PHφ364274

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1977

DATE ENTERED NOV 9 1977

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
St. Mary's Catholic Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
317 North New Jersey Street   —NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis   — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
11th

STATE
Indiana

CODE
018

COUNTY
Marion

CODE
097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE	—MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	—PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	—ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	—YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	—OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

STREET & NUMBER
1350 North Pennsylvania Street

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis   — VICINITY OF

STATE
Indiana   46202

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.   City-County Building

STREET & NUMBER
200 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis,

STATE
Indiana   46204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE
1972   —FEDERAL X STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS   Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums and Memorials

CITY, TOWN
Indianapolis

STATE
Indiana   46204

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church is a late Gothic Revival edifice modeled
after Koln Cathedral. It has a cruciform plan, with narthex and a seim-octagonal apse.
The foundation is rusticated ashlar, while the walls are dressed stone. The facade has a
tripartite division, with gabled nave flanked by symmetrical towers. The elevation of the
nave is two stories. The central portal is set between buttresses that support the gable
over the doorway; the gable contains a trefoil motif and has crockets and a finial. The
tympanum is filled with a relief sculpture of the crucifixion. Flanking the doorway is a
frieze of blind arches; beneath the frieze, there are two narrow pointed arch windows.
A stepped course above the central window rises following the rake of the gable; it serves
as the platform for a stepped, pointed arch, blind arcade. It also continues across the
face of the towers and becomes the cornice moulding along the nave walls. The central
gable decoration is a statue of the Virgin, standing in a bracketed niche with a canopy
above. The verges are undecorated. The towers have four story elevations, the first
three square in plan and the fourth octagonal. Steep spires with crocketed caps surmoun-
ted by crosses rise above the cornice. The ground story elevation of the towers is
similar to that of the nave facade. The tympanum of the north tower shows the birth of
Christ, that of the south tower is of the Ascension. The second story has pointed arch
windows with severely plain reveals. In the third story, the window treatment is more
elaborate, with narrow lancets enframed by mouldings that form a bell-cast gable above
the window opening. The windows in the lantern are tall lancets, filled in with louvers;
secondary buttresses that spring from the cornice of the third story terminate the finials
The main tower buttresses rise into the fourth story, filling in the triangular spaces
left by the octagonal towers resting on the square towers. The arrangement of the
buttresses, expecially at the fourth story of the towers, the nave doorway with arched
windows above, the four story tower elevations, and the crocketed finialed gables that
enliven the facade suggest the resemblance between St. Mary's Catholic Church and the
Koln Cathedral.

The side walls of the church are relatively plain and severe, with buttresses between
the window bays. The vault over each bay is covered by a longitudinal hipped roof; thus,
on the side elevations, the roof appears to be a series of hips, each decorated with a
dormer window.

The transcepts are also relatively plain; the end walls have large pointed arch windows
with flanking buttresses. The cornice line of the sidewalls becomes a string course,
that steps up, following the rake of the gable. Above the moulding, a blind arcade of
pointed arches springs from decorated corbels. The major gable decoration on both
transcept arms is a statue set in a niche similar to that on the main facade; the south
transcept shows St. Henry and the north transcept St. Boniface; St. Henry is remembered
as the German "church builder" and St. Boniface (680?-755AD) as the English missionary
sent to convert the German pagans to Christianity.

The apse is semi-octagonal above the rectangular ground floor. On each face of the
apse is a pointed arch window; buttresses rise at the corners. The windows of the apse,
like those of the nave and transcept, are severely treated with splayed reveals and no
decorative trim.

The broad steps across the facade lead into the narthex. It has ribbed vaults; at the
south end it terminates in a semi-octagonal bay which was originally the baptistry.

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At the north end the bay is behind a wall dẹviding narthex from the tower stairs.

In plan, the church has a nave and side aisles. This is the architectural plan;
the pews are arranged so that there is a central aisle, and the architectural side
aisles are partially filled with pews. In elevation, the aisles are nearly as tall as
the nave. The nave is divided into five bays, with the crossing at the second bay
from the apse. The aisles are about half the width of the nave. The nave bays are
rectangular, with ribbed vaulting; at the crossing. The bay is square, with suitable
elaboration of the ribbing to emphasize the larger size and greater importance of this
bay. The vaults spring from round, marble columns that rest on high octagonal bases;
the capitals of the columns are polychromed and have a floral motif. The ribs of
the aisle bays spring from the columns and from clusters of engaged colonettes that rise
along the outer walls; the capitals of the colonettes repeat the floral motif in the
capitals of the columns. In addition to supporting the vaulting ribs, the colonettes
divide the aisle walls into bays, each of which as a large, pointed arch window with
stained glass. Below the window, niches with Tudor arched heads run along the side
walls; the two westernmost on each sidewall are shrine areas while the first bay from the
crossing on each sidewall is a confessional, with brass framing set within each arch.
The apse is semi-octagonal, with windows on each of the five walls. The arch between
nave and apse is heavily moulded.

Above the narthex, there is an organ loft that opens into the chancel. The bal-
ustrade, with a facing decorated with a blind arcade of pointed arches, cantelevers
into the nave on a framework of arches. Four engaged columns across the back wall ap-
pear to support the ribs of the arches.

The ceiling of the church is cork tiles, decorated with floral motifs similar to
those on the capitals of the columns and the colonettes. The walls have been sheathed
in sandstone to the gieght of the windows; in the apse, the entire wall is sheathed in
sandstone. Above the stone, the walls are plastered and painted a solid color; in the
apse, they were once decorated with trefoils. There is a large, brass baldechino in the
crossing bay; it is similar to the work on the confessionals. The alterations to the
interior were made in 1956-57.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES   Groundbreaking:May 1, 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT   Hermann Gaul
                  Dedication: Sept. 8, 1912

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Catholic Church is an historical and architectural symbol of German influence in the nineteenth-century settlement and development of Indiana.

In the 1850's the United States received a flood of German immigrants, many of whom left their native land after the failure of the 1848 Revolutions. These immigrants became the farmers, laboreres, and businessmen who settled and developed the social and commercial life of the Midwestern States. The German influence was particularly strong in Indiana during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

When Catholic diocese leaders became aware of the growing German Catholic population in Indianapolis, they sent the Reverend L. Brandt in 1856 from Vincennes to organize a new congregation. Although the first Indianapolis Catholic Church had been formed in 1840, Catholic leaders believed that a German-speaking pastor would be better equipped to meet the needs of the new settlers.

Although Father Brandt started the new parish, the first permanent pastor was Reverend Simon Siegrist. He conducted the first services in the first St. Mary's Church building, which was completed in 1858. This structure was located at 117 E. Maryland Street. The parish was a national church, designed to appeal to German Catholics by conducting service in German and retaining Old World traditions.

By 1900, the first generation descendants of the German Catholic immigrants had become dissatisfied with the East Maryland location. As Indianapolis developed, Maryland Street changed from a residential to a commercial area. In 1910, the congregation bought property in a residential neighborhood at New Jersey and Vermont Streets.

The new church that was constructed from 1910 to 1912 is an indication of the strength of nationalism and the desire of European immigrants to preserve their Old World Culture. Led by the Reverend Anthony Scheideler, a native of Borgholz, Germany, the congregation commissioned architect Hermann Gaul to design the new church.

Gaul was a native of Koln (Cologne), Germany, and from his youth had admired the great Koln Cathedral. Gaul also designed a factory structure in Indianapolis (Home Brewing Company at 38 Shelby Street) and a number of churches in Chicago.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Indiana Architectural Foundation, Indianapolis
Architecture-Indianapolis: Hilltop Press, Inc. 1975
Indianapolis News, September 9, 1912
Indianapolis Star, September 9, 1912
    (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,6| |5|7,2|7-9-5| |4,4|0,2|6,1,0| B |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|
    ZONE EASTING   NORTHING   ZONE EASTING   NORTHING
C |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__| D |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

(handwritten above Easting: 8 0 0)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sister Clarita Uehlein, Secretary

ORGANIZATION	DATE
St. Mary's Catholic Church	October 13, 1975

STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
317 North New Jersey Street	(317) 637-3983

CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Indianapolis	Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___   STATE ___   LOCAL _x_

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   February 4, 1977

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer   DATE

GPO 892-453

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The St. Mary's parishioners were please with Gaul's plan to mold their new church along the lines of the Koln Cathedral. They were concerned about preserving their rich German heritage and culture in as many ways as possible. The German Gothic Revival style of the 1912 church was a fitting house for the German-language services and customs.

Architecturally, the 1912 structure is significant as the best example of the German Gothic Revival Style in Indianapolis and Indiana. St. Mary's Church with its dominating octagonal towers and exterior stone details has been regarded by architects as one of the better examples of German Gothic Revival in the Midwest.

World War I severely hindered the St. Mary's congregation in their efforts to preserve German culture. The strong anti-German sentiment during the war and the general decline of ethnic nationalism after the war were stronger than the congregation's will. Although German descendants remained important in the church membership, their numbers gradually declined until July 1, 1949, when St. Mary's was officially changed from a national church to a territorial parish.

St. Mary's Catholic Church remains as an example of Gothic Revival Architecture and as a reminder of the nineteenth-century German influence in Indiana and the strong ethnic nationalism in pre-World War I America.

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"New Edifice of Pioneer German Catholic Congregation," Indiana Catholic,
　　　September 6, 1912.　Page 1

Political and Biographical Memoirs of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana.
　　　Chicago:　Goodspeed Brothers, 1893.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis
　　　Chicago:　Lewis Publishing Company, 1910.

Interview with Cecilia Kings, Daughter of Hermann Gaul
　　　July 2, 1975.

Interview with Ida Striby, Sister-In-Law of Hermann Gaul
　　　July 29, 1915.