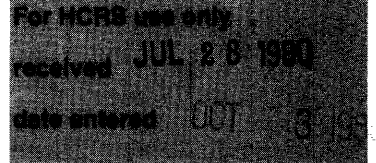


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



**1. Name**

historic Kearns St. Ann's Orphanage

and/or common St. Ann's School

**2. Location**

street & number 430 East 2100 South St. St. not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Sisters of the Holy Cross

street & number 430 East 2100 South

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state UT

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City and County Building

street & number 440 South State

city, town Salt Lake City state UT

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

Salt Lake City state UT

city, town state

# 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**

In plan the Kearns St. Ann's Orphanage is roughly symmetrical. Two projecting wings containing larger rooms are connected by a wide central section of smaller offices and a central stair at the rear of the building, making a cross-axial circulation plan. The facade is dominated by the octagonal tower over the central entrance, with pedimented and oculus windows below the domical roof and cupola. The two wings have identical curvilinear parapet gables, with triangular stone caps at the top of the gables carved in low relief. Smaller stone gables ornament the dormers on either side of the tower. A covered porch with doric columns originally ran the full length of the buildings center section, with a low parapet wall of stone over the steps inscribed with the name of the orphanage. An extension to the original porch has been added in an angular, incompatible design.

The interior of Saint Ann's has undergone some physical alterations, much of it done to conform to local building codes. Among the changes made in order to avert closure of the facility were enclosing the central stairway and creation of additional fire escapes. With the exception of the attic story the oak wood work has been covered with paint. The attic story has undergone almost no change since it was first built. In this unused portion of the building the hardwood floors, original paint, exposed woodwork, brass lighting fixtures and wooden window shutters remain intact.

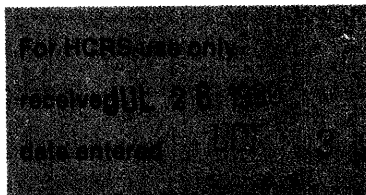
The top or attic story served as the living quarters for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. It was also the location of both the girls and boys infirmary (two separate facilities). One room on this floor, which appears to have served as a chapel for the sisters, now houses the antique altar pieces for the Holy Mass, unused since 1917, the year the Parish at Saint Ann's was canonically erected by Bishop Glass. In October of 1952 a fire in two storage rooms and one bedroom caused minor structural damage. The sisters at this time were living at St. Josephs Villa.

Part of the building's ventilating mechanism remains on the third floor. A damper about two meters in diameter can be opened or closed, allowing air to be drawn downward into large ventilation ducts. These ducts, located at the core of the building, cool down the air and then disperse the cooled air throughout the building.

The second floor is nearly the same in plan as the third, but serves different needs. This was the dormitory and classroom level for the children. The east wing served as the boys dorm and the west wing was for the girls. Between these were parlor, classrooms and segregated baths. Today the dormitory sections have been divided into two rooms each and lack the historical detailing of the attic story.

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Kearns-St Ann's Orphanage, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City

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The main floor housed a chapel, parlor, priest's dining room, vestry and several classrooms. There was also an office adjacent to the dining room. The chapel is now a school library and is occasionally used for the production of small school plays. The vestry has been divided by an unfinished wall and is currently being used for the storage of books and other office and school materials. The dining room is the office of the principal and includes one of two original fireplaces. The parlor and other spaces are classrooms.

The first level or sub-basement houses a cafeteria and playroom as well as an area where the orphans bottled fruit. The original washroom for the orphans is now the boiler room. Prior to 1954 the children came in from their outdoor activities and washed in what is now the boiler room. Then they climbed two separate spiral stairways (boys on one, girls on the other) up to the classroom or dormitory level. The spiral stairways were later removed. The wooden base and handrail can be observed in the "new boiler room". The mezzanine between levels two and three has two doors (nailed shut) which led to each spiral stairway.

The Kearns-St. Ann's Orphanage is one of the few remaining public buildings designed by Carl M. Neuhausen, the architect of the Cathedral of the Madeleine. Though much less elaborate than the Cathedral or the Kearns's Mansion, St. Ann's Orphanage shows the same eclectic, skillful handling of Renaissance and Mannerist detailing.

In the early 1920's the east stairway, of the main central staircase, was shortened in width to make room for an elevator that serviced all four levels. The elevator is said to be in excellent repair.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1890 Builder/Architect /Carl M. Neuhausen

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kearns-St. Ann's orphanage is a two and a half story brick structure designed by Carl M. Neuhausen, the architect of the Kearns Mansion and the Cathedral of the Madeleine on South Temple. St. Ann's in its modest decorative elements alluded to Renaissance and Mannerist detailing, as do both the much more elaborate Kearns Mansion and Neuhausen's own house on First South. Neuhausen's eclectic style was rare in Utah, and the few buildings by other designers lack Neuhausen's skillful use of the Chatesque manner. The orphanage represents the important educational and religious contributions to Utah society of Bishop Lawrence Scanlan and Thomas and Jennie Kearns.

Money for the construction of the school was made available to Bishop Lawrence Scanlan from Mrs. Thomas Kearns. Scanlan had acquired a parcel of land near Eleventh South, however, after one payment he had exhausted the funds. Kearns gave the church \$55,000, which was enough to purchase the land and cover all building costs. Two thousand people witnessed the placement of the cornerstone on August 27, 1890.

St. Ann's brought together several of the most influential Catholics in Utah. Thomas Kearns, the mining magnate, and his wife Jennie changed the social landscape by creating new educational and religious institutions in Utah. Bishop Scanlan was the first Bishop of the newly formed Salt Lake City Diocese (Utah and Nevada). He had served as a missionary in the area since the 1870s, and recognized the need of support institutions to aid the Catholic missionary effort.

The social order found at the orphanage was unique among the many forms of socialism in Utah during the early history of Utah. The children at the orphanage were to share in the total operation of the facility, except the handling of accounts and records. The Sisters of the Holy Cross charged no admittance fee to the parent or guardian although those who could afford something often paid a monthly fee. After the tragic coal mine explosion at Scofield, Utah on May 1, 1900, the orphanage offered its help to assist children left orphans by the blast. The orphanage served the needy for fifty-two years before it was converted into a school.

Funding for Saint Ann's has come from a number of sources. First of course was the money from the Kearns Foundation which later withdrew its support. In 1902 Patrick Phelm left his estate, valued at \$76,000, to the school. In 1979 the school was still operating from the Phelm estate. Of course the parish has always tried to assist the school and the school has provided its facilities to the Catholic and non-Catholic community as well.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Salt Lake South, UT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 12 4215850 4508380  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 10 and N 1/2 of Lot 11, Blk 42, 10 Acres, Plat A, Big Field Survey, less 400 E St. and State Road Tract.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffery Larsen

organization School of Architecture, University of Utah date

street & number

telephone

city or town Salt Lake City,

state UT

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Melvin T. Smith*

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/14/80

For HCRS use only

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

*Bruce M. Berger* date 10-3-80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Paula Stoner Reed* date 9/30/80  
Chief of Registration

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In 1953 Sister Mary McElligott, superior, and two other sisters from Brownsville, Texas, began direction at Saint Ann's. On September 19, 1954, Kearns-St. Ann's Orphanage was converted into a parochial school, officially known as St. Ann's School. The name "Kearns" was dropped and removed from the exterior facade. Shortly afterwards the Kearns family announced they would no longer render financial assistance to the school and removed most of the schools elegant furnishings. The new order of sisters now in charge at the school began the change outlined in the physical description. The lavish abundance of trees, both evergreen and deciduous, that surrounded the school were cut down as was the orchard. These were replaced with lawns and playing fields.

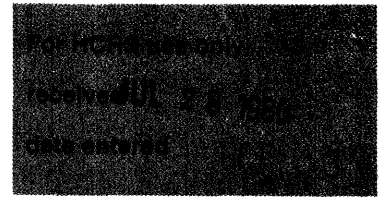
Enrollment has gradually increased from 168 in 1900. When the orphanage was converted into a parochial school in 1954 it enrolled 240 students from Kindergarten to Fourth Grade. By 1966 that number had grown to 460 pupils through eight grades. The enrollment has now stabilized.

In 1955 money became available for the construction of a convent west of the school. Architect B. Bruce Folsom was chosen to design the convent that can house 11 sisters. Twelve years later (1967) a sharply contrasting St. Ann's parish church with seating for 750 people, was built east of the school. The architect was William H. Louis.

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Hegarty, Mary Loyola. Serving with Gladness, Houston: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1967.

St. Ann's School Year Book, 1966.

Scanlan, Lawrence, Catholic Church in Utah, Salt Lake City: Intermountain Catholic Press, 1909.

Additional information from:

Utah History Since Statehood, Private Collection of Marcy Bennett

Catholic Church Chancery

Sanborn and Sanborn-Perris Maps, Utah State Historical Society

Special Collections, University of Utah, Marriott "Catholics in Utah," see index.

Utah State Archives.