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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 23 1991

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NATIONAL REGISTER
Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2034 St. Stephens Road not for publication
city, town Mobile vicinity
state AL code AL county Mobile code _____ zip code 36617

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Roman Catholic properties in Mobile, Alabama, 1848-1928
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 5-21-91
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

entered in the National Register

[Signature]

7/3/91

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper

_____ Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church lies in the Toulminville community on St. Stephens Road. The church sits on a large lot with informal landscaping. The church is a one story, 3x6 bay frame building with a gable roof to the front resting on a brick foundation wall. A one story hip roof porch on box columns with capitals and a centered gable above covers the entrance bay. There are paired vertical stained glass windows to each side. A large rose window is centered above, with a round top louvered vent above this. There is a pyramidal roof belfry atop with box columns and bell. The side elevations feature round top stained glass windows. Box cornice. One interior brick chimney at the rear.

The church is entered through a simple vestibule. The interior plan features aisle and a nave with barrel vaulted ceiling of beaded board. The aisle ceilings are supported on panel, box columns with gilded Corinthian capitals and boxed entablature. There is a cantilevered choir loft over the entrance with an arched balustrade rose window behind.

The church retains its integrity of location, style and design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1916

Significant Dates

1916

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C: Architecture

Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church is significant under National Register Criteria C as a rare surviving vernacular Catholic Church in the City of Mobile. The Catholic building tradition in Mobile is overwhelmingly high style. Though this church is constructed of frame it does have a formal plan and such decorative features as stained glass windows and interior vaulting.

* * * * *

Toulminville is an old suburb of Mobile with a history stretching back to the 1820s. During these early years the Catholics in the area were served by the Jesuits in Springhill. In 1868 land in Toulminville was given for a local Catholic Church, which was constructed shortly thereafter. The congregation numbered sixty. The parish was briefly served (1877-79) by Father Abram Joseph Ryan, the famous poet-priest of the Confederacy. In 1916 the original church was destroyed by a hurricane. A new church was erected on the spot and stands to this day. Today (1990) the parish is predominantly black.

Criteria Consideration A

Criteria Consideration A applies to this property because of its architectural merit and high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Catholic Week. Mobile, Alabama November 29, 1979

Mobile Press Register. March 31, 1974

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	6	5	6	0	3	3	9	7	6	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at a point on the east side of St. Stephens Road 230 feet N of the intersection with Holly Drive. Thence proceed N 100 feet to a point, thence E 200 feet to a point, thence S 100 feet to a point, thence W 200 feet to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to exclude non-historic properties on the parcel.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Sledge/Architectural Historian; Steven Kay/AHC Reviewer

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date October 1, 1990

street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone 205-438-7281

city or town Mobile state AL zip code 36633

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-
graphs Page 1 Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church

1. St. Francis Xavier
2034 St. Stephens Road
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. March 1990
5. MHDC Negative File MB #179

Photo #	Description (Frame #)
1.	Facade, camera facing N (12)
2.	General, camera facing NW (15)
3.	Side, camera facing E (18)
4.	Interior, nave, camera facing S (8)
5.	Same, camera facing N (11)