

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Shelby
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Saint, Mary's Catholic Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
155 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

COUNTY: Shelby

CODE: 157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Tour stop

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Carroll T. Dozier, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Memphis

and his successors.

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 Jefferson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Shelby County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

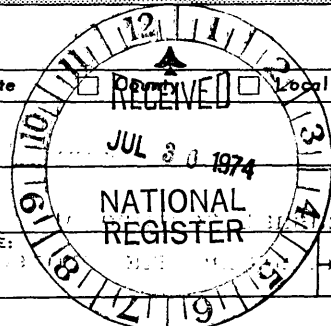
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Shelby

ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 7 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

St. Mary's Catholic Church was designed by James B. Cook, a noted architect of the period, who was educated in England and had worked in the offices of Sir Charles Barry and others in England, and was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and of the Royal British Institute.

The Church is Gothic Revival of the period, having been dedicated in 1870, and is knowingly and carefully detailed, simple and restrained, of brick exterior walls, with limestone caps on the buttresses, steep roof, and a tower on the east front. This tower was originally capped with a spire and pinnacles, which were removed in the 1950s because of termite damage. The window tracery is simple, detailed in wood, as is the entrance door in the tower. There is a German feeling to the design, appropriate to the largely German population of the parish at the time, somewhat reminiscent of St. Elizabeth Marburg, Twelfth Century (Fletcher 16th Edition p. 530, German Gothic). Exterior stucco was removed in 1971, at the beginning of a restoration program still in progress, revealing the original facade and the attractive early brick.

In plan, there is a nave, with flanking aisles which give an effect of greater spaciousness and height than would be expected from the exterior. This is accomplished by the use of slender clustered columns, with foliate capitals and quadripartite vaulting. The side aisles are under a continuous lower roof slope. The vaulting is of plaster, with ridge-ribs but without the tiercerons characteristic of early Gothic. Contemporary newspaper accounts of the 1870 dedication refer to exposed wood framing, indicating that the vaulting was added later, probably by the time the new School and Convent were built in 1887 on an adjoining lot when J. B. Cook was again the architect.

Capitals, vault ribs, bosses and brackets have been gilded, giving an appearance of great richness to the simple structural system. Beyond the triumphal arch the sanctuary is in the polygonal apse, with steep radiating vaulting, without reredos or retable, and with "stained" glass windows. These, characteristic of the late 19th Century period of painted and encaustic glass often included with stained glass decoration, are realistic and colorful, in good execution and are well preserved.

Much painted and gilded ornament has been added to the walls, at a later date, and is in good condition; dadoes and ornament are bold and well executed. The altars and stations of the cross are carved handsomely, as are the pews, with simple early Gothic detail.

An unusual feature of the Church is the Choir, which is reached by a graceful stair, and projects into the nave over the entrance from the tower in a generally triangular shape with the organ in the center.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Shelby	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 7 1974

7. DESCRIPTION (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The Lourdes Grotto Chapel, to the south, is polygonal and radially vaulted, with pictorial windows, except on the south face which has a grotto constructed with effective realism, depicting the Miracle of Lourdes. This was built and dedicated in 1875.

The attached Monastery connects to the sacristies. This was added at a later date, but the exterior details are similar or harmonious, with segmental-arched windows rather than the lancet windows of the earlier Church. Roofs and cornices, with corbelled brick water-table, are similar to the Church structure. The composition is especially picturesque from the west, with the apse expressed clearly with the adjacent Monastery wings.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input 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. Mary's Catholic Church, an extremely important building in downtown Memphis, possesses manifold significance. It is the second oldest Catholic church and the first Catholic school in the city. Located in the heart of Memphis and surrounded by new and modern buildings in an urban renewal area, it is a strategic building which could play an important role in the further urban development of the area. Efforts to assure its preservation are underway.

The church, designed by an important architect, possesses quality of design and workmanship unsurpassed in the area. James Bartholomew Cook, a native of London, designed the bridges Albert and Victoria over the river Thames at Windsor Castle and was one of the supervising architects of the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition at Hyde Park, London. After coming to the United States, he practiced in New York and Cincinnati before coming to Memphis in 1856, where he became one of the outstanding architects of the area, and designed many of Memphis' finest buildings.

As a religious shrine, the Grotto of Lourdes attached to the church is a replica of the internationally famous Place of Miracles in southern France, and is the only Catholic grotto in Tennessee.

During the yellow fever epidemics in Memphis in 1873, 1878, and 1879, the church and monastery were used as a hospital, and five Franciscans living at the monastery gave their lives nursing the sick and dying populace.

St. Mary's has played an important role in the history of Memphis, and deserves preservation from the threat of urban renewal.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. History of St. Mary's School: Rev. Leo Kalmer; OFM 1913
2. History of City of Memphis: J. M. Keating I II 1888
3. Standard History of Memphis: Young 1912
4. Heroes and Heroines of Memphis: Quinn 1887
5. History of Shelby County: Goodspeed 1887
6. Catholicity in Tennessee: Flanigen 1937
7. History of St. Mary's: Fauntleroy Oct. 2, 1902
8. Bibliography of a Rivertown: Capers 1939
9. Chronological Index of Memphis Newspapers: vol 2 1900-1924 Fauntleroy
10. History of City of Memphis: James D. Davis 1873

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

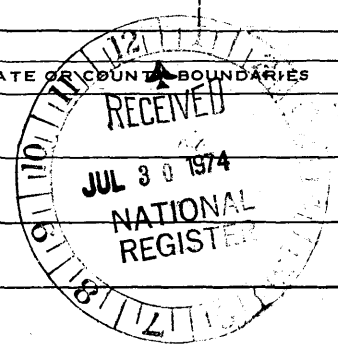
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		35 09 05	90 02 53	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

15/768920
3893600
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles F. Marossi - Parishioner, Researcher, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Eckelkamp OFM Pastor St. Mary's Church

ORGANIZATION: St. Mary's Catholic Church DATE: July 25, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 155 Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Memphis STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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: Lawrence C. Henry
Title: Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission
Date: July 25, 1974

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

DR Neunteufl
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/7/74

ATTEST: WJ [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.1.74