

PH0500291

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 5 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 14 1978

**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. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
one mile west on U. S. Hwy. 150
CITY, TOWN
Springfield
STATE
Kentucky
VICINITY OF
 VICINITY OF
02
COUNTY
Washington
CODE
021
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
02
CODE
229

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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
Dominican Order of St. Joseph
STREET & NUMBER
869 Lexington Avenue
CITY, TOWN
New York
VICINITY OF
STATE
New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Springfield
STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE
1971
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN
Frankfort
STATE
Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Rose Roman Catholic Church complex occupies a site on the north side of Kentucky Highway 152 in rural Washington County. Its location is two and one-half miles northwest of Springfield (the county seat), five miles southwest of the Lincoln Homestead State Park, and one mile south of St. Catherine's Academy. Situated on the crest of a small steep hill, they present an impressive image to the highway below. Surrounding them on three sides are approximately 600 acres of rolling farmland that the institution utilizes as pasture land for cattle and as a campsite for groups.

The church, designed by William Keely, was begun in 1852 and was dedicated in 1855 (see photos 1, 2, and 3). Keely (1816-96) had been responsible for the Greek Revival Custom House in Erie, Pennsylvania, and for the Gothic Revival Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville--a structure which established his reputation with Kentucky's Catholic community.

Constructed of blue limestone quarried two miles south of the site, the church's dominant element is an octagonal tower centered on the southern end and completed five years after the church's dedication. A contemporary description called the tower "grand and majestic... with its eight pinnacles mounted with limestone crosses of marble whiteness" (Freeman's Journal, October 6, 1860). The areas between the pinnacles are crenellated, and piercing each side of the tower above the gable roof is a louvered window with a cinquefoil head. These are separated by tiered buttresses that begin at the ground level and diminish in thickness upwards. On five sides of the tower's center are roundels pierced by quatrefoils, and at the lowest level are two equilateral arch entrances and two windows with pointed arch heads and stone tracery that echoes the cinquefoil heads of the louvered windows. Double buttresses set at right angles visually strengthen the four corners of the main section of the building with those at the southern end being crowned by pinnacles like those atop the tower.

The sanctuary is five bays long. These are defined by windows like those of the tower's lower level and are separated by double-tier buttresses. The pre-existing 1809 church of stuccoed brick was left in place, and was incorporated into this structure to serve as its chancel at the northern end. Each side of this section is pierced by two lancet arch windows, [and attached to this former church is the still extant 1807 three-story brick convent building.]

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1852-1855-Church; BUILDER/ARCHITECT Church/William Keely
Priory-1867; Guesthouse 1867

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Rose, the first priory of the Dominican Religious Order in the United States, was founded in 1806 by Reverend Edward D. Fenwick. The church and priory, located in what was once the center of Catholicity in the State, was the focal point of the Dominican missionary activity. It was also the site of St. Thomas College (1807-1828), the first Catholic college west of the Alleghenies. The design of the church is attributed to the prominent Roman Catholic architect, William Keely, who also designed the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, Kentucky, and several other important Catholic commissions in the State.

Members of the Dominican Order, first came to the United States in 1805 from Bornheim College, an English Dominican Province in Belgium, which had been disbanded when it was seized by French Revolutionaries. Upon making an escape from the college, Edward D. Fenwick, a native of Maryland, led a group of three Dominicans to the United States. Because Fenwick was a native of the country he was appointed Superior. (The Dominicans, a mendicant order, was founded by Saint Dominic (1170-1221), a Spanish priest.)

At this time Kentucky had a large, growing Catholic population that desperately needed priests to attend to their spiritual needs. Shortly after his arrival to this country, Fenwick traveled through Kentucky in order to select a site for a priory. In the spring of 1806, Fenwick returned to Washington County near Springfield, Kentucky with his three companions, Reverend Thomas Wilson, Reverend William Tuite, and Reverend S. Anger, where Fenwick purchased a 495 acre farm using his inheritance from his father's estate. The farm was fertile and included a two-story brick house, several outbuildings which were used as a school, as well as a saw and grist mill.

The farmhouse served as a temporary residence until the following year in 1807 when a priory was constructed. The college building was completed in 1808, and the brick church finished in 1809. All three structures were constructed with the aid of the Catholic

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kerwick, Francis W. Architects in America of Catholic Tradition. Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1962.

O'Daniel, Reverend V. F. The Right Reverend Edward Dominic Fenwick. New York, Cincinonuti: Frederick Pustet Co., 1920.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres approx.

A) Latitude $37^{\circ} 41' 38''$ B) Lat. $37^{\circ} 41' 34''$
 Longitude $85^{\circ} 15' 43''$ Long. $85^{\circ} 15' 43''$

UTM REFERENCES

C) Lat. $37^{\circ} 41' 32''$ Long. $85^{\circ} 15' 54''$ D) Lat. $37^{\circ} 41' 38''$ Long. $85^{\circ} 15' 54''$

A)

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B)

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C)

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D)

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian; Mary Cronan Oppel, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/24/77

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

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

2/14/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2.9.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex

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A cemetery to the church's east separates it from a one-story-with-basement guesthouse erected in 1867 (see photo 4). The foundation, clearly visible at one end due to the sloping site, is of limestone, while the one story above is of brick laid in common bond. Three bays long and six bays wide, all appurtenances on the facade facing the church have segmental heads with corresponding hoodmolds of brick. A denticulated frieze is below the eaves on all four sides and the hipped roof is covered with tin.

Also located on the grounds is the three-story 1867 Italianate priory. This, however, is currently being demolished and plans include replacing it with a smaller and more modern facility. The church and guesthouse are in good and fair conditions respectively.

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Standing in close proximity to the St. Rose Church is the Priory (see photo 5), an impressive Italianate building whose architect remains unknown. A new Priory had been contemplated for some years before the Civil War; consequently, when C. Louis Egan, a zealous priest, became Prior in 1866, he undertook construction of the building which was completed in 1867.

This three-story building of brick construction is eleven bays wide and three bays long. The treatment of openings and of their corresponding hood-molds varies, with those of the first level having semicircular heads, those of the second having segmental heads, and those of the third having pointed segmental heads. Spanning all four sides is an entablature whose architrave is composed of two courses of corbelled bricks. The remainder of the entablature is of wood and has narrow dentils and segmental-headed attic windows flanked by elaborate brackets and arranged in respect to the overall fenestration.

Enveloping the centered entrance of the main facade is a three-story porch. Each level includes a balustrade, coupled brackets below the cornice, and segmental arches resting on four square brick piers and two applied piers. The first level of this multi-storied porch is of higher proportions than the others, and similar one-story porches serve the entrance bays of the sides. All chimneys are built into the walls and there is a full basement of stone construction.

Resting on a square base at the apex of the hipped roof is a two-tiered lantern crowned by a dome. Coupled sash windows with six-over-six panes pierce each side of the first tier, while those of the second are singular but have the same number of panes.

According to plans, this building is slated for demolition within a year, but a listing on the National Register may thwart this aim. Theological students were housed here until 1957. Since that time, the Priory has served as a residence hall for retired or semi-retired priests of the local area.

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population in the area. Of the three original structures the church and priory remain intact as part of the present (1855) church structure. The college, named St. Thomas of Acquin, was the first Catholic secular college for boys and young men west of the Alleghenies. Emphasis was placed in the teaching of humanities, mathematics, natural and moral philosophy. Students were drawn from the North and the deep South, as well as within the State. The alumni of the college included Zachariah Riney, Abraham Lincoln's first schoolmaster, and Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy. The college closed down in 1828.

In 1811 the first ordination in the state took place at St. Rose Church when Benedict Joseph Flaget, the first Bishop of the diocese of Bardstown, was ordained into the priesthood. The complex continued to serve as a base of the Dominican missionary operations in the surrounding area, despite the closing of the college in 1828.

In 1852 the present church structure was built of limestone and the original church structure was incorporated into the building as the sanctuary. The original priory was replaced by the present four-story brick structure in 1867, although the original structure continues to be used as part of the priory complex. (The 1867 Priory is being demolished at the present time.)

Over the years as the Order of Dominicans grew and expanded into different parts of the country, St. Rose became a less important center of activity. In 1957 its use as a novitiate for men studying the priesthood was discontinued and the buildings were then used to house retired or semi-retired priests. Nonetheless, it continues to be recognized as the first religious house of the Dominican Order in the United States.

William Keely, a prominent Roman Catholic architect originally from Ireland, is responsible for the design of the 1852 church. Keely is believed to be the architect for the U. S. Custom House in Erie, Pennsylvania, which was once the U. S. Bank of Pennsylvania, and an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. Several major ecclesiastical commissions in Kentucky attributed to Keely include the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, Jefferson County (approved by the State Review Board June 5, 1973); the Abbey of Gethsemani, Nelson County; St. Theresa Church, near Rhodelia, Meade County (forwarded to Washington March 15, 1977); and the Chapel of St. Vincent dePaul for the Sisters of Charity at Nazareth, Nelson County.

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Since its dedication in 1855, the St. Rose Church has been a significant element in the surrounding area's architectural heritage. Its position atop a small steep hill renders the structure a role of prominence--a feature emphasized by the dominating octagonal tower that was described as "grand and majestic" upon its completion five years later. The tower, crowned with pinnacles of white limestone that contrasts with the local blue limestone employed in the rest of the structure, combines with the pointed windows and multi-tiered buttresses to increase the sense of height; thus, an emphasis on the vertical aspect. The hue of the construction material is complemented by the surrounding grassy expanse that is also the setting for an 1867 brick guesthouse.

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JUL 14 1977

St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex

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Sesquicentennial Saint Rose Parish, Springfield, Kentucky. 1957.

Spalding, M. J. Sketches of the Early Catholic Missions. Louisville: B. J. Webb and Brother, 1844.

Webb, Benjamin J. The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky. Louisville: Charles A. Rogers, 1884.

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St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex

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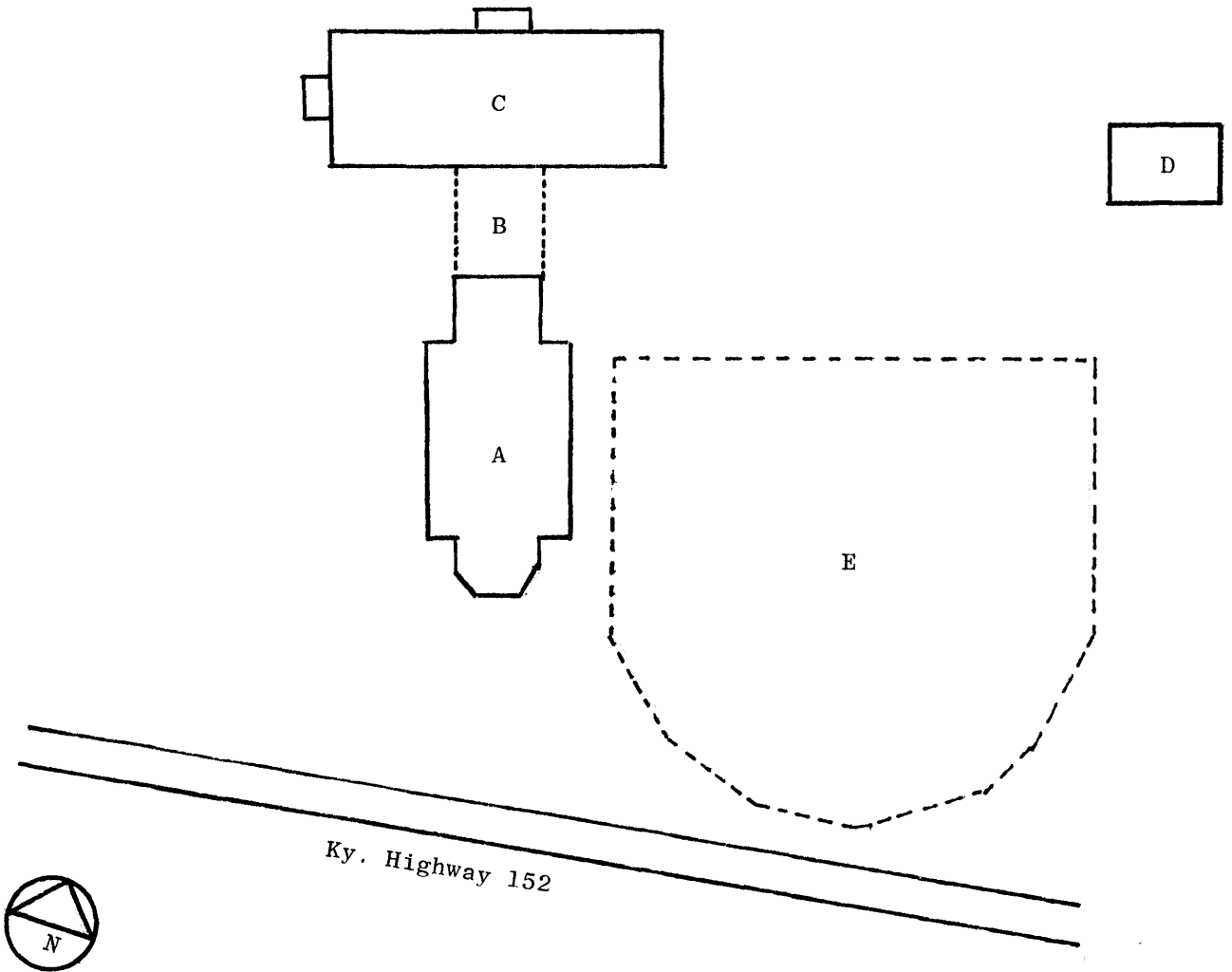
The St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex is bounded on the south by Kentucky Highway 152. A one-lane paved road on the Complex's property forms a right angle and provides the western and northern boundaries. The eastern boundary is an unpaved road which skirts the cemetery southeast of the church and connects with Highway 152.

Acreage: Approximately 11 acres.

St. Rose Roman Catholic Church Complex
Near Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky

Site Location Map
No Scale

- A Church
- B Earlier Priory
- C 1866 Priory
- D Guest House
- E Cemetery



Saint Rose Roman Catholic Church
Complex
Springfield vic., Washington Co.
Kentucky

FEB 14 1978

Daniel Kidd, Kentucky Heritage
Commission
Sketch Plan, No Scale, 1978

FEB 3 1978