Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH\$ 36 7788

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2.1 1977

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# 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

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

# LOCATION

Main and Grand Stree	ets	NOT FOR PUBLICAT	ION	
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
Paterson	VICINITY OF	8		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
New Jersey	34	Passaic	031	

## **CLASSIFICATION**

	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
	DISTRICT	X PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	X BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
1	STRUCTURE	вотн	<b>WORK IN PROGRESS</b>	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
	OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
<b>*</b>		BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
			NO	-MILITARY	OTHER:

## **OWNER OF PROPERTY**

	NAME Demon Cath			
<u> </u>		olic Diocese of Paterson	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	STREET & NUMBER			
	and the second se	ffice, 24 DeGrasse Street	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	Paterson		New Jersey	;
ł	LOCATION O	F LEGAL DESCRIPTION	N	
_	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Passaic County Courthouse	1	
	STREET & NUMBER			
		Hamilton Street		
	CITY, TOWN		STATE	
		Paterson	New Jersey	
6	REPRESENTA	TION IN EXISTING SU	RVEYS	
	TITLE			(
1	New Jersey	Historic Sites Inventory		/
	DATE			
	1976		FEDERAL XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL	
	DEPOSITORY FOR			
	SURVEY RECORDS	Office of Historic Preserva	tion, Dept. of Environmental Protection	
	CITY, TOWN		STATE	
	<b>]</b>	renton	New Jersey	

### 7' DESCRIPTION

СО	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT X_GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED XALTERED	_XORIGINAL SITE MOVED DAT	E

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, now principal church of the Diocese of Paterson, has symbolized for over a century and a half the spiritual aspirations of the Catholic faithful in and about Paterson.

The Cathedral is located almost in the heart of Paterson's bustling financial district, and is similar in architecture to the much larger and more venerable Gothic structures of Europe.

The cornerstone of the Cathedral was laid on September 10, 1865. (1) Nearly five years later, on July 31, 1870, the building was dedicated and ready for the use of the congregation. (2) It was finally consecrated on June 29, 1890.(3)

Designed by architect P. C. Keely of New York, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is largely constructed of brownstone, most of which was obtained from local quarries in Little Falls and dressed at the site of construction.

The building occupies a plot of land measuring 88' x 180'. On the Main Street side, twin turrets rise to a peak of 90 feet, and from that point are carried an additional 30 feet higher. Worshippers have access to the Cathedral on Main Street via two doors, the arch over which measures 30 feet. The Grand Street side of the Cathedral reveals a square tower approximately 100 feet high. It is in turn adorned by a brownstone spire rising 225 feet from the ground.(4)

While non-structural changes have been made to the interior of the Cathedral because of the modern Catholic liturgy, steps have been taken to avoid compromising the architectural grandeur of the original designs. One's eye is still arrested by the lofty trefoil stone columns that soar 60 feet from the floor of the Cathedral, and support the weight of the English slate roof. (5) Other outstanding elements of the interior, such as the exquisite stained glass windows, and the Gothic-style alter, have not undergone extensive alteration.

The current seating capacity of the Cathedral is between 1700 and 1800 persons.(6)

- Charles A. Shriner, <u>History of the Catholic in Paterson</u>, (Paterson: 1883), p. 26.
- (2) W. Woodford Clayton and William Nelson, (eds.), <u>History of Bergen and Passaic</u> <u>Counties</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>, (Philadelphia, Everts and Peck: 1882), p. 503, hereinafter cited as Clayton and Nelson, History of Bergen and Passaic Counties.
- (3) James A. Sweeney, <u>A Century of Catholic Progress in Paterson</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>, (Paterson, St. John's R. C. Parish: 1921), p. 13.
- (4) Clayton and Nelson, History of Bergen and Passaic Counties, p. 504.
- (5) I<u>bid</u>., p. 504.
- (6) William Nelson and Charles A. Shriner, <u>History of Paterson and Its Environs</u>, (New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company: 1920), II, p. 469.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X.1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT				

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest extant Catholic Church in Paterson, this cathedral, designed by Patrick Keely, is one of his two cathedrals in New Jersey.

#### Architecture:

Patrick C. Keeley (1811-1896) was an Ireland trained architect who came to the United States in 1842 and designed some 800 church edifices in the country, primarily for the Roman Catholic Church. Said to have been directly encouraged by Augustus Pugin, an influential Gothic Revival figure in Great Britain, Keely also built in the Gothic Revival style. Several of Keely's churches are already on the National Register including the St. James Church, St. Mary's Abbey and St. Partick's Pro Cathedral, all of Newark, New Jersey; the St. John's Catholic Church, Bangor, Maine; and the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church of Providence, Rhode Island. (<u>National Register 1976</u>. pp. 298, 466, 672.)

Having designed about twenty cathedrals in the United States, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is one of two such cathedrals in New Jersey (the other being the St. Patrick's Pro Cathedral) and a good example of the Gothic Revival style.

#### Religion:

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (originally St. John's Church, for the Diocese of Paterson was not formed until 1938), was the fulfillment of the dreams of much beloved Father William McNulty (1829-1922), rector of the church from the 1860's until his death nearly six decades later.(1)

The Cathedral has welcomed succeeding generations of Catholics from all ethnic backgrounds who have chosen Paterson and surrounding towns as places to work and raise their families. This is particularly evident in relation to the surge of German, Irish and Italian immigrants who came to Paterson during the late 19th and early 20th century as workers in the locomotive, silk and machine shops.(2)

(2) W. Woodford Clayton and William Nelson, (eds.) <u>History of Bergen and Passaic Counties</u>, (Philadelphia, Everts and Peck: 1882), p. 406, hereinafter cited as Clayton and Nelson, History of Bergen and Passaic Counties.

<sup>(1)</sup> George H. Burke, "Dean McNulty," <u>Bulletin of the Passaic County Historical</u> Society, I, No. 3 (September, 1929), pp. 22,24.

### **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Burke, George H. "Dean McNulty,". Bulletin of the Passaic County Historical Society, 1, No. 3, (September, 1929), pp. 22-24.

Clayton, W. Woodford and William Nelson (eds.). History of Bergen and Passaic Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia, Everts and Peck: 1882.

### **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3	City BLOCK & APPROXIMATELY Z BLOCKS
UTM REFERENCES	LE 186VICH
	12/14/77
A 118 56961810 415 219 11810	B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING	ZONE EASTING NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	

JNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the city block which is bounded by Grand St., Main St., Hamilton Ave., and De Grasse St.

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	Office of Historic
E. A. Smyk, Passaic County Historian	Preservation, DEP
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Office of the Passaic County Historian	(201) 525-5000
STREET & NUMBER Lambert Castle	TELEPHONE
Garret Mountain Reservation	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE

Paterson, New Jersey 07503

### **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 procedure set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATORE				:
TITLE Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection	DATE	6/	13/17	<b>)</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY		- /		
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTE	R		1 1	
1 Munta 15	DATE	12	11472	
ATTEST: KERP		HE NATU	UNAIF REGI	STER
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revisions by Terry Karschner

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Passaic County New Jersey			034			

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#### SIGNIGICANCE

By the middle of the 1820's, there were definite indications that the local Catholic population was expanding.(3) Then, coupled with the tremendous growth of Paterson industries, there was an insistent demand for skilled millhands and other types of workers. By 1870, the U. S. Census reported that Irish immigrants constituted the dominant foreign-born population in the city.(4)

The majority of the Irish, along with other immigrant classes, lived in ramshackle tenement houses within almost walking distance of the great mills. Most conspicously, the Irish clustered about Grand Street, and this area became known as the "Dublin" section of Paterson. It was there, among the Irish-Catholic immigrants, that Father McNulty began his priestly duties.

Two years after arriving in Paterson to take "...charge of the fortunes and spiritual welfare ...." of the rapidly growing Catholic population, Father McNulty raised enough money to purchase sixteen lots from the powerful industrial corporation, the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures ("S.U.M."). Thus, at the northeast corner of Main and Grand Streets, the new St. John's Church was to be built. Interestingly enough, the cost of the property (\$10,000) was paid off within two months, and shortly thereafter, New York architect P. C. Keely was retained in order to develop plans "for an edifice ... unequalled in New Jersey." (5)

The Cathedral was ready for use in the summer of 1870, and a final tabulation a number of years later revealed that approximately \$200,000 had been spent in the course of construction. (6)

- (5) <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 503.
- (6) Ibid., p. 504.

<sup>(3)</sup> D. Stanton Hammond, (ed.), "Rev. Samuel Fisher's Census of Paterson, N.J. (1825-1832), "<u>Bulletin of the Passaic County Historical Society</u>, V, Nos. 11 and 12 (August, 1958), pp. 66-67. According to Dr. Fisher, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, who prepared the census as a public service, 113 people were enumerated as heads of Catholic families in 1825. In 1827, the number was 140; in 1829, there were 196.

<sup>(4)</sup> Clayton and Shriner, <u>History of Bergen</u> and Passaic Counties, p. 406.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Cathedral of St. Hohn the Baptist Paterson Passaic Coun ty New Jersey 034 CONTINUATION SHEET

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21

#### SIGNIFICANCE

One Church historian has summarized Father McNulty's contribution in this way: "As group after group of European immigrants reached the city of Paterson, this good shepherd brought them together at St. John's. When they were ready to be on their own, he bought the land and erected churches for them."(7) Under Father McNulty's benevolent guidance, the parishes of St. Joseph, St. Mary, St. Agnes, St. Bonaventure, Our Lady of Victory and St. Michael were organized. (8) In retrospect, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is as much a testament to Father McNulty's love for humanity as it is a monument to catholicism.

(8) Ibid.

<sup>(7)</sup> Sister Marie Edith, (comp), <u>St. John's Parish</u>: <u>One Hundred and Fifty Years</u>, (Paterson, New Jersey: 1971), p. 11.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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- Edith, Sister Marie (comp.). <u>St. John's Parish</u>: <u>One Hundred and Fifty Years</u>. Paterson, New Jersey: 1971.
- Hammond, D. Stanton (ed.). "Rev. Samuel Fisher's Census of Paterson, N. J. (1825-1832)," <u>Bulletin of the Passaic County Historical Society</u>, V, Nos. 11 and 12 (August, 1958), 82 pp.
- Shriner, Charles A. History of the Catholic Church in Paterson, Paterson: 1883.
- Sweeney, James A. <u>A Century of Catholic Progress is Paterson</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>. Paterson, St. John's R. C. Parish: 1921.
- Kervick, Francis. <u>Patrick Charles Keely</u>, <u>Architect</u>: <u>A Record of His Life and</u> <u>Work</u>. Notre Dame, 1953.

National Register of Historic Places. 1976. (pp. 298, 466, 672).