2-185-01715

1715 N.W. Couch Street

Couch's, Block 167, Lots 1-8
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3028
Northwest District Association

ORIGINAL NAME: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
OTHER NAMES: St. Mary's

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Church

DATE BUILT: 1925

STYLE: Twentieth Century Romanesque, Byzantine

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Jacobberger and Smith

ORIGINAL OWNER: Archdiocese of Portland

TAX ASSESSOR'S ACCOUNT #: R-18021-5070
ZONING: RH, RHS
HISTORIC DISTRICT: Nob Hill (potential)
Rank II
SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Religion
BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City of Portland Buildings Bureau microform and card files.

Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, automated data files, and card files (Portland, 1980).

OLD ADDRESS: 574 Davis Street

ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT #: 151524

MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1925/151523/Killgreen and Flynn
1957/361851/Reimers and Jolivette, Inc.
1975/494131/Reimers and Jolivette, Inc.

Present owners, as of May 1980: Archdiocese of Portland
MAILING ADDRESS: 2838 East Burnside Street, Portland 97214

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 201-18a, 19a, 20a

Score - Design/Construction: 12
Score - Historical: 5
Score - Rarity: 0
Score - Environment: 10
Score - Integrity: 10
Score - Intrinsic: 17
Score - Contextual: 20
Score - Total: 79.5
HIST. NAME: Cathedral of Immaculate Conception
COMMON NAME: 
ADDRESS: 1715 Northwest Couch Street
CITY: Portland
OWNER: Archdiocese of Portland
ADDRESS: 1716 NW Davis, Portland, OR 97209

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925
ORIGINAL USE: Religious: church
PRESENT USE: Religious: church
ARCHITECT: Jacobberger and Smith
BUILDER:
THEME: Culture: religion
STYLE: Italian Renaissance

T/R/S: TIN R1E S33
MAP NO.: 3028 TAX LOT: NA
ADDITION: Couch's Addition
BLOCK: 167 LOT: 1-8
ZONE: A0 QUAD.: Portland
ASSESSOR NO.: R180215070

RESOURCE TYPE: Church
CONDITION: Good
MOVED (DATE):
Old Address: 566 Davis Street
RANK:

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Cross-shape
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Brick
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Hip; gable/tile
WALL/FRAME: Brick

NO. OF STORIES: 2
BASEMENT: Yes, raised

PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Fixed multi-pane
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Brick

DECORATIVE FEATURES: Corbelled brick cornice and copper gutter at eaves; raised, gabled parapet with stone coping at gabled ends; cross finial on front gable; red clay tile roof over most of building; flat metal roof at rear; bell tower with decorative brick work contrasting colors, corbelling at upper portion, stone arches and wood brackets; red brick, decorative eave band, wood doors with panels, three paired doorways with wood panels and stained glass; stone ornamental arched recesses, bronze pendant light fixture above each door; primary windows at side walls of sanctuary, arched with stained glass in recessed area with brick panel below and stone festoons at top and sides and stone keystones above; roman inspired portico, Corinthian columns, cornice frieze, pediment with arched recess area with statue.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (DATED): None

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Foundation plantings; hedges, rhodies ornamental plantings; mature deciduous; cherry, elm, maple; courtyard; fences, gates; statue of the Virgin Mary in raised bed. The church buildings from a cloister at their center with concrete paving, an arched loggia on two sides, and a planting area in the center.

ASSOCIATED FEATURES: None

SETTING: The cathedral is part of a two-block church complex, occupying the most prominent corner of the site, facing south to N.W. Couch Street at N.W. Eighteenth Avenue. Most common use in neighborhood is multi-family residential. W. Burnside Street is one block south.

RECORDED BY: Donovan and Associates
Prohaska and Associates

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: P-109
DATE: August 1991

2/96
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Cathedral of Immaculate Conception was designed for the Catholic Church of Oregon by the prominent Oregon architectural firm of Jacobberger and Smith in 1925. The church, designed in the Italianate Renaissance Style, is an excellent example of the style with minor modifications. The building is one of five churches in the inventoried area.

Historical: The property is associated with the following Portland organizations: Roman Catholic Diocese of Oregon.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP HISTORY

1914 On May 19, 1914 Simon Benson sold lots 1 through 8 of Block 167 to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oregon.

1916 The Roman Catholic Archbishop deeded the property to the Archdiocese of Oregon City on November 21, 1916.

OWNERS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Catholic Church in Oregon: The Catholic church took an interest in Oregon while it was still a territory. Many of the earliest European inhabitants of the Oregon Territory were French-Canadian trappers, many of whom were Catholic. Requests for priests were made in 1821, 1834 and 1835, but it was not until 1838 that Father Francis N. Blanchet was named vicar general to the Bishop of Quebec, which included the Oregon Territory. The following year he came to St. Paul near French Prairie and held the first mass in Oregon at the church in St. Paul.

In 1844, the St. John Apostle Parish in Oregon City was established. This church would later become the future Archbishop Blanchet's church. In 1846, the Archdiocese of Oregon City was created, although a few years later it was relocated to Portland. The following year Portland built the St. Mary Cathedral and subsequently the first priest was ordained in Oregon. In 1848 the first provincial council of Oregon was established.

During this period, the Catholic church in Oregon faced several setbacks. In 1847 the Whitman Massacre, during which several Protestant missionaries were killed by Native-Americans, was blamed on Catholics. The other major event during this period was the discovery of gold in California in 1849. The majority of the population in the Oregon Territory migrated south in search for gold and the Jesuit priest, who had conducted most of the Catholic ministering in the Territory, followed their flocks.

The Catholic church was revitalized in Oregon with the new waves of immigration during the later decades of the nineteenth century. People from all over Europe, many of the Catholics, came to America looking for wealth, political and religious freedom as well as jobs.

In 1880 Bishop Charles John Seghers succeeded Archbishop Blanchet as the head of the Catholic church in Portland. Construction on the second Portland Catholic church at Northwest Third and Glisan Streets was completed by the time Bishop William Gross took Archbishop Seghers place in 1885. In the 1890s a series of floods destroyed many of the buildings in downtown Portland,

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including St. Mary’s and so construction of a third church, the subject property, was begun under Archbishop Gross’ administration.

In 1900 Oregon’s population was 413,536 and their were 61 priests, 67 church and 23 parochial schools in the Oregon City Diocese, now located in Portland. In 1923 there were 153 priests, 116 churches and 47 schools in the same area. The Lewis and Clark Exposition increased the population of Portland even more, which resulted in the splitting of the diocese into several smaller sections. The Catholic population of Oregon continued to grow.

The third St. Mary’s Cathedral, was constructed in 1925 by the architects Jacobberger and Stanton, utilizing the Italianate Renaissance Style of architecture. The five window panels, which line each side of the church, were moved from the southwest Third and Stark Streets. They were created in Baltimore in 1880. Two marble statues now stand on each side of the church. The were created by Swiss monks in 1870.

ARCHITECT

Josef Jacobberger, an important Portland architect, designed the subject property while a partner in the firm of Jacobberger and Smith. “Josef (sometimes rendered at Joseph) Jacobberger lived in the home with his family from 1908 or 1909 until 1916, when the family moved to the suburban community of Hillsdale. During these years, Jacobberger carried out a significant portion of his work.

Josef Jacobberger was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1869, and was brought to the United States by his parents when he was two years old. He was raised in the mid-west where his father, Hubert, worked as a building contractor. Jacobberger was educated at Creighton University of Omaha, Nebraska, and later worked as a draftsman for a number of architects in the area. Moving to Portland in 1890, he began work as a draftsman for the firm of Widden and Lewis, where he remained for five years. After leaving Widden and Lewis, Jacobberger began private practice as an architect. In 1893, he married Anna Lillis of Portland. The couple had five children. Carey in the History of Oregon, notes that “Mr. Jacobberger is a democrat in his political views and in religious faith a Catholic, attending the cathedral in this city.”

Jacobberger’s Catholic faith appears to have been reflected in the crosses he placed on the verge boards of his home, and in the many commissions he carried out for various Catholic organizations. These include a number listed in the Portland Historic Inventory: the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (now St. Mary’s), the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, St. Clement’s parish, two schools and several other buildings. The Knight’s of Columbus building, later the Aero Club, was one of his better known designs. He also designed a number of buildings on the Marylhurst College campus. Jacobberger’s influence went well beyond his religious buildings, however, as noted by the Oregon Journal, ‘He was interested in the Oregon Building congress, (sic) and the waterfront development project embodies many of his ideas.’

For many years Jacobberger worked in partnership with Alfred H. Smith, together forming one of the more significant architectural firms in Portland. Jacobberger was among the important architects of the City who ‘nourished the development of Portland’s architectural microcosm,’ as advocated by Albert E. Doyle. When Josef Jacobberger died in March of 1930, he was ‘one of the best-known architects in the Pacific Northwest,’ and a fellow of the American Institute of Architecture.’

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Sources: Ticor Title Company Records
Multnomah County Tax Assessor Records
City of Portland Building Bureau Records
Portland City Directories
Portland Block Books
Catholic Sentinel, 22 September, 1986
OBSERVATIONS:

NEGATIVE NO.: Roll 25 #3  DATE: 3/20/91

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