

PH0670308

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 4 1976
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

\*\*

nh

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

93 Hasell Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Charleston

CODE

019

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese, of South Carolina

STREET & NUMBER

119 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charleston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Meeting & Broad Streets

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1839 and is a two-story, stucco over brick structure.

Exterior: Four Doric columns support a massive entablature which is capped with a stepped parapet. The parapet wall was probably added during the renovation program of 1895. A large central portal is flanked by a smaller door on each side. A semicircular arched window is located directly above the central door, with smaller circular windows above the side doors. Both circular and semicircular windows are embellished with keystones.

The north and south facades are divided into five equal bays which are accentuated with arched openings at the gallery level. The openings currently display stained glass windows, but originally were filled with transparent glass.

The structure is rectangular, the overall dimensions being 50' by 84'. Since 1900 a sacristy has been added to the rear of the building, serving as a storage and dressing area.

Interior: Three doors connect the narthex to the sanctuary. A central aisle separates two large rows of pews, with smaller aisles running along the sides, above which is a gallery supported by Ionic columns.

Beginning in 1895 and continuing through 1896, changes and additions were made to St. Mary's. A heating system was installed, a new organ was purchased, and twenty-three paintings were added to the ceiling (where there is also stenciling). An altar, platform, and sanctuary-- all of polished marble -- were also added. A series of arched Mosaic windows (which church records say were made in Munich) were presented as a gift by several parishoners.

Surroundings: The church graveyard surrounds the church on each side and to the rear. Many prominent Charlestonians have been buried here.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church is considered the first established Roman Catholic Church in the Carolinas and Georgia. In 1789 trustees for the church purchased the property which it still occupies on Hasell Street in Charleston. In 1791 it was incorporated by the General Assembly of South Carolina as the Roman Catholic Church of Charleston. According to church records, the structure being used for services was soon replaced by a brick structure. This building was destroyed in 1838 in the Charleston fire of that year. Construction of the third and present structure began almost immediately, and the church was opened for worship June 9, 1839.

Architecture: St. Mary's is based on the Roman mode of architecture. Although of simple design, its massive Doric columns and entablature lend it a monumental quality.

Included in South Carolina architectural historian Samuel Stoney's This is Charleston, St. Mary's is listed as being "Valuable to Charleston."

Art: Above the altar of St. Mary's is a painting of the Crucifixion by John S. Cogdell. Cogdell had originally painted a crucifixion for St. Mary's in 1814, but this painting was destroyed in the fire of 1838. Cogdell presented the present painting as a gift to the church.

There are twenty-three paintings (copies of originals) by Caesare Porta of Rome. These paintings were acquired by St. Mary's in 1896. In 1960 when the interior was refurbished, many of these paintings were restored.

Religion: The Catholic Church grew slowly in South Carolina, St. Mary's being the first established congregation. Between 1791 and 1820 the church experienced problems. As a result, it was decided to separate Georgia and the Carolinas from the diocese of Baltimore, establishing the diocese of Charleston with John England as Bishop. On December 31, 1820, he was given control of St. Mary's. The church continued to be plagued by controversies, and in 1822 Bishop England decided it was impossible for it to continue as the Cathedral Church.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellias, John Tracy. Catholics in Colonial America. Baltimore: Helicon, 1965.

Hopkins, Thomas F. St. Mary's Church of Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogswell, 1898.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .35 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	7
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5	9	9	9	4	0
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3	6	2	7	4	0	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Julian V. Brandt, Jr.)

Katharine N. McNulty

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

DATE

April 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669 Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

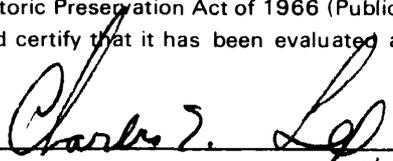
NATIONAL

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

Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4-19-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

11/9/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/2/26

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Eventually the problems were resolved, and the church history records that by 1824 "A gradual renewal of life and energy now came to the old church."<sup>1</sup> Its vitality and continued growth were evidenced in 1896 by generous gifts of parishoners including the stained glass windows and marble altar. Since that time, St. Mary's has continued to promote Roman Catholicism in Charleston.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas F. Hopkins, St. Mary's Church of Charleston (Charleston, S. C.: Walker, Evans and Cogswell, 1891), p. 51

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McCord, David J., ed. Statutes at Large of South Carolina, Vol. VIII. Columbia:  
A.S. Johnston, 1840.

Mills, Robert. Statistics of South Carolina. 1826. Reprint. Spartanburg, S.C.:  
The Reprint Company, 1972.

O'Brien, Joseph L. John England, Bishop of Charleston. New York: Edward O'Toole, 1934.

O'Connell, J. J. Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia. 1879. Reprint.  
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Wallace, D. D. History of South Carolina, Vol. I. New York: American Historical  
Society, 1934.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Charleston Deeds.