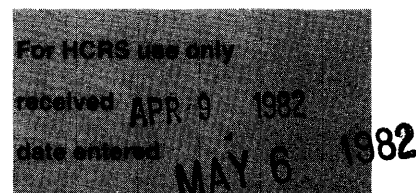


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 1024-28 E. Burnett Street NA not for publication

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville

street & number 212 E. College Street

city, town Louisville NA vicinity of state Kentucky

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County (Ky.) Courthouse

street & number 531 W. Jefferson Street

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Heritage Division, Department of the Arts

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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**    Constructed in 1915, the Church of St. Elizabeth was built to serve the community of Schnitzelburg, located roughly three miles from downtown Louisville. Settled around the turn of the century by German immigrants, Schnitzelburg is a neighborhood of shady streets lined with modest shotgun residences and bungalows.

The church incorporates elements of the Italian Renaissance and the English Baroque in an imaginative interpretation of the Classical Revival mode. It is constructed of brick with limestone trim. The facade consists of a pedimented main block flanked by square corner towers. The church appears unfinished because the east tower rises one level above its counterpart. In fact, the architect's plans originally called for spires on both towers. Except for the different tower heights, the facade is symmetrical. Brick pilasters with Corinthian capitals articulate the three bays of the main block. Three, double-door entries have arched stone surrounds and art-glass transoms. Above each entry is a round-arched, stained-glass window capped by a stone hood mold with pronounced keystone. The towers contain windows in their front and side faces. In the ground story, round-arched, stained-glass windows repeat the stone hoods and keystones of the windows above the entries. Around these openings are rectangular stone surrounds topped by stone cornices which support the window ensemble above. In the towers' second stories, rectangular, stained-glass windows are framed by heavily pedimented, stone surrounds. Running across the entire facade is a full entablature. A stone frieze in the central block reads: "Church of St. Elizabeth." The main cornice and raking cornice of the pediment are wooden, painted white, and unadorned by either brackets or dentils. A cross crowns the pediment.

The third levels of the towers are identical. Small arcades trimmed in stone fill all four faces. The fourth level of the east tower is octagonal. It features engaged classical columns at the corners and round-arched openings in the four principal faces. A cross sits atop the flat roof of each tower.

The side walls of the church are pierced by tall, round-arched windows recessed between pilasters. Projecting transepts topped by pediments contain secondary entrances.

The interior of the church is on the auditorium plan, with a semi-circular nave and side altars. The ceiling is vaulted, although a large, octagonal skylight of stained glass dominates the center. The arches spring from pilasters and clusters of engaged columns with Corinthian capitals. The ribs of the arches are decorated with painted rosettes. The walls are painted in tones of cream and aquamarine, while the terrazzo floor is in shades of green and rose. The pews are dark-stained oak. A curving, wooden railing encloses a balcony at the rear of the nave. Free-standing sculpture along the walls depicts the Stations of the Cross. The transepts and side altars also contain statuary. The present appearance dates generally from a 1938 renovation, though frescoes executed at this time have been painted over and a communion rail is no longer there. The first stained-glass windows were installed in 1940.

Three other parish buildings are located adjacent to the church, but are not included in this nomination. The original 1905 church and a rectory building both have been severely altered. A convent building dates from 1951.

## 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** 1915 **Builder/Architect** Fred T. Erhart

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church is architecturally significant as one of the finest Classical Revival churches in Louisville. It displays an imaginative, yet restrained combination of Renaissance and Baroque features that is unusual for this city. It is also an important work of a leading ecclesiastical architect of the early twentieth century.

St. Elizabeth Parish was established in December of 1905 to serve the young and growing community of Schnitzelburg in eastern Louisville. The following year, the first parish building, a combination church and school, was erected on Burnett Street. This structure stills stands near the present-day church and serves as the parish school, but it is not part of this nomination.

The new church was dedicated on August 8, 1915. The architect was Fred T. Erhart (1870-1951), whose work is not well-documented, but who executed a number of significant designs for the Catholic Church during the first half of this century. Among them are St. Therese Church and Rectory (National Register, March 1975). St. Therese is probably Erhart's masterpiece and, in some ways, can be seen as the culmination of ideas first expressed in St. Elizabeth thirteen years earlier. St. Therese shows the same blend of Classical and Baroque elements (though, in its case, Spanish Baroque), as well as the same twin tower plan. In addition, the interiors of the two churches are quite similar, displaying the same masterful handling of light and space.

Erhart was also the architect of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Covington, designed buildings for Sacred Heart Academy and the Ursuline Convent in Louisville and planned additions to the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemane, Kentucky.

The interior of St. Elizabeth was redecorated in 1938 on the occasion of the silver anniversary of the church, under the supervision of another specialist in ecclesiastical architecture, Thomas J. Nolan. At this time, the terrazzo floor, communion rail and sanctuary lighting were installed. Statuary and frescoes were executed by local artists. Unfortunately, some of these improvements were lost in the early 1970s renovation that followed the directives of Vatican II.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Fred Erhart, Church Designer and Building Inspector, Dies." (Louisville) Courier-Journal, 3 June 1951.
- "Seventy Years A Parish." (Pamphlet). 1980.
- "Silver Jubilee Souvenir, St. Elizabeth Church." (Pamphlet). 1939-1940.

# 10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre (.37 acre)  
 Quadrangle name Louisville East Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point in the southwest right-of-way line of Burnett Street 105' west of the southwest corner of Burnett and Hickory Streets, thence west following said right-of-way line 100' to a point, thence south and parallel to Hickory Street 160' to a point in the northeast right-of-way line of the (see continuation sheet)

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

state	<u>NA</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh B. Foshee / Architectural Historian  
 organization Louisville Landmarks Commission date October 11, 1981  
 street & number 727 W. Main St. telephone (502) 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Jeanan Appel  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/31/82

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 5/6/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

St. Elizabeth R.C. Church  
Louisville, Jefferson Co.,

CONTINUATION SHEET Kentucky

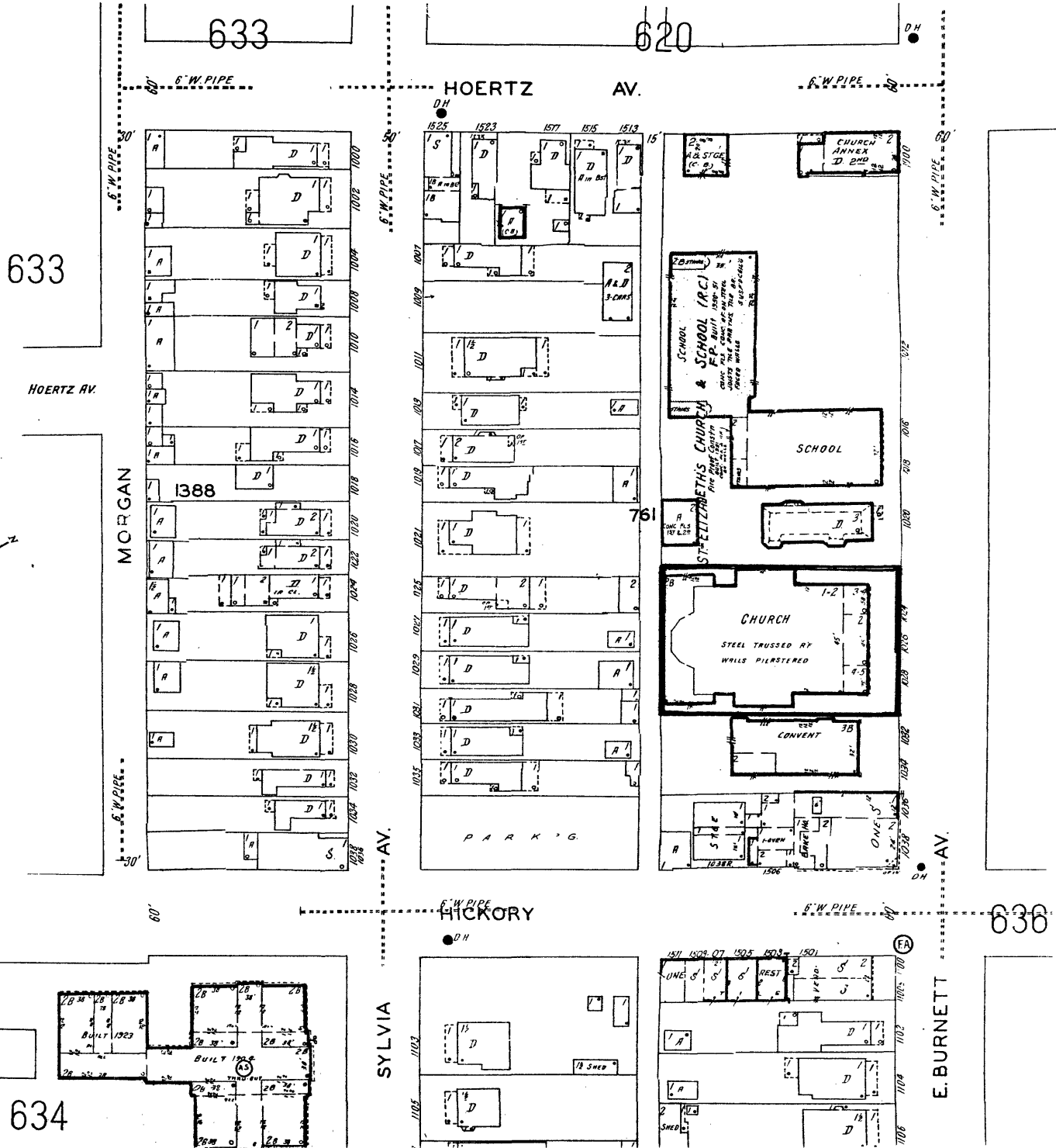
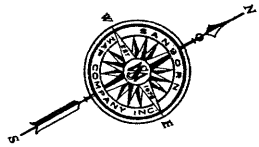
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

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first alley south of Burnett Street, thence east following said right-of-way line 100' to a point, thence north and parallel to Hickory Street 160' to the point of beginning, being part of City Block 26-G, Lot 22 of the City of Louisville.

The nominated area includes only the church building itself. Other buildings on adjacent church property, such as the convent, rectory and school, are not within the boundary of this nomination.

635



634

636

SYLVIA

E. BURNETT

St. Elizabeth R.C. Church  
1024-28 Burnett St.  
Louisville, Jefferson Co.,  
Kentucky

Sanborn Map Co. (1974)  
Pelham, N.Y.

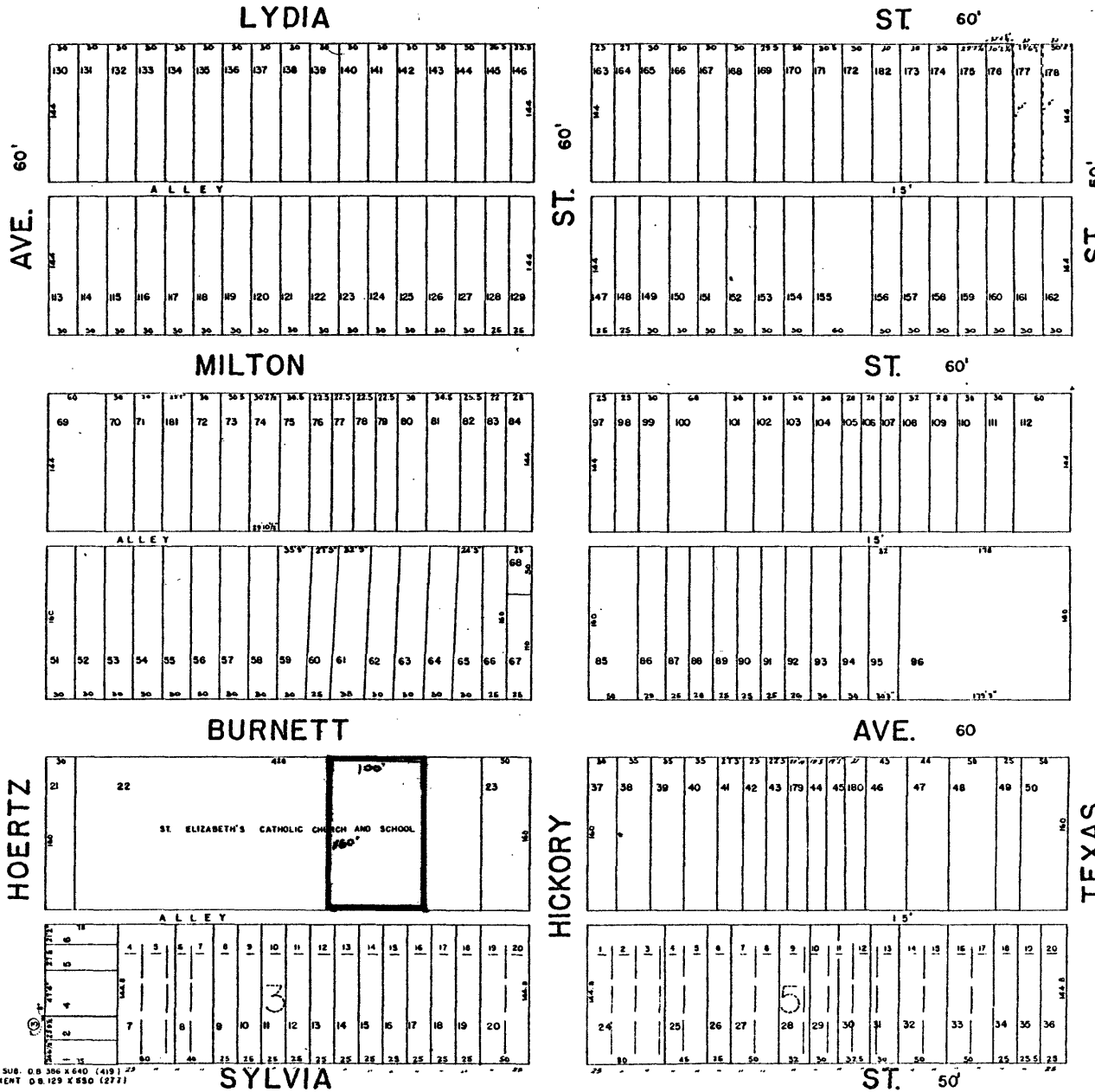
Map 2. Sanborn Map, vol. 6,  
p. 635.

1"=100 feet

SCALE, 1" = 60'

744  
748  
749

26-G





St. Elizabeth R.C. Church  
1024-28 Burnett St.  
Louisville, Jefferson Co.,  
Kentucky

Jefferson County Real Estate  
Atlas (1968)

Map 3. Real Estate Atlas