

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 12 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 North Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore City CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:
320 Cathedral Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Liber: ED 61 Folio: 86

Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 610, Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

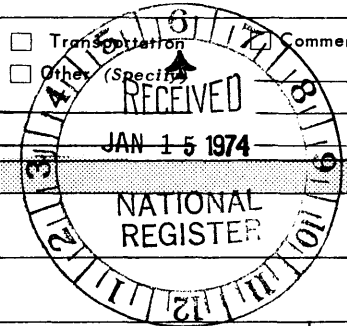
DATE OF SURVEY: 1965
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The chief distinctive feature of St. Vincent de Paul Church at 120 N. Front Street, is its slender Georgian style tower which rises to a height of 150 feet above the narthex and contrasts sharply with its surroundings. This unique brick tower, painted gleaming white as is the entire building, rests on an octagonal base and supports three successive indented tiers (one octagonal and two cylindrical), capped by a copper-sheathed dome and twelve-foot cross. In style, the building relates to the classical revival churches built in London and Paris in the 1820's, and, although no architect can be ascribed, the restrained exterior pilasters and mouldings of Georgian influence are very much in the tradition of the carpenter-draftsman as practiced by John Hall of Baltimore during the early Nineteenth Century.

The front facade is divided into three bays by double engaged pilasters. Each bay contains a doorway - the central one topped by a triangular stone pediment and each of the flanking doors by flat stone lintels. Over the doorways are arched windows at the second story level, except that the central bay contains a niche with a statue of St. Vincent. There is a similar arched window in the pediment above. A steep flight of stairs leading from the street crosses the entire front facade.

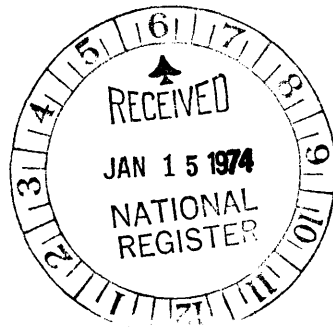
The side elevation contains six bays each with a large arched window similar to those in front and separated by single engaged pilasters.

Just below the roof cornice is a frieze of gilded swags placed at regular intervals around the entire building above each pilaster.

The interior contains a deep sloping gallery on three sides and the appointments are simple and details modest. The sanctuary was added at a later date. In 1873, Father Didier, the seventh pastor, had a new organ installed and in 1883 he had fourteen inscribed bells cast by Henry McShow of Baltimore placed in the tower.

The church is located on the east side of the Jones Falls in a section known as Old Town. It presents an interesting contrast with the aging brick industrial and commercial structures nearby, especially the Shot Tower immediately to the south. It will relate visually to the Historic Park which is planned for the area stretching southward to the waterfront. In addition, it is at present a dramatic termination of the view east from the modern Charles Center, down Lexington Street and past the City Hall and War Memorial Plaza.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1840-1841

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Architecture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

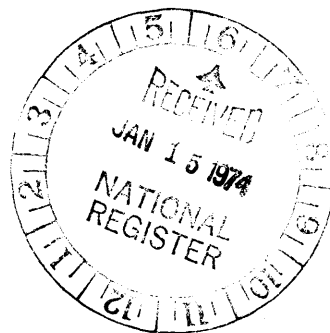
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The congregation of St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church was established in 1840 under Father John Baptist Gildea. The priest himself is credited with designing the building which was the fifth Roman Catholic church constructed in Baltimore. It was to serve the ever increasing, wealthy, English-speaking Catholics in the Gay and Pratt Street area.

On May 21, 1840, the cornerstone was laid by Archbishop Eccleston and the Right Reverend John English of Charleston, South Carolina, gave the rain-interrupted address. When the church was dedicated on November 7, 1841, the parish already extended from the harbor to Towson. By 1865, the church was over-crowded; reputedly there were at times 2,000 families in the congregation. In 1879, the church was consecrated by Archbishop James Gibbons, one of four churches so recongnized in America. This placed it under the direct protection of the Holy See.

During the years that followed, the church became known for its "Printers' Mass" which was held at midnight and attended regularly by newsmen from the two newspaper offices nearby. There was, in addition, a male orphanage adjoining and parochial schools operated by the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Charity.

The parish's most famous son was James Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921). The founder, Father Gildea, was interred beneath the main altar at his death February 14, 1845.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

. Art and Architecture in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Baltimore, Md. (Baltimore: Frank T. Cimino Co., 1943).

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County, Maryland. (Baltimore: Louis H. Everts, 1881). p. 537

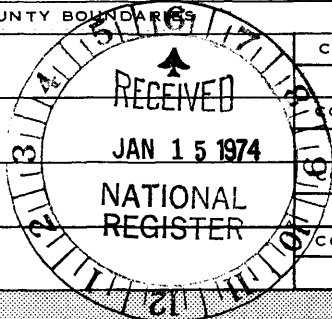
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 17' 28.5"	76° 36' 23.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Boulton Kelly, Ellen H. Kelly, and Catharine F. Black

ORGANIZATION: Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation DATE: Jan. 30, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date January 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR MacLennan
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 12 1974

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-11-74