

140024376

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky	
COUNTY: Kenton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 20 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cathedral Basilica Of The Assumption

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Mary's Cathedral

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1130 Madison Ave. (corner 12th & Madison Ave.)

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE Kentucky	CODE 21	COUNTY: Kenton	CODE 117
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Archdiocese Of Covington; Bishops & his successors forever

STREET AND NUMBER:
9 East 12th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kenton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky

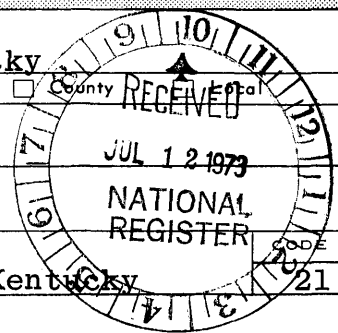
DATE OF SURVEY:
1971 Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky	CODE 21
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:
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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Leon Coquard of Detroit was the architect of this beautiful French Gothic Cathedral which is very similar to the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The building is 194 feet long by 144 feet wide. The facade was designed by David Davis (1865-1932), local architect. The interior closely resembles the Church of St. Denis, Paris.

Constructed 1895 to 1910 of Bedford stone, the church has 16 flying buttresses, 32 large fancy gargoyles, and a steep gabled roof of Ludovici tile in shades of red and brown. The facade is in three elevations, the center of which has extensive sculptured embellishments. Between the two pairs of doors stand two large statues done by Clement Barnhorn who also carved the arched panel above the doors. Above the doors is a gallery with recessed ledge the outer face of which contains a series of arched columns extending the entire width of the front. Above these is the magnificent rose window and the ornate foundations for the 52 foot towers still uncompleted.

In the nave are 26 clustered columns 26 feet high spanned by the weight bearing ribs which form the ceiling vault; the nave is 81 feet high. In the north transept the entire width and height is occupied by one tremendous stained glass window 24' x 75'. In the south transept is one lovely rose window 26' in diameter. The apse is 54' x 37' and nearly all in beautiful stained glass windows. The high altar and crucifix are of white Carrara marble; recessed into the front of the altar is a carved relief of the Last Supper.

Beyond the south transept is a chapel 26'x41' containing an ornate marble altar and exquisite baldachinum of gold plated bronze inlaid with semi-precious stones; the floor is of Rosatta and Breche marble and the Communion railing is of cast bronze & marble. Behind and above the altar are five stained glass windows and extending from the wainscott to the wall are the nationally famous paintings by Frank Duveneck. Each of these are about 10x12 to 24 feet & portray the Eucharistic theme - these remain in very good condition. Frank Duveneck was a local artist who studied & taught at the Cincinnati Academy of Art as well as Paris and Italy; he lived 1848 to 1919.

The visitor is impressed by the unusually large amount of window space on both floor level & the clerestory level; in addition to the transept window & two rose windows there are 57 full size & 22 small stained glass windows. All are scenes from Church history, the life of Christ, Church symbols & other Biblical characters; all but four were from the Mayer Studios, Munich, Germany.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1895-1910**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

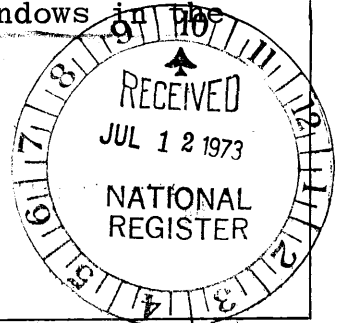
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is the Mother Church of a Diocese which embraces approximately the eastern half of Kentucky. The decision to build the Cathedral was made after the congregation outgrew the previous Cathedral, which had been preceded by a frame building, erected in 1834. The Cornerstone of the Cathedral was laid by Bishop Maes in 1895 and the new structure was opened for use in 1901; the facade was built between 1908 and 1910.

The Cathedral was erected by the Most Reverend Camillus Paul Maes, D.D. third Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. Bishop Maes, a native of Courtrai, West Flanders, Belgium, was familiar with many of the very finest Cathedrals of Europe, particularly of France and Belgium. He had studied, lived, and traveled in localities renowned for their Cathedrals, many of which dated from the mediaeval centuries when church architecture had reached its pinnacle.

Bishop Maes asked Leon Coquard, a Detroit artist and architect, to design the Cathedral and they decided upon the French-Gothic style of architecture. As a model for the interior Coquard used the fourteenth century Church of St. Denis in Paris, France. The facade which closely resembles that of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France was designed by David Davis, a local architect. The Cathedral is sometimes referred to as "the Cathedral of glass" since it has an unusually large amount of space devoted to windows. In addition to the transept window and the two rose windows, there are 57 large windows & 22 small windows. The transept or Great North Window, measuring 67 feet in height & 27 feet in width, is said to be one of the largest stained glass windows in the world.



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the Diocese of Covington, Ky. 1853-1953 by Rev. Paul E. Ryan, 1954 (privately printed, compiled from the Archives of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky)

A guide for the Cathedral, Rev. William T. Mulloy, D.D. & John H. Ramsey. Architectural detail by George F. Roth, AIA (privately printed) Written by Rev. Msgr. W. A. Freiberg, 1947

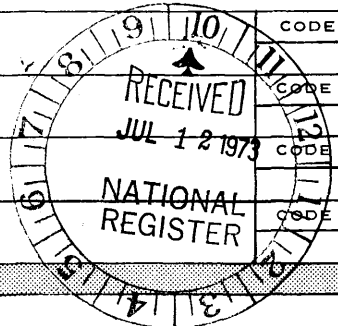
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 04' 42"	84° 30' 29"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 10 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM
16/715560
4328210
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Robert M. Rouse, Kenton County Representative

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **June 14, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
13 West Lakeside Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: **Ft. Mitchell** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Mrs. Simeon Willis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: July 9, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Rouse
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/20/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/19/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	Kentucky	
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		JUL 20 1973

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

The Stations of the Cross are made of fine Venetian mosaic from Venice, Italy at the Ellrich Bros. Studio reproduced from paintings by Max Schmalzl & each is surrounded by fine ornamental marble wainscoting. Each one contains over 70,000 pieces of tile.

The Baptistry is built in the form of a small chapel with Rosatta & Breche marble in black & gold; a small altar of Skyros marble from Greece, a bronze, gold-plated tabernacle. The ornamental gates are gold-plated bronze, & the Font carved from a single piece of Chiampa Pearla marble from Piètrosanto, Italy. The base has figures of Adam, Eve, the forbidden fruit, the serpent and the tree in the Garden of Eden.

There originally were two pipe organs & two consoles; within the past 15 years an outstanding new organ has been installed, one of the largest new organs in this part of the country.

Since 1946 extensive repairs to the exterior have been made, necessitated by the ravages of time & weather; the interior has been cleaned & repaired, the heating & lighting modernized, insulation installed, sound amplification improved.



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(Continuation Sheet) # 1

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

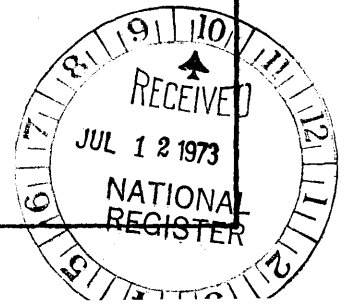
In addition to serving the people of the community the Cathedral is an inspiration; it serves as a study for student of architecture, art and design. It is considered by many to be an architectural masterpiece. The art portrayed in the marble, carved wood, wrought metal, paintings, tile, art glass, and sculpture is unusually fine.

The statue of the Madonna and Child which stands on a high pedestal between the two central doors of the front entrance is of exceptional merit. The bas-relief sculpture of the tympanum above the three front entrances is of Mary's Assumption into Heaven. Both of these works were carved by Clement J. Barnhorn (1857-1935), instructor of sculpture at the Cincinnati Art Academy, who has been called "the greatest ecclesiastical art **Sculptor** of his time in America."

Frank Duveneck (1848-1919) painted a group of three large Gothic panels on the east wall depicting the Sacrifice of the Cross on Calvary, a High Priest of the Old Law offering sacrifice to God and the Sacrifice of the New Law instituted at the Last Supper by Jesus Christ with the consecration of bread and wine. He also painted a panel on the west wall of the chapel portraying Christ at Emmaus on the occasion when he was recognized by His disciples in the breaking of the bread. Frank Duveneck was born in Covington, Kentucky and studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy. When he studied in Munich under Courbet, Leibl and Dietz he took most of the prizes even though he was only a first year student. Duveneck was a realist with a simple, direct style. Even though he painted very rapidly, his paintings reveal a wealth of detail. Duveneck opened a school in Munich which he later moved to Florence. When he returned to the United States in 1890 he accepted the position as head of the Cincinnati Art Academy and remained there for the rest of his life, teaching and painting.

The Cathedral windows which were designed and executed at the Mayer Studios in Munich, Germany show the skill of Franz Mayer who had an excellent eye for color and color combinations. Assisting him in designing the pictures were artists of the highest caliber; in fact, many were teachers in the Royal Art Academy in Munich. Among the better known was Professor Von Feuerstein whose paintings of the Stations of the Cross gave him international recognition.

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M.S. 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) # 2

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Kenton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 20 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Stations of the Cross were done in ~~mosaic~~ by the Ellrich Brothers of Venice, Italy. Each of the 3' x 6' Stations contains approximately 70,000 pieces of tile. The detail and shading in the mosaics are excellent.

St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, a beautiful medieval French Gothic Cathedral is significant not only for its architectural merit but also for its art treasures.

