

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Louisiana</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Orleans Parish</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>MAY 22 1973</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**St. Alphonsus Church (Roman Catholic)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2029 Constance Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE <b>Louisiana</b>	CODE <b>22</b>	COUNTY: <b>Orleans Parish</b>	CODE <b>071</b>
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**St. Alphonsus Parish**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2030 Constance Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans,**

STATE:  
**Louisiana**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Civil Courts Building - Register of Conveyances**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**421 Loyola Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE:  
**Louisiana**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New Orleans Architecture, Vol. I, The Lower Garden District**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**       Federal     State     County     Local

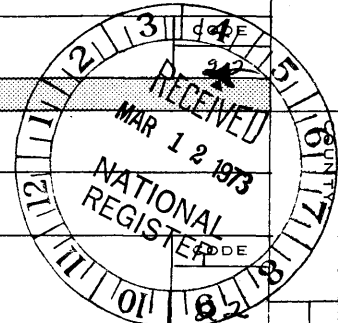
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Friends of the Cabildo - Louisiana State Museum**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**751 Chartres Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE:  
**Louisiana**

CODE:  
**22**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

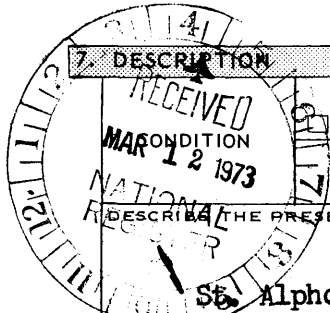
STATE:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAY 22 1973



DESCRIPTION

(Check One)  
Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)  Altered  Unaltered (Check One)  Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Alphonsus Church is a large brick structure with twin, square, three level brick towers flanking the front facade and a semi-circular apse at the rear gable end, with one story brick wings for the sacristies. The square towers, rising above the pitched slate roof were intended to support elaborate baroque clock towers and spires, but these were never constructed. Each side elevation, between the tower and rear gable wall, is divided into six equal bays by massive brick pilasters with stone caps and bases. Each bay contains a large semi-circular head window each with a heavy wood mullion dividing the window into two semi-circular headed parts with a smaller circle centered above them. The windows are filled with stained glass. The brick arches above the window are emphasised by raised brick voussoirs. Above these rusticated arches are recessed brick panels. The cornice and parapet above the pilasters is of brick with brick dentils and a stone crown moulding. This cornice is continued entirely around the building, including the apse. On the front facade is a central semi-circular head entrance door with small entrances on either side in the tower bases. In front of the center entrance a triple arch entrance porch crowned by a small niche containing a statue of St. Alphonsus was added some time after the church was built. Above each of the three entrance doors, at the balcony level is a large semi-circular head window, similar to the side windows, with similar rusticated arches. The somewhat wider center window is flanked by niches containing statues. Brick pilasters from a sub-cornice above the entrance doors and extending to the main cornice line, flank the windows, niches and towers. Above the cornice line the towers with double corner pilasters and brick cornice extend above a brick panelled base. The towers containing the bells have semi-circular head louvered openings similar to the windows below them. In the center of the facade is a large niche containing a statue, the niche flanked by doubled brick pilasters supporting a brick cornice and rounded brick pediment. Above this pediment and above each of the towers is a large wood cross. The pilasters of the facade and towers have stone base mouldings with capitals that were intended to be of the Corinthian order probably in cast iron, but the acanthus leaves and volutes have unfortunately been removed. The exterior to the building is an interesting renaissance revival interpretation and the brickwork is of the superior quality exhibited in several mid-nineteenth century New Orleans churches.

The interior of the church is impressive in its size and scale. Balconies with panelled railings supported on cast iron columns, extend along the two sides and rear of the nave. At the apsidal end two massive fluted Corinthian columns divide the sanctuary into three parts, the center and apse containing the high altar and the side areas smaller altars and shrines. The fluted Corinthian columns are repeated around the walls of the nave, sanctuary and apse as half columns. An elaborate Corinthian cornice extends above these, entirely around the church and supports a coved ceiling, divided into panels by beams and elaborately decorated with religious paintings and arabesques. Attached to one of the free standing columns of the sanctuary is a fine carved wood pulpit with a canopy or sounding board above it. The elaborate altars with their columns, statues and paintings are original with slight alterations. The mahogany pews and confessionals are original and fine examples of mid-nineteenth century woodwork.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

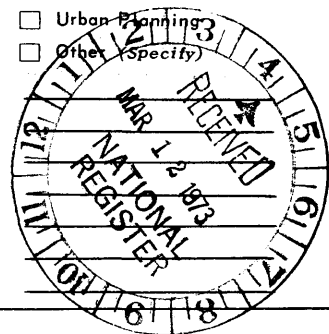
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1851**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of St. Alphonsus was one of three large brick churches erected in this parish by the priests of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorist). St. Alphonsus, the first to be completed, served the American and the Irish Catholic segments of the population of the area that came to be known as the "Irish Channel". St. Mary's Assumption Church across the street and the Church of Notre Dame de Bon Secours (now demolished) served the German and French Catholics respectively.

St. Mary's was established by the Redemptorist in 1844 soon after they came from Baltimore to what was then the city of Lafayette (incorporated into the city of New Orleans in 1852). In June 1848 the site of St. Alphonsus was purchased and a temporary frame church was completed in 1851, facing St. Andrew street. In July 1851 Rev. John B. Duffy, CSSR arrived as pastor. He soon had erected St. Alphonsus school and determined to build a new and larger church for the growing English speaking segment of the parish.

While on a visit to Baltimore he evidently met the architect Louis L. Long who was at the time completing the large Jesuit church of St. Ignatius in that city and was also erecting the tower of St. Alphonsus, then the Baltimore Redemptorist church. Father Duffy obtained from Louis Long the plans for St. Alphonsus in New Orleans, obviously based on Long's design of St. Ignatius' in Baltimore. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on April 27, 1855 by Archbishop Antoine Blanc, the first mass was celebrated on August 25, 1857 and the dedication ceremonies were held on April 25, 1858, the day the cornerstone of St. Mary's across the street was laid.

This building is an important example of mid-nineteenth century construction. It is a significant monument both from an architectural and religious point of view. Many of the Redemptorist priests who ministered to the people of this area are buried in the sanctuary of the church, including Father Seelos whose remains were removed from St. Mary's when that church was closed because of damage caused by hurricane Betsy in 1965. Fr. Seelos' life and works are now being investigated with a view to his possible canonization as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. He was one of numerous Redemptorist priests who died in the Yellow Fever epidemics which plagued the City of New Orleans in the nineteenth century.

Besides the brickwork of the exterior, the interior millwork, including altars, pews, confessionals and statuary are significant examples of nineteenth century craftsmanship.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. New Orleans Architecture, Vol. 1, The Lower Garden District, Text by Samuel Wilson, Jr. and Bernard Lemann, Compiled and edited by Mary Lou Christovich, Roulac Toledano and Betsy Swanson (Gretna, La. 1971).
2. One Hundred Years in New Orleans, Redemptorist Fathers, New Orleans, 1944.
3. New Orleans Daily Crescent, October 21, 1856, p.1, col. 4.
4. New Orleans Daily Delta, July 4, 1857; August 4, 1857.
5. The Picayune's Guide to New Orleans, 4th. Edition, 1900, p. 145.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

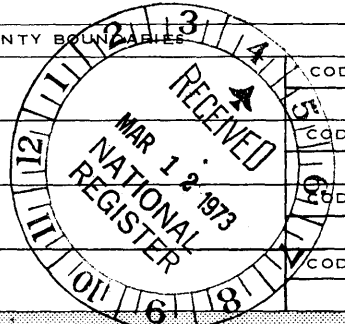
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29° 55' 50"	90 4' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

U/M  
15/7822  
32145  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Samuel Wilson, Jr.**

ORGANIZATION: **Architect**      DATE: **Feb. 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**914 Masonic Temple Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Joseph Brown</i></u> Title: <u>Director, Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation</u> Date: <u>March 9, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert H. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>5/22/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>J. Bradford</i></u> Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>5/17/73</u></p>
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