

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 546 and 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, and 660 Oak Street

City or town: San Francisco State: CA County: San Francisco

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A x B x C \_\_\_ D

		<u>8/9/17</u>
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer		Date
Signature of certifying official/Title:		
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official: Date	
_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	


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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/2017  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>4</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RELIGION/Religious facility
- RELIGION/Church school
- RELIGION/Church-related residences

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling
- EDUCATION/School
- RECREATION AND CULTURE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, stucco, terra cotta

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is situated on four contiguous lots on a fully-developed city block bounded by Fillmore Street (west), Fell Street (north), Webster Street (east), and Oak Street (south) in the Western Addition neighborhood of San Francisco. The complex is comprised of four buildings. The 2.5-story Romanesque Revival-style, yellow brick Sacred Heart Church (1898/1909) anchors the group at the southeast corner of Fillmore and Fell streets. Sacred Heart Church is a Romanesque Revival-style, basilica-plan church building with corner campanile. Key features of its Romanesque Revival styling include the basilica plan with gable roof, narrow nave, short vestibule, classical ornament scheme, use of round arched and pedimented openings, and corbeled tables below the eaves. The three-story, Romanesque Revival, yellow brick rectory (1891/1906) is immediately south of the church on Fillmore Street, separated by a narrow alley to the lot interiors. The rectory is composed of a three-story, square-plan, wood-frame main block on raised basement and a two-story, wood-frame ell. The main block of the rectory is clad in yellow face brick and the ell is clad in narrow flush-board siding. Both blocks have flat roofs. The rectory continues the Romanesque Revival scheme of the church with round arch windows and classical detailing, along with the overhanging eaves and heavy brackets of the Romanesque and later Renaissance period palazzi. The three-story, stuccoed masonry, Romanesque Revival school (1926) is situated immediately behind (east) of the church on Fell Street, set nearly flush with the rear elevation of the church building. The Sacred Heart School is a rectangular-plan building of reinforced concrete with a high basement story and flat roof. The school combines Romanesque Revival features such as round arched windows and entrances with a rusticated basement and first story and modified classical ornament typical of Romanesque and later Renaissance-period palazzi. The two-story Romanesque Revival convent (1936) fronts on Oak Street and has a rectangular-plan main block with flat roof and a single-story ell housing the convent chapel. All parts of the convent have flat roofs and are clad in stucco. The convent continues the Romanesque Revival scheme of the church with arched window forms and corbeling. The four component lots converge in the center of the block, enclosing a paved school yard. All buildings in the complex are in good condition. Each building has had alterations since the end of the period of significance associated with their transition to non-religious use, but the complex and its individual buildings retain sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, materials, and feeling to convey their significance.

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## Narrative Description

### SACRED HEART CHURCH<sup>1</sup> (1898/1909)

#### EXTERIOR

Sacred Heart Church is a Romanesque Revival-style, basilica-plan church building with corner campanile (Figure 1). Key features of its Romanesque Revival styling include the basilica plan with gable roof, narrow nave, short vestibule, classical ornament scheme, use of round arched and pedimented openings, and corbeled tables below the eaves.

Sacred Heart Church has overall dimensions of approximately 66 by 170 feet. The two-story nave measures approximately 50 feet in height and has a gable roof. The two-story north and south transepts and a projecting rear sanctuary also have gable roofs, while the flanking, one-story sacristies have flat roofs. An approximately 90-foot high campanile with a pyramidal hipped roof rises from the northwest corner of the building. All roof surfaces are clad in red-brown asphalt shingles. The church has a concrete foundation and water table and walls clad in yellow face brick and terracotta details. A high basement story, originally housing the parish hall, is set into the natural slope of the lot, with a full height exposure at the rear (east) end of the Fell Street (north) elevation.

#### WEST ELEVATION (FAÇADE, FILLMORE STREET ELEVATION)

The primary elevation of Sacred Heart Church faces west onto Fillmore Street (Figure 2). The façade is compositionally divided into two and one-half stories by paired pilasters at each end of the elevation, intermediary friezes and cornices between first and second and second and half-stories, and a pedimented half-story. The façade is approximately five bays wide.

The primary entries to the church are centered on the first story, sheltered by a terracotta entry portico with granite base and granite, Tuscan columns. The ornate portico has a classical frieze with triglyphs and metopes, and a deeply projecting cornice. The underside of the cornice features modillions with mutules alternating with bas relief terracotta tiles with floral and foliate patterns (Figure 3). A balustrade with paneled piers tops the portico.

Three granite steps lead up to Sacred Heart's three primary entries. Each entry features recessed, double-leaf, paneled wood doors and large transom windows (Figure 4). The center transom retains painted numbers identifying the church as number 554. The door openings have architrave-molded terracotta surrounds and shallow, terracotta hoods with scroll brackets. The hoods feature an entablature with an acanthus leaf scroll, dentils, egg-and-dart molding, and a modillion cornice. Four pilasters with Tuscan order capitals flank the entrances.

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<sup>1</sup> The architectural description of Sacred Heart Church is adapted from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Sacred Heart Church prepared by Kelly & VerPlanck in September 2009. The descriptions are updated to reflect current conditions where possible. Portions of the church interior were not accessible for full inspection at the time of this report.

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**FIGURE 1 (LEFT). CHURCH: WEST ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM FILLMORE STREET, 2015.  
FIGURE 2 (RIGHT). CHURCH: WEST ELEVATION LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM FILLMORE STREET, 2015.**



**FIGURE 3 (LEFT). CHURCH: DETAIL OF SOUTHWEST CORNER OF PORTICO SHOWING DECORATIVE DETAILS, 2015.  
FIGURE 4 (RIGHT). CHURCH: MAIN ENTRY, CENTER DOORS, 2015.**

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The outer bays of the first story contain pedimented terracotta window frames fitted with stained glass sash. The north window features an image of the Sacred Heart; the south window, which looks into the baptistery, features John the Baptist baptizing Jesus (Figure 5). The end bays also feature paired Tuscan pilasters at the corners, and a third pilaster closely set on the side elevations.

The first and second stories of the church are separated by an intermediary entablature articulated with a terracotta architrave and cornice. The center three bays on the second story feature recessed, arched windows with stained glass sash. The window surrounds consist of a half-circle, terracotta arch with keystone and an interrupted entablature on engaged, square Ionic columns. The outer bays feature square panels set into the brickwork with a bas relief Roman cross articulated in terracotta tile. The panels sit between a terracotta water table and continuation of the terracotta cornice molding from the window entablatures. A narrow, rectangular panel in the brickwork is set between the intermediary cornice and the architrave of the pedimented half-story. The ends of the second story have paired Ionic pilasters set on an articulated pier base. As on the first story, another similar pilaster is set immediately adjacent on the side elevations.



**FIGURE 5 CHURCH: WEST ELEVATION, FIRST STORY, SOUTH WINDOW WITH STAINED GLASS RENDERING OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS, 2015.**

The pedimented half-story of the façade features a plain frieze, a projecting cornice with acanthus leaf modillions, and dentil and egg-and-dart moldings. The tympanum has simple, inset panels that follow the triangular shape of the space. A louvered oculus window with a foliated, terracotta surround is centered on the pediment. The apex of the gable roof features a large, copper-plated, Roman cross on a square pedestal.

**CAMPANILE**

The campanile at the northwest corner of the building is compositionally divided into five parts, the lower two of which follow the story heights of the main block of the church (Figure 6). The first story features a concrete water table and banded, rusticated brickwork. The north and west elevations have single arched windows with articulated brick voussiors. The top sash has stained glass diamond panes depicting a floral pattern, surrounded by a geometric border. An entablature with plain frieze, terracotta architrave, and molded cornice divides the first and second stories. The second story elevations have glazed oculus windows with terracotta surrounds, exaggerated terracotta keystones, and bas relief swags and fruit.

The second story ends with another entablature, continued from the primary elevation, but with dentil and egg-and-dart molding and a simpler, molded cornice. The top of the tower is composed of three tiers. The lower tier has two unglazed, arched windows on the east, north, and west elevations. The middle tier has arcaded arched openings on all elevations with paneled corner piers and terracotta arch surrounds. Four floral medallions are set evenly across each elevation of the second tier, above the windows. The top tier features similar, arcaded openings, piers, and rose medallions, but with Corinthian columns in the arcade. The campanile ends with dentil molding and a projecting, modillion cornice. The apex of the pyramidal hipped roof has a copper Roman cross.

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**NAVE: NORTH ELEVATION**

The north elevation of the church increases in height as it descends the hill along Fell Street (Figure 7). The basement story is banded, molded concrete and is fully exposed at the east end of the building. Four double-hung wood sash windows are set along the basement story. The first- and second-floor levels of the nave are clad in yellow face brick. Three large windows are set evenly along the side of the nave, fitted with fixed, stained glass sash. The windows have projecting terracotta sills on shallow brackets, eared terracotta architrave moldings, a simple entablature, and pediment with dentil molding (Figure 8). The roofline of the nave has an arcaded frieze rendered in brick, and a terracotta entablature with dentil molding and acanthus modillions.

**NAVE: SOUTH ELEVATION**

The south elevation maintains a consistent story height along the flat grade of the lot interior (Figure 9). At the Fillmore Street (west) elevation, a staircase to the choir loft projects from the elevation. The massing follows the ornament scheme of the west elevation, with single Tuscan pilasters on pedestals at the corners of the first story and Ionic pilasters on the second story. An entablature with dentil-molded cornice divides the first and second stories, and the second story ends in a terracotta, arcaded frieze and entablature with dentil molding and modest modillion cornice. The remainder of the south elevation of the nave largely mirrors the north elevation in composition and details. Other features include a flight of steel stairs leading down to the basement level and a wood-frame, wood-clad bridge with an arched, fixed sash windows connecting the choir loft to the third story of the adjacent rectory (Figure 37). A recent plywood partition with a plain, wood door seals the alley between the church and rectory from the street.



**FIGURE 6. CHURCH: CAMPANILE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM FILLMORE ST., 2015.**



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**FIGURE 7. CHURCH: NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM FELL ST., 2015.**



**FIGURE 8. CHURCH: NORTH ELEVATION, DETAIL OF WINDOW, LOMBARDY BAND, AND CORNICE, 2015.**

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TRANSEPTS

The north and south transepts (1907-1908) are shallow projections at the east end of the nave. The transepts have gable roofs, articulated corner piers, and large rose windows with molded terracotta surrounds at the second story level (Figure 10). The south rose window has plain glass and the north rose window is sealed with plywood. The transepts have simple entablatures and pedimented rooflines with dentil molding and modillion cornices. The tympanum has paneled brickwork following the outline of the pediment. Both transepts have pedestrian entrances on the shallow, west elevations with wood, paneled doors similar to the main entry doors to the nave. The north transept has a large bay entrance in the exposed basement story with a metal, rolling overhead door (2015).



**FIGURE 9. CHURCH: SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING EAST.  
(PHOTO 2009. COURTESY CHRIS VERPLANCK)**



**FIGURE 10: CHURCH: SOUTH TRANSEPT AND  
SACRISTY LOOKING NORTH FROM PARKING AREA  
OFF OAK ST., 2015.**

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EAST (REAR) ELEVATION

Much of the east elevation of the church is set nearly flush with the adjacent parish school building, and many details are partially or entirely obscured. The elevation consists of the projecting two-story sanctuary, flanking one-story sacristies, and a pedimented half-story massing set between the sacristies (Figure 11). The sanctuary has a gable roof and simple entablature with terracotta architrave and modillion cornice. The corners of the sanctuary feature brick quoining. The sacristies have flat roofs topped with terracotta balustrades with paneled end piers. The south sacristy has a pedestrian entrance with a paneled wood door and a double-hung, wood-sash window on the south elevation. Both openings have eared, terracotta, architrave moldings. The east elevation of the south sacristy has a similar window. The north sacristy has a fully exposed basement story due to the slope of the lot along Fell Street. The basement story has a simple, recessed, double-hung wood sash window and the first story level has a similar window with an eared, terracotta, architrave surround. The east elevation of the nave, exposed here only as the half story, is similar in finish to the west elevation. There is an arcaded frieze rendered in brick at the top of the second story level and a simple entablature with terracotta architrave, plain frieze, dentil and egg-and-dart molding, and an acanthus-leaf modillion cornice. The tympanum has simple brick paneling following the contours of the pediment and an oculus window with terracotta molding.



**FIGURE 11. CHURCH: REAR, EAST ELEVATION FROM INTERIOR OF LOT, 2016.**

INTERIOR

BASEMENT

The basement story of the church is a single-volume space that runs the full width and approximately half the length of the building. The church originally used the basement as a parish hall. The basement is accessible on the exposed north elevation via a large bay entrance with metal rolling overhead door and on the south elevation by a flight of stairs descending below grade level (see Figure 7).<sup>2</sup> The south entrance has double-leaf, wood doors and a large, divided transom window. Double-hung, wood-sash windows line the above-grade portions of the basement story on the north and south elevations.

As of January 2015 the basement story has been substantially altered in preparation for conversion to a parking garage (Figure 12). The basement currently features a stripped concrete subfloor and intermittent areas of original bead board wainscoting and plaster on the interior walls. The plaster ceiling and a grid of four structural cast iron columns with round shafts and Corinthian capitals also remained intact as of January 2015. The west and north portions of the hall were visually inaccessible at the time fieldwork was conducted, and the condition of those areas cannot be confirmed.

<sup>2</sup> In 2005, the Fell Street entrance to the hall was via a pedestrian door into a small enclosed interior vestibule.

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**FIGURE 12. CHURCH: BASEMENT SHOWING GUTTED CONDITION, 2015.**

#### NARTHEX

The church narthex, or vestibule, has wood strip flooring, oak wainscoting, and painted plaster walls (Figure 13). Fluted oak pilasters with a simple base and capital begin above the wainscoting and flank each of the three exterior entry doors. Similar paired pilasters articulate the corners of the room. A wide band of oak paneling runs along the cornice line. Cased beams divide the ceiling into even sections, each paneled in diagonal flush board. The narthex has square, brass, flush-mounted ceiling fixtures likely installed in the 1930s. The stained glass window on the north side of main entries is deeply recessed on the interior. The narthex has three, wide entry openings into the nave with large transom openings. An entrance to the choir loft and campanile stair is situated at the north end of the narthex, fitted with an oak paneled door, blind paneled oak transom, and pilaster surround. An entrance to the baptistery is set at the south end of the narthex and has identical fittings and details (Figure 14).



**FIGURE 13. CHURCH: NARTHEX, LOOKING NORTH TOWARD CHOIR LOFT AND CAMPANILE STAIR, 2016.**

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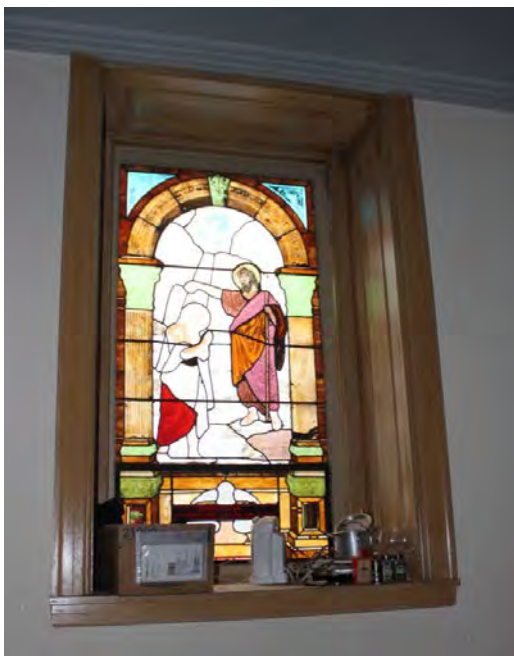
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**FIGURE 14. CHURCH: NARTHEX LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD BAPTISTRY, 2016.**

#### BAPTISTRY

The baptistry has oak flooring, plaster walls, and a wide frieze with molded architrave and cornice. The ceiling is identical to the narthex with a single panel composed of diagonal flush board. A metal hanging fixture with chain and simple metal shade hangs from the center of the ceiling. A vestibule and exterior door to the alley between the church and rectory is set in the south wall. The door has paneled wood double-leaf doors and a large, plain transom light. The west wall retains a stained glass window depicting the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist set in a deep, paneled recess with architrave surround (Figure 15). A portion of the south wall of the baptistry has been stripped of plaster, revealing furring strips for lathe and red brick beneath (Figure 16).



**FIGURE 15 (LEFT). CHURCH: BAPTISTRY, INTERIOR WINDOW TRIM, 2016.**



**FIGURE 16 (RIGHT). CHURCH: BAPTISTRY SHOWING PARTIAL REMOVAL OF WALLS AND DOOR TO INTERIOR ALLEY, 2016.**

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STAIR

The staircase to the choir loft and campanile is set at the north end of the narthex. Between the narthex and choir loft, the stairwell has plaster walls, wood stairs, and mounted wood handrails (Figure 17). The stained glass windows lighting the stair on these levels have paneled recesses. Above the level of the choir loft, the plaster walls become brick, and the stair has a turned bannister with square newel posts and bead board wainscoting (Figure 18).



**FIGURE 17 (LEFT). CHURCH: STAIR FROM NARTHEX TO CHOIR LOFT, 2016.**

**FIGURE 18 (RIGHT). CHURCH: STAIR FROM CHOIR LOFT LANDING TO CAMPANILE, 2016.**

CHOIR/ORGAN LOFT

The choir/organ loft is located above the west end of the nave, supported on four round, cast iron columns (Figure 19). The loft extends into the nave as a half-ellipse projection; the projecting section has dentil molding, a modillion cornice, and a carved oak balustrade. The underside of the loft is clad in bead board paneling. The level floor of the loft is sheathed in wood strip flooring and the plaster walls have bead board wainscoting. Sections of wainscoting and plaster have been removed in the loft revealing underlying brick. Large pilasters with Corinthian capitals are set at the northwest and southwest corners of the loft, and cornice and ceiling treatments continue from the nave (Figures 20 and 21). The west wall of the loft features three arched stained glass windows with pilaster side casings, arched architrave headers, and molded sills. St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians, is pictured playing an organ in the southern window. The center window depicts King David, a lover of music, in the center and the northern window portrays an unidentified saint (Figure 22).

The organ once installed along the west, north, and south walls of the loft has been removed. Removal of organ has revealed an earlier, still largely extant stenciling pattern on the underlying plaster walls. The pattern consists of a pink body color, a wide band of grotesque pattern in light and dark blue, gold, and maroon along the wainscoting, and a band of similar grotesque pattern in cream, maroon, dark blue and white at the cornice line. A narrow band of maroon and blue foliated pattern runs vertically along the wall intersections with the

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corner pilasters. Wood trim in the loft appears to have been painted the same dark blue as used in the grotesque bands (see Figures 20 and 21).



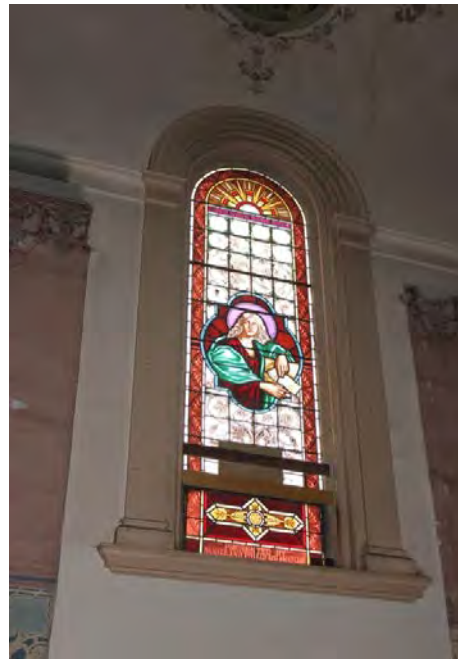
**FIGURE 19. CHURCH: INTACT CHOIR AND ORGAN LOFT (PHOTO 2009, COURTESY CHRIS VERPLANCK)**



**FIGURE 20: CHURCH: CHOIR LOFT, NORTHWEST CORNER AND DOOR TO STAIRS, SHOWING FINISH MATERIALS AND DECORATIVE TREATMENTS, 2016.**



**FIGURE 21. CHURCH: CHOIR LOFT, SOUTHWEST CORNER AND DOOR TO CONNECTOR TO RECTORY, 2016.**



**FIGURE 22: CHURCH: CHOIR LOFT, NORTH STAINED GLASS WINDOW AND SURROUND, 2016.**

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**NAVE**

The Sacred Heart nave measures approximately 62 feet wide and 152 feet long. The choir/organ loft is located above the west end of the nave (Figures 23 and 24). The narthex entrances to the nave are flanked by painted wood pilasters with fluted shafts and simple bases and capitals (Figure 25). Two plywood confessional booths, now converted to restrooms, are set on the south side of the west (narthex) wall. A large raised oak dais is located at the east end of the nave, indicating the former location of the sanctuary.

The main body of the nave is an uninterrupted, open space with oak flooring. All pews have been removed. The nave has plaster walls clad in plywood wainscoting over earlier, still extant bead board wainscoting. The north and south walls feature wood pilasters with unfluted, tapered shafts capped by Corinthian capitals. Gilded, rounded sconces are affixed to each pilaster. Three stained glass windows are set between the pilasters on each wall. The windows all have wood architrave surrounds and paneled recesses. Windows on the north wall depict St. Francis of Assisi and St. Patrick in the west window, SS Matthew and Catherine in the center window, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the east window. The windows along the south wall depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the east window, Saint Joseph in the center window, and unknown saints in the west window. Painted wood crosses and ghosted profiles between the windows on both sides of the nave indicate the locations of the Stations of the Cross. The walls end in an entablature consisting of a frescoed frieze of crosses with a sunburst pattern and foliage, dentil and egg-and-dart molding, and an acanthus leaf modillion cornice.



**FIGURE 23: CHURCH: NAVE, LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM CHOIR LOFT, 2016.**



**FIGURE 24. CHURCH: NAVE, LOOKING WEST FROM SANCTUARY, 2016.**



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**FIGURE 25. CHURCH: NAVE, NORTH DOOR FROM NARTHEX, 2016.**

The deeply coved nave ceiling features frescoes of the Twelve Apostles and four angels along the coving. The flat surface of the ceiling has three frescoes. The center panel is of two angels amidst the Celestial Aureole, with silver sun rays bearing the Paschal Lamb. The east panel, nearest to the sanctuary, depicts Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son Isaac and the angel sent by God to stop the sacrifice. The west panel, adjacent to the choir loft, shows Cain slaying Abel. The frescoes are surrounded by a decorative, foliated border (Figures 26, 27, and 28).

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**FIGURE 26. NAVE CEILING BEFORE HANGING OF SAFETY NETTING IN 1989 (PHOTO 2005, COURTESY KATHERINE PETRIN).**



**FIGURE 27. CHURCH: NAVE CEILING, DETAIL OF ORNAMENT ON COFFERED SECTION, 2016.**



**FIGURE 28. CHURCH: NAVE, WEST PORTION OF PAINTED CEILING, 2016.**

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**TRANSEPTS**

The two transepts have nearly identical features and detailing. Both have pilasters at their intersection with the nave walls and large circular rose windows with pulvinated, foliate surrounds at the second story level. The rose windows are composed of a round center panel and eight plain, radial lights. A small, banded laurel cornice molding runs along the first story-line of the transepts and the wainscoting continues from the sanctuary on the lower section of the walls (Figure 29). The ceilings have square coffers with square panels of grotesque decoration. Some of the coffers feature a centered, recessed light fixture. Sconces matching those found in the nave are set on the walls. Doors to the sacristies are set in the east elevation of both transepts, fitted with painted, wood, paneled doors with eared, molded surrounds. The south transept also features an exterior door to the alley between the rectory and church. The entrance has double-leaf doors covered in plywood, a large divided transom light and pedimented, eared surround (Figure 30).

**SANCTUARY**

The sanctuary is separated from the nave by three steps leading up to an oak dais. The sanctuary has a deep, half-domed, central altar space flanked by more shallow niches for side altars. The side niches have painted wood pilasters with fluted shafts and gilded Corinthian capitals, and painted and gilded wood paneling. The inside of the niches feature fluted Doric pilasters and an entablature with acroteria, egg-and-dart molding, and modillions. Three carpeted steps lead up to the high altar from the dais. The main altar space is similar to the side altar niches in decorative detail, but with the addition of heralding angels at the corners of the arch. The arched openings are currently partially sealed with temporary partitions (Figure 31).



**FIGURE 29: CHURCH: NORTH TRANSEPT SHOWING DECORATIVE DETAILING, 2016.**



**FIGURE 30: CHURCH: NAVE, SOUTH TRANSEPT ENTRY TO ALLEY, 2016.**

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**SACRISTIES**

The sacristies were not accessible for inspection at the time of this report. The sacristies are accessed from each of the transepts by short flights of stairs. The floor of the north sacristy is covered in narrow wood plank flooring and has plaster walls and a plaster ceiling. The west wall contains a large bureau of drawers and the east wall features several closets with stained paneled wood doors. A sink is also located on the west wall in a small alcove adjacent to the closets. The north wall contains a large double-hung, wood-sash window with wire glass glazing. The south wall provides access behind the main altar to the south sacristy.

The floor of the south sacristy is covered in resilient tile flooring and the walls and ceiling are plaster. The south wall features a plain wood door to the exterior. To the east is a painted wood counter that features a sink and has wood cabinet doors and a ceramic tile countertop and back splash. Above the sink is a double-hung, wood-sash window with opaque textured glass. The east wall has a similar window flanked by closets with painted wood paneled doors. Additional similar closets are located on the west wall. The north wall provides access behind the main altar to the north sacristy.



**FIGURE 31. CHURCH: SANCTUARY SHOWING SEALED ALTAR NICHES, 2016.**

**LITURGICAL ARTWORK**

**STAINED GLASS**

All **extant** stained glass windows in Sacred Heart Church were installed in 1898. The table below details the window subject and known donors, memorial names, and makers. Images of selected windows follow (Figures 32 through 35).

**TABLE 1. EXTANT STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT SACRED HEART (ALL INSTALLED 1898)**

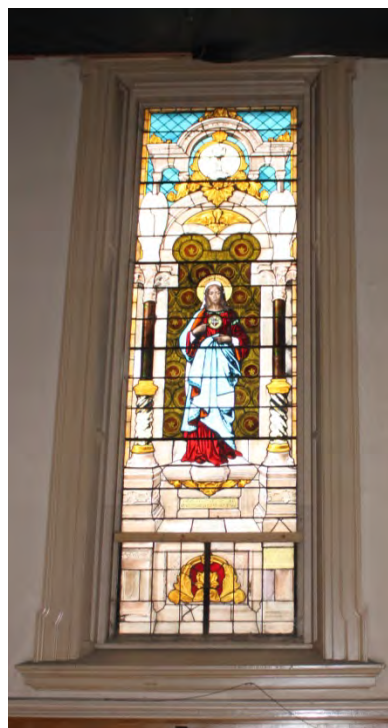
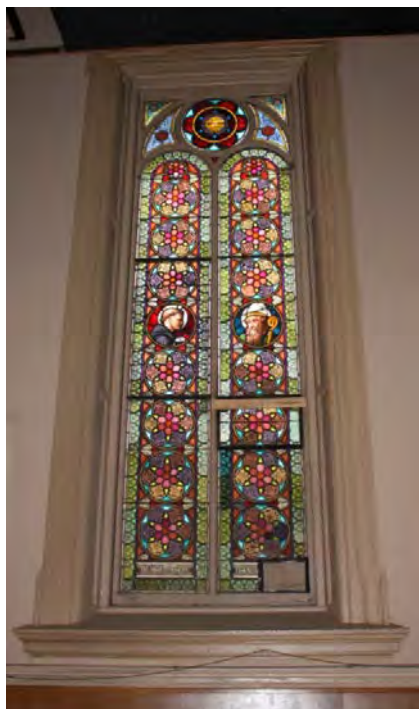
Location	Subject	Maker	Donor/Memorial Names
<b>Nave, north wall</b>	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Riordan Art Glass Studios, now BeauVerre-Riordan Studios, Cincinnati, Ohio	Annie, William, and James Costello, natives of Rathkeale, Ireland in memory of brothers Augustine, Joseph, and Charles (likely died in Spanish-American War)
<b>Nave, north wall</b>	SS. Matthew and Catherine	Unknown	Matthew and Catherine Kavanagh
<b>Nave, north wall</b>	SS. Francis of Assisi and Patrick	Unknown	Annie Everett, in memory of John Everett (d. 1885)
<b>Nave, south wall</b>	Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Joseph	Riordan Art Glass Studios, now BeauVerre-Riordan Studios, Cincinnati, Ohio	Annie, William, and James Costello, natives of Rathkeale, Ireland in memory of brothers Augustine, Joseph, and Charles (likely died in Spanish-American War)

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Location	Subject	Maker	Donor/Memorial Names
<b>Nave, south wall</b>	Two unidentified saints	Unknown	Swift Family
<b>Choir loft, north wall</b>	Unknown saint	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Choir loft, west wall</b>	King David	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Choir loft, south wall</b>	St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians	Unknown	Shanahan Family
<b>Narthex</b>	Image of the Sacred Heart	Unknown	Mrs. P. Harrigan
<b>Baptistry</b>	Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist	Unknown	Catherine Corbett, by her son Joseph Corbett
<b>Campanile</b>	Floral and geometric patterns	Unknown	Unknown

The Riordan Art Glass Studios, now BeauVerre-Riordan Studios, of Cincinnati, Ohio, designed and executed the three Costello memorial windows. The Riordans were in-laws to Augustine Costello, one of the brothers memorialized in the windows. The firm is best known for its regional work in the Midwest and upland South.



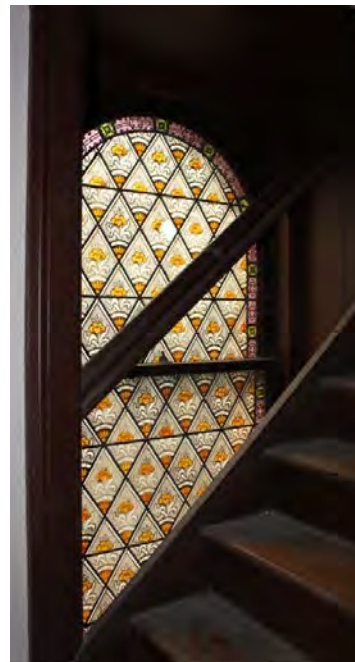
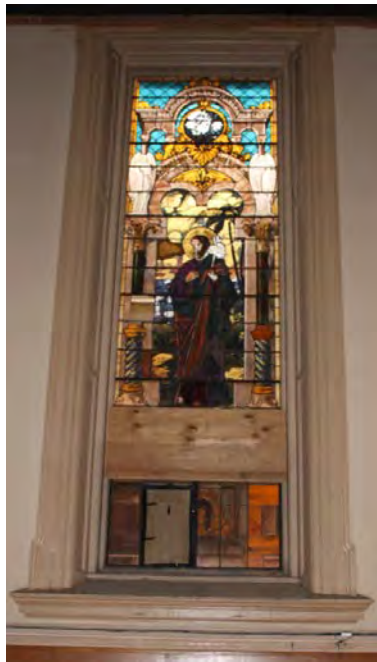
**FIGURE 32 (LEFT). CHURCH: NAVE, NORTH WALL, WEST WINDOW, 2016.**  
**FIGURE 33 (RIGHT). CHURCH: NAVE, NORTH WALL, EAST WINDOW, 2016.**

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**FIGURE 34 (LEFT). CHURCH: NAVE, SOUTH WALL, CENTER WINDOW, 2016.**  
**FIGURE 35 (RIGHT). CHURCH: CAMPANILE WINDOW, 2016.**

**RECTORY<sup>3</sup> (CA. 1891, REBUILT 1906)**

The Sacred Heart Rectory at 546 Fillmore Street sits immediately south of the church building, separated by a narrow alley (Figure 36). The Romanesque Revival-style rectory is composed of a three-story, square-plan, wood-frame main block on raised basement and a two-story, wood-frame ell. The main block is clad in yellow face brick and the ell is clad in narrow flush-board siding. Both parts of the building have flat roofs. The rectory continues the Romanesque Revival scheme of the church with round arch windows and classical detailing, along with the overhanging eaves and heavy brackets of the Romanesque and later Renaissance period palazzi (Figure 37).

The main entrance to the rectory is centered on the raised, first story and is accessible via a set of terrazzo steps with metal handrails. The entrance has a deeply recessed entry vestibule flanked by two large, brick piers with concrete caps (Figure 38). The opening has a wide plaster surround with cutaway corners and molded trim. The top of the surround is shaped like a shallow, stepped gable roofline. A molded cross is centered above the opening. The entrance is fitted with a wood door and wide, full-length sidelights with waffle pattern privacy glass. The entrance bay is flanked by slightly bowed, three-part windows with fixed center sash, side casement sash, and transom lights with flared, brick lintels. Slim engaged colonettes divide the tripartite window arrangement.

The second story has a centered, tripartite wood window composed of a central, fixed-sash, Tudor arch window and flanking, one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows. Slim engaged colonettes divide the window arrangement. Windows in the outer bays are simple, fixed, wood sash with transoms and no ornament save brick sills.

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<sup>3</sup>The description of the Sacred Heart Convent and Rectory is adapted and expanded from a Historic Resource Evaluation for both properties prepared by architectural historian Caitlin Harvey in 2007.

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A decorative, machicolated beltcourse delineates the third and final story of the building. On the third story, the elevation has a tripartite, round-arched window opening with one-over-one, double-hung, arched sash set the center bay, flanked by paired sash with identical features in the end bays. The windows have surrounds with engaged Ionic columns on pedestals and spandrel panels with applied, chain-like ornament. The elevation ends in a wide overhanging eave with paired scrolled brackets, an egg-and-dart molding, and cornice with arcaded ornament. A short parapet wall projects above the cornice line.

The basement story of the main elevation has a large window opening on the north side of the elevation with a flared lintel rendered in brick. A garage entrance on the south side of the elevation has identical trim and is fitted with a wood overhead door.

Secondary elevations of the main block are largely obscured by adjacent buildings. Window openings on all stories appear to have simple surrounds and double-hung wood sash windows. A metal fire escape is set on the south elevation.

The wood frame ell extends to a full three stories in height at the rear of the lot, following the sloping grade (Figure 39). The ell is minimally visible from public ways, but has paired double hung wood sash with simple surrounds and a simply molded projecting cornice. A secondary entrance is centered on the rear elevation of the first story level, sheltered by a small entry porch with a flat roof and plain iron column supports. A staircase leads down to grade level. Aerial photographs indicate that there is a small roof deck on the ell.

The entrance lobby of the rectory features plaster walls, checker pattern resilient tile flooring, a wide cornice with oversized dentils, and a cased beam bisecting the ceiling with identical details. A series of doors off the lobby space have modest architrave surrounds, and glazed, paneled wood doors (Figure 40).



**FIGURE 36. RECTORY AND CHURCH, LOOKING NORTHEAST ALONG FILLMORE STREET, 2015.**

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**FIGURE 37. RECTORY: MAIN (WEST) ELEVATION FROM FILLMORE STREET, 2015.**



**FIGURE 38 (LEFT). RECTORY: MAIN ENTRANCE, 2015.**



**FIGURE 39 (RIGHT). RECTORY: REAR ELL, LOOKING NORTHWEST FROM PARKING AREA OFF OAK STREET, 2015.**



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**FIGURE 40: RECTORY: LOBBY, 2016.**

### SCHOOL (1926)

The Sacred Heart School is a three-story, rectangular-plan building of reinforced concrete with a high basement story and flat roof (Figure 41). The building combines Romanesque Revival features such as round arched windows and entrances with a rusticated basement and first story and modified classical ornament typical of Romanesque and later Renaissance period palazzi.



**FIGURE 41. SACRED HEART SCHOOL, LOOKING SOUTHWEST ALONG FELL STREET, 2015.**

The primary elevation of the school is the most articulated in its design (Figure 42). The elevation is clad in scored concrete on the basement story and buff stucco scored to look like ashlar masonry on the upper stories.

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A paneled water table divides the basement and first story levels, and a beltcourse with molded, chain ornament divides the first and second stories.



**FIGURE 42. SCHOOL: MAIN (NORTH) ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH FROM FELL STREET, 2015.**

The main entrance to the school is centered on the Fell Street (north) elevation (Figure 43). The opening has an arched, acanthus leaf molding and an outer surround with larger foliate moldings, cutaway corners with scrolled tongue molding, and corner finials. The tympanum of the arch has scroll and block brackets, a relief of the Sacred Heart of Christ, and an inscription reading "Sacred Heart School." The deeply recessed entrance has a tiled floor and is fitted with double-leaf, glazed wood doors with full-height sidelights and two tiers of transom windows. The surround extends past the first-story level to enclose a small, arched, casement window with wood sash that lights the entry stairwell. The window has a semi-circular projecting sill with foliate ornament and a shield cartouche above the opening. The surround on this level has large foliate molding and ends in a gable peak. A Celtic cross with surround sits atop the peak.

A secondary entrance accessing the courtyard behind the school building is set at the east end of the basement story. The entrance has an arched opening with voussoirs articulated in the scored concrete of the foundation. The entrance is fitted with a metal security gate.



**FIGURE 43. SCHOOL: MAIN ENTRANCE, 2015.**

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The first story has arched window openings with wood casement sash and fanlights. A scroll with flanking scrolled, foliate ornament sits above each window opening. The windows on the upper stories are rectangular and fitted with three tiered, divided, wood awning sash.

The main elevation has an ornate entablature at the cornice line composed of a diaper pattern architrave; divided frieze with thin, decorative metopes with stops; egg and dart and dentil moldings; and a fluted cornice line with medallions. The frieze panels feature shields with an open book and crossed quill pens.



**FIGURE 44. SCHOOL: REAR (SOUTH) ELEVATION AND SCHOOL YARD, 2016.**

Secondary elevations of the school building are not visible because they directly abut adjacent buildings. The rear (south) elevation of the school has primarily plain window openings fitted with divided metal sash identical to those on the upper stories of the primary elevation. A centered entrance set slightly below grade features modern, double-leaf, metal doors and a heavy cornice on brackets. Secondary doors from the second story level flank the center entrance, and feature concrete steps, modern metal doors, and historic three-light transoms. A wood accessibility ramp provides access to the east entrance.

The rear schoolyard features modern playground equipment, a variety of soft pavement coverings, and a container and raised bed garden area. The school yard is enclosed by a combination of chain link and wood plank fencing (Figure 44).

**CONVENT (1936)**

The Dominican Convent at Sacred Heart continues the Romanesque Revival scheme of the church with arched window forms and corbeling. The convent has its primary elevation on Oak Street. The two-story building has a rectangular-plan main block with flat roof and a single-story ell housing the convent chapel (Figures 45 and 46). All parts of the building have flat roofs and are clad in stucco. The street frontage on Oak Street features brick planters.

The primary elevation of the convent measures five bays wide and has a centered main entrance accessed via a dogleg, brick staircase. Stanchions once holding a brass handrail remain in place on the staircase parapet wall. The deeply-recessed entry vestibule has a surround with concrete, spiraled, Corinthian columns and a mid-relief, acanthus leaf, concrete border along the arch (Figure 47). The vestibule is fitted with a decorative metal security gate. The arched door opening has a wood door with grated opening and partial-length sidelights. The remaining bays of the first story have rectangular casement windows with surround elements identical to the entry vestibule. The second story has arched, double-leaf casement windows in the end bays and a smaller arched window in the center bay with a molded concrete window box with metal railing. Surround elements are again identical to the first story. A cross with sunburst is set above the center window. The elevation ends in an arcaded frieze, simple entablature, and pent roof with red tile roofing. The roofline elements continue on the first six feet of the side elevations.

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Side (east and west) elevations of the convent have no ornament and plain window openings fitted with wood casement sash. On the east elevation, the side alley is sealed with a stuccoed partition with arched wood door and pent roof with red tile cladding. Brick steps lead from the sidewalk to the alley door and a brick wall separates the staircase from the stairs to the adjacent property. The roof of the main block of the convent has a roof deck space, and the parapet wall has sets of wood-frame pivot sash at the rear (north) elevation and north ends of the side elevations.

The chapel ell has a narrow, nave-like form ending in a slightly larger end block (Figures 48 and 49). Articulated piers divide the bays of the nave section and mark the four corners of the end block. The nave section has narrow, round-arched windows with stained glass sash, while the end block has plain, double-hung wood sash. A narrow, pent roof with red clay tile roofing runs along all elevations.



**FIGURE 45. CONVENT LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM OAK ST., 2015.**

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**FIGURE 46. CONVENT LOOKING NORTHWEST FROM OAK ST., 2015.**



**FIGURE 47. CONVENT, DETAIL OF MAIN ENTRY, 2015.**

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**FIGURE 48. CONVENT, CHAPEL WING, LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM PARKING AREA OF OAK ST., 2015.**



**FIGURE 49. CONVENT: REAR (NORTH) ELEVATIONS OF CHAPEL ELL AND MAIN BLOCK, 2016.**

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## HISTORY OF ALTERATIONS

<b>1909</b>	Structural reinforcement of the sanctuary space to accommodate new marble main and side altars weighing in excess of 55 tons. Installation of four, ten-inch beams to support concrete foundations under the altars and two, ten-inch beams at each side of the sanctuary. <sup>4</sup>
<b>1922</b>	New heating system, roof and window repairs, new pews, and new altar furnishings.
<b>1923</b>	Installation of Hook & Hastings pipe organ
<b>Early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century</b>	Installation of asbestos tile flooring; installation of plywood wainscoting in the nave (exact dates unknown).
<b>1948</b>	Enlarge sacristy, install new vestment cases, install new cabinets behind the main altar, remodel the altar and rear of the sanctuary, and construct new baptistery interior and new stairways to the choir loft from former baptistery. <sup>5</sup>
<b>1975</b>	Install partition walls in the hall space in the church basement to create a kitchen space. <sup>6</sup>
<b>1989</b>	Installation of black safety netting under the nave ceiling to protect the congregation from spalling plaster following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.
<b>2005</b>	Archdiocese removes fourteen Stations of the Cross paintings.
<b>2009-2015</b>	Owners remove Moretti altars from the sanctuary; stained glass rose window panes from the church transepts; choir light fixtures; all pews; baptism font; arched oak wall paneling from choir loft; organ; glazed oak doors between narthex and nave with etched cross and sunburst pattern; etched transom windows above the narthex entrances depicting Christ on the Cross, the Resurrection of Christ, and Joseph of Arimathea; daises on the north and south walls of the nave; brass sconces with frosted shades; brass light fixtures with brass shades perforated with a cross pattern; oak altar rail; and one confessional booth. Second confessional booth is converted to a bathroom. Altar niches in sanctuary are enclosed with temporary partitions. Selective exploratory demolition takes place in choir loft, baptistery, and nave.
<b>2015</b>	554 Fillmore St. LLC cuts large bay entrance in basement story of north transept and gut the church basement for conversion to a parking garage.
<b>RECTORY (1891/1906)</b>	
<b>1917</b>	Renovation and reorganization of rectory interior (no city permits on record) <sup>7</sup>
<b>Between 1924 and 1954</b>	Application of stucco door surround on the primary entrance, recession of main entrance, removal or obscuring of transom light in masonry above entrance, removal of decorative hood over the three-part window on the second story of the main elevation. <sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> San Francisco Department of Building Inspection, Building Permit No. 26124 September 30, 1909

<sup>5</sup> Sacred Heart Parish Historical Report, 1948, Collection of the Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>6</sup> San Francisco Department of Building Inspection, Building Permit No. 398400, April 9, 1975.

<sup>7</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 10.

<sup>8</sup> *Sacred Heart Parish*, Photograph, 1897, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco; "Sacred Heart Rectory," *Catholic Monitor*, November 2, 1907, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

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<b>After 1950</b>	Insertion of a garage entrance on the south end of the basement story of the primary (street) elevation and door and sidelight replacement at the main entrance (exact dates unknown).
<b>1989-late 1990s</b>	Lessee renovations to the large hall space in the basement for use as a childcare facility.
<b>2011</b>	Seismic upgrade and rehabilitation of entry lobby space.
<b>SCHOOL (1926)</b>	
<b>1969</b>	Removal of all interior classroom walls
<b>Late 1970s</b>	Add partition walls to create classrooms
<b>2002</b>	Add additional interior partition walls <sup>9</sup>
<b>2013</b>	Lower entry level of main entrance to sidewalk grade for ADA accessibility. Install elevator. Replace flooring throughout.
<b>CONVENT (1936)</b>	
<b>1980</b>	Install new windows
<b>1984</b>	Pave adjacent lot for parking

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<sup>9</sup> Ken Garcia, "Sacred Heart Gets an 'A' for Turnaround," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, September 13, 2002.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- ARCHITECTURE
- ETHNIC HERITAGE, BLACK
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- RELIGION
- 
- 
- 

**Period of Significance**

1891-1972  
   
 

**Significant Dates**

1891, 1898, 1909, 1926, 1936, 1968-1972  
   
 

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Boyle, Eugene  
   
 

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Welsh, Thomas J.  
Foley, John J.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criteria A, B and C for its association with the growth and development of Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco, its association with Father Eugene Boyle, and as a distinctive and well-executed Romanesque Revival complex of buildings. The period of significance is 1891-1972. The property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, as its associations are based on architecture, civil rights activism and history of the communities associated with this parish in San Francisco. The property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration G because its association with Father Boyle meets the requirements for exceptional significance.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Sacred Heart was the first Catholic parish established in western San Francisco and was an important religious, social, and education center for the neighborhood's predominantly Irish-Catholic population. The significance of Sacred Heart as a social institution continued into the late 1960s and early 1970s when the complex was a center of secular and religious social justice and civil rights activism in the Western Addition. This activity occurred during a turbulent and critical time in the neighborhood as the Western Addition transitioned to a predominantly African-American neighborhood in San Francisco.

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Father (later Monsignor) Eugene Boyle (1921-2016), pastor of the parish from 1968 to 1972. A prominent and influential civil rights activist in northern California, Father Boyle served as the public face for Catholic involvement in the Black civil rights movement, protest of the Vietnam War, fights against urban renewal, fair housing advocacy, and the farm labor movement. At Sacred Heart, Boyle used the parish complex as a platform for a progressive program of Catholic and secular social justice activism. Under his leadership, the parish hosted the Black Panther Party Breakfast Program, meetings of anti-Vietnam War and San Francisco State University student activists, and the start of the 1970 United Farm Workers Union (UFW) lettuce boycott in San Francisco.

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion C as a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping consisting of church, rectory, school, and convent. The complex is additionally significant for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh, who designed over 400 buildings in San Francisco and was one of the chief practitioners of the Romanesque Revival style in the city. Welsh's Sacred Heart Church and rectory are rare surviving examples of his work; Sacred Heart Church is Welsh's only extant Romanesque Revival church design.

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties. The complex is primarily significant for its architectural distinction, association with

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important historic events in the development of San Francisco, the history of Catholic religious involvement in the civil rights movements of the mid-twentieth century, and the activities of Father Eugene Boyle, an important Catholic religious leader in northern California.

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years. This consideration applies only to significance under Criterion B for association with Father Eugene Boyle and his neighborhood-based civil rights activism and parish ministry between 1968 and 1972. The historic involvement of the Roman Catholic Church and Father Eugene Boyle specifically in the history of civil rights and social justice activism in San Francisco has been well documented, and Father Boyle's significant role in those activities in the diocese and in the Sacred Heart Parish is similarly well established in the scholarly record. The Sacred Heart Parish is also the only parish Father Boyle served during his primary period of social justice activism.

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex has a period of significance that spans from the initial construction of the rectory building ca. 1891 through the tenure of Father Eugene Boyle as pastor in 1972. This period encompasses the full development of the component buildings in the parish complex and the most vigorous period of social justice activism at the parish.

## SACRED HEART PARISH AND THE WESTERN ADDITION, 1885-2004<sup>10</sup>

Sacred Heart Parish was founded in 1885 to serve Catholics in the western precincts of San Francisco. The original parish boundaries extended from Buchanan Street on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west, but the parish shrank by the mid-1920s to encompass the Western Addition neighborhoods east of Divisadero Street and south of Turk Street.<sup>11</sup>

As the major Catholic institution in the Western Addition during San Francisco's "Catholic Century," Sacred Heart was a dominant religious, social, and educational institution for the district's predominantly Catholic population. Over the course of its nearly 120-year history, Sacred Heart Parish was actively engaged in the demographics, politics, and social history of the rapidly changing Western Addition. Sacred Heart Parish went from being "the most Irish parish west of Chicago" in 1885 to one of the most diverse urban congregations in the city by the mid-1960s.<sup>12</sup> The parish was embedded in a neighborhood that functioned as an important intra-city migration hub for generations of immigrants, racial and ethnic groups, and working class residents as they pursued middle-class respectability, escaped earthquake ravaged neighborhoods, and later tried to create a more socially just home in the city. The significance of Sacred Heart as a social institution in the Western Addition underwent a dramatic shift during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The changing character of the neighborhood and its congregation put the parish at the center of social justice and civil rights issues in San Francisco.

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<sup>10</sup> This section includes information on the Western Addition excerpted and adapted from the National Register nomination for Sacred Heart Church prepared by Kelly & VerPlanck in 2009.

<sup>11</sup> The Western Addition is generally bounded by San Francisco Bay to the north, Larkin Street to the east, Duboce Avenue to the south, and Divisadero Street to the west. It includes neighborhoods as disparate as Hayes Valley, Alamo Square, the Fillmore, Japantown, and Pacific Heights. In popular usage the name is often (and mistakenly) understood today to refer only to the areas cleared and rebuilt by the Redevelopment Agency under the guise of "slum clearance" during the 1960s and 1970s. Parishes that split from Sacred Heart Parish include Holy Cross (1887), St. Agnes (1895), St. Anne (1904), St. Monica (1911), Star of the Sea (1914), St. Thomas (1922), and Holy Name (1925) parishes.

<sup>12</sup> "'Best Children in the City' - Sacred Heart Pastor Says," *Catholic Monitor*, October 29, 1954.

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Under Father Eugene Boyle, the parish became a center of Catholic social activism during the period, opening its doors to groups ranging from Vietnam Veterans Against the War to the Black Panthers.

### ESTABLISHING “THE MOST IRISH PARISH WEST OF CHICAGO” (1885-1906)

The founding of Sacred Heart Parish in 1885 occurred at the beginning of one of the most substantial periods of growth and development in the Western Addition. The area now known as the Western Addition began developing as a residential district after 1860 when local landowner and speculator Thomas Hayes completed a steam railroad along Market and Hayes streets to his Hayes Park Pavilion amusement ground. The completion of the Market Street Railway’s Haight Street Cable Railroad in 1883 brought a more intensive, second wave of development. During the 1880s, mixed commercial and residential development grew along Haight Street, three blocks south of the Sacred Heart site, and rows upon rows of two and three-story, wood-frame flats and single-family residences spread along intersecting streets.

The establishment of Sacred Heart Parish also took place at the onset of what historians have called the “Catholic Century” in San Francisco, a period when between thirty and forty percent of the urban population was Roman Catholic.<sup>13</sup> This was a time of robust Catholic institution building and parish expansion in San Francisco. Under the leadership of then-Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan (1841-1914, Archbishop 1883-1914), the Archdiocese of San Francisco established twenty-one new parishes in San Francisco, built St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park (1898), and constructed the second St. Mary’s Cathedral on Van Ness Street (1889, burned 1962).<sup>14</sup> By 1915, Catholic Irish- and Italian-Americans dominated local government and politics in San Francisco, and the doctrines, positions, and leadership of the Catholic Church held significant sway in public life.<sup>15</sup>

Sacred Heart Church, set among the newly opened residential tracts of the Western Addition, was a symbol of the church’s growth alongside the city. Between 1885 and 1889, the first pastor of Sacred Heart, Father James Flood shepherded the congregation from makeshift quarters to construction of the parish’s first purpose-built, albeit temporary, wood-frame church building. The first church home for Sacred Heart Parish was a derelict, one-story, wood-frame Methodist chapel on the corner of nearby Linden and Buchanan streets. Shortly after the Archdiocese established the parish, Father Flood purchased the chapel, conducted some minor renovations, and began conducting mass in the building.<sup>16</sup> In 1886, Father Flood began assembling land for a permanent parish complex, purchasing the core of the existing Sacred Heart property on the corner of Fillmore and Fell streets. With land secured, he moved the wood-frame chapel to the site and renovated the interior to better conform to Catholic liturgy.<sup>17</sup>

Looking to the future, Father Flood commissioned Archdiocese architect Thomas J. Welsh to design a new, more suitable wood-frame church to accommodate 700 people. The parish built the church in

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<sup>13</sup> Jeffrey M. Burns, *San Francisco: A History of the Archdiocese of San Francisco* (Strasbourg: Editions du Signe, 1999), 18.

<sup>14</sup> Clay Mansfield O’Dell, “On Stony Ground: The Catholic Interracial Council in the Archdiocese of San Francisco” (University of Virginia, 2005), 130.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 7–8. Even mayors who were not Catholic, like James Rolph, maintained close ties with the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>16</sup> Father Flood is not the same James Flood who made his fortune in the Comstock Lode silver mines.

<sup>17</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 1985, 3; “A Church Location Changed,” *Catholic Monitor*, June 30, 1886.

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1887 at 546 Fillmore Street on what is now the site of the rectory (Figure 50).<sup>18</sup> As described in the *Catholic Monitor*, the Romanesque, two-story church building contained a sanctuary in the upper story and a Sunday School with eight classrooms and a hall in the basement.<sup>19</sup> The parish moved the former Methodist church to the rear of the property to serve as an on-site parochial residence.<sup>20</sup>

In 1889, the church acquired an additional lot along Fell Street, completing the configuration of the Fell/Fillmore portion of the church property as it is today. With sufficient property secured, the parish began preparing to build its permanent church home, moving Thomas Welsh's wood-frame church to the northeast corner of the lot to make space for a new church building. This would be a substantial, masonry building and serve as an anchor for a fully-developed parish complex composed of a rectory, school, and convent.

Sacred Heart Parish announced ambitious building plans late in 1891, detailing work on the church building, a new rectory, and a future parochial school.<sup>21</sup> The parish turned again to architect Thomas J. Welsh and his then-partner John Carey to design an 88'x169' brick church building at the corner of Fillmore and Fell streets. Their plans called for a load-bearing masonry building with exterior walls of buff-colored, pressed brick. The architects supported the large interior spans with wooden trusses over the 67'-wide nave, a steel girder to support the choir loft, and steel columns in the bell tower. The church building was expected to cost \$60,000, much of it to come from funds raised in the parish.<sup>22</sup>

The parish was able to raise funds and complete the rectory rather quickly to provide suitable housing for the four to six priests assigned to them. Earlier parochial quarters had been makeshift affairs. In 1886, city directories list Father James Flood residing at a rented flat at 710 Hayes Street. By 1888, parish priests were living at the rear of the Fell and Fillmore street property in the recycled Methodist chapel that had served the parish in its first year. The new, purpose-built rectory at 550 Fillmore, built ca. 1891 was a two-story, wood frame building with brick facing on the front and portions of the side elevations. Contractor Hugh Keenan designed and constructed the new rectory (Figure 51).

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<sup>18</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 4.

<sup>19</sup> "Sacred Heart Church - Description of the New Structure," *Catholic Monitor*, May 18, 1887; "Sacred Heart Church: The Edifice to Be Erected on Fillmore Street," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 8, 1887.

<sup>20</sup> "Best Children in the City' - Sacred Heart Pastor Says"; Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 6.

<sup>21</sup> "To Be Built of Stone - A New Church for the Sacred Heart Parish," *Catholic Monitor*, September 2, 1891.

<sup>22</sup> "To Build A New Church," *San Francisco Chronicle* (28 August 1896).

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**FIGURE 50. SACRED HEART CHURCH ON FILLMORE ST. CA. 1888 SHOWING THOMAS WELSH'S 1887 WOOD FRAME CHURCH. SOURCE: SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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**FIGURE 51. SACRED HEART PARISH COMPLEX IN THE MID-1890S SHOWING ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION OF RECTORY (RIGHT), THE FIRST CONVENT (CENTER RIGHT), AND THOMAS WELSH'S 1888 WOOD-FRAME SACRED HEART CHURCH (LEFT). SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

The parish made unexpected progress in establishing a parochial school, albeit via tragic circumstances. In 1893, Father Flood took in the Dominican Sisters of St. Rose's Academy after a devastating fire destroyed their San Francisco convent and school on Golden Gate Avenue. Though the sisters appear infrequently in parish histories and records, they played important roles in the religious and social life of the Sacred Heart Parish. A preaching order, the Dominican Sisters of Saint Dominic, Congregation of the Most Holy Name took as their mission teaching in parish elementary and secondary schools throughout California and Nevada, as well as operating their own schools for girls in the Bay Area.<sup>23</sup> Dominican sisters historically made up approximately half of the female faculty at parochial schools in San Francisco, alongside the Sisters of Notre Dame.<sup>24</sup> The newly arrived Dominican Sisters started a flourishing parochial school at Sacred Heart, operating in the church basement and a series of temporary buildings on and off-site during construction of the rectory and church.<sup>25</sup> The Sisters would go on to educate the students of the Sacred Heart Parish and the wider Western Addition on this site for more than 100 years.

By 1896, the parish had raised sufficient funds to begin construction on the Sacred Heart church. The parish laid the cornerstone on September 7, 1897, filling it with ancient coins; rock from Tara Hill, Ireland; moss from the roof of St. Columbkille's Abbey; minerals from the Colorado and Union mines in

<sup>23</sup> Dominican University of California, "History of the University," n.d., <http://www.dominican.edu/about/facts/history-traditions> The Sisters of Saint Dominic, Congregation of the Most Holy Name is headquartered in San Rafael, CA.

<sup>24</sup> Archdiocese of San Francisco, California, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools, 1920-1921* (Archdiocese of San Francisco, 1921), 125.

<sup>25</sup> These included the relocated 1889 wood-frame church building and the former Sutro Mansion several blocks away at Hayes and Fillmore streets. See the following section, "Earthquake, Demographic Change, and a Complete Parish Complex."



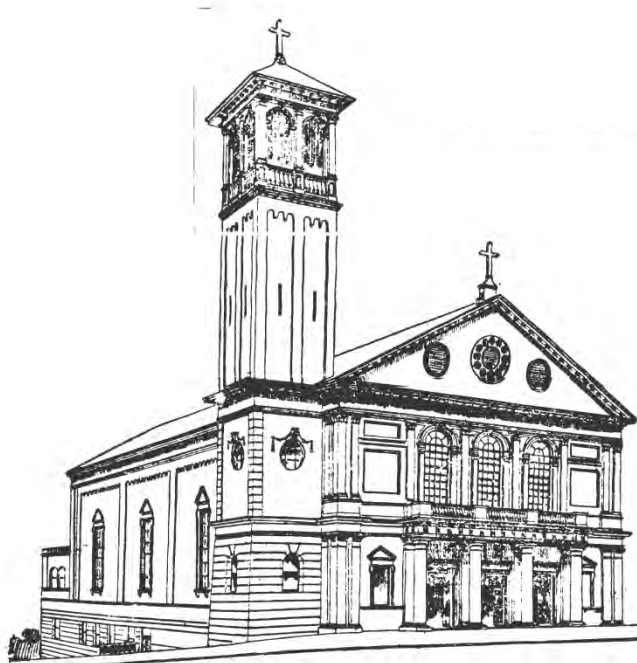
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El Dorado County; and copies of daily newspapers.<sup>26</sup> The majority of the church was completed by the summer of 1898, however, because of a lack of funds, the parish halted construction with only 126 feet of the planned 169-foot long nave in place. A temporary wood-frame wall enclosed the east end of the church, where the juncture between the nave and transepts is now located (Figures 52 and 53). Archbishop Riordan dedicated the nearly completed church on September 25, 1898. At the time of the Sacred Heart Church building dedication, the parish was one of the largest in the city, hosting 1,800 families, 6,000 congregants, and a Sunday school enrollment of 700-800 children.<sup>27</sup>



**FIGURE 52 (LEFT). DRAWING OF PROPOSED SACRED HEART CHURCH PUBLISHED IN THE *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*. SOURCE: *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*, OCTOBER 7, 1896**

**FIGURE 53 (RIGHT). SACRED HEART CHURCH BEFORE TRANSEPT AND SACRISTY ADDITIONS IN 1909; THE SPIRE OF THE EARLIER WOOD FRAME CHURCH, MOVED TO THE REAR OF THE PARCEL, IS VISIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND. SOURCE: SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

This prosperity continued into the first years of the twentieth century. Then-pastor Father John McQuaide (pastor 1905-1922) successfully raised the funds to complete the unfinished 1898 church in 1905 according to Welsh & Carey's original plans.<sup>28</sup> George Goodman was hired to build the enlarged

<sup>26</sup> "Laying of Corner Stone of Sacred Heart Church: The Articles to Be Deposited in the Stone of the Sacred Edifice," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 12, 1897.

<sup>27</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 6, 11; "Dedicatory Services - Archbishop Riordan Will Dedicate New Sacred Heart Church Tomorrow," *Hayes Valley Advertiser*, 1898, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>28</sup> Father McQuaide was also well-known beyond the parish for having served as an Army chaplain in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, and the First World War. He assisted in securing the Panama Pacific International Exposition for San Francisco in 1915 through his acquaintance with President Taft, whom he met during

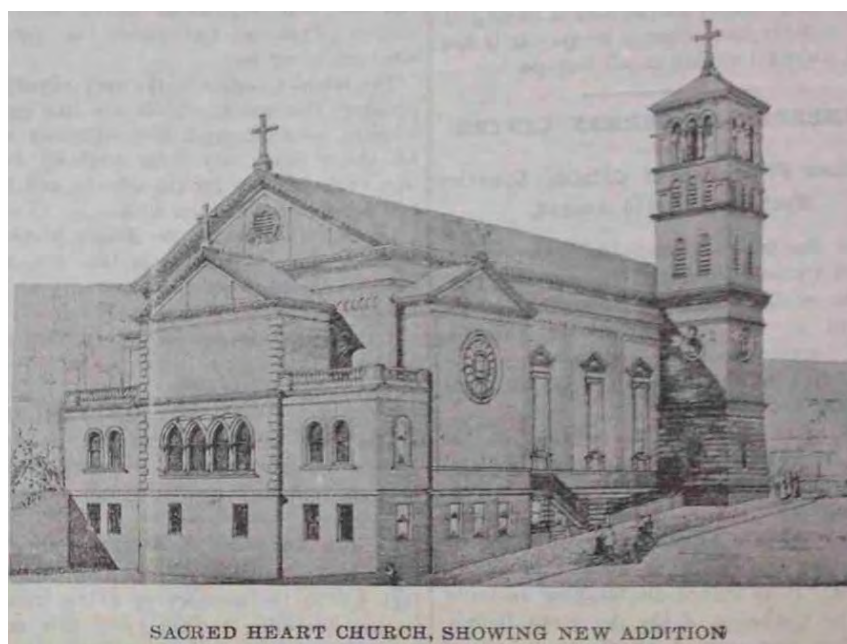
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basement, transepts, sanctuary, and sacristies.<sup>29</sup> A 1905 article in *The Monitor* described the vision for the new spaces. The new sanctuary was to have recessed niches for side altars and a marble reredos would extend across the entire sanctuary to screen the passageway between the sacristies. The altar rail was to be of oak and supported by oak pilasters and filled with bronze panels. The sanctuary was also to have windows (never realized) set below the level of the reredos to illuminate the “curved surface of the sanctuary and show the altar in strong relief.”<sup>30</sup> The shallow transepts were to be twenty-eight feet in length and ten feet in depth and allow egress to the outside. Both transepts were to have large rose windows, fourteen feet in diameter, “giving a grand opportunity for memorial windows.”<sup>31</sup> (Figure 54) The article also stated that the new portion of the church would have “one of the finest above-ground basements in the city; 100 feet long from end to end and averaging 70 feet wide and amply lighted on all sides.”<sup>32</sup> Plans for the space included a three-foot high stage or platform at one end that the parish could use for services as well as entertainment, complete with a set of scenery and electric stage lights. When completed, the space would seat up to 1,000 people. The foundations for the extension were laid in 1906, but work on the rest of the extension halted in the wake of the 1906 earthquake and fire.<sup>33</sup> Construction was finally completed and the church rededicated in 1909.<sup>34</sup>



**FIGURE 54. RENDERING OF THE PROPOSED 1907-1908 TRANSEPT AND SACRISTY ADDITIONS.  
SOURCE: CATHOLIC MONITOR, NOVEMBER 11, 1905**

his service during the Philippine- American War. Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 6.

<sup>29</sup> Builder's Contracts, *San Francisco Examiner* (8 June 1905).

<sup>30</sup> "Labors Reward. Sacred Heart Church Receiving Magnificent Extension," *The Monitor* (2 November 1905), 14..

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> "Sacred Heart Church Being Completed," *Catholic Monitor*, August 15, 1908.

<sup>34</sup> "Praise for Big Parish," *San Francisco Examiner* (22 February 1909).

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The successful building campaigns of the turn of the twentieth century were a testament to the emerging Irish middle class then settling in the Western Addition and Sacred Heart Parish. During this period, much of the Western Addition was a middle-class district composed of native-born whites; Jewish, Protestant, and Catholic German immigrants, Irish Catholics, English and Scandinavian Protestants, and smaller communities of Japanese and African Americans. Irish and Irish-Americans dominated, however, making up one-third of San Francisco's population in 1880 and Irish Catholics made up the bulk of Sacred Heart's parishioners for more than three decades. The church counted many prominent members of San Francisco among its congregants, including the Mahony and Fay families and opera star Maude Fay Symington.<sup>35</sup> Parishes such as Sacred Heart were important centers of religious and community life for the Irish-American community, providing education, social structures, and mutual or benevolent aid.<sup>36</sup>

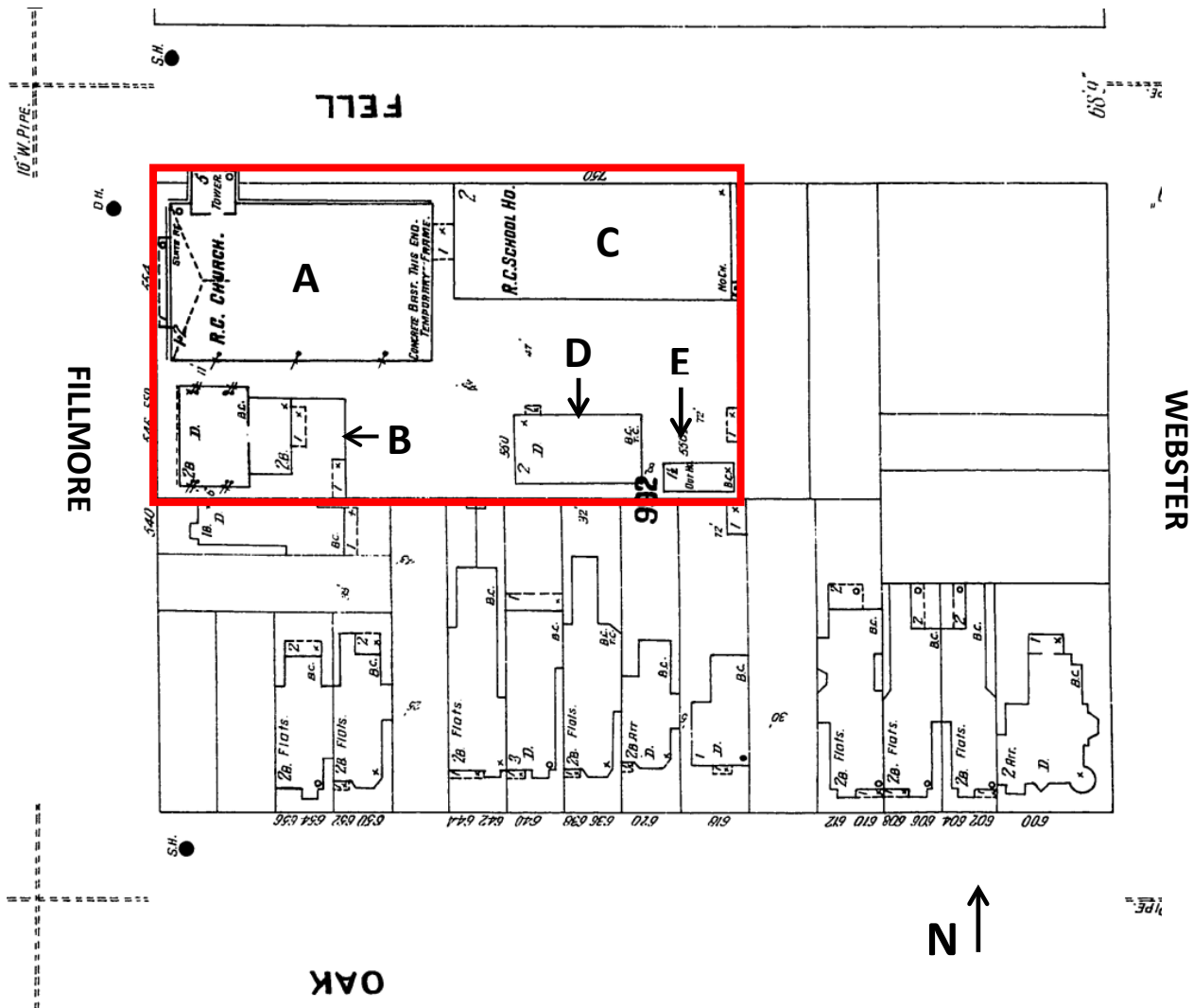


FIGURE 55. SANBORN MAP OF SACRED HEART PARISH COMPLEX WITH PROPERTY OUTLINED, 1899.  
 A – CHURCH BEFORE COMPLETION OF TRANSEPTS AND SACRISTIES (1898)  
 B – RECTORY (1891)  
 C – SCHOOL (1887 WOOD-FRAME, ROMANESQUE CHURCH DESIGNED BY WELSH)  
 D – FIRST CONVENT (1893)  
 E – OUTHOUSE

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## EARTHQUAKE, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE, AND A COMPLETE PARISH COMPLEX (1906-1940)

As in many parts of the city, the 1906 earthquake and fire marked a turning point for the Sacred Heart Parish. Because it largely escaped post-earthquake fires, the Western Addition was not as heavily damaged by the 1906 earthquake as other closer-in Victorian-era residential districts. After 1906, earthquake survivors took up residence in several refugee camps in the district sponsored by the San Francisco Red Cross Relief Corporation, and, as their circumstances improved, permanently resettled in the neighborhood.<sup>37</sup> During the second decade of the twentieth century the Western Addition became one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city, or any western US city – home to Japanese, Filipino, Mexican, Jewish, Russian, and African-American residents.

The crush of new residents – most of whom were poor or working-class – prompted many local middle and upper-class local residents to move to new and more prestigious tracts being built to the north and west. The parish's predominantly Irish population had begun moving out of the Western Addition in small numbers in the 1890s, but by the 1910s the number had significantly increased. As they departed, speculators increasingly converted the district's large stock of single-family dwellings into apartments and flats and constructed infill development and apartment buildings. Increasing numbers of Italian and Spanish-speaking Americans and immigrants, including families from Mexico, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico moved into the neighborhood and joined the parish in the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>38</sup>

Sacred Heart remained a robust, influential local institution during this period of demographic transition. Sacred Heart Parish was active in earthquake relief efforts, and the Sacred Heart School, then in a residential structure at Hayes and Fillmore streets, was a temporary hospital and shelter for quake and fire victims.<sup>39</sup> The parish also continued with their building plans, adapting to unexpected circumstances and opportunities as they arose. In October 1906, just months after the parish complex survived the 1906 earthquake and fire unscathed, a fire seriously damaged the rectory. The parish hired architects Welsh & Carey to rehabilitate and expand the building in 1906-1907.<sup>40</sup> Welsh & Carey reconstructed and expanded the rectory, adding a third story to the main block and replacing the brick facing. The new rectory provided much needed quarters for the parish and mission priests serving the parish, meeting rooms for the various societies at the church, and smaller parish gathering spaces. The new rectory contained forty rooms and two meeting halls in the basement story seating about 250 people combined (Figures 56, 57).<sup>41</sup> Sometime between 1913 and 1920, the parish constructed a wood-frame connector from the third-story level of the rectory to the choir loft of the church. The connector allowed priests easy access to the sanctuary for early morning masses and to get between the church and rectory in inclement weather.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> San Francisco Relief Corporation, *Department Reports of the San Francisco Relief and Red Cross Funds* (San Francisco: annual report of the San Francisco Relief Corporation, March 19, 1907), 18.

<sup>38</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 12.

<sup>39</sup> O'Ryan, Rev. Philip, "Comforting Aged and Infirm During Fire," *San Francisco Call*, May 20, 1906, California Digital Newspaper Collection.

<sup>40</sup> "'Best Children in the City' - Sacred Heart Pastor Says"; "Sacred Heart Church Being Completed."

<sup>41</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 9.

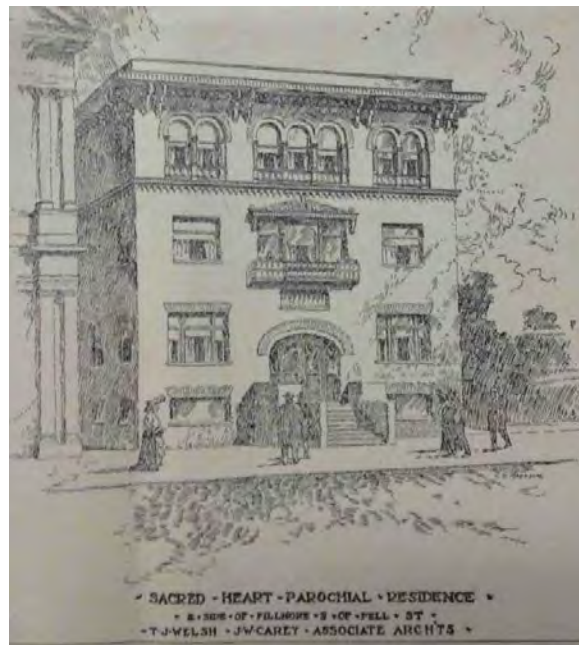
<sup>42</sup> "Sacred Heart Church Is Beautifully Frescoed," *The Catholic Monitor*, October 2, 1920; Sanborn Map Co., San Francisco, CA. Volume 4, Sheet 350, 1913.

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**FIGURE 56. CHURCH AND RECTORY SHOWING ORIGINAL DOOR AND WINDOW TREATMENT ON FIRST AND SECOND STORIES. SOURCE: CATHOLIC MONITOR, OCTOBER 2, 1920**



**FIGURE 57. LINE DRAWING OF THE REHABILITATED RECTORY. SOURCE: CATHOLIC MONITOR, NOVEMBER 2, 1907.**

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One of the chief accomplishments during this period was the completion of a permanent parochial school in the parish. A parish-based parochial school was a vital part of Catholic religious and community development. Addressing the Sacred Heart graduates in 1904, Bishop George Montgomery noted that “no parish was fully equipped that did not have its parochial schools, wherein every boy and girl could be accommodated.”<sup>43</sup> While Sacred Heart had succeeded in establishing a parochial education program, housing the program had been more of a challenge. Sanborn maps show that upon completion of the masonry Sacred Heart Church building in 1898, the parish converted the entirety of the wood frame church building into a school (see Figure 55).

In 1900, deteriorating conditions in the makeshift school building and city plans to construct a panhandle park through the Sacred Heart property spurred then-pastor Father Hugh Lagan to rent, and then purchase the former Sutro property at Hayes and Fillmore streets. The Dominican Sisters also had a part in the decision. In 1900, the Sisters announced their intention to leave because of unfit living and teaching conditions. The parishioners rallied, putting together an evening entertainment to thank and woo the sisters back, as well as raise money as a show of good faith toward the construction of a new school building.<sup>44</sup> The Sisters stayed on, conducting school in new temporary quarters at the Sutro mansion while the parish worked to construct a new school building within the parish complex. The mansion, which reportedly accommodated about 500 students, remained in use until 1914 (Figure 58).



**FIGURE 58. OLD SUTRO MANSION/SACRED HEART SCHOOL AND CONVENT, HAYES AND FILLMORE STREETS, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 1910. (DEMOLISHED 1914) SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAN RAFAEL, SAN RAFAEL, CA**

<sup>43</sup> “School Exercises at Sacred Heart Parish,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 4, 1904.

<sup>44</sup> “A Testimonial to Dominican Sisters,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 30, 1901.

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**FIGURE 59. SACRED HEART CHURCH AND SCHOOL IN 1939. SOURCE SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The lengthy occupation of the Sutro site was not planned; the 1906 earthquake and the dislocation of other Catholic educational institutions interfered with progress on a parish school. Sacred Heart College (1874-1929), one of the largest Catholic boys' and men's educational institutions in the city, was displaced when their building at the corner of Eddy and Larkin streets burned in the post-quake fire. The college arranged with the parish to construct a temporary, wood-frame, three-story school building behind the church on Fell Street (see Figure 61).<sup>45</sup> Sacred Heart College relocated to a new building at Ellis and Larkin streets sometime after 1914, and Sacred Heart parochial school students again took up residence within the parish complex property, using the former Sacred Heart College building.<sup>46</sup>

Father John Cullen, who became pastor at Sacred Heart in 1922, finally oversaw construction of the current, permanent school building. Architect John J. Foley designed the school. As built, the school contained classrooms, an assembly hall, library, and nurse's room (Figure 59).<sup>47</sup> Sacred Heart School grew to become one of the Dominican Sisters' primary institutions in the city. In the early 1920s, the Dominican Sisters had fifteen teachers and 463 students at their flagship school, St. Rose's Academy, and eight teachers and 502 students at Sacred Heart.<sup>48</sup> A school contract between the Dominican Sisters and the Sacred Heart Parish from the early 1940s gives some insight into their role and influence in the parish. Per the terms of the contract, the parish pastor was the ex officio head of the school, but the Dominican principal had control of the curriculum, discipline matters, appointing sisters teaching at the school, and any lay employees. The contractual arrangement required that the parish provide suitable living quarters and furnishings for the sisters and administer daily mass. The sisters also

<sup>45</sup> Hamilton Wright and F. Marion Gallagher, "What the Catholic Church Has Done for San Francisco," *The Overland Monthly* L, no. 5 (1907): 415-416.

<sup>46</sup> "Best Children in the City" - Sacred Heart Pastor Says."

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Archdiocese of San Francisco, California, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools, 1920-1921*, 125.

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stipulated that they would not be responsible for janitorial services at the school. Sisters earned a modest salary from the parish (\$40.00 per month in 1942) but could forgo that salary and earn supplemental income offering music lessons to parish children.<sup>49</sup>

Father Cullen also oversaw the last remaining building task on the parish property: a proper convent for the Dominican Sisters. In the early years of the parish school program, the Dominican Sisters faced somewhat harrowing housing circumstances. According to a 1927 letter from Father Cullen to the Archdiocese, the sisters first lived in a makeshift building behind the rectory constructed by Father Flood, then in the attic of the Sutro Mansion when it served as the parish school, and finally in a “rat ridden shed” off the school yard.<sup>50</sup> The sisters also lived in the attic of the wood-frame Sacred Heart College building from 1914 until sometime in the late 1910s.<sup>51</sup>

In 1927, just after completion of the parish’s masonry school building, Father Cullen purchased two lots on Oak Street with the intent of using them as the site for a new convent. It was not until 1936, however, that Father Cullen was able to commission architect John J. Foley to design a new convent building. Foley, who also designed the parish school, proposed a modestly-styled Romanesque and Renaissance Revival building of stuccoed, reinforced concrete. The building contained reception rooms, library, dining, kitchen, and community rooms on the first story and living quarters, infirmary, sewing room, and cedar closet on the second story. The convent included a chapel on the first story with painted art glass windows and a frescoed, beamed ceiling. The roof featured a paved, tiled garden (Figure 60).<sup>52</sup>



**FIGURE 60. SACRED HEART CONVENT JUST AFTER COMPLETION IN 1936. SOURCE: CATHOLIC MONITOR, AUGUST 15, 1936**

<sup>49</sup> Archdiocese of San Francisco, California, “School Contract between Pastor of the Church Sacred Heart, San Francisco and the Sisters of St. Dominic, Congregation of the Most Holy Name,” July 12, 1942, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>50</sup> Father John Cullen to Unidentified Monsignor, April 12, 1927, Sacred Heart Historical File, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco; Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 11. The “rat ridden shed” was likely the former Methodist church building. That structure was finally demolished in 1931.

<sup>51</sup> Sisters of Saint Dominic, “Annals of Sacred Heart Convent, San Francisco, California” n.d., 1920–1950:3, Archive of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA.

<sup>52</sup> “New Sacred Heart Convent,” *Catholic Monitor*, August 15, 1936.



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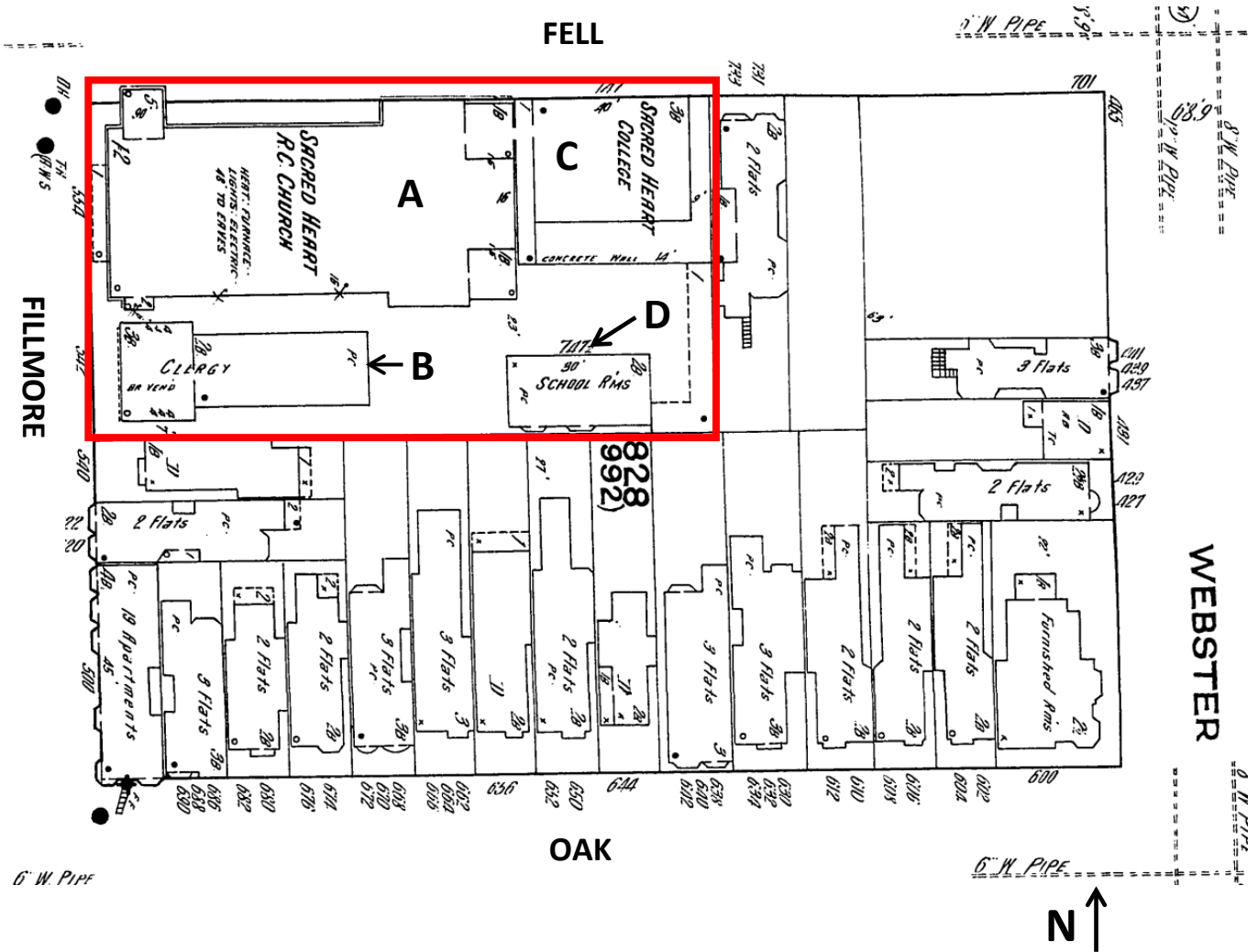


FIGURE 61. SANBORN MAP OF SACRED HEART PARISH WITH PROPERTY OUTLINED, 1913

- A – CHURCH AFTER COMPLETION OF TRANSEPTS AND SACRISTIES (1898, 1909)
- B – RECTORY AFTER RECONFIGURATION (1891, 1906)
- C – SACRED HEART COLLEGE (CA. 1906)
- D – FIRST CONVENT (1893), HERE IN TEMPORARY USE AS SCHOOL ROOMS

NOTE: AT THIS DATE THE PARISH SCHOOL IS LOCATED SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY IN THE FORMER SUTRO MANSION.

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## SERVING A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD: ACCENTS “FROM LIMERICK TO LUZON” (1940-1989)

Having achieved a position of stability with its completed parish church, rectory, school, and convent, Sacred Heart experienced another ground shift. With the onset of World War II and the massive influx of workers to the Bay Area’s wartime industries, the Western Addition underwent another significant demographic change. Throughout the 1940s, thousands of African Americans coming to work in the shipyards and munitions factories around the Bay began settling in the Western Addition. Before passage of fair housing legislation in California, African Americans were still restricted by law and custom from renting or buying in much of San Francisco. Vacancies in the Western Addition due to Japanese internment, the neighborhood’s central location and less expensive rents, and a small existing African-American community in the district attracted the newcomers. During the 1940s, the Western Addition evolved into the center of African-American life in the city. African-American residents crowded into the apartment houses and converted Victorians of the district, eventually moving south along Fillmore and Webster streets into Hayes Valley.<sup>53</sup> After 1950, a postwar influx of African Americans from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana hastened the transformation of the Western Addition, and the Fillmore District in particular, from a largely white district into a heavily African-American neighborhood.

These demographic shifts were apparent at Sacred Heart. Father Cullen’s parish historical report in 1943 noted an increase in “transient” attendance due to the war and “rooming house conditions” in the adjacent neighborhoods.<sup>54</sup> The annual parish report from 1945 recorded that “Negroes” and Chinese were purchasing property near the church on both Fell and Fillmore streets.<sup>55</sup> Reports from the late 1940s note continued increase in African Americans in the parish as well as the “constant increase of Latins.”<sup>56</sup>

After World War II, the suburban boom, urban renewal, and new US immigration policies further changed the face of the Sacred Heart Parish and its relationship with the surrounding community. With many middle-class, Americanized Catholics moving to the expanding suburbs, parishes in the city such as Sacred Heart grew more ethnically and racially diverse in the 1950s and 1960s with increasing numbers of Latino and African-American residents moving into once predominantly Irish, Eastern European, and Italian neighborhoods.

Urban renewal also impacted the parish. The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, founded in 1948 to combat “urban blight” in San Francisco, made the redevelopment of the overcrowded and neglected Western Addition a centerpiece of its work.<sup>57</sup> From the early 1950s through the early 1970s, agency

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<sup>53</sup> Mark Walker and Grace H. Ziesing, eds., *The San Francisco Central Freeway Replacement Project-Alternative 8B: Archaeological Research Design and Treatment Plan* (Rohnert Park, CA: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, May 2002.), 89.

<sup>54</sup> Father John Cullen, “Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church,” 1943, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>55</sup> Father John Cullen, “Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church,” 1945, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>56</sup> Father John Cullen, “Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church,” 1946, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>57</sup> Mark Walker and Grace H. Ziesing, eds., *The San Francisco Central Freeway Replacement Project-Alternative 8B: Archaeological Research Design and Treatment Plan* (Rohnert Park, CA: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, May 2002), 89.

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projects demolished much of the old Western Addition. The first project focused on a large area bounded by Turk, Gough, Fulton, and Laguna streets, three blocks north of Sacred Heart Church. This work coincided with major freeway construction in the city. By 1957, the Central Freeway and associated on and off ramps cut a swath through the eastern Western Addition, removing eleven blocks of urban landscape from the Sacred Heart Church parish territory.

The gutting of the Western Addition diminished parish life. In 1955, Father John C. Mills' (pastor 1953-1958) annual parish report noted a decrease in mass attendance due to the changing neighborhood demographics, primarily an increase in the non-Catholic, African-American population.<sup>58</sup> Father Mills also noted the general reduction of the local population with the construction of the Central Freeway.<sup>59</sup> At this time, the congregation contained approximately 1,700 people, including about 100 African American families.<sup>60</sup> Parish school attendance was similarly lower, down to 335 students.<sup>61</sup>

Redevelopment projects in the parish accelerated and membership continued to decline through the tenure of the next pastor, Father Charles O'Connor (pastor 1958-1968). Rows of Western Addition Victorians and commercial buildings in the heart of the African-American Fillmore District fell for high-rise and mid-rise market rate housing and the Japan Culture and Trade Center (Japan Center).<sup>62</sup>

New immigration policy and shifts in population did bring new members to the congregation, however. With more liberal immigration rules beginning in 1965, the face of the Catholic Church in San Francisco and the Western Addition changed once again. Mexicans, Central and South Americans, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Samoan, Tongan, Polish, and African Catholics joined formerly Irish, Italian, and German congregations throughout the city. At Sacred Heart, these changes added an influx of Filipino immigrants to the already-diverse Sacred Heart congregation, and the church prided itself on having accents ranging "from Limerick to Luzon."<sup>63</sup> The influx was not enough to increase overall numbers in the congregation, however, and in the mid- to late 1960s average weekly mass attendance was down to 860 worshippers.<sup>64</sup> Parish historical reports again credit the drop in attendance to the continued demolition of the Western Addition and influx of non-Catholic minority groups.<sup>65</sup>

By the mid-1960s, the Catholic Church in San Francisco faced difficult questions about how to address a deteriorating urban situation in some of its parishes, minister to new immigrant groups, and determine its role among the social and political upheavals of the decade.<sup>66</sup> Given its location in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the city and at ground zero for urban renewal, civil rights, and social justice issues, Sacred Heart was poised as an epicenter for the intersection of Catholic and secular social justice

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<sup>58</sup> Father John Mills, "Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church," 1955, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>59</sup> Sacred Heart Parish, *Sacred Heart Parish September 2, 1885-1985*, 14.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> "'Best Children in the City' - Sacred Heart Pastor Says."

<sup>62</sup> David Gebhard et al, *The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California* (Salt Lake City: Peregrine-Smith Books, 1985 ed.), 89-90.

<sup>63</sup> James Kelly, "At Fillmore and Fell, Serving the City's Crowded Heart," *Catholic Monitor*, May 20, 1960, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>64</sup> Father Charles O'Connor, "Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church," 1965, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco; Father Eugene Boyle, "Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church," 1966, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>65</sup> Father Charles O'Connor, "Parish Historical Report for Sacred Heart Church," 1964, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>66</sup> O'Dell, "On Stony Ground," 31-32.

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activity. It was at this time that Sacred Heart came under the leadership of its most well-known and sometimes controversial pastor, civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle (pastor 1968-1972). Father Boyle focused his ministry at Sacred Heart on the surrounding community, opening the church to groups aligned with a variety of leftist advocacy agendas. Father Boyle also converted the parish school into a community school, welcoming non-Catholic pupils (see context on Father Eugene Boyle and Social Activism at Sacred Heart, Section 8, pp. 20-30).

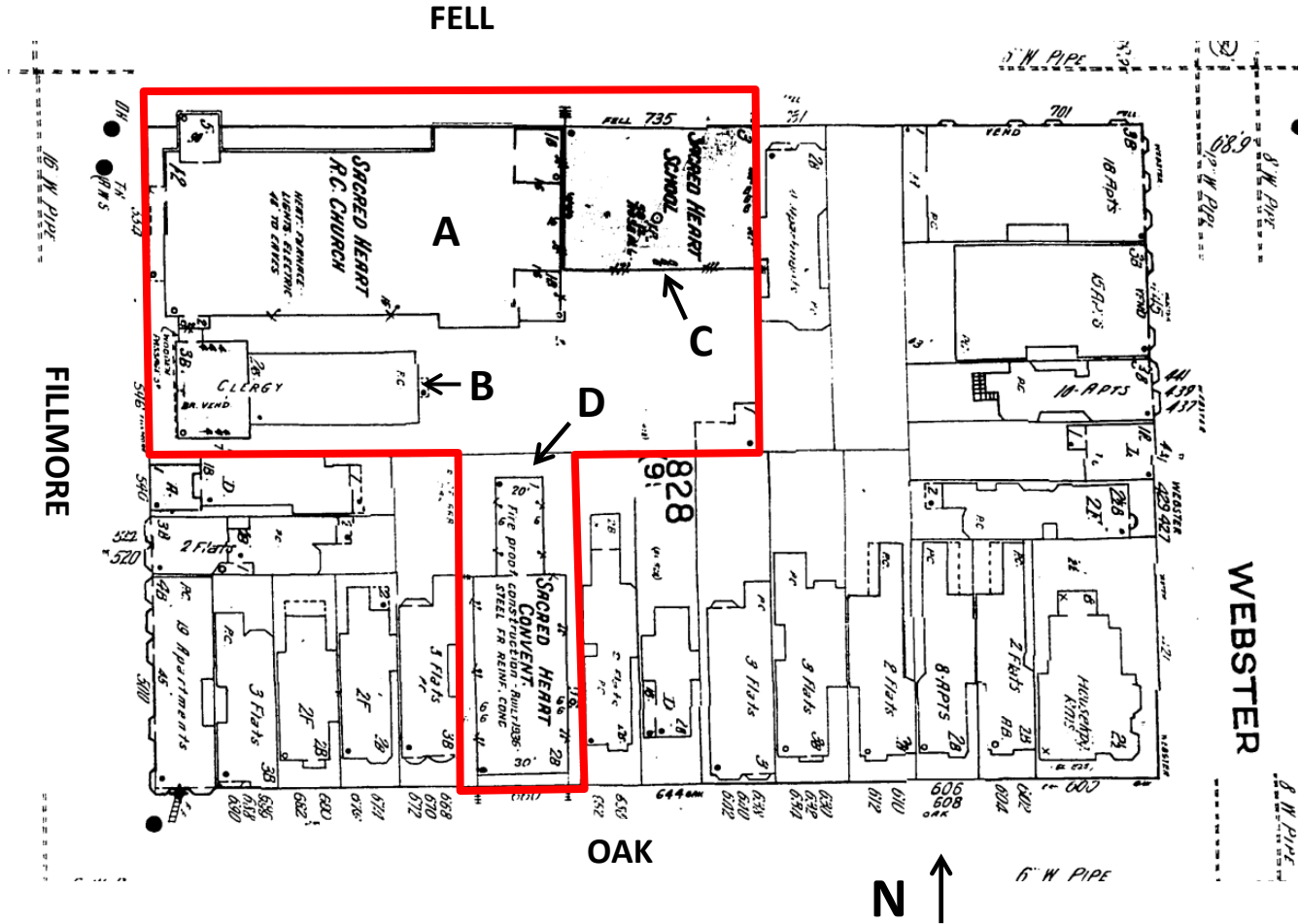


FIGURE 62. SANBORN MAP OF SACRED HEART WITH PROPERTY OUTLINED, 1950

- A – CHURCH (1898, 1909)
- B – RECTORY (1891, 1906)
- C – SCHOOL (1926)
- D – CONVENT (1936)

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This tradition of community-focused ministry continued beyond Father Boyle's departure as pastor in 1972, largely through the Sacred Heart School, the Dominican Sisters, and parish-based social service outreach. In 1978, Sister Mary Felipe, principal of the Sacred Heart School, transitioned into service as a dedicated parish social worker. She established the Community Service Project at the parish in 1979, which responded to students at the school who were hungry, malnourished, or poorly clothed. The Project also provided emergency food, shelter and counseling for Western Addition families.<sup>67</sup> One of the sisters' most ambitious projects was the Family School program, which operated as part of the Community Service Project. Initiated in 1985, the Family School served single-parent families living in the Western Addition regardless of faith, helping young, largely low-income residents further their education and career goals. The program operated out of the first floor of the Sacred Heart Convent on Oak Street and included on-site child care; basic and remedial math, reading, health, and life skills classes; and mental health and job counseling services.<sup>68</sup> The Family School and its partnerships with nearly a dozen social service and educational institutions epitomized the development of community-oriented social service and social justice work in the Sacred Heart Parish during the second half of the twentieth century. The church also operated or acted as a partner in social programs for seniors and substance abusers.

The threat of urban renewal and neighborhood change continued in the Western Addition in the later 1970s. Widespread opposition to the Redevelopment Agency's work led to lawsuits, and work on the next part of the program – an area bounded by Webster, Turk, Gough, and Fulton streets – went forward with more care. Nevertheless, most of this vast tract of Victorian-era housing was demolished and replaced with low-rise San Francisco Housing Authority housing projects in the early 1970s.<sup>69</sup> When all was said and done, Redevelopment Agency projects displaced more than 20,000 residents, shut down more than 800 businesses, and demolished approximately 2,500 Victorian-era buildings in the Western Addition.<sup>70</sup>

In 1985, Sacred Heart, then one of the more predominantly African-American parishes in the city, welcomed as pastor Father Kenneth Westray, Jr. (pastor 1985-2000), the first African-American priest to be ordained in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Adding to the diversity of the congregation, a Nigerian Igbo Catholic community joined the parish in the 1990s.

### SACRED HEART'S FINAL YEARS (1989-2005)

While the Sacred Heart Parish weathered the 1906 earthquake undamaged, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake caused some damage to the interior and exterior of the church. This damage, the prospect of an expensive seismic retrofit, and weekly mass attendance below 500 people put the parish on the

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<sup>67</sup> Sister Mary Felipe, OP, "Proposal for the Family School, The Community Service Project," February 1985, 17, Archive of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., 1-3.

<sup>69</sup> David Gebhard et al, *The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California* (Salt Lake City: Peregrine-Smith Books, 1985 ed.), 89-90.

<sup>70</sup> Peter Booth Wiley, *National Trust Guide-- San Francisco: America's Guide for Architecture and History Travelers* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000), 291; Rubin, Danielle, "Moving Victorians in the Fillmore," n.d., [http://foundsf.org/index.php?title=Moving\\_Victorians\\_in\\_the\\_Fillmore](http://foundsf.org/index.php?title=Moving_Victorians_in_the_Fillmore) Note that the total number of buildings from all periods demolished in the A-1 and A-2 redevelopment areas numbered in the thousands.

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Archdiocese's potential closure list beginning in 1993. Later archdiocese plans called for retention of the parish school, but demolition of the existing church in favor of a new, smaller church building. These potential plans led to efforts to landmark the Sacred Heart church. State legislators led by Assembly speaker Willie Brown stymied efforts with legislation banning designation of religious structures as historic landmarks without owner consent. By 2001, the Archdiocese indicated it was considering closing the predominantly African-American Sacred Heart School due to low enrollment - 107 students (primarily non-Catholic) in kindergarten through eighth grade.<sup>71</sup> The Archdiocese combined the school with nearby St. Dominic's School in 2003.

In 2004, the Archdiocese of San Francisco announced that it would close the Sacred Heart Church due to the high cost of earthquake repairs and retrofitting for the masonry building and a dwindling congregation. The church closed at the end of the year and most former parishioners joined St. Boniface Catholic Church in the Tenderloin.

In 2005, lawyer and winemaker Fred Furth purchased the Sacred Heart Complex. Furth was a patron of the combined St. Dominic's and Sacred Heart Schools, and established the Megan Furth Academy, an independent Catholic school at the site.<sup>72</sup> In 2011, the Megan Furth Academy merged with the Mission Dolores Academy, another independent Catholic school in San Francisco; the combined academy sold its interest in all former parish buildings in 2012. The academy sold the school building to Noe Vista LLC, which currently leases the building to La Scuola Internazionale di San Francisco, a kindergarten through eighth-grade Italian immersion school. Noe Vista LLC also purchased the rectory and convent buildings in 2012. The LLC leases both buildings to The Blue Studio LLC. 251 Waller, LLC purchased the church building in 2012 and held it for two years before selling it to the present owner, 554 Fillmore St. LLC. A recreational roller skating organization, the Church of Eight Wheels, currently leases the church building.

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<sup>71</sup> See Don Lattin, "Archdiocese Considers Closing S.F. Churches," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, August 4, 1993; Don Lattin, "13 Catholic Parishes to Close - S.F. Archdiocese Cites Repairs, Poor Attendance," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, November 15, 1993; Lattin, Don, "Angry Calls Over Plans to Close 13 S.F. Churches," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, November 16, 1993; Robert Gunnison, B., "Church Preservation Rejected by Senate - Law Limiting Landmark Designation Extended," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, June 30, 1994; Ken Garcia, "Sacred Heart School Gets Dollar Sign From Above," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, February 22, 2001.

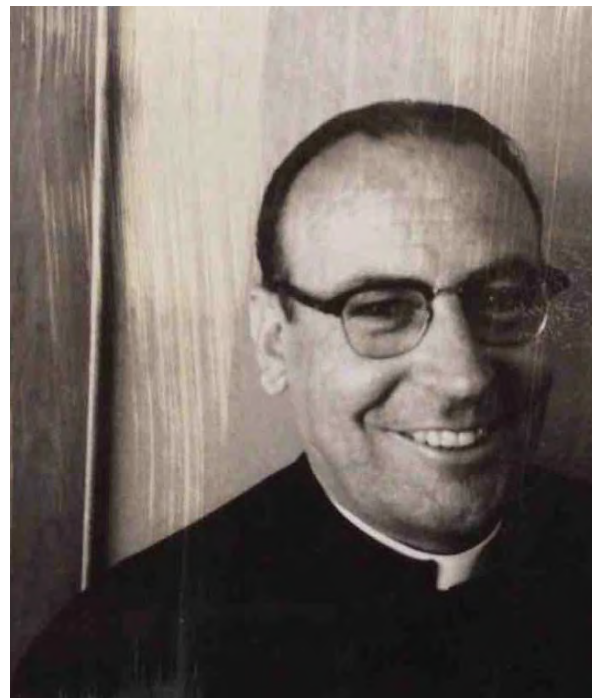
<sup>72</sup> Carolyn Jones, "SAN FRANCISCO - Sacred Heart's Salvation - Lawyer Fred Furth Pays \$5 Million for Catholic Church," *San Francisco Chronicle (CA)*, July 28, 2005.

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## FATHER EUGENE BOYLE (1921-2016) AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM AT SACRED HEART, 1968-1972

Father Eugene Boyle presided over one of the most active, influential, and controversial periods of parish ministry and community involvement at Sacred Heart (Figure 63). Boyle was a prominent and influential civil rights activist in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and in northern California during the 1960s and 1970s. Locally, he exemplified the new clerical activism that emerged in the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council urged clergy and laity to be more active in the secular world.<sup>73</sup> Historian Jeffrey Burns has categorized this period as a transition for Catholics out of the insularity of the “Catholic ghetto” and into the “real ghetto” of America’s underprivileged and disenfranchised communities.<sup>74</sup> In his own words, Boyle sought to relocate the Catholic Church in San Francisco, putting it “at the center of broken reality, in the messy mainstream of man’s alienated history.”<sup>75</sup> In these efforts, Father Boyle organized and served as the public face for Catholic involvement in the Black civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, urban renewal, fair housing, and the farm worker labor movement in San Francisco. Boyle was pastor at Sacred Heart from 1968-1972, and while at Sacred Heart he made the church a center of activism in the turbulent Western Addition and greater San Francisco. Boyle threw open the doors of the church to secular activist groups ranging from Vietnam Veterans against the War to the Black Panthers during a tense and transformative period in the social and racial landscape of the city.



**FIGURE 63. FATHER EUGENE BOYLE. SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO. (UNDATED, CA. 1950)**

Father Boyle’s activism within the Catholic Church and at Sacred Heart Parish built on, but also stood out from typical Catholic stances on civic issues. Historically, the Catholic Church in San Francisco had primarily engaged in public activism related to issues of religious freedom and tolerance. Over the course of the early twentieth century, however, clerical and lay groups within the Archdiocese increasingly engaged in politically-based social justice activism. This kind of activism was uncomfortable territory for many Catholics, and even after the Second Vatican Council encouraged Catholics to go “out into the world” and serve, church leaders remained divided on the role of the church in political matters. Catholic social justice activism, and activism of all kinds, also occurred against the backdrop of a socially and politically conservative city. By the mid-twentieth century, San Francisco had left its libertine Gold Rush days behind it and had yet to emerge as the counter-culture capital of the U.S. The Catholic

<sup>73</sup>Jeffrey M. Burns, “Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism,” *U.S. Catholic Historian* 13, no. 3 (July 1, 1995): 140.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, 138.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 158.

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Church in San Francisco wove in and out of social and political camps as their doctrines and policies dictated, resulting in public activities that mixed liberalism on issues such as labor with conservatism on other issues such as women's rights. Boyle's ebullient liberalism and commitment to community activism marked the leading edge of Catholic involvement in the social justice issues of the mid twentieth century.

### EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS AND FAIR HOUSING ACTIVISM (1958-1968)

Father Boyle's early career as a Catholic priest was typical for the era. He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and was ordained in 1946. After ordination he worked as an associate pastor in various parishes in the archdiocese. In 1956, Boyle was appointed to the Archdiocesan Mission Band and began preaching and offering adult education to Catholic parishes in California, Arizona, and Nevada. This marked the beginning of a career in public-centered ministry and education for Boyle, who later directed the Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park; taught at St. Patrick's Seminary, St. Patrick's College, and the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley; and served as the Director of Peace and Justice for the National Federation of Priest Council.

Boyle's profile as a public intellectual began in 1958 with his local radio program, *Underscore: Catholic Views in Review* on KCBS. The program covered issues related to religion and modern life, including social justice. Partially through this program, Father Boyle emerged as a leading Catholic voice in the civil rights movement. At the time, the Archdiocese of San Francisco was struggling with the matter of civil rights, which it had paid only minimal attention to before World War II. As the city's diversity and racial tensions increased during and after the war, representatives from religious, labor, business, and government groups formed a local Council for Civic Unity (1944-1964). The council worked with local African American, Asian American and Latino community groups on issues of racial equality in housing, education, and employment. The Catholic Church was active in the council, but strained over how to translate their moral stance against racial discrimination into a political position. Many Catholics viewed the civil rights movement as separate from their mission and latent discriminatory attitudes among conservative sectors of the clergy and Catholic laity further complicated the Church's involvement.<sup>76</sup>

The Catholic Church's involvement in civil rights issues began in small steps, led largely by laity and individual clergy like Eugene Boyle. In 1960, local church lay leaders founded the San Francisco branch of the Catholic Interracial Council (CIC), a national organization of black and white Catholics focused on working against racial discrimination. The CIC had a secular as well as religious focus; they challenged Catholic attitudes on race and fought against discriminatory practices outside the Church.<sup>77</sup> Father Boyle began serving as chaplain to the CIC chapter in 1962.<sup>78</sup> During Father Boyle's tenure as CIC chaplain, the group's activities included a "Human Rights Day" march to San Francisco City Hall in 1963 in response to

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<sup>76</sup> Clay Mansfield O'Dell, "Catholics and Civil Rights," in *Catholic San Francisco: Sesquicentennial Essays*, ed. Jeffrey M. Burns (Menlo Park, Calif: Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, 2005), 204–205.

<sup>77</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 15 Terry Francois, an African-American Catholic from St. Anne of the Sunset was pivotal in establishing the local CIC chapter. Francois, an attorney, was president of the local chapter of the NAACP and a member of the San Francisco Commission on Equal Opportunity Employment. He was later elected the first black Supervisor of San Francisco in 1964.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.



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the bombing of Martin Luther King Jr.'s hotel and police brutality against civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama.<sup>79</sup>

The CIC was also active in more controversial work like advocating for open housing policies in the city and fighting Proposition 14, an effort to repeal the California's fair housing law (Figure 64).<sup>80</sup> The fair housing issue divided San Francisco Catholics. Opponents of the repeal charged supporters with errors of conscience, and proponents hurled accusations of communist leanings. Archbishop Joseph McGucken eventually issued a statement two weeks before the election, calling unequal access to decent housing based on race "an insult to human dignity."<sup>81</sup> But San Francisco voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 14. The repeal effort exemplifies the tensions among San Francisco Catholics, and by extension to the overwhelmingly Catholic city at large, during the civil rights era.



**FIGURE 64. CIC MARCHERS PROTESTING PROPOSITION 14 IN SAN FRANCISCO, 1964. SOURCE: O'DELL, "CATHOLICS AND CIVIL RIGHTS," IN BURNS, CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO**

In response to the defeat of fair housing laws, Father Eugene Boyle and other CIC members urged the Archdiocese to establish the Social Justice Commission in 1964 to try to address Catholic divisions on

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.; O'Dell, "Catholics and Civil Rights," 207.

<sup>80</sup> O'Dell, "Catholics and Civil Rights," 206; O'Dell, "On Stony Ground," 81.

<sup>81</sup> O'Dell, "Catholics and Civil Rights," 209; Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 144. The California Supreme Court declared Proposition 14 unconstitutional in 1966 and the US Supreme Court upheld the decision in 1967.

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such issues.<sup>82</sup> The Archbishop appointed Father Boyle chair of the Social Justice Commission upon its founding. During his time as chair, Boyle responded to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call for support during the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and marched with Cesar Chavez and the National Farm Workers Association from Delano to Sacramento.<sup>83</sup> As a founder and chair of the Social Justice Commission, Father Boyle became the defacto Archdiocese spokesperson on issues of social justice and one of San Francisco's leading liberal Catholic thinkers and activists.<sup>84</sup>

Boyle's activism was not limited to the Catholic parishes and seminaries where he spoke and taught, however. In 1967, one year before becoming pastor at Sacred Heart, Boyle began teaching a seminar on social concerns at St. Patrick's College in Mountain View. In his first seminar, Boyle and his students compiled a 600-page study on the status of race relations in San Francisco, called "San Francisco: A City in Crisis." Known as the "Little Kerner Report," in reference to the national race relations study of the same name, the document condemned widespread racism in San Francisco and warned of social unrest if conditions remained unchanged.<sup>85</sup> The San Francisco Coalition on Race, Religion and Social Concerns published the report, and public response was polarized. Then San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto excoriated the report and its authors as being out of touch with the facts. The controversy played out in the local media for weeks.<sup>86</sup> Father Boyle continued teaching the seminar after arriving at Sacred Heart, holding class meetings in Sacred Heart rectory.<sup>87</sup>

Boyle was also active in a variety of secular social justice organizations. In the later 1960s, Boyle served on the board of directors for the Council for Civic Unity of San Francisco and the Bay Area Urban League. He was also an organizer, mediator, and advocate for the UFW beginning in 1964 and served on the Public Review Board for the UFW and the AFL-CIO beginning in 1973.<sup>88</sup> Boyle continued his work in conscience-driven, secular social justice activism during his time as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, using the urban complex as a hub for civil rights, labor, and anti-war activism in the city.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM AT SACRED HEART (1968-1972)

Father Boyle arrived at Sacred Heart Church in 1968, coming into a parish that as he described it was, "if not in the heart of, it certainly was in the depth of the Black ghetto of the Fillmore District."<sup>89</sup> Taking stock, Boyle noted the poor condition of much of the local housing stock, the fact that fifty percent of the families in the parish were single-parent households, and that the Catholic population of the parish was quite small.<sup>90</sup> He also noted that Sacred Heart, "like many other inner-city parishes ... was not really

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<sup>82</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 15; O'Dell, "Catholics and Civil Rights," 209.

<sup>83</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 16; Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 145.

<sup>84</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 15.

<sup>85</sup> The 1968 "Kerner Report" was the product of President Lyndon Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder, directed by former Illinois Governor Otto Kerner. The report attributed the string of urban riots between 1964 and 1967 in the US to white racial prejudice and warned of the dangers of a racially divided society.

<sup>86</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 16; Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 145-147.

<sup>87</sup> Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 154.

<sup>88</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, "Curriculum Vitae: Father Eugene Boyle," 1985, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>89</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, interview by Jeffrey M. Burns, July 21, 1987, 1, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.

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confronting or serving the situation of the minorities who had come in.”<sup>91</sup> Father Boyle’s arrival that year coincided with the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the height of the Vietnam War. As a priest focused on civil rights issues, Boyle took the struggling parish with a dwindling Catholic population in new directions. The pastoral mission of the church focused not just on spiritual guidance for its parishioners but institutional change for all residents of the parish.<sup>92</sup>

Boyle established a team ministry at the church, consisting of himself, assistant pastors James Kennedy and John Petroni, and Sister Margaret Cafferty, PBVM.<sup>93</sup> Women religious like Sister Margaret (1935-1997) played a significant role in carrying on the community-oriented and socially informed ministry and outreach work at the parish. Sister Margaret’s work as a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was typical of the more direct, ministerial roles women religious were taking in the late 1960s. A San Francisco native, Sister Margaret grew up the daughter of a former coal miner and thus had a strong interest in labor activism and social justice. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation order in 1953. At Sacred Heart, her work included civil rights activism with the local African-American community and labor activism with the United Farm Workers. She also earned a master’s degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley while working at the parish.<sup>94</sup> The Dominican Sisters at Sacred Heart were also active participants in the parish’s work through their roles at the Sacred Heart School.

THE BLACK PANTHERS

The parish commitment to secular institutional change and neighborhood service led to unusual and often controversial partnerships. In 1969, the Black Panther Party approached Sacred Heart about using space on the property for their Breakfast Program for Children, one of the party’s ten points for community development.<sup>95</sup> The Panthers had approached most of the churches in the area, and according to Father Boyle, “finally came to us on a lark.”<sup>96</sup> The parish decided to open their basement parish hall and kitchen to the program, which began on March 10, 1969. Boyle and his pastoral team justified their welcoming of the Black Panthers with the real community need the program served and a belief that the media had misrepresented the Panthers as violent thugs. During this time, Boyle worked directly with Panther leadership, including Bobby



<sup>91</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>93</sup> Burns, “Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism.”

<sup>94</sup> After leaving the parish in the early 1970s, Sister Margaret worked with and advocated for better conditions for employees in Catholic religious institutions. She served as executive director of the Catholic Conference on Urban Ministry at Notre Dame parish outreach at Catholic Charities of San Francisco. Sister Margaret also served on the Leadership Conference of Women Religious from 1992 until just before her death. *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 28, 1997, <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article>

<sup>95</sup> Kenny Freeman and Roy Ballard organized the San Francisco branch of the Black Panther Party of Northern California in 1967. See UC Berkeley Library and Archives, “A Black Panther Chronology,” 2011, <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/pacific>

<sup>96</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 2

FIGURE 65. SACRED HEART SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOWING SUPPORT FOR BLACK PANTHER HUET NEWTON, CIRCA 1968. SOURCE: BURNS, HISTORY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

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Seal and Cathy Cleaver, wife of Eldridge Cleaver.<sup>97</sup> Sacred Heart was one of about a dozen churches hosting the Black Panther Breakfast Program in the Bay Area, signing up shortly after the first church, St. Augustine's (Episcopal) in Oakland opened its doors in January 1969. The Sacred Heart location served between 75 and 100 local children per day, many of whom were students at the then-predominantly African-American Sacred Heart School.<sup>98</sup>

These were tense times in the Fillmore District and for race relations in the city at large. Later that year, the San Francisco Police Department raided the Black Panther Party headquarters on Fillmore Street after a member allegedly pointed a gun at police. The presence of the Panthers at Sacred Heart quickly attracted the attention of the San Francisco Police Department and the FBI. The most controversial moment in the relationship came in 1969 when San Francisco Police Department personnel stated before the McClellan U.S. Senate Committee on Investigations that Father Boyle was allowing the Black Panthers to distribute coloring books depicting the police as pigs, Panthers killing police officers, and featuring the slogan, "The only good pig is a dead pig." The Panthers had commissioned and printed a small number of the coloring books, but the organization never distributed them. It was later proved that the FBI planted the coloring books in the Sacred Heart church basement as part of the agency's counterintelligence program against the Panthers.<sup>99</sup>

Though Boyle spoke out publicly on television and in newspapers to explain the situation, the incident eroded liberal support for the program at Sacred Heart, which at this time survived largely on donations from outside the parish.<sup>100</sup> The program continued after the incident, and closed at an unknown date.

The focus on civil rights activism at Sacred Heart impacted the students at Sacred Heart School, many of whom became socially engaged in the movement. A group of Sacred Heart students marched to the Federal Building to protest the jailing of Huey Newton in the late 1960s (Figure 65).<sup>101</sup> Speaking years later, Boyle stood by his decision to welcome the Panthers to Sacred Heart, stating, "... we felt that the way to truly force a group to become even more violent is to isolate them in a community, and we felt, at least we were making an outreach to them and at least trying with them in some way."<sup>102</sup>

#### VIETNAM WAR ACTIVISM

Boyle tread more carefully in his activism over the Vietnam War. The Catholic Church in San Francisco, like the nation, was mixed in its stance on the Vietnam War. At the outset of the war in the 1950s the church was consistently supportive of US efforts to root out communism in Southeast Asia. Boyle noted in a 1987 oral history interview that directly speaking out against the government or advocating for peace carried the specter of communism for many Catholics. By the 1960s, however, public sentiments on the war were changing in the Catholic community. In 1968, the diocese saw anti-war activities

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<sup>97</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>98</sup> "Father Boyle Discusses Free Breakfast Program," *KPIX Eyewitness News* (KPIX, June 25, 1969), San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive, <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/206988>.

<sup>99</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 16; Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 153–154 According to Burns, Senator Frank Church's Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities revealed in 1975 that the FBI's Covert Action Program to Destroy the Black Panther Party included planting the offensive coloring books in the Sacred Heart church basement.

<sup>100</sup> Burns, "Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism," 153.

<sup>101</sup> Garcia, "Sacred Heart School Gets Dollar Sign From Above."

<sup>102</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 21, 1987, 6.

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ranging from “Bingo for Berrigan,” to raise money for activist priests and brothers Daniel and Philip Berrigan’s legal defense, to a small flotilla of boats manned by younger priests attempting to stop Navy vessels from departing San Francisco Bay.<sup>103</sup> Near the end of Boyle’s tenure at Sacred Heart in 1972, the Archdiocesan Commission on Social Justice issued a resolution asking Congress to stop funding the war and later called for the resignation of Richard Nixon because of his wartime actions.<sup>104</sup>

These growing antiwar actions among Catholics coincided with Father Boyle’s ministry at Sacred Heart, and he was supportive of war protest groups. Father Boyle was active himself with the National Federation of Priests Council in organizing efforts against the war.<sup>105</sup> At Sacred Heart, he started a group for Vietnam Veterans against the War, opened Sacred Heart for their meetings, and gave them office space in the building.<sup>106</sup> A group of conscientious objectors also met on site. Sacred Heart served as a site for student group meetings during the late 1960s when groups such as the Black Student Union, Students for a Democratic Society, and Third World Liberation Front led controversial protests at San Francisco State University.<sup>107</sup> Boyle noted that “Sacred Heart became kind of a keystone place,” for discussions about the war.<sup>108</sup>

#### FARM LABOR ACTIVISM

Father Boyle also made Sacred Heart a center for farm labor activism in the late 1960s. Labor activism was more familiar territory with the Catholic Church than civil rights or antiwar efforts. For much of the twentieth century, Catholic support of the labor movement was a San Francisco tradition.<sup>109</sup> The city had a significant working class, immigrant population many of whom were also Catholic, and the Church in San Francisco and in Rome were outspoken in supporting workers’ rights to fair compensation and working conditions.<sup>110</sup> The Church drew a firm line between itself and more left-wing labor activists with communist or socialist ideals; nonetheless, representatives of the Catholic Church were involved in nearly every major labor dispute in San Francisco from 1901 through the 1970s.<sup>111,112</sup>

The San Francisco Archdiocese was particularly active with rural labor issues in California. In 1950, four recently ordained priests – Fathers Ralph Duggan, Donald McDonnell, Thomas McCullough, John Garcia, and later Ronald Burke - founded the Spanish Mission Band and went into the fields to minister to workers coming into California under the bracero program.<sup>113</sup> As they experienced the terrible living and

<sup>103</sup> Daniel and Philip Berrigan organized the 1968 “Cantonsville Nine” protest, in they led a group into the Selective Service registration site at the Cantonsville, Maryland Knights of Columbus Hall and seized and burned draft board records. See O’Dell, “On Stony Ground,” 148.

<sup>104</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 19–20.

<sup>105</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, interview by Jeffrey M. Burns, July 30, 1987, 6, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

<sup>106</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 21, 1987, 11.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, 8.

<sup>108</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 30, 1987, 7.

<sup>109</sup> Burns, “Eugene Boyle, the Black Panther Party and the New Clerical Activism,” 145.

<sup>110</sup> William Issel, “The Catholic Church and Labor from the 1890s to the 1950s,” in *Catholic San Francisco: Sesquicentennial Essays*, ed. Jeffrey M. Burns (Menlo Park, Calif: Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, 2005), 212.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, 213. Pope Pius XI condemned communism in his 1937 encyclical, *Divini Redemptoris*, and codified a course of negotiation and compromise between labor and capital and a rejection of radical unionism.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, 218. The Catholic Church in San Francisco was active in the 1901 teamster and waterfront workers’ strike, the 1934 General Strike, opposition to the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, and opposition to the 1958 California Proposition 18, which limited the powers of labor unions in the state.

<sup>113</sup> Burns, *San Francisco*, 17.

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working conditions for migrant workers firsthand, the Mission Band became increasingly involved in social justice issues for workers, including unionization. In the course of their efforts, the Mission Band priests met and encouraged Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, co-founders of the National Farm Workers Association (NFA, later UFW), in their organizing efforts.<sup>114</sup>

Official Catholic support for the farm labor movement grew over the course of the early 1960s. The San Francisco Archdiocesan Social Justice Commission and Catholic Interracial Council supported the NFA and Filipino-led Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in their 1965 strike against California grape growers. Seven members of the commission, including future Sacred Heart pastor Father Eugene Boyle, marched with Chavez from Delano to Sacramento in 1966. The Archdiocese also committed funding to the NFA through the Commission shortly after its founding in 1964.<sup>115</sup>

Father Boyle had been active with the NFA movement since 1964, and accompanied Cesar Chavez on the NFA march from Delano to Sacramento in 1966 to draw attention to the plight of farmworkers. In the early months of the NFA's efforts to get fair contracts with California grape growers, Boyle helped mediate the first ever contract between the union and a grower, Perelli-Minetti of Delano.<sup>116</sup>



**FIGURE 66. FATHER EUGENE BOYLE (CENTER) MARCHING AT A GRAPE BOYCOTT VIGIL IN 1969, LOCATION UNKNOWN. SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

<sup>114</sup> Ibid., 17–18; U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, “Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment” (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, March 2012), Appendix F: Historical Context, Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement, 232, 233., <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=55866> Father Donald McDonnell became a close confidant and friend of Chavez, advising him on the social justice teachings of Christ and the Church's stance on labor.

<sup>115</sup> O'Dell, “On Stony Ground,” 155.

<sup>116</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, interview by Jeffrey M. Burns, July 14, 1987, 8, Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

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**FIGURE 67. FATHER EUGENE BOYLE AT SACRED HEART MASS FOR UFW LETTUCE BOYCOTT, SEPTEMBER 21, 1970.  
SOURCE: ARCHIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Boyle and Chavez became close friends and confidants during this period and Boyle was “instrumental in orchestrating Catholic support in the Bay Area” for the farmworker labor movement (Figure 66).<sup>117</sup> Some of this work occurred at Sacred Heart, a parish with strong Filipino and Latino representation in its congregation. With the successful end of the NFA’s national grape strike in the summer of 1970, the farm labor movement turned its attention to lettuce, one of the most historically contentious crops in California in terms of labor relations. In response to the grape strike, lettuce growers in the Salinas Valley preemptively signed contracts with the Teamsters’ Union as defacto representatives of agricultural workers. As the contract process included no input or representation from workers, and failed to address almost all of the UFW demands, the UFW called for a national lettuce boycott. The 1970 UFW “Salad Bowl” boycott in the Bay Area began at Sacred Heart Parish. Three days after the boycott announcement on September 17, about 500 agricultural workers came to the Bay Area to begin spreading the word about the effort. They met at Sacred Heart, and launched the effort with a Catholic mass, a stirring sermon from Father Boyle, a press conference, and a march (Figure 67). The boycott effort also had their first local headquarters at Sacred Heart.<sup>118</sup> Boyle continued marching and protesting with the UFW through the early 1970s. In these efforts, Boyle was often more strident than the

<sup>117</sup> Ibid., 7; Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 18.

<sup>118</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 14, 1987, 9. The lettuce boycott was resolved in March 1971 when the Teamsters gave up their contracts with growers. For video footage of the boycott mass and demonstrations at Sacred Heart, see “Catholic Mass for UFW,” *KQED News* (KQED, September 21, 1970), San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive, <https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/189809>.

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Archdiocese as a whole, which supported the workers' rights to organize, but encouraged cooperation versus conflict.<sup>119</sup>

FIGHTING URBAN RENEWAL IN THE WESTERN ADDITION

Father Boyle was also pastor at Sacred Heart in the middle of urban renewal efforts in the Western Addition. As pastor, he was active in the Western Addition Community Organization, which fought urban renewal in the district and served on the Mayor's Relocation Appeals Board and the Western Addition Project Area Committee. He also instituted a variety of youth programs at the parish, including a summer recreation program and transformed the parochial school into a community school open to all students.

AFTER SACRED HEART: LABOR, POLITICS, AND GAY RIGHTS (1972-1985)

Boyle left Sacred Heart Parish in 1972 and continued his career in social justice activism. Boyle was instrumental in getting the AFL-CIO to come out in support of the farm workers, lobbying Monsignor George Higgins, Director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare League to act on behalf of the UFW with the AFL/CIO. He also worked to establish the Agricultural Labor Relations Board in 1975, which then mediated disputes between agricultural workers and growers.<sup>120</sup> Boyle ran unsuccessfully for the State Assembly in 1974 (Figure 68), served as Newman Club chaplain at Stanford University (1975-1981), and directed the offices of Interreligious and Public Affairs and Ecumenical and Interracial Affairs for the Archdiocese of San Jose (1981-1985). Boyle became active with Dignity USA, an organization for GLBT Roman Catholics founded in 1969 in San Diego, and its San Francisco area chapter founded in 1972.<sup>121</sup> In 2000, Pope John Paul II named Father Boyle a Prelate of Honor, carrying the title of Monsignor. Monsignor Boyle retired from active ministry in 1996 and passed away in May 2016.

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<sup>119</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 14, 1987, 8; Burns, *San Francisco*, Volume 3, 18.

<sup>120</sup> Father Eugene Boyle, Oral History Interview: Father Eugene Boyle, July 14, 1987, 8.

<sup>121</sup> ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California, "Dignity/USA Records Collection Details," *Online Archive of California*, n.d., <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt638nd4bn/admin/>.



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FIGURE 68. POSTER FROM FATHER BOYLE'S 1974 STATE ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN FEATURING BOYLE AND CESAR CHAVEZ. SOURCE: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

## ROMANESQUE REVIVAL RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE IN SAN FRANCISCO<sup>122</sup>

The component buildings of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex are significant for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. In San Francisco, the Romanesque Revival style was widely popular for religious and civic buildings and one of the most common styles for Catholic church buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As is common in Catholic parish groupings, the Sacred Heart church building has the most developed Romanesque Revival architectural scheme, marking a higher level of artistic investment in the holy site of worship. Architect Thomas Welsh looked to northern Italian examples of Romanesque architecture for much of the form and

<sup>122</sup> This consideration of the history and significance of Romanesque Revival architecture in the US and San Francisco is adapted and expanded from the National Register nomination for Sacred Heart Church prepared by Kelly & VerPlanck in 2009.

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detailing at Sacred Heart, adopting the corbelled or “Lombardy” bands, divided façade, and classical elements common to the regional Romanesque style. The church has a characteristic Roman basilica plan with a gable roof; long, narrow nave; short vestibule; and a side tower. The ornamentation scheme is also typically Romanesque, consisting of smooth masonry wall surfaces, classical elements articulated in low relief, molded beltcourses dividing elevations into horizontal bands, signature arched or pedimented window openings, and arcaded corbel tables below the eaves. The Sacred Heart Church stands out as the most fully developed example of Italian-influenced Romanesque Revival liturgical architecture in San Francisco.

The rectory, school, and convent have more modest Romanesque Revival architectural detailing, incorporating elements of period secular forms like Roman palazzi to signal their integration within the complex and supportive roles in the work of the parish. The adjacent rectory continues Welsh’s Romanesque scheme on the added third story (1906), where round arch windows combine with the heavy brackets of the Renaissance Italian villa and classical pilasters. John J. Foley’s 1936 convent references the church and rectory with arched window and door openings and roofline corbeling. His 1926 school is more eclectic in its styling, combining Romanesque Revival features such as round arched windows, an arched entrance, and rusticated basement and first story, with more freely interpreted classical ornament.

The choice of Romanesque Revival style for the Sacred Heart Parish Complex buildings reflects the close symbolic ties between the style and ideals of religious life. The Romanesque Revival originated in the 1820s in Munich, Germany, and as its name implies, drew inspiration from the pre-Gothic, Romanesque religious architecture of western Europe.<sup>123</sup> The nineteenth-century revival of the Romanesque style was popular among political, religious, and education leaders and reformers for association with the faith, scholarship, and unified community of the early Christian church. Strong ties between American and German educational, cultural, and religious institutions brought Romanesque Revival architecture to the US by the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>124</sup> In the Catholic realm, Ludwig I, the former king of Bavaria, paid for the construction of dozens of Benedictine monasteries and churches in the U.S. during the early 1850s, most in the Romanesque Revival style.<sup>125</sup> Protestant faiths also embraced Romanesque Revival architecture, and early examples like Richard Upjohn’s Bowdoin College Chapel in Maine (1844-1845) and St. George’s Episcopal Church in New York (1846-1849) were often associated with reformist theological agendas.<sup>126</sup>

Romanesque Revival style proliferated in San Francisco in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Notable early extant examples in San Francisco include Chicago architects Burnham & Root’s Chronicle Building at Kearny, Market, and Geary streets (1889) and Mills Building at Montgomery and Bush streets (1891). Examples by local San Francisco architects include George W. Percy and Frederick F. Hamilton’s Sharon Building in Golden Gate Park (1888). Early public buildings also adopted the Romanesque Revival style,

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<sup>123</sup> Bruce Alsopp, *Romanesque Architecture* (New York: The John Day Company, 1971), 10.

<sup>124</sup> Kathleen Curran, *The Romanesque Revival: Religion, Politics, and Transnational Exchange*, [Buildings, Landscapes, and Societies Series 2] (University Park, Pa: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003), 225, xxiv. Several of the earliest libraries in the U.S., such as the Astor Library in New York (now the New York Public Library, 1849-1854) and the first Boston Public Library (1855-58) had strong Romanesque influences.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, 260.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, 262.

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notably Thomas Welsh's San Francisco Girl's High School (1890s, destroyed 1906); and the San Francisco Supreme Court Building (ca. 1890, destroyed 1906).

In San Francisco, however, as in much of the country, Romanesque Revival proved most popular for churches, and the style was the preferred choice for Catholic churches in San Francisco in the late nineteenth century.<sup>127</sup> The first Church of the Holy Cross (1899, Figure 69), the first St. Agnes Church (1894, Figure 70), St. Cecilia's Church (1956, Figure 71), and Star of the Sea Church (1918, Figure 72) all in the western part of the city, were distinctly Romanesque in their form and design. Archdiocese architect Thomas Welsh was responsible for executing several early examples. His second St. Mary's Cathedral (1889, burned 1962) on Van Ness Avenue had many of the hallmarks of Romanesque architecture, including some Gothicized elements. San Franciscans often described the style of the building as "Chicago Gothic," associating it with both the Romanesque Revival architecture of that city and then-Archbishop Patrick Riordan's Chicago roots.<sup>128</sup> Other examples in the Romanesque mode include Shea & Shea's St. Brigid Church at 2151 Van Ness Avenue (1900, NR listed) and St. Paul's Church at 1660 Church Street (1901). Like Sacred Heart, these churches were built for San Francisco's large Irish and Irish-American Catholic parishes. Another Romanesque Revival-style church is St. Joseph's Church at 1401 Howard Street (1914, San Francisco Landmark #120), designed by John J. Foley, the architect for the Sacred Heart school and convent. In terms of stylistic development, the most comparable example to Sacred Heart, and one of the best examples of the style in San Francisco, is St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 1111 O'Farrell Street (1895, San Francisco Landmark #40). Designed by the San Francisco-based architect Henry Geilfuss, the church takes its cue from early German Romanesque churches. Similar in size to Sacred Heart, both were built in the fast-growing Western addition in the 1890s.<sup>129</sup>



**FIGURE 69. CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS (BUILT 1899); NEAR DIVISADERO AND EDDY STREETS AFTER 1906 EARTHQUAKE. SOURCE: DELGOYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

<sup>127</sup> Randolph Delehanty and Richard Sexton, *In the Victorian Style* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2006), 173.

<sup>128</sup> O'Dell, "On Stony Ground," 130.

<sup>129</sup> Protestant examples of Romanesque Revival religious architecture include one of the earliest expressions in the city, First Unitarian Church at 1187 Franklin Street (1889), designed by Percy & Hamilton. Trinity Presbyterian Church at 3261 23rd Street (Percy & Hamilton, 1892) in the Mission District is a more traditional Romanesque Revival

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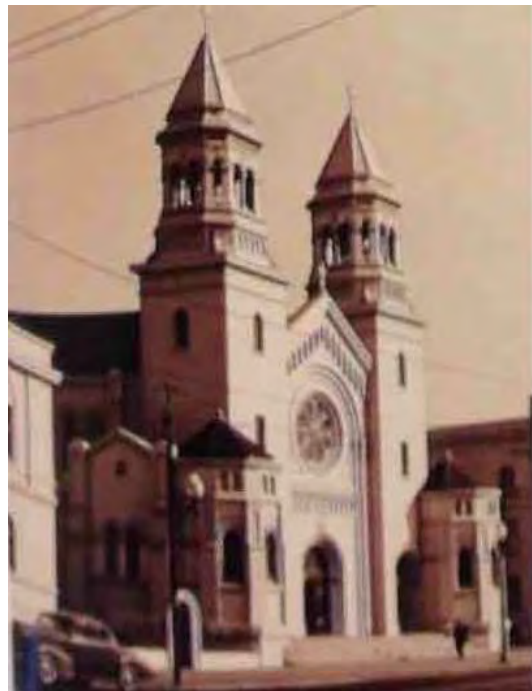
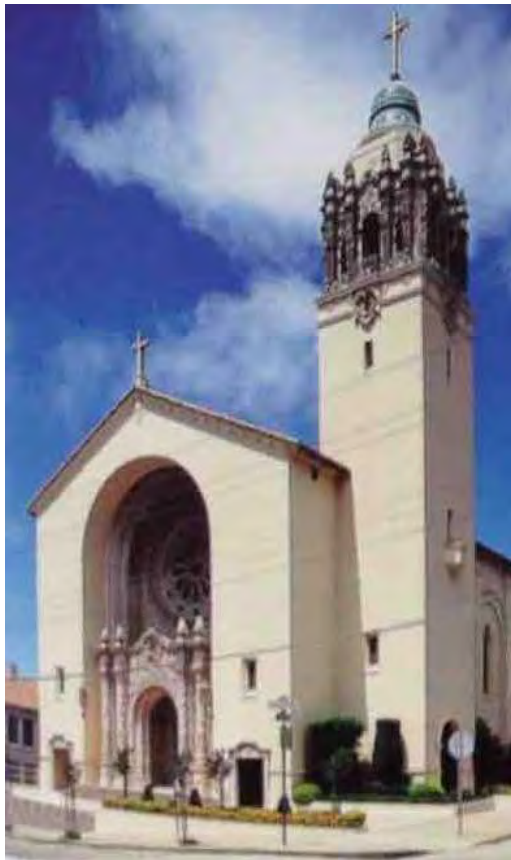
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**FIGURE 70 (LEFT). OLD ST. AGNES CHURCH, 1894. SOURCE: BURNS, HISTORY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO, VOLUME 2. FIGURE 71 (BELOW, LEFT): ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH, 1956, MARTIN RIST, ARCHITECT (ROMANESQUE FORM WITH SPANISH BAROQUE DETAILS). SOURCE: BURNS, HISTORY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO, VOLUME 2. FIGURE 72 (BELOW, RIGHT). STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH. 1918; SOURCE: BURNS, HISTORY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO, VOLUME 2.**



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structure executed in wood.

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## ARCHITECT THOMAS J. WELSH (1845-1918)

Thomas J. Welsh (1845-1918), the architect of Sacred Heart Church, had a prolific and successful architectural career in northern California (Figure 73). Between the start of his solo practice in 1870 and his death in 1918, Welsh designed over 700 known houses, apartment buildings, churches, schools, civic buildings, and commercial structures in California; 400 of these buildings were in the City of San Francisco.<sup>130</sup> Welsh's work demonstrates that he was well-versed in the popular styles of his day. His commissions included Italianate domestic architecture, Gothic Revival ecclesiastical architecture, and conservative Romanesque religious building designs. He also demonstrated his awareness of then cutting-edge design developments such as Romanesque Revival architecture in his ecclesiastical and civic work. Welsh's surviving works include three designated San Francisco Landmarks: the Irving M. Scott School (1895, San Francisco Landmark #138) at 1060 Tennessee Street; the Burr Residence (1878, San Francisco Landmark # 31) at Vallejo and Franklin streets and the McMorry-Lagan House (1884, San Francisco Landmark #164).



**FIGURE 73. ARCHITECT THOMAS J. WELSH.  
SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH,  
ARCHITECT 1845-1918**

Thomas Welsh was born in Australia on May 1, 1845. His family immigrated to San Francisco in the 1850s in the wake of the Gold Rush. After completing secondary school, Welsh worked as an apprentice carpenter and received architectural training as a draftsman at the San Francisco architecture offices of George Boardwell and Kenitzer & Farquharson. Welsh opened his own practice in 1870 and worked solo for more than thirty years. Throughout his long career, Welsh played a key role in mentoring up-and-coming architects, such as Julius Krafft who worked for Welsh for twelve years.<sup>131</sup> In 1903, Welsh formed a partnership with architect John W. Carey, which lasted until Welsh's death.<sup>132</sup> The 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed much of Welsh's work. Though he was somewhat active during the following decade in rebuilding efforts, he suffered a stroke in 1916 that ended his career. The firm of Welsh & Carey continued until Welsh's death in 1918.

A devout Catholic, Welsh served as the primary architect for the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco during the late nineteenth century, a critical period in its growth. He also held the position of chief architect for the San Francisco Board of Education from the mid-1890s into the first decade of the twentieth century. Through these positions, Welsh designed several of the most prominent examples of civic and religious architecture in San Francisco at the turn of the Twentieth Century. These included the centerpiece of Catholic faith in San Francisco: the second St. Mary's Cathedral (1898, burned 1962, Figure 74) on Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco's first Supreme Court Building (ca. 1890, destroyed 1906

<sup>130</sup> Pat Welsh, *Thomas John Welsh, Architect, 1845-1918: A Journey of Discovery* (San Francisco: PAW Productions, 1993), 14, 25. Welsh's surviving commercial work includes the wood-frame Pioneer Trunk Factory (1902) at 18th and Folsom streets and the Hotel Vendome (1907) on Columbus Avenue.

<sup>131</sup> *The Bay of San Francisco: A History* (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1892), 129-130.

<sup>132</sup> Welsh, *Thomas John Welsh, Architect, 1845-1918*, 59.

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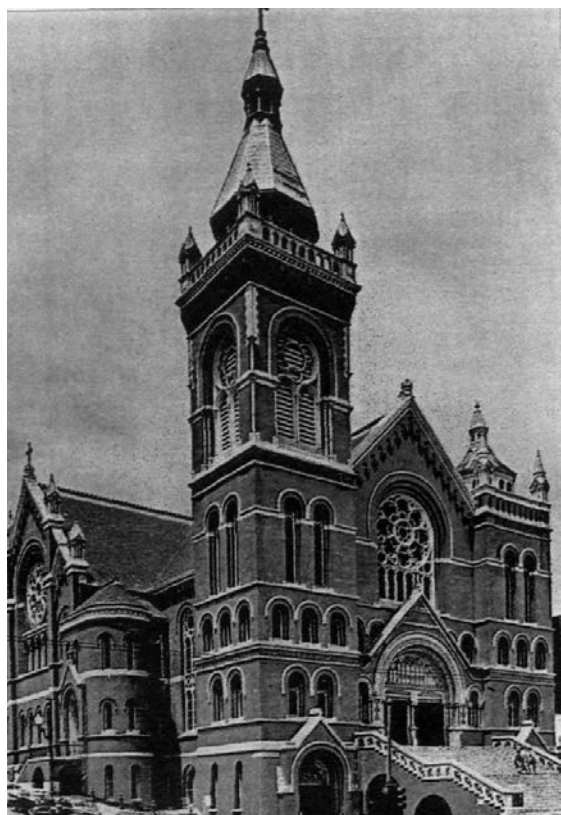
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Figures 77 and 78) and San Francisco's Girl's High School (destroyed 1906, Figures 79 and 80). Welsh also designed prominent regional Catholic buildings such as the Dominican Convent in San Rafael (1889, burned 1989).

Welsh designed a total of sixteen Catholic churches in San Francisco between 1879 and his death in 1918. The most prominent was the second St. Mary's Cathedral, but he also designed the first Sts. Peter and Paul Church (1884, destroyed 1906) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (1879, destroyed 1906, Figure 76). Welsh also oversaw the reconstruction of the first St. Mary's Cathedral at California Street and Grant Avenue after the 1906 earthquake and fire. He designed a bevy of Romanesque Revival Catholic churches in the city and region, including Holy Ghost Church in Fremont (1886, burned 1919); and the second St. Dominic's Church (1883, destroyed 1906, Figure 75). Only two of Welsh's Catholic church designs remain in San Francisco: the Romanesque Sacred Heart Church (1898) at Fillmore and Fell streets and the modest Gothic Revival St. Agnes Church (1905) on Masonic and Page streets.<sup>133</sup> Sacred Heart is Welsh's only extant building designed in the Romanesque Revival style.



**FIGURE 74 (TOP, LEFT). WELSH'S SECOND ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (1889, DESTROYED 1962);  
SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH, ARCHITECT 1845-1918  
FIGURE 75 (TOP, RIGHT). WELSH'S OLD ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH (1883, DESTROYED 1906).  
SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH, ARCHITECT 1845-1918**

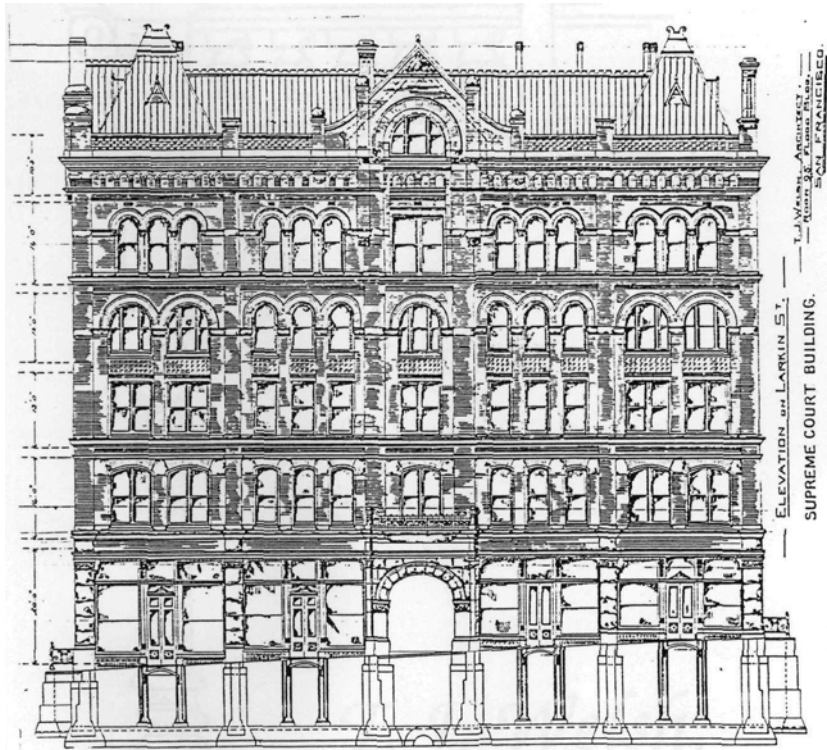
<sup>133</sup> "Death of Thos. J. Welsh," *The Architect & Engineer* (October 1918), 118.

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**FIGURE 76 (LEFT). WELSH'S OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH (1879, DESTROYED 1906). SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH, ARCHITECT 1845-1918**



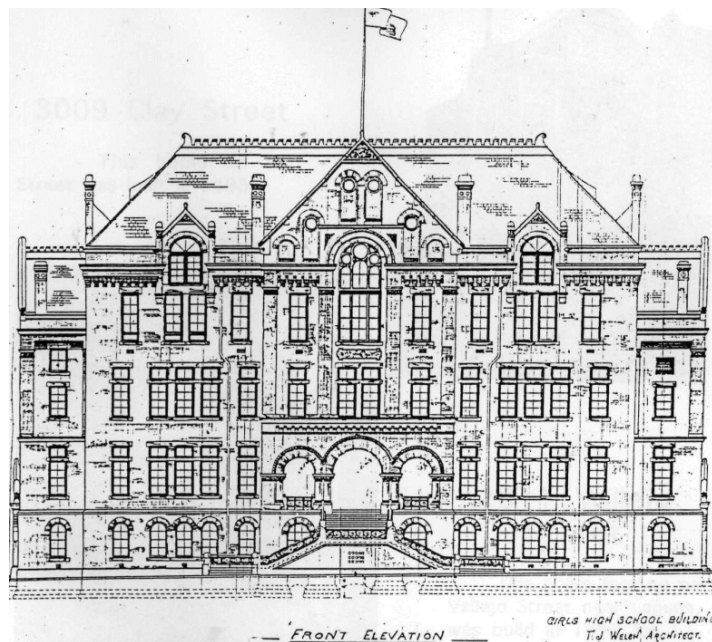
**FIGURE 77. WELSH'S SAN FRANCISCO SUPREME COURT BUILDING, DESTROYED 1906. SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH, ARCHITECT 1845-1918**

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**FIGURE 78. WELSH'S SAN FRANCISCO SUPREME COURT (HALL OF JUSTICE) AS BUILT, 1906. SOURCE: SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



**FIGURE 79. WELSH'S DESIGN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, DESTROYED 1906. SOURCE: WELSH, THOMAS JOHN WELSH, ARCHITECT 1845-1918**



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**FIGURE 80. WELSH'S GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL AFTER DAMAGE IN THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE. SOURCE: DELGOYER LIBRARY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

## ARCHITECT JOHN J. FOLEY (1882-1946)

Architect John J. Foley was born in San Francisco in 1882 and studied architecture at the Armour Institute (now Illinois Institute of Technology). He apprenticed to architects in Chicago and San Francisco before earning his license in 1913. His work in Northern California was largely ecclesiastical, and most of his commissions were from the Archdiocese of San Francisco. These include St. Joseph's Church (1913, San Francisco Landmark #120); St. Philip the Apostle Church (1925); St. Emydius Church (1928) Holy Name Church, School, and Rectory (1938, 1941, 1942); Star of the Sea Convent and School; and St. Mary's Catholic Hospital (1911).<sup>134</sup> Most of Foley's work was in the Romanesque and Spanish Colonial Revival styles.

<sup>134</sup> Francis William Wynn Kervick, *Architects in America of Catholic Tradition.*, [1st ed.] (Rutland, Vt., 1962), 50, <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015014054434>.

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San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

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Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Archives of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Menlo Park,  
CA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 0.95 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.774760 | Longitude: -122.430598 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Encompassing all of and limited to lots 12 (convent), 21 (rectory), 22 (church), and 22A (school) in San Francisco Assessor's Block 828.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the four component buildings of the district (church, rectory, school, convent) and the interstitial spaces that connect the complex on the interior of the lots.

Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Elaine B. Stiles  
organization: Historic Preservation Fund Committee, City and County of San Francisco, c/o Mark Ryser, Chair  
street & number: 135 Ord Street  
city or town: San Francisco state: CA zip code: 94114  
e-mail mrmpr@earthlink.net  
telephone: 415-553-8033  
date: December 2016

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

**SKETCH MAP**



**AERIAL VIEW OF SACRED HEART PARISH COMPLEX. SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH, 2015.**

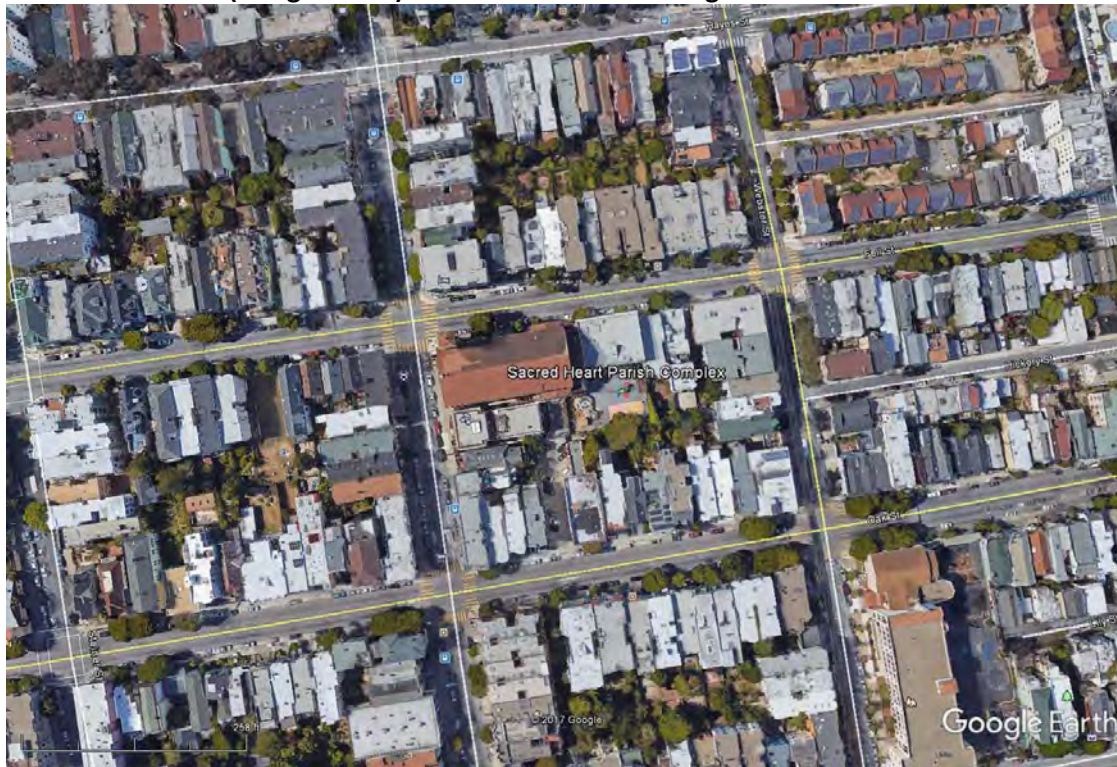
Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

**LOCATION MAP 1 (Google Earth) Latitude 37.774760° Longitude -122.430598°**



**LOCATION MAP 2 (Google Earth) Latitude 37.774760° Longitude -122.430598°**



Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
Name of Property

San Francisco, CA  
County and State

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Sacred Heart Parish Complex

City or Vicinity: San Francisco

County: San Francisco State: CA

Photographer: Elaine B. Stiles

Date Photographed: January 2015, January 2016, May 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0001)  
Sacred Heart Church: West façade and campanile, camera facing southeast.

Photo #2 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0002)  
Sacred Heart Church: Detail, entry porch, camera facing north.

Photo #3 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0003)  
Sacred Heart Church: Detail, center entrance, camera facing east.

Photo #4 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0004)  
Sacred Heart Church: North transept and elevation, camera facing southwest.

Photo #5 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0005)  
Sacred Heart Church: Rear (east) elevation and south transept, camera facing northwest.

Photo #6 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0006)  
North elevations of Sacred Heart School and Church on Fell Street, camera facing southwest.

Photo #7 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0007)  
Sacred Heart School: Main (north) elevation, camera facing south.

Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Name of Property

San Francisco, CA

County and State

Photo #8 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0008)

Sacred Heart School: Rear (south) elevation, camera facing north.

Photo #9 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0009)

Streetscape: West elevations, Sacred Heart Church and Rectory on Fillmore Street, camera facing southeast.

Photo #10 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0010)

Streetscape: West elevations, Sacred Heart Church and Rectory on Fillmore Street, camera facing northeast.

Photo #11 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0011)

Sacred Heart Rectory: West elevation, camera facing east.

Photo #12 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0012)

Sacred Heart Rectory: Rear (east) elevation of wood-frame rear ell, camera facing west.

Photo #13 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0013)

Sacred Heart Convent: South and west elevations, camera facing northeast.

Photo #14 (CA\_SanFrancisco\_SacredHeartParishComplex\_0014)

Sacred Heart Convent: West and north elevations of chapel ell, camera facing southeast.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







NO PARKING  
8:00 - 10:00  
THURSDAY  
MAY 12, 2011

2 HOUR  
PARADE  
9:00 - 11:00  
MAY 12, 2011

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Edison  
BUSINESS







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SCHOOL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Sacred Heart Parish Complex

Multiple Name:

State & County: CALIFORNIA, San Francisco

Date Received:  
8/14/2017

Date of Pending List:  
9/19/2017

Date of 16th Day:  
10/4/2017

Date of 45th Day:  
9/28/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001665

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

9/28/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under National Register Criteria A, B and C in the areas of Architecture, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Social History, and Religion. Serving the predominantly Irish-Catholic population of the city's Western Addition, the Sacred Heart parish was an important center of religious, educational, social and cultural activity during the late-19th and early-20th centuries, a period of robust Catholic institution building in the city. During the 1960s, as the surrounding community became a predominantly African-American and minority neighborhood, the parish continued its significant role as an important center of social advocacy focusing on Civil Rights and social justice activities under the guidance of influential and outspoken leader Father Eugene Boyle. The collection of parish buildings (church, school, rectory) represents fine examples of Lombardy-inspired, Romanesque Revival-style design by local master architects Thomas Welsh and John Foley. The property meets Criteria Considerations A and G, specifically for its associations with Father Boyle and his exceptional social activism work based out of the Sacred Heart parish. The church building was previously determined eligible by the Keeper under owner objection provisions (NRIS 10000112).

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept NR Criteria A, B & C.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 09/28/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

**Sacred Heart Parish Complex**  
**San Francisco, San Francisco County, California**  
**National Register of Historic Places**

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex consists of four buildings on a block bounded by Fillmore, Fell, Webster and Oak Streets in the Western Addition neighborhood of San Francisco. The 2.5 story Romanesque Revival style Sacred Heart Church has a basilica plan, gable roof, narrow nave, short vestibule, classical ornament scheme, round arched and pedimented openings and corbeled tables between the eaves. It was constructed in 1898, remodeled and reinforced in 1909. The three-story Rectory, built in 1891 and remodeled in 1906, is immediately south of the church, a square-plan wood frame building with a two-story wooden framed ell, also designed in Romanesque Revival style. The three-story school, built in 1926, is also designed in the Romanesque Revival style and is located behind the church on Fell Street, a rectangular-plan building of reinforced concrete with a high basement story and flat roof. The school combines Romanesque features including round arched windows with a rusticated basement and first story, and modified classical ornament typical of Romanesque and later Renaissance period palazzi. The two-story convent, built in 1936, also utilizes the Romanesque Revival style. Fronting Oak Street, the convent continues the architectural scheme of the church with arched window forms and corbeling. The four lots are connected at the center of the block, enclosing a paved schoolyard. Each building has had some alterations since the ending of the period of significance, associated with their transition to non-religious use, but the complex and individual buildings retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance.

The property is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition's Catholic community in San Francisco and Black ethnic heritage, originally a predominantly Irish community that transitioned to an African American neighborhood in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The church was a center of secular and religious social justice and civil rights activism during a turbulent and critical time. The property is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the parish from 1968 to 1972, a prominent and influential civil rights activist. Under his leadership, the parish hosted the Black Panther Party Breakfast Program, meetings of anti-Vietnam War and student activists, and the start of the 1970 United Farm Workers lettuce boycott in San Francisco. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as a distinctive and well-executed district of Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish buildings, associated with master architect Thomas J. Welsh. The property's association with Father Boyle and Black ethnic heritage meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration G because of the exceptional significance of the site in San Francisco civil rights history. Father Boyle's role in these activities is well documented in the scholarly record, and Sacred Heart Parish is the only parish he served during his primary period of social justice activism. The period of significance

spans from construction of the rectory in 1891 until the end of Father Boyle's term as pastor in 1972.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner. The City of San Francisco, a certified local government, has provided a letter of support for the nomination.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Sacred Heart Parish Complex eligible under Criteria A, B and C at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1891-1972, and meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration G, Exceptional Significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg  
State Historian II  
June 30, 2017



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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July 20, 2017

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

**RE: Planning Department Case No. 2017-006794OTH: National Register Nomination for the Sacred Heart Parish Complex**

Dear Ms. Polanco:

On behalf of the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and Planning Department, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register nomination for the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, 546 and, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, San Francisco (subject property). Please find enclosed HPC Resolution No. 882 in support of the National Register nomination, as well the Planning Department's case report.

The HPC agrees that the property is locally significant under is locally significant under National Register Criterion A (Events), B (Persons) and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; its association with prominent and influential civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the church from 1968 to 1972; and is a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping; and for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh; and meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties and Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon Ferguson".

Shannon Ferguson  
Preservation Planner



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## National Register Nomination Case Report

HEARING DATE: JULY 19, 2017

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

*Date:* July 19, 2017  
*Case No.:* 2017-006794OTH  
*Project Address:* 546-548 Fillmore, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street,  
660 Oak Street (Sacred Heart Parish Complex)  
*Zoning:* RM-3 Residential-Mixed, Medium Density,  
RM-1 Residential-Mixed, Low Density,  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0828/021, 0828/022, 0828/022A and 0828/012  
*Project Sponsor:* California Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
*Staff Contact:* Shannon Ferguson – (415) 575-9074  
[shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org](mailto:shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org)  
*Reviewed By:* Timothy Frye – (415) 575-6822  
[tim.frye@sfgov.org](mailto:tim.frye@sfgov.org)  
*Recommendation:* **Send resolution of findings recommending OHP approve nomination of the subject property to the National Register of Historic Places**

### BACKGROUND

In its capacity as a Certified Local Government (CLG), the City and County of San Francisco is given the opportunity to comment on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Listing on the National Register provides recognition by the federal government of a building's or district's architectural and historical significance. The nomination materials for the individual listing of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, consisting of the four buildings located at 546-548 Fillmore (rectory), 554 Fillmore Street (church), 735 Fell Street (school), 660 Oak Street (convent), were prepared by Elaine Brown Stiles for the Historic Preservation Fund Committee.

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Sacred Heart Parish Complex is situated on four contiguous lots on the city block bounded by Fillmore Street to the west, Fell Street to the north, Webster Street to the east, and Oak Street to the south in the Western Addition neighborhood, a largely residential neighborhood characterized by three and four story multi-family buildings. Sacred Heart Church (1898, 1909) is set at the southeast corner of Fillmore and Fell streets. Sacred Heart School (1926) is immediately east of the church on Fell Street. The rectory (ca. 1891, 1906) is immediately south of the church on Fillmore Street. The convent (1936) fronts Oak Street. An adjacent lot associated with the convent contains a paved parking area. The four lots converge in the center of the block to form an enclosed school yard.

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

The National Register is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of properties were designed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a contribution to the Nation's heritage. The following four National Register criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies and others in evaluating potential entries into the National Register:

- Criterion A (Event): that are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- Criterion B (Person): that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- Criterion C (Design/Construction): that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D (Information Potential): that yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

According to the nomination's summary, Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Sacred Heart was the first Catholic parish established in western San Francisco and was an important religious, social, and education center for the district's predominantly Catholic population. The significance of Sacred Heart as a social institution in the Western Addition was particularly pronounced during the late 1960s and early 1970s when the complex was a center of secular and religious social justice and civil rights activism during a turbulent and critical time in the history of the neighborhood.

Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Father Eugene Boyle (1921-2016), pastor from 1968-1972 and a prominent and influential civil rights activist in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and in northern California. Boyle served as the public face for Catholic involvement in the Black civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, urban renewal, fair housing, and the farm worker labor movement in San Francisco. Boyle used the parish complex as a platform for a progressive program of Catholic and secular social justice activism.

Sacred Heart Parish Complex is locally significant under Criterion C as a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival style Catholic parish grouping, which was widely popular for religious and civic buildings in San Francisco. The church and rectory are also significant as rare surviving examples of the work of master architect Thomas J. Welsh, who designed 400 buildings in the City of San Francisco and was one of the chief practitioners of Romanesque Revival style in the city.



The nomination also states that the Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties as it is primarily significant for its architectural distinction, association with important historic events in the development of San Francisco, and the history of Catholic religious involvement in the civil rights movement, and the activities of Father Eugene Boyle; and that the Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years for its association with Father Boyle and his neighborhood based civil rights activism and parish ministry between 1968-1972.

The Department agrees that the property is locally significant under National Register Criteria A (Events), B (Persons) and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; its association with prominent and influential civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the church from 1968 to 1972; is a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping; and for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh and meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties and Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

- Review the completed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form;
- Provide comments on whether the Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the criteria of significance of the National Register; and
- Recommend or not recommend the nomination of the Sacred Heart Parish Complex for listing on the National Register.

#### **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- The property is eligible for local listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C (Events, Persons, Design/Construction) and meets Criterion Consideration A for religious properties and Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Send resolution of findings recommending SHPO approve nomination of the property to the National Register

#### **Attachments:**

Draft Resolution

Letter from Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 882

HEARING DATE: JULY 19, 2017

*Case No.* 2017-006794OTH  
*Project:* 546-548 Fillmore, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street,  
660 Oak Street (Sacred Heart Parish Complex)  
*Action:* Adopting findings and Recommendations to  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
*Staff Contact:* Shannon Ferguson (415) 575-9074  
[shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org](mailto:shannon.ferguson@sfgov.org)  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822  
[tim.frye@sfgov.org](mailto:tim.frye@sfgov.org)

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER THAT 546-548 FILLMORE, 554 FILLMORE STREET, 735 FELL STREET, AND 660 OAK STREET (SACRED HEART PARISH COMPLEX), ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0828, LOTS 021, 22, 022A, 012, BE NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AND THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCESS THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, On May 24, 2017, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, forwarded a request to the San Francisco Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for review and comment on the nomination of Sacred Heart Parish Complex, to the National Register of Historic Places (hereinafter "National Register").

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Certified Local Government Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation (hereinafter "OHP") and the City and County of San Francisco, the Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") has a forty-five (45) day review and comment period to provide written comments to the OHP before the State Historical Resources Commission takes action on the above-stated National Register nomination.

WHEREAS, The National Register is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of properties were designed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a contribution to the Nation's heritage in the areas of Events, Persons, Design/Construction, and Information Potential. The four National Register criteria are designed to guide state and local governments, federal agencies and others in evaluating potential entries into the National Register.

WHEREAS, At its hearing on July 19, 2017, the Commission, acting in its capacity as San Francisco's Certified Local Government Commission, reviewed the nomination of 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, to the National Register.

WHEREAS, In reviewing the nomination, the Commission had available for its review and consideration reports, photographs, and other materials pertaining to the nomination contained in the Department's case file, and has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

WHEREAS, According to the nomination's summary, 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A (Events), B (Persons) and Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its association with the growth and development of the Western Addition and Catholic religious institutions in San Francisco in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; its association with prominent and influential civil rights activist Father Eugene Boyle, pastor of the church from 1968 to 1972; as a distinctive and well-executed example of a Romanesque Revival-style Catholic parish grouping; and for its association with master architect Thomas J. Welsh.

WHEREAS, According to the nomination's summary, 546-48 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties as it is primarily significant for its architectural distinction, association with important historic events in the development of San Francisco, and the history of Catholic religious involvement in the civil rights movement, and the activities of Father Eugene Boyle; and that the Sacred Heart Parish Complex meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years for its association with Father Boyle and his neighborhood based civil rights activism and parish ministry between 1968-1972.

WHEREAS, The Commission agrees that the entire property is locally significant under National Register Criterion A (Events), Criterion B (Persons) and Criterion C (Design/Construction); and meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A for religious properties and Criterion Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years.

WHEREAS, Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby supports the nomination of 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex.

Resolution No. 882  
July 19, 2017

CASE NO. 2017-006794OTH  
546-548 Fillmore, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street,  
660 Oak Street (Sacred Heart Parish Complex)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that the property located at 546-548 Fillmore Street, 554 Fillmore Street, 735 Fell Street, 660 Oak Street, also known as the Sacred Heart Parish Complex, Assessor's Block 0828, Lots 021, 22, 022A, 012, be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and that the Office of Historic Preservation process the National Register nomination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Recording Secretary to transmit this Resolution, and other pertinent materials in the case file 2017-006794OTH to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on July 19, 2017.



Christine L. Silva

Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: Johns, Johnck, Pearlman, Matsuda, Wolfram

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hyland, Hasz

ADOPTED: July 19, 2017

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 9, 2017

J. Paul Loether  
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: **Sacred Heart Parish Complex  
San Francisco, San Francisco County, California  
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of nomination for the Sacred Heart Parish Complex to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in San Francisco, San Francisco County, California. On July 28, 2017, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B and C at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1891-1972, meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration G for exceptional significance.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner. The City of San Francisco, a certified local government, submitted a letter of support with accompanying city resolution.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julianne Polanco".

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures