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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Vincent de Paul other names/site number Prince of Peace

2. Location

street & number 351 South Lawrence Street city, town Mobile state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 097 zip code 36603

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Roman Catholic Properties in Mobile, Alabama, 1848-1928

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: Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: Patrick W. Andrews Date of Action: 4/24/92

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)

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls Brick

roof Slateother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Vincent de Paul-Prince of Peace Church sits on the northeast corner of Palmetto and Lawrence Streets in south Mobile's Central Texas Street neighborhood. The church commands the entire area and is lined along Palmetto Street by live oak trees. The rest of the block consists of scattered pine trees and ancillary church buildings. The church itself is a large, red brick building of one story raised on a masonry foundation which is pierced by deeply splayed vents on the north side. It is a three aisled church with shallow transepts projecting at the flat east end. The west facade is divided into three bays with the central bay forming the three stories of the projecting tower. The tower and the corners of the facade are articulated by compound stepped buttresses with white stone forming the cap of each step. Each side bay is entered by a pointed, double leaf, paneled door with an oculus centered above it. The raking cornices of the roof are capped by white stone at the outer corner of which rises a small gabled turret. A finely molded brick corbel table follows below the line of the rake. The twin buttresses framing the tower rise above the height of the roof ridge. In the front face of each tower base is a recessed panel in the shape of a cross, a motif that is repeated in the small window of the main double doors. The double leaf, paneled doors are set beneath a hood of beautifully molded bricks set in two orders, resting on corbels. In the tympanum above the pointed door are two triangular shaped stained glass windows and an oculus. At the second level of the tower is a pointed opening with triple windows. At the third level another oculus window centers below the crown of the tower. The tower is terminated by a wooden belfry in three tiers and a tall spire. The north and south side elevations are divided into bays by stepped buttresses, each bay centered by twin lancet windows and an oculus, all with stained glass. The rear western wall is divided into three bays, two with fenestration like the sides of the building. The rear wall extends flat to form the shallow transepts. Small gable roofs at transept entrances. All cornices are accented by a brick corbel table.

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The church is entered by a vestibule through double wooden panel doors with a tri-part stained glass transom. The nave and aisles feature a fan vaulted ceiling, soaring out of clustered columns along the aisles and gilded brackets along the walls. Lantern like lights hang down the center of the nave and aisles. The lancet stained glass windows are interspersed with the stations of the cross. Original pews are present with fleur-de-lis cresting at the bench ends. There is a choir loft over the entrance supported on clustered columns with a paneled front of lancet molding. Walls are plastered.

Integrity

St. Vincent de Paul-Prince of Peace Church retains its integrity of location, style and design. The wooden belfry was placed atop the tower after Hurricane Frederic in 1979. The tower was originally crowned at each corner by a gable with a cross at the center. Interior integrity is excellent with original pews and decorative treatments.

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

1874

Significant Dates

1874

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Hutchisson, James H.

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

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

St. Vincent de Paul-Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as an important high style example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in the City of Mobile. The church is one of the best interpretations of the Gothic Revival style in the city and was patterned after St. Patrick's Church in Albany, New York. St. Vincent's also exhibits some of the finest brick work in the City of Mobile. Another excellent example of Gothic Revival church design in the city is Trinity Episcopal Church erected in 1853 (NRHP 8/20/90).

St. Vincent de Paul Parish is the second oldest in Mobile, founded by Michael Portier (Mobile's first bishop) in 1847 to serve Catholics in the southern portions of the city. A frame church was built at the corner of Lawrence and Charleston Streets. A church school was conducted from 1847 to 1963 by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. There was also an orphan asylum. A magnificent new church building was constructed in 1874 at the corner of Palmetto and Lawrence Streets. Designed by Mobile architect James H. Hutchisson and patterned after St. Patrick's church in Albany, New York, the new church was a high style interpretation of the Gothic Revival and exhibited some of the finest brick work in the city. The building remained substantially unaltered through the years until the spire was added in 1979. In 1970 St. Vincent de Paul merged with the predominantly black parish of St. Peter Claver (est. 1911) and the new combined parish was known as Prince of Peace. The area underwent radical changes during urban renewal as most of the surrounding historic houses were removed and replaced by brick ranch houses. Today the parish is predominantly black and continues to hold services in the magnificent ediface built in 1874.

Criteria Consideration A

Criteria Consideration A applies to this property because of its outstanding architectural importance. The building is a rare Mobile example of a high style Gothic Revival Church displaying superior brickwork.

See continuation sheet

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1. St. Vincent de Paul-Prince of Peace
351 South Lawrence Street
2. Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama
3. John Sledge, photographer
4. February 1990
5. MHDC Negative File--MB #178

Photo #	Description (Frame #)
1.	Facade. Camera facing E (21)
2.	Side elevation. Camera facing N (25)
3.	Rear. Camera facing W (27)
4.	Interior, nave. Camera facing E. (31)
5.	Same. Camera facing W (30)
6.	Interior, detail, camera facing S (34)