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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 16 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 16). 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. Mary's Catholic Church
other names/site number: #273

2. Location

street & number: 701 Church
city, town: Brenham
state: Texas code: 048 county: Washington code: 477
N/A not for publication
N/A vicinity
zip code: 77833

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Brenham, Texas
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.
Laurel J. Jurell Signature of certifying official
Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau
9 Feb. 1990 Date

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:)
Patrick Andrews Signature of the Keeper
3/29/90 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Religion/Religious Structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

Religion/Religious Structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions):Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
Renaissance Revival

Material (enter categories from instructions):

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Terra Cotta

other: Stone/Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1935-36

Significant Dates:

1935-36

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Significant Person:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Architect: Dielmann, Leo M.J.

Builder: Dielmann Construction Co. Inc.
Griffen, Alex

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

 See continuation sheet

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Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

St. Mary's Catholic Church is a 2-story-equivalent masonry building in a basilica plan with an attached bell tower. It is designed in a Renaissance Revival style with German stylistic influences. The church is one of the largest religious properties in Brenham and the only one of this style.

St. Mary's Catholic Church on South Church Street faces west in a complex of church-related properties to the north, south and west of the church. It rests on a concrete foundation with brick walls and terra-cotta tile roof covering the building. The 2-story church is in a basilica plan with the main block being two stories, 1-story side aisles on the north and south facades, a 3-story tower with belfry at the northwest corner, and 1-story enclosures at the southwest and southeast corners. A 1-story addition for the mechanical systems is at the northeast corner.

The style is Renaissance Revival with incorporated stylistic influences of the Rundbogenstil, the German interpretation of the 19th-Century Romanesque Revival. Renaissance Revival characteristics include the tower while Germanic features include the rounded arches.

The principal (west) facade is dominated by the corner tower and massive center block with three horizontal levels of arches. The first level consists of three limestone arches with pilasters; the center arch is slightly larger in a Palladian effect. A second level is highlighted by a rhythmic pattern (A-B-B-B-A) of twelve small arches each encasing a statue of one of the twelve apostles. The third level contains three stained glass windows set in a semi-circular limestone arch centrally placed on the facade. A carved limestone medallion is centered above the arch with two similar medallions placed between the first and second levels of arches. Brick buttresses with limestone caps are staggered in height at each corner while a limestone decorative parapet with corner finials and center cross complete the center part of the facade. The square-plan bell tower, at the northwest corner, consists of a brick shaft highlighted by corner brick buttresses with limestone caps and single arched windows with limestone surrounds on three levels. It is set back slightly above the second story and then continues to its full height with chamfered corners, many distinguished by finials and decorative woodwork. The bell tower completes the composition and encases the main bell from the 1894 church, formerly across the street to the west.

The north facade consists of a 1-story arcade defined by seven semi-circular limestone arches with two stained glass insets and semi-circular stained

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glass transoms. A clerestory of five arched windows with stained glass punctuate the second story with a limestone corbel table running the length of the building. A covered portico connects the church to the rectory on the northeastern half of the building.

The east facade is dominated by a 2-story, semi-circular apse. The limestone corbel table continues here and is located above eleven semi-circular windows with smooth lintels and sills.

The south facade is similar to the north except at the southeast and southwest corners which are similar to the each other and noted by three Venetian windows in an A-B-A pattern.

Interior:

The main vestibule is entered through the west facade which is dominated by a central arched portal with a barrel vault over multi-colored, geometric-pattern terrazzo flooring. The entry doors are of solid oak with art glass transoms. The 1-story vestibule offers pilasters on the west wall with Corinthian columns and oak paneling concealing privacy "cry rooms."

The interior church plan is dominated by a nave five bays deep with side aisles and a perpendicular transept. Each aisle is covered by barrel vaults. The aisles are separated from the nave by an arched colonnade. The ceiling of the nave is plaster-on-lath with decorative wood ribs, painted, and stenciled. The transept is raised approximately eight inches above the nave floor with two side altars and art glass windows on their north and south walls. The communion rail balustrade is Italian marble with upper and lower rails of white-grey marble and stylized balusters of dark green marble. The main and side altars are imported Italian marble. Behind the main altar, is an inset niche with a mosaic depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary. All doors, pews, and paneling are oak. At each column in the nave is a wrought iron lantern with art glass lights. Polychrome statue stations of the cross are along the side aisles between the windows. A choir loft is at the west end of the apse.

Alterations to the church occurred between in 1964-1968. These included decorative painting of the interior (originally planned at construction), replacement of frosted glass with art glass, addition of a raised floor and seating in the choir loft, and addition of "cry rooms" at the rear of the church.

The church is in excellent condition. Educational buildings to the south and west and a rectory to the north complete the complex.

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8. Significance

St. Mary's Catholic Church (1935-36) is eligible under Criterion C for its representation of the Renaissance Revival architectural style. It is an unusual example of this design and the only one in Brenham. The property has a high degree of integrity and is associated with the local context "Community Development and Regional Expansion, 1870-1941."

St. Mary's Catholic Church (1935-36) evolved from a small frame church built about 1870 at the present location (now demolished) on land donated by B.H. and Jefferson Bassett, local bankers. The frame church was replaced when the present building was erected in 1935-36.

Leo M.J. Dielmann of San Antonio, Texas, served as the architect of the church. His architectural career spanned the year 1902 to 1957 and included a large number of churches, mostly Catholic. Between c.1902 and c.1927, Dielmann designed or remodeled approximately 53 churches in Texas. Three of these are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1989). By the 1930s, Dielmann's work revealed a tendency toward eclecticism. Many of his churches combined period revival features with Germanic architectural influences gleaned from his early training in Germany.

St. Mary's Catholic Church is the largest and most architecturally significant church in Brenham. It reflects the heavy emphasis on period revival architecture popular in the 1930s. In addition, the church retains a high degree of integrity. Related church properties on adjoining lots are not nominated at this time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

See bibliography of context statement

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:

Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: less than one

UTM References:

A 1/4/ /750/700/ 333/9380
Zone Easting Northing
C / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing
D / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Original Townsite, Block 97, Lot 8A, City of Brenham, Texas

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes all of site historically associated with the church building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dwayne Jones/Preservation Planner date: 1984; 1989
organization: (with assistance from Sally Victor) telephone: 512/463-6094
street & number: Texas Historical Commission state: zip code:
city or town: 1511 Colorado, Austin TX 78701

2/14/90

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Brenham ~~COUNTY~~ MPS Washington County, TEXAS

DATE LISTED

21. Southern Pacific Railroad Freight Depot
Substantive Review

3/29/90

22. St. Mary's Catholic Church
Substantive Review

3/29/90

23. Synagogue B'nai Abraham
Substantive Review

3/29/90

24. US Post Office--Federal Building--Brenham

3/29/90

25. Washington County Courthouse
Substantive Review

3/29/90

26. Wood-Hughes House
Substantive Review

3/29/90

27. Schmidt House
Substantive Review

12/10/90

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000452

Date Listed:

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Property Name

Washington
County

TX
State

Brenham MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: St. Mary's Catholic Church is a religious property. Criteria Consideration A should be checked.

This information was confirmed with Dwayne Jones of the Texas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Mary's Catholic Church

MULTIPLE NAME: Brenham MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 2/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/27/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000452

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/29/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The massive St. Mary's Catholic Church is an outstanding example of the Renaissance Revival style and dates from Brenham's community development and regional expansion period.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / c
REVIEWER Autawickh A. Lee
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 3/27/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ___ summary paragraph
- ___ completeness
- ___ clarity
- ___ applicable criteria
- ___ justification of areas checked
- ___ relating significance to the resource context
- ___ relationship of integrity to significance
- ___ justification of exception
- ___ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (#273)

BRENHAM, TEXAS

DWAYNE JONES

OCTOBER 9, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE - TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING EAST

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500628