

REFNUM 89000174

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR: 3-9-89

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Bernard's Church
other names/site number SUM-342-16

2. Location

street & number 240 South Broadway Street N/A not for publication
city, town Akron N/A vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Summit code 153 zip code 44308

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official W. Ray Jace

Date 2/1/89

State or Federal agency and bureau SHPO

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone
 walls sandstone

roof slate
 other glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Bernard's Church is a cruciform-shaped church built of random coursed, monochromatic, rock-faced ashlar in the late Romanesque Revival style of architecture. It was completed in 1905, after three years of construction. The church faces east and is situated on a steeply sloped lot, resulting in a raised basement to the west that is set off by a stone watertable. The front-gabled nave is dominated by a symmetrical pair of massive square towers with pyramidal roofs topped by crosses. The vertical plane of the towers, emphasized by corner pilaster strips, is broken by five corbeled string courses separating the upper ranks of windows, arched blind openings, and tall, round-arched paired openings in the belfry. Both single and double windows are round arched, with a small central column in the double windows and a relieving round arch above them. The three-bay arcaded front entry, with round arches supported by single and paired columns, is surmounted by a narrow balconet with a quatrefoil-pierced balustrade. Three large, deepset, piered, round-arch stained glass windows, with Romanesque pilasters and oculus tracery, further dominate the nave's front facade. Above the taller central window is a multiple, round-arch blind opening and an arcaded corbel table at the eaves. Tall, round-arch stained glass windows on the elevations are separated by buttresses, with a small oculus window set into the corbeled cornice between each buttress. Elliptical one-story apses project from each end of the central transept, above which are large round-arch windows flanked by two smaller arched windows, echoing the window design of the nave front. A substantial basement-level, hipped roof extension off the southwest corner of the church accomodates an arched doorway and is embellished with stone string courses and single, paired, and triple round-arch windows. A large apse at the rear of the chancel projects to the roof, which is slate.

The church interior retains a high degree of integrity, with floors and altars made of marble imported from Italy. The magnificent stained glass windows, numbering more than thirty, are all original, and depict a variety of Biblical motifs. Murals and ornamental painting further embellish the marble and plaster walls and ceilings, along with twelve major pieces of statuary. The main altar has been slightly modified by the addition of a second altar (ca. 1967) facing the congregation, but the main altar remains in place, crowned by a life-size statue of St. Bernard.

The exterior of St. Bernard's Church also retains a high degree of integrity. The only notable changes are the recent (ca. 1985) replacement of the side doors and the glass blocking of some basement windows (date unknown).

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1905

Significant Dates
1905

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Ginther, William P. architect
Lukash, Frank general contractor

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Bernard's Church is significant under Criterion C for architecture, as the most highly developed example of late Romanesque Revival style architecture in the city of Akron.

St. Bernard's parish was formed in 1861 by German Catholics dissatisfied with Irish St. Vincent de Paul's. After groundbreaking in 1901 and laying of the cornerstone in 1902, this church was completed in 1905, replacing an earlier Gothic Revival style church across the street which the parish had outgrown. It was the reported intent of the church's pastor and builders to erect a church "which would excell any other church building in Akron and in the state," spending whatever was necessary to build a church on "the most modern plan," which would be a "monument to Catholicism as well as ... to the city of Akron."

St Bernard's Church embodies most of the elements that distinguish the Romanesque Revival style. Its symmetrical massing, use of monochromatic stone, and extensive employment of the semi-circular or round arch as a dominant decorative motif in all openings and as wall enrichment, characterize the Romanesque Revival style. The gabled nave flanked by square towers with pyramidal roofs, corbel tables along the eaves, corbeled string courses, pilasters in the front windows, and rather small buttresses are also typical elements of this style. Richardsonian influence, reflecting the church's late date for Romanesque Revival architecture, is evident in the set-in of the windows, the arched blind arcade in the nave front, and the use of random coursed, rock-faced ashlar for all exterior wall surfaces. Buildings of this style are notably rare in Akron, perhaps due to a combination of slow growth during parts of the latter 1800s and to subsequent demolitions. A commercial building at 57 E. Market Street is a fine example of the style, but it has suffered a loss of integrity, particularly in the application of modern smoked glass windows. Despite its early twentieth-century date, St. Bernard's thus remains Akron's most distinctive and significant example of Romanesque Revival style architecture.

St. Bernard's Church was designed by William P. Ginther, an Akron architect whose career spanned nearly 60 years from 1875-1933. Ginther, a member of St. Bernard's congregation, began as a draughtsman under Frank O. Weary, the architect of several of Ohio's Victorian Era courthouses. Ginther also designed St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church (East 83rd Street), 1912, in Cleveland. Although the facade is smaller in scale, its two symmetrical towers with open belfries flanking the slightly recessed central entrance bay are reminiscent of St. Bernard's design. Executed in brick, St. Adalbert's symmetrical Baroque facade reflects the most evident pattern in Roman Catholic churches during that decade in Cleveland.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

. Akron Historic Landmark Survey. (City of Akron, Dept. of Planning and Urban Development, 1980).

. "St. Bernard's Church one of Finest in the State." Akron Beacon Journal (Sat., August 18, 1905).

Johannesen, Eric. Cleveland Architecture, 1876-1976. (Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, 1979)

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	7	4	5	6	4	3	0	4	5	4	7	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot nos. 23, 24N, 26; parcel 67-00-8138

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

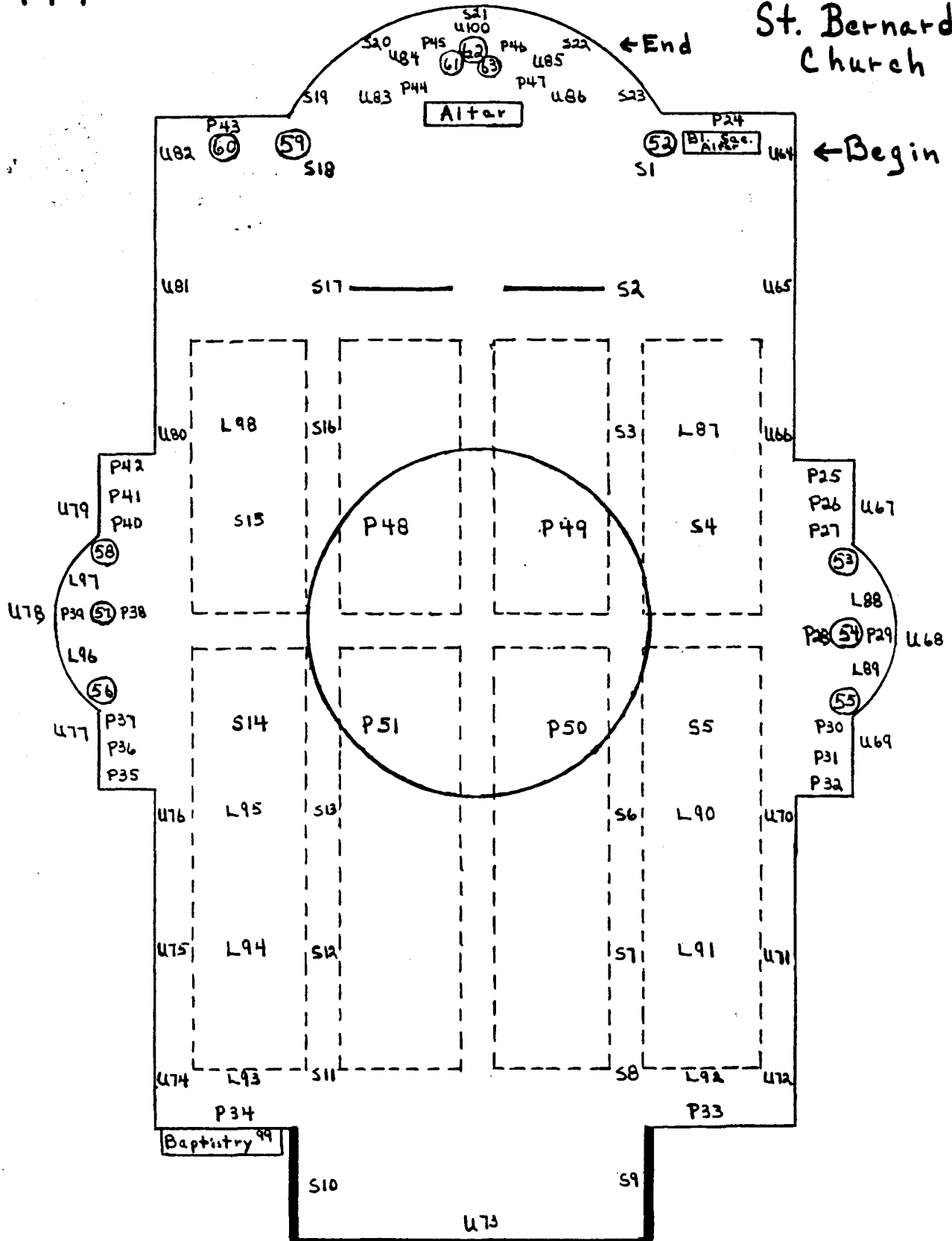
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey D. Brown/Regional Coordinator
organization Ohio Historic Preservation Office date December 13, 1988
street & number 528 County Office Building telephone (216) 438-0404
city or town Canton state Ohio zip code 44702

1979

FRONT

Interior of
St. Bernard
Church



BACK

St. Bernard's Church, Akron, Summit County, OH

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page Photographs

St. Bernard's Church

Broadway and State, Akron

Summit County, Ohio

Photographer: Stanley Akers

December, 1986

Negatives filed: The University of Akron, Media Services, Akron, Ohio

Views:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Window | 17. Right Altar, Tabernacle |
| 2. Trancept Altar | 18. Rear, Choir Left |
| 3. Left Rear View | 19. Interior, to Rear |
| 4. Right Rear View | 20. Window |
| 5. Window | 21. Window |
| 6. Window | 22. Window |
| 7. Central Ceiling Design | 23. East Trancept Windows |
| 8. Main Altar | 24. Right Side Altar |
| 9. Interior Toward Altar | 25. Balcony and Choir Left |
| 10. Left Altar Windows | 26. Window |
| 11. Window | 27. Trancept Windows |
| 12. Statue (St. Martha) | 28. Altar Detail |
| 13. Right Altar Windows | 29. Window |
| 14. Baptistry Windows | |
| 15. Central Statue, Left Altar | |
| 16. Statue (St. Anthony) | |



Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: St Bernard's Church

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____
