

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 27 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^{congregational} St. Bonifacius Kirche, ~~Franciscan Monastery, Parochial School & Teachers' Home~~
and/or common St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church, Rectory, Holy Angels Academy and Convent

2. Location

street & number 501-31 ~~East~~ Liberty St. NA not for publication
city, town Louisville NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~
state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name St. Boniface Church c/o Fr. Dunstan Schmidlin
street & number 501 East Liberty St.
city, town Louisville NA vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse
street & number 6th & Jefferson sts.
city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? NA yes no
date 1980 NA federal state NA county NA local
depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Division
city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

NA deteriorated
 NA ruins
 NA unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Boniface Church complex is located in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood just east of the central business district and just outside the irregular boundaries of the Phoenix Hill Historic District (pending National Register).

St. Boniface Church, constructed in 1899, is designed in the Late Gothic style. D. X. Murphy is responsible for this design and that of the rectory. The church features a rough-faced limestone facade with smooth limestone trim. Behind the facade, the church is two-story, of brick construction. The facade consists of a gabled, central nave flanked by aisles topped by square, corner towers. The tower on the west is the taller of the two and carries a slate-shingled spire. Three entries with bronze doors are set in compound archways which spring from stone colonettes with Corinthian capitals. Above the doors are stained glass windows with stone tracery. Above the portals is a large rose window setting atop five narrow windows, all accented by trefoil tracery and all set within a large pointed arch with stone molding and carved corbels. Stone corbeling in the gable and a stone cross complete the central nave. Both towers have two pairs of lancet windows followed by a group of three lancets capped by stone finials. The short tower ends with a gable on each side and corner pinnacles. The taller tower on the west contains a clockface in each gable end. Small, pointed-arch dormers pierce the steeple. The sides of the church are divided by brick piers into a series of bays each of which contains one large window with trefoil tracery. Brick corbeling accents the roofline. (Photos 1 & 2)

The interior of St. Boniface Church continues the Gothic style displayed on the exterior. The plan is cruciform, with transepts, side aisles and large chancel. The ceiling is vaulted with groined ribs in the nave and side aisles. The Gothic arches spring from gold-colored marble pillars on white marble bases. The perimeter of the church is sheathed in white marble wainscoting. An octagonal stained-glass skylight depicting the Trinity is located in the dome of the chancel. The main altar is highly decorative with flamboyant Gothic detailing. The side altars, confessionals and communion railings, all stone, were constructed by Lansberg and Macke of Louisville. Most of the stained glass windows were made in Munich. The skylight, the two large transept windows and the large facade windows were made by the Artistic Glass Painting Company of Cincinnati. All of the stained glass is brilliant in color. The three paired doors which lead from the foyer into the nave of the church contain exquisite circular stained-glass windows within each Gothic arch. The radiating motif of the windows is copied from the facade windows over the main entrances. A side chapel, to the left of the chancel is closed behind a leaded glass wall with Gothic tracery. The chapel contains wooden pews with individualized seating, originally used by the Monks for their private morning Mass. Hanging in this chapel are murals on canvas, removed from the first church, dating ca. 1885. The sacristy is located to the right of the chancel. One of the most interesting features of the main altar is the platform of the main niche. Depending on the occasion, the statues in this niche are changed by lowering the platform from behind the altar by means of large hand crank. This mechanism is most dramatically used at the Easter service when the Risen Christ appears amid elaborate ceremonies. (Photos 7 - 11)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
NA prehistoric	NA archeology-prehistoric	NA community planning	NA landscape architecture	NA religion
NA 1400-1499	NA archeology-historic	NA conservation	NA law	NA science
NA 1500-1599	NA agriculture	NA economics	NA literature	NA sculpture
NA 1600-1699	X architecture	NA education	NA military	NA social/ humanitarian
NA 1700-1799	NA art	NA engineering	NA music	NA theater
X 1800-1899	NA commerce	NA exploration/settlement	NA philosophy	NA transportation
X 1900-	NA communications	NA industry	NA politics/government	NA other (specify)
		NA invention		

Specific dates 1899; 1907; 1917 **Builder/Architect** D. X. Murphy, Bro. Adrian Weber, John F. Sheblessey, John Tobe

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Boniface complex is one of several ecclesiastical complexes in Louisville, nearly all Roman Catholic, which displays an array of significant architectural designs. The Gothic Revival Church and Rectory are two of the finest local examples of the style. The interior of the church is the best local example of the cruciform plan, with side aisles and groined rib vaults.

St. Boniface is the oldest German Catholic congregation in the state and is the second oldest in the city. In the early 1830s, the German Catholics in Louisville attended St. Louis church, but could not understand the English sermons and instructions. By 1836 there were approximately 2000 German Catholics in Louisville and Bishop Chabrat, authorized Fr. Stahlschmidt to organize a parish. The property at Jackson and Liberty streets was then purchased and St. Bonifacius was founded. The cornerstone to the first church was laid in 1837.

The Franciscans took charge of the parish in July of 1949. A monastic order, the priests not only held responsibilities for the congregation, but also for preparing young men for entering the order. For many years, St. Boniface was the largest congregation in Louisville.

The current church was constructed in 1899. D. X. Murphy & Bros., a prominent local architectural firm, worked from sketches provided by a member of the Franciscan order, Brother Adrian Weber, and developed the magnificent design for the church. The interior, with the groined rib vaults, side aisles and transepts, contains a very European atmosphere. The rhythm of the arched aisles for the length of the nave is particularly impressive, and the quality of design found in the stained glass and marble altars is some of the best in Louisville.

The supporting structures also display the same concern for design quality. The monastery, located on the corner of the property, was also designed by Murphy in 1899. The arched windows of the second floor wrap the building, setting up a rhythm which is accented by the highly stylistic stone cornice. St. Boniface Parochial School was constructed in 1907, designed by John F. Sheblessey. The school is a handsome example of the Second Renaissance Revival style, with buff-colored brick quoins and a projecting central pavilion topped by a stepped gable. The windows are set in stone surrounds. Although some alterations have occurred, the building contributes to the complex design. The School Teachers' Home was the last of the four buildings within the complex to be built. Its design is typical of residential architecture of the period in Louisville. John Tobe, a local builder who lived on nearby East Chestnut St., was contractor for the building. The cornice brackets and door hood are architectural accents which contribute to the character of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.85 acres

Quadrangle name Jeffersonville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	9	2	6	0	4	2	3	4	9	0	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 Beginning a point in the northeast corner of Jackson and Liberty streets, thence northwardly following the east right-of-way line of Jackson 204 feet to the first alley north of Liberty, thence eastwardly following the south right-of-way line of said alley 394 feet to a point, thence southwardly 204 feet to a point in the (SEE CONT.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date August 6, 1982

street & number 727 W. Main St.

telephone (502) 587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

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

Mary Ann Spigel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date Sept. 21, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 10/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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St. Boniface Monastery was built in 1899. The large, C-shaped rectory is located at one corner of the St. Boniface property, designed in the Gothic Revival style. The two-and-one-half-story building is constructed of red brick with limestone trim. The main facade consists of three bays, each pierced by three openings. The recessed entry is central and set in a stone surround. On either side of the entry is a rectangular window with stone sill and a stone lintel which comes to a small point at its center. The windows of the right- and left-hand bays are unified by common sills and lintels. In the second story, windows are pointed-arch, with brick voussoirs and stone molds rising from small stone brackets. The two end bays are topped by gabled dormers containing a trio of small, pointed-arch windows. Above the central bay is a hipped dormer with three, rectangular openings. The cornice is of stone carved in a repeating arch motif. The roof is slate. New storms have been added to all window openings. A one-story, brick garage addition is on the right side, set back from the street. (Photos 3 & 4)

The parochial school is of slightly later construction completed in 1907. The name of the school was later changed to Holy Angels Academy. The Academy is a three-and-one-half-story, Second Renaissance Revival, red brick structure with smooth limestone trim and buff-colored brick quoins. It was designed by John F. Sheblessey. The raised basement is finished in rough-faced limestone. The facade consists of a projecting, central pavilion topped by a stepped gable and flanked by wings. A double-door entry and a pair of windows above are all framed by a two-story, stone surround with paneled pilasters. Two more levels of windows set in stone surrounds rise up through the gable. This gable features short, corner towers with battlements, stone molding and a stone cross on top. The building's wings have three, rectangular windows on each floor, all with stone lintels. New storm windows have been added to all openings. The cornice has been covered with aluminum siding. (Photo 5)

At the rear of the school, on the west side, is St. Boniface Hall, D. X. Murphy, architect. The one-story, red brick hall features a central, pointed arch entry set in a stone surround and a gable with a battlement. There are two other one-story additions to the school on the east side at the rear. (Photo 5)

The Teachers' Home, now the convent, was the last of the four structures to be built. The style is a typical vernacular residential style used frequently throughout the city, but not commonly found in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. The convent is a two-story, red brick structure on a limestone foundation. The central entry contains a glass-paneled double door with transom sheltered by a bracketed overdoor. A single window and paired windows on either side of the entry complete the ground story. Openings in the upper story are identical, with a single window over the doorway. All the windows have stone sills and new metal frames and glass. A very wide cornice is supported by large L-shaped brackets. A central hip dormer crowns the building. (Photo 6)

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D. X. Murphy was a prolific architect during his lengthy career. He was frequently commissioned by the Roman Catholic Church for building designs. Murphy's sister was Sr. Mary Anselm of the Nazareth community in Bardstown. Murphy designed the Motherhouse at Nazareth. Among his local commissions are: St. Williams Church, 1902; Presentation Academy, 1893 (National Register, 1978); Sacred Heart Retreat, 1905; St. Martin's School, 1896 (pending National Register); St. Agnes Church, 1927. Murphy sometimes reduced his fee to as little as one percent on his commissions for the Roman Catholic Church. Besides ecclesiastical designs, Murphy is responsible for some of Louisville's finest residences and commercial buildings. Other examples of his work are Jefferson County Jail, 1902 (National Register, 1973), Churchill Downs, 1894-1933 (National Register, 1978), and Snead Office Building, 1910 (National Register, 1978).

John F. Sheblessey moved to Louisville in 1901 and joined Kenneth McDonald, one of Louisville's premier architects of the period, to create the firm of McDonald and Sheblessey. St. Boniface Parochial School is the only local example of Sheblessey's independent design. As a partner with McDonald, the firm was responsible for many fine designs, including the Weissinger-Gaulbert Apartments, 1903 (National Register, 1977). Sheblessey left Louisville in 1907, the same year that St. Boniface School was completed. He moved to Cincinnati and established a reputation as an outstanding ecclesiastical and school architect.

The St. Boniface Church complex is an integral part of the Roman Catholic community in Louisville, and is historically important as one of the oldest congregations in the community. The buildings are some of the finest architectural examples of their respective styles in Louisville, particularly the Church, with its outstanding interior.

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"Glad Music Peals Through the Vast Building", Courier-Journal, 19 November 1900.

"Handsome St. Boniface Dedicated Tomorrow", Courier-Journal, 17 November 1900.

"Monks of Ancient Orders in Local Monasteries", Courier-Journal, 15 October 1911.

"Rites Mark Centennial of German Catholic Church", Courier-Journal, 18 October 1937.

"St. Boniface Sees 100th Birthday", Courier-Journal, 19 September 1937.

St. Boniface Church records.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

north right-of-way-line of Liberty St., thence westwardly following said right-of-way to point of beginning, being Lot 76 in Block 17H, containing only the four buildings mentioned in this nomination.