

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

St. Mary's Catholic Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

317 North New Jersey Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE

018

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

3 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

STREET & NUMBER

1350 North Pennsylvania Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana 46202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City-County Building

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis,

STATE

Indiana 46204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums and Memorials

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church is a late Gothic Revival edifice modeled after Koln Cathedral. It has a cruciform plan, with narthex and a semi-octagonal apse. The foundation is rusticated ashlar, while the walls are dressed stone. The facade has a tripartite division, with gabled nave flanked by symmetrical towers. The elevation of the nave is two stories. The central portal is set between buttresses that support the gable over the doorway; the gable contains a trefoil motif and has crockets and a finial. The tympanum is filled with a relief sculpture of the crucifixion. Flanking the doorway is a frieze of blind arches; beneath the frieze, there are two narrow pointed arch windows. A stepped course above the central window rises following the rake of the gable; it serves as the platform for a stepped, pointed arch, blind arcade. It also continues across the face of the towers and becomes the cornice moulding along the nave walls. The central gable decoration is a statue of the Virgin, standing in a bracketed niche with a canopy above. The verges are undecorated. The towers have four story elevations, the first three square in plan and the fourth octagonal. Steep spires with crocketed caps surmounted by crosses rise above the cornice. The ground story elevation of the towers is similar to that of the nave facade. The tympanum of the north tower shows the birth of Christ, that of the south tower is of the Ascension. The second story has pointed arch windows with severely plain reveals. In the third story, the window treatment is more elaborate, with narrow lancets enframed by mouldings that form a bell-cast gable above the window opening. The windows in the lantern are tall lancets, filled in with louvers; secondary buttresses that spring from the cornice of the third story terminate the finials. The main tower buttresses rise into the fourth story, filling in the triangular spaces left by the octagonal towers resting on the square towers. The arrangement of the buttresses, especially at the fourth story of the towers, the nave doorway with arched windows above, the four story tower elevations, and the crocketed finialed gables that enliven the facade suggest the resemblance between St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Koln Cathedral.

The side walls of the church are relatively plain and severe, with buttresses between the window bays. The vault over each bay is covered by a longitudinal hipped roof; thus, on the side elevations, the roof appears to be a series of hips, each decorated with a dormer window.

The transepts are also relatively plain; the end walls have large pointed arch windows with flanking buttresses. The cornice line of the sidewalls becomes a string course, that steps up, following the rake of the gable. Above the moulding, a blind arcade of pointed arches springs from decorated corbels. The major gable decoration on both transept arms is a statue set in a niche similar to that on the main facade; the south transept shows St. Henry and the north transept St. Boniface; St. Henry is remembered as the German "church builder" and St. Boniface (680?-755AD) as the English missionary sent to convert the German pagans to Christianity.

The apse is semi-octagonal above the rectangular ground floor. On each face of the apse is a pointed arch window; buttresses rise at the corners. The windows of the apse, like those of the nave and transept, are severely treated with splayed reveals and no decorative trim.

The broad steps across the facade lead into the narthex. It has ribbed vaults; at the south end it terminates in a semi-octagonal bay which was originally the baptistry.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

At the north end the bay is behind a wall deviding narthex from the tower stairs.

In plan, the church has a nave and side aisles. This is the architectural plan; the pews are arranged so that there is a central aisle, and the architectural side aisles are partially filled with pews. In elevation, the aisles are nearly as tall as the nave. The nave is divided into five bays, with the crossing at the second bay from the apse. The aisles are about half the width of the nave. The nave bays are rectangular, with ribbed vaulting; at the crossing. The bay is square, with suitable elaboration of the ribbing to emphasize the larger size and greater importance of this bay. The vaults spring from round, marble columns that rest on high octagonal bases; the capitals of the columns are polychromed and have a floral motif. The ribs of the aisle bays spring from the columns and from clusters of engaged colonettes that rise along the outer walls; the capitals of the colonettes repeat the floral motif in the capitals of the columns. In addition to supporting the vaulting ribs, the colonettes divide the aisle walls into bays, each of which as a large, pointed arch window with stained glass. Below the window, niches with Tudor arched heads run along the side walls; the two westernmost on each sidewall are shrine areas while the first bay from the crossing on each sidewall is a confessional, with brass framing set within each arch. The apse is semi-octagonal, with windows on each of the five walls. The arch between nave and apse is heavily moulded.

Above the narthex, there is an organ loft that opens into the chancel. The balustrade, with a facing decorated with a blind arcade of pointed arches, cantelevers into the nave on a framework of arches. Four engaged columns across the back wall appear to support the ribs of the arches.

The ceiling of the church is cork tiles, decorated with floral motifs similar to those on the capitals of the columns and the colonettes. The walls have been sheathed in sandstone to the gieght of the windows; in the apse, the entire wall is sheathed in sandstone. Above the stone, the walls are plastered and painted a solid color; in the apse, they were once decorated with trefoils. There is a large, brass baldechino in the crossing bay; it is similar to the work on the confessionals. The alterations to the interior were made in 1956-57.

B SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES Groundbreaking: May 1, 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hermann Gaul
 Dedication: Sept. 8, 1912

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Catholic Church is an historical and architectural symbol of German influence in the nineteenth-century settlement and development of Indiana.

In the 1850's the United States received a flood of German immigrants, many of whom left their native land after the failure of the 1848 Revolutions. These immigrants became the farmers, laborers, and businessmen who settled and developed the social and commercial life of the Midwestern States. The German influence was particularly strong in Indiana during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

When Catholic diocese leaders became aware of the growing German Catholic population in Indianapolis, they sent the Reverend L. Brandt in 1856 from Vincennes to organize a new congregation. Although the first Indianapolis Catholic Church had been formed in 1840, Catholic leaders believed that a German-speaking pastor would be better equipped to meet the needs of the new settlers.

Although Father Brandt started the new parish, the first permanent pastor was Reverend Simon Siegrist. He conducted the first services in the first St. Mary's Church building, which was completed in 1858. This structure was located at 117 E. Maryland Street. The parish was a national church, designed to appeal to German Catholics by conducting services in German and retaining Old World traditions.

By 1900, the first generation descendants of the German Catholic immigrants had become dissatisfied with the East Maryland location. As Indianapolis developed, Maryland Street changed from a residential to a commercial area. In 1910, the congregation bought property in a residential neighborhood at New Jersey and Vermont Streets.

The new church that was constructed from 1910 to 1912 is an indication of the strength of nationalism and the desire of European immigrants to preserve their Old World Culture. Led by the Reverend Anthony Scheideler, a native of Borgholz, Germany, the congregation commissioned architect Hermann Gaul to design the new church.

Gaul was a native of Koln (Cologne), Germany, and from his youth had admired the great Koln Cathedral. Gaul also designed a factory structure in Indianapolis (Home Brewing Company at 38 Shelby Street) and a number of churches in Chicago.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The St. Mary's parishioners were please with Gaul's plan to mold their new church along the lines of the Koln Cathedral. They were concerned about preserving their rich German heritage and culture in as many ways as possible. The German Gothic Revival style of the 1912 church was a fitting house for the German-language services and customs.

Architecturally, the 1912 structure is significant as the best example of the German Gothic Revival Style in Indianapolis and Indiana. St. Mary's Church with its dominating octagonal towers and exterior stone details has been regarded by architects as one of the better examples of German Gothic Revival in the Midwest.

World War I severely hindered the St. Mary's congregation in their efforts to preserve German culture. The strong anti-German sentiment during the war and the general decline of ethnic nationalism after the war were stronger than the congregation's will. Although German descendants remained important in the church membership, their numbers gradually declined until July 1, 1949, when St. Mary's was officially changed from a national church to a territorial parish.

St. Mary's Catholic Church remains as an example of Gothic Revival Architecture and as a reminder of the nineteenth-century German influence in Indiana and the strong ethnic nationalism in pre-World War I America.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis
 Indiana Architectural Foundation, Indianapolis
Architecture-Indianapolis: Hilltop Press, Inc. 1975
Indianapolis News, September 9, 1912
Indianapolis Star, September 9, 1912
 (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 572795 4402610

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sister Clarita Uehlein, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

St. Mary's Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

317 North New Jersey Street

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

DATE

October 13, 1975

TELEPHONE

(317) 637-3983

STATE

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL x

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9 PAGE 1

Major Bibliographical References (con't)

"New Edifice of Pioneer German Catholic Congregation," Indiana Catholic,
September 6, 1912. Page 1

Political and Biographical Memoirs of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana.
Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, 1893.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis
Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1910.

Interview with Cecilia Kings, Daughter of Hermann Gaul
July 2, 1975.

Interview with Ida Striby, Sister-In-Law of Hermann Gaul
July 29, 1915.