

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 3 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1979

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Patrick Mission Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Patrick's

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

3325 Pecos St.

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

\_\_ VICINITY OF

1

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. Patrick's Church Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

3325 Pecos St.

CITY, TOWN

Denver

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80211

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk, City and County of Denver

STREET & NUMBER

City & County Building, 1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (16/01/0010)

DATE

Ongoing

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

Located at 3325 Pecos Street in Denver, the St. Patrick Mission Church complex, all in the Mission style consists of the church building itself at the south end of the property, the rectory at the north end, and an arcaded, covered walkway connecting the two. All these structures were constructed of smooth-dressed buff stone in alternating courses of narrow, wide, wide, narrow, etc. The roof material is red barrel (Mission) tile except for domes which cap the towers, these being of painted sheet metal.

The church is a two-story rectangular structure. On the main facade is an entrance porch whose roof is supported by wood beams bearing on three semi-circular arches which spring from stone piers. Centered above the porch is a large, segmental, stained and painted glass window with a segmental arched head. Above this, and extending above the shallow gabled tile roof, the stone wall displays the simplified Baroque capped curve which characterizes the Mission style. At the front corners of the church are square towers, the taller projecting slightly and the shorter recessed slightly, each terminating in open columned lanterns which in turn have metal domes surmounted by a cross. The long sides of the nave are pierced regularly by stained glass windows with segmental arched heads located between engaged columns supporting the wood, open scissors trusses which are the main support for the roof. The apse projects beyond, and lower than, the nave area in a half-hexagonal plan without windows or openings.

The church is connected to the rectory by a narrow covered walkway whose flat roof is supported on both sides by stone piers and semi-circular arches. The two-story rectory is of the same material and design style as the church and contains church offices as well as quarters for two priests.

Additions to the complex consist of a small sacristy adjacent to the chapel to the north constructed of concrete block in 1953 and a one-story addition to the south side of the rectory constructed also of concrete block in 1954. In 1975 the entire complex, including the buff colored stone, the brown trim, and the brown lantern domes was painted white. Most of the paint on the stone work is now peeling badly.

Ed. JEF 7/79

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1907 - present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wagner and Manning

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Patrick Mission Church and Rectory, begun in 1907 and completed in 1910, are significant both historically and architecturally. The second church to serve St. Patrick's parish, the Franciscan-mission styled architecture represents not only a suitable style for the Far West but also the vision shared by its pastor and his people of a church whose facilities would serve all people of the area, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. For this reason the word "Mission" was incorporated into the wording of the cornerstone when it was laid in September, 1907.

St. Patrick's parish was established in 1881 by Bishop Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, first Bishop of the See of Denver, and known as the "Apostle of the Rockies." This was the first Roman Catholic parish established west of the South Platte River in what is now the City of Denver. As the "mother-church" of Northwest Denver, eight parishes were eventually established within its original boundaries. The congregation met in various buildings until the first church was completed in 1884. By 1907 the fast-growing area had several parishes.

Early in 1907, the Rev. Joseph P. Carrigan, pastor of St. Patrick's since 1885, made a visit to California to study the design of early mission churches there. He returned fired with enthusiasm, and his parishioners enthusiastically shared his dream. Land for a new church had been purchased in 1906, and the Denver architectural firm of Wagner and Manning was engaged to draw plans for the church and rectory in traditional Mission style. The church building would be the only building of this unique style in the City of Denver and was deemed appropriate for the western character of the city and to the mission of the parish--to serve all peoples. Because of this vision of the mission of the church a small library and reading room were incorporated into the plans in the north wing of the church building. These rooms remained dedicated to their original use until 1942 when the proliferation of facilities for such purposes allowed the parish to redesignate the rooms for parochial use.

The fiery Father Carrigan had been at odds with his Bishop, Nicholas Matz, for some time and now the parishioners and a great part of the Catholic population of Denver were drawn into the quarrel. Work on the new church began without the approval of the Bishop or his Building Commission, and had to be halted while a compromise was worked out over financial arrangements and plans. Hostilities between the two men continued, however, and the Bishop was conveniently out of town when the cornerstone for the church was laid later that year. Father Carrigan was eventually removed from the parish, but not before seeing the completion of the new church with its library and reading room and seeing it begin its use as a mission to all the people of the area. The parish never accepted the pastor designated to take Carrigan's place and he, too, was replaced within a year.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wiberg, Ruth Eloise. Rediscovering Northwest Denver-Its History, Its People Its Landmarks (Denver, Northwest Denver Books, 1976), P. 36.

Andrews, Mary, St. Patrick's Parish, 1881-1976-North Denver's Pioneer Parish (Denver: privately published by parish, 1976).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .58

QUADRANGLE NAME Arvada

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 499460 4401300

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The East one-half of Lot 1, Block 12 and the South 52 feet of Lot 4, Block 12 H. Witter's North Denver Addition. The property runs approximately 202 feet along Pecos Street and is 125 feet deep.

## 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

Mary Andrews - Church Historian

ORGANIZATION

St. Patrick Mission Church

DATE

May 23, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3325 Pecos Street

TELEPHONE

303-433-6328

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80211

# 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Ruth C. Andrews*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/27/79

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol D. Stull*

DATE 11-14-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William H. Brannan*

DATE 11-2-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Another pastor of note and national reputation, Rev. David T. O'Dwyer, was sent to St. Patrick. This gentle and scholarly man proved to be the peacemaker needed, and he remained at St. Patrick until 1928, when he became the Assistant Chancellor of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C., a position he retained until he became the Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington until his retirement in 1940.

Through the years St. Patrick's has been at the center of community life in Northwest Denver. When the parish was established a heavy concentration of Irish immigrants prompted the naming of the new parish for Ireland's patron saint. When numerous families of Italian descent moved into the area served by the church it served them well and was instrumental in the establishment of an Italian National parish in the area. Many of these Italian immigrants were attracted by the fertile land of the Platte Valley for their truck gardens and a number of these early Italian families remained within St. Patrick's parish and their cultural patterns have influenced the parish over the years.

The parish served both the laboring class of "the flats" of the Platte River valley and the upper middle-class professionals who built on the bluffs of Highland. In the 1930s and 1940s another cultural group, those of Hispanic heritage, became prominent in the parish. By this time St. Patrick's was an "inner city" parish losing its original suburban character as the city grew. Each cultural group has left a significant mark of their culture and heritage on the area and the parish.

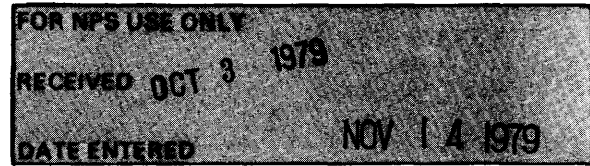
The church and rectory are characterized by their simplicity and purity of design. A cloister walk joins the two buildings. Few changes have been made over the years but the sacristy of the church was enlarged in 1953 and a year later in 1954 a room was built on to the rectory to accommodate a larger staff. At about the same time a patio-porch was added at the rear of the rectory and a small porch was enclosed off the kitchen to provide more work room.

Among the most significant features of the church are the stained glass windows. These windows are made of French and German glass but were designed and executed by Ford Brothers Glass Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The six windows in the body of the church depict the writers of the New Testament and St. Peter, and the large window in the choir loft shows Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. In these windows the figures and background are hand painted on stained glass and the border design is made up of glass in both solid and mottled colors. There are six small decorative windows in other areas of the church and five in the rectory.

Another remarkable feature of the church is the Stations of the Cross brought from the old church building to embellish the "new" church. These Stations have carved Italian marble frames with the central pictorial panels hand painted, and are believed

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to have been carved and painted in Italy and imported especially for St. Patrick's in 1902.

Located on a bluff overlooking the Platte River, this lovely church is a dominant feature in the skyline of Northwest Denver. It can be readily seen from the Valley Highway (I-25), from much of downtown Denver, and from points in the city. The church is distinctive in its architectural features as the only one in Denver built in the Mission style.

Ed. JEF 7/79

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Interview with Rev. Theodore Haas, former pastor, St. Patrick Church, Denver

Interview with Rev. Regis McGuire, former assistant pastor, St. Patrick Church, Denver.

Copies of Denver newspapers found within the cornerstone box of St. Patrick Church when opened in March 1976--Denver Times, Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, published during the week of the laying of the cornerstone.