

0077 10/11/1983
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 10 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Limerick Historic District (Amended)

and/or common Limerick Historic District

2. Location

street & number Between Breckinridge and Oak, Fifth and Eight St. ^{n/a} not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number N/A

city, town N/A na vicinity of state na

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 517 W. Jefferson Street

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? NA yes NA no

date September 13, 1978 federal na state na county na local

depository for survey records U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 ~~good~~ 01 via ruins
 fair
 deteriorated
 na
 unexposed
 na

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 removed date na

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Limerick Historic District is located in Central Louisville, just south of the Central Business District and northwest of the Old Louisville Historic District (National Register, 1975). Within the Limerick boundaries is an intact, late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhood, as well as a collection of ca. 1860-1870 cottages, the core around which the Limerick neighborhood was built.

St. Louis Bertrand Church and parish complex, located on the southwest corner of 6th and St. Catherine streets is the focal point of the Limerick neighborhood. The 1869 Gothic Revival Church and 1867 Convent and House of Studies Building are excellent architectural examples of the period.

Two other institutional structures of historical and architectural significance to the Limerick District are the Central Colored School, 542 W. Kentucky Street and Municipal College, 1018 S. Seventh Street. The Central Colored School (National Register, 1976) was designed by J. B. McElfpatrick in a Renaissance Revival style and built in 1873. Municipal College (National Register, 1976) consumes a city block in a park-like setting and contains three structures. The buildings were designed by Kentucky's most famous Black architect, Samuel Plato, 1908-1924. (See photos 3, 4, 5, 23)

The residential architecture of the Limerick District is comprised of a mix of modest frame and brick shotgun residences with Italianate or Eastlake details, and substantial late Victorian dwellings. The most elegant residential structures in Limerick, found on St. Catherine and 6th Streets, are generally constructed of brick are two to two-and-one-half stories in height and are principally Italianate and Romanesque inspired.

On the northern most end of the district, the north side of W. Breckinridge Street, Nos. 601-613 reflect the styles found on 6th and St. Catherine Streets. No. 601-603, a three-story, brick structure, is located on the northwest corner of Breckinridge and Sixth Streets. Containing rough-hewn lintels and arches, the edifice presents a dark, robust, Romanesque appearance. Somewhat wider than the usual unit on the street, it bears a mortar and pestle and the date 1889 in its pediment, illustrative of its first use and construction date. A vacant lot separates it from No. 607, a two-and-one-half-story, brick house. Executed in the Shingle Style, the structure contains such varied materials and forms as a rusticated stone foundation, a wide, shingled gable across the facade, rough-hewn lintels and a Stick Style porch. No. 609 is a two-and-one-half-story brick structure of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. A rectilinear tower rises on the east side and is complimented by an amply shingled gable, broadly arched doorway, fine stained-glass transom with an inset fleur-de-lis, and slightly classical lintels and entablature. No. 611, also a two-and-one-half-story brick house, contains a shingled gable over a slightly projecting entrance portico. Other important details of the residence include rough-hewn lintels, a small dormer, a fine Stick Style porch, and oriel window on the eastern elevation and a rusticated foundation. No. 613 is a brick, two-and-one-half-story residence. The house is more classical in style than others in the block. The structure contains an Ionic porch, white-painted lintels which echo the volute of the porch, long windows and a mansard roof with an asymmetrical pair of dormers and a rusticated stone foundation. These residences were constructed between 1889 and 1892. (See Photos 1, 2)

1, 2)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca. 1860-1925 **Builder/Architect** na

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Two major European populations were attracted to Louisville prior to the Civil War: The Germans and the Irish. The most clearly identifiable Irish residential enclave to develop in the 1860s and 1870s was Limerick. Limerick was first established in an area south of Broadway (then Prather Street), west of what comprises the central core of Old Louisville today. The area was bounded by Fifth, Ninth, Kentucky and Ormsby Streets. This early Limerick area was part of the Thomas Bowyer land grant and later Bullitt's Addition. In 1863, Samuel Churchill began to plat a large tract between Kentucky and Oak Streets. Until the Civil war the area saw little development. In the land between Broadway and Kentucky, a small black community and a cornfield was located, as well as a large plantation in the Kentucky and Seventh Street area. Churchill's land served as a goat pasture and was dotted with ponds. The area's proximity to Seventh Street, a plank road and a major transportation artery, caused this section to become an important military support center. Barracks were located on Seventh Street between St. Catherine and Oak and also on Third Street on what was later the location of Norton's Infirmary.

The development of the area was spurred by the L&N Railroad purchase of the Kentucky Locomotive Works at Tenth and Kentucky Streets in 1858. New jobs were created by the expansion of this yard. After the Civil War new buildings, repair shops and a large planing mill were erected. The new L&N jobs brought many Irishmen and their families from Portland and other enclaves of Irish residences to settle in the area close to their employment.

Modest brick and frame dwellings provided the early Limerick residents with shelter. Later in the century as the economic base of the community increased, more substantial dwellings were constructed. The arrival of the Dominicans in the area in 1865 further reinforced the homogeneity of the neighborhood. The development of the Kentucky Irish American Newspaper and the Ancient Order of the Hibernians also helped maintain a sense of ethnic identity.

The Dominicans purchased a three acre tract upon their arrival for the erection of a church and convent. Mass was said in the workers' cottages in the neighborhood until the frame church was built. The church on Seyenth Street was constructed in 1866 from the salvaged wood of the old Third Street barracks. In 1867, a more substantial structure was built in the Gothic Revival style to house the convent and a House of Studies Building was also constructed. The cornerstone for the permanent church was laid on August 15, 1869. The building was completed in 1872 and designed by a local architect, H. P. Bradshaw. The limestone church was designed in the Gothic Revival style, very popular at that time for ecclesiastical structures. St. Louis Bertrand Church played a major role in both the religious and social affairs of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of the City of Louisville., Louisville: Louisville Abstract and Loan Association, 1876
Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville, 1850-1920.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 47 acres

Quadrangle name Louisville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. A. Allgeier, Director of Research

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission

date August, 1983

street & number 727 W Main Street

telephone (502) 587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky 40202

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

Mary Emma Spel

title

State Historic Preservation Officer

date

September 26, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Wm. Miller

date

12/23/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Limerick Historic District Amended

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson Co Item number 7

Page 2

The area between 7th and 8th, Zane and the first alley south of St. Catherine is what remains of the core of the original Limerick neighborhood. Most of the residences date from the 1860s and 1870s and housed Irish laborers, most of whom worked for the L&N. The conditions of many of the buildings are poor and some have been altered, but the character of a nineteenth century working-class neighborhood is prevalent.

The 700 Block of Zane, south side, contains a row of buildings which date ca. 1870 and are typical of the original housing stock of Limerick. The buildings at the corner of 7th and Zane, ca. 1910, represent the housing stock of Limerick's later development. The 700 block of St. Catherine was also completely built by 1876, and the majority of structures from that period remain. The style most prevalent in these two blocks is the Shotgun, in both frame and brick construction. The south side of St. Catherine in the 700 block originally had seven adjacent shotgun duplexes. Four remain. This group of brick duplexes have segmentally arched windows, bracketed door hoods, and arched, double windows in the gables. (See Photos 6-14)

The west side of 7th Street, between Kentucky and St. Catherine Streets, also contains many structures from ca. 1870. Again, they are mostly shotgun residences with simple details and some alterations. The commercial structure at 1100 S. 7th Street is a two-story brick commercial structure with segmentally arched windows in the upper story and an altered first floor. It also dates ca. 1875. (See Photos 15, 16)

The east side of 7th Street between Kentucky and St. Catherine contains residential structures from a slightly later development of Limerick as it spread eastwardly. These shotgun and vernacular residences of both brick and frame construction were built 1884-1900. (See Photos 17-21)

The south side of Kentucky Street, between 6th and 7th Streets contains a modern apartment building which does not contribute to the district. Several smaller buildings in this block are also considered non-contributing elements. (See Photos 22, 24)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

LIMERICK HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDED

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson Co.

Item number 8

Page 2

A small group of Black residents also lived in the Limerick neighborhood. These persons and their families had lived in the area before the Civil War. They had been slaves or servants of local households. The Blacks resided along the alleys of the Irish residences. The L&N Railroad also provided jobs for this community. This concentration of Blacks was most likely the impetus for the location of two important Black educational institutions after the Civil War. The Central Colored School was established in 1873 at the southeast corner of Sixth and Kentucky. This school represented the first effort to educate black children through a tax-supported establishment. Designed by the local architect, John B. McElfatrick, the three-story brick structure was later named the Mary D. Hill School.

An institute for the higher education of young Black men was established in the area in 1879. In 1869, the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky conceived the Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute for the training of young Black men for the ministry. Ten years later, the property between Kentucky and Zane, and Seventh and Eighth Streets was purchased and a structure erected. The Institute was known as the State University in 1884 and Simmons University during the 1920s, named for Dr. William Simmons. Simmons had been president of the School in the 1880s. Because of financial problems, the school moved to Eighteenth and Dumesnil Streets in 1931. The campus was purchased by the University of Louisville to serve as the home of the Municipal College for Negroes until 1951.

The architectural fabric of the Limerick neighborhood is rich and varied. Focused upon the St. Louis Bertrand parish complex Municipal College and the Central Colored School, and containing a large number of elegant Victorian residences as well as unique groupings of unusual architectural types, the Limerick area is an accurate, intact expression of Louisville's nineteenth century.

The historical fabric of Limerick is locally unique and significant. No other neighborhood in Louisville is claimed by Irish-Americans as their place of settlement. The Portland and Phoenix Hill areas were early neighborhoods into which some Irish immigrants moved, but the Limerick neighborhood was, as its name suggests, a small homogeneous Irish enclave.

Limerick gains further historical significance due to its association with Black education locally and statewide. The Central Colored School, later named the Mary D. Hill School, at 6th and Kentucky Streets was the first high school for Black students in the Commonwealth. The vigorous pursuit of Black schooling by the Louisville School Board and a large group of both Black and White citizens, culminated in the opening of this school in 1873. This event was regarded as the signal of a new era for Black education in Louisville.

Likewise, the Municipal College site represents the same strides achieved in the higher education of Black students. Municipal College for Blacks, Simmons University, State University, Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute--though different in name, these

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Limerick Historic District Amended

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson County Item number 8

Page 3

institutions have two predominant historical qualities in common. First, each has been housed at various times on the grassy square below Kentucky Street between Seventh and Eighth. And second, they represent an exceedingly significant reminder of the course of Black higher education in the Commonwealth. With many barriers limiting opportunities, the collective effort of these schools meant the extension of what was largely the only degree offering for blacks in Kentucky from Reconstruction to the legal repeal of school segregation in the 1950s. Although the oldest of the major buildings which have occupied the site is gone, the two which remain still manage more than just adequately to evoke the place's humane origin and character.

Through the years, the ethnic make up of Limerick has changed. There are still some few Irish-American residents in the area, but the majority of homes in the area west of 7th Street are occupied Black residents who increasingly moved to Limerick to be in close proximity with both schools. The Municipal College site is now Mary B. Talbott Continuing Education Center, and serves the community today in much the same way as it did over a century ago.

The Limerick neighborhood was designated a local Preservation District by the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission on November 7, 1979. The area encompassed by the Preservation District was larger than the Limerick National Register District which was listed in the Register in 1978. The discrepancy in boundaries was the result of a growing awareness of the historical importance of the core of the Community in the area between 7th and 8th, Zane and St. Catherine. The Commission determined that the area was historically significant to Louisville and as worthy of protection under the Landmarks status as the architecturally significant areas of the same district. For these reasons the National Register boundaries are being thus amended.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Limerick Historic District Amended

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson County Item number 9

Page 2

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. Limerick Preservation District Designation Report. Louisville, 1979.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. Mary D. Hill School Landmark and Landmark Site Designation Report. Louisville, 1975.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. Municipal College Campus Landmark and Landmarks Site Designation Report. Louisville, 1975.

Jefferson County Courthouse, Deed Books.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 16 1978

DATE ENTERED

SEP 13 1978

Limerick Historic District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2A

Council of Governments, 1973.

Louisville Daily Journal, 20 August 1866.

One Hundred Years in Picture and Prose of Saint Louis Bertrand Church, Louisville, Kentucky, 1866-1966. Louisville: St. Louisville Bertrand Church, 1966.

O'Brein, Rev Robert. St. Louis Bertrand Parish, Louisville, Kentucky. Telephone interview. 21 August 1975.

Ousley, Stanley Limerick (An Irish Neighborhood). Louisville: 1974.

"St. Louis Bertrand Church Landmark and Landmark Site Designation Report," Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission, City of Louisville. Louisville 1975.

The (Louisville) Catholic Advocate, 19 December 1872 and 26 December 1872.

Withey, Henry F., and Withey, E. R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

Annual Directories for the City of Louisville.

Jefferson County, Kentucky Deed Books.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Limerick Historic District Amended

Continuation sheet Louisville, Jefferson County Item number 10

Page 2

Beginning at a point in the intersection of 6th Street and the first alley north of Breckinridge Street, thence east along the south side of said alley to its intersection with the first alley west of 6th St., thence along the east side of said alley to a point in the southeast corner of the intersection of said alley and Breckinridge St., thence west along the south side of said street to the first alley east of 7th St., thence south along the east side of said alley to a point in the north side of the first alley south of Breckinridge St., thence east along said alley to a point in the east side of the first alley west of 6th St., thence south along said alley to a point, thence west across the alley and along the northern property line of City Block 29E Lot 40 to a point in the east side of 7th St., thence south to a point in the northeast corner of 7th and Kentucky Streets, thence southwest across Kentucky to a point in the southwest corner of said intersection, thence west along the south side of Kentucky Street to a point in the southeast corner of Kentucky and 8th Streets, thence south along the east side of 8th St., across Zane to the first alley south of St. Catherine, thence east along the north side of said alley to the first alley west of 7th St., thence north along the west side of said alley to a point, thence east across said alley and along the north property line of City Block 29J Lot 146, and across 7th St. to a point in the east side of said street, thence south along 7th St., to a point in the intersection of first alley south of St. Catherine and 7th St., thence east along the north side of said alley to the east side of the first alley east of 7th St., thence south along the east side of said alley to a point, thence east along the southern property line of City Block 29J Lot 79 to a point in the west side of 6th St., thence north to northwest corner of 6th St. and the first alley north of Oak St., thence east across 6th St. and along the north side of said alley to a point in the west side of the first alley east of 6th St., thence north to a point, thence east across said alley and along the southern property line of City Block 29K Lot 28 to a point in the west side of Garvin Place, thence north to a point in the north west corner of Garvin Place and Bertrand Alley thence east across Garvin and along the north side of Bertrand Alley to a point in the west side of the first alley east of Garvin Place, thence, north across St. Catherine St. and following the west side of 5th St. to a point in the south side of Zane St., thence west across Garvin Place to a point in the southwest corner of Zane and the first alley east of 6th St. thence north across Zane and along the west side of said alley to a point in the southwest corner of said alley and the first alley north of Zane St., thence west along the south side of the first alley north of Zane St., to a point, thence north across said alley and along the east property line of City Block 29 H lot 89 to a point in the south side of Kentucky St., thence west to a point in the southwest corner of Kentucky and 6th St., thence north across Kentucky St. and along the west side of 6th St., and across Breckinridge St. to the point of beginning.