

Note to Commission  
St. Raphael's Cathedral  
222 W. Main Street


We have received a landmark nomination for St. Raphael's Cathedral. The City has ordered the diocese to demolish the building. Experts have convinced the City that the remains are structurally unsound and could not be reused as part of a new cathedral building. The stainless steel steeple has been removed and retained off site.

My opinion is that there has been adequate discussion amongst the public and the City decision makers about the future of the old cathedral and that due to the structural condition of the existing remains it is the correct thing to do to demolish what remains of the building. In addition, it is my opinion that the building does not retain enough integrity to warrant its listing as a Madison Landmark.

Finally, the nomination papers are not adequate. There is no description statement and the significance should address how the building meets the criteria for nomination. I did not ask the nominator to do additional work because I am fairly sure that the Commission will not move forward with the nomination. If you do decide to move forward, the nomination papers will need to be revised before the nomination proceeds.

K. H. Rankin

July 2, 2008



**City of Madison Landmarks Commission  
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)**

**Name of Building or Site**

Common Name

Historic Name (if applicable)

Saint Raphael Cathedral

**Location**

Street Address

Aldermanic District

222 W. Main St.

Verveer

**Classification**

Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)

Church

Zoning District

Present Use

C4 - see attached (A, B + C)

Vacant due to fire

**Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's Office)**

Name(s) St. Raphael's Congregation

Street Address

Telephone Number

222 W. Main St.

**Legal Description (available at City Assessor's Office)**

Parcel Number

Legal Description

0709-231-1101-0

See attached (A, B + C)

**Condition of Property**

Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins) - due to fire

Altered or Unaltered?

Moved or Original Site? Original Site

Wall Construction

**City of Madison**

**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)**

**Historical Data**

*Original Owner*

Catholic Church

*Architect or Builder*

*Original Use*

Church

*Architectural Style*

*Date of Construction*

*Indigenous Materials Used*

Sand Stone

**List of Bibliographical References Used**

City of Madison assessors office  
Dane County Registrar of Deeds  
Madison Catholic Diocese

**Form Prepared By**

*Name and Title*

Brock Riebe

*Organization Represented (if any)*

Concerned citizen  
(angry)

*Address*

450 W. Washington  
# 2 Madison, WI

*Telephone Number*

773-551-2022

*Date Nomination Form Was Prepared*

53703

6/4/08

**City of Madison Landmarks Commission**  
**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)**

*Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria.*

see attached form (D)

- This church is over 150 years old. This is an irreplaceable historical madison landmark. This building needs to be saved. I will do whatever needs to be done to see that it's saved including physically chain myself to the site to stop the wrecking ball. I'm not about to let this be destroyed!!

**Landmarks Commission**

**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)**

*Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance.*

See attached form (D)

(A)

GEOGRAPHIC PARAMETER ENTRY - (NQTL)

Parcel: 0709-231-1101-0 Date: 06/04/08 Time: 14:02:01  
OR Address: 222 W Main St MCD Code: MAD-C  
OR Owner Name: ST RAPHAELS CONG  
Browsing file in ADDRESS order

ASSESSOR TELEPHONE DATA (NQTL)

Addressee: ST RAPHAELS CONG

404 E MAIN ST  
MADISON, WI 53703-0000

\* Building Information \*  
Construction Yr:

Assessment:

Current Land:	0				
Improv.:	0	Assmt Area:	9936	* Lot Data	*
Total:	0	Code:	E 4b	Width:	0.00
		Class:	Com	Depth:	0.00
Previous Land:	0	Use Code:	600	Sq Ft:	45,832.45
Improv.:	0	Zoning:	C4	Shape:	Thru-lot
Total:	0			Corner	

\* TIF Data \*  
Dist: 0  
Year: 0

\* 2007 Tax Data \*  
Net: .00  
Spec: .00  
Other: .00  
Total: 0.00

Land: 0  
Bldg: 0  
Total: 0

Tax School Dist.: Madison

Frontage	Street
264.00	W Main St
169.28	S Henry St
165.00	S Fairchild St
.00	

Date last change  
03/29/2008

(B)

GEOGRAPHIC PARAMETER ENTRY - (1099)

Parcel: 0709-231-1101-0 Date: 06/04/08 Time: 14:00:45  
OR Address: 222 W Main St MCD Code: MAD-C  
OR Owner Name: ST RAPHAELS CONG  
Browsing file in ADDRESS order

GEO INFORMATION (G1099)

Unit	House	St Nbr	Address	Parcel
	222	05266	222 W Main St	0709-231-1101-0

Entered by dep't #: 22 -- Plan. & Dev., Zoning Hold by:

Mail Code: C Status: ACTIVE Zip Code: 53703-3113

Predominant land use: 6911 Churches, synagogues and temples.

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Ward: 43 Madison Public Library  
Polling place: 201 W Mifflin St

Aldermanic district: 4 Michael Verveer  
County Sup. district: 1 Scott McDonell  
State Assm. district: 78 Mark Pocan  
State Senate district: 26 Fred A Risser

Attendance School district: 3269 Madison  
Elementary School: 8 Fran-Rand  
Middle School: 234 Hamilton  
High School: 143 West

(C)

GEOGRAPHIC PARAMETER ENTRY - (NQLG)

Parcel: 0709-231-1101-0 Date: 06/04/08 Time: 13:57:08  
OR Address: 222 W Main St MCD Code: MAD-C  
OR Owner Name: ST RAPHAELS CONG  
Browsing file in ADDRESS order

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS QUERY (NQLG)

Lot #: 0 Block #: 0 Class: Com Use: Commercial exempt Area: 9936

ORIG PLAT, SE 1/2 OF LOT 5, ALL OF LOTS  
6, 7, 8, 9, & 10, BLOCK 67 EX THE FOL  
DESC PART OF LOT 10, BEG MOST SLY COR  
LOT 1, TH NELY TO E COR LOT 1,  
TH N 44 DEG 48 MIN 33 SEC E 10 FT,  
TH S 45 DEG 12 MIN 31 SEC E 12.07 FT,  
TH S 44 DEG 30 MIN 22 SEC W 10 FT,  
TH S 45 DEG 18 MIN 39 SEC E 17.63 FT,  
TH S 44 DEG 48 MIN 25 SEC W 34.7 FT,  
TH N 45 DEG W .98 FT,  
TH S 44 DEG 48 MIN 25 SEC W 32.45 FT,  
TH N 45 DEG W 28.72 FT TO POB.





# Saint Raphael's Cathedral, Madison, Wisconsin

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Saint Raphael's Cathedral** is the Cathedral parish for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison. The parish is located in downtown Madison, Wisconsin at 222 West Main Street. In March of 2005 the building was heavily damaged in a fire. The parish community remains active, and in June of 2007 it was announced that a new Cathedral building would be constructed to replace the structure damaged in the fire.

## Contents

- 1 History
  - 1.1 Cathedral Fire
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## History

In the early 1840's, immigrants from Ireland settled in what would later become Madison. They were soon organized into a parish named after the Archangel Raphael. On August 15, 1842 mass was offered for the first time by Father Martin Kundig. The land that the parish buildings and a later parking lot would be built upon was donated by Governor James Duane Doty. Doty was a close friend of Samuel Mazzuchelli.

From 1842 until 1853, the parish did not have a church of its own. Mass was often celebrated in homes and in the state capitol building. In 1853 Father Francis Etchmann began the process of building the current church building. The corner stone was laid in 1854. Archbishop John Henni of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee dedicated the new building as the parish was under his jurisdiction at the time. In 1885 the present bells and spire were built.

On January 9, 1946 Pope Pius XII created the Diocese of Madison for an 11 county area in the southern and southwestern areas of the state. Territory was taken from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Roman Catholic Diocese of La Crosse to form the new diocese. St. Raphael's was then chosen as the Cathedral Parish for the Madison diocese. At the time of the parish's elevation to a Cathedral, Msgr. William Mahoney was the proud pastor.

### Cathedral Fire

On March 14, 2005 St. Raphael's Cathedral was heavily damaged in a fire. The fire, which caused extensive damage to the church not only affected those families who attend the church, but as it is the mother church for the Diocese the loss of the Cathedral has affected the entire diocesan community.

The fire caused the roof to collapse into the building, however the walls and the steeple remained standing. There was further damage from the water as well, and there were fears that the refurbished steeple would collapse. The steeple was found to be stable in the days following the fire. The mosaics sustained smoke and water damage, and the stained glass windows were damaged but still in place.

In the days following the fire, the cause of the fire was determined to be arson. Forty one year old William J. "Billy" Connell was arrested for setting the fire and charged with burglary, arson, and bail jumping. Mr. Connell said that he had broken into the Cathedral using a crowbar, stole a bottle of wine, and then "messed around with some stuff." Mr. Connell chose to remain silent when a detective came to interview him. The fire had started in an office/storeroom under the spire, and the crowbar was found in that room. Mr. Connell has a history of mental problems, and had previously been in trouble with the law.

On June 10, 2007, Bishop Morlino announced his intention to have the structure torn down, and replaced with a new and larger structure capable of seating approximately 1,000 people. The plans call for the steeple and other items from the old building to be reused in the new building.

One day after the announcement regarding the rebuilding of the Cathedral, Mr. Connell was sentenced to fifteen years in prison to be followed upon his release by fifteen years of close supervision.

A March 13, 2008 press release from the Diocese of Madison announced that St. Raphael's would be demolished during the

summer of 2008. It was also announced that certain items from the "old" Cathedral would be saved including: the spire, the three bells from the steeple, three mosaics from the sanctuary, the marble sanctuary appointments, one larger undamaged stain glass window, three smaller undamaged semicircular stain glass windows, some ornamental stonework from around the doorways, and some other stone from the building.

As of this latest press release, no design for the Cathedral has been developed by the Diocese and there is still no timeline for the construction of a new Cathedral.

## External links

- Isthmus Catholic Parishes Web Site

## References

- [1] Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison
- Fire ravages historic Capitol Square church The Daily Cardinal
- Church Arsonist receives 15 Year Sentence Wisconsin State Journal

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Categories: Roman Catholic cathedrals of the United States | Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison | Roman Catholic churches in Wisconsin | Places of worship damaged by arson

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