA OBJECT	NA IN PROCESS	NA YES: RESTRICTED	NA EDUCATIONAL
	NA BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	NA ENTERTAINMENT
		NA NO	X RELIGIOUS
			NA SCIENTIFIC
			NA INDUSTRIAL
			NA TRANSPORTATION
			NA OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Archdiocese of Denver

STREET & NUMBER

200 Josephine Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80206

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. El Paso County Clerk & Records Office

STREET & NUMBER

Centennial Hall - 200 South Cascade Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Colorado Springs

STATE

Colorado 80903

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Ongoing

NA FEDERAL X STATE NA COUNTY NA LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE  
Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE NA

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

The exterior of St. Mary's Catholic Church is made of buttered joint red brick accented with cut limestone. The style is a modified Gothic design using a traditional cruciform plan. There are two bell towers adjoining the front facade, one approximately 148 feet high and the other approximately 80 feet high, both crowned by a spire. The taller of the towers is pierced by narrow arches at the third story. It has a belfry which is still in use. There is an opening with a compound Gothic arch in each tower. The entrance in the narthex has a larger compound Gothic arch with pillars and gablets. There is a large rose window above the entrance.

The side wings each have large pointed arched tracery windows with leaded stained glass. There are three pointed arched stained glass windows on the side aisles and at the clerestory level. Each corner of the building is emphasized by a buttress with gablet. The roof is steeply pitched and shingled.

The interior has the traditional nave with side aisles and a high vaulted ceiling with diagonal ribs. The main altar and the side altars are ornately decorated. The high pulpit is marble with inlaid tile design. The sanctuary is illuminated by concealed spot lights to accentuate its elements. The fine stained glass windows depict scenes from the life of Jesus and the saints. The two main windows are among the largest in the Western United States, and the rose window is of exceptional beauty.

Originally there were three front entrances to the building, one in each tower and one to the center of the narthex, each reached by precipitous stairs, leading from the street grade, approximately 8½ feet below. In 1960 a rehabilitation program was begun resulting in the replacement of the stairs with a ramp and semimonumental stairs with a wide landing and meditation area. The spaces adjacent to the ramp were landscaped to visually lessen the space between the sidewalk and the entrance. The center landing at the main entrance features a bronze railing sculpted by Edgar Britton. The entrance doors to the side towers were replaced with contemporary stained glass windows. The stairway to the choir loft in the southwest tower was removed and the main floor space converted to a baptistry opening into the narthex. New exits were created and a Priests' Sacristy added. The southwest tower was converted into a stair tower to the basement, and the basement redone and expanded into a Parish Hall.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891, 1897-1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Pease and Barker

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church is significant to Colorado's Pikes Peak Region both for its architecture and its history. To Catholic and non-Catholic alike, St. Mary's Church is a distinctive part of the Colorado Springs landscape. Located on the western edge of the downtown promontory, only one block north and west of the point where the first stake was driven for the town in 1871, the church is visible from most of the city. Historically, the building is important as the mother church of Roman Catholicism in the Pikes Peak Region.

The congregation had its origins when the pioneer priest, Father Joseph P. Machebeuf, celebrated the first mass in 1860. Since there were few Catholics among the early gold seekers, Catholic worship was held in private homes. The earliest recorded public mass in Colorado Springs proper was celebrated by Father Machebeuf in May 1873 when the city was only two years old. The congregation worshipped in public buildings and in several temporary chapels until 1888 when the present Kiowa Street property was purchased. By 1891, the basement of the present structure was completed. The cornerstone of the upper structure was laid on November 22, 1897. In December of 1898 the church was dedicated, although work continued until 1902 when the bell towers were completed.

The congregation employed the important Colorado Springs architectural firm of Pease and Barker to design their church. Neo-Gothic was the natural choice of styles. The architects very ably combined the traditional elements of Gothic architecture with modern materials and contemporary needs. Later architects were able to update the building without changing the satisfying qualities of the original structure. The church, striking in appearance as it is silhouetted against the Monument/Fountain Creek Valley and Pikes Peak in the background, has been an important component of the Colorado Springs skyline ever since its completion.

For almost a century, religious services have been held in the sanctuary. Over the years the church edifice has been used as a meeting place for cultural, social and humanitarian events for the community at large as well. Because of its seating capacity and fine acoustical qualities, St. Mary's has frequently been used for concerts and choral presentations open to the public. Community ecumenical services have also been held in St. Mary's sanctuary. St. Mary's pastors have been dedicated churchmen and have been active participants in the community affairs of Colorado Springs, as have the many prominent members of the congregation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ormes, Manly Dayton and Eleanor R., The Book of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs: The Denton Printing Company, 1933.  
 Newspaper clippings, chiefly The Gazette, file maintained in Special Collections, Tutt Library, The Colorado College, and in the Local History Collection, Penrose Regional Library.

ATTACHED NOT RECORDED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Colorado Springs

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 51150810 42984210  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 10,1,2,West 34 feet of Lot 3,Block B, addition number 5 to Colorado Springs

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>NA</u>			
<u>NA</u>			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>NA</u>			

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas H. Block, Parish Council Member

DATE

ORGANIZATION

St. Mary's Catholic Church

May 29, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

26 West Kiowa Street

TELEPHONE

303-473-4633

CITY OR TOWN

Colorado Springs

STATE

Colorado 80903

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL NA STATE NA 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 Arthur C. Townsend

DATE 3.29.82

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the National Register

DATE 6/3/82

ATTEST: Alma Byer  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION