

Survey Number LR0069Owner Bishop Andrew J. McDonaldProperty Name St. Andrews Catholic CathedralAddress P. O. Box 7239Little Rock, AR 72217

Original Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location 617 Louisiana StreetConstruction Date 1878

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

St. Andrew's Cathedral is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style that was so popular among church architects during the late 1800s. Built of rusticated granite from nearby Fourche Mountain, this church is reportedly the first Arkansas building constructed entirely of this native stone. The Louisiana Street elevation contains a raised entry with arched surround and transom, and is punctuated by several narrow lancet windows. A large granite arch highlights the slightly recessed rose window. Two buttressed towers anchor this facade. The north tower has a battlemented parapet, while the south tower has a steeple that soars to a height of 220 feet. The tower buttresses terminate in ornamental pinnacles and a Celtic cross adorns the narthex parapet. Large arched stain glass windows ornament the transepts and nave. All of these original stain glass windows were brought from Chicago during the church's construction. Of particular interest is the steeply-pitched roof which features patterned slate.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of St. Andrew's Cathedral, designed by architect Thomas Harding, was started in 1878 and completed three years later, making it the oldest existing church building in Little Rock. The Catholic Church had been active in Arkansas since the time when the French governed this area as a territory. St. Andrew's parish was organized in 1838 and it erected a church building the next year on property directly opposite the present building. The 1845 St. Andrew's Cathedral, located at 2nd and Center Streets, served the parish until 1878 when the present building was begun. Although St. Andrew's was dedicated in November 1881, it was 1887 before the steeple was finished. According to an Arkansas Gazette article, it was "doubtless the tallest steeple in the whole south". Including the cross at the top of the spire, the steeple measured 231 feet and was reported to have been compared favorably to the Washington Monument (then the world's tallest structure). Although remodeling and modernization of the interior has occurred several times during the church's history, the exterior of St. Andrew's Cathedral continues to look as it did in the 1880s.

Verbal Boundary Description Lots 5, 6, Block 73, Original CityAcreage Less than oneQuadrangle Name Little Rock, ArkansasQuadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference

Zone 15Easting 566635Northing 3844520

NOV 13 1986

OCT 1 1986

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Little Rock Main Street MRA  
State Pulaski County, ARKANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Albert Pike Memorial  
Temple

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

2. Rose Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

3. Fulk Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

4. Gus Blass Department  
Store

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

5. Taylor Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

6. St. Andrews Catholic  
Cathedral

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

7. First Presbyterian Church

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

8. Worthen Bank Building

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 11/13/86

Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 11/13/86

9. Donaghey Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

10. State Bank Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION



86003117

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Andrews Catholic Cathedral (Little Rock  
Main Street MRA)  
Pulaski County  
ARKANSAS

Substantive Review

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Working No. OCT 1 1986  
 Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
 Date Due: 11/1/86 - 11/15/86  
 Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11-13-86  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT  
 Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *Designed by architect Thomas Harding and completed in 1881, St. Andrews cathedral is the oldest existing church in Little Rock and an excellent local example of the Gothic Revival style.*

Recom./Criteria Accept, C  
 Reviewer Noble  
 Discipline Historian  
 Date 11/27/86  
 \_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
 \_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |
|          |                    |            |             |

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered    |   |
|                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

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## 8. Significance

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

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## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_







Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000028