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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 08 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Augustine Catholic Church
other names/site number Gy-5

2. Location

street & number West side, State Route # 88 N/A not for publication
city, town Grayson Springs vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Grayson code 085 zip code 42754

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Date 2-28-89
Kentucky Heritage Council Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
N/A
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Delores E. [Signature] Entered in the National Register 4/7/89

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Smooth Ashlar
walls Brick
roof Composition Material
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1854, 1895

Significant Dates

1854, 1895

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person N/A

Architect/Builder

J.D. Key, Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council
Frankfort, Kentucky

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	5	6	7	8	8	0	4	1	4	4	9	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area includes the land on which the church sits and a 10' margin around the foundation. The property is located on parcel 28 of the Grayson County Property Identification Map 102, enclosed. The church location is marked with an "x".

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes sufficient area to enclose the church, which is documented as the significant building. Other portions of the site, particularly the cemetery, do not contribute to the architectural significance of the nominated resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number 2218 Perryville Road

city or town Harrodsburg

date December, 1988

telephone 606/734-7489

state Kentucky

zip code 40330

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1St. Augustine Catholic Church
Grayson County, Kentucky

The 1854 St. Augustine (Catholic) Church is a 1 1/2 story, rectangular, gable-roofed building measuring 37 feet wide and 74 feet long. The foundation is of smoothly-laid limestone blocks, and the walls are of red brick: Flemish bond on the main facade and common bond on all other sides. The church stands one-half mile south of Grayson Spring, Kentucky, a town listed in the NRHP on 12/6/78 as the Grayson Springs Historic District.

The main (south) wall contains three bays: a centered, one-story, projecting vestibule (reduced from a two-story brick tower in 1954) with a double door entrance treated with a simple-traceried, equilateral-arched window overhead. The main wall is also pierced by a Gothic window at mid-level on either side of the gabled vestibule, and there are four shallow and unadorned brick pilasters. A lintel in the main facade's central bay bears the inscription: "Done by J.D. Key, 1854." This individual -- about whom no information has surfaced -- is traditionally accepted as having been the builder of the church edifice.

East and west sides of the somewhat modest building are identical -- each containing three tall and evenly-placed Gothic windows.

At the rear (north) of the building is a lower extension built flush with the main side walls and incorporating a small recessed chancel flanked by a sacristy to either side. The sacristies are several feet lower than the gable-roofed chancel portion and are covered by shed-roof sections. Also, as the site slopes at this end, the foundation becomes more greatly exposed.

The western sacristy contains two rectangular windows (one in-filled with brick around 1950), while the eastern sacristy contains one rectangular window and a single-door sacristan entrance with an equilateral-arched window above.

The rear extension's elevated chancel section has one small rectangular window per side, while the rear (north) wall is unfenestrated and has one off-center brick chimney near the northwest.

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St. Augustine Catholic Church, Grayson
Springs, Kentucky

The interior of St. Augustine's Church presents an uncomplicated arrangement of small vestibule (again, reduced from a two-story tower in 1954); a rectangular nave; and a small recessed chancel flanked by a diminutive sacristy on each side -- the chancel space being beyond a tall, equilateral-arched opening. Also, an organ loft/choir gallery spans the south end of the interior.

In 1883, a fire destroyed the roof and the interior of St. Augustine's Church. The 1854 brick walls and the floor joists, however, remained intact. By 1895, the roof and interior were rebuilt and refurbished -- colored-glass windows being installed into openings transformed from rectangular shapes to pointed arches. Simultaneously, a square brick tower of two stories was added to the center of the front (its upper-level outline remains discernible). In 1954, the second-story portion of the tower was removed, and its crowning open bell section was replaced by a pyramidal-roofed belfry at the apex near the main facade's gable end.

Located within some distant proximity of the historic Grayson Springs, St. Augustine Church occupies the summit of a small knoll -- commanding a view of Kentucky Highway 88 that winds below to the east. The surrounding landscape of this rural setting is semi-forested and is of pronounced undulation. Adjacent to the church property is a cemetery that has served the parish since 1829.

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Grayson County, Kentucky

St. Augustine Church -- the only extant mid-19th-century church edifice in Grayson County and thereby viewed as a locally unique type of building -- is significant under Criteria Consideration Exception A as strongly reflecting changing tastes in the 19th-century American ecclesiastical design. It was erected in 1854 as a chaste Greek Revival building in a rectangular, temple form with simple pilasters on the main facade and rectangular openings throughout. Its roof was rebuilt and its interior was refitted following an 1880's fire -- along with the provision of a new, pointed-arch fenestral openings in the then-popular Gothic Revival.

Located in the west-middle part of Kentucky, Grayson County was formed in 1810 by an act of the Kentucky Legislature. The first census (1810) numbered the 497-square-mile area's population at 2,301 -- a number which had increased by almost tenfold 170 years later: in 1980, the county's census stood at 20,854, with approximately 16% (4,533) residing in the county seat of Leitchfield.

Settlers of the Roman Catholic faith had arrived in the vicinity as early as 1800 (Morrison, p.67). By 1839, a Catholic directory listed three Catholic churches in Grayson County -- St. Augustine's parish (founded in 1815) purportedly being the first (Ibid., p.67). Four more Catholic parishes have been established during the 150 years since such directory's publication.

The early settlement by Roman Catholics in Kentucky holds special interest for cultural historians:

Catholics had lived in Maryland for a century and a half and like most Marylanders spent much of that time raising tobacco. At the close of the Revolution in 1783, many whose soils were exhausted from the unremitting planting of the pungent weed began to cast longing eyes toward the land of the legendary fertility in Kentucky . . . Consequently, beginning in 1785 groups of Catholic families, united for protection and community, sold their Maryland (continued)

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properties and journeyed westward . . . During the next decade emigration from Maryland continued, despite the hardships involved (Boles, p. 53).

Formal Roman Catholicism was brought to Grayson County by Fr. Charles Nerinckx, a native of Belgium, in 1812. St. Augustine Parish was founded by this pioneer priest -- its first house of worship being located about 5 miles northeast of the present and nominated property, and the first church dismantled at an early date. Obviously, St. Augustine's initial church building was intended only as a short-lived facility, for Grayson County was -- at the time -- a marginally settled area. Writing one decade before the construction of the nominated property, Bishop John Spalding Martin referred to Grayson County during Fr. Nerinckx's tenure there as "then almost an unreclaimed wilderness -- And what is now little better" (Martin, p. 140).

St. Augustine Church has emphatic historical associations with the noted Grayson Springs resort (NRHP/12-6-78), located one-half mile north. Especially before the Civil War, wealthy Southern planters often sought relief during the summer and early autumn months from heat -- and perhaps boredom -- by visiting fashionable springs for which Kentucky was famous (Davenport, p. 17). "Grayson Springs is the site of one of the most popular and long-lived health and entertainment resorts in Kentucky" (Grayson Springs NRHP Inventory -- Nomination Form). At the height of its 84-year operation, this resort boasted a large complex of buildings on 1,000 acres, and approximately 100 white sulphur springs. Resultingly, desire for rest, recreation, and good health brought large numbers of people to the Grayson Springs resort (*Ibid.*). Significantly, St. Augustine's 1854 building was provided for through the generosity of a Grayson Springs patron: the church "was constructed through funds furnished by John D. Bellchase of New Orleans, La., who died on August 17, 1852, at Grayson Springs, where he reportedly was impressed by the curative powers of the waters" (Hughes, HABS survey inventory sheet). The remains of the church building's benefactor are interred in the adjacent cemetery.

The house of worship provided by Bellchase's financial assistance is true to quintessential Greek Revival hallmarks for its type of edifice: rectangular in form, of limited bay divisions on the front facade, and (originally) with no front or side projections (there is still only the 1895-added element). Also, its facade simplicity -- embellishment limited to four somewhat severe pilasters -- conforms with typical features for the style and era.

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Springs, Kentucky

Then, the 1895 partial re-building of St. Augustine's employed pointed-arch openings in , perhaps, an attempt to "update" the building, or maybe to render it a more "churchly" appearance. In any event, the sequence of an essentially Greek Revival form given Gothic Revival touches four decades later serves as a lesson in American church design.

A county-wide survey of Grayson County buildings in 1985-86 by historic preservation students at Western Kentucky University inventoried a total of 27 church buildings -- including three churches in the county seat of Leitchfield. General dates of construction are as follows:

Post-1900	10
Ca. 1900	6
Ca. 1890	8
Ca. 1880	2
Ca. 1850	1

Stylistically, three church buildings were identified as products of the Late Gothic Revival; several were of a general meeting-house type; the majority were labeled as "turn-of-the-century vernacular"; and only St. Augustine's was identified as "mid-19th century." In addition, 24 of the 27 buildings were erected for Protestant worship -- the remaining three for Roman Catholic. The same survey findings reveals St. Augustine's as being the only inventoried church in Grayson County of brick material, as well as the only one evaluated as being of National Register significance.

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St. Augustine Catholic Church
Grayson County, Kentucky

Arcilesi, Len. Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Form, St. Augustine Church. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, June 1, 1988.

Boles, John R. Religion in Antebellum Kentucky. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976.

Davenport, F. Garvin. Ante-Bellum Kentucky. Oxford, Ohio: The Mississippi Valley Press, 1943.

Hughs, William J. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory, St. Augustine Church. Undated Sheet. Copy in files at Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort.

Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort. Grayson County File.

Martin, John Spalding (Bishop). Sketches of the Roman Catholic Missions of Kentucky; From Their Commencement in 1787, to the Jubilee of 1826-27. Louisville: B.J. Webb and Brothers, 1844.

Morrison, Duvall. A History of Grayson County, Kentucky (1810-1958). Unpublished paper in the Library of the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort

Nevils, Mark E. National Register of Historic Places Inventory -- Nomination Form, Grayson Springs Historic Site. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Commission, 1976.

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St. Augustine Catholic Church, Grayson Springs, Kentucky, Grayson

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For all Photos

Nomination:	St. Augustine Catholic Church
Location:	West side, State Route # 88, Grayson Springs, Kentucky, Grayson County
Photographer	Daniel Kidd
Negative Location	Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky
Date Taken:	December, 1988

Photo No.

View or Elevation

1	General view, church & cemetery, facing north
2	South (main) and side (west)
3	North (rear) and side (east)