

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
other names/site number 169-337-17007

2. Location

street & number West Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town Lagro N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Wabash code 169 zip code 46941

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/1/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church

Wabash IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building, district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: Contributing (1, 0, 0, 0, 1), Noncontributing (0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
Name of Property

Wabash IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1873-1948

Significant Dates

1873

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Campion, Father Matthew E.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
Name of Property

Wabash IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	607070	4521150	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne V. Driscoll/Ron Woodward (Wabash County Historian)
organization St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church date 3-15-97
street & number 2623 E. 400N telephone 219-774-3387
city or town Urbana state IN zip code 46990

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
street & number P.O. Box 390 telephone 219-422-4611
city or town Fort Wayne state IN zip code 46801

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church is a two-story brick structure located in the old residential section of Lagro, Wabash County, Indiana. The Victorian Gothic church was designed by Father Matthew E. Campion and built between 1870 and 1873. It has maintained its structural integrity since that time. The building, which faces north along Main Street, has a limestone foundation and is 50 feet wide and 114 feet long. From ground level to the top of the main mass' steeply pitched gabled roof is approximately 40 feet. A pinnacle rises above each of the four corners of the building's main mass. The back of the building (photo 2) consists of a half-octagonal apse flanked on each side by lower, half-hipped sacristies. Corbeled brick cornices run above crenellated brick friezes along all sections of the building.

The main entryway (photo 1) on the north side of the church is arched and has two doors. To the east and west of the entrance are two buttresses that extend to the top of a bell tower. Directly above the entrance is a pointed arch stained glass window with a limestone keystone below a small round window. The square bell tower with two pointed arch louvered openings on each face rises atop the front of the church. To the east and west of the buttresses are pointed arch windows like the one above the entrance.

The east and west sides of the church (photo 2) each have five tall pointed arch windows. A brick buttress stands between each of these windows. Both the east and west elevations are similar except the east side has two entryways into the church. One entrance leads to the basement where the heating system is located. A small three feet by six feet structure has been built to cover this entryway. The second entrance, directly south of the first, consists of three steps leading up to the outside door of the east sacristy.

The south elevation of the building (photo 5) is composed of the apse and two sacristies with the gabled roof of the nave rising above. Centered in the south face of the apse is a pointed arched stained glass window featuring St. Patrick. Along the east sacristy wall is a smaller pointed arch like the ones found along the nave. The west sacristy contains a flat arched entrance with a paneled wood door. Three steps lead up to this entrance.

Directly inside the main entrance of the church is a small room with three doors. The east door enters into that side of the sanctuary. The west door enters into a recently constructed bathroom. Through the center door, one enters the sanctuary at the center aisle. The sanctuary has eighteen

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rows of antique oak wood pews on both sides of the wide center aisle. The front of the sanctuary consists of three large altars fronted by a communion railing which runs the entire width of the nave. The tall altars are hand carved with elaborate detail and life size statues.

To the east and west of the high altar are the two sacristies used for storage to house the priest's vestments.

The ceiling over the side aisles is divided into five pointed arch bays with half vaults that extend down to the spring point of the window arches. These partial vaults in turn support a shallow pointed arch vault that runs the entire length of the nave. At the rear of the sanctuary, an organ/choir gallery spans the entire width of the nave. The gallery rail, enriched by lancet arched panels, bows outward at the center in front of the organ. Tie rods were inserted to add support to the ceiling in about 1938. At one time the ceiling was painted with religious scenes, but these have since been painted over.

The gallery is reached by climbing a hand carved, curving stairway located in the northeast area of the church. The gallery extends the entire width of the church. In the center of the gallery, within a pointed arched alcove, is a large organ which no longer works. Directly behind the organ is a ladder leading up to the bell tower. The bell was purchased by the congregation in 1858 from a firm in Buffalo, New York.

Statement of Significance

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church stands overlooking the Wabash River. This church is worthy of being listed on the National Register under criterion C. The church is an architecturally outstanding structure in the small and historical community of Lagro. Since 1873, the current St. Patrick's Church has remained the center of one of Indiana's oldest parishes, established in 1838.

Shortly after the founding of Lagro, construction began on the Wabash and Erie Canal and the growth of the community and church began. Many of the laborers on the canal were of Irish Catholic ancestry, and a large part of this group remained in the Lagro area after completion of the canal. Those who settled in the area centered their religious and cultural lives around St. Patrick's Church.

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In 1838, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was founded. A thirty feet by forty feet frame church building was erected on two lots donated by Thomas Fitzgibbon, a contractor on the Wabash and Erie Canal. In 1858, the structure was enlarged under the direction of Father John Ryan. A thirty feet by forty feet addition was constructed and the first bell in the Wabash Valley was purchased and installed.

In August 1868, Father Matthew E. Campion became the pastor of St. Patrick's. Seeing the need for a new building, Father Campion drew up plans for a brick structure to sit directly behind the old frame church. The cornerstone for the new building was laid on June 15, 1870. The dedication took place less than three years later, on March 17, 1873. At that time, the church served approximately 300 families.

The structure erected by Father Campion and the parish is a fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture. This style's characteristics are obvious around the exterior of the church. Limestone facing material highlights all the pointed arched windows as sills and keystones. Keystones also top the front entrance and the bell tower's louvered windows. Limestone features also include the foundation, buttress caps, and belt courses around the bell tower. This combination of limestone and brick along the face of the structure produces a bichrome effect common in Victorian Gothic style.

The church's windows also reflect the Gothic style. The pointed arch, stained glass windows, as well as the louvered openings and front entrance, are set back from the plane of the exterior wall. The bell tower's round window consists of a quatrefoil design.

The detailing around the cornices and friezes of the church display a high level of artistry. Corbeled brick cornices run below the roof line on all sections of the building. The brick projection is three tiered and projects farther forward each step in height. The friezes consist of corbeled machicolation. This type of ornamentation is more typical of Romanesque architecture. Its use in this Gothic Revival design probably reflects Father Campion's architectural naivete.

St. Patrick's Church stands as one of only three Victorian Gothic churches rated "outstanding" in the 1982 Wabash County Interim Report for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The other two churches are the First United Methodist Church in Wabash and the Zion Lutheran Church in North Manchester. St. Patrick's is the oldest of these church buildings, the Wabash and North Manchester churches having been built in 1896 and 1882, respectively. The First United Methodist Church in Wabash is a later interpretation of the Victorian Gothic style. Constructed of rusticated stone, this church is a larger structure and lacks several qualities

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that characterize St. Patrick's Gothic appeal. Mansard roofing of varying heights masks the traditional Gothic gabling and gives the structure a bulkier appearance. The Zion Lutheran Church is much more comparable in size and design to St. Patrick's. Also made of brick, the Zion building has a similar square bell tower fronting a gabled roof. This church also displays detailing characteristics similar to those of St. Patrick's.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church is architecturally worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places. With its characteristic Victorian Gothic features and high level of historical integrity, the building is an exceptional structure within the county of Wabash. As the oldest of only three outstanding Victorian Gothic churches in Wabash County, St. Patrick's deserves recognition as an important and unique link to past achievement and imagination.

Bibliography

Blanchard, Charles, ed. History of the Catholic Church in Indiana. 2 Vol. Logansport, IN: A.W. Bowe and Company, 1898.

Blumenson, John J.-G. Identifying American Architecture. Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Centennial Anniversary, 1873-1973, Saint Patrick's Church, undated, author unknown.

Helm, T.B. History of Wabash County. Chicago: John Morris, 1884.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. Wabash County Interim Report. Indianapolis: Singleton Edwards Advertising Agency, Inc., 1982.

McNamara, William. The Catholic Church on the Northern Indiana Frontier. New York: AMS Press, 1974.

Robertson, Linda, ed. Wabash County History: Bicentennial Edition, 1976. Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1976

Weesner, Clarkson W., ed. History of Wabash County Indiana. 2 Vol. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.

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Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Verbal Boundary Description

Old Plat East ½ Lot 120; Lot 21 Brady's addition to the town of Lagro, Wabash County, Indiana.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary as recorded in the Records Office of Wabash County, Indiana.