

**Little Rock Main Street Multiple Resource Area - Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Pulaski County**

Survey Number: LR0069
Property Name: St. Andrews Catholic Cathedral
Address: 617 Louisiana Street
City: Little Rock
Significant Date/s: 1878

Owner: Bishop Andrew J. McDonald
Address: P.O. Box 7239
Little Rock, Arkansas 72217

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

St. Andrew's Cathedral is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style that was so popular among church architects during the late 1800s. Built of rusticated granite from nearby Fourche Mountain, this church is reportedly the first Arkansas building constructed entirely of this native stone. The Louisiana Street elevation contains a raised entry with arched surround and transom, and is punctuated by several narrow lancet windows. A large granite arch highlights the slightly recessed rose window. Two buttressed towers anchor this facade. The north tower has a battlemented parapet, while the south tower has a steeple that soars to a height of 220 feet. The tower buttresses terminate in ornamental pinnacles and a Celtic cross adorns the narthex parapet. Large arched stain glass windows ornament the transepts and nave. All of these original stain glass windows were brought from Chicago during the church's construction. Of particular interest is the steeply-pitched roof which features patterned slate.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of St. Andrew's Cathedral, designed by architect Thomas Harding, was started in 1878 and completed three years later, making it the oldest existing church building in Little Rock. The Catholic Church had been active in Arkansas since the time when the French governed this area as a territory. St. Andrew's parish was organized in 1838 and it erected a church building the next year on property directly opposite the present building. The 1845 St. Andrew's Cathedral, located at 2nd and Center Streets, served the parish until 1878 when the present building was begun. Although St. Andrew's was dedicated in November 1881, it was 1887 before the steeple was finished. According to an **Arkansas Gazette** article, it was "doubtless the tallest steeple in the whole south". Including the cross at the top of the spire, the steeple measured 231 feet and was reported to have been compared favorably to the Washington Monument (then the world's tallest structure). Although remodeling and modernization of the interior has occurred several times during the church's history, the exterior of St. Andrew's Cathedral continues to look as it did in the 1880s.

Verbal Boundary

Description: Lots 5,6, Block 73, Original City

Acreage: less than one

Quadrangle Name: Little Rock, Arkansas

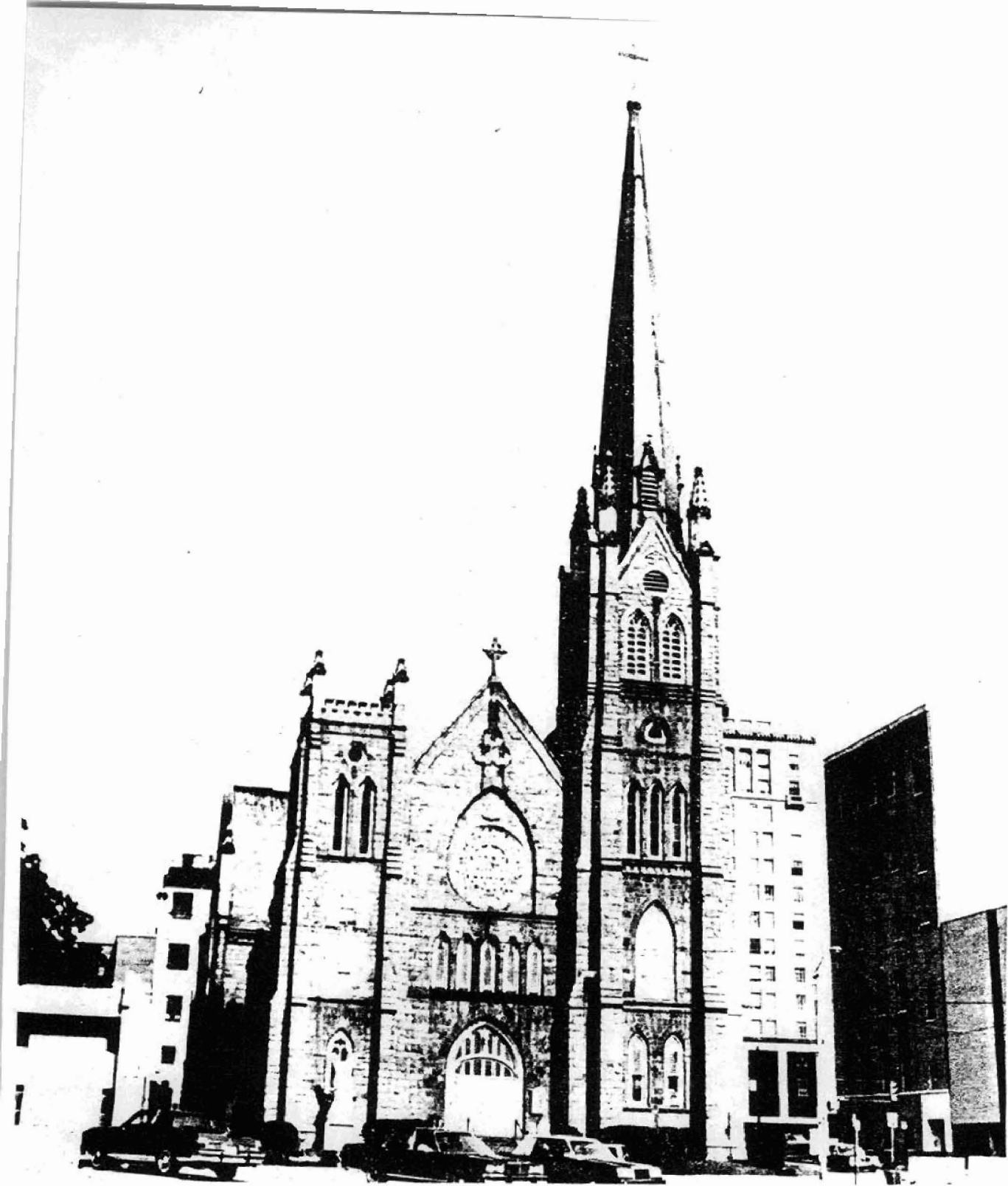
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference:

Zone:

Easting:

Northing:



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Little Rock Main Street Multiple Resource Area
Sarah Brown, photographer
Negatives at AHPP
Viewed from the West**