

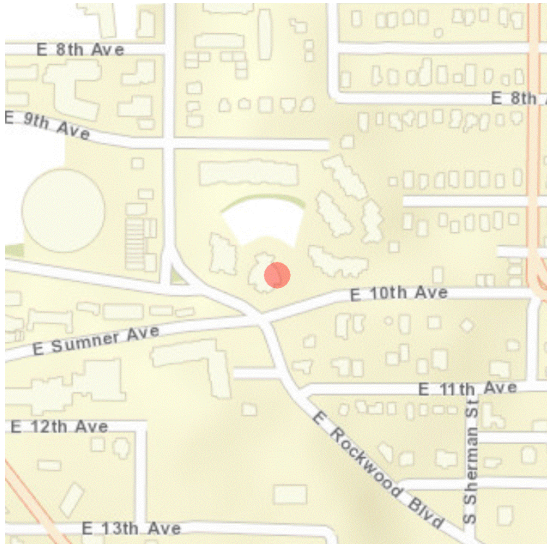


## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Rectory

Property ID: 33433

### Location



**Address:** 219 E Rockwood Blvd, Spokane, WA 99202

**Geographic Areas:** Spokane County, T25R43E20

### Information

**Number of stories:** N/A

#### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1968	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Religion	Religion - Religious Facility

#### Historic Context:

##### Category

Religion

Architecture

#### Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	R. Redding Construction Co.
Architect	Culler, Gale, Martell, Erickson & Norrie
Engineer	Norrie, Kenneth P.



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### Thematics:

### Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
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### Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	8/2/2004	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/12/2017		

### Photos



South facade, church



South facade, rectory



South facade, rectory, entry detail



South facade, rectory





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South and east facades, rectory



East facade, rectory, entry detail



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North facade, rectory



North facade, rectory



West facade, rectory



Cross detail, rectory



Stained glass detail, rectory



North facade, church



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Entry detail, church



North facade, church



Northeast facade, church



East facade, church



West facade, church



West facade, church



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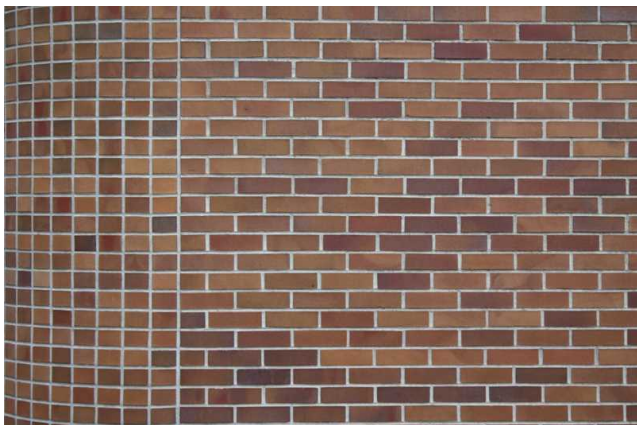
Window detail, church, typical



Steeple, church



Sign - church



Brick detail

### Inventory Details - 6/12/2017

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**Common name:** Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
**Date recorded:** 6/12/2017  
**Field Recorder:** Diana Painter  
**Field Site number:**  
**SHPO Determination**





# Historic Property Report

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## Detail Information

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### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Church
Roof Type	Conical
Roof Material	Metal - Tile
Cladding	Brick
Structural System	Masonry - Poured Concrete
Plan	Irregular

## Surveyor Opinion

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Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

**Significance narrative:** History. The following history is adapted from the Sacred Heart Catholic Church website on the history of their parish.

Sacred Heart Parish was founded in 1891 by Father Barnabas Held, who organized the first Sacred Heart Church, which served Spokane's German-speaking Catholics. He also purchased the old Lewis and Clark school and moved it to the corner of W 5th Avenue and S Bernard Street, converting it into the parish school. When membership declined it was discontinued, the buildings were razed, and the lumber and furnishings, including the church bell, were used to build St. Ann's Church further to the east.

A new Sacred Heart Church was erected in 1911 by Bishop John O'Dea, Bishop of Seattle. The new church was to be sited on the corner of 7th and Chandler, just a few blocks from the existing church. Construction of the brick church began in the summer of 1912 and was completed in 1913, the same year that the Catholic Diocese was established in Spokane. It is still extant today at E 237 7th Avenue, and is used by the Rockwood Clinic. Father Charles MacAleer began the parish school on this site in 1921, using the church basement as its classroom. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary taught the 19 students. By 1922, enrollment had jumped to 120 and in June 1927, ground was broken for a new school at the church's current site on E 10th Avenue. This substantial brick building with a capacity of 250 students was completed in April 1928. It was recently demolished to construct the Rockwood Lane retirement facility.



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With the construction of new medical facilities nearby, parking was at a premium at the E 7th Avenue and S Chandler Street site, so initial planning for a new church was begun with land purchased near the school on 10th Avenue. The present church and rectory (which now houses the parish offices) was constructed under the leadership of Father Armand LaVerdiere. Groundbreaking for the new church was begun in the summer of 1968 and the new building was dedicated on December 7, 1969 by Bishop Bernard Topel. It was designed by parishioner Carroll Martell of Culler, Gale, Martell, Ericson & Norrie. It incorporates numerous artistic elements on the interior, including a carved brick Stations of the Cross and Carrera marble altar, designed by Martell's daughter, Maxine Martell Di Bene. The tabernacle and crucifix above it were brought from the old church and installed in the new one.

**Architectural Context.** The Sacred Heart Catholic Church is designed in the Neo-Expressionistic style. Neo-Expressionism is generally the "reinvention" of pre-World War II Expressionism in the mid-twentieth century or post-World War II era. Of the pre-World War II examples of Expressionism, probably architect Erich Mendelsohn's 1920 sketch of the Einstein Tower at Potsdam (never realized) is the most iconic image (Pehnt, 1964:97).

Neo-Expressionistic architecture is intended to evoke an emotional, rather than an intellectual response. It is typically sculptural and theatrical in appearance, often exploiting the best qualities of concrete. Neo-Expressionism is most commonly seen in religious and public buildings from the period ("Neo-Expressionism," [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/styleguide/neoexpressionism.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/styleguide/neoexpressionism.htm)).

Iconic buildings in the Neo-Expressionistic style and their architects from the post-war years include the Finnish architect Eero Saarinen's buildings from 1956 and 1961, which, according to architectural historian Marcus Whiffen, "... revived the assertive forms of German Expressionism of the early 1920s, particularly those of Mendelsohn." Examples of Saarinen's Neo-Expressionistic work from this period include the 1955 Kresge Auditorium at MIT; the 1956 Ingalls Hockey Rink at Yale University; the 1958-1962 Dulles International Airport; and perhaps best known, the 1962 Trans World Airline (TWA) Terminal at Kennedy Airport (Whiffen and Koeper, 1981:38). A dramatic visual statement and soaring forms are key characteristics of all these buildings. Italian engineer Pier Luigi Nervi was also considered a master of the style, with St. Mary's Cathedral of San Francisco, designed with Portland architect Pietro Belluschi, being an excellent example. Another well-known Neo-Expressionist structure is the 1956-1962 United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

**Architect Carroll Martell.** Architect Carroll Martell of Culler, Gale, Martell, Ericson & Norrie was the primary architect for the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Carroll Leo Martell was born June 8, 1912 in Beulah, North Dakota. After graduating from high school, he worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps, earning a dollar a day toward college. Martell eventually made it to the University of Kansas – where he led a dance band on clarinet for extra cash – graduating summa cum laude with a BS in Architecture and the Alpha Rho Chi Medal in 1935. He married in 1936; the newlyweds lived in Chicago and Washington, D.C. while Martell served as an associate architect for the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1936 to 1945. The family moved to Spokane following World War II, where he practiced as Carroll Martell from 1948-52; then as Culler, Gale, Martell. One of the largest in the Pacific Northwest, the firm underwent various naming iterations over





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the years as it added partners: at one time, in addition to architects John Culler, Fulton Gale, and Donald Ericson, principals included engineers Kenneth Norrie and Walter Davis. The group was responsible for a number of iconic Spokane-area landmarks, including Shadle Park (1956) and Kellogg (1957) High Schools; Rockwood Manor (1960); the Spokane Federal Building (1965) with McClure & Adkison and Walker & McGough; and Pearce (1966), Dryden (1967), and Dressler (1968) Halls on the Eastern Washington University campus. Martell was active in his profession, his community, and his church. He died in Coupeville, Washington on August 14, 2004 at 92.

### Physical description:

**Location and Setting.** Sacred Heart Catholic Church and rectory and church offices occupy a 2.16-acre parcel on an irregularly shaped block bounded by S Cowley Street/E Rockwood Blvd on the west and E 10th Street on the south, in the Cliff Cannon neighborhood of Spokane. It is surrounded on the north and east sides by retirement communities (multi-family housing), including the new six-story Rockwood Lane Retirement Community. The parking lot for the church is located to the direct north. The church is southeast of the sprawling Providence Sacred Heart medical center. This area is southeast of downtown Spokane and south of Interstate-90. The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist is located southwest of the church, as is the commercial area along S Grand Blvd. To the east are residential neighborhoods.

**Materials.** The Sacred Heart Catholic Church is concrete construction with a brick veneer finish. Square, varicolored stacked bricks round the curves of the church's form, while standard brick – again varicolored – in a running bond pattern clad the straight walls. The walls terminate in metal coping. Metal shades cover the upper portion of some of the windows and metal panels with a standing metal seam cover the canopies over the doors. The foundation is concrete and the roof is finished in metal shingles. A wood armature provides the base for the cross topping the church. The rectory is finished in much the same way, but with additional detailing. Crosses on the rear windows are composed of split face block or cast stone, with tile and glass block accents. Windows on both buildings have metal frames. The brick on the newer portion of the rectory is more variegated in color than the brick on the church and the original portion of the rectory. This building has a built-up roof.

**Church massing and design.** The one-story Sacred Heart Catholic Church has an irregular footprint that is nonetheless a generally round shape that describes the church sanctuary and a projecting fan shape that describes the entry vestibule. The footprint is symmetrical, with two major projections on the south face, and three at the entry. The walls extend into parapets, finished in metal coping. The walls wrap around the projecting shapes of the outer walls, which vary in height and continue part way up the roof, which has a low pitched conical form. Topping the roof is a tall, open, wood cone-shaped form that supports the cross. This feature takes the place of a traditional steeple.

The church is sited at the intersection of E Rockwood Blvd and E 10th Avenue on the south side of the intersection, but faces north toward the parking lot that serves it. The rectory is to the immediate west. The landscaping on the parcel consists mainly of lawn, with a few mature trees. Some of the driveway and parking areas have a heavier tree cover. Sidewalks are concrete and the parking area is finished in asphalt. The Neo-Expressionistic building was designed by the architecture firm Culler, Gale, Martell, Ericson & Norrie in 1968; Martell was the lead designer.

**Front, north façade.** The fan shape of the entry vestibule to the church has three projections with curved walls that rise to parapets that fold back over the conical shape of the roof, the central projecting element being higher than the flanking lower

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projections. The recess between the easterly projections holds the main entry, which consists of double wood doors flanked by sidelights. This is covered by a flat canopy whose tall fascia is clad in metal. The entry is accessed via a broad stair with five concrete steps. Visible above the main entry is the cone-shaped wood armature that rises above the round sanctuary and holds the church's cross. At the base of the armature is a skylight that lights the interior of the sanctuary.

Side facades. The side facades of the church are identical, and contain three ensembles that are made up of two tall, narrow windows that extend from the sill at the base of the wall to the parapet, covered by metal shades at the top. The windows are enframed by the curved walls of the building's skin, and separated by a brick-clad square column. The windows provide additional light to the interior of the sanctuary.

Rear, south façade. The rear façade of the church is made up of two major curved projections. The central recess between these projections, which faces 10th Street, has no openings, while the recesses to each side contain a secondary and a service entrance. These projections, with their side walls extending part way up the building's roof, direct the eye toward the church's modern steeple, which marks the center of the sanctuary below.

Changes over time. No known changes have taken place to the church.

Rectory massing and design. The rectory occupies a site that slopes down toward the west and the north. As a result, the original portion of the building, which is on the south side, steps down the slope. Today the footprint of this one-story building is approximately three times the size of the original. The original building was oriented toward E Rockwood Blvd, where an enclosure is located that is similar to the monument sign for the church, and may have originally been a sign for the rectory. Today the main entry to the building is on the east façade, facing the church. Like the church, the rectory features parapet walls of varying height. In the case of the rectory, these walls describe discreet volumes that appear to enclose specific rooms or functions, unlike the church, where they modulate the main building form. The rectory is made up of multiple volumes, most with the same curved corners as seen on the church. A large volume at the rear of the building is, however, largely square in shape, with none of the modulations seen on the rest of the building. The original portion of this building was also designed by the architecture firm of Culler, Gale, Martell, Ericson & Norrie in the Neo-Expressionistic style and constructed in 1968.

Front, east façade. The front façade of the building, which faces the interior of the lot, is made up of separate building forms that step down the slope to the north, terminating in a view of the large rectilinear volume mentioned above. There are few openings on this façade. At about the middle is the main entry to the building. It is below the grade of the neighboring church, and is accessed from a plaza. The plaza is accessed from the upper, south portion of the site via a concrete stair with six steps. It is accessed from the lower parking area to the north via a sidewalk. The entry is made up of a double door of full-height glass in an anodized aluminum frame, with a sidelight to the right. To the right of the door is a brick-clad wall that extends into a retaining wall for the upper portion of the site. To the left is a curved wall that is characteristic of the building. Above is a projecting curved canopy with a tall fascia that is clad in metal panels joined by a standing seam. The right or north side of this façade is stepped back. This section of the building has a flat (versus curved) parapet wall on the right. To its left is a flush double entry door; to the left of the door is a curved wall. Above, the cladding departs from the brick veneer





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characteristic of the building; this area is clad in metal.

North side façade. To the left of the rear façade can be seen a rounded volume that is set back from the main plane of this face; it features one tall, fixed light. To its right is a recessed service entry door. The central portion consists of a tall, flat wall whose most distinctive feature is three tall windows that are divided into four lights by cross shaped muntins of split face concrete block or cast concrete that is marked by a glass block in the center. The horizontal lines of the cross extend to form a string course which is accented by ceramic tiles and brick in a soldier course. To the right of this wall is a lower volume that appears to be a service wing. A flush double door is located here, followed by a single flush door in a recessed opening.

Rear, west façade. The west façade at the north end features the side wall of the above described service area. This projection features two, one-over-one-light windows with anodized aluminum frames and a large vent/fan opening. At about the center is a volume with a flush metal door and window with cross-shaped muntins, similar to those on the rear façade. The upper portion is clad in metal. A small patio fronts this area. The next volume to the south features one, one-over-one-light window in an anodized aluminum frame. The next volume is not highly visible, as it faces onto a landscaped area, but it appears to have no openings.

South side façade. The south façade is the original front entry. It consists of three separate volumes. The lower one, on the west side, features the same curved walls characteristic of the rest of the building, and two tall, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows offset from center. The central volume is a high, narrow wing that marks the entry. The entry itself is recessed, with a solid, flush metal door with two sidelights. This is topped by a projecting canopy metal. The volume to the right, which steps up the hill, features three tall, one-over-one-light windows in anodized aluminum frames.

A former monument sign is located in front of the entry. It now provides an enclosure for a utility.

Changes over time. The rectory building has been substantially modified over time. Today the original volume on the south side is approximately one-third the size of the whole building. The original building permit for the building notes the presence of a detached garage, which is no longer extant. A building permit of 1970 is on record for the building and a certificate of occupancy has a date of 1994, but research did not reveal other dates associated with the building.

Landscape and site design. Overall, the landscape treatment for the church and rectory is relatively simple. The building complex is surrounded by lawn. A thick stand of trees is located along the west side, shielding the property from S Cowley Street. Other mature trees dot the site. The entry drive to the east of the church is formally landscaped. And a screen of trees separates the church parking lot from the retirement home to the north. The sign for the church is located to the west of the church and faces E Rockwood Blvd. It is a low monument sign that features the same flat face and curved walls clad in rectangular and square bricks as seen on the church. The base of the sign is concrete and it is capped by a concrete coping. "Sacred Heart" is inscribed on the façade.



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### Bibliography:

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"A Short History of the Diocese," Catholic Diocese of Spokane,  
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Whiffen, Marcus and Frederick Koeper, American Architecture 1607-1976. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1981.

## Inventory Details - 8/2/2004

Common name:

Date recorded: 8/2/2004

Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination

## Detail Information

### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Structural System	Masonry - Concrete Block
Plan	Irregular
Cladding	Brick
Roof Type	Conical
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition
Foundation	Concrete - Poured

## Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Bibliography: "Construction Nearly Finished" - Spokane Daily Chronicle: July 25, 1969.