

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Ramsey
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	FEB 10 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Assumption Church

AND/OR HISTORIC: Church of the Assumption

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 51 West Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Ramsey CODE: 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

STREET AND NUMBER: 240 Summit Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Saint Paul Buildings Survey

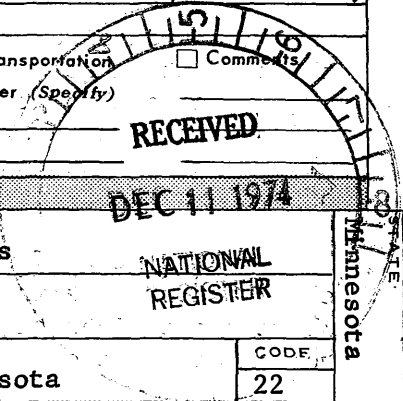
DATE OF SURVEY: 1964 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Saint Paul City Planning Board

STREET AND NUMBER: 421 Wabasha Street

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Ramsey

ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 10

DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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

The Church of the Assumption is built in the Romanesque style, however without transept (the usual crossing of transverse arms of a cross-shaped church, usually between the nave and the chancel). The design is based upon the work of Friedrich von Gaertner on the famous Ludwigskirche in Munich. Assumption is constructed on a foundation of local limestone 185 feet in length and eighty-five feet in width. The two towers at the south are identical, reaching a height of 210 feet. The total exterior facade treatment is of coursed ashlar (limestone) accentuated by pilasters of brush-hammered limestone blocks -- the effect being that of well-defined bays. The length of the church is eight such bays. The whole is sheathed with a slate roof. At the ridge of the gable and at the summits of the towers are mounted iron crosses. Over the main entry is a statue of St. Mary's Assumption.

The interior arrangement of the church consists of a small narthex opening into a clerestoried nave with a vaulted aisle on either side. From the exterior, these aisles appear to have lean-to-like roofs. The nave, from main entrance to sanctuary, has a length of 145 feet, a width of thirty-eight feet, and a height of sixty feet to the boss of the quadripartite rib vault.

The side aisles are 140 feet in length, sixteen feet in width and thirty feet in height. The sanctuary floor rises three and one-half feet above the level of the nave and forms a semi-circle twenty feet in depth and thirty feet in width. The apse with half dome is setting for the elaborate four-tiered wooden altar. Above the altar is a frescoed scene of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven which completely fills the half-dome.

To the rear of the side aisles are the sacristies, enclosed in elaborate wrought iron. They are fifteen feet by sixteen feet in dimension. Above these rises the choir loft with its monumental architecturally wood-cased pipe organ and elaborate rose window.

In regard to furnishings, the church has been retained in original appearance. In addition to the altar, the pulpit and flanking shrines were installed during the construction in 1873. At this date the pews and confessionals were also manufactured and plaster and painting of frescoes were near completion. The four bells in the east tower were installed in 1874. Three of these, the Saint Peter bell (weighing 2743 pounds), the Saint Clemens bell (weighing 336 pounds), and the Saint Joseph bell (weighing 1155 pounds) were new at that time. The fourth is the old bell from the original church of 1858. When rung together the four bells chime a harmonious D-Moll.

Assumption Church is presently in a good state of preservation, however tension rods have been installed in the past to counteract the outward force of the vaults on the limestone walls. It continues to serve its original function, and plans indicate continued preservation effort.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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

The first Church of the Assumption was established with the separation of the German Catholics from the Cathedral parish (St. Paul) in 1856. By 1858 a church building had been constructed (across from the site of the present building). Charge of this new parish was taken by the Abbot Rupert of St. John's Abbey near present-day Collegeville, Minnesota. In addition the parish assumed two missions in Hastings and Oakdale - a distance from Saint Paul.

By 1869 the original Assumption Church was noted to be too small and beginning to deteriorate. Plans were then made by the Pastor Father Clement Staub, O.S.B. to construct a large stone edifice. Contact was made with German architect, Joseph Reidl, court architect to the ruling Wittelsbach family in Bavaria, who was asked to design the church. Reidl (1813-85) had been a pupil in the studio of the architect Friedrich von Gaertner who dominated the scene of the German Romanesque Revival in the Nineteenth Century.

Reidl accepted commission to design Assumption Church and based this design on von Gaertner's famous Ludwigskirche in Munich. In 1870 the ground was broken and foundation work begun. By June 4 of 1871 the corner stone had been laid and all contracts for construction signed. All masonry work and stone dressing was provided by Schlick, Erd and Bahnholzer of Saint Paul. Throughout construction a sense of alarm was present among visiting Abbots, clergy and parishioners as to the size and cost of the proposed structure, however construction continued and debts accumulated. Father Clement Staub himself suffered a severe nervous breakdown during construction as a result of over-taxation of his strength.

The new church was consecrated on 18 October 1874. The church served the state's largest parish, but located as it was in the business district of Saint Paul, it met the needs of transients. Colman Barry, in his book Worship and Work stated, "It stands today as a memorial to the architectural pioneering of the German people of Saint Paul and their early Benedictine pastors". This statement is further reinforced by George N. Schuster who noted this contribution as recently as 1953, when he wrote:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(see continuation sheet)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. Paul Dispatch, 18 October 1974 and 24 July 1974
 Barry, Coleman, Worship and Work
 Hurley, Sister Helen A., Minnesota History, 30:7
History of Assumption Parish, 1931
 Koepper, Fred, Historic Saint Paul Buildings, 1964

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

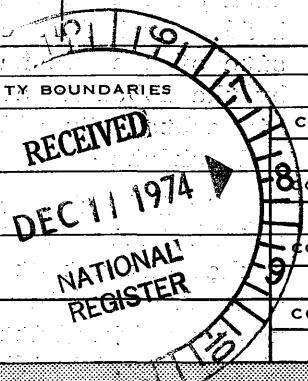
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		44 0 56	93 0 05	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		52 0 00	56 0 00	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

15/492200
 4976940
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approx. 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Nelson - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **24 October 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

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: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: December 7, 1974

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/10/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-6-75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Ramsey	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 10 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

"In downtown Saint Paul you will find the old church of the Assumption dwarfed by the grandeur of the new Cathedral erected on the hill above it, but still in many respects more significant. For the Assumption came right out of the heart of the German Rhineland, is as close as the builders could come to the score of small ministers in which the glory of Mainz or Maria Laach was scaled down to meet the needs and desires of lesser towns like Andernach. It belongs where it was put up, because at the time it was the Catholic Rhineland which moved into Minnesota."

Thus, Assumption church stands today as a significant statement of both Saint Paul's architectural and German pioneer heritage, as well as being recognized statewide for these same reasons.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
Church of the Assumption in
Ramsey County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 75001008

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Ramsey

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Church of the Assumption (Catholic)

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date