

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 6 1979

DATE ENTERED

APR 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

Church of St. Francis de Sales

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

116 South Sixth Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

01

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

McCracken

CODE

145

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

Church of St. Francis de Sales c/o Father Paul Powell ✓

STREET & NUMBER

116 South Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Court Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

McCracken County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Paducah

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of St. Francis de Sales is located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Broadway in Paducah, Kentucky. This western Kentucky city, with a population of approximately 31,000, is situated on the Ohio River and serves as both the seat of government for McCracken County and as an important local business and manufacturing center. The church is six blocks south of the river in the downtown, commercial area and is directly across Sixth Street from the Hotel Irvin Cobb (entered on the National Register August 24, 1978). Three blocks to the northeast is the Market House Historic District (entered on the National Register April 3, 1978), and Grace Episcopal Church (entered on the National Register March 16, 1976) is two blocks to the south on Broadway.

Constructed in 1899-1900, the Church of St. Francis de Sales is an imposing, tan brick basilica inspired by the late nineteenth century revival of classical architecture (see photo 1). The symmetrical facade rests on a stone base and consists of a projecting, pedimented pavilion flanked by two square bell towers. The frieze reveals the name of the church, and the cornice and tympanum display dentils and an egg-and-dart molding. Sandstone quoins visually strengthen the corners of both the bell towers and the pavilion. Within the pavilion, the entrance (see photo 2) comprises a round arch opening with keystone. Fluted Corinthian columns and pilasters support an entablature with a segmental pediment displaying dentils and modillions. Atop the pediment is a Latin cross. Multi-pane, round arch windows pierce the upper portion of the central pavilion. These are enframed by pilasters resting on bracketed sills and supporting pedimented entablatures. The central niche contains a statue of St. Francis de Sales.

Each bell tower contains an entrance with a treatment similar to that of the windows in the pavilion--round arch openings flanked by panelled pilasters which support a pedimented entablature. Windows in the upper level of the bell towers rest on bracketed sills and are surmounted by pedimented heads. Beneath the projecting cornice, a stone band encircles each tower. The denticulated, projecting cornice provides the base for the domed structure containing the bell.

The two-story nave is six bays deep and terminates in a polygonal apse (see photo 3). The low-pitched roof ends in a projecting cornice with dentils and modillions and a deep frieze board. Rectangular clerestory windows are beneath the frieze board. The one-story side aisles also have polygonal apses and a similar cornice treatment. Six tall stained glass windows pierce the side walls and are capped with round-arched stone hood molds. Brick pilasters separate the windows.

The interior consists of a central aisle with a vaulted ceiling lit by the clerestory windows. The walls are frescoed. A series of round arches supported by Ionic columns delineates the side aisles which also reveal vaulted ceilings.

(continued)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1899-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of St. Francis de Sales occupies a prominent location on the corner of Sixth and Broadway in the commercial section of downtown Paducah, Kentucky. The 1899-1900 structure embodies a basilica form exhibiting elements characteristic of the classical revival which engulfed American architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This enriched classical resurgence emanated from the teachings at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris, the leading architectural school of the day. Its supremacy in the next several decades of American public building was assured by the success of the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

While lacking the colossal quality of many of the popular Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical buildings of the period, the Church of St. Francis de Sales competently reflects the enthusiasm for the classicism espoused by those styles, being a grandiose composition with rich embellishments. The building presents a symmetrical facade with a projecting, pedimented pavilion containing arched openings enhanced by columns, pilasters, and pedimented entablatures. The flanking bell towers add to the overall symmetry as well as increase the monumental quality of the church. The successful combination of these features produces an imposing edifice which reveals the prevailing architectural principles and ideology of the turn of the century.

In addition, the structure is one of the oldest and largest Roman Catholic churches in the region of western Kentucky known as "the Jackson Purchase." Its past heritage as a mission-founding church, its history with regard to a partial black membership since its founding in contrast with most of the other churches of the area, the outstanding priests who have served it, and its important position as a local landmark present added importance.

The first organized group of Roman Catholics to settle in Kentucky came from Maryland to Bardstown in 1785. Additional Catholic settlers arrived in 1787 and 1790. By 1853 Catholicism in the state had grown to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to establish the two current dioceses with one headquartered in Louisville, the original center, and the other in Covington, the newly-named diocese. Geographically, these almost divide the state down the center with everything west of this imaginary line, including Paducah, in the Louisville diocese.

The original founder of the Roman Catholic Church in Paducah was the Reverend Elisha J. Durbin (1800-1887). Ordained in 1822 when he was only 22 years old, in 1824 he

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Donovan, John T. The Catholic Church in Paducah, Kentucky. Paducah, Kentucky: Young Printing Company, 1934.

McGill, Anna Blanch. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky. pp. 113, 150, 234, 398.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Paducah East Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 3,5,7,7,9,0 | 4,1,0,5,3,6,0

B | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated acreage consists of a rectangular lot bounded on the north by Broadway, on the west by Sixth Street, and on the south and east by the property lines.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Calvin P. Jones, Historian; Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Eduard W. Ingleton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/26/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-16-79

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/16/79

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In 1933-34, improvements were made to the interior which consisted of laying a terrazzo floor throughout and enlarging the vestibule. The vestibule was projected into the nave, incorporating the first bay on the east and west side walls of the nave, and extended the full width of the church. In addition, the stairway to the choir was encompassed in the expansion of the vestibule, and polished red gum woodwork was installed. At the same time, the original wooden front doors were replaced with the present glass-panelled ones. The alterations were designed by Louisville architect, T. J. Nolan, and the woodwork was executed by Sam Guill, a Paducah contractor. The stained glass windows were donated by members of the parish.

Constructed in 1927, the present rectory is a two-story, brick structure located to the rear of the church. A one-story, flat-roofed porch with a low balustrade extends across the front. A belt course and water table encircle the building, and a diamond-shaped pattern is formed in the brickwork between the central bays of the second floor. The building is capped by a pyramidal roof with projecting eaves displaying paired, wooden brackets.

The nominated acreage consists of the rectangular lot containing the church and rectory which is bounded on the north by Broadway, on the west by Sixth Street, and on the south and east by the property lines.

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was placed in charge of all Catholic activities in western Kentucky. It was in 1848 that he founded the Church of St. Francis de Sales in Paducah. The first building was erected in 1849 by parishioners under his supervision and was located to the rear of the lot on the corner of Broadway and Sixth Street. The Reverend Durbin was responsible for having the church named for his patron saint, St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622), who had served as Bishop of Geneva during the Reformation, was canonized in 1665, and was named "Doctor of the Universal Church" in 1877 by Pope Pius IX. Father Durbin remained an active priest until 1873 in various parts of western Kentucky and died in Louisville in 1887.

The second building for the Church of St. Francis de Sales was constructed in 1870, with the third church building--the one which presently stands and is currently utilized by the membership--erected during 1899-1900. The pastor at the time was the Reverend Herman W. Jansen, a well-known and beloved figure in Paducah during his pastorate there.

In addition to its white membership, St. Francis de Sales has also had black members on its rolls since its establishment which was unusual in many areas of Kentucky at that time. As late as 1934 there were still 18-20 black members of this church.

In 1922 the interior of the church was renovated under the direction of the pastor, Father Henry A. Connally. The entire expense of the interior painting and frescoing of the church was borne by a former parishioner, Matthew J. Carney of New York. The entire expense of repairing and painting the exterior woodwork of the church was borne by two local parishioners, Edwin J. Paxton and William Percy Paxton.

Throughout its long history the Church of St. Francis de Sales had had many active societies within its membership such as the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella, and kindred groups, and has had a very close relationship with St. Mary's Academy which was operated in Paducah by the St. Vincent de Paul Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, an order originally founded in France which was chartered in Kentucky in 1829. This particular school was established in 1858 in Paducah and this order as well provided notable medical assistance during the period of the Civil War until about 1870. It has also been a great mission-founding church sponsoring numerous new churches including St. Mary's Church (1907) at LaCenter, Ballard County, Kentucky; St. Thomas' Church (1903-1930) at Maxon, Kentucky (renamed West Paducah in 1925), a church which was destroyed by a tornado in

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1924; St. Bernard's Church (1894-1930) at Hampton, Kentucky in Livingston County; and St. Stephen's Church (1855-1870) in Smithland, Kentucky, which no longer exists and has been demolished.

During 1933-1934 extensive improvements were made in the interior of the church. These alterations were designed by T. J. Nolan, an architect from Louisville, Kentucky. The changes in the woodwork and additions were conducted by Sam Guill, a contractor from Paducah. Since 1934, no major alterations have been made in the church building.

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PASTORS

Reverend William Oberhulsman	1850-1854
Reverend John F. Reed	1854
Reverend John M. Boyle	1856-1857
Reverend John M. Beyhurst	1857-1859
Reverend Michael Power	1860-1864
Reverend William Bourke	1864
Reverend Edward O'Driscoll	1864-1868
Reverend Ino Schacht	1869-1871
Reverend Benno Janssen	1871
Reverend Peter Thomas Meagher	1871-1876
Reverend John C. Feehan	1876-1881
Reverend John F. Reed	1881-1882
Reverend Herman W. Jansen	1882-1909
Reverend Henry A Connally	1909-1927
Reverend John D. Fallon	1927 -

Source: John T. Donovan, The Catholic Church in Paducah, Kentucky, pp. 40-64.

ASSISTANT PASTORS

Reverend E. W. Boes	1900-1901
Reverend George M. Connor	1909
Reverend Francis R. Cotton	1922-1926
Reverend Edward H. Link	1926-1927
Reverend Frederick Dudine	1927-1928
Reverend George A. Saffen	1928-1929
Reverend Wilfrid J. Hayden	1929-1931
Reverend George Nichaus	1931
Reverend John C. Hallahan	1931 -

Source: John T. Donovan, The Catholic Church in Paducah, Kentucky, pp. 65-72.

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Neuman, Fred G. The Story of Paducah. Paducah, Kentucky: Young Printing
Company, 1922.

Webb, Honorable Ben J. The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky. Louisville:
Charles A. Rogers, 1884.