



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTER FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

120 West Tenth ▪ Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291 ▪ 913/296-3251

KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

6425 South West Sixth ▪ Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099 ▪ 913/272-8681

Certification of State Register Listing

The Register of Historic Kansas Places includes all Kansas properties nominated to the National Register as well as lower threshold properties which are listed on the state register only.

Property Name: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Address: Danville, Kansas

County: Harper

Owner: Catholic Diocese of Wichita

Address: 424 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas

National Register eligible _____

State Register eligible

This property was approved by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for the Register of Historic Kansas Places on November 17, 1990.

I hereby certify that this property is listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Ramon Powers
State Historic Preservation Officer

Nov. 20, 1990
Date

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (c. 1904-1907) is located in Danville, Harper County, Kansas (pop. 71). The church is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its architectural significance as an early twentieth century, Gothic-Romanesque church.

The November 30, 1907 issue of The Catholic Advance describes the church in this manner:

"The edifice is certainly unique and might be styled the 'Gem of the Prairies.'" Well proportioned in its outlines with its cross-crowned pinnacle rising one hundred and twenty-six feet boldly proclaiming its mission. In the mild subdued and tasteful arrangement of the interior there is not one discordant note, all blending so harmoniously as to form a perfect whole. From the splendor of the altar with its three Gothic pinnacles, its two statues and three pieces in bas-relief; its pretty railing of white and gold with onyx columns and marble top; its stations in bas-relief; the exquisite blending of color in its windows to the dainty blue and gold of its ceiling, one finds himself saying how tastefully designed."

The red brick church has a southern facade orientation. The overall dimensions of the church are 55 feet from east to west and 116 feet from north to south.

The church maintains a high degree of integrity, although the communion railing, pulpit, main altar, and the steeples and spires on the side altars have been removed. In the 1920s a fire destroyed the altar and the west room off of the altar.

The stained glass windows were created by the Ford Brothers Glass Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1902 a new era began for the church in Danville with the appointment of Father P. J. Maloney as pastor. The increase in the size of the congregation made it imperative that a larger church be built. The 1907 church replaced the original frame church that was built in 1887.