

PH0508420

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED JUN 13 1978

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

Ursuline Academy and Convent

AND/OR COMMON

The Cloister Complex

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

800 East Chestnut Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 and 4

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

___ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

___ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

___ AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Photography, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

330 Baxter Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth and Jefferson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE

1976

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Cloister Complex is located in an area of Louisville known as Phoenix Hill, about nine blocks east of the central part of the city. The Complex occupies the southeastern corner of East Chestnut and South Shelby Streets and contains three structures around an inner courtyard which formerly housed the Ursuline Convent and Academy and the Convent Chapel. The surrounding neighborhood is a mixture of unpretentious late nineteenth century and early twentieth century residences and commercial buildings. After some years of decline, the area is experiencing something of a renaissance (photos 1, 2, 3, 5; map 2).

The Ursuline Convent Chapel is the corner structure in the Cloister Complex. It was built in 1867-68 and designed by a Cincinnati architect, John Bast. Constructed of dark red brick with limestone trim, it is in the Romanesque Revival style with typical round-arch forms and brick corbelling. The large scale entry of white-painted stone is topped by a cross and has recessed double doors of dark-stained wood. The central tower portion of the facade contains a double window with round-arched top surmounted by a stained glass rose window. Other windows contain stained glass, some original and some dating from a 1900 renovation of the Chapel. The tower is topped by an octagonal spire. The vari-colored diapering pattern of the roof is still visible (photos 1, 2, 3, and 4).

The interior of the Chapel still has the original wall paintings executed in 1868 by Johann Schmitt, a Covington, Kentucky artist known primarily for his paintings of religious subjects for numerous churches in Kentucky, Ohio, and other mid-west states. The paintings depict various saints, including St. Ursula and St. Angela, patron saints of the Ursuline Order (photos 3).

East of the Chapel and fronting on Chestnut Street is a three-story, brick building erected in 1900-01 to house the Ursuline Convent and Academy. It was designed by Louisville architect, Cornelius A. Curtin, and built on the site of the first convent structure, erected in 1860 and razed in 1899. The Convent is of a very simple, modified Italianate style with no decorative detailing other than the paneled and arched entryway topped with a cross. The easternmost portion of this building was a later addition, probably built in the 1930s. The convent building is set back from the street behind a brick wall with recessed panels and an arched opening framed by white painted limestone. There are wrought-iron gates at the entry (photos 2, 4, 5).

East of the convent building is another structure now a part of the Cloister Complex. It is a two-and-one-half story brick residence of Italianate design. The asymmetrical facade has elaborate limestone window hoods consisting of broken and straightened pediments supported by carved brackets. A similar pedimented hood with larger brackets is above the recessed entry. The small attic windows have heavy cornices and paired brackets. A double-windowed dormer was probably added in the twentieth century (photos 6, 7, 14).

The Cloister Complex includes an inner courtyard with trees, flowers and shrubbery. The rear of the former convent building faces this courtyard. Across the yard on the south side are one and two-story brick buildings said to be some of the earlier structures erected for the Convent and Academy. On the west side of the courtyard is a twentieth-century addition at the rear of the Chapel. A stone grotto in the court was reportedly built with foundation stones from the 1860 Convent building which was razed in 1899 (photos 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1860-1946

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Bast, Cornelius Curtin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ursuline Academy, now known as The Cloister, is situated in an old residential neighborhood east of downtown Louisville. Located on the southeast corner of Shelby and Chestnut Street, it is immediately east of the area now known as the Health Sciences Complex of the University of Louisville. The Chapel, Convent, and Academy were built to serve the needs of the neighborhood and house the Ursuline Sisters and are fine examples of the Romanesque Revival and Italianate styles.

The Ursuline Sisters had come from Straubing Bavaria to St. Martins on Shelby Street in 1858 at the request of Bishop Martin John Spalding of Louisville. For two years, the Sisters lived in a frame cottage on nearby Campbell Street while teaching the children of German immigrants in St. Martins parish. A convent was begun in September of 1859 facing Chestnut Street and was completed in 1860. In September of that year, the Academy opened with 60 students. This first convent structure is no longer extant. One of the students in 1867 was the actress, Mary Anderson.

A small two-story building was erected in the 1860s on the rear of the courtyard and is extant as are other structures such as a laundry from the 1870s.

The Chapel was completed in 1869 and was designed by John Bast of Cincinnati. Bast was a carpenter and architect who worked in Cincinnati and Louisville in the 1860s. The Chapel of red brick and limestone with its diaper pattern roof is a diminutive church with a proliferation of round arches. The interior of the Chapel is lit by patterned stained glass windows. It is decorated by murals depicting the life of St. Ursula. They were executed by Johann Schmitt (1825-1898) of Covington, Kentucky. Schmitt was born in Heimstadt, Baden, Germany and came to the United States after the German Revolution in 1848. He came to Covington, Kentucky to be the principal painter of altar pieces in a company formed to provide altars for mission churches in Covington. Schmitt painted altars and decorated churches in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. He became active in the Society of Christian Art in Cincinnati. The paintings in the Ursuline Chapel were done in 1868 and 1872 (photos 2, 3, and 4). The Chapel was renovated in 1900 and electric lights were added.

The Convent and Academy were designed in 1899 by Cornelius A. Curtin (1853-1926), a well-known Louisville architect. In 1889, Curtin had designed the Columbia Building, the first skyscraper in the area. The ten-story building is no longer extant. He designed the City Hall Annex in 1907-09 (City Hall Complex, National Register-September, 1976). Curtin had worked originally under Bradshaw, a local architect. Curtin was a charter member of the old Louisville Chapter of AIA, forerunner of the Kentucky chapter.

The dignified, symmetrical facade with its round-arched entrance portico echoes the motifs of the Chapel (photo 4). According to tradition, some of the bricks and beams

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jefferson County Deed Books.

The Angeline Quarterly, Golden Jubilee of the Ursulines in Kentucky, 1858-1905.

Withey, H. F. and Withey, E. R., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects.
Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres (approximately)

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	61, 03, 6, 0	4, 23, 37, 2, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 16-K, Lot 61
City of Louisville

SEE SECTION MAP
LABORATORY 11/78

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

Elizabeth F. Jones, Research Director; Mary Jean Kinsman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 25, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

617 West Jefferson

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

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

Edward W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William Lelovich

DATE

6/13/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

June 12, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Ursuline Academy and Convent

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PAGE 2

from the old convent were reused, and the Sisters scraped the old mortar from the bricks after the workmen had left. Mr. Henry Bickel dug the excavation and Julius Piazza and Son laid the foundation for the new Convent and Academy. Completed in September of 1900, the new structure had offices, a library, a parlor, music rooms, a community room and refectory. The second and third floors had classrooms, sleeping cells, an infirmary and lavatories. In the twentieth century, various additions have been made within the complex (photo 1). The entire area is surrounded by a brick wall with wrought-iron gates.

In 1870, the Ursuline Society purchased the property on which 816 East Chestnut is built (photos 6 and 7, view 1). The Italianate townhouse was built prior to 1884 as it appears on the 1884 Atlas (view 3). It was apparently used as auxiliary living quarters and represents a fine example of a late nineteenth century townhouse. The structure is larger and more elaborate than other residential structures in the immediate area.

The old Ursuline Academy Complex was an integral part of its neighborhood and signifies the role the Ursuline Sisters had in the history of education in Louisville. The Complex has examples of late nineteenth century religious and educational structures designed by regional architects. Cornelius Curtin, who designed the Convent in 1899, was an architect of major importance in Louisville, executing designs in the neo-classical and Beaux Arts styles of architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Complex is one of only several integrated educational units of this type extant in the city.

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Ursuline Academy and Convent

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Pohlkamp, Rev. Diomedes, O.F.M. A Franciscan Artist of Kentucky: Life of Artist Johann Schmitt, 1825-1898. Reprint of Franciscan Studies, St. Bonaventure, New York, 1947.

Sister Mary Der. Gohmann, O.S.U. Chosen Arrows. New York: Pageant Press, Inc., 1957.

Letter from Sister M. Concetta Waller, Ursuline Sisters, Louisville, Kentucky, 12 October 1976.

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Ursuline Academy and Covent

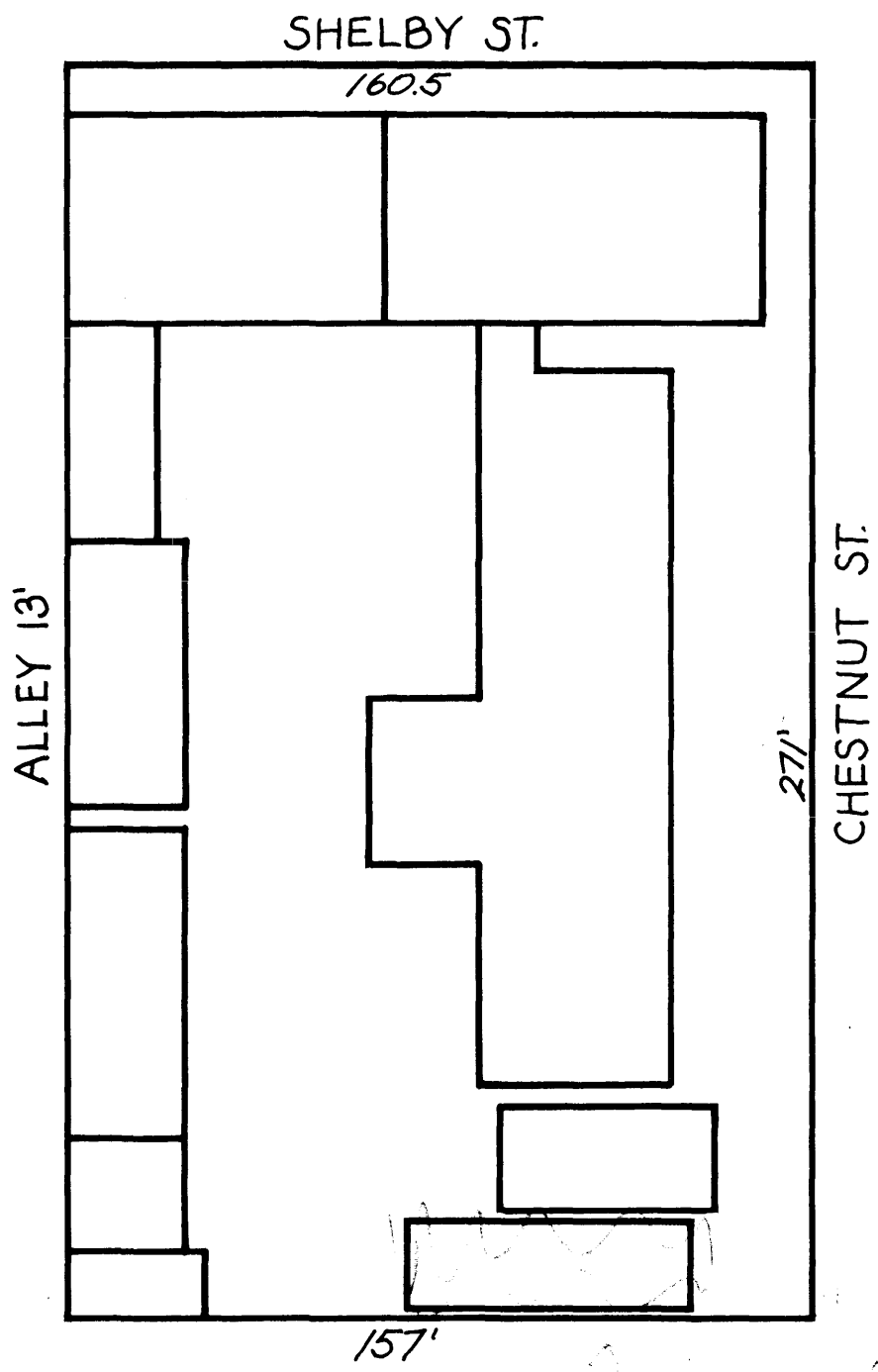
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

ADDENDUM

The northwest boundary of the nominated area is marked by the southeast corner of Shelby and Chestnut Streets and extends southward along the east side of Shelby Street to an alley between and running parallel to Chestnut and Gray Streets and located to the rear of the Old Classroom buildings within the Ursuline Academy Complex. The boundary then turns eastward following the north side of the alley to the eastward extent of lot 61. The boundary then turns northward, following the line demarking lot 61 from the adjacent lot 62 to the south side of Chestnut Street. The boundary then turns westward along the southside of Chestnut to the southeast corner of Chestnut and Shelby.



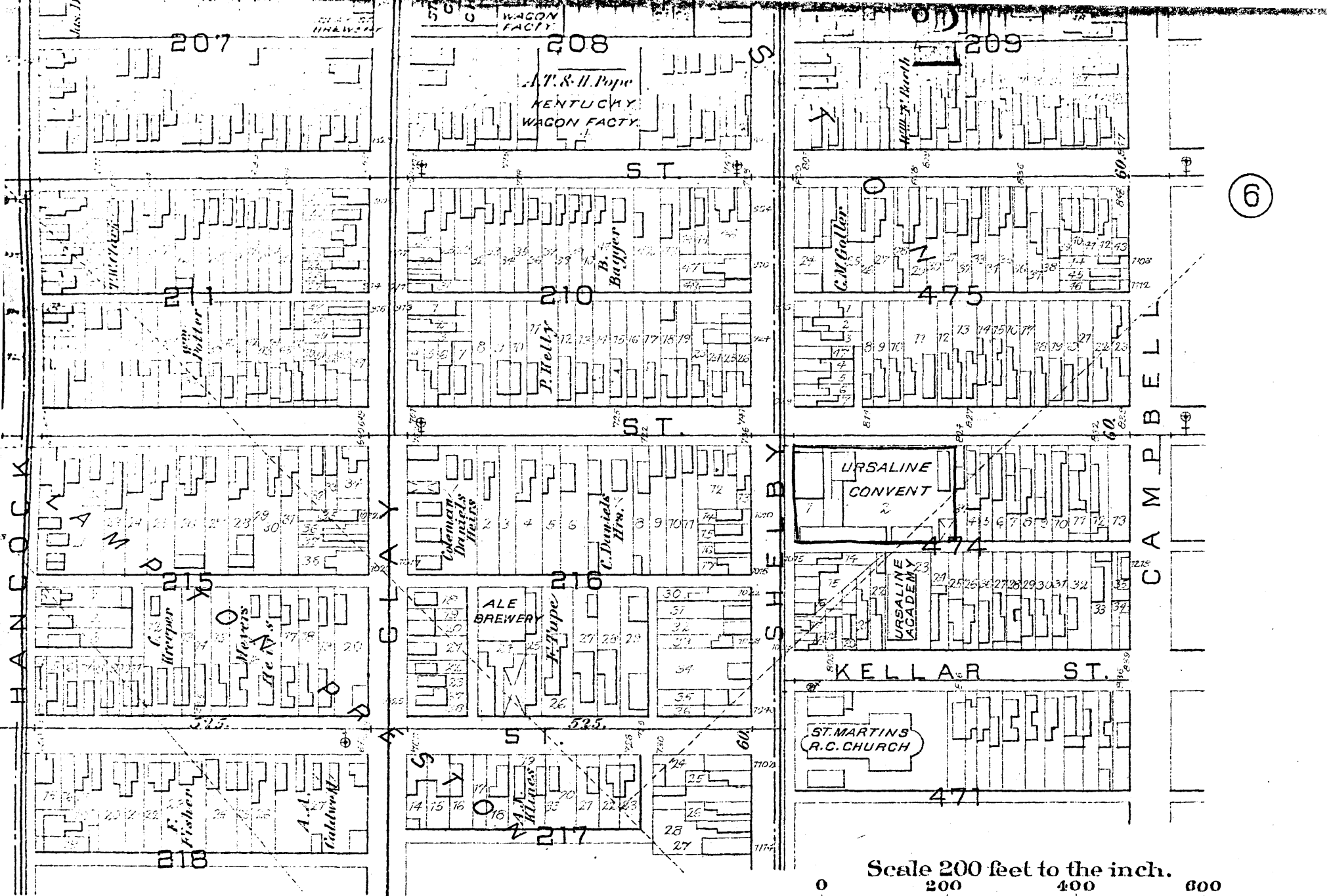
10/11/2014
 The lot has been
 divided
 into 4 lots
 as shown on
 attached
 map.

N →
 →

Ursuline Academy-The Cloister
800 East Chestnut Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
View No. 2. Site plan showing
building configuration & loca-
tion.

OCT 31 1977

JUN 13 1978



Ursuline Academy-The Cloister
800 East Chestnut Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Atlas of the City of Louisville
& Environs. Kentucky,
Louisville: G. M. Hopkins,
1884.

Map No. 2. 1884 Atlas.

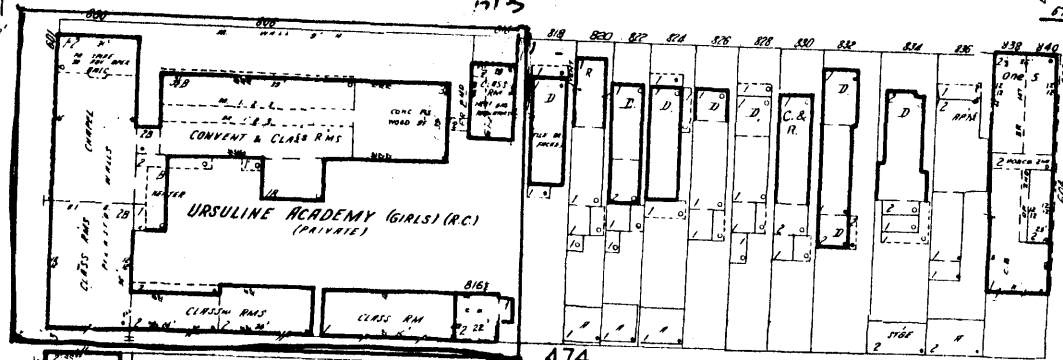
JUN 13 1978

OCT 31 1977

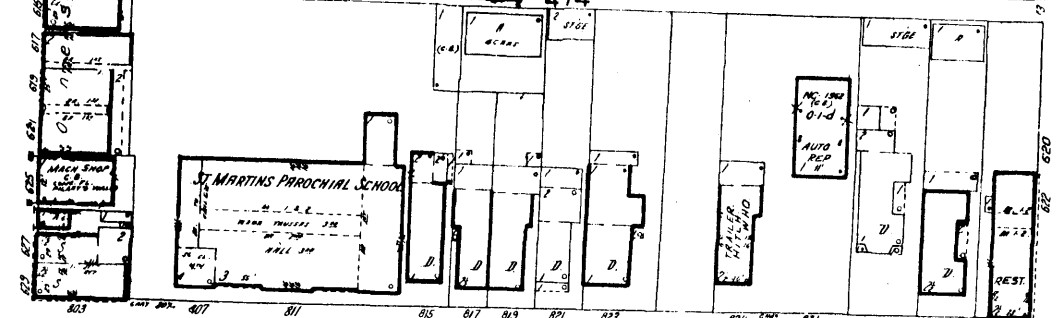


23E

E CHESTNUT



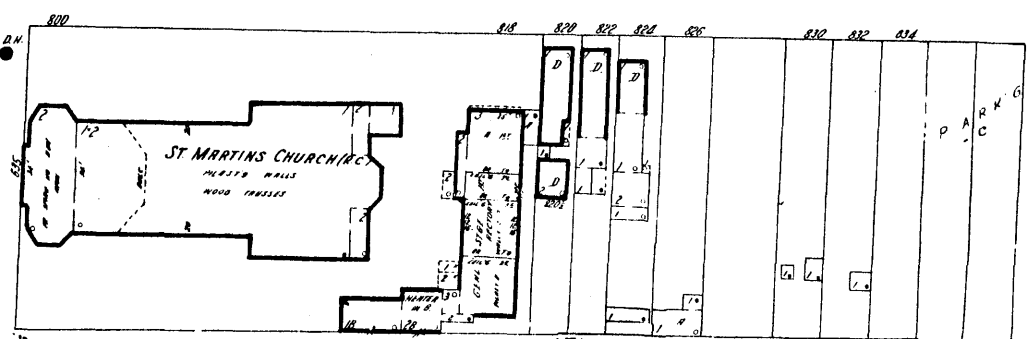
474



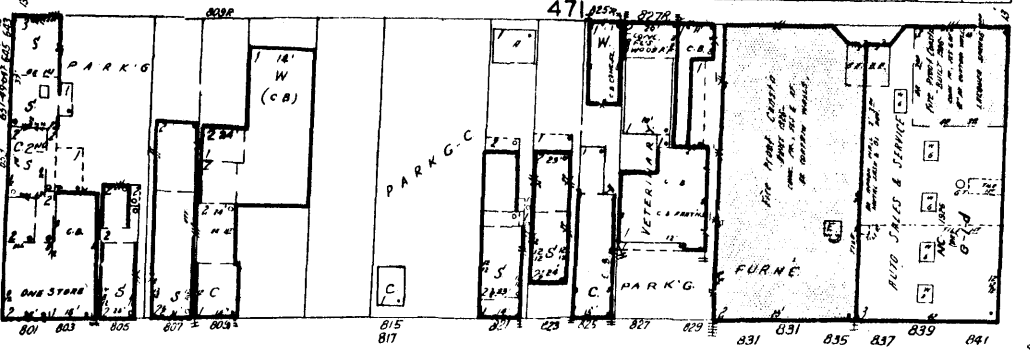
E GRAY

28E

30E



47



E B ROADWAY

S. SHELBY

S CAMPBELL

Ursuline Academy-The Cloister
800 East Chestnut Street
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Sanborn Map Co., Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania
Map No. 3. Sanborn maps showing
current location.

JUN 13 1978

OCT 31 1977

Corrected

Map

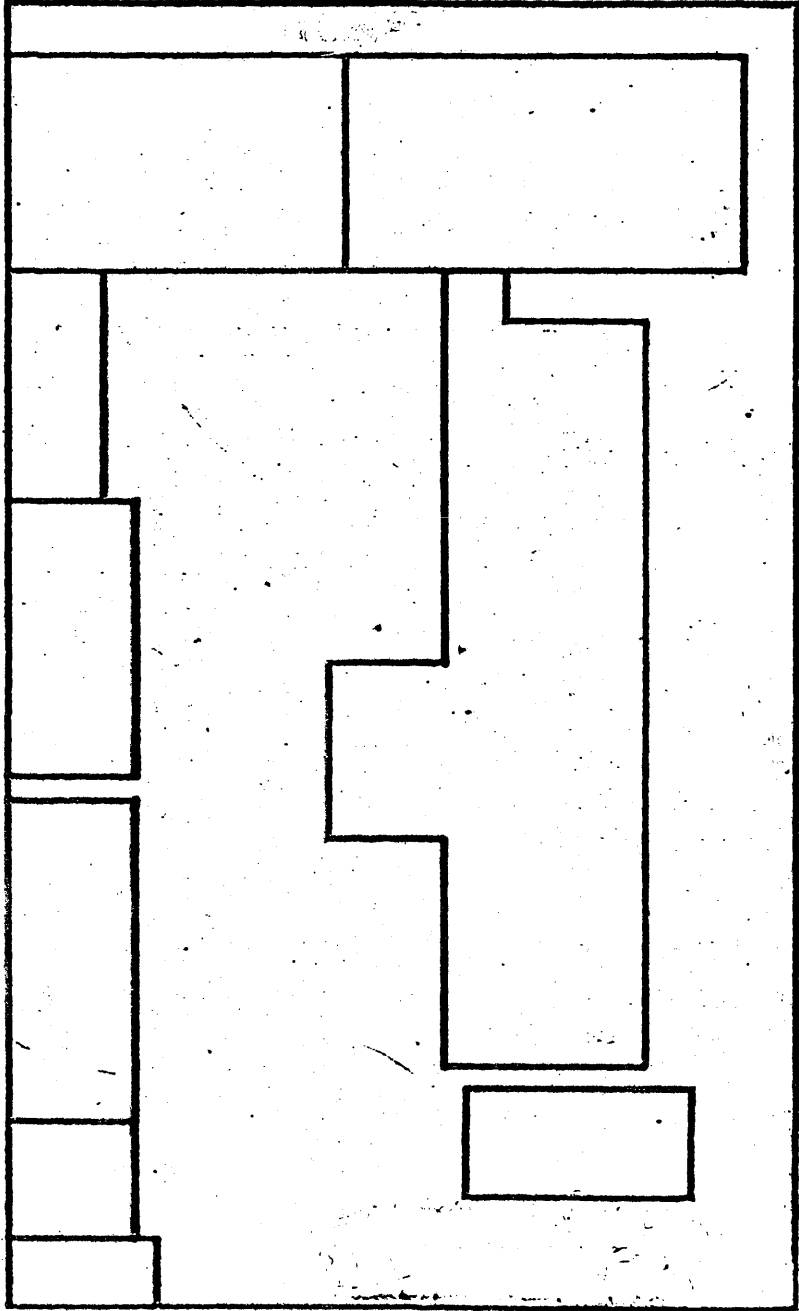
Wm A. Brantam

6.9.78

SHELBY ST.

ALLEY

CHESTNUT ST.



N →

Ursuline Academy and Convent
Louisville
Jefferson County JUN 13 1978
Kentucky

Sketch Plan

May 1978

No Scale

Map 4.

Sketch map of nominated area