

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0676195

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DATE ENTERED MAY 29 1979

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. Anne Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 Church Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Coos

CODE

007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester, a Corporation Sole for St. Anne's

STREET & NUMBER

58 Church Street

Parish

CITY, TOWN

Berlin

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire 03570

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

1) Coos County Registry of Deeds

2) Coos County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

148 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

STATE

New Hampshire 03584

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Anne's Church was constructed in 1900 by M.H. Roy, a contractor from Lewiston, Maine. It was built in red brick with a granite foundation. There is a long gabled slate roof covering the nave of the church. Two square towers, one on either side, grace the gable end facade. There is a pressed metal bell tower atop the left hand tower, but the right hand tower is now unadorned. Originally the right tower held a hugh statue of St. Anne. The statue was removed several years ago because it was being seriously deteriorated by the pollution from the paper mill located directly across the street. (The statue is still in the church's possession and the parish is interested in reinstalling it if a method of protection could be found to alleviate the deterioration.)

A wide concrete stairway ascends from the street to the entranceway which is recessed behind an arcaded porch. There are five separate entrances that lead into the church; three double doorways built into the recessed facade, the center being the main entrance; and one door leading into each tower at right angles to the facade. Each door carries a stained glass fan light. Above the arcading is a brick belt course. Above the belt course is a central, three part round headed stained glass window recessed slightly in a single brick arch. This window is flanked by two recessed, round headed niches, which may have been designed to hold statues. Above the central window is a circular-shaped motif executed in brick. The gable end wall has molded wood rake boards, enhanced with dentils. A gold metal cross and orb adorns the roof ridge.

The window treatment on the facades of the towers is repeated on the side and rear. There is a tall narrow arched stained glass window on each at the lower level. Above are two identical windows, one a half a window level higher than the other, juxtaposed on each side of the towers. Each tower has brick quoin detailing and a brick corbel table.

The sides of the church contain seven narrow double stained glass windows with round heads, similar to those on the bell towers. The sacristy is a small rotunda shaped extension at the altar end of the nave. Several additions have been made near the rotunda, and presently the wood frame rectory is connected to the church at this point by a covered passageway. However, this addition is sufficiently delineated from the church so that it does not particularly detract from the original architectural character.

The exterior of St. Anne's is best described as electric Victorian with somewhat of a Romanesque character. It is monumental in scale and certainly the most imposing church edifice in Berlin. Other than the minor alterations already mentioned, (the missing statue and sacristy addition), the exterior of St. Anne's remains intact and true to its original character.

The interior, which is designed in a classical style, has a wide central aisle with two narrow aisles at the sides of the church. There are two major sets of pews, one on each side of the center aisle, and two minor sets of pews on the two secondary aisles against the wall. The pews are built on a wooden platform that is raised several in-

(See Continuation Sheet 1)

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(DESCRIPTION Continued)

ches higher at the rear of the nave and angled down toward the altar. This allows the people in the rear a better view of the altar. The pews themselves are executed in oak and have fine Victorian detailing. The vaulted roof is supported by a row of four columns centered in each side of the central pews. To sight and touch they appear to be marble but are actually finely decorated plaster and wood painted to imitate marble. Arches are formed between the columns and are part of the vaulted side aisle ceilings. Above the column capitals, on these arches, are life size sculptures of angels. The ceiling is built in three parts. The main nave ceiling is constructed as a long continuous vault, with the ceilings above the side aisles comprised of smaller vaults. The ceiling is decorated with carved wood and plaster ornaments.

Stained glass windows are framed in wooden arches which are affixed to the plaster walls. Additional illumination is provided by elegant hanging glass lanterns.

The organ loft is defined by an ornate frieze. The huge pipe organ was built by Cassavantes, a famous maker of pipe organs. It is in good working condition and it is an extremely valuable musical instrument. It is framed in richly decorated oak and painted in gold leaf and rich reds and greens. The organ loft has seating capacity for a very large choir.

As far as can be ascertained from interviews with local authorities, the interior remains as it was originally built. There have been cosmetic repairs related to normal maintenance but beyond that no apparent alterations have been made. The interior is known to have been painted at least once, in 1927, and probably again at some later date.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect - - M.H. Roy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of St. Anne's Church is architectural, with particular emphasis on the interior. This architectural significance becomes more remarkable when viewed against the cultural backdrop of Berlin.

When St. Anne's was built in 1900, Berlin was a working class town, most of its residents being workers in the paper mill. The pollution was intense, the cultural amenities few, and the standard of living somewhat low. Everything about Berlin and its people was utilitarian. The church was an important focus of the community, and the spiritual importance of the church is reflected in the monumentality and simplicity of the exterior. St. Anne's is a visual representation of faith and the enduring quality of religion. The church is also a physical landmark in the community. Further, the exterior style of the church reflects the rural nature of its builder. The structure was not designed by an architect but by a contractor. It has no definite style and is a combination of various Victorian influences. With its bell tower and gigantic statue, it seems to have no easily recognizable prototype. In short, the exterior is of relatively unsophisticated design easily understandable in its rural north country setting.

The interior is another matter entirely. It runs completely counter to the cultural-financial atmosphere of the times. The sophisticated and intricate nature of the design appears to have come from another civilization and the fact that it was executed with such quality of craftsmanship appears to be a minor miracle: a beautiful cathedral in a rural mill town. The exquisite Cassavantes pipe organ is an extremely valuable and historically significant musical instrument as well. It is precisely these aspects that make St. Anne's not only architecturally significant, but culturally significant. It is a tribute to the parish which contracted its construction, and it is a material testament to the importance of the Catholic Church to the people of Berlin.

Although the significance of St. Anne's is mainly architectural, a case can be made for its historical-cultural significance, at least locally. Historically, St. Anne's was the first Catholic church in Berlin. The parish was established in 1867, but the first church was not built until 1882. In 1899, the original wood frame church was moved and transformed into a parish school. The present St. Anne's was begun on July 1, 1899. The builder of the church is listed as M.H. Roy, a contractor from Lewiston, Maine.

(See Continuation Sheet 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial Booklet - Berlin, 1829 - 1929, Smith & Town Publishing Co., Berlin, NH 1929.

Interview: Fr. Dumont, St. Anne's Church.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Berlin, NH

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15'

UTM REFERENCES 7 66

A 1, 9 | 3, 2, 6 | 7, 8, 0 | 4, 9, 2, 6 | 4, 8, 0

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D ZONE EASTING NORTHING

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Berlin, NH, Assessor's Tax Maps, updated to December, 1978; Map 22, lot 364.

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

Sarah R. McDonald, Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Dept. of Community Development, City of Berlin

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Main Street

TELEPHONE

752-1630

CITY OR TOWN

Berlin,

STATE

New Hampshire 03570

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-13-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 5-29-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/25/79

ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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(SIGNIFICANCE - Continued)

There is no mention of a designer or architect other than Roy. Further, there is no written information on the interior design. It is speculated by some of the people in the parish that Italian craftsmen temporarily in the area were recruited to decorate the interior, but on whose design it is not known. The new church was consecrated on August 19, 1900, and the first mass held on May 6, 1901. A new parish school, St. Regis Academy, was built next to the church in 1911. St. Anne's was the original Catholic parish in Berlin. Today, there are three (3) other parishes all off-shoots of St. Anne's: St. Kieran's, St. Benedict's, and St. Joseph's.

St. Anne's is considered the French-Canadian church in Berlin. Both Berlin and the surrounding area of New Hampshire is heavily populated with French Canadians. Religious services and related community activities are held in French as well as English so that St. Anne's is of certain cultural importance as well.