

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

**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. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church of Denver, Colorado

AND/OR COMMON St. Joseph's Redemptorist Church

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
600 Galapago

*NA* NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

*NA* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
#1

STATE  
Colorado 80204

CODE  
08

COUNTY  
Denver

CODE  
X

**CLASSIFICATION**

<i>NA</i> DISTRICT	<i>NA</i> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<i>NA</i> AGRICULTURE	<i>NA</i> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<i>NA</i> UNOCCUPIED	<i>NA</i> COMMERCIAL	<i>NA</i> PARK
<i>NA</i> STRUCTURE	<i>NA</i> BOTH	<i>NA</i> WORK IN PROGRESS	<i>NA</i> EDUCATIONAL	<i>NA</i> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<i>NA</i> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<i>NA</i> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<i>NA</i> OBJECT	<i>NA</i> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<i>NA</i> GOVERNMENT	<i>NA</i> SCIENTIFIC
	<i>NA</i> BEING CONSIDERED	<i>NA</i> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<i>NA</i> INDUSTRIAL	<i>NA</i> TRANSPORTATION
		<i>NA</i> NO	<i>NA</i> MILITARY	<i>NA</i> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Redemptorist Fathers of Denver

STREET & NUMBER  
622 W. 6th Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

*NA* VICINITY OF

STATE  
Colorado 80204

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER  
1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

STATE  
Colorado 80202

**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

~~NA~~ EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
~~NA~~ FAIR

## CONDITION

~~WA~~ DETERIORATED  
~~WA~~ RUINS  
~~NA~~ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

~~NA~~ UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
~~NA~~ MOVED      DATE NA

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Joseph's Redemptorist Church is a two-story painted brick structure rendered in the Late-Victorian-Gothic style of architecture. The design of the building is composed around two large square towers. Each tower features a major entrance of the church capped with pointed arch surround heads with trefoil openings and engaged half columns. Triplets of lancet windows are found above the entrances and on the sides of the towers. These are repeated on the main facade of the building in the space between the two entryways. Lancet windows are again used on the second level of the north and south walls. First story windows on these facades are double hung and rectangular.

Besides the two towers, the main facade features a large stained glass window executed in traditional gothic fashion patterned by intersecting window muntins. Painted stone string courses highlight this and other architectural features of the building as well as providing visual unity to the entire composition.

The plan of the church is Basilican with the exterior sheathing enclosing a large, open, interior space. Again gothic details are found inside in a system of pointed arched intersecting trusses. Interior columns are decorated with ornamental mill work. The interior focus of the church rests on a beautifully lit aspe holding a carved altarpiece.

St. Joseph's Redemptorist Church has been altered since it was originally constructed. A steeple tower roof was added in 1914 replacing the original pyramidal roof. Also in 1914, the sacristy was enlarged and in 1923, a hallway was added connecting the church with the rectory located just east of it. A gym was constructed on the north side of the church in 1949. The gym is separated structurally from the church by a small single-story brick connecting building. This addition was found not to adversely effect the structure's integrity in a request made for a determination of eligibility in May, 1980.

Despite the additions to the church over the years, both the interior and exterior reflect its period of architecture while retaining its most significant architectural features.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1888-1889 built BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown  
 Additions: 1914, 23, 49

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph's Redemptorist Church is significant as a representative type of period architecture in Denver, for its association with important events in the religious history of Denver, and as a major institutional building in a well-preserved working class neighborhood of the late 1800's.

Architecturally, the church is significant as an example of the style of institutional architecture which was predominant in Denver during the 1880s - 90s. The architecture takes on greater significance because of one feature of the building--the stained glass windows. All of them are American-made, an apparently unusual circumstance for the time, as the common conception of the people at the time St. Joseph's was built was that church windows had to be imported from Europe. The stained glass windows are also unique in that they contain clear prisms.

Historically, St. Joseph's was the scene of a mass excommunication. From 1883 until 1894, St. Joseph's was a diocesan church known as St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. Reverend Thomas Malone became the second pastor in 1886 and was pastor until 11:00 a.m., May 2, 1894. He was financial agent for the church from 1886 through December 31, 1892, and was charged with handling monies for construction of the church building and other parish expenses. On August 10, 1893 and on various occasions thereafter, Bishop Matz, Bishop of the Denver Diocese, charged that there was a shortage of some \$12,000 in Reverend Malone's church accounts. The Bishop attributed this shortage to embezzlement and misappropriation of funds by Reverend Malone. On April 26, 1894, suit was filed by Bishop Matz for civil remedy of this matter. The trial began May 1, 1894, with Albert P. Rittenhouse as referee. It appears as though the case was not resolved. In any matter, on May 2, 1894, Bishop Matz suspended Reverend Malone of his faculties. Then, on the afternoon of May 5, 1894, at a parish meeting in the church building, over 100 parishioners decided as a parish to sue Reverend Malone. Bishop Matz was in attendance and asked that they not sue Reverend Malone, but when the parishioners persisted, Bishop Matz excommunicated the parishioners present and Reverend Malone.

St Joseph's Redemptorist Church lies within the UDAG (Urban Development Action Grant) La Alma-Lincoln Park Neighborhood boundaries. The neighborhood, one of the oldest in Denver and otherwise known as Westside, includes an historic district within its boundaries. The houses in this district were largely erected prior to and at the time St. Joseph's was built. The people of the area were mainly of German and Irish ethnic identity and, up until 1922, many of the men were employed as railroad workers. In 1922, the railroads laid off many workers, but these workers remained living in the area, presumably obtaining other employment. St. Joseph's Church represented an important institution in this neighborhood and remains today an important historic landmark in a well-preserved setting of a Denver working class neighborhood of the late 1800's - 1900's.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Burke, Leroy. Reverend C.Ss.R. Interview. November 23, 1980  
Denver Catholic Register. 25:22. December 12, 1929.  
Denver Catholic Register. "Church is Hub of People's Activity at St. Joseph's."  
 November 10, 1938. p.p.1,6  
Denver Catholic Register. "St. Joseph's Church is being Remodeled for Golden Jubilee."  
 June 16, 1938.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Englewood QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	5 0 1 0 3 9 1 0	4 3 9 7 1 5 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION St. Joseph's occupies 2½ city lots and is roughly 50'x100' starting at a point on the east corner of 6th Avenue and Galapago St. proceed due North 200' and turn proceeding due East 150'. Then proceed due South 200' and turn proceeding due West 150' to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
N/A			

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon G. Leddin-Student

ORGANIZATION

Private Citizen

DATE

12-4-80

STREET & NUMBER

314 W. 4th Avenue

TELEPHONE

722-8436

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80223

# 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

*Cathleen C. Townsend*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4.6.82

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION