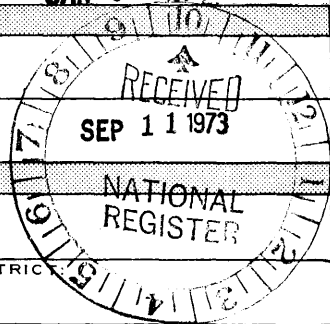


PH001-110

STATE:	Kentucky
COUNTY:	Nelson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 9 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON: St. Joseph Proto Cathedral

AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Joseph Cathedral

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West Stephen Foster Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Bardstown CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Nelson CODE: 179

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" 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 Louisville, Kentucky

STREET AND NUMBER: 443 South Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Louisville STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Nelson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Town Square

CITY OR TOWN: Bardstown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 9 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

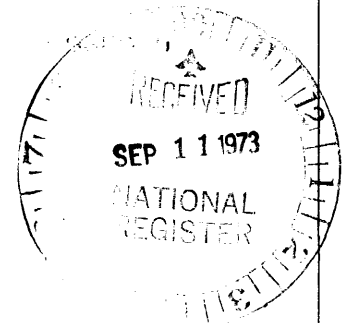
(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Work on St. Joseph Proto Cathedral began in 1816 and was completed in 1819. Erected under the supervision of Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, its architect was John Rogers of Baltimore, Maryland and its brick mason was Colonel James Marshall Browne of Bardstown, Kentucky. Its walls are two feet thick and according to J. Winston Coleman, Jr. in Historic Kentucky, its dimensions are "129 feet long, 65 feet wide and the tower rises 140 feet above the sidewalk."

It was described by Rexford Newcomb in Architecture in Old Kentucky. "The exterior of this noble edifice, in the full Federal style, presents a forthright, brick gabled mass, amplified by a hexastyle Ionic portico with a clock tower and spire at the front. The stone used was taken from local quarries, and the brick was burned on the grounds. The massive columns inside and out are of poplar tree trunks, the balance of the interior woodwork being of hand-hewn walnut. The interior shafts are furred, plastered, and painted to simulate marble. They are crowned by Corinthian capitals modeled after those of the Tower of the Winds, Athens. The nave is covered with a tunnel vault of plaster, the side aisles with cross vaults. In the summer of 1819 this edifice, at the time considered the finest church in the West, was completed. It served as a cathedral until the 1840's, when the episcopal See was transferred to Louisville. During these three decades Bardstown was often called the "Rome of the West." "

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. 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) **1816-1819**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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

St. Joseph Proto Cathedral was the first cathedral west of the Alleghenies and the second in the United States. During the two decades (1819-1841) that the See was located at Bardstown, the town was often referred to as the "Rome of the West."

In Kentucky: A Guide to the Bluegrass State, St. Joseph Proto Cathedral was described as: "a notable example of church architecture in its period." According to architectural historian J. Winston Coleman, Jr., it is noted for its splendid architecture and excellent preservation." Completed in 1819, the 154 year old building is still a magnificent edifice.

Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget, who supervised the construction of the Cathedral, was both the first Catholic prelate in the western country and the Bishop of Bardstown, serving an area that included Kentucky, Tennessee and the entire Northwest. According to tradition, nine paintings, a large bell and some priest's vestments were gifts to Bishop Flaget & the Cathedral from Louis Philippe, the King of France. Following is the information given in Historic Bardstown: "of particular interest in the Cathedral are nine works of art, three paintings by Van Dyke, two credited to the Van Eyck Brothers, one to Murillo, one to Reubens, one to Van Bree, one to an unidentified artist. These are looked upon as rich fruits from kindness bestowed on Louis Philippe and his two brothers, exiles from France, by Flaget in Havana in November 1798 and later when they were guests of the Bishop in Bardstown. When Louis Philippe became King of France, he is said to have sent the paintings to Bishop Flaget. The bell, also, was the gift of Louis Philippe. It was cast first by Les-Feres Jean at Lyons, France, in 1773. It is 3 feet 6 inches high and 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. It became cracked in some way since hanging in St. Joseph's and had to be recast. . . . (There are also) some lovely priest vestments which were presented by Louis Philippe - the embroidery being the work of the queen and her maids."

The Cathedral was called St. Joseph Cathedral until the See was moved to Louisville in 1841. Since then it has been called the St. Joseph Proto Cathedral.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith, Sarah Borders. Historic Bardstown, Nelson County. Shepherdsville, Kentucky: Publishers Printing Company, 1968.

Newcomb Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953.

Coleman, J. Winston, Jr. Historic Kentucky. Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1968.
 Kentucky: A Guide to the Bluegrass State. American Guide Series. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1939.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

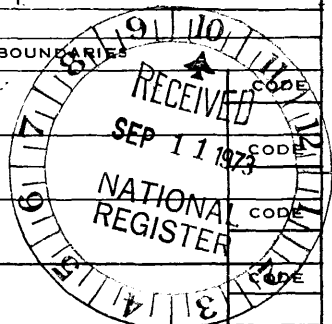
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R		LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES						
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	48'	39"	85°	28'	18"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

UTM
16/634510
4185710

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Sarah B. Smith, Nelson County Representative**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky Heritage Commission** DATE: **August 1, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **517 N. 3rd Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bardstown** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

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: Mrs. Simone Willis

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 7, 1973

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

[Signature] 1/9/74
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-7-74