

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Tennessee</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Robertson</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>JUL 5 1973</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**St. Michael's Catholic Church (Representative Richard Fulton)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**St. Michael's Catholic Church**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**3 1/2 mi. off Highway 49**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Cedar Hill**

STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47** COUNTY: **Robertson** CODE: **147**

**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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Nashville Diocese**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**421 Charlotte Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Nashville**

STATE:  
**Tennessee**

CODE:  
**47**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Robertson County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Springfield**

STATE:  
**Tennessee**

CODE:  
**47**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

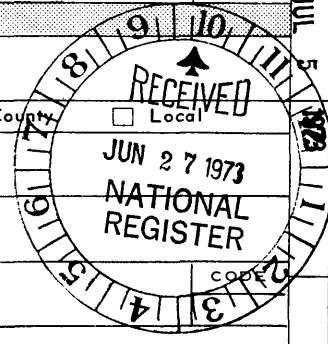
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee  
COUNTY: Robertson  
ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 5 1973  
DATE: JUN 27 1973  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

The original portion of St. Michael's Catholic Church was built by the four families who were the first parishioners. The small rectangular structure was constructed of logs. It was dedicated on May 8, 1842. It has since been covered by clapboard. A section of the wallboard inside the church has been cut away and replaced by plate glass in order to expose the original log structure which still stands beneath the clapboards. The original pews are still used in the church.

In 1934 an addition was constructed at the rear of St. Michael's. It was built of clapboards which were dismantled from the Episcopal church and school at Glen Raven, a nearby estate. This addition made the little church T-shaped. Additional pews were also constructed of lumber from Glen Raven. When this addition was constructed, the original altar was retained and moved to its present position.

In 1942, the centennial year of St. Michael's, the brick bell tower was added to the front of the church. It formed a new covered entrance. The bell in this tower also came from the church and school at Glen Raven. All of the church is presently painted white.

A cemetery is located in the churchyard. The graves of the original parishioners and many later members are located there.



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**6. 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) 1842

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input 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. Michael's is the oldest active Catholic Church in Tennessee. It has been active from May 8, 1842, through the present time.

In 1846 St. Michael's Male and Female Academy was established near the church. It was one of the earliest Catholic boarding academies in Tennessee. The school was staffed largely by clerics from the church. In 1855 the academy was forced to close because of financial difficulties.

Efforts have been made to preserve the historical integrity of the church. The crude candle snuffer, iron bread baker and bread cutters which date from 1842 have been retained. An altar missal which was printed in 1762 at Plantin Press, Antwerp, Belgium, is another remaining relic. It was brought to St. Michael's circa 1850 by Monsieur Gustave Bouchard, a native of France, who became a generous benefactor of the church and also served as a lay teacher at the school. Altar cards from the early days of St. Michael's also remain. There is also a statue of the Blessed Mother which was purchased by a young peoples group in 1895. They raised the money for the statue by publishing twenty copies monthly of a handwritten magazine.

St. Michael's is significant for its continuous religious activity for over a century. To add to its esteem is the fact that Father Abram Ryan, poet priest of the Confederacy, was the Missioner at St. Michael's in 1864 and 1865.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holman, Catherine and Jean Durrett, Historic Robertson County,  
Robertson County Board of Education, p. 26.

Newspaper Clippings

Research in church records by Mrs. William G. Nicholson, Nashville

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

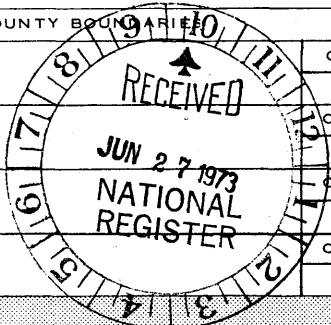
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	36	29	14
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	86	59	56
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

UTM  
16/500110  
4037480  
00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

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:  
Mrs. Linda O'Neal

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 6-15-73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville 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 Michael J. Smith

Title Executive Director  
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date 6-25-73

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

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/5/73

ATTEST:

Spencer Ford  
Keeper of the National Register

Date July 3 1973