



FLOOR PLAN, LEFT, AND SITE PLAN OF NEW CATHEDRAL
 ...arrow-shaped structure points to the east between St. Paul and Pine Streets

Planners Approve New Catholic Cathedral

By MARGARET McCAHILL

After three and a half years, construction is expected to begin soon on the new mother church for about 150,000 Roman Catholics in Vermont.

The Burlington Planning Commission Thursday night approved architectural plans for a new Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to be located on the site of the former cathedral which was destroyed by fire March 13, 1972.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Powers said Friday the plans must now be approved by the Diocesan Administrative Board.

Although no figures were released, cost is estimated to be \$1.7 million.

The drawings by New York City architect Edward Larrabee Barnes situate the new cathedral in the center of the block enclosed by Pearl, St. Paul, Cherry and Pine streets and bound it on three sides by honey locust trees.

Msgr. Powers declined to give further information on the new cathedral, explaining he first wants to notify the church's parishioners about the proposed plans.

City Planner Frank Gerred said the adjacent Cathedral Parish Center will be torn down upon completion of the new cathedral.

The Parish Center houses church offices and several classrooms. The center once was the Cathedral Grammar School, and before that the Cathedral High School.

Plans for the new cathedral call for a one-story structure at the

west end rising to a tall chapel area on the east end.

Gerred said the roof will be copper and will slope up to a chapel tower that will have a skylight.

Gerred said the brick on the cathedral will be a "glazed green color with a burnished brown coming through."

The design shows a Pine Street entrance to a parking area and two walkway entrances to the chapel on the northeast and southeast corners of the lot.

The west end of the cathedral, according to the site drawings, will house three meeting rooms and a parish office. A basement floor is shown containing four offices, four conference rooms and a kitchen.

The Planning Commission, in granting approval to the plans Thursday night, stipulated the cathedral committee consider varying the kinds of trees in the grove. Gerred said the suggestion was made to protect the beauty of the site should any blight similar to Dutch Elm disease infect the locust trees.

Gerred said the drawings for the new cathedral are 80 per cent complete.

Colin Lindberg is the consulting architect to the cathedral committee.

Although no construction contract has yet been awarded, contractor for the project is expected to be Wright and Morrissey, according to Gerred. Wright and Morrissey did much of the site

preparation for the cathedral committee.

The plans in the city planning office provide for a "campanile" on the southeast corner of the lot.

The campanile, or bell tower, will be constructed to house the 4,500-pound bell which was salvaged following the fire.

Gerred said the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, once situated above the old bell tower, will be placed somewhere on the grounds.

The statue arrived in Burlington in March 1904, as a gift of Bishop Michaud who succeeded Bishop DeGoesbriand at the turn of the century.

The statue was carefully removed from its perch above St. Patrick's Chapel March 16, 1972, and was stored.

Timothy T. Austin, 24, of Burlington, was convicted of setting the cathedral fire. He was sentenced in June of 1972 to two to ten years in prison, and was transferred to the State Hospital in 1974.

The blaze occurred less than a year after St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral was similarly destroyed by fire.

The ruins to the main section of the old cathedral were brought down for safety reasons soon after the fire and the remains of St. Patrick's Chapel were leveled June 18 of this year.

The first cathedral was completed and consecrated Dec. 8, 1867. Construction had dragged for four years, but the close of the Civil War provided the necessary manpower to complete the project.