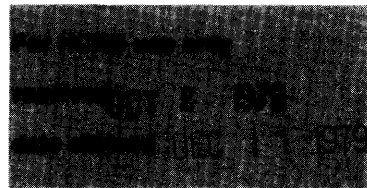


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church ~~Complex~~ and Buildings
and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 214 East Eighth Street not for publication
city, town Chattanooga vicinity of congressional district Third
state Tennessee 37402 code 047 county Hamilton code 065

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name The Most Reverend James D. Niedergeses, Bishop of Nashville and Successors in Office
street & number 2400 Twenty-First Avenue South
city, town Nashville vicinity of state Tennessee 37212

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamilton County Courthouse
street & number Georgia Avenue
city, town Chattanooga state Tennessee 37402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Chatt-Hamilton County Landmarks Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976 federal state county local
depository for survey records Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission
city, town Chattanooga state Tennessee 37402

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church is located on one of the highest hills in Chattanooga's downtown area. Adjacent to the Old Carnegie Library and Dome Building, it is situated in an area known for its revitalization and preservation efforts. Located at this site since the 1850s, this is the home of the first permanent Catholic congregation in the Chattanooga area. While urban flight has resulted in a smaller membership, the congregation is still a strong and integral component of Chattanooga's downtown.

Constructed in the Gothic style in 1888, the building is brick faced. Roughly rectangular in shape, the building is constructed on a limestone base and has a steeply pitched gable roof. The most prominent features of the building are the towers, stonework, entrance areas, the groined ceiling, the stain glass windows, and the Stations of the Cross.

The facade(northeast elevation) is dominated by its impressive two-story stone entrance area. Inside the first story alcove area are incised decorative features. Within the lancet shaped second story portion are two circular stained glass windows. The small upper stained glass window shows the seal of the United States, and the larger window, which uses a Shamrock motif symbolic of the Trinity, contains thirteen sections intended to house the seals of the original thirteen colonies. The motivation was two-fold: first, as a symbolic sign of thankfulness that the church's war reparation requests had finally been paid; and, secondly, symbolizing the patriotic feeling that loyalty to one's country is second only to one's allegiance to God.

Flanking this main entrance area are two smaller entrances located in the base of corner towers. These openings, as most of the window openings, are lancet shape. Within these towers are lancet and circular shaped stained glass windows. The east tower has a one-story, five-sided attached tower. Also, at the base of the east tower is an octagonal cornerstone made of Tennessee pink marble. In the peak of the facade gable is a rose window.

The northwest and southeast elevations are virtually identical. Each has a series of seven stained glass windows that are lancet shape. Between the windows are protruding brick supports giving the appearance of buttresses. The rear is multi-leveled and has a protruding apse which is topped with a small cupola.

The most striking feature of the interior is the groined vault ceiling that spans the nave and side aisles. From the ceiling, ornate pendants are suspended. The sanctuary and side chapels are entered from the nave through arched portals highlighted with moldings. Each of these three areas has a groined vault ceiling. At the second story level to the rear of the nave is a choir stand and organ located in an alcove.

Other outstanding features of the interior are the series of windows dedicated to Peter and Paul and the Stations of the Cross. Installed in 1890, the windows are each six by thirty feet. The seven windows on the southeast side depict the main events of Peter's life. The seven windows on the northwest side depict events from Paul's life. The fourteen Stations of the Cross are located between the windows and flanking the choir stand. These depict scenes associated with Christ's crucifixion. Installed in 1892, newspaper accounts stated that an unknown French artist had spent seventeen years designing them and another three years in producing a model. It was believed that only two of these Stations were made.

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Alterations to the building occurred during the 1930s. A renovation program by the congregation in 1936 resulted in the removal of much of the interior woodwork such as the pews and altar; the original wainscotting does remain. The most striking alteration affected the exterior in 1939 when a city inspector forced several downtown churches to repair and/or remove their spires or towers. At that time, much of the sandstone trim was replaced with limestone and both towers were reduced in height. Previously both towers were identical and strongly Gothic in their appearance.

Due to the strength and vitality of the congregation, there are associated outbuildings that reflect the congregation's influence and activity. Adjacent to the southeast wall of the church is the 1917 rectory designed in a restrained Tudor style. Southeast of the rectory is the relatively plain 1912 convent. The last building in this complex is the 1925 All Saints Academy which stands on a separate tract southeast of the tract on which the church, rectory, and convent are located. While these buildings are basically unadorned in appearance, there are attempts at decorative features through the use of brick and stone trims.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1888-1890

Builder/Architect Peter Dedericks, Jr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

During the early portion of the eighteenth century, the scattered Catholics in East Tennessee were dependent on infrequent visits of priests from Nashville. While one of these priests probably built a small structure in the Chattanooga area in the 1840s, the first permanent building was erected in 1857. This housed the St. Peter and St. Paul congregation, the first and for many years, the only Catholic church in the Chattanooga area.

The work by this congregation was the center for Catholic life in Chattanooga for many years and the buildings remaining attest to this concentrated Catholic activity. This concentration of the Catholic community was largely the result of the work of Chattanooga's first resident priest, Father Brown, who in the 1850s bought a large tract of land that was then in a somewhat isolated area and sold lots around the church building to members of the congregation at cost. This resulted in the area being known as "Irish Hill."

The first church building served the congregation until the late 1880s when the present structure was built. This was not the first effort to construct a new building. By 1860, a stone church was partially completed, but work was halted due to the commencement of the Civil War. Later, during the Federal occupation of Chattanooga, troops dismantled the new building for the stones and other materials it contained. Although the congregation applied for \$27,783.96 in retribution in 1867, the money was not given to the church until 1888 when the Federal government paid the congregation \$18,729.00. This money was one of the primary reasons a new building could then be constructed.

The current church building was designed by Detroit, Michigan Architect Peter Dedericks, Jr. and construction was begun in 1888 when the foundation was laid on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul; the cornerstone was laid in 1889 (February 1, Feast of St. Brigid) and is so dated; but the building was not completed until 1890 when the church was dedicated on June 29th.

As the center for much of the Catholic activity in Chattanooga, Saints Peter and Paul expanded its services to its members over the years. This included constructing the current convent in 1912 for the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Congregation of Nashville who had worked with the church since 1876 when Chattanooga's first private school, Notre Dame de Lourdes Academy, was established. The current building housing this school was constructed in 1925. In 1965, the church built new school facilities and placed its high school students there; this school uses the name Notre Dame. The 1925 building houses the elementary school and is known as All Saints Academy. Also, in 1917, a new rectory was constructed. This strength and vitality of the congregation can also be seen in the organization in 1901 of the Knights of Columbus. This group purchased a lot near the church building and constructed a building there in 1913, which has been drastically altered in recent years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chattanooga News-Free Press, August 31, 1937; January 27, 1971.
 Chattanooga Times, February 2, 1889; June 29, 1890; February 14 and 15, 1892; December 3, 1939.
 Flanigan, Georgia, Father. The Centenary of Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish.
 Chattanooga, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.1
 Quadrangle name Chattanooga **UTM NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	6 5 4 6 1 0	3 8 7 9 2 9 0	B	1 6	6 5 4 5 9 0	3 8 7 9 2 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 6	6 5 4 3 4 0	3 8 7 9 3 1 0	D	1 6	6 5 4 3 7 0	3 8 7 9 3 8 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated consists of two tracts, roughly rectangular in shape which contain a total of 2.1 acres. On these tracts stand all of the buildings included in the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church Complex. The tracts are outlined in red on the attached portion of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Carver, Preservation Planner
 organization Chatt-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission date May, 1979
 street & number 200 City Hall Annex telephone (615) 757-5216
 city or town Chattanooga state Tennessee 37402

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local *Herbert E. Hays*

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/21/79

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Sally H. Oldham</i>	date <u>12/11/79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	<i>Chief of Regis</i>
Attest: <i>Bob Grosvenor</i>	date <u>12/11/79</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Architecturally, the church building is a striking example of Gothic Revival architecture. Although altered, the exterior retains many of its Gothic features and details that include impressive entrance areas, stone highlighting, lancet openings, stained glass windows, and buttresses. The interior is resplendent with its magnificent groined vault ceiling. Of particular interest are the two series of stain glass windows dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and the Stations of the Cross.

Historically, this congregation's history has been entwined with that of Chattanooga. In the 1880s, during Chattanooga's first major peak of development (and over-speculation which left the congregation, as well as others in the city, in debt for many years), the current church structure was built. As a part of Chattanooga's growth, the church has remained a center of Catholic life in Chattanooga. Architecturally, the main building is a striking example of Gothic Revival architecture. While not as elaborate, the support buildings do present an interesting picture of early twentieth century functional architecture.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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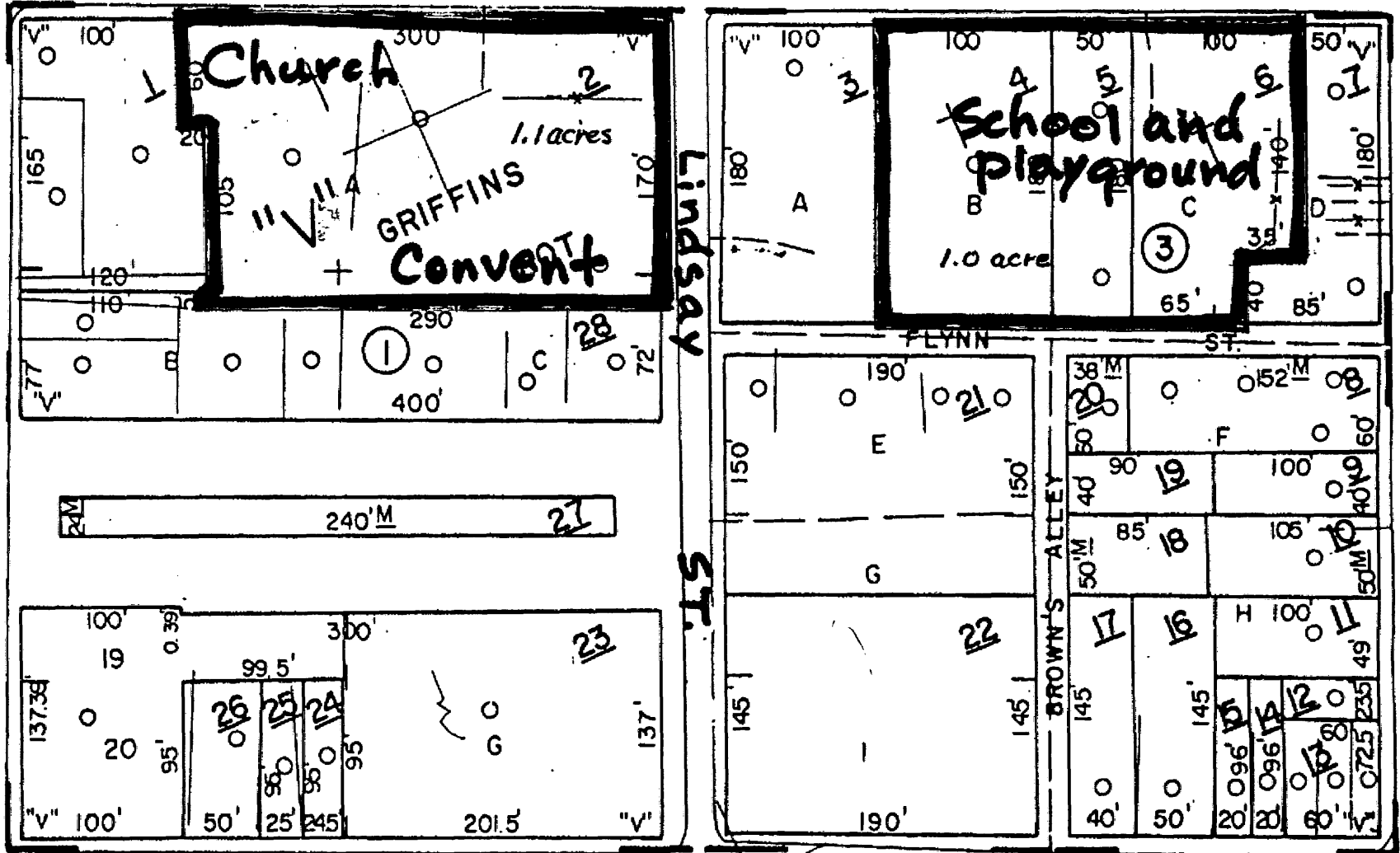
Hamilton County Assessors Parcel Map Nos. 145D-V-2,4,5,6. These parcels are the entire property owned by the Diocese of Nashville and associated with Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church.



E. 8th ST.

Georgia

②



Ave.

E. 9th ST.

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Complex
214 E. 8th St. Chatta., Tn.

County Assessors Parcel Map Nos. 145 D-V-2, 4, 5, 6