

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAY 7 1982**
DATE ENTERED **JUN 3 1982**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Anthony's Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

329 S. 3rd St.

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sterling

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Logan

CODE

043

N/A VICINITY OF

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver

STREET & NUMBER

Catholic Pastoral Center, 200 Josephine St.

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80206

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Logan County District Courthouse Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Between 3rd & 4th St. on Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Sterling

STATE

Colorado 80751

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Ongoing

NA FEDERAL STATE *NA* COUNTY *NA* LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<u>NA</u> EXCELLENT	<u>NA</u> DETERIORATED	<u>X</u> UNALTERED	<u>X</u> ORIGINAL SITE	<u>NA</u> MOVED	DATE <u>NA</u>
<u>X</u> GOOD	<u>NA</u> RUINS	<u>NA</u> ALTERED			
<u>NA</u> FAIR	<u>NA</u> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St Anthony's Catholic Church is located in a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood, two blocks from downtown Sterling. It is a single detached structure of red brick laid in courses of stretcher bond. The style of the church is Romanesque-Revival and the shape the typical cruciform associated with the Romanesque style. There is a flat-roofed two stor tower to one side of the gabled nave and a three story tower with pyramidal roof to the other. Both towers are decorated with crenellations and a pattern of corbels.

The main entrance is within a compound round arch with tympanum and half pillars, which is within a pointed arch. Above is a large rose window. The gable of the nave is decorated with brick corbels. There are two smaller entrances to each side of the main entrance, opening into the towers.

The windows of the church are almost all round-arched with stone sills. Arches over windows and doors and the surround of the rose window are all of light colored brick, giving added emphasis to decorative elements of the building. Windows are all filled with leaded, staine glass.

The outside of the church appears very much as when it was built. The inside was renovated in 1958 with the addition of a choir loft and balcony platform. The lighting was improved and an exit door built in the southeast corner of the church. Another renovation took place in 1973 when the church was rededicated. At that time the interior was updated by replacing the old altar with a new one, and moving the choir risers and the organ to the north amber of the church. The beautiful stained glass windows are the origina

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT *Unknown*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St Anthony's Catholic Church is significant for its handsome architecture and for the important role it has played in the lives of several of Sterling's major immigrant groups.

The Catholic minority in Sterling struggled with discrimination and poverty amidst the predominantly Protestant early settlers of the area. It was not until well into the twentieth century that the various immigrant groups blended into the community.

The Catholic Church in Sterling started as a mission with the pastor of the Catholic Church of Brighton, Colorado, visiting the area whenever convenient. Services were conducted in a private family home. In 1888 the first Catholic Church in Sterling, St. John the Baptist, was built on Walnut Street. It was the fourth church to be built in the town. However, the structure was not substantially built and was destroyed by a wind-storm in 1890. It was 1902 before the parishioners were able to abandon temporary church facilities and again consider having their own building. An old brick church building on the corner of Chestnut Street and North Fifth Street was purchased, improvements made, and later an addition built. Sterling became a parish on September 1, 1908, when the Most Rev. Nicholas Matz, Bishop of Denver, appointed the Rev. P.U. Sasse as the first resident pastor.

The first Catholic immigrants in the area were Italian, some from earlier settlements in Kansas and others from the coal mines around Trinidad, Colorado. The next group to come were the Irish. With the introduction of sugar beet cultivation in the region at the turn of the century, a large number of German-Russian immigrants arrived to work in the beet fields. The German-Russians were part of a group which had emigrated to Russia during the time of Catherine the Great, proudly retaining their German language and customs over the next hundred years. Members of the group fled to America at the end of the 19th century when the Russians began a program of "russification." These Volga-Germans eventually constituted the largest immigrant group in the Sterling area, and their descendants still form a significant part of the town's population.

A large number of the Volga-Germans were of the Catholic faith and they soon swelled the number of congregants for the small church on Chestnut Street. It was obvious that a new building was needed. In 1910 ground was purchased at the corner of South Third and Cedar Streets, the contractor Neal Hogg of Sterling hired, and construction began. The Romanesque-Revival style was used throughout the church, which was built to seat five hundred congregants.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, November 5, 1911. The name St. Anthony's was chosen in honor of the patron saint of Anthony Giacomini, a member of the church. Mr. Giacomini was one of Sterling's oldest settlers and a generous contributor to the church. He came to

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Denver Catholic Register, Logan County Advocate,
Sterling Democrat, Sterling Advocate

St. Anthony's Parish Records

Wells, Dale. The Logan County Ledger. The Logan County Historical Society, 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Sterling South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 651420 44971960

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 5, S $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 6 Block 9 original filing, Sterling

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

NA

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Florence Rizzolo

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Church member & historian

March 11, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

420 Glenora

303-522-2183

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Sterling

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL NA

STATE NA

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

Arthur C. Johnson

DATE

3-27-82

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

6/3/82

Melona Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Sterling after having first tried Argentina and then several places in Nebraska. A well educated man who could speak four languages, Giacomini operated a prosperous homestead. Descendants of the Giacomini's still live in the area.

Architecturally, St. Anthony's is one of the most distinctive examples of the Romanesque Revival in Sterling. Historically, it is the most significant remaining structure connected with the early history of an important segment of the town's population. It is a most fitting monument to those groups.