

SEATTLE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM (Similar to National Register Form)

1. NAME
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
Common (or Present) and/or Historic This Map No. NPS Numeric Code
2. LOCATION
Washington King Seattle
State County City
820 - 18th Avenue
Street and Number
Block 27 - Supplemental Plat of Ede's and Knight's Addition
Legal Description (Seattle Plats)
3. PRESENT STATUS
Corporation of the Archbishop of Seattle (Catholic Archdiocese)
Owner's Name and Address
Daily
Use and Public Accessibility Diagram and North Arrow
4. LEGAL RECORD
King County Courthouse - County Recording Department
Location of Current Title Records
5. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
None Publication: Commemoration of Diamond Jubilee of Immaculate
Name and Date of Survey Name and Address of organization retaining survey records
Conception Parish (1966)
6. CLASSIFICATION
- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Building | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History | <input type="checkbox"/> | National | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Site | <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | State | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> | Culture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Object | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultural | | Local | |
| Category | | Major Significance | | Level of Significance | |
7. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION
Symmetrical brick construction; two large towers with golden cupolas flank the
Original and Present Condition
entrance, which is crowned with a pediment-type gable. Main bldg. is constructed
of brick; towers are of wood construction.
8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Immaculate Conception Church is Seattle's oldest standing Catholic Church (1904).
History, Personages, Events, Sources
A landmark in the east-central Seattle cityscape, it played a notable role in the
growth of the Seattle Catholic Community.
9. CERTIFICATION
- STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION
- Form Prepared by (Name and Organization)
for
- As the designated state liaison 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.
- NAME DATE NAME & TITLE DATE

SEATTLE HISTORIC BUILDING DATA SHEET

1. Name (common or present and/or historic) IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
2. Street and Number 820 - 18th Avenue Block 27 Lot _____ Year Built completed 1904
3. Present Owner Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Present Use Church liturgical services
4. Interim Owner(s) --- Interim Use(s) same as above
5. Original Owner Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Original Use same as above
6. Architect Rev. Adrian Sweere, S.T. Builder Mr. D.P. Power
7. Assessed Value: Building _____ Land _____ Assessors File No. _____
8. Classification:
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied | Open to Public:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No
Hours <u>7 AM - 8 PM</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | in progress | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Church | | <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened by demolition | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | |
9. Neighborhood Information:
- A. Compatibility With Neighborhood Structure Yes ☒ No _____
- Use Yes ☒ No _____
- B. Importance to Neighborhood
- Great ☒ _____
- Moderate _____
- Minor _____
- C. Architecturally Strong Neighborhood
- Comments Innecity - Central Area -
- Low income & old houses
- _____
- _____
10. Special Research Sources (Be Specific, list name or item and where found)
- Publication - commemorating Diamond Jubilee of Immaculate Conception Parish - 1966 -
- Parish historical files - Rectory, 820 - 18th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98122
- _____
11. Cross Street Reference
- E. Marion St.
- 18th Avenue
12. Photos Attached & Photographer (1) - photographer unknown
13. Physical Description: (second sheet attached)
14. Significance: (Third sheet attached)

13. Physical Description

- A. Style of Architecture - Romanesque
100% 100
- B. Construction Material - basement of solid concrete with solid brick for upper structure & wooden raft & rafters
- C. No. of Stories
3
- D. Condition
Excellent _____
Good _____
Fair ☒ _____
Poor _____

E. Exterior Desecration of Original Design

none or little
Moderate amount
considerable

F. Architectural worth as Example of Its Style

Exceptional _____
Excellent _____
Good ☒ _____
Fair _____
Poor _____

- G. Notable Features: (Be specific, i.e., detailing, craftsmanship, proportions, materials, colors, interior, etc. Refer to Guidelines of Landmarks Preservation Board).

Much of the craftsmanship cannot now be duplicated. The several large stain glass windows, most of which are approx. 50 ft. in height, are of a texture of type which no longer is executed anywhere in the world. The altars within the main body of the Church, all of which show intricate and "period" hand craftsmanship, as well as the old classic pulpit and communion railing were hand done by a Mr. Mootz. There are large murals covering much of the ceilings of the nave and sanctuary - all hand painted by the Jesuit Brother at the turn of the century. Professional painters have advised us that there are no frescos of this size or type in the city today.

Outside measurements of the Church are 83 ft. X 165 ft. high with the two landmark towers rising 150 ft. above street level. Mr. Felix Campenella, Seattle architect, informed us that although the cost of the Church building was originally \$65,000 in 1904, this type of size of church would now cost approximately \$800,000, and he said no price could be put on all the art work and architectural achievements in terms of replacement. There are 22 statues in the main body of the Church, all dating from the period of 1890 - 1920. The statues, pulpit, altars and communion railing are all still in excellent condition. The frescoes (wall & ceiling paintings) are in good condition, but beginning to show the effect of weather & earthquakes. The Church contains an extremely large grotto built in 1930 with a running stream of water in it, built as a replica of the world-famous "LOURDES GROTTO" in France - a world renown shrine where countless millions over the years have gone in pilgrimage, hoping for a miracle from the (healing) waters.

Also contained in the Church is a very large pipe organ which attracts organists from all over the northwest.

14. Significance

A. Major Significance

- ☒ Historical
☒ Architectural
☐ Engineering
☒ Cultural
☐ Geographic
☐ Archaeological

B. Level of Significance

- ☐ National
☒ State
☒ Community

C. Statement of Significance (Be specific, history, personages, events, etc.)

The Church of the Immaculate is the oldest standing Catholic Church in the City of Seattle. It was completed and dedicated in 1904. The upper attic room (above the sanctuary) is now an historical museum with many items (furniture, liturgical vestments, books, religious articles, household items, etc., dating from the 1800's). The Parish was founded by the Jesuit Fathers who had come to Seattle to open a school for boys and later were persuaded to open a college - known then as Seattle College, and now as Seattle University. The Parish of Immaculate Conception was created in 1891 although the present church site dates from 1904. Father F.X. Prefontaine (Seattle's first missionary priest to whom the downtown Prefontaine Square is dedicated) assisted in the dedication services on December 4, 1904. At that time, the Church boasted a seating capacity of 950, then the city's largest seating auditorium. In the early days, the priests of the Immaculate Parish administered to areas as far away as Black Diamond and South Park. The Immaculate Parish also built the first parochial (Catholic) school in Seattle which still serves many students.

The rectory (priests residence house - now serving as church offices) was built as the first residence hall for the Jesuit professors at Seattle College (now Seattle University) in 1922. Before then, the professors of S.U. made their living quarters in the upper attic room above the sanctuary of the church along with the priests of the Parish.

In 1918, at the suggestion of Mr. Frank Sullivan, Seattle citizen, prominent banker and parishoner of Immaculate, the parish of Immaculate Church initiated a "Dollar a Sunday Club" - a weekly envelope system which since then has become the ordinary means by which every Catholic parish in the nation financially contributes to the parish for its upkeep.

Architecturally, this church could not be duplicated today without a truly astronomical financial cost. Today, the rough construction of the church building would approximately cost, according to Mr. Felix Campenella, one of Seattle's leading church architects, about 3/4 million dollars. This does not include the priceless artwork and stain glass windows which could not be duplicated.

Surveyor Signature

R. K. K. K.Date December 19, 1973REVIEWED: [Signature]

Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Father Michael Holland

Pastor

EA2-5970