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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally built in 1892-93, Sacred Heart Church was a brick edifice with a fairly tall octagonal wooden spire on the central western tower. The exterior surface was stuccoed in imitation of rough-surfaced Indiana limestone in 1923; the spire was replaced by the present more durable curved octagonal cupola with lantern after a damaging windstorm in 1915. The designer of the original church was Louis Picket of Cincinnati, an architect of whom nothing else is known at present. The cupola was designed by John Francis Sheblessy (1873-ca. 1939), a noted Roman Catholic architect of Cincinnati who had earlier worked in Chicago (with William LeBaron Jenney, Holabird & Root, and Henry Ives Cobb) and Louisville (with McDonald Brothers). Sheblessy also designed the adjacent school building which was erected in 1914-15.

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The main facade is dominated by the central tower with its massive diagonal buttresses. The tower is set partly back into the body of the church, but projects forward enough to divide the west front into three sections, each of which has its own gabled entrance vestibule (added in 1923). The tower, which is somewhat narrower than the nave, and the considerably lower aisle-fronts are linked by apparently non-structural "flying buttresses." Four clock faces are located within the pointed gables under the cupola. The upper windows are noticeably taller and narrower than those below to increase the illusion of height.

Picket originally proposed a length of 140 feet for Sacred Heart Church but economy dictated a reduction to about 120 feet, leaving a somewhat short vessel of four bays, extended at both east and west ends by polygonal forms. In plan the apse is a rectangular extension of the nave, without intervening transepts, but reduced versions of the nave arcade cut off the corners of the apse at the upper level and create a polygonal closing which allows for three large arched murals over the sanctuary. The organ, now hidden behind screens on either side of the sanctuary, was originally located in the balcony at the west end, where a series of slanted walls, galleries, and arches also forms a complex closure, apparently lengthening the body of the church while incorporating the piers of the tower. The arcade consists of rather tall slender columns, probably of cast-iron marbleized (the surface is currently being renewed). The capitals are lavish and foliate,

HATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Kentucky county Campbell FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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7. Description (continued)

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with a vaguely German Romanesque flavor. Clustered colonettes support the plastered vaulted roof about 65 feet above the floor. Triple clerestory windows (now filled with spectacular stained glass of crimson-winged seraphim) light the upper zone. The rather wide aisles have asymmetrical vaulted roofs carried on the outer edge by corbels of polychrome cherubim heads and wings. The earlier glass by <u>G. C. Riordan of Cincinnati was replaced</u> about twenty-five years ago by striking modern panels of bright colors against black in geometric patterns of an almost Navajo effect made by the <u>T. C. Esser Co.</u>, Stained Glass Studios, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Most of the interior of the church was redecorated in preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the church in 1924. Whereas prior to that time the wall and ceiling surfaces were plain, with the ribs, capitals, and other linear details lighter in contrast to the shiny dark shafts of the columns, the 1924 decorations were quite elaborate and probably attempted to unify the whole scheme through bands and patches of broken color. All the openings and other lines of articulation were provided with stencilled bands. The murals over the sanctuary and medallions flanking it were painted by Theodore Brasch, whose firm was responsible for the redecoration. At the same time the three great dark wood altars (perhaps machine carved) were apparently replaced by hand-carved ones of lesser size but far more delicate detail of a Flamboyant rather than High Gothic character. According to architect Edward J. Beiting, Jr. (whose father designed the harmonious buff-brick and limestone rectory and convent that flank the church building, creating a quiet garden between): "The altars with their richly ornamented ogee arches, finials, bar tracery, and elaborately carved niches and architraves were expertly handcarved in Germany and finished in gold leaf and paint."

The frescoes of the Stations of the Cross by Leon Lippert extend in a continuous band around the outer walls of the aisles, the narrative scenes linked by narrow vertical panels of few or single figures. Their muted colors, simplified but strongly

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7. Description (continued)

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outlined drawing, and the noble but somewhat inexpressive mien of the figures evoke the mural work of John LaFarge and of Lippert's master, Frank Duveneck, in his more solemn and less painterly manner such as he used in murals in several churches in neighboring Covington, Kentucky.

The handsome golden oak pews and carved altar rail inset with metal reliefs are probably original.

Although little of the present decoration thus belongs to the original scheme, the architectural structure remains intact, and a quite consistent overall decor results. The interior is not only impressive in itself, but also evokes the typical late 19th-century Roman Catholic Gothic Revival ecclesiastical manner. Although not so splendid as several of the great Catholic churches of the northern Kentucky cities of Newport and Covington, Sacred Heart is the predominant religious landmark of Bellevue and most effectively represents the community's social and cultural character of the last 100 years.



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Advantageously located in a low basin in a bend of the river near several metropolitan areas, Bellevue, the town in which Sacred Heart is located, was incorporated as a community in northern Kentucky in 1870. It was established across the Ohio River from the eastern portions of Cincinnati, and is appropriately named, although the actual source of the name is said to have been the Virginia plantation of Revolutionary War hero General James Taylor. Taylor's farm included not only the present Bellevue but also much of the adjacent city of Newport.

The first church constructed in Bellevue was Sacred Heart which was dedicated in 1874. It catered originally to a Roman Catholic parish mostly German but including several Irish parishioners. The original building has since been replaced by the present edifice with the old building used later as a school. A convent has since been placed on the site.

The present much larger church was built in 1892-93. Originally it was called Herz Jesu Kirche and ministered increasingly to the German-speaking population of the area. An Englishspeaking (predominantly Irish) congregation had established the rival St. Anthony's in 1889, and completed their own house of worship only a couple of years after Sacred Heart.

The architecture of Sacred Heart was thought especially appropriate to the German immigrant culture which it long housed. The design, by Cincinnati architect Louis Picket, is traditionally associated with that of Cologne Cathedral, although it was probably inspired to a greater degree by the provincial Bavarian churches with which many of the newcomers to this country would have been familiar.

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8. Significance (continued)

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Although the tower and high nave of the church are conspicuous landmarks of Bellevue and visible even from across the Ohio, it is the interior and its decoration which form the chief pride of Sacred Heart.

The interior preserves the character of a typical late 19thcentury "German-Gothic church,"with the emphasis on tall, slender columns dividing nave and aisles. In spite of the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, Sacred Heart preserves the lavish adornment in wood-carving, plasterwork, and frescoes that enlivened and humanized the extreme verticality of the interior. The several elaborately carved altars and other statuary are said to have been imported from the Austrian Tyrol, Düsseldorf, and Munich. The murals were the work of local artists Theodore Brasch and Bavarian-born Leon Lippert (1863-1947). The latter was a pupil at the Cincinnati Art Academy of the outstanding American painter of the "Munich School," Frank Duveneck, who was himself a native and long resident of nearby Covington, Kentucky.

Sacred Heart Church has for a century--more than 80 years in the present structure--played an essential role in developing and preserving the character of its community. Although a diminishing Roman Catholic population now threatens the church's survival, the building has a far wider identity than its immediate parish. America's attitude toward its immigrant population, greatly influenced by two world wars, has tended to underplay the role of German-speaking persons in the American "melting-pot." Sacred Heart survives as a proud reminder of that once-prominent role.



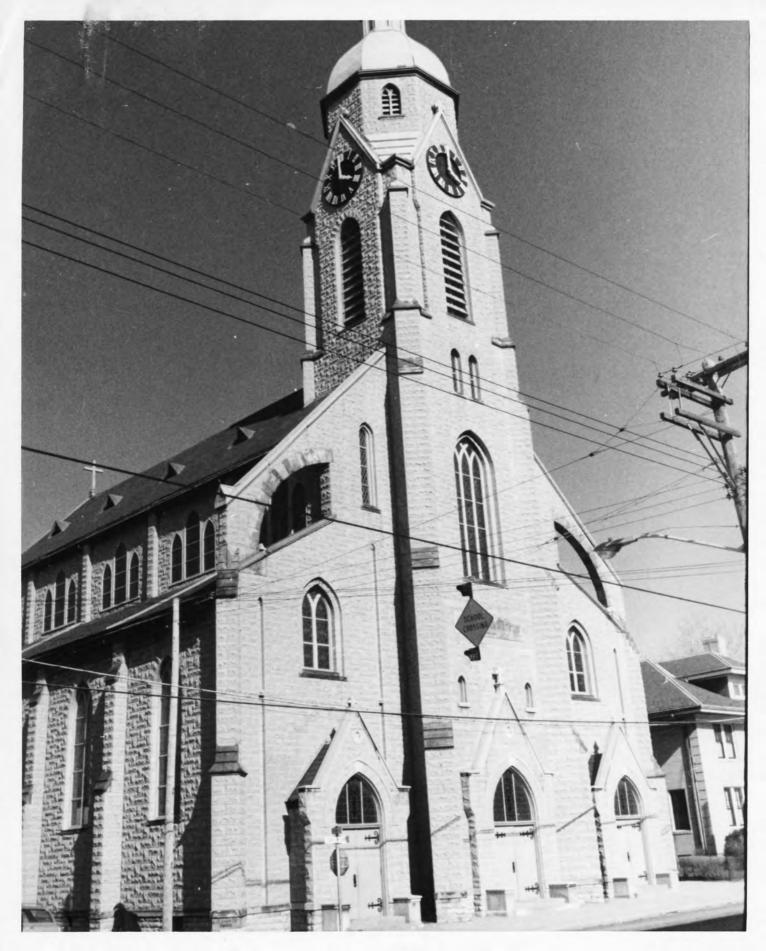
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PROPERTY Sacred Heart Church STATE X 14. WORKING NUMBER TECH REVIEW PHOTOS MAPS CONTROL REVIEW hat & hang incorrect. Acreage missing Cm 6.5 May need more justification o descript Soz reance ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN AICH. description weak. 9/19/14 Permastone diminishes integrity of exterior-would like photo of interior as this appears to be most sign. architect-usally. RETURN. HWJande 6/18/14 ARCHEOLOGIST REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Could use more up but I'm not Rober very adament against. COR 6/19/78 BRANCH CHIEF KEEPER 6.24.74 Send-back _____ National Register Write-up Re-submit 8.2.74 Federal Register entry Entered INT: 1538-73

PLEASE RE NAME OF P	TURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: 6/21/24 ROPERTY Sacred Heart Church, Kig
The attac	hed National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your r clarification of the information indicated below.
1.	Name.
2.	Location.
<u> </u>	Classification.
4.	Owner of Property.
5.	Location of Legal Description.
6.	Representation in Existing Surveys.
_X 7.	Description. <u>Please expand aschikchual description</u> - was original facade wich? Are stained glate windows original to 61dg? Number of bays, alterations, etc.
8.	Statement of Significance.
-	
9.	Bibliography.
<u> </u>	Geographical Data. a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. Longitude (or Latitude) appears to be off by about . Please check. b. Acreage. <u>Olease fulling</u>
11.	Form Prepared By.
	Certification.
	phil. Coverage. a photograph of the interior would be
Map	Coverage.
0th	er
of	rification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not essarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register teria in full.
Tha	ank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: Charlasternits

PROPERTY Sacred Heart Church	STATE K	2nd Control
WORKING NUMBER 6.4.74.913	0	1 Soot
TECH REVIEW PHOTOS 5	14	Cumpbell
MAPS		74000856
CONTROL REVIEW		am
		015 74
HISTORIAN		Accept
		W. R. Cuce 8/5/74
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN		ACCEPT
		Hugande 8/6/24
ARCHEOLOGIST	164.03	The second states
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF		
	3	
BRANCH CHIEF		
		Recept Themas J. mintagh 8-12-74
KEEPER		Henry
		8-12-74
National Register Write-up Ocho,1974	Send-back	
Federal Register entry Oct. 1, 1974	Re-submit	
	Entered	AUG 1 3 1974













10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the low water line as determined from U.S. Corps of Engineers Ohio River charts, surveyed 1913, and supplementary information

Area east of the Little Miami River lies within the Virginia Military District Area west of the Little Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242, KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506. AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

S KENTUCKY QUADRANGLE LOCATION Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas





Mott already ; special

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY **Kentucky Heritage Commission** CORNER IN CELEBRITIES FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

24

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper National Register of Historic Places United States Department of the Interior National Park Service 18th and C Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Doctor Murtagh:

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of the National Register nomination form for Sacred Heart Church, Bellevue, Campbell County, Kentucky.

In forwarding the form to you we neglected to include a cover letter requesting immediate attention to this nomination. We would like to be able to announce your approval, if you see fit to grant it, at a centennial celebration during August, 1974. Any efforts you can make to expediteethe approval process will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred W. Melton

Mrs. Eldred W. Melton State Historic Preservation Officer

June 10, 1974



Kentucky Heritage Commission

401 Wapping Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

July 24, 1974

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper National Register of Historic Places United States Department of the Interior National Park Service 18th and C Streets, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Doctor Murtagh:

We are pleased to return the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for <u>Sacred Heart Church</u>, <u>337 Taylor Avenue, Bellevue, Campbell County, Kentucky</u>. As requested by Charles Herrington, additional architectural description and geographical data have been supplied, as well as a photograph of the interior.

As the Centennial celebration of the congregation is to be celebrated early next month, we are very eager to have the nomination reconsidered as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Eldred W Mellon

Mrs. Eldred W. Melton State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

cc: Representative William Donnermeyer The Reverend Robert P. Klein Mrs. Robert R. Hartman



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE KENTUCKY

Date Entered AUG 1 3 1974

Name

Location

Sacred Heart Church

Bellevue Campbell County

Also Notified

Hon. Marlow W. Cook Hon. Walter D. Huddleston Hon. John B. Breckinridge Regional Director, Southeast Region State Historic Preservation Officer Mrs. Eldred W. Melton Director Kentucky Heritage Commission 401 Wapping St. Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

PR MMott/row 8/19/74

aver 83

H32 (413)

Mrs. P. L. Barensfield 1552 Cobblegate Lane Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Dear Mrs. Barensfield:

Thank you for your recent inquiry requesting a copy of an inscription associated with the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bellevue, Campbell County, Kentucky, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 13, 1974.

Unfortunately, our file for this property does not include any information on the inscription which you requested. You may wish to contact Ms. Mary Cronan Oppel, the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer, to inquire about your request. Ms. Oppel's address is: 9th Floor Capitol Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Or, you may wish to contact the church; the address is: 337 Taylor Avenue, Bellevue, Kentucky 41073.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull Chief of Registration National Register of Historic Places Interagency Resources Division

cc: Ms. Mary Cronan Oppel, Kentucky SHPO

bcc:SERO 413 Reading File Record Center

FNP:IRD:B Savage:mc:12/13/83:343-9536

Syst. 8 (NHL) #12022

Basic File Retained in 413

1552 Cobblegate Lane Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 October 13,1983

National Registry of Historical Sites National Park Service Dept. of the Interior Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to obtain some information and a request.

I would like to know if I could obtain a copy of the inscription to be found on a historical marker for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bellevue, Kentucky, Campbell County, Taylor St. in Bellevue.

The marker is in the church yard and has to do with the first Catholic German Settlers from Bavaria in that area who worshipped there.

My grandparents and great grandparents were among the early worshippers there and I would like to have the inscription wording to add to my memory book.

If there is a charge for the search and printed copy of the wording, please let me know and I will reimburse you promptly.

Sincerely, Auth Baunfield Mrs. P.L.Barensfield

corver of Taylor Ave. 337 Taylor Ave. Bellevel 41073



1552 Cobblegate Lane Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 October 13,1983

National Registry of Historical Sites National Park Service Dept. of the Interior Nashington D.C. 20240

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Sincerely,

Mrs. P.L. Barensfield

ULI 2 0 1983