

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 28 1982

DATE ENTERED MAR 1 1982

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. James Roman Catholic Church, Rectory and School

AND/OR COMMON

St. James Roman Catholic Church, Rectory and School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1430 Bardstown Rd., 1826 & 1818 Edenside Ave. *and*  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

3 &amp; 4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**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 Roman Catholic Archbishop of Louisville

STREET &amp; NUMBER

212 E. College St.

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Kentucky 40203**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5th &amp; Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

1978 &amp; 1980

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

St. James Church is located on the southwest corner of Edenside Ave. and Bardstown Rd. in the eastern section of the city of Louisville in the Tyler Park neighborhood. It can be seen from blocks in every direction. It is one block from Eastern Parkway, part of the Olmsted Park System (nominated to the National Register 1980), one block from the Schuster Building (National Register 1980), and directly across Bardstown Rd. from the Cherokee Triangle Preservation District (National Register 1976, Local Landmark District 1975).

St. James is cruciform in plan and constructed of brilliant orange glazed brick with single courses of red glazed brick every sixth row, and rests on a stone foundation. The roof is red tile. The style is Baroque Byzantine with Italian influences. The prominent bell tower is reminiscent of the Italian campanile. The bell tower has an irregular octagonal red tile roof. The four openings below the roof are slightly arched with paired columns.

The main entrance of the church is from Bardstown Rd. through three arches. Cream colored glazed terra cotta is used for the ornamentation of the arches, for the framework of the multi-colored terra cotta mosaic panels above, and for the window ornamentation above the panels. This grand entrance is full of decorative motifs. Columns flank the arched openings and have acanthus leaves at the base, fluting, crosses in diamond motifs and stylized capitals. Cherubs are seen in the keystones. The frieze is lined with beads and ovals. The cornice contains a dentil molding, an enriched talon molding, and braid molding. Volutes are located on either side of the mosaic panels and engaged columns, similar to those flanking the arches, divide the four mosaic panels. A large multi-paned window, slightly arched, culminates this grand facade entrance bay.

The side aisle windows are narrow, arched, stained glass windows with cream colored cabling surrounds. A large stained glass window of the same configuration as the facade window, is found on both sides of the church, set in a gable with an extended cornice lined with large brackets. The dome windows form a continuous circle on the exterior. They are arched with cabling surrounds. Large wooden brackets line the extended cornice of the dome roof and are placed between every two windows. Richly decorated circular windows allow light into the pendentives of the dome. These same windows, which have cream colored terra cotta surrounds are also found on either side of the main entrance and on the sides of the building. The side circular windows open into the confessionals. The exterior of the apse has a row of arched windows with red glazed brick voussoirs, and a band of diamond motifs in red glazed brick just below the bracketed cornice. Even the chimney stack has decorative brickwork. The uppermost portion is red glazed brick with orange glazed brick crosses on each of the four sides.

The interior of the church is as brilliant as the exterior. In the very center of the dome is a huge radiant disc of gold color with a large eye in the center. Just above the window arcade is a band of angels with swags between them and banners carrying the Great Virtues. Twelve niches in the window arcade hold statues of the apostles. The windows are of patterned stained glass and there are more windows on the interior of the dome than on the exterior, with a three foot walkway between the two.

# 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 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 1913, 1924, 1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. J. Gaffney

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. James is a spectacular example of the Baroque Byzantine style with Italian influences. The materials used are brilliant in color and of the highest artistic quality both on the interior and exterior. The church, rectory and school were all designed by local architect J. J. Gaffney, perhaps Louisville's most imaginative, unconventional architect.

The parish of St. James was first established in 1906 in a small frame structure on the corner of Bardstown Rd. and Edenside Ave., the location of the present church. The school conducted classes in another frame structure nearby until 1924, when the present building was constructed. The present church building was designed by J. J. Gaffney in 1912 and completed in 1913. Original renderings by the architect are framed and hanging in the church rectory. Gaffney spared no expense in the design and completion of the church. The double walled dome has a three foot walkway just below the window arcade. The larger exterior windows along this arcade not only allow more light into the nave of the church, but are proportionately correct from the exterior. But the smaller interior windows are proportionately correct with the dome height from the interior perspective. Smaller windows also allow the placement of niches for the twelve statues of the apostles, evenly placed between three-window groupings.

The spectacular eye in the center of the dome is unique. It was perhaps the request of the parish that it be so executed, but the unconventional nature of the symbolic Eye of God is typical of Gaffney.

The high altar and side altars were built in Italy from Gaffney's full size patterns which covered nine sheets of 36"X40" paper. Made of Carrara marble and Venetian gold mosaic, the pieces were delivered to the church in 1913. As described in the church records, "The different parts fit and dovetailed into each other with the precision of a piece of machinery."

Gaffney was a prominent local architect, responsible for several important buildings in Louisville. Adath Jeshurun Temple (1918) and Holy Name Roman Catholic Church (1911) are two of his ecclesiastical structures which have some of the same brilliant and highly stylized characteristics as St. James. He also designed several apartment buildings throughout Louisville. The Beston Apartments and The Belvoir Apartments in the Cherokee Triangle are among the best. A pair of warehouse buildings in the 200 block of E. Jefferson contain the glazed brick and terra cotta ornamental facade which typifies Gaffney's work. Residences throughout Louisville, including a fanciful Baroque sandstone residence on Highland Avenue, and the rectory of St. James, built in 1928, are to his credit.

Gaffney (1863-1946) first appears in the Louisville city directories in 1884, and he retired in 1930. He worked independently his entire career with few exceptions. Two such exceptions are the City Hospital, on which he assisted D. X. Murphy, and he participated in the construction of the Fincastle Bldg., designed by Joseph and Joseph.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Caron Annual Directories of the City of Louisville.

Church Files. St. James Roman Catholic Church.

"J. J. Gaffney, Architect, Dies..." Courier-Journal, 1 December 1946.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 3/4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,1,2,8,1,0 4,2,3,2,1,4,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

E [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

F [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

G [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

H [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 76F Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 ((See Map 2))

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

M. A. Allgeier, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Louisville Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 29, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

727 W. Main St.

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

*Ann Armstrong Thompson*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

1-22-82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the National Register

DATE

3/1/82

ATTEST: *[Signature]* ACTING KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Bardstown Rd. & Edenside Ave. / Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The dome is supported by four arches. In the pendentives are round stained-glass windows with the symbols of the four Evangelists, surrounded with highly stylized cartouche-like moldings. On either side of the window is an angel with wings spread, representing one of the eight beatitudes. Below the window is a cherub's face and radiating fluting which decorates the squinch. All of the columns and pilasters are fluted with two rows of acanthus leaves at the base and cherubs' faces, scrolls, crosses, grapes and foliage on the capitals.

The side walls are identical to each other with large stained-glass windows, one representing the Resurrection and the other representing the Descent of the Holy Spirit. Below each window are six stations of the cross and recessed into the wall are confessionals. The tall narrow side windows are arched with cabeling surrounds and cherubs' faces in the arch. The back of the church has a choir loft with a huge pipe organ covering the entire back wall surface.

The main altar sits in the apse with seven arched stained glass windows above, representing the seven choirs of angels. The altar itself is built of Carrara marble. A cupola in the center of the altar is flanked by kneeling angels. The dome of the cupola is covered by Venetian gold mosaic, and patterns in the supporting columns and on the altar surfaces are also gold and multi-colored mosaic. The two side altars were built of the same marble and contain the same mosaics. The statues of Mary and Joseph as well as the statues of the kneeling angels on the main altar, were cut from Bianco Puro marble by an Italian artist who left his tool markings on all portions of the statues except the flesh parts.

The dome of the church is 80 feet in height. The bell tower is 122 feet high and contains a 2200 pound bell made by Meneely Bell Co. in Troy, New York. The stations of the cross are painted on heavy copper plates by the artist Fuernstein and set in plaster frames. The stained glass windows were all manufactured by the F. X. Zettler Co., Munich, Germany.

The rectory at St. James is a two-and-one-half-story residence of a style similar to the church and of materials identical to the church. The first floor has a porch which extends across the facade and down the eastern side of the house. Double piers support the arched openings of contrasting voussoirs. The paired second floor windows and the central dormer window continue the arch motif with the same contrasting voussoirs. The entrance is flanked by sidelights.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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St. James Elementary School is a two-story red brick structure on a raised basement with buff brick banding, quoining and decoration. A parapet wall is dotted with buff brick diamond motifs. The two end bays protrude from the facade plane and contain one six-window grouping on each floor with quoining along the sides of the window groupings and diagonal buff brick patterning between floors. The inset facade of the building has three bays of three-window groupings with the same detailing as the end bays. The entrance is recessed deeply through three arches. The entry is half stone to match the basement story and the upper half consists of red brick with the same buff brick decoration found between floors on the facade.

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Bardstown Rd. & Edenside Ave.  
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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St. James is an excellent example of the Baroque Byzantine style as interpreted in the early twentieth century. The use of highly stylized terra cotta detailing and the brilliant glazed brick exterior surface are two of the most outstanding features of the church. The complex is also one of the finest works of J. J. Gaffney, a local architect known for his imaginative designs.

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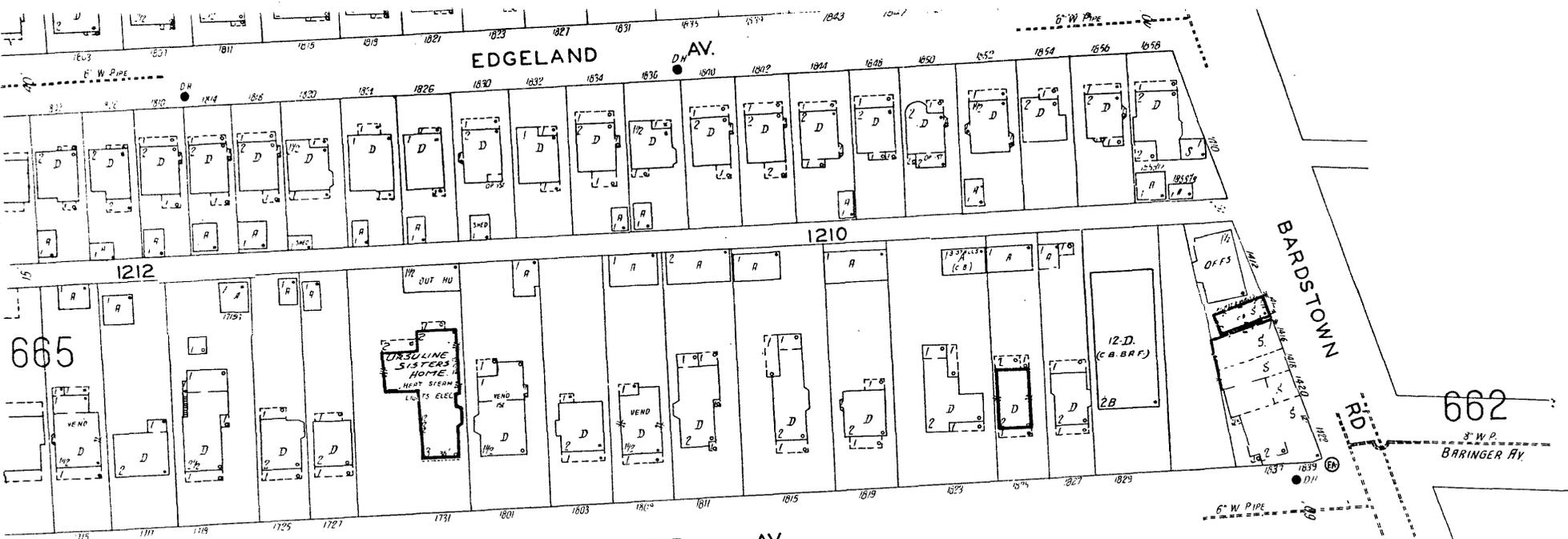
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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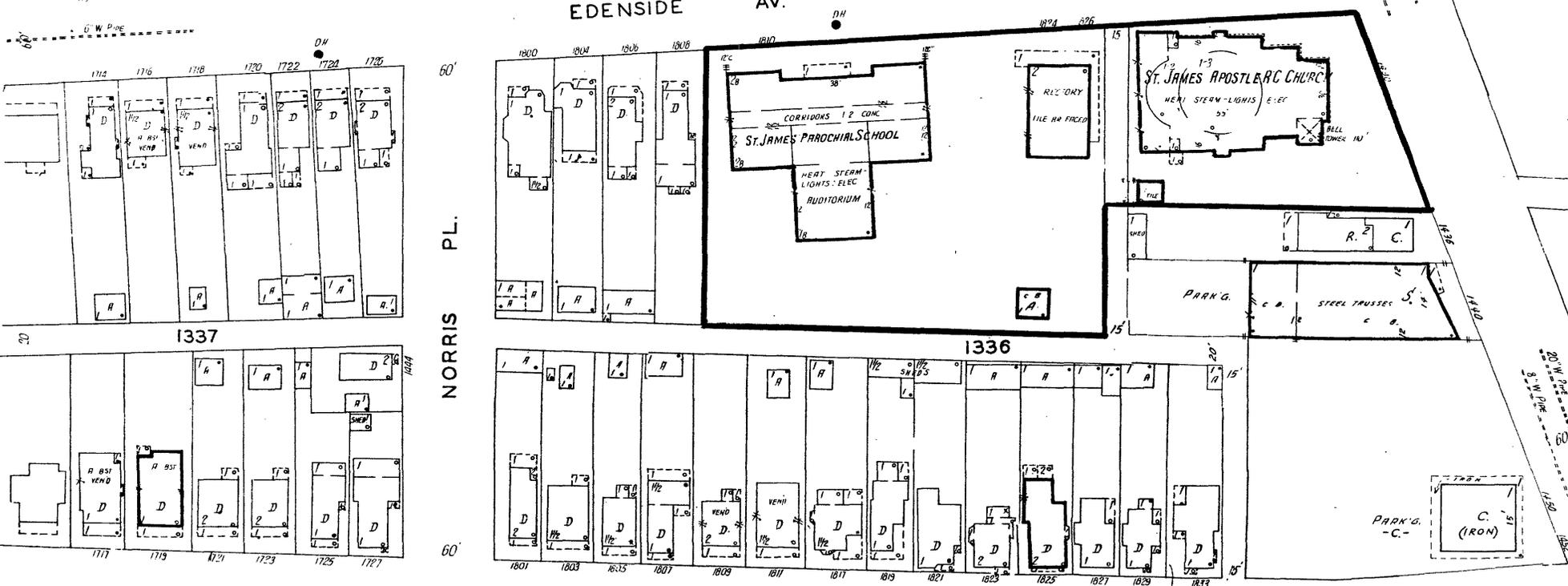
Office Files. Louisville Landmarks Commission.

"Plans for Storehouses..." Courier Journal. 7 December 1910.

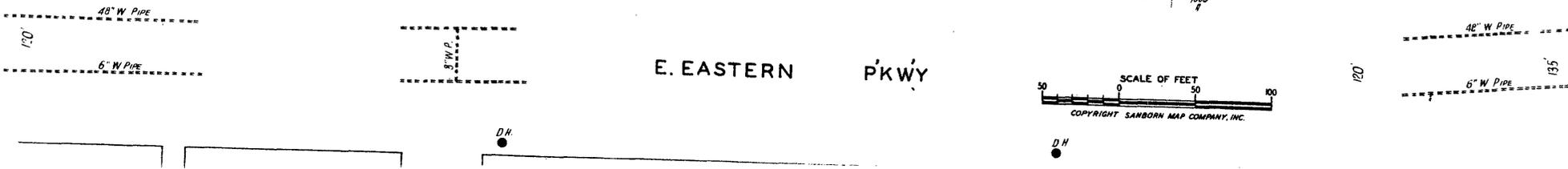
EDGELAND AV.



EDENSIDE AV.



E. EASTERN PKWY



Map 2 - Sanborn Map  
St. James Church, Rec. & School  
November 1980  
Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY.  
Nominated area shown in green.

Louisville Landmarks Commission  
727 W. Main/Louisville

