

DFI Project: Good Shepherd Church



The building on 300 Wapping St. in Frankfort, Kentucky is known as the old Good Shepherd Church. This building was built in 1850. Later, in 1895, the adjacent Admiral Todd estate was purchased by Father Thomas S. Major. This building would later become the site of the Good Shepherd School. Since the construction of this building, it has served as a catholic church for the local community.

The old Good Shepherd Church has 5,407 sq. ft. available, but with the added adjacent lot, it brings it up to 7,462 sq.ft. The building materials for this property include brick, cement, shingles, stained glass, and wood. The architectural design of this building is influenced by the Gothic/ Neo-Gothic fashion. These styles were very common in Roman Catholic churches. Not only did this style occur in Roman Catholic churches, but in Anglican churches as well. Common features include pointed arches, vaulted ceilings, and emphasis upon the decorative style and the ornate.

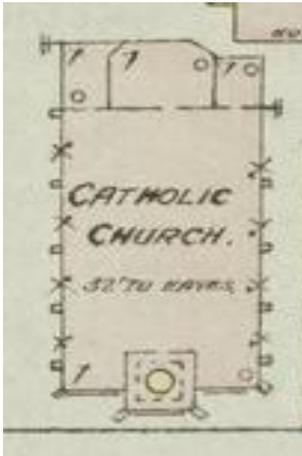


Figure 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; 1886

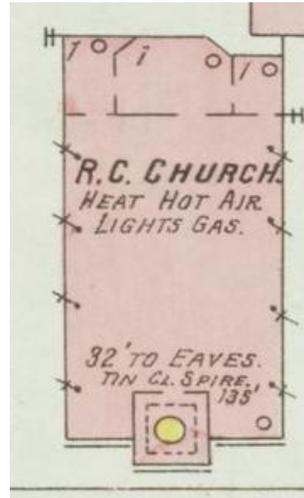


Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; 1901

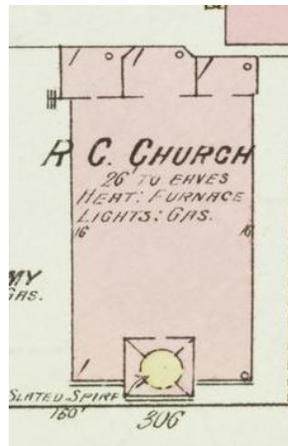


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; 1912

The above pictures, taken from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the listed years, show that the Old Good Shepherd Church has always served Frankfort's catholic community.

Here are some historic pictures and more recent photographs of the Old Good Shepherd Church:



In 2010, there was construction around the church, as you can see in an above picture, in which the neighboring courthouse underwent construction. Seeing that this building has been remodeled a bit, it has plenty of room and it is vacant. It now needs a business that can fill the empty space. A business that could improve the economy and attract tourists, but not destroy production for other places. Businesses such as a Joe Bologna's (an Italian restaurant in Lexington, Kentucky), a religious historic center, or a pet grooming and training facility could serve as potential tenants for this vacant property. After surveying various students and adults in Franklin County and analyzing the data, it showed that people would like to see more

businesses downtown for pet owners to take their pets to be checked on, groomed, and trained.

Therefore, a good business for the vacant building that I suggest is a place called “Groom n’ Zoom”. The average amount of square footage needed for a pet grooming and training facility takes as little as 112 sq. ft. The old Good Shepherd church has a bigger size than the required average space for this specific business. So they are quite capable of running a facility like this. This business can create a closer pet grooming and training facility closer to people who aren’t able to drive to places like that. People downtown, most of the time, walk to their preferred destination due to its close proximity to multiple businesses, but there isn’t a pet grooming or training facility within a manageable walking distance for the population. The people would have to drive to a place, and for some people that opportunity isn’t available to them. The closest dog grooming place is on the east side of town. Therefore, I propose that this building should be turned into “Groom n’ Zoom”, the happiest pet facility in town! An example of what the building could look like is in the below picture:



So in conclusion, the old Good Shepherd Church is vacant, but has plentiful square footage to uphold the business suggested. It would help pet owners and the community along which would make it a much better place than it already is. Pet owners, pets, and people in general will love the Groom n’ Zoom, for its great service and opportunities!