

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 404 East Main Street      not for publication

city, town Madison      vicinity of      congressional district Second

state WI code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b> <u>N/A</u>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name St. Patrick's Parish, Msgr. Francis E. Doherty, Pastor

street & number 404 East Main Street

city, town Madison      vicinity of      state WI 53703

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Register of Deeds

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison      vicinity of      state WI 53709

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys (cont.)**

title City of Madison Landmark has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date March 6, 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison      vicinity of      state WI 53710

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Patrick's Church was built in 1889 in the Romanesque Revival style. It is located four blocks east of the capitol square on the north side of East Main Street. The church is basically rectangular in plan with a large gabled roof sheltering the two-story nave. A single 100 foot tower projects from the right-hand side of the front facade. A one-story central entrance pavilion under a gable roof is tucked into the "el" formed by the tower and front facade. A tiny brick turret on the left-hand corner echoes the tower. The apse of the building is a simple rectangular addition under a hipped roof. From the apse on each side projects a one-story gabled wing housing the sacristy.

The foundation and watertable are of local sandstone; the superstructure is of cream color brick with stone trim. The plane of the brick walls is broken up by an assortment of molded brick bands. Shallow plain pilasters with stone caps demarcate each bay, into which is pierced a round-arched window. The round arches are trimmed with drips, some of molded brick and some of stone. Each bay is further set off by shallow brick reveals under a corbelled cornice. Decorative brickwork, in the form of tiny arcatures, corbelled cornices, round-arched lancet reveals in some pilasters, and brick denticulation, further embellishes the front facade and tower.

The tower is crowned by an octagonal superstructure of wood frame. Each of the eight sides is lit by an oculus window. Corner pilasters support eight small triangular pediments which serve as a design transition to the tall, narrow shingled dome above.

A growth in the congregation necessitated a widening of the church in 1902. Ten foot wide aisles were added onto each side of the nave. On the front facade, a false parapet was added to follow the line of the gable, disguising the aisles and giving the front facade a triangular shape.

In 1957, the congregation undertook a major renovation to stabilize the building. The floor was reinforced with new steel columns and beams. Storm windows and ventilators were added, the tower was repaired and the plumbing, heating and electrical systems were revamped. The front doors were replaced and the tympani reglazed in a modern, abstract design. Finally, the exterior brick was sandblasted.

On the interior, the nave of the church is in the form of a large, wide hall. The plaster ceiling is a shallow, curved vault. Half vaults demarcating each bay spring from the wall on each side of a round-arched window. Ribs on the ceiling further mark the bays; tiny pendentives decorate the joining of each rib and side half-vault. The aisles have flat ceilings. A heavy beam between the nave and aisles is supported by stocky round Corinthian columns.

The interior has been redecorated several times. The current decorative scheme dates from 1957. At that time, the original pews were replaced by more modern pews of light oak. Sanctuary walls, the altar steps and table, the predella, and sanctuary base, the communion rail and parts of the side altars were redone in three forms of marble; Red Levanto, Verde Antonio and Loreda Chiaro (a golden color). New confessionals and a new organ were installed.

## 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1888-1889<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** John Nader<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Patrick's Church is eligible for the National Register because it is a significant visual landmark and the work of one of Madison's pioneer architects, John Nader. In addition, St. Patrick's is an important example of 19th century religious architecture in Madison.

### Architecture

St. Patrick's Church is located four blocks east of the Capitol Square on east Main Street. Because of its 100 foot tower and imposing size, it is one of the identifying elements of Madison's skyline. In 1888, articles of incorporation were drawn up for the new St. Patrick's Roman Catholic congregation, which was created out of the east half of St. Raphael's parish because St. Raphael's congregation had become too large for its facilities. Father P. B. Knox, originally from Limerick, Ireland, and recently a pastor at Our Lady of Consolation in Oregon, Wisconsin was chosen as the new pastor for St. Patrick's. Knox had recently overseen the completion of a new church building for his parish in Oregon, which was designed by John Nader of Madison. No doubt his experience in Oregon was pleasant because Father Knox secured the architectural services of Col. Nader for his new edifice in Madison.

Nader (1838-1919) was born in Westchester, New York and was educated there and in Brooklyn. He was active in the design and construction of marine fortification structures in the east before he came to Wisconsin in 1869. In 1871 Nader was appointed Assistant U.S. Engineer in charge of the Wisconsin River Improvement, headquartered in Portage. In 1873 he moved to Madison where he was elected City Surveyor, serving in this post from 1876-1880 and again in 1884-1887. Nader first listed himself in city directories as an architect in 1883. From 1887-1892 Nader lived in Virginia. He returned to Madison and remained here until 1915 when he moved to New York City for his retirement. Nader designed the Old Bayfield County Courthouse (NRHP) in addition to Catholic churches in Muscoda and Roxbury, Wisconsin. According to an obituary, Nader's "plans for the St. Patrick's church and a number of east end residences are among his best works."

St. Patrick's Church is one of six religious structures remaining of the twenty or so constructed in Madison in the 19th century. Of these six buildings, two are already listed on the National Register (Gates of Heaven Synagogue, and Grace Episcopal Church), and three, including St. Patrick's are architecturally significant enough and retain enough integrity to probably be eligible for the National Register.

<sup>1</sup>Wisconsin State Journal, March 18, 1889.

<sup>2</sup>"Capt. John Nader Dies in New York City," Madison Democrat, June 29, 1919.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	0	6	3	3	0	4	7	7	1	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Original Plat, Block 267, approximately the northeast 80 feet of the southwest 132 feet of Lots 4 and 5, with the southwest line of the nominated property running between the church building and the parish house to the southwest. This line closely circumscribes the church building being nominated.

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 Lucie Vogel and Katherine H. Rankin, Secretary

organization Madison Landmarks Commission date May 1981

street & number 215 Monona Avenue telephone 608-266-6552

city or town Madison state WI 53710

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

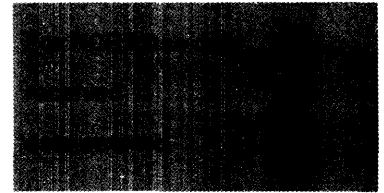
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Mearns

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 8/9/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>J. William Byrum</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>9/16/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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St. Patrick's Church, Madison, Dane Co., WI  
Continuation sheet

Item number

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Item #9, Major Bibliographical References:

"Capt. John Nader Dies in New York City," Madison Democrat, June 29, 1919.

City directories for the City of Madison.

Daily Madison Democrat, April 12, 1896.

Heming, Harry, ed., The Catholic Church in Wisconsin, Milwaukee: Catholic Historical Publishing Co., 1895-98, pp. 457-548.

Madison Past and Present 1852-1902, Madison: The Wisconsin State Journal, 1902, p. 84.

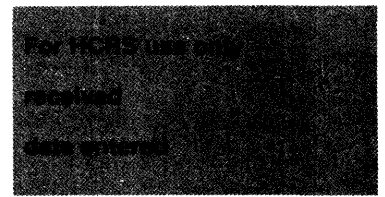
Kummel, Rev. Leo L., History of St. Patrick's Church, Madison, Wisconsin, 1888-1958, pamphlet published by the congregation, 1958.

Wisconsin Architects File, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin State Journal, March 18, 1889 and February 7, 1971.

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St. Patrick's Church., Madison, Dane Co., WI

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706