Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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1	STATE:	
	Tennessee	
	COUNTY:	
	Davidson	
	FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1	70-7-41-0016	7/8/70

(T	ENTRY NUMBER DATE
(Type all entries — complete applicable se	10.9.41.00/6 17/8/70
NAME	
COMMON:	
St. Mary's Catholic Church	
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LOCATION	ressed virgin of the Seven Dotare.
STREET AND NUMBER:	
330 Fifth Avenue, North	
CITY OR TOWN:	
Nashville	
STATE	DE COUNTY: CODE
Tennessee 4	
CLASSIFICATION	- Juviacon 057
CATEGORY	ACCESSIBLE
(Check One)	STATUS TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District 🏋 Building ☐ Public Public Acc	puisition: Occupied Yes:
	Process X Unoccupied X Restricted
	eing Considered Preservation work Unrestricted
	in progress No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)	
	☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
	(-)
☐ Educational ☐ Military	
OWNER OF PROPERTY TOWNER'S NAME:	
· ·	T _e
Bishop of the Diocese, the Most	Reverend Joseph A. Durick
330 Fifth Avenue, North	les
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE: CODE 0
Nashville	Tennessee 41
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	1 Temiessee 1 41
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	1
Davidson County Register's Offic	Davi.
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Court House	STATE CODE ON
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE CODE 9
Nashville	Tennessee 41
REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	$\sqrt{10}$
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY: Fede	eral State County Va Aocal
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	一から、マベクニー
STREET AND NUMBER.	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	STATE

7. DESCRIPTION								
				(Che	k One)			-
CONDITION	▼ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	eri orated	Ruins	Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check Or	1e)			(Che	ck One)	
	★ Altered	d	Unaltered			☐ Moved	▼ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

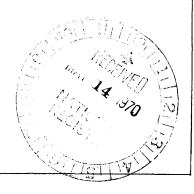
St. Mary's Church stands in the shadow of Strickland's Tennessee State Capitol in downtown Nashville. It is a chaste and beautiful specimen of Grecian architecture. Its external dimensions are 110 ft in length by 60 ft. in breadth. The ceiling is 32 feet above the floor; it is flat and tastefully decorated with mouldings and square The entrance of the church is through a distyle-in-antis panel work. portico with two Ionic columns. The entire exterior and interior of the edifice are ornamented with pilasters placed at suitable distances, imparting additional strength to the walls. On either side of the entrance is a niche and a plain pediment above. The gable is crowned by a cupola. It is well-proportioned, simple and effective with excellent detail. The cupola, not unlike several other Strickland towers, is modeled from the old Choragic Monument of Lysicrates.

Under the church there is a spacious and commodious basement designed for catechism classes and school rooms. The high altar stands in a semi-circular recess, and is surmounted by an appropriate group of statuary representing the most sorrowful mother receiving the lifeless body of her dear Son. The figures are composed of what is called sand-stone paper, and the whole group was procured in France.

The church underwent a complete remodeling and renovation in the early 1890's when new stained glass windows and electric lights were installed. Again in 1925 more remodeling was done when the north and south sides of the structure were veneered with brick and the whole front of the edifice was finished with stone. The interior was finished with Craftex in a stone finish. A new high altar of Botticino marble was put in on October 7, 1929, at a cost of \$3,900.

In preparation for the hundredth anniversary in 1947, a new organ and marble side altars were installed. At the same time the exterior and the interior of the church were redecorated.

The church still stands in good condition, but some alteration of the original exterior and interior has desecrated the structure to a degree. However, the original lines which Strickland gave to this ecclesiastical gem still remain.



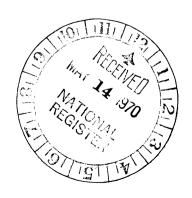
IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known) 845 - /	847	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	<u> </u>
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	X Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☆ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

St. Mary's Church is architecturally significant as a good example of William Strickland's Greek Revival design. William Strickland was a major American architect of the nineteenth century. age of fourteen, Strickland went to Philadelphia where he was apprenticed to Benjamin Latrobe. Latrobe was a major architect on the U. S. Capitol. Several of Strickland's more famous works are in Philadelphia. These include the Second Bank of the United States and the Merchants Exchange. Strickland also designed the Tennessee State Capitol which has been considered as a major example of Greek Revival architecture.

Strickland received the commission to design St. Mary's Church in The church was dedicated October 31, 1847. Strickland reportedly considered it to be his best ecclesiastical design.

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During the Battle of Nashville, in the Civil War, the Church was converted to a hospital. During World War II the basement was used as a temporary chapel. For more than a hundred years this old church has served the Catholic population of Nashville. As the headquarters of the Diocese under the first six Bishops and the resting place of the father of the Church in Tennessee, this church has had a rich and interesting history.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barr, Daniel F. <u>Souvenir</u> of <u>St. Mary's Cathedral</u> <u>1847-1897</u> (Nashville, 1897).

Gilchrist, Agnes A. <u>William Strickland</u>. University of Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia, 1950).

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100th Anniversary - St. Mary's Church 1847-1947 (Nashville, 1947).

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