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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

OME 10.1024-0018 Exp. 12/31/84

received OCT 1.5. 1984

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See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	St. Vinc	ent DePaul Chu	rch, Rectory,	School, St.	<u>Ursula Home and Con</u> v
nd/or common	St. Vinc	ent DePaul Chu	rch, Rectory	,School, St.	Ursula Home and 1214
2. Loca	ation				
treet & number	1201, 1207, 1	Oak an 202 - S. Shelby 1	d 5h elby and 728 E. Oa	k Street -	not for publication
ity, town Lou	ıisville	<u>na</u> vicir	ity of wong		
t ate Ker	ntucky	code 021	county Jeffe	rson	code
3. Clas	sification				
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisition _na in process _na being considere	Status <u>X</u> occupied unoccup work in p Accessible <u>X</u> yes: rest d no	d bied brogress iricted	sent Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
name Se street & number	ee Continuation S	neet			
ity, town		<u>_na</u> vicir		state	
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Desc	ription		
ourthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Je	fferson County	Courthouse		
street & number	6t	h and Jefferso	n Streets		
ity, town Lou	iisville			state	Kentucky
	resentatio	n in Exis	ting Surv	veys	
					igible? yes xx no
late 1981	and 1984			federal <u>x</u> sta	te county local
depository for su	Jrvey records Ken	tucky Heritage	Division		

city, town Frankfort

7. Description

Condition		Check one
.x excellent	deteriorated	X_ unaltered
_x good	ruins	$\underline{\mathbf{x}}$ altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one __x_ original site ____ moved date .

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. Vincent DePaul church complex is located in the Shelby Park neighborhood just east of the Old Louisville Residential District (National Register, 1975).

St. Vincent DePaul Church was constructed in 1886, in the Gothic Revival Style by D. X. Murphy with additions made to it in 1927. (view 1) The three bayed facade has a centered double doored entry with paneled lancet arches. The door sets in a stone surround which terminates in an ogee arch. The transom follows the arch shape and is filled with stained-glass in a trefoil motif. Flanking the entry are brick buttresses with stone stops. The second story has two long, lancet windows filled with geometric patterned stained glass, surrounded by stone hoods with stops. A stone band runs between the buttresses under the sills while a band of terra cotta rinceau decoration defines the second and third stories. A gable face caps the bay between the buttresses. The gable is pierced by a central round window with stone tracery forming quatrefoils, filled with stained glass. A recessed wall area, pierced by stained glass windows with tracery, bridges the space between the buttresses and the end bays which are topped by two identical towers that rise above the central bay. The two end bays have double doors with the same treatment as the central bay. Their doors have simpler stone hoods with transoms filled with geometric stained glass. The second story contains three coupled windows with stone surrounds with the central window being slightly larger than the other two. A band of stone decoration articulates the second and third stories. The third floor contains coupled lancet windows with stone surrounds. Buttresses rise the height of the towers and provide decorative stone caps and pinnacles. A gable with stone coping, and a stone parapet behind, caps the towers.

The north side of St. Vincent DeFaul (view 2) has double lancet art glass windows alternating with brick buttressing and stone steps. Brick corbeling is found just below the building's roof line. The north transept is vertically divided into three parts. The lower portion has three double lancet windows with stone surrounds. The lower portion is separated from the middle by a wide band of stone tracery in bas-relief. Above is a large rose window framed by a pointed arch also bearing stone ornamentation in bas-relief. Stone corbeling separates the middle from the termination of the transept in a gable. Framed by stone corbeling in the form of pointed arches are three lancet windows in graduated heights. A stone cross tops this portion.

The south side of the church (view 3) has been partially obscured by the rectory addition. The five sided rear facade of the church (view 4) is oramented with brick corbeling in the pointed arch form. One-over-one lancet windows pierce the walls.

The interior of St. Vincent DePaul Church is equally as grand as the exterior. The Church was constructed in the cruciform plan with its nave 150' long and 52' wide. The building is entered thru one of three portals into a groin vaulted narthex (view 5). Three sets of double wood doors with beveled, leaded glass insets and stained glass transoms lead into the church proper, which is divided into nave, transept with crossing, and apse.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of SignificanceC	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	Areas of Significancec archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		politics/government	 science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
	<u> </u>			other (specify)

	,			Builder/Architect	D.	X. Murphy.	St	VincentDePaul Church.
Statement of S	1912,	1914-	1915, 1	927	St.	Ursula Ho	ne;	Thomas and Bohne, St.
	ignificar	ice (in d	one para	graph)	Vin	Icent DePau	1 S	chool

The St. Vincent DePaul Church Complex is an outstanding example of integrity of design and craftsmanship in ecclesiastical architecture. Louisville and the Shelby Park neighborhood have benefited from the wide range of building styles represented. The Gothic Revival Style Church, Classical Revival Style School, early twentieth century eclectic style St. Ursula home, as well as the Italianate Style convent and the rectory are excellent examples of their respective styles and make a significant contribution to the area's built environment.

In the late 1800s Catholicism was well rooted in Kentucky. Composed mostly of Irish, Italian, and German immigrants, each parish reflected its congregation's ethnicity. By establishing separate and distinct churches, all responded to the individual ethnic needs of its parishoners. St. Vincent DePaul was a German church mirroring the predominantly German-Gatholic Shelby Park neighborhood.

In 1878, on the site of the present church's sacristy and sanctuary, the cornerstone for the first church was laid. The church was constructed as a two story brick building. The area surrounding the church was rural in character. Fences bordered property holder's land and a pond was located on the spot where the present school now stands. For a time, services were given in both English and German, but, after attendance dropped, sermons were conducted exclusively in German, resulting in over-flow crowds.

The first church proved inadequate after several years because of the swelling numbers of parishoners. In 1886 the cornerstone was laid and in 1888 the present church was completed at a total cost of 25,000.00.

Designed by the prominent Louisville architect D. X. Murphy, it is an excellent example of Gothic Revival Style. Murphy worked for many years for the important Louisville architect Henry Whitestone. D. X. Murphy succeeded Whitestone upon his retirement and was later joined by his brothers to form the firm of D. X. Murphy and Bros.

Murphy is responsible for the design of numerous outstanding Louisville buildings. He was frequently commissioned for designs by the Roman Catholic Church and occasionally reduced his fee to one percent on these commissions. The Sisters of Charity Motherhouse at Nazareth in Bardstown Kentucky, where his sister Sr. Mary Anslem resided as well as St. Boniface Church, (National Register, 1982) St. Williams Church, Presentation Academy (National Register, 1978), Sacred Heart Retreat, St. Martin's School (National Register 1983), St. Agnes Church are among his many ecclesiastical designs. The Jefferson County Jail (National Register , 1973), Churchill Downs (National Register, 1978), and Snead Office Building (National Register, 1978) represent a few of his commercial designs. An abundance of houses in the Cherokee Triangle area were also D. X. Murphy designed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ____2

Quadrangle name Louisville East, Kentucky UMT References

A 1 6	6 1 0 2 0 0	4 2 3 2 2 1 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
c		
E		
G		

B Zone	Easting	Northing
н		

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

All buildings associated with the St. Vincent De Paul complex are being nominated. The legal description of the aforementioned buildings are as follows: (See Continuation Sheet)

List all states a	nd counties for properties o	verlapping state	or county boundaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. For	m Prepared By	/	
name/title	Joanne Weeter, Resea	rcher	
organization	Louisville Landmarks	Commission	date August 3, 1984
street & number	727 W Main Street		telephone (502) 587-3501
city or town	Louisville		state KY
65), I hereby nom according to the ci	inate this property for inclusion	in the National Reg	Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-
State Historic Pres	•	by the National Par	
itie <u>State</u> H. For NPS use of	ervation Officer signature Da Istaic Preservolian (nly	wil L. Mr.	date October 2 1984
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St Vincent DePaul Church, Rectory, School, St Ursula Home and Convent Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY Item number 4

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St Vincent DePaul c/o Archdioses of Louisville 212 E. College Louisville, KY 40203

Kevin Schweitzer 10113 Timberwood Circle Louisville, KY 40223

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The nave as well as the crossing is divided into four sexpartite vaults. Each rib of the vault is embellished with ornamental bosses at their intersections (view 6). The apse is divided into twelve irregularly spaced vaults. The nave-wall bay arrangement has wainscotting and is ... divided by engaged pilasters with corinthian capitols that spring into the ribs of the vaults above. Within each bay is a centered double lanceted window with a lozenge at its spandrel (view 7). Each window was presented to the church as a gift from various parishoners. This is flanked on either side by miches framed by ornamental plaster work containing the stations of the cross. Each niche is surmounted by a cross. The north transept is shallow and has three sets of double lanceted stained glass windows with lozenges. This is surmounted by a large rose window (view 8). The south transept forms the entrance to a small chapel. It is entered through three pointed arches which are supported by columns with C orinthian capitols (view 9). Above is a rose window mirroring another to the north. The chapel itself is divided into a sexpartite arrangement with bosses but is not compartmentalized by rib divisions. At its each end is a baptistry and shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The apse features a marble altar, added in recent years, that faces the congregation. The more ornate high alter abuts one portion of a five sided rear wall and is faced with multi-colored marble wainscotting. The choir loft is at the west end of the church and houses a large organ.

The St. Vincnet DePaul Rectory is a simple, three story, brick Italianate structure built in 1886 (view 3). The entrance to the north is protected by a brick, hipped roof ante-room. All windows are one-over-one with plain sills, and rock-faced ashlar stone lintels that terminate in curls. The building's cornice is plain. This building abuts the church proper.

St. Vincent DePaul School (view 11) was constructed between 1910 and 1911 in the Classical Revival Style and was designed by Thomas and Bohne architects. The primary entrance faces Shelby Street while the secondary one faces Oak Street. This structure rests on a raised ashlar basement pierced by windows. A stone band course separates the basement from the first floor.On the main facade, a centered double stairway leads to a pair of wooden double doors with a transom above. The entry is capped by a lintel with keystones. This is flanked by paired brick pilasters with classical stone capitals that rise to the cornice. Above the entry is a central stone niche with a coquillage design bearing a statue of St. Vincent DePaul. This is flanked by three bays, separated by brick pilasters which each contain a single six-over-six window per floor, and a simple stone sill. The facade terminates in an extended cornice with dentils. The central bay is capped by a gable with a denticulated raking cornice. The gable is pierced by a bull's eye window and is topped by a cross.

The secondary facade (view 12) has nine bays. The central bay has a recessed entry with multi-light double doors with sidelights. This is topped by a deep, cantilevered

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hood with an eight-light transom above. The entry is framed by brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals and is topped by a pediment. The central portion of the second floor has a central six-over-six window flanked by four-over-four windows surmounted by an eliptically arched, multi-light transom. Multiple rows of brick voussoirs and a stone keystone give added emphasis to this central window. The multiple bays are identical to those on the main facade. The central potion of the building is topped by a pedidment with a denticulated raking cornice. Its center is pierced by an oval attic vent. The building is topped by an octagonal cup01a with a domical roof and a cross

The St. Uusula Home was constructed between 1914 and 1915, and reflects the eclectic diversity of the era by borrowing from the Classical, Craftsman and Italianate traditions. (view 13). This two story seven bay, brick structure has a raised basement of rough-cut ashlar masonry. A masonry water table separates the basement from the first story. A double stone staircase leads up to the front doors. A wide niche, a relieving arch and irregularly shaped stone voussoirs complete its ornamentation. The central bay, containing the building's entry, has two recessed, paired double doors with a transom. It is framed by a stone surround and hood and is supported by brackets adorned with swags. The central bay of the second floor has paired one-over-one windows sharing a common surround and topped by a simple stone cross. The windows in the remaining six bays have simple one-over-one windows with stone sills. The central portion of the convent has a gable with wide eaves on either side that are supported by brackets. The building's gabled roof has two simple vented dormers.

1214 Logan Street was constructed in 1884 in the Italianate Style as a rectory for the Ursuline Sisters who were instructors at the St. Vincent DePaul School (view 14). This simple two story brick structure is three bays wide. The recessed entry to the south is protected by an ornately carved, bracketed hood with dentils lining its cornice. The two north bays originally had two long narrow one-over-one windows that have been obscured by the addition of a one story brick porch. The three, second floor windows have stone lintels and hoods. A denticulated, bracketed cornice tops the building.

The St.Vincent DePaul Church complex is an important element to the Shelby Park area streetscape. Each individual building, while standing on its own architectural merit, displays a fine quality of design, proportion, and craftsmanship. Such a fine group of buildings is an asset to Louisville's ecclesiastical architecture.

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The church designed by Murphy (view 15) featured a slightly projecting central bay rising up into a single gothic tower. For a period of forty years the church remained unaltered. Eventually the steady growth of the congregation necessitated an enlargement. The building's walls, which were originally straight, were altered to create north and south transepts and adorned with radiant rose windows. The south transept were made to accomodate a small chapel and baptistry. Thus, the seating capacity of the church was increased from 800 to 1,300. The church's exterior was altered by removing the main facade, extending it to the property line on Shelby Street and replacing it with the present facade fenestration. The single tower was replaced by twin towers, and a vestibule was installed between the entry and the sanctuary proper.

While the use of brick in such solid masses gives the church a "well anchored" appearance the fenestration gives way to the Gothic Revival emphasis on verticality. The shape and abundance of lancet windows, adorned with delicate tracery, add an air of lightness to the building's design. The towers, which rise above the central bay, appear to pierce the sky. The appointments adorning the interior of St. Vincent DePaul serve to further reinforce the Gothic Revival influence. The skeltal construction of each sexpartite vault springs from a pier to form a series of partitioned units. The repeated use of this motif creates a unified space. Double lancet windows and rose windows are an integral part of the architect's scheme. Each allows a wide array of light and shadow to fall upon the sanctuary. Thus, the identification of light with the Divine reinforces the intent and purpose of this place of worship. Dark pews with gothic ends and an original color scheme of creme and old ivory enhanced the rib vaults and ornamental plaster work. Niches, bordered by ornamental plaster work, are showcases for the stations of the cross, and add an elegance to the church's gothic interior (view 16 and 17).

The rectory of St. Vincent Depaul has gone through quite a lengthy evolutionary process (view 18). When the lot for the first church was acquired the land on which the present rectory stands was purchased too. The small frame store which originally occupied the lot was converted into a residence for the priests. In 1886 the front portion was razed and a three-story brick building was constructed in its place. In 1900 the remainder of the frame structure was removed, only to be replaced by yet another three story brick addition. In 1908 a frame addition was added to this.

The rectory, as it stands now, is an unassuming building. With the exception of its anteroom, which was added in later years, the facade remains unchanged. The interior features seven marbelized mantles and beautiful etched glass windows. The exterior windows, topped with rough-cut lintels, and the plain cornice exemplify the blending of an ecclesiastical structure of Italianate design with the residential nature of the surrounding neighborhood.

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In 1880 the Ursuline Sisters, who had come to Louisville from Germany, were invited to staff the school. 1214 Logan Street is a two story brick building constructed in 1884 to serve as a home for the Sisters (view 19). It is typical of Italianate structures of its day and is especially significant as one of the oldest buildings in the parish. After serving as the Sisters home and later converted into classrooms, it is currently in use as a home, blending in well with the other residences that line Logan Street.

In later years the Sisters resided at the motherhouse at Shelby and Chestnut Streets, However, in 1914, the parish trustees urged the acting pastor to erect a suitable home for the sisters. In 1915 the St Ursula Home, facing Oak Street just west of the school building, was dedicated (view 13). Constructed in an early twentieth century eclectic style, it features an Italianate influenced recessed entry bay. The Craftsman influence can be seen in the wide eaves supported by brackets and the simple fenestration. The scale and style of this building blend nicely with the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood. In addition to fourteen bedrooms for the Sisters there is an oratory, reception room, community room, dining room, kitchen and pantry.

St. Vincent DePaul used a variety of buildings for its classrooms. All proved adequate for a time but as the parish grew is size, new school quarters were sought. In 1910 ground was broken for a new school that was completed in 1911 at a total cost of \$60,000.00. (view 11). Located at the southwest corner of Shelby and Oak Streets, it was considered a model of its time and one of the most modern in the city. It was designed in the Classical Revival Style by the architectural firm of Thomas and Bohne.

Drach and Thomas first started a firm in 1889. F. R. Bohne joined their firm as a draftsman six years later, after a partnership with F. N. Mowbray. Drach and Thomas were responsible for the design of numerous public buildings including the Crescent Hill Branch Library (National Register, 1981) and Firehouse #21 (National Register 1980). In addition to the St. Vincent DePaul School they also designed both Longfellow (National Register, 1983) and Emerson Schools (National Register 1982) as well as numerous fine residences in the Louisville area.

A clear command of the Classical Revival Style is evident in both the Oak and Shelby Street facades. Paired colossal pilasters with classical stone capitals rise to the cornice and give a wonderful vertical emphasis. The formality of a coquillage design incorporated with a niche bearing a statue of St. Vincent Depaul highlights the building's east side. A tripart window enhanced by an elliptical arch gives a refined aesthetic quality. The pediment, pierced by an oval attic vent, leads the eye up to the top of the building which is distinguished by an octagonal cupola with a domical roof and a cross above. Refined classicism adds an aire of importance to this sturdy corner structure making it a significant example of this style and an asset to the surrounding Shelby Park neighborhood.

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The interior of St. Vincent DePaul School is outstanding for its large room sizes (28x32) and for the great hallways (16 feet wide). In the late 1920s a very architecturally compatible addition was made to the building's west side.

Representing a wide range of building styles, the St. Vincent DePaul Church Complex, is an example of outstanding ecclesiastical architecture. Each building reflects the era in which it was built by adopting individual styles to each building's intended purpose: the Gothic Revival Style church reflecting divine inspiration, the Classical Revival Style school borrowing from the monumental architecture of ancient Greece, the Italianate influence in the handsome facade of the convent and rectory, and finally the St. Ursula Home which combines classical elements with Italianate and Craftsman details in the ecelectic tradition are excellent examples of the styles represented. Each style draws on a variety of architectural traditions and results in a cohesive whole. The significance of these buildings lies not only in the role the church has played in the Shelby Park neighborhood but also in the outstanding architecure represented.

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Biographical References:

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St. Vincent DePaul Church; 1201 S. Shelby Street Block 25 D, Lot 42 St. Vincent DePaul Church Rectory; 1207 S. Shelby Street Block 25 D, Lot 42 St. Vincent DePaul School; 1202 S. Shelby Street Block 23B, Lot 54 St. Ursula Home; 728 E. Oak Street

Block 23B Lot 84

First Rectory; 1214 Logan Street Block 25D Lot 52

The boundaries of these sites extend ten feet from the foundation walls of each building. 1214 Logan Street is one of two structures on Block 25D, Lot 52 and is the only contributing structure on that lot.

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date entered



St. Vincent DePaul Complex Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY Sanborn Map Company, Inc. 629 Fifth Avenue Pelham, New York

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