

P#0019077

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Jefferson</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>AUG 14 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Christ Church Cathedral (May 7, 1894 to date)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Christ Church (May 31, 1822 to May 7, 1894)**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**421 South Second Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Louisville**

STATE <b>Kentucky</b>	CODE <b>21</b>	COUNTY: <b>Jefferson</b>	CODE <b>111</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>Of considerable use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		<b>to civic &amp; service</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<b>organizations.</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Cathedral, Bishop, Dean, and Chapter of Christ Church**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**421 South Second Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Louisville**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**21**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Jefferson County Courthouse (County Clerk's Office)**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**531 West Jefferson Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Louisville**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**21**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**

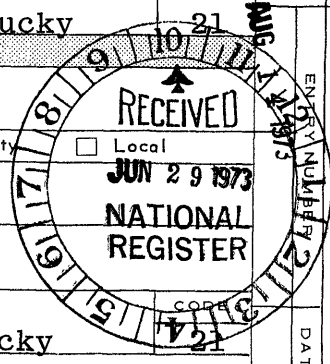
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Kentucky Heritage Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**401 Wapping Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Frankfort**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:  
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ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

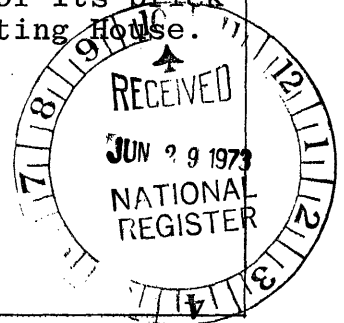
Original Christ Church - the original church building, approved for construction on May 8, was readied for use late in 1824. Considered a marvel of architectural beauty for its time most of it stands as the oldest church building in Louisville. It is presently the principal part of the Nave of the enlarged Cathedral Church.

The original building was rectangular in plan, 58' wide and 76' deep, exclusive of a front tower section at the center of its South Second Street elevation. This tower approximately 16' square was topped with a Belfry which rose some 75' above ground level and 27' above the ridge of the roof of the church building immediately to the rear. Three entrances were provided leading directly to the side and center aisles of the church.

The roof is supported by fourteen 19th century type Queen Post Trusses - all wood and hand hewn with member connections of heavy hand wrought steel tie rods and splice plates. All truss members are structurally sufficient; the lower chord members 12"x12" in section and 56' long in one piece. The roof is wood sheathed, clad with lead-coated 30-gauge steel plate. Its pitch is 30° and the ridge rises approximately 16' above the eaves line.

Of brick construction, 21" thick, and rising 32' from the ground to the eaves line on the north and south elevations, the main support walls are structurally sound. The only alterations made in the support walls took place at various times in the last quarter of the 19th century. These walls, 2 stories high, each had two tiers of five rectangular windows placed one above the other. During the period referred to, ten very fine memorial stained glass windows (many of fine Tiffany glass no long obtainable) were installed in each tier section of the original windows. These memorial windows, 4½' wide and 22' high, have left an interesting tell-tale feature in the alterations involved. In every instance the flared brick lintels over the upper original windows, being undisturbed, are plainly visible above the arched top of each stained glass window. (see photograph 6, form 10-301). In summary, the standing section of the original building is structurally sound. The original plan, with its simple, straight-forward appearance and the beauty of its brick-work, had the lines of a typical Early American Meeting House.

SHANE HILL C.D. - Continued -



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1822, 1824

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The decision to build Christ Church, the oldest church building in Louisville, was made in a meeting that was held in 1822. A total of \$6,354 for its construction was pledged by 182 subscribers and construction was completed in 1824.

The present building preserves much of the structural fabric of the original building, as well as a series of interesting 19th century additions and alterations. Although not altogether successful aesthetically, thanks to the method of accretion without destruction of earlier elements, the various parts are handsome and characteristic of their periods. With harmoniously grouped subsidiary buildings and attractive courtyard, the Cathedral complex provides a welcome historical and architectural oasis amidst downtown urban desolation.

The original structure, of which the brick side walls (with the original two rows of windows now joined vertically) and superb timber roof trusses remain was built according to modified Federal Meetinghouse design. A single tower with delicate arcaded belfry-cupola projected from the rather plain facade. Twenty years later the east end was enlarged and brought up to date liturgically (the huge "Presbyterian" pulpit was replaced by a more modest one to allow more emphasis on the altar) by noted North Carolina and Louisville architect, John Stirewalt (1811-1871), who had designed several of the most important early Gothic Revival churches in the area, with which Christ Church desired to "keep up."

In 1859 English-born Louisville ecclesiastical specialist, W.H. Redin, designed the present chancel with its umbrellalike Mid-Victorian elliptical arches and ingeniously-arrayed concave vaults on slender columns evocative of cast-iron construction, arranged in a triple division to suggest the traditional nave and aisles. This architectural confection, with its lavish foliate capitals and bosses is startling in conjunction with the still basically boxlike form of the auditorium (the original church). No doubt in the 19th century, however, a certain unity was imposed by the stenciled ornamentation of both old and new surfaces.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. 287 page book "History of Christ Church Cathedral, 1822-1937" by R.L. McCready. The advancing history, from 1938 through the present date is recorded in the Minutes of Chapter Meetings as well as in the Minutes of Meetings of the various Cathedral Organizations.
2. Additional memoranda and documents abound in various ecclesiastical magazines and historical records of the local Historian Society known as the Filson Club, Louisville, Kentucky.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

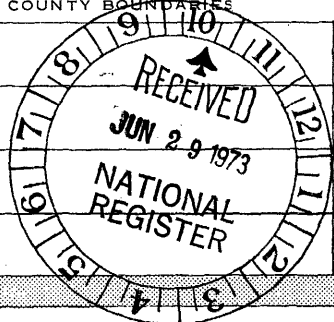
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 15' 07N	85° 45' 13W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
16/609060  
4234290  
①

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.794 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **E.P. Hubschmitt, C.E.**

ORGANIZATION: **Past Junior Warden & Chapter Member of Christ Church Cathedral** DATE: **12/3/71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **401 St. Germaine Court**

CITY OR TOWN: **Louisville** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Mrs. James Willis

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 22, 1973

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

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/14/73

ATTEST:  
Wm. H. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8 8 73

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(Continuation Sheet) # 1

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Kentucky	
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# 7. DESCRIPTION

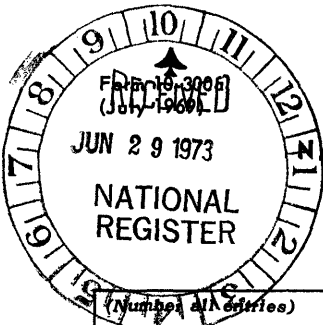
Subsequent Alterations-Over a period of 175 years the great rise in population and wealth of Louisville necessitated enlargement of the church, land ownership, and the construction of adequate plant and other buildings. In addition to physical plant changes some more minor alterations were necessitated by much treasured and distinctive memorials.

Kindly refer to the submitted Plat which shows all details of land accession, and, the Property Disposal Plat, Map #10-1024-29m of Louisville Urban Renewal and Community Development Agency on which is shown the major elements of plant property. The alterations and plant additions since 1824 are too numerous to chronicle in detail. Only the principal alterations and property additions are listed briefly, as follows:

- (1) In 1832 a gallery was added at the west end to increase seating capacity and accommodate an organ.
- (2) In 1859 buildings were added on the two pieces of land deeded to the Cathedral by Mary Ormsby Gray on October 29, 1853. This extended physical occupancy of the land to its present easterly boundary. (Please see submitted Plat) This construction provided a Sunday School and Chapel; also rooms for the Bishop, Vestry and Students of Divinity.
- (3) In 1870 a new west facade for the Cathedral was constructed, extending it to the present building line of South Second Street. In doing so the original tower was demolished. This construction is of heavy, warm colored, quarry faced limestone, embracing a high steeple tower on the north, an ecclesiastically appropriate center section, and a substantial bell tower on the south. The three entrances lead to the Narthex (North-South vestibule) 9' wide and 62' long which separate the Nave from the street entrance, but with entrances from the Narthex leading directly to the three aisles of the Nave (please refer to Photograph 1 & 2, form 10-301 and note the fine architectural detail of this presently sound construction-even down to the heavy bronze door strap hinges as used on some old work cathedrals). The architect for the Victorian style additions between 1859 and 1871 was W. H. Redin.

- Continued -





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# 7. DESCRIPTION

(4) On April 5, 1890 Mr. George E.H. Gray deeded a narrow strip of land running the full length of the already acquired land to the north. (see Plat for deeding details). In acquiring this lot the Cathedral came also into possession of the Anderson Missions House which it used until razed to make way for a courtyard shortly after the Cathedral House was built in 1911. (The Mission House referred to stood in what is now the central third section of the main section of the Cloister Garden.)

(5) In 1893 the Cathedral was renovated and some minor structural changes made in placing two exceptionally fine memorials within the church building:

- (a) An Italian marble Altar and Reredos mounted on a mosaic tile and marble floor with an ascending staircase of marble.
- (b) The fine walnut Chancel Rail was installed with a central staircase leading to the Communion Rail. (for details please see photographs 7 & 8, Form 10-301.)

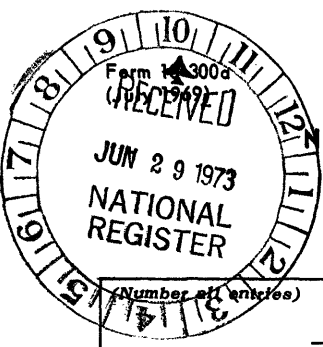
(6) In 1896 the elegant Baptistry of marble and mosaic tile with its unusual Font was erected at the southeast corner of the Nave. (Please refer to Photograph 9, Form 10-301 for details).

(7) In 1898 a peal of four bells was installed at top of the bell tower.

(8) In 1904 another full depth piece of land 30'x210' was acquired immediately to the south of that already acquired. It was deeded by Whallen Brothers on August 10, 1904. (See Plat for details).

In the same year the Quarrier Memorial Antiphonal Organ was installed.

(9) In 1909 the present most southerly strip of land, 30'x210' was acquired. Deeded by Frank T. Meriweather on April 23, 1909, this accession gave the Cathedral a squared-up land property 164'-8" along the east side of Second Street extending 210'-0" in depth to an alley in the rear, and is the present lot as in possession at this time. (See Plat for details).



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#7. DESCRIPTION

(10) 1910-1912 Having acquired sufficient land for the purpose, the Woman's Endowment Association was urged to undertake the raising of funds to build a much-needed mission house with a one story connecting administration building between the same and the Cathedral.

Funds having been procured, the cornerstone was laid on October 12, 1911. Three stories high with a finished basement, the construction was completed the following year. The first meeting within the walls was a Homecoming Service of the Sunday School on October 27, 1912.

The first floor is equipped with a kitchen, large meeting room, a parlor room area for the Women's meetings including a Library section. The second floor embraces several small rooms and a large auditorium with a stage at the east end, while the third floor is largely used by the Sunday School with an apartment in the northeast end of the accommodation of a Sexton and his family. (See Photographs 1, 2, & 3, Form 10-301 for details.)

During 1912 the building to the rear of the church which earlier housed the Sunday School was remodeled for use by the Cathedral Choir and Choirmaster.

(11) 1919 thru 1922 were years directed to the coming Centennial. Construction-wise, the Chancel Arch was advanced westward to the front of the Choir Section; an alteration requiring additional columns and pilasters.

In addition a second floor was added to the Administration area for needed clerical offices. Also some remodeling was undertaken in the Cathedral House, to meet the pressure of crowded Church School conditions, and other renovation work in the kitchen and throughout the building.

(12) 1951 thru 1956. This was a period of considerable renovation, to once again put the plant in a well-maintained condition.

The entire exterior of the Cathedral and buildings to the rear were refurbished and tuck pointed with a most durable Portland cement mortar. The interior of the Church was redecorated and new lanterns installed in the Nave. The Administration Building was renovated and air-conditioned. The third floor of the Cathedral House was remodeled and both the entire second & third floors redecorated to improve Sunday School facilities.

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#7 DESCRIPTION

(13) 1952. The entrance vestibule (or Narthex) of the Cathedral was completely remodeled; an outstanding feature being the fine wood paneling with ecclesiastical motifs handmade by skilled artisans.

(14) In 1957 the Cloister Garden between the Cathedral and Cathedral House was planned and completed. In planting the garden great care was taken in soil preparation and to this day the manifold trees, shrubs, and seasonal bulbous plants and ground cover has prospered magnificently. On May 25, 1961, the Cloister Garden received an Award of Merit from Louisville Central Area. To complement the east end of the garden, the porch section of the Administration Building was enclosed and the area between the Ambulatory and southeast entrance to the Cathedral House made into a restful lounge.

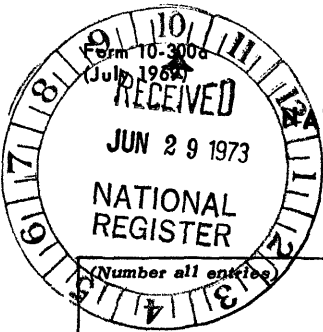
(15) In 1960 a major remodeling and furnishing of the Library and Reception Room at the west end of the first floor of the Cathedral House was accomplished.

(16) In 1961 the Sacristy was renovated, additional cabinets being provided for improved storage of linens and sacred vessels.

The many extensions, minor alterations and renovations undertaken during the past 150 years have not compromised the structural integrity of the historic Christ Church built in 1824.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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#8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1870 the present west front was erected, replacing the original central tower with two asymmetrical towers flanking a central gable. The southern tower, lacking the spire that was undoubtedly intended (the corners are reinforced by heavy buttresses), is somewhat awkwardly truncated and actually shorter than the northern steeple with its ingenious if unconvincing transition from square base to octagonal lantern. The overall effect, however, is of considerable boldness, with rhythmically grouped triple lancet windows and other openings, round-arched with plain but strong multiple labels or moldings. Although the details suggest Norman sources, the total impression is High Victorian Gothic. This facade seems to have set the the pattern for Old Louisville Protestant churches, with their two asymmetrical western towers, predominantly English Medieval sources, and the use of local limestone, here the golden-hued stone originally called "Blue" and probably quarried in nearby Pewee Valley, Kentucky.

Christ Church was elevated to Cathedral status on May 6, 1894, becoming the center of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky. About that time the interior again underwent considerable modification. The chancel was adorned with a magnificent polychrome marble altar-reredos and exquisite Byzantine Revival brass pulpit, lectern, and altar-railings. About the same time fine "Tiffany" windows were installed, several of them with the vivid color and jewel-like opalescent glass characteristic of the best work of the Tiffany Studios. In the 1920's the chancel was extended westward one bay in a remarkably close imitation of the Victorian elements, but was cluttered by the addition of wooden railings and other furniture. Nevertheless, with sympathetic renovations, the interior could remain not only functional but a valuable record of the continuing history both architectural and liturgical, of the Episcopal Church in Louisville.

Throughout the years Christ Church has provided many community services, As early as 1867 Louisville's first night school for poor boys and girls used its Sunday School rooms. In that same era Christ Church prompted the organization of mission churches to provide worship services for the poor. In 1872 the first industrial school in Louisville was established there. Concern for orphaned children of all faiths resulted in the establishment of the Orphanage of the Good Shepherd, later renamed Woodcock Hall in honor of Bishop Woodcock. It continued as an active institution in Louisville for more than 80 years under

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STATE	

(Number all entries)

#8. SIGNIFICANCE

the Diocese of Kentucky's direction. In both World Wars Christ Church Cathedral helped care for and entertain soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Knox and Camp Taylor. About 200 men were entertained weekly at Saturday night dances and parties; dormitory facilities were provided in the Cathedral House through the weekend furlough. During the disastrous flood of the Ohio River in 1937, the full resources of the Cathedral were offered to the city.

Christ Church Cathedral is not only Louisville's oldest church still in use, but also serves a triple function today: 1) as a parish church; 2) as a Cathedral with broader responsibilities as the "Mother Church" of the Diocese of Kentucky and the Seat of the Bishop; and 3) as a downtown church in metropolitan Louisville - using its full facilities as a meeting place for numerous community organizations.



