

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

1983

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Aloysius Church other names/site number OL-330

2. Location

street & number 202 Mt. Mercy Drive city, town Pewee Valley state Kentucky code KY county Oldham code 185 zip code 40056

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Ky. MPL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places...

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register 11/27/89
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone/limestone
walls stone/limestone

roof asbestos
other stone/limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Suburban Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1914

Significant Dates

1914

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of St. Aloysius Parish." Unpublished paper on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Oldham County, Kentucky. Deed Books

See also the bibliography with the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley, Kentucky Multiple Property Listing.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): na
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:
Kentucky Heritage Council.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

A

16	6	31	8	70	42	40	860
Zone	Easting		Northing				

B

Zone	Easting		Northing				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Crestwood, Kentucky Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property includes a 100 foot by 175 foot area at the south corner of a much larger lot (Pewee Valley 5-2-9) owned by the church. It is outlined with a heavy black line on an accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the church and its historic landscaped setting. A large black-topped area to its rear and a non-contributing rectory immediately to its northeast side have been excluded from the nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date July 30, 1989
street & number 1288 Bassett Avenue telephone 502 456-2397
city or town Louisville state KY. zip code 40204

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Pewee Valley MPL
St. Aloysius ChurchSection number 7 Page 1Description

St. Aloysius Church (OL-330) is a small Late Gothic Revival style stone church built in 1914. It is located at 202 Mt. Mercy Drive in Pewee Valley within the area of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The church sits about eighty feet back from the road on nearly level ground that slopes back gently to the rear. Immediately to the northeast side of the church is a seriously altered historic rectory that is now a non-contributing building. Beyond that is a 1950s school building that is also associated with the church. To the southwest is a new subdivision recently constructed on the grounds of a now-demolished historic house. The 100 by 175 foot nominated property includes the front grounds of the church and approximately twenty feet of land to its sides and rear. The church is still home to an active congregation. It is well maintained and in excellent condition.

St. Aloysius is a small rectangular plan church with a projecting front vestibule and a small one-room wing at the rear of each side. It is constructed of limestone block laid, for contrast, in several different patterns in the walls, the towers, and the watertable. The limestone was mined from a local quarry. The gable roof has a parapet in the front, composition shingles, and a terra-cotta cap along the ridgeline. A small open bell tower sits on the ridgeline at the rear of the building. The front facade is framed by corner octagonal towers with stepped buttresses and crenelated rooflines. The flat-roofed, half-height front vestibule has a boldly crenelated roofline and a central arched entrance with double doors topped by a stained-glass fanlight. Small lancet windows flank the doors. Above the vestibule on the front wall of the church are two large stained glass windows with pointed-arched tops. Arched lintels above the windows and doors and the caps to the crenelations are smooth-faced concrete. On the sides, which rest on a high stone watertable of contrasting cut and color, large pointed-arched windows alternate with stepped buttresses. Occupying the last bay at the rear of each side is a small hip-roofed anteroom with an outside entrance. One tall chimney rises from the last buttress on the southwest side. The vestibule entrance was somewhat reworked in the 1950s when two arched entrances were replaced by the present central entrance and lancet windows. Otherwise the exterior is completely intact.

On the interior, the modestly detailed sanctuary has a shallow Tudor-arched ceiling, an arched wooden frame setting off the altar area, plaster walls, and a simple wood baseboard. The floor is carpeted. A stairway with a sawnwork wooden baluster leads from the south rear of the sanctuary to a small rear balcony. The interior was renovated about five years ago at which time the altar was reworked, the ceiling was replastered, and new furnishings were installed. The front vestibule has new paneling. Despite these changes the interior retains a strong sense of its historic character.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Resources of Pewee Valley MPL
St. Aloysius Church

Section number 7 Page 2

The church grounds are modestly landscaped with shrubs, shade and flowering trees and concrete walkways. Shrubbery clusters along the foundation on both sides. Several large shade trees along the sides rise above the church roof. A large dogwood tree sits to either side of the wide concrete walkway (not historic) that leads from the road to the front entrance. A row of mature maple trees fronts the property along the street. A black-topped driveway leads along the southwest edge of the property to a parking area at the rear. On the northeast side a second concrete walkway separates the church from the adjacent rectory. This rectory, dating from 1911, is a large two-story brick residence that does not contribute to the significance of the nominated resource due to the addition of a two-story full-width front extension veneered in stone. It has been excluded from the nominated property which includes only the church, its front grounds, and about twenty feet to its sides and rear.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHistoric Resources of Pewee Valley MPL
St. Aloysius ChurchSection number 8 Page 1Statement of Significance

St. Aloysius Church is an important building in Pewee Valley individually nominated as part of the Historic Resources of Pewee Valley Multiple Property Listing. The Late Gothic Revival church, built in 1914, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C and Special Criterion A. One of three extant historic churches in Pewee Valley, it relates well to the historic context, "Suburban Development in Pewee Valley, 1851-1935." Churches, which because of their small number were not addressed in the context as a separate building type, were identified as an important element in Pewee Valley's suburban development. The period of significance for St. Aloysius Church dates to 1914, the year its construction was completed.

In terms of Criterion A and the area of significance, Suburban Development, the church is important as a manifestation of the early twentieth century development in the community that followed the 1901 arrival of the interurban line. From then until about 1915, a slow but steady stream of new construction took place.

A Catholic church had existed in Pewee Valley since 1865 when a small wood-framed building (since demolished) was built in the Rollington area next to the Catholic cemetery at the corner of Rollington Road and Central Avenue. This church operated as a Mission until 1871 when it became the home church for all the Catholic churches in Oldham, Henry, Trimble, and parts of eastern Jefferson counties.

A new priest, appointed in 1904, is credited with spearheading the church's move to Mt. Mercy Drive. It was apparent to him and to other church members that the population and center of Pewee Valley was continuing to shift toward the railroad and the new interurban tracks that had become the lifeline of the community. A church history states that "a more central location would be advantageous." One can hypothesize that the slow but steady rise in Pewee Valley's population (from 435 in 1890 to 651 in 1910) may have led to a small increase in the church membership and a hope that a new location near the interurban (which provided transportation to nearby Anchorage and Crestwood with no Catholic churches) would increase the congregation even further. Unfortunately, church records that could further illuminate the reasons for the move have been lost. It is known that one extremely prosperous and socially prestigious Catholic family, the William Ross family, moved to Pewee Valley in 1903, perhaps helping provide funds to build a new, larger, and more substantial church.

In 1911 the present property on Mt. Mercy Drive was purchased, and the rectory was completed soon after. In September, 1912 construction was begun on the church, and in June, 1914 the completed church was dedicated. This church became the hub of a Catholic complex that stretched in both directions down Mt. Mercy Drive. Mt. Mercy School was opened by the Sisters of Mt. Mercy in 1926 in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Resources of Pewee Valley MPL
St. Aloysius Church

Section number 8 Page 2

an early and important historic house (recently demolished) located to the southwest of the church. St. Aloysius School which began in the late 1940s in the James Foley House (OL-329, included in the Central Avenue Historic District) continues today in a 1950s school building located between the rectory and the Foley House.

In terms of Criterion C and the area of significance, Architecture, the church is important as a good example of Late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture in a small town. It is one of the few early twentieth century churches built in Oldham County. Built in 1914, it was constructed during the early twentieth century period when Gothic Revival architecture became an enormously popular style across the country for ecclesiastical, educational, and, to a lesser extent, commercial buildings.

The church provides an important comparison in Pewee Valley to the two earlier extant church buildings in the community, the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church (OL-357) built in 1867 and listed as part of the Central Avenue Historic District and St. James Episcopal Church (OL-320) built in 1869 and individually listed in the National Register in December, 1985. Both these churches, constructed of limestone mined from the same local quarry as St. Aloysius, are excellent examples of the Gothic Revival style. Built approximately fifty years later, St. Aloysius, with its corner towers and boldly crenelated front vestibule, illustrates some of the popular features of the Late Gothic Revival style that borrows so heavily from English Gothic prototypes.

Considerable research has failed to unearth the name of the church's architect. An architect who carried out recent renovations to the building worked from the original plans which were subsequently returned to the church and destroyed in a basement flood. Neither the St. Aloysius church office nor the Archdiocese office in Louisville has any extant building records.

In terms of Special Criterion A, the church is eligible based on its architectural significance and the role it played in the suburban development of Pewee Valley.

ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH
Pewee Valley, Oldham Co., Ky.

SKETCH MAP

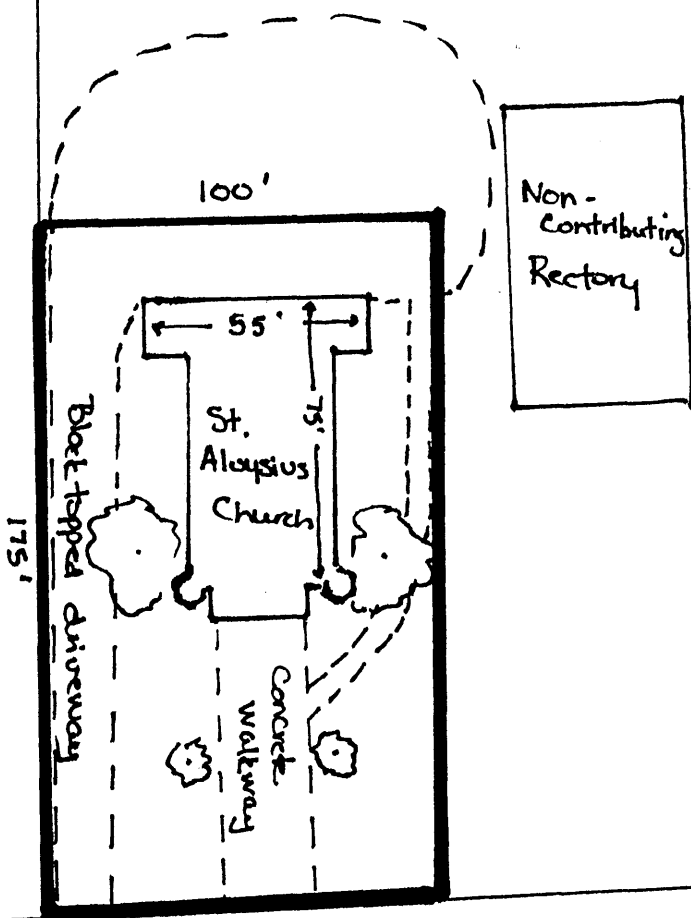
Scale: 0 ————— 150'

North: ↗

Property Boundary:

St. Aloysius Property

Mt. Mercy
Subdivision



St. Aloysius School
parking

Mt. MERCY DRIVE

Railroad

OCT 25 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Aloysius Church
Historic Resources of Pewee Valley,
MPL

Section number Photos Page 1

Photographs

1. St. Aloysius Church
2. Pewee Valley, Oldham County, Kentucky
3. Photographer: Carolyn Brools
4. Date: April, 1989
5. Negatives on file with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Ky.

(The above information is the same for all 3 photographs submitted with the nomination. Below the photographs are listed in order of their photograph numbers and each view is described.)

1. Front facade; photographer facing northwest.
2. West side; photographer facing north.
3. Rear facade; photographer facing south.