

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 27 1979

DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Philomena's Cathedral and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON

St. Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church and Rectory (D009-18:8)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1335 South 10th Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY

Douglas

CODE

055

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Archdiocese of Omaha, c/o The Most Rev. Daniel Sheehan, Archbishop

STREET &amp; NUMBER

100 North 62nd Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Omaha/Douglas County Civic Center

STREET &amp; NUMBER

18th and Farnam

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Omaha City Architecture

DATE

1977

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mrs. Cynthia Schneider, 314 South 67th Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Philomena's Cathedral (now St. Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church) is a 1908 Spanish Renaissance Revival building on the northeast corner of Tenth and William Streets, one mile south of downtown Omaha. Designed by Thomas Rogers Kimball and built at an approximate cost of \$40,000 by contractor Thomas Herd, St. Philomena's is a 45' x 123' stuccoed and limestone-clad brick structure whose roof apex rises to a height of 30 feet.

The ornate, low-relief limestone sculpture which highlights the round-arched portal, central window surround, and parapet of the main facade is also employed in the 60-foot, octagonal, copper-domed bell tower (see photo 1). The low one-story side walls, defined by the projecting eaves of the sanctuary's red-tiled gabled roof, are punctuated by segmental-headed, double-hung windows filled with stained glass. Side bays are also established by stuccoed brick piers which project through the roof's surface and are capped by red-tiled pyramidal roofs that tie into the main roof surface.

The exterior rhythm established by piers is repeated within the austere nave's interior by rafters and beams set against a dark-stained, tongue-and-groove ceiling (see photo 3). The chancel arch is a classical element which breaks the unadorned plaster walls and frames an altar of Carrara marble (see photo 4). An 1869 Johnson and Son pipe organ--the first such musical instrument in Omaha, if not in Nebraska--is located in a loft at the nave's rear.

In 1910, a brick and stucco "Priest's Home" was erected to the east of the church at a cost of \$10,000 (see photo 2). Also designed by Thomas Rogers Kimball in the Spanish mode, and constructed by B. J. Bock, this 27' x 39', two-story structure is void of major ornamentation. The smooth walls are regularly punctuated by rectangular windows and red-tiled awnings. Tile-covered hipped roof sections with exposed rafters extend beyond the walls, the only exception being the south wall which ends in a split curvilinear gable.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1908; 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Thomas Rogers Kimball

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the nationally recognized Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball and erected in 1908, St. Philomena's Cathedral is significant as an early work in the Spanish Renaissance Revival, a style which reached its zenith in American architecture between 1915-1940. Although the massing is similar to many Mission Style structures that preceded it in the West, surface ornamentation and the asymmetrical composition of the main facade categorize the church as belonging to the later revival period. Significance in the area of religion is attained through the vital role the building and its parish have served for Roman Catholicism in Omaha.

If legend holds true, the first clergyman in what is now Nebraska was the Franciscan friar, Juan de Padila, who accompanied Coronado in 1541 during his search for the fabled Kingdom of Quivira. The first Roman Catholic church in Omaha was constructed in 1856, at which time the Omaha Nebraskan reported: "It is somewhat significant that the first public house of worship now in progress of building in Omaha City, and perhaps in the Territory, is a Catholic church, a nice fine brick building on park place." This church, St. Mary's, was a structure 24 by 40 feet, its outer brick facade and inner decor indicative of the severity of the life of the day.

St. Mary's was elevated to the rank of cathedral in 1859, shortly before the Catholic community in Omaha began rapid growth. In 1868, a larger cathedral was dedicated, but Omaha's population expanded so greatly that an even larger building was needed shortly afterward. A new cathedral, St. Philomena's, was built in 1908 at a cost of \$41,500, with furnishings taken from the old church. Cathedral status was maintained for an interim period until St. Cecilia's Cathedral (listed in the National Register January 25, 1979) was substantially completed.

In 1958 the name of the church was changed to St. Frances Cabrini, since data substantiating Philomena's history had not been authenticated. The new name honored Mother Cabrini, the first American citizen canonized.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Omaha South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

115	2514	51910	45169	9710
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

C 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

D 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

E 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

F 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

G 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

H 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

lots 11, 12, 13, and 14, Forest Hill Park, Omaha

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Peters, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Omaha City Planning Department

DATE

November, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

18th & Farnam

TELEPHONE

402/444-5208

CITY OR TOWN

Omaha

STATE

Nebraska

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Marvin E. Knott*

11 / 8 / 79

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Carol D. Stull*

DATE

1-3-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*William H. Bralham*

DATE

12. 80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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