

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Milwaukee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
812 North Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Milwaukee

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
5th

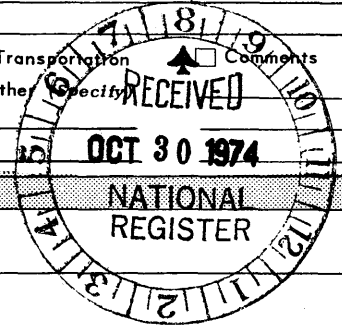
STATE: **Wisconsin** 53202 CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Milwaukee** CODE: **079**

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"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

STREET AND NUMBER:
345 North 95th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Wauwatosa

STATE: **Wisconsin** 53226 CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
901 North Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Milwaukee

STATE: **Wisconsin** 53233 CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: **Wisconsin** 53706 CODE: **55**

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Cathedral stands on the east side of North Jackson Street in downtown Milwaukee. It faces one of the city's oldest parks, created in 1837 as Courthouse Square and now named Cathedral Square.

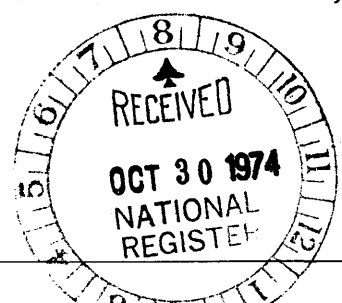
The cathedral is one of the three Zopfstil church edifices in the city of Milwaukee designed in the 1840s by the German-born carpenter-architect Victor Schulte. Like its contemporaries, St. Mary's and Holy Trinity, it is a simple, rectangular building, classical in form and detail, with walls of cream-colored local brick. As befits its function, St. John's is the largest and most imposing of the three.

The facade (west elevation) is a symmetrical, three-bay, pavilioned composition, with one portal centered in each bay. Above the north and south doors are pedimented niches; above the central portal is a pedimented window. Doric pilasters mark the bays of facade and side elevations, and an entablature of the same order encircles the building. Aisle windows, one per bay, are pedimented, rectangular openings. Centered above the facade is the three-stage tower, the first stage ornamented with simplified Corinthian pilasters and pedimented windows and having a clock in each of its four faces. The second and third stages, a superb Neo-Baroque design, are not original construction but were erected in the 1890s in place of the earlier cupola, removed because it had become structurally unsound.

In January 1935 the cathedral was all but destroyed by fire. Richard W. E. Perrin gives this account in Milwaukee Landmarks: "The nave and chancel areas were gutted, precious stained glass windows, mural paintings, as well as a valuable pipe organ, were completely destroyed. The roof caved in and even the outside walls were severely damaged due to the intense heat. Only the tower remained intact. Fire Chief Peter Steinkellner was personally in charge of fighting the fire. When he realized that the church proper could not be saved, he concentrated his efforts on the tower and succeeded in saving it." Perrin continues: "In 1936 he rebuilding of the Cathedral was begun under the direction of Archbishop Samuel Stritch according to designs prepared by the architect William R. Perry of Pittsburgh. The nave and chancel areas were elongated and extended all the way to Van Buren Street. . . . used common brick from older buildings in the neighborhood was employed to harmonize with the existing brick in the old walls. The work of restoration was finished in 1942, rededication taking place on Christmas Eve of that year."

Summarizing, the portions of the original fabric that remain are the west, north, and south walls and the first stage of the tower. The upper stages of the tower date from the last decade of the 19th century and the interior, together with the addition on the east end, from 1936-42.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input 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) **1847-53; 1892-93; 1936-42**

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 type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input 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

Long a landmark to the Milwaukee area's Roman Catholics, St. John's Cathedral was accorded official Milwaukee Landmark status this year in recognition of its historical and architectural significance to the community. St. John's is not only one of the city's oldest church buildings but also one of the three surviving Zopfstil churches, all of which were planned in the 1840s by Victor Schulte. Construction of the cathedral began in 1847 and was completed in 1853. As indicated, much of the original exterior has survived. All later construction--the handsome Neo-Baroque tower of 1892-93, designed by George Bowman Ferry of Milwaukee's Ferry & Clas firm, and the stately and spacious interior of 1936-42, planned by Pittsburgh architect William R. Perry--has harmonized in form and spirit with the pre-Civil War fabric.

St. John's is the first church built in Wisconsin specifically as a Catholic cathedral. Wisconsin was made a diocese in 1843 and its first bishop, John Martin Henni, arrived in 1844. Old St. Peter's Church in Milwaukee, now a National Register property in St. Francis, served as Henni's pro-cathedral until St. John's was completed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Centennial History of St. John's Cathedral, 1847-1947, Milwaukee, 1947.
Fifty Years at Saint John's Cathedral, Milwaukee, 1897.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, 1962, 52-53.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Milwaukee Landmarks, Milwaukee, 1968, 6-9.

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		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	



APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Milwaukee Landmarks Commission DATE: Aug. 7, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
734 North Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date Oct. 23, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Hartman
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST:

George F. Emery
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 31 1974

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

ST. JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

October 10, 1974

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55

