PH6 359165

DATA SHEET

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 Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off OR 214

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Angel ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oregon	41	Marion	047

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Archdiocese of Portland In Oregon

STREET & NUMBER

2838 East Burnside

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Portland ___ VICINITY OF	Oregon

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Salem	Oregon

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites & Buildings

DATE

January 27, 1971 ___FEDERAL X STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Parks and Recreation Section, Oregon State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Salem	Oregon

7. DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church at Mt. Angel, completed in 1912, is a fine example of Late High Victorian Gothic architecture. It is constructed basically of brick with a wooden roof and a vaulted ceiling of lath and plaster. The church is sited on a slight knoll in the small city of Mt. Angel which is laid out at the foot of a low butte named Mt. Angel. The town is notable for its unusual irregular spacial relationships.

The church rests on a concrete foundation. The red brick bearing walls are veneered with an unusual pressed concrete brick which was formed on the site. The structural roof consists of large principle rafters, 4 x 6 purlins and 2 x 6 secondary rafters, all of which rest on the bearing walls. The original roofing consisted of interlocking galvinized shingles. The separate interior vaulting system is supported by wooden compound piers. The vaults themselves are formed from laminated 1 x 24 inch planks tapered on a bandsaw, plastered and painted.

The church is laid out in standard cruciform plan. The apse is polygonal having five sides and is surrounded by an ambulatory aisle which has always been used as a sacristy and was originally equipped with a stove chimney. Two of the storage cabinets in the sacristy are of an early date. The apse ceiling is vaulted in plaster with pointed ribbed vaults rising from pointed arched wall panels. Two stained glass windows constructed in Munich, Germany, are placed on each side of the alter which was removed from the earlier wooden church at Mt. Angel constructed in 1893. An abbreviated choir, a single bay in length with flanking chapels, is vaulted in a similar manner. A stained glass window admits light to each chapel.

The transept extends only two bays on each side of the nave. Two large windows with more complex geometric tracery than the windows in the other building are located on the north and south transept walls. The small but very crisp transept windows which face west have been moved twice; once from the wooden St. Mary's at Mt. Angel and earlier from the Catholic Cathedral in Portland. The transept vaulting is similar in style to the apse vaulting; the geometry, however, is quite different because of the points of origin. The span at the crossing of the transept is three times greater than the small bays which form the side chapels and corresponding aisles.

The nave is as broad as the crossing of the transept. The vaulting springs from wooden compound piers which correspond with the small bays of the side aisles. Transverse arches divide these rectilinear bays which provide a complex but definite rhythm of nave vaulting in sharp contrast with the simple spacious transept vault. The vaulting of the side aisles springs from the wooden compound piers and small hanging pilasters to form many small square subspaces. The west end of the nave is divided horizontally to provide a balcony which supports both an organ and choir. The handsome balcony rail is ornamented with delicate tracery moulded of cedar.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET   ITEM NUMBER   7   PAGE 1

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

7. Description (continued)

        The narthex is located in the western half of the westernmost bay. Two
winding staircases which provide access to the loft above are located on each
side of this narrow narthex.

        The floor, the compound columns and the vault and roof structure of St.
Mary's are made of native fir. The front doors, the alter rail, and the
pews are moulded of Chinese oak, and were constructed by Couch Manufacturing
Company in Portland. All the woodwork in St. Mary's Church is masterfully
crafted and, although the paneled backs of the pews are unmercifully uncom-
fortable, all the woodwork is vitally important in establishing the quality
of the church.

        The ribbed vaulting, the chamfered window frames, the wainscot and the
pier capitols are further emphasized by polychromatic paintings in the High
Victorian Gothic style. Painting was carefully copied in 1950 by a local
artist and few alterations can be noted.

        All the stained glass except those otherwise noted were crafted in St.
Louis, Missouri by Frei Art Glass Company. The windows all have similar
geometric tracery although they have been collected from several different
makers. The side and high alters were made by local craftsman, Esador Achnee
in 1901 and removed from the earlier wooden church. The transept alters were
originally varnished and were made by the architect Engelbert Gier for the
new church.

        The exterior of St. Mary's is also noteworthy. The basic form is determined
by the interior plan. A small lantern marks the crossing of the transept and a
single tower complete with clock and chimes marks the west entrance. The masonry
walls are braced by stepped buttressing and are finished at the top with a min-
iature arcaded corbelled entablature common to the Romanesque style except that
the arches are pointed. St. Mary's remains much the same as it did in 1912,
except that reroofing in 1970 resulted in a loss of three important chimneys,
four tower pinnacles, the crockets on the main steeple and the ornated apse and
transept pinnacles. At this same time the natural ventilation which flowed
through vault bosses into the attic and out through the roof vents were
permanently closed. Although minor, these decorative changes have decreased
the original visual impact of the church in terms of scale and emphasis.

■8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1912	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Engelbert Gier

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church, finished in 1912, is a fine example of late Gothic Revival architecture. The masonry structure is sited on a slight knoll and is located in the German-Catholic town of Mt. Angel which surrounds the church in the typical Medieval European fashion. St. Mary's Church is unique to Oregon because of its setting and its strict adherance to High Victorian Gothic principles which are typified by the pointed stained glass windows with geometric tracery, the pointed ribbed vaulting, and accompanying interior polychromatic painting.

Mt. Angel was named Filmore when fifteen German-Catholic pioneer families settled within a seven mile radius of the Low Butte now known as Mt. Angel in 1883. The town which consisted of little more than a railroad station was re-named Mt. Angel after the motherhouse in Engelberg, Switzerland. The town which remains predominately Catholic grew until 1908 when it was decided to build a new and substantial church of concrete to replace the earlier wooden structure. The architect, Mr. Engelbert Gier, a local parishioner, designed the building and supervised its construction. When finished, the church measured 180 feet in length, 94 feet in width at the transept and featured a tower 185 feet in height. At its completion it was said to have been the grandest church in the Northwest.

The church was largely built by local craftsmen and laborers. The lumber was purchased from nearby Silverton, red brick was acquired from the local Mt. Angel brickyard, and the veneer brick was manufactured at the site. Carpenters at Mt. Angel framed and plastered the vaulting although the original polychromatic painting was designed and executed by Clair Decoration Company of St. Louis. The new stained glass was a product of Frei Art Glass Company, St. Louis, Missouri. The oak woodwork was crafted by the Couch Manufacturing Company of Portland. The church, after sixty years of continuous use, is in excellent repair, remains in service, and stands as a landmark to the Mt. Angel community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hodes, Sister Ursula, "Mt. Angel, Oregon 1848-1912," 1932.

Bauman, John T., "Souvenir, 1912," St. Mary's Parish, 1912.

Interview with Leo Gier (son of architect and carpenter during construction), September 5, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY __2 5.4_____ (.2 of an acre (Ma. Hartwig 10.14.76)

UTM REFERENCES   320   260

A |1,0| |5|1,6|2-6-5| |4,9|9,0|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
Gregg Olson, State Historic Preservation Office Staff

ORGANIZATION
Oregon State Parks

DATE
September 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER
State Highway Building

TELEPHONE
(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN
Salem

STATE
Oregon   97310

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____   STATE XX   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

TITLE   State Parks Superintendent

DATE March 12, 1976

GPO 892-453