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PH0674061

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

RECEIVED MAY 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 5 1979

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

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Erie Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Racine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53402

CODE

55

COUNTY

Racine

CODE

101

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. Patrick's Congregation, c/o The Reverend Paul A. Daniels, Pastor

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Erie Street

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53402

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Racine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

730 Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53401

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1971

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is nearly square in plan, its east-west axis being slightly longer. A rectangular section for the sacristy protrudes from the rear of the church, and the priests' residence, which was built concurrently, is attached to this section with its main axis running north-south. The corners of the square are cut off at a 45-degree angle, making the plan a modified octagon. Near the extremes of both side elevations are small protrusions from the main mass, the rear ones on either side sheltering the exits, the front ones the recessed confessionals. The elevations of the church reflect the clarity of the plan. For the most part they are composed of flat wall space punctuated by long lancet windows with triangularly-pointed arches and vertical triangular strips of brick with terra cotta finials that project above the roofline. The roofline has a profile of a triple layer of saw tooth glazed terra cotta over a table of brick corbels. The church and rectory are both of buff wire-cut brick with a Bedford-stone foundation. Finials and cornice are of buff glazed terra cotta. The spires are composed of stacked terra cotta block forms surmounted by finials.

The main entrance is set at the top of a broad flight of stairs on the east elevation. Its traditional three portals are set in a projecting porch divided by four brick piers with triangular faces topped by terra cotta finials and saw tooth cornice with a shadow-casting deep corbelled table. Thin brick strips carry this division through the roofline, with three lancet windows between them.

At the angled corners shallow turrets rise above the roofline, their profiles stepped from outside pairs of shafts with edges delineated by a stopped groove, to a triple inner turret with central cross.

The interior is a large, two-story space unified by a single oblong octagonal gold and white coffer in the ceiling. Interior walls are the same cream brick as the outside. A one-story wooden narthex projects into the space and supports the organ balcony. The iconographic program of the glazing consists of four Old Testament prophets in the triangular-headed lancets on the north side of the church, the four Evangelists on the south side, and St. Patrick over the entrance. Under the windows brick corbels support Art Deco lamps of copper and translucent ultramarine glass. The Ways of the Cross are represented in small bas-relief panels of white stone with colored backgrounds. Large representations of Mary and Joseph are executed in a similar manner. The crucifix in the apse is sheltered by a monumental somewhat futuristic wooden baldichino.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924-1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Barry Byrne

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Patrick's Church has regional significance as one of the early ecclesiastical works of a major figure in the Prairie School of architecture, Barry Byrne. The firm of Barry Byrne and Ryan of Chicago, Barry Byrne serving as chief designer and John F. Ryan as business manager, both planned and acted as general contractor for the structure. Alphonzo Ianelli, who sculpted the famous "sprites" for Frank Lloyd Wright's Midway Gardens, designed and modeled the sculptural ornament of the church.

St. Patrick's was built between May 1924 and May 1925 as the new home for a congregation which had previously occupied a Greek Revival edifice on the other side of the block, facing Douglas Avenue. Part of the credit for the selection of Byrne as the architect may belong to Reverend William Fitz Patrick McCarthy, pastor of the church, who was reportedly "a man of distinct personality and courage. . . entirely in accord with the architects in their belief that Catholic church architecture should reflect its national environment and the twentieth century spirit."<sup>1</sup> According to H. Allen Brooks, the design for the church was completed in 1923, as was that for St. Catherine's High School which the firm built during 1924-25.

Barry Byrne (1883-1967) began his architectural career as a novice in the Oak Park studio of Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902, rising to a position of considerable responsibility by the time he left in 1908. In the early 1920's Byrne abandoned what had been a diversified residential practice (including partnerships with Walter Burley Griffin and Andrew Willatzen) to become a specialist in ecclesiastical and educational buildings.

St. Patrick's was only the second church Byrne built, but it served as a starting point for successive developments in church design along the same lines, including the very similar Church of Christ the King in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1926). (Bishop Kelly of Tulsa delivered the dedication sermon at St. Patrick's and was so impressed that he declared his intention to return home and build a church like it.)

In a 1930 article in The American Architect John Ryan wrote that Byrne considered his church designs as "functionalism," designing the building to fit specific needs rather than the lines of buildings of a former age. Newspaper descriptions of the church, however, referred to its style as "American Gothic." With its angular geometric shapes, large expanses of flat wall space, and original interior color vocabulary of cream, vermillion, ultramarine, and black, the design obviously owes much to the contemporary Art Deco.

1. "St. Patrick's Church, Racine, Wisconsin," American Architect, December 20, 1925, plate 332.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.778

1:24000

QUADRANGLE NAME Racine South, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 435540 4731420  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1,2,3,4,5 Blk. 3 Wright's Addition

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David R. Black, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Conservation Program

DATE

October 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

730 Washington Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53401

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*Richard Henry*

TITLE Director,  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 4/23/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles A. H... ..*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

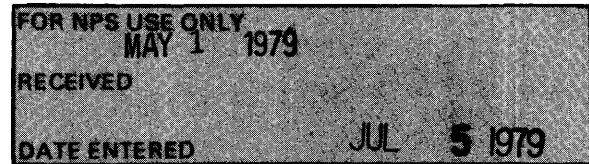
DATE 7-5-79

ATTEST: *Anna Jane Saxe*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION  
 Regional Reg. Review Coordinator

DATE 7-5-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Item 6:

(REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued)

Designated Racine Landmark

1976

Local

Architectural Conservation Program

Racine

Wisconsin 53401

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAY 1 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 5 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET See  
ITEM NUMBER below PAGE

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Item 9:

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Brooks, H. Allen. The Prairie School. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1972.

Ryan, John F. "Modernism Goes to Church." American Architect, Volume 138, Number 2589, November 1930, pp. 50-53, 86.

"St. Patrick's Church, Racine, Wisconsin." American Architect, Volume 128, Number 2487, December 20, 1925, plates 332-335.

"St. Patrick's Congregation to Have New Home: Ready to Start Work on Church: Old Buildings are being Razed and Ground Soon Will be Broken for \$150,000 Structure: Rectory Will be Attached." Racine Journal-News, May 5, 1924, p. 1.

"Dedicate New Church Sunday: St. Patrick's Beautiful Edifice is Paid Fine Tribute in Sermon by Bishop Kelly, Oklahoma: Hundreds Await Opening of Doors." Racine Journal-News, May 18, 1925, pp. 1, 22.

Item 11:

(FORM PREPARED BY, continued)

Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

April 1978

608/262-2970

Wisconsin 53706