

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 12 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1976

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 *Complete*
St. Joseph Cathedral and College **Historic District**
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
W. Stephen Foster Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Bardstown
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
02
COUNTY
Nelson
CODE
179
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Archdiocese of Louisville
STREET & NUMBER
443 S. 5th Street
CITY, TOWN
Bardstown
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Nelson County Court Annex
STREET & NUMBER
E. Stephen Foster Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Bardstown
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)
DATE
1971, 1975
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The St. Joseph Cathedral and College Historic District, encompasses approximately five acres, and is located on the west side of Bardstown. Four structures are included:

- 1819 St. Joseph Cathedral (previously listed on the National Register January 9, 1974)
- 1819 St. Joseph Rectory
- c. 1839 Spalding Hall (previously listed on the National Register May 7, 1973)
- 1842 Flaget Hall

The St. Joseph Cathedral and College Historic District is bounded on the north by the westward extension of Xavier Drive, on the east by North Fifth Street, on the south by West Stephen Foster Avenue, and on the west by lines midway between the designated structures and those adjacent to the west.

The Cathedral, which faces south on West Stephen Foster Avenue, is described in Rexford Newcomb's book on Kentucky architecture: "The exterior of this noble edifice, in the full Federal style, presents a forthright, brick gabled mass amplified by a hexastyle Ionic portico with a clock tower and spire at the top" (Newcomb, p. 77).

Immediately east of the Cathedral, is the Saint Joseph Rectory, a Federal style two-and-a-half story brick structure with a full cellar underneath (see photos 1a & 2). A pedimented, two-story hexastyle Ionic portico graces the front. The capitals of the columns, the moldings, and general cornice detail matches that of the Cathedral, but was probably applied to the finished building some years after its construction since Bishop Flaget wrote that the steeple and portico of the church were still incomplete in 1825, six years after the dedication of the structure. (It is also possible that the portico was added in the course of alterations circa 1910, when single-pane windows sashes were inserted.) In 1969 a modern garage was added to the east end and a two-room addition to the back of the north wall (see photo 3). Most of the original woodwork was replaced about 1920, and the building was extensively remodelled again in 1969.

Located north of the Cathedral and Rectory in a grove of maple trees is Spalding Hall. The structure faces east on North Fifth Street and is a Federal-style, three-story building. A pedimented frontal pavilion, crowned by a roof with four dormers and a square cupola, faces the street.

Flaget Hall, constructed in 1842, is located northwest of the Cathedral and south of Spalding Hall. The exterior of Flaget Hall appears the same today as it did when it was built in 1842 (see photos 4, 5, & 6). The hall is constructed of brick masonry, then stuccoed and scored to look like stone. The structure is 64 feet wide, 45 feet deep, and approximately 42 feet high to the eaves above the sidewalk level behind and in front. Built into a hillside, the north wall stands on a high foundation some five feet above the courtyard level behind Spalding Hall.

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1819 (Cathedral & Rectory);
c. 1820 & c. 1839 (Spalding); BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown
1842 (Flaget)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph Cathedral and College Historic District represents the oldest center of Catholic worship and higher education in Kentucky. St. Joseph Cathedral, completed in 1819, is significant as being the first Roman Catholic cathedral constructed west of the Alleghenies and the second in the nation. Located in Bardstown, Kentucky, the Cathedral was the focal point of Catholicity in Kentucky until 1841 when the seat of the diocese was moved to Louisville, thirty-six miles north of Bardstown. St. Joseph College, associated with the Cathedral from the beginning, was the first Catholic men's college in the State. Young men also who attended this institution and later rose to fame include Cassius M. Clay, James Speed, and Jefferson Davis.

Catholics appear early in Kentucky's history. Catholic families were among those who settled at Fort Harrod in 1775. Around 1780 a party of Catholics relocated near the present day Bardstown. Bardstown is located on what used to be the Old Wilderness Road, the major land route used by the early settlers, running from the Cumberland Gap to the Falls of the Ohio. Bardstown is located half way between Louisville at the Falls and Harrodsburg. Most Catholics came from Maryland by way of Pittsburgh, down the Ohio River to the Falls, and then overland on the Wilderness Road to Bardstown.

By 1787 the number of Catholics had grown so large that Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore appointed the first pastor to Kentucky, the Reverend Father Whelen. In April 1808, with the approval of Pope Pius VII, four American Sees (each the center of authority for a bishop) were created: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Bardstown. Father Benedict Joseph Flaget was appointed in charge of the See at Bardstown, becoming the first Catholic prelate in the western section of the country. Bishop Flaget arrived in Bardstown in May 1811. At that time there was only a log chapel, built in 1789 and dedicated to St. Joseph.

In 1817 Bishop Flaget authorized the subscriptions to be made and collections taken up throughout the diocese for the building of a cathedral. A total of \$14,000 was collected and construction on the building was begun. Saint Joseph Cathedral, the first catholic Cathedral west of the Alleghenies, was completed in 1819. It was then considered the finest church in the West, and remains today a fine example of Federal-style architecture. The building served as a cathedral until 1841 when the See was transferred to Louisville. (St. Joseph's was listed on the National Register January 9, 1974.)

St. Joseph College, the first Catholic men's college in the State, had its beginnings in the basement of St. Joseph Rectory (see the National Register form on Spalding Hall, Nelson County,

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Schauinger, J. H. Cathedrals in the Wilderness. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co., 1952.
 Smith, Sarah B. Historic Nelson County. Louisville: Gateway Press, Inc., 1971.
The Magazine Antiques. April 1974.
 Webb, B. J. The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky. Evansville: Unigraphic, 1884.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres *5 acres according to Smith*

UTM REFERENCES

D	1,6	6,3,4	5,4,0	4,1,8	5,8,0,0	A	1,6	6,3,4	7,0,0	4,1,8	5,7,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				
B	1,6	6,3,4	6,6,0	4,1,8	5,6,2,0	C	1,6	6,3,4	5,5,0	4,1,8	5,6,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

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

David H. Hall, President

MC

ORGANIZATION

Nelson County Historical Society

DATE

April 30, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 311

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bardstown

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edward W. Melton

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

1/6/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

James P. [Signature]

DATE

6/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Acting

Chapman [Signature]

DATE

6-2-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 6-2-76

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St. Joseph Cathedral and College Historic District

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The ground floor of Flaget Hall was originally comprised of four classrooms served by a cross hall. The ceiling height is approximately ten feet. The staircase ascends from the rear-left of the central hall, winding clock-wise to the third floor, being hung on the rear or west wall in such a manner that the staircase does not interfere with the exterior symmetry of the windows. The second floor landing embraces a small office above the main entrance door below, created by the interior load-bearing masonry walls. On each side of the central hall landing is a massive room, approximately 42 feet square, with a ceiling height of 14 feet, lighted by nine of the long arched windows. The great open-room size is made possible by the use of slender cast iron fluted columns set on the masonry walls below and supporting the interior masonry walls of the third floor. This entire second floor was surely designed and built expressly to serve as the natural history museum. (The Reverend Francis Chambige (1807-1877), a member of the faculty, had presented the institution with his large collection of specimens in mineralogy and geology gathered from all parts of the world). The third floor consists of a central office or book room and four rooms of equal size with a ceiling height of about 12 feet. It probably was the infirmary section, as fresh air was often prescribed for sundry ailments. Four massive chimneys are part of the interior walls and emerge from the hip roof grouped toward the center of the structure. There were no fireplaces--heating devices were originally stoves of some sort.

The architectural style of Flaget Hall appears closely oriented to the "Italianate" style, ⁷ although completely lacking ornamentation. The use of masonry to create the effect of columns and arches framing the long window openings is also to be found on "Jacobs Hall" by John McMurtry at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville (see Antiques, April 1974, p. 837). The building may have originally been painted to enhance this effect but nothing has been found to support that possibility. In the 1854 sketch there is a hint by the artist that there may have existed some sort of "dentil" or "modillion" trim under the cornices; this surmise is likewise unsubstantiated. One community structure exists in downtown Bardstown, built about the same period as Flaget Hall, with the same window treatment, stuccoed over brick, and definite "Italianate" ornamentation.

The unusual treatment of the walls may also reflect an early Victorian variant of features of the adjacent cathedral. John Rogers, perhaps inspired by Benjamin H. Latrobe's Roman design for the Baltimore Cathedral, gave his structure a conspicuously flat brick structure with five tall round-arched windows on both sides simply cut into the wall without moldings or frames. Above the openings are inset stone plaques. Even more similar to Flaget Hall in the handling of the wall are the two small one-story chambers that flank the main body of the Cathedral just behind the portico. These have not only round-arched windows on the front,

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but like the top story of Flaget Hall, these are set into recessed round-arched panels. The whole effect on both buildings--found also on a few other early Roman Catholic buildings in the central Kentucky area such as Holy Cross Church in nearby Marion County--resembles more the planar sense of Latrobe than the plasticity of mid-Victorian Italianate, although the extended cornice foretells things to come.

Today Flaget Hall stands with the exterior appearance unchanged except for minor details. No additions have been added since the original construction. A fire-escape was added to the north wall when the building was converted from classroom to dormitory use about 1961 (see photo 5). The interior is still "partitioned" into small rooms on the second and third levels, with bath facilities created for dormitory use. No original masonry wall, columns, or other structural features have been removed or altered appreciably. No settling is evident.

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Kentucky, approved May 9, 1973). The rectory was actually constructed as the official residence for the Bishop of the Bardstown Diocese.

The college was first placed under the management of the Reverend George A. M. Elder, ordained in the new Cathedral on September 1819. The seminarians were brought from St. Thomas Seminary (founded by the Reverend Father David in 1811, four miles from Bardstown) to live with the Bishop and his assistant in the building which was to serve both as a Bishop's residence and as a seminary. Elder served as director, the seminarians served as teachers, and in 1819 St. Joseph College opened for day students. For the first three years classes were held in the basement. In 1820 it was decided a separate building was needed and the first wing was built of what would later become Spalding Hall. The rectory remained the residence for the Bardstown Bishops until 1841, when the See was moved to Louisville. This change had been authorized by Papal rescript the previous spring because of the growing importance of rapidly expanding Louisville. The structure is now a simple parish rectory.

Spalding Hall, a Federal-style building was erected in 1839 to replace an earlier structure, most of which was destroyed by fire. The building served as classrooms for the expanding St. Joseph College. It has also been used as a hospital for Union soldiers during the Civil War, and orphanage, and a preparatory school. (Spalding Hall was listed on the National Register May 7, 1973.)

Flaget Hall, constructed in 1842, was erected to provide more classrooms for the College, for use as a museum of natural history, and infirmary. The structure's greatest significance is as an integral part of St. Joseph College.

In 1890, circumstances required that the college close indefinitely. From 1890 until 1896 the buildings served as an orphanage. Thereafter the buildings were vacant for a period. In the spring of 1911 the property was acquired by the Xaverian Brothers, a religious body of men devoted to educational work. At this time the institution became a college preparatory school for boys and the name was changed from St. Joseph College to St. Joseph Preparatory School. The school closed in June 1968.

Spalding Hall has recently been adapted as an arts center, history museum, and restaurant. Flaget Hall is also scheduled to be restored and adapted as a community center by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Bardstown.