

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 25 1980
AUG 11 1980
DATE ENTEREDSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

641 Licking Pike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wilders

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE
021

COUNTY

Campbell

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington

STREET & NUMBER

9 East Twelfth Street

CITY, TOWN

Covington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kenton County Courthouse - Covington Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Covington

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church is located in the tiny community of Johns Hill, in Campbell County, Kentucky. Constructed in 1858, this nave plan church is two stories in height and seven bays deep. Coursed rubblestone is the construction material, and the structure is elevated on a basement. The central entrance is set within a slightly projecting pavillion which is capped by a central frame bell tower. A relieving arch gives the entrance emphasis and calls attention to the stained glass window centered above with similar arch treatment. Flared eaves accentuate the cornice and give the roof line an interesting modification. The seven bay side elevation boast wooden lintels above stained glass windows on the second story. The window openings below contain no stained glass. A box cornice graces the roof edge.

To the rear of the stone structure is a two-story, 20th century, brick addition.

St. Johns sanctuary was modernized in 1941 and the original wooden alter and kneeling rail were removed. The present railing is of wrought iron and the original wooden pews are extant.

The boundaries are drawn to include the church structure only.

8

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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)	

SPECIFIC DATES	1858	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
----------------	------	-------------------	---------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unlike most of predominately Anglo-American Kentucky, Campbell County has a distinctly heterogenius cultural background, as a result of its settlement in the mid 19th century by large numbers of German immigrants. Primarily of Roman Catholic affiliation, the German people established small farms and built an impressive group of churches in the county prior to 1900. Of the few first-generation churches to survive, St. Johns is the best preserved and least altered. In scale and materials, it is related to the stone and log dwellings built on nearby farms. Later county churches were built in a scale and with a level of ornamentation that defined a greater division between the domestic and religious realms of life.

The story of the St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church is one that is typical of many of the immigrant groups which came to the United States during the nineteenth century. As one result of the revolutions and petty bickerings which inflicted the more than forty separate independent states of the German Confederation during the 1840s, many Germans left their native land and sought asylum and new citizenship in the United States of America. Many of them went to the north and the mid-west. One notable example of one who later became an important American political leader was Carl Schurz of Missouri who served as United States Senator as well as a member of the president's cabinet. Several of these immigrants came to the greater Cincinnati area and some of these developed the church which is being proposed in this nomination.

A few of these pioneers from Bavaria relocated to Campbell County, Kentucky, where huge tracts of land lay peacefully and invitingly untilled. These immigrants named the area "John's Hill," for some unknown reason. Almost immediately they purchased property on which to construct a church building for the nominal sum of one dollar from a Mr. Jones, son-in-law of John Taylor, one-time owner of nearly the whole of Campbell County.

A loghouse soon became the first church on John's Hill, and it was to serve as such for ten years. The names of the nine original families who formed the nucleus of the first congregation have retained their prominence. They were Seibert, Ruschman, Burkhardt, Koss, Lahner, Reibel, Weingartner, Sendelback, and Steffney. These families attended Mass in the loghouse on the fourth Sunday of the month when Father John Voll, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, in Newport, travelled up John's Hill Road. Their children were taught in the same building by a Mr. Onhouse and a Mr. Weigend. Unfortunately, in the midst of a parish picnic on the feast of St. John the Baptist in 1857, lightning struck the loghouse. It caught fire and burned to the ground.

After much deliberation, the decision was made to erect a more substantial building

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chappell, Edward "Campbell: A Northern County", Kentucky Heritage Commission Heritage News, March-April, 1980.

Sister Mary Cecil, S.N.D. and Sister Mary Philip, S.N.D., St. John the Baptist Church, 1858-1958. Newport, Kentucky: Otto Printing Co., 1958 (Centennial Souvenir).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Newport, Ky.-Ohio

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 718940 4230860
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A line parallel to, and twenty feet from the foundations of the building.

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

Calvin Jones, Historian Jayne C. Henderson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/11/80

DATE

7/24/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church
Campbell County

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 25 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

in a more central location. In the very year of the fire, work was begun on a new two-story stone structure, thirty by fifty feet. The Most Reverend George Aloysius Carrell, S. J., first Bishop of Covington, appointed Adam Seibert, Ignatz Ruschman, and Lawrence Weingartner as members of the first church committee. By April 25, 1858, Monsignor Frederic Baraga, later the bishop of Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, was able to officiate at the laying of the cornerstone. In seven months time, on November 25, 1858, Bishop Carrell dedicated the new St. John the Baptist Church, the same church still in use today.

For twenty years the church was a mission station served by the Benedictine Fathers of Covington. The first resident pastor was the Reverend Anthony Athmann, who was appointed in January, 1877. The Reverend William Cassander succeeded him after only a year but remained until 1880. Nine short term pastors then followed each other over a period of eleven years. The historical records as to their achievements are just as lacking as are documentary references as to the effects on the parish of the Civil War, the Reconstruction, and industrial growth. It is recorded, however, that under Father Bernard Hillebrand, pastor from 1880 to 1882, the Apostleship of Prayer was established in the parish, and the main altar was built. The statues which adorned the altar at that time were carved by Mr. Frank De Jaco of Newport, Kentucky.

In 1891, possibly because of a shortage of priests, the parish again became a mission attached to Corpus Christi Church. During this time, Father Joseph Schaefer and Father Henry B. Gellenbeck were in charge of Sunday services held twice monthly. Father Gellenbeck was appointed pastor in 1894. A year later he was succeeded by Father Bernard Baumeister who served there until 1903. Both he and his successor, the Reverend Thomas B. Ott, were able to make needed improvements at the church as did his successor, Father Charles Diemer. It was during his pastorate that the congregation celebrated its golden jubilee of the building of the little stone church on the hill in 1908. It was also before his pastorate ended in 1917 that the catechism was no longer taught in the German language as it had been before World War I, according to Father Anthony Deye, the current pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Newport. Father Deye was ordained at St. John the Baptist Church in 1938.

Father Deimer also brought in the Sisters of Notre Dame to assume charge of the school in 1909. Through the following years, they faithfully conducted their small school, in many cases being required to perform most of the custodial work themselves with the assistance of their pupils.

New vitality surged through the life of the parish with the coming of Father Walter Freiburg in 1938. The dream of a vigorous pastorate became a vibrant reality with the coming of Father Francis R. Mielech in 1931. The twenty-three years of his administration are a noble illustration of what native ability, zeal, and a long tenure in office can accomplish in a parish. Many further physical improvements were

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 25 1980

AUG 11 1980

DATE ENTERED

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church
Campbell County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

made at his suggestion and because of his efforts.

In 1958, St. John the Baptist Church celebrated its centennial. It continues to operate as a testimony to the interest, energy, and dedication of its original founders, German immigrants from Bavaria who came to a new nation, where they could enjoy peace, freedom, and prosperity away from the revolutions and war of Central Europe.

St. John the Baptist Church, constructed in 1858 is one of few early ethnic churches extant in Kenton County. Of those which remain, it is the best example of early German utilitarian structures. Devoid of the high ornamentation which was present in later church structures, St. Johns symbolizes the non-materialistic religious life led by early German immigrants.

Property

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

State

Ky, Campbell

Working Number

6.25.80, 1657

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Austere in appearance, this 1858 stone church is the county's best-preserved church built for the first generation of German immigrants in the mid-19th century. Significant primarily for assoc. w/ exploration/settlement rather than architecture/religion

*Accept
O'Connell
7/24/80*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered AUG 11 1980

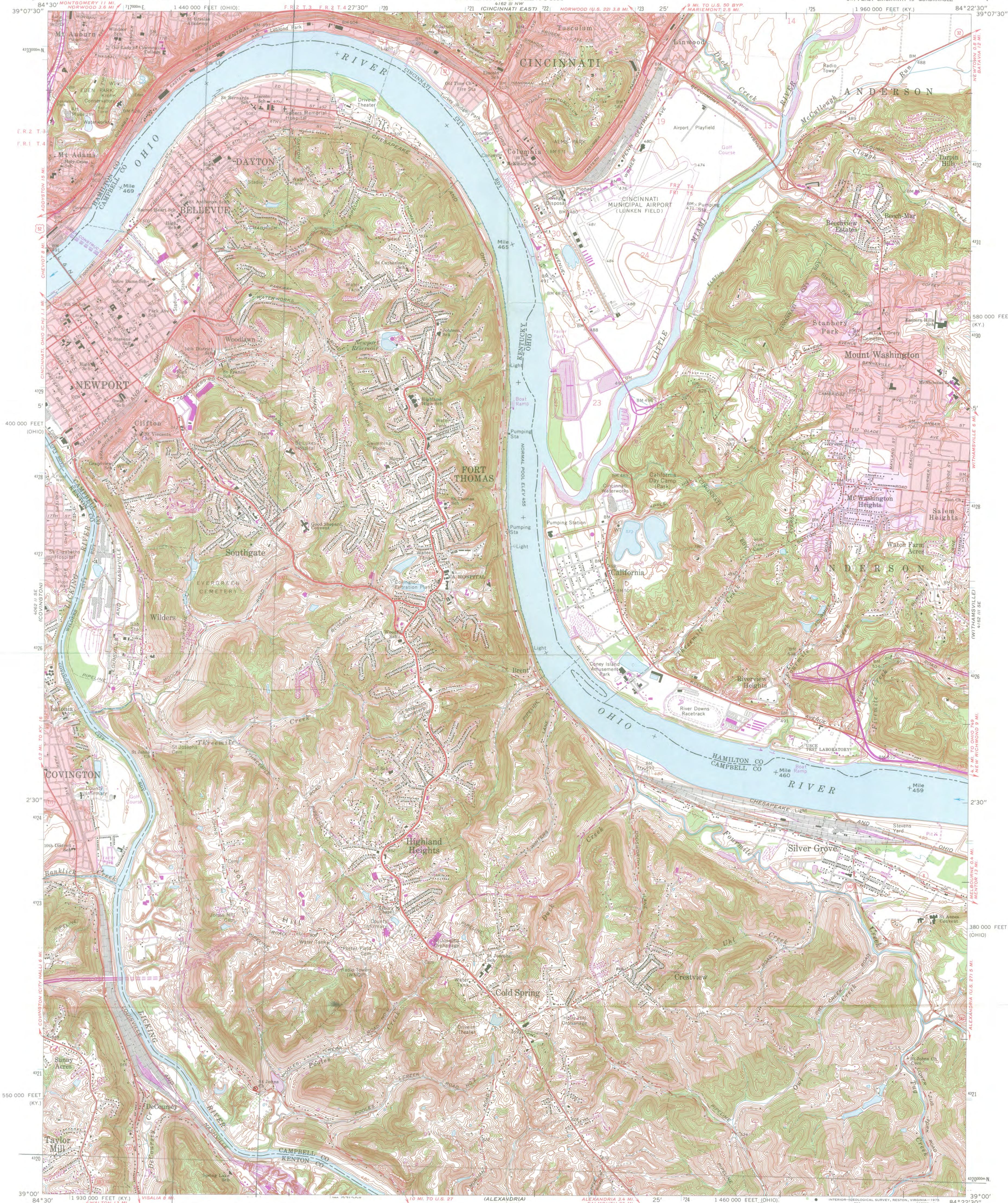
Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____





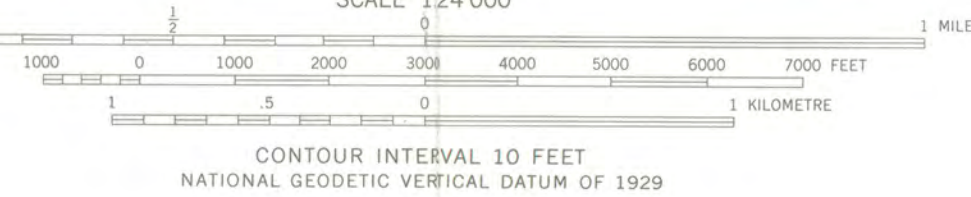


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, and City of Cincinnati
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1949, and in part by the City of Cincinnati
Field checked 1951, 1952, and 1954. Revised 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system,
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, show
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unche
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
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

St. John the Baptist Roman
Catholic Church
Wilder, Campbell County, Kentucky
U.S.G.S. Map, 7.5 Minute Series
Photo revised, 1961, Newport, Ky.-
Ohio Quadrangle.
UTM References: 16/718940/4230860

AUG 11 1980

UTM correction 1/22/08
16/718942/4321065



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
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

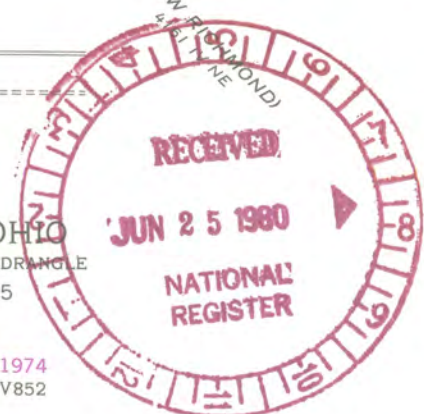


Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1970 and 1974. This information is not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———
Interstate Route ———

NEWPORT, KY.-OHIO
SW/4 EAST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE
N3900-W8422.5/7.5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1974
AMS 4162 III SW-SERIES V852



City of Wilder

00 LICKING PIKE • WILDER, KENTUCKY 41071 • (606) 581-8884 • DOUGLAS R. HANEY, MAYOR

Glass

March 6, 1980

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1980

KY. HERITAGE
COMMISSION

Kentucky Heritage Commission
104 Bridge Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Subject: St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic
Church, 641 Licking Pike, Wilder, Kentucky

The City of Wilder is proud to endorse and recommend the above subject be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Its age, architecture, history, and location make it one of the most historic places in Northern Kentucky and, therefore, it most certainly should be preserved.

Should any further information regarding this subject be necessary we will do whatever is in our power to assist.

Respectfully yours,

Douglas R. Haney

Douglas R. Haney

DRH/mh

Gloria
LAMBERT HEHL

CAMPBELL COUNTY
Office of County Judge/Executive

24 W. 4TH ST. • [P.O. BOX 340] • NEWPORT, KENTUCKY 41072

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1980

KY. HERITAGE
COMMISSION

TELEPHONE
(606) 292-3838

March 7, 1980

✓
Mrs. Eldred W. Melton
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer
Kentucky Heritage Commission
404 Bridge Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mrs. Melton:

Re: St. John the Baptist
Roman Catholic Church
641 Licking Pike
Wilder, KY

On behalf of the Campbell County Fiscal Court, we would like to recommend that the above-captioned church be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church has been used as a place of worship for many years, and has been instrumental in the development of the Licking River Valley, especially the spiritual needs of the citizens thereof.

Thank you for considering St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church for historic preservation.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Lambert Hehl
Lambert Hehl
County Judge/Executive

LH/dlg

cc: St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church
Ms. Betty Daniels, Campbell County Heritage League

Mrs. Carol Shull

June 19, 1980

Page 2

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Campbell County, Kentucky

AUG 11 1980

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

2 Continuation Sheets

1 Map

2 Photos

2 Copies of letters of support



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

KENTUCKY

Date Entered

AUG 11 1980

Name

Location

Fayette Safety Vault and Trust
Company Building

Lexington
Fayette County

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic
Church

Wilders
Campbell County

Warfield, Dr. Walter, Building

Lexington
Fayette County

Odd Fellows Halls

Covington
Kenton County

Second Presbyterian Church

Lexington
Fayette County

Also Notified

Honorable Walter D. Huddleston
Honorable Wendell H. Ford
Honorable Larry J. Hopkins

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Eldred W. Melton
Director
Kentucky Heritage Commission
104 Bridge Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

NR

Byers/arb

8/25/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.