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|        |   | rm 10-300<br>v. 6-72) | NATIONAL REC          |               | TORI    | CPLA         |                  | Louisian<br>COUNTY:<br>Orleans | a                         |          |       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|-------|
|        | INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM                     |                       |                       |               |         |              | FOR NPS USE ONLY |                                |                           |          |       |
|        | (Type all entries - complete applicable section |                       |                       |               |         |              | ns)              | APR                            | 1 3 1976                  |          |       |
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| _      |   | District              | 🔀 Building            | Public        | Public  | : Acquisiti  | on:              | 🖾 Occupied                     | Yes:                      |          |       |
| 0      |   | 🗌 Site                | Structure             | K Private     |         | In Pro       |                  | 🔲 Unoccupied                   | Restricted                | .        |       |
| ┣━     |   | [                     | Object                | Both          |         | Being        | Considered       | Preservation work              |                           |          |       |
| ບ      |   |                       |                       | <u> </u>      | l       |              |                  | in progress                    |                           |          |       |
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|        |   |                       |                       |               |         |              | of the           | Diocese of New                 | Orleans                   |          | STATE |
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| CONDITION  | 🕅 Excellent | 🗌 Good    | 📋 Fair    | Deter  | riorated | 🗌 Ruins | Unexposed       |
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|            | K Alter     | ed        | Unaltered |        |          | Moved   | 🔀 Original Site |

ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Vincent de Paul Church, a red brick structure laid in common bond, was constructed in 1866 and modified by the addition of a clock tower in 1924. The original frame church constructed in 1838 was converted into a school building after the present church was erected.

St. Vincent's has a basilica plan. The Corinthian style columns separating the "nave" and "aisles" are not original but were added in the 1920's to reinforce the vaulted ceilings.

The side elevation is divided into 4 equal bays by massive brick pilasters with brick caps and bases. Within each bay are two semi-circular headed brick paneled niches, originally hollow and presumably constructed to hold religious statues. Pilasters are also found on the corners of the side elevation.

The entrance facade is dominated by a semi-circular headed compound arch with unadorned archivolt surrounding the entrance door. The door, which dates at least from the turn of the century, is paneled with a stilted arch and square, rectangular, and circular recessed panels. On each side of the entrance tower is one semi-circular headed stained glass window with drip molding flanked by pilasters, which are located at the corner of the building and the edge of the tower. These pilasters support a brick subcornice and cornice, a feature which extends around the sides of the structure.

On either side of the front tympanum is a circular design worked in brick. The tower centered on the structure was originally constructed without a steeple. The steeple was added in 1924 and includes Westminster chimes and a Howard Tower Clock. Over the entrance, the tower contains a rectangular recessed panel with two 6/9 doublehung windows.

The corresponding panels on the tower sides have no windows. Above this can be found another set of panels containing double semicircular headed louvered windows with drip molding. This second set of panels has irregular shaped tops. The cornice above this marked the top of the original tower. The steeple itself consists of an octagonal shaped structure with pilasters on each corner of the middle section. The four ornamental urns at the corners of the original tower are echoed by smaller urns at the base of the dome which has projecting metal ribs and is topped by a Latin cross.

At the rear of the Church the original back wall is topped by another Latin cross. The semi-circular apse and rectangular sacristy were added to the structure in the 1870's to provide additional space inside the church. The apse wall is marked by small denticulation and the sacristy has three windows across the back.

A dominant feature of the interior is the unfluted columns with Corinthian capitals which were added in the early 20th century to provide structural support. The barrel vault of the nave is paneled into uneven sections which are decorated with murals painted by Achille Peretti by 1911. These murals depict the life and foundations of St. Vincent de Paul. The aisles have flat ceilings that are also divided into ornamental sections. The walls are plaster and unadorned except by the Stations of the Cross. They were most recently repaired in 1967 because of damage caused by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

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| Form 10-300a<br>(July 1969) | UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR<br>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE                                     | STATE                                 |
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|                             | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  | Louisiana<br>County                   |
|                             | INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM   | Orleans                               |
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| 6. Surveys                  |   |                                       |
| Structures,                 | enewal Program of New Orleans Report on H<br>1967, Local, New Orleans City Planning C<br>, Louisiana. | ED<br>1975<br>AL                      |

| Form 10-300a<br>(July 1969) | UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR<br>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | STATE<br>Louisiana   |
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|                             | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES                              | COUNTY   |
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| 15th Century                 | 17th Century               | 🕅 19th Century |                 |
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| Abor iginal                  | Education                  | Political      | Urban Planning  |
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| 🗌 Historic                   | 🔲 Industry                 | losophy        |                 |
| Agriculture                  | Invention                  | Science        |                 |
| Architecture                 | Landscape                  | Sculpture      |                 |
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| Communications               | Military                   | Theater        |                 |
| Conservation                 | Music                      | Transportation |                 |

St. Vincent de Paul Church was founded in 1838 to serve the lower (downriver) section of New Orleans. It was the third parish erected in that city and its original parish lines overlapped those of St. Louis Cathedral. The church, which erected its first structure in 1838, was organized for the French community, and in later years it overlapped the parish lines of Holy Trinity Church which served the German families of the downriver section. The French tradition was not easily given up, because it was not until the 1880's that English sermons were first introduced, and even then they were considered something of a novelty.

St. Vincent's has long played a large role in the activities of the archdiocese, its importance noted by the fact that for 26 years (1911-1936) the pastor was the Auxilliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, John Marius Laval (1854-1937).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| MAJOR   | BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE                                    |                        |         |  |  |
|---|---|------------------------|---------|--|--|
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| 1939, Original Edition No. 16   |   |                        |         |  |  |
|   | Curtis, Nathanie                                      | 1 Cortlandt, <u>N</u>  | ew      | Orleans Its Old Houses, Shops,                                     |  |
|   |   |                        |         | Philadelphia and London, J. B.                                     |  |
|   | Lippin  | cott Co., MCMX         | XXI     | []].   |  |
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| ORGANIZ   |   |                        |         |  |  |
|   | AUTHORIZED Paris                                      | nioner of St.          | Vind    | ncent de Paul Church   August 26, 1974                             |  |
|   | 2922 North Rampa                                      | rt Street              |         |  |  |
| CITY OR   |   |                        |         | STATE CODE   |  |
|   | New Orleans   |                        |         | Louisiana 22   |  |
| 2. STATE  | LIAISON OFFICER C                                     | RTIFICATION            |         | NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION                                     |  |
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| As the  | e designated State Liais                              | on Officer for the Na- |         | I hereby certify that this property is included in the             |  |
| 1   | Historic Preservation A                               |                        |         | National Register.   |  |
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| Form<br>(July | 10- <b>300</b> 0<br>1969) |

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| TATE            |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Louisiana       |      |
| COUNTY          |      |
| Orleans         |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONL | .Y   |
| ENTRY NUMBER    | DATE |
| APR 1 3 1970    |      |
|                 |      |

(Number all entries) 8. Statement of Significance

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH (cont'd)

The great impact of the Catholic Church on south Louisiana culture is still felt today. It is perhaps most noticable because of the sharp contrast it offers with the predominantly Protestant northern part of the state. Many of the well-known celebrations and holidays of the area -- the Blessing of the Fleet, St. Jospeh's Altars, Mardi Gras, All Saint's Day, Good Friday, and more -- have a religious base.

The parish of St. Vincent de Paul is still viable after more than 135 years. The fact that it continues to serve parishioners attests to the importance of religion to the residents of the area. The construction date--1866--also indicates the strong desire of the parish to worship their God: New Orleans was especially hard hit by the military occupation and the reconstruction government, and locally financed new, prominent structures of this era were rare.

