

56-1766



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Francis Xavier School

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 5220 Troost Avenue

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Kansas City

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Jackson Code 095 Zip code 64110

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Toni M. Prawl SEP 06 2017  
Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. 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:)  
for Colson H. Beall

10.23.17  
Date of Action

St. Francis Xavier School  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Church School

VACANT/Not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other: GLASS

CERAMIC TILE

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

St. Francis Xavier School  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1962

**Significant Dates**

1962

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi (Architect)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph Archives Missouri Valley Special Collections, KCPL

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 2.2 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.03142 -94.57412 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rachel Nugent, Sr. Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC date April 2017

street & number 1712 Holmes telephone 816-472-4950

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108

e-mail rachel@rosinpreservation.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**St. Francis Xavier School**

Name of Property

**Jackson County, Missouri**

County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: **St. Francis Xavier School**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Brad Finch, f-stop Photography**

Date

Photographed: **February 16, 2017**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 33: West elevation, center and south wings, view east
- 2 of 33: South and north wings, view northwest
- 3 of 33: South and north wings, view southwest
- 4 of 33: North wing gymnasium, view southeast
- 5 of 33: West elevation, center wing, view east
- 6 of 33: Courtyard, center wing and north wing, view northwest
- 7 of 33: Courtyard and center wing, view west
- 8 of 33: Cantilevered walkway and north wing, view north
- 9 of 33: East elevation of main corridor, center wing and north wing, view west
- 10 of 33: North elevation of center wing, kindergarten (1<sup>st</sup> floor) and convent (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), view southwest
- 11 of 33: Main corridor and center wing, view northwest
- 12 of 33: South wing and main corridor, view southwest
- 13 of 33: Parking lot, view north
- 14 of 33: Troost Avenue with St. Francis Xavier School and Church on the left and Rockhurst University on the right, view north
- 15 of 33: Primary entrance and main corridor from center wing, view northwest
- 16 of 33: Statuary pedestal in the main corridor, view northeast
- 17 of 33: North wing corridor, view east
- 18 of 33: North wing, typical classroom, view northwest
- 19 of 33: North wing, typical classroom, view northeast
- 20 of 33: South wing, typical classroom, view northeast
- 21 of 33: South wing, typical classroom, view southwest
- 22 of 33: Center wing, former library and music room, view south
- 23 of 33: Center wing, former kindergarten, view northeast
- 24 of 33: North wing, basement, cafeteria, view northeast
- 25 of 33: North wing, basement, gymnasium, view southeast
- 26 of 33: Center wing, stairwell to second floor convent, view west
- 27 of 33: Center wing, convent chapel, view north
- 28 of 33: Center wing, convent community room, view northeast
- 29 of 33: Center wing, convent balcony, view west
- 30 of 33: Center wing, convent dormitory and balcony, view northeast
- 31 of 33: Center wing, convent dormitory, center hexagonal room and corridor, view northwest
- 32 of 33: Center wing, convent dormitory, typical room, view west
- 33 of 33: Center wing, convent dormitory, typical room, view east

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## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- Figure 1.** Context Map. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 2.** Site Map with surrounding institutions. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 3.** Site Map. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 4.** Photo Map, Exterior. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 5.** Photo Map, First Floor. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*
- Figure 6.** Photo Map, Second Floor. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*
- Figure 7.** Photo Map, Basement. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*
- Figure 8.** Example of Finger Plan School. *Source: Ogata, 365.*
- Figure 9.** Historic Plans, First Floor. *Source: Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi Architects. "Saint Francis Xavier School and Convent." Architectural Plans, 1961. Frank Grimaldi (1924-2010) Architectural Records Collection (K1252). State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center – Kansas City.*
- Figure 10.** Historic Plans, Second Floor. *Source: Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi Architects. "Saint Francis Xavier School and Convent." Architectural Plans, 1961. Frank Grimaldi (1924-2010) Architectural Records Collection (K1252). State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center – Kansas City.*
- Figure 11.** Old St. Francis Xavier School, constructed 1922. 1940 Tax Assessment Photograph. *Source: Missouri Digital Heritage.*
- Figure 12.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1880 through 1912 (during Bishop Hogan's administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*
- Figure 13.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1913 through 1938 (during Bishop Lillis' administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*
- Figure 14.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1939 through 1956 (during Bishop O'Hara's administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*
- Figure 15.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1956 through 1961 (during Bishop Cody's administration of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*
- Figure 16.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1962 through 1966 (during Bishop Helmsing's administration of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*
- Figure 17.** Courtyard, view south to classrooms. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*
- Figure 18.** Douglass School (2640 Belleview Ave., 1953), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 19.** Hartman School (8111 Oak St., 1953), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 20.** Martin School (716 N. Garland Ave., 1954), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 21.** Longan School (3421 Cherry St., 1955), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*

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- Figure 22.** Wheatley School (2415 Agnes Ave., 1955), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 23.** Dunbar School (5419 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 1956), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 24.** Switzer Primary School (1810 Madison Ave. 1957), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 25.** Melcher School (3958 Chelsea Ave., 1959), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 26.** Garfield School (436 Prospect Ave., 1960), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 27.** West Rock Creek School (8820 E. 27<sup>th</sup> St., 1961), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 28.** Richardson School (3515 Park Ave., 1963), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 29.** Franklin School (3400 Highland Ave., 1968), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 30.** Weeks Elementary School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School complex (4201 Indiana Ave., 1968), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 31.** Christ the King Parish School (425 W. 85<sup>th</sup> St., 1946), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 32.** St. John the Baptist Parish School (548 Brooklyn Ave., 1948), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 33.** St. Elizabeth's Parish School (2 E. 75<sup>th</sup> St., 1953), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 34.** Annunciation Parish School (2800 Linwood Blvd., 1954), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 35.** Assumption Parish School (309 Benton Blvd., 1954), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 36.** Guardian Angel Parish School (4232 Mercier St., 1955), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 37.** Holy Name Parish School (2210 Kansas Ave., 1955), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 38.** Immaculate Heart of Mary (St. Mary's) Parish School (2402 Swope Pkwy, 1957), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 39.** Holy Trinity Parish School (4012 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., 1959), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 40.** St. Stephen's Parish School (1025 Bennington Ave., 1959), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 41.** St. Bernadette Church and Parish School (9020 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr., 1960), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 42.** Visitation Parish School (5134 Baltimore Ave., 1960), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 43.** Holy Cross Parish School (121 N. Quincy Ave., 1962), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*
- Figure 44.** St. John Francis Regis Church and Parish School (8941 James A. Reed Rd., 1966), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*

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St. Francis Xavier School
Name of Property
Jackson County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### SUMMARY

St. Francis Xavier School at 5220 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is a three-story Catholic school complex constructed in 1962. The International Style Modern Movement building has an irregular shape, irregular massing, wide overhanging eaves off the flat roofs, and a mix of modern materials. Three wings, connected internally, comprise the building, which has a concrete foundation, flat roofs, and curtain walls with stacked brown and buff brick, concrete block, concrete panels with large aggregate, and bands of aluminum windows. The main entrance on the west elevation faces the asphalt parking lot (a contributing structure), while the east elevation includes an enclosed courtyard. The interior has a U-shaped corridor with two classroom wings (north and south) and a center wing, with offices and the kindergarten, on the first floor; the gymnasium and cafeteria in the north wing at the basement level, and the convent in the center wing on the second floor. The building retains the materials, finishes, and configuration that convey the functions of the various components of the building and overall its function as a Catholic elementary school, constructed in 1962.

### ELABORATION

#### Setting

The St. Francis Xavier School (St. Francis) property includes the school building, a small portion of grass lawn on the west side of the building, and the asphalt parking lot (*Figure 3*). Concrete sidewalks connect the entrances to the parking lot and the public sidewalks. Public sidewalks line the south and east property lines. A private sidewalk lines the north property line. Concrete steps with historic metal railings connect the sidewalks at the graded areas. An asphalt drive connects Troost Avenue to the north-south alley north of the building, between it and the parking lot. The parcel is relatively flat except at the perimeters. The drive on the north and E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street on the south slope down to the east to meet Troost Avenue. The change in grade is a full story to allow for at-grade entrances to the basement spaces on the north elevation. A stone and earthen retaining wall lines the east property line. The grass lawn slopes down steeply from the south side of the building to the sidewalk on E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and from the west drive to Troost Avenue. The paved parking lot holds about thirty cars and has concrete curbs on the east side. The flat lot does not have curbs on the north, west, or south sides. The parking lot was constructed during the period of significance along with the school and is therefore a contributing structure (*Photo 13*).

St. Francis Xavier School is affiliated with the St. Francis Xavier Parish, which contains a church (1950), and a large parking lot, in addition to the school and its associated parking lot. The west concrete walkway that connects the north entrance to the north sidewalk aligns roughly with the sidewalk that leads from the southeast side of the church. The physical association with the church and the connection to the parking lot make it difficult to determine which is the front elevation (*Figure 3*). The school sits among two large institutions and a

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residential neighborhood, as it did historically (*Figures 1-3*). The school property occupies the southwest quarter of the block bounded by Troost Avenue on the east, E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street on the south, Rockhill Road on the west, and E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street on the north. St. Francis Xavier Parish Church occupies the northeast quarter of the block (*Photo 2*). Large single-family residences, many of which have been converted to housing for the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) students or offices for University organizations, occupy lots on a semi-circular driveway immediately west of the nominated property. The blocks immediately south of the nominated building contain modest single-family houses, many of which are owned by UMKC. The main campus of UMKC, a public university, occupies several blocks north and west of St. Francis Xavier while Rockhurst University, a private Jesuit university, occupies several blocks on the east side of Troost Avenue (*Photo 14*). Troost Avenue has a long history as a major north-south commercial thoroughfare through the city.

Exterior

The complexity of the plan and the three wings are visible on each elevation. Enclosed corridors connect the three wings on the west side of the building (*Figure 5*). Open concrete walkways connect the north and south wings on the east side of the building while enclosing the courtyard around the center wing (*Photos 2, 6, and 8*). The wings are rectangular blocks of different sizes. The north wing is two blocks adjacent to one another. The north wing is two stories: basement and first floor. The center wing is two stories: first floor and second floor. The south wing is one story: first floor. The north and west elevations are the primary elevations. All windows, doors, and materials are original unless otherwise noted.

*West Elevation*

All three wings and connectors are visible on the west elevation (*Photo 1*). The north wing has a concrete foundation that is gradually more exposed as the site slopes downward from south to north (*Photo 4*). The entrance at the northwest corner is recessed behind the concrete foundation wall and the cantilevered overhang. A concrete beam delineates the first story. Vertical concrete panels with large aggregate clad the first story. A steel beam runs the length of the façade above the concrete panels. A short parapet with small rectangular dark gray ceramic tile cladding and metal coping caps the façade. The narrow recessed area between the north and center wings contains mechanical equipment enclosed behind a non-historic wood privacy fence (*Photo 5*). The connector between the north and center wings has the one-story corridor at the first story, a two-story block associated with the convent, and the enclosed stairwell to the second story (*Figure 5*). The corridor has glazed walls with aluminum frames. Small rectangular dark gray ceramic tiles set in a stacked bond clad the two-story block associated with the convent. A full-height glazed wall with clear and red obscure glass fills the north end of the stairwell block. Vertical panels of concrete with large aggregate clad the remainder of the stairwell.

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The center wing is two stories (*Photo 5*). In plan, the enclosed portion of each story is nearly a full cylinder with a narrow connection to the main corridor. The lower half of the cylinder at each story has stacked brown brick cladding, a continuous brown rowlock brick window sill, and a continuous band of windows. Each clear anodized aluminum frame window assembly has a pair of casements and a single transom. The roof of each story extends outward from the cylinder to form a rectangular form. The concrete deck of the second floor creates a walkway around the cylinder. Steel posts support the roof and second-floor deck. A single aluminum glazed door and a pair of aluminum glazed doors provide access to the main corridor on the north and south sides of the cylinder connection. A non-historic plywood enclosure shelters the south pair of entry doors.

The rest of the west elevation is the connecting corridor and the south wing (*Photo 1*). The south wing begins where the roof steps up slightly (*Photo 12*). Concrete fins divide the façade into eight bays. The seven bays associated with the corridor as it connects to the south wing each have a single full-height window with a tall fixed pane and narrow fixed pane at the bottom of the opening, which is set on a concrete sill on the south side of each bay. Stacked buff brick panels clad the north sides of the bays. The eighth bay has a pair of historic aluminum glazed doors with aluminum sidelights and transom. Eight vertical concrete panels with large aggregate clad the south end of the façade. Concrete walkways extend from the south entrance to the west parking lot and to the south end of the building. The sidewalk connects to a cantilevered covered walkway attached to the south elevation.

#### *South Elevation*

Entrances and fenestration patterns define the south elevation (*Photo 2*). Four full-height recesses set at regular intervals contain entrances to individual classrooms. Classroom entrances on this elevation and all other elevations are metal slab doors with solid metal panel transoms. Between each entrance, the façade has a band of five tall fixed panes with narrow lower fixed or hopper sashes. The windows are set on a concrete block bulkhead clad in stacked brown brick. A cantilevered concrete walkway connects the west sidewalk with these entrances. The walkway continues around to the east elevation of the south wing. The metal roof extends over the walkway on the south elevation. Concrete foundation piers extend southward from under the building to support the walkway and the steel posts that support the roof. A historic steel railing and a non-historic chainlink fence line the south side of the walkway.

#### *East Elevation*

The three wings and the courtyard are visible on the east elevation (*Photos 2 and 3*). The concrete walkway with its concrete supports spans nearly the entire length of the east elevation (*Photo 8*). L-shaped steel posts extend eastward from the wall over the walkway. It is unclear if these supports once held a covering for the walkway. The east elevation of the south wing has vertical concrete panels with large aggregate flanking a center entrance. The east entrance, similar to the west entrance, has a pair of aluminum glazed doors with sidelights and a transom.



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The concrete walkway jogs to align with the east edge of the courtyard (*Photos 6 and 7*). The two-story center wing is visible on the west side of the courtyard. The walkway extends along the east elevation of the north wing until it reaches the center entrance, which matches the east and west entrances to the south wing (*Photo 3*). The north wing is two stories due to the change in grade (*Photo 3*). The lower basement level is visible below the walkway. Vertical concrete panels with large aggregate flank the center entrance at the first story. The historic metal railing lines the concrete ramp that connects the first story and the sidewalk at the basement level. The exposed concrete post and beam frame defines three bays at the basement level. Each bay has a pair of tall aluminum fixed panes with narrow fixed or hopper sashes at the bottom. Panels of stacked buff brick flank the windows. The windows in the northernmost bay turn the corner to form the sidelights of the recessed entrance to the basement on the north elevation.

*North Elevation*

The exposed concrete post and beam frame defines four bays on the two-story north elevation (*Photos 3 and 4*). The beams cantilever outward beyond the curtainwall. The basement has a recessed entrance at the east end of the façade. Metal slab doors with a solid transom have a flanking sidelight and a decorative wall composed of hexagonal concrete pieces infilled with concrete. A continuous band of aluminum windows with full-height fixed panes and small fixed or hopper sashes fills rest of the first bay and the three inner bays at basement level. The fourth bay contains an entrance with a pair of metal slab doors and a solid transom, a panel of stacked buff brick, and pair of fixed windows. Cantilevered concrete canopies extend over the entrances. Fenestration patterns define the four bays at the first story. Small rectangular white ceramic tiles set in a stacked pattern fill the panels between the windows in each bay. The wall between these solid panels has a low stacked brown brick bulkhead and a band of five full-height fixed panes and small lower fixed or hopper sashes. Eight concrete beams that cantilever out from the first story beam support the steel posts that connect to the projecting roof. The east elevation of the gymnasium block at the northwest corner of the north wing has the exposed concrete post and beam frame. Stacked buff brick clads the basement level. Vertical concrete panels with large aggregate clad the first story. A steel beam and metal fascia cap the gymnasium block. Nearly the entire north façade of the gymnasium block has stacked brown brick cladding. The solid panel above the recessed entrance at the northwest corner of the block has small gold-colored stacked ceramic tile. The brown brick wraps around into the recess. The entrance has a pair of metal slab doors.

*The Courtyard and Facing Elevations*

The concrete walkway from the south and east perimeter continues along the courtyard-facing elevations of the north and south wings (*Photos 6, 7, and 12*). These elevations have stacked brown brick bulkheads, bands of full-height fixed and hopper sash windows set between recessed entrances. Steel posts support the roof that projects over the walkways. The east elevation of the corridor connecting the north and south wings to the center wing has bays that

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alternate between panels of stacked buff brick and full-height windows with fixed panes (*Photo 12*). The second story above the north corridor is clad in small rectangular dark gray ceramic tiles set in a stacked pattern (*Photo 9*). A metal slab door at the first story and a pair of casement windows at the second story fill the south end of this elevation.

The center wing has a different footprint at each story (*Figures 5 and 6*). The first story has a rectangular single room with full-height aluminum glazed wall on the south elevation (*Photos 6 and 11*), a stacked brown brick wall on the east elevation (*Photo 7*), and semi-circular projection at the center of the north elevation (*Photos 9 and 10*). Full-height glazing with lower hopper sashes flank the stacked brown brick wall of the projection. A metal slab door with a solid transom and narrow sidelights fills the east end of this elevation. The second story is L-shaped and clad in stacked buff brick. This is the residential block of the school. Historic steel railing with added solid panels encircles the rectangular concrete deck of the second story (*Photo 29*). Concrete posts support the cantilevered deck while steel posts support the roof that extends over the deck. The south elevation has a fully-glazed wall with fixed and hopper sashes that extends close to the railing (*Photo 11*). A more recessed section has a screen wall that wraps around the southeast corner (*Photo 7*). The rest of the east elevation is stacked buff brick. The north elevation has two bays; the east bay has sliding glass doors with a transom while the north bay has two pairs of casement windows with transoms and lower glass panels (*Photo 10*). There is a deeply recessed entrance in this elevation.

The courtyard is organized into three rectangular areas (*Photo 7*). The area between the north and center wings has concrete paving (*Photo 9*). The area between the center and south wings has grass and planter beds (*Photo 12*). The area east of the center wing, between the north and south wings, is sunken several steps below the concrete walkways that encircle it. A paved area and a grassy area containing non-historic playground equipment fill the sunken courtyard (*Photo 6*).

### Interior

#### *First Floor*

The U-shaped corridor connects three wings on the first floor (*Figure 5*). Two separate stairwells lead to the different levels. The south wing has a double-loaded corridor with four classrooms on the south side and three classrooms on the north side. Boys' and girls' restrooms and a single room with a bathroom occupy the west end of the corridor. The bathrooms have historic glazed tile floors and glazed tile, concrete block, and plaster walls. The corridor has historic composite tile flooring, glazed tile walls at the classroom entrances, and aluminum partitions with clear glazing at the clerestory, corkboard panels in the middle, and opaque glass at the bottom (*Photo 17*). Each classroom has a corridor and an exterior entrance, except for the classrooms on the north side of the north wing, which are accessible only from the corridor. Both entrances are held to one end of the room and a partial-

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height/partial-width brick and drywall partition creates a corridor between them (*Photo 21*). Attached cabinets and hooks create a coat closet in this area. Historic finishes in the classrooms include composite tile floors and plaster walls and non-historic finishes such as carpet and scratch-coat plaster ceilings (*Photo 20*).

The west corridor has composite tile flooring, plaster and stacked brown brick walls, and non-historic scratch-coat plaster ceilings (*Photo 15*). The center wing has a single room on the east side and a series of connected offices and a large open room on the west side. The single room on the east side has carpet and composite tile flooring, plaster and painted brick walls, and a non-historic scratch-coat plaster ceiling (*Photo 23*). The semi-circular rooms at the center of the north side of the east room contain a bathroom and a store room. A non-historic counter and sink line the wall between the doors to these small semi-circular rooms. Concrete posts supporting the second story divide the room in half. The wall adjacent to the entrance to the east room has a wood frame around a historic small statuary pedestal (*Photo 16*). Across from the pedestal, a wood-frame and drywall partition encloses offices that project into the corridor on the west side of the center wing (*Photo 15*). The offices have carpet, stacked buff brick and drywall walls, and non-historic scratch-coat plaster ceilings. A single open room fills the circular space on the west end of the center wing (*Photo 22*). Concrete posts divide the space. This room has historic composite tile flooring and plaster walls at the curved perimeter, and a non-historic scratch-coat ceiling.

The north end of the west corridor has three full-height fixed windows that open into the basement-level gymnasium at the northwest corner of the north wing. The corridor connects to the north wing. The north wing has two bathrooms and seven classrooms, mirroring the south wing. Finishes and configuration are identical, except for the exterior classroom entrances (*Photo 18*). The south wing has exterior entrances from the covered walkway. The north wing does not have exterior entrances. Closets fill the space where the entrances would have been (*Photo 19*).

#### *Basement*

An open stairwell at the north end of the west corridor leads to the basement level. The stairwell has concrete block walls and concrete stairs with historic steel railings. The stairwell opens to a small U-shaped corridor and a pair of doors to the cafeteria. The large rectangular cafeteria has two levels (*Photo 24*). The southwest corner entrance from the stairwell is at the second level. Ramps at the east and west ends of the room lead down to the lower level. Historic metal railings run along the ramps and the edge of the upper level. Concrete columns set at regular intervals support the first floor above. Drywall and wood frame partitions with obscure glass delineate the kitchen at the south end of the room. Windows line the north and east sides of the cafeteria. The cafeteria and kitchen have composite tile floors, concrete block walls, and non-historic plaster ceilings.

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The U-shaped corridor on the west side of the cafeteria encircles restrooms and storage. The corridor provides access to the exterior entrance and to two pairs of doors to the gymnasium. The gymnasium has a two-story volume with composite tile floors, concrete block and drywall walls, and a plaster ceiling with large rectangular skylights (*Photo 25*). There are offices, storage space, and mechanical rooms beneath the center wing. The area beneath the courtyard playground and the south wing is unexcavated.

*Second Floor*

The enclosed stairwell on the west side of the main corridor, at the center wing, accesses the second floor (*Photo 26*). The stairwell has an exterior entrance as well as a corridor entrance. The stairwell has composite tile floors, plaster and stacked brown brick walls, textured plaster ceilings, and concrete stairs with historic metal railings. The second floor was designed as the convent. The small corridor at the top of the stairs leads to two small rooms and the larger rectangular chapel. These rooms have composite tile floors and plaster walls and ceilings. The chapel has historic skylights (*Photo 27*). A pair of doors at the south end of the small corridor leads to a wider corridor that is the central organizing feature of the residence area. The L-shaped block at the east end of the center wing contains the kitchen, pantry, dining room, and community room. These rooms have composite tile floors, plaster walls with some stacked brick accent walls (both brown and buff brick), and textured plaster ceilings. The kitchen has laminate countertops and cabinets and what appear to be original appliances. Sliding glass doors in the south wall of the dining room lead to a screened-in porch. Sliding glass doors at the north end open to the covered balcony that encircles the center wing. One set of sliding glass doors in the east wall of the community room opens to the screened-in porch while the other set opens to the balcony (*Photo 28*). A large shared bathroom occupies the space between the community room on the east and the sleeping quarter on the west. The bathroom has glazed ceramic tile floors and walls, and a plaster ceiling.

The main corridor connects to a smaller corridor in the cylindrical sleeping quarters of the convent at the west end of the center wing (*Photo 30*). The narrow corridor leads to the center of the cylinder, which has a small hexagonal room surrounded by a hexagonal corridor (*Photo 31*). Eleven wedge-shaped dormitory rooms radiate from the hexagonal corridor. Each room has a built-in wardrobe with a stacked brown brick wall, a single sink with a built-in medicine cabinet and sconce, and a set of three casement windows with transoms (*Photos 32 and 33*). The rooms have composite tile floors, plaster walls, and textured plaster ceilings with a single light. Mechanical soffits above the room entrances wardrobes provide lower ceilings in these areas of all rooms. The center hexagonal room has stacked buff brick cladding and two wood slab doors with transoms on opposite sides. Within the room there are composite tile floors and painted concrete block walls and plaster ceiling. The hexagonal corridor has eleven wood-framed entrances to the dormitory rooms. The doors are hollow core wood slab doors. Stacked brown brick clads the walls between the entry doors. The walls above the doors are plaster and the ceiling is textured plaster.

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Integrity

St. Francis Xavier School retains excellent integrity. It remains in its historic location within its historic setting among large and small institutional resources. It remains in close proximity to St. Francis Xavier Church (1950) and across the street from the main campuses of Rockhurst University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The school retains its unique mid-century International Style design with blocks of classrooms, connecting corridors, and the integrated convent, particularly the cylindrical block at the west end of the center wing. Most historic materials are extant and unchanged and workmanship is minimally conveyed in the stacked brickwork and large fields of small ceramic tile. The minimal changes include adding the temporary plywood enclosure to the west entrance and removing the partition between two rooms to create one large room in the cylindrical space on the first floor. The ceilings on the first floor do not appear to be historic, but it is unclear what the historic material was, whether it was smooth plaster, acoustical tile, or dropped ceiling grid. Conduit is exposed in these locations when that was likely not the condition historically. The school retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic function and the era in which it was constructed.

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## SUMMARY

St. Francis Xavier School (St. Francis), at 5220 Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Jackson County Missouri and designed by local architects Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi in 1962, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. St. Francis Xavier School is locally significant as an excellent example of a Modern Era school, reflected in both style and plan. The nominated building reflects Modern Era design trends as a modified Finger Plan school built in the International Style, with each classroom providing access to the exterior. St. Francis Xavier's low, one-story, expansive massing and balanced volumes, concrete framing, curtainwall concrete, brick, and glass cladding, and no applied ornament exemplify the aesthetic of Modern Movement school design, specifically the International Style while creating an elementary school building that is both unique and representative of its time. Modern Era school interiors were often grouped by function, and St. Francis Xavier School was organized into four functional areas for classroom learning, specialized activities, enclosed outdoor recreational space, and residential space for the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary who taught at the school. Of distinction is the school's balance of volumes, particularly the rectilinear masses associated with the general classrooms and the cylindrical mass of the specialty classrooms and convent. The International Style design of St. Francis Xavier School was a considerable departure from the previous diocesan elementary schools and Kansas City public elementary schools in the early twentieth century. Criteria Consideration A applies to St. Francis Xavier School, as it is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. However, St. Francis Xavier School still qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because its significance is derived from architectural distinction rather than its association with religious doctrine. The period of significance is 1962, the year the school was completed. St. Francis Xavier School retains excellent integrity and clearly conveys its architectural significance.

## ELABORATION

### ARCHITECTURE

#### Modern Era School Architecture

Beginning in the 1950s, following nearly two decades of economic depression and war, Kansas City began to address the need for improved and expanded educational facilities due to population increases and deferred maintenance of outdated schools. Designs for new facilities reflected the shift in architectural trends from the last major construction period in the 1920s when historical revivals were the dominant aesthetic to the Modern Movement with its emphasis on form and materials rather than ornament. In Modern Movement schools, the interior function often dictated the form, articulated with changes in height and/or material.<sup>1</sup> The typical form

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Rosin and Rachel Nugent, Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970," 2012, F-52.



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was a low, sprawling building of one story in height with a flat roof. Long, linear corridors connected separate wings for classrooms and common areas such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, and cafeterias and other specialty spaces such as offices and kindergarten. The roof above these large specialty spaces, often in separate wings, extended up above the primary roofline of the classrooms, contributing to the irregularity of the form and massing. Modern Movement schools were typically concrete or steel frame structures with brick veneer or glass curtainwall systems. Exterior ornament or references to historical styles were eliminated while architects relied on the construction materials to provide visual interest. Stacked brick was sometimes used to accentuate the curtainwall rather than load-bearing masonry construction. Fenestration patterns differed greatly from earlier school buildings, with Modern Era schools lined with bands of ribbon windows. Whether filled with fixed clear panes or a field of glass block, these wide openings allowed diffused light into classrooms. Low ceilings, bright color palettes, and brick or tile defined the interior and provided a distinct contrast with early twentieth century school design which emphasized high ceilings, tall windows, and compact massing organized around central corridors.<sup>2</sup>

The first generation of Modern Era schools were organized in what was called the “Finger Plan” where long corridors had individual classrooms branching out on both sides with courtyards between them (*Figure 8*).<sup>3</sup> This created an irregular plan and provided each self-contained classroom with windows on three sides and direct access to sheltered outdoor space.<sup>4</sup> The proximity to and incorporation of nature into the school environment was believed to foster creativity and produce a more home-like environment.<sup>5</sup> However, most school districts adopted a modified version of the Finger Plan with rectangular or L-shaped plans and the specialty spaces concentrated in one area to create irregular massing. In these simplified plans, the schools often contained double-loaded corridors lined with classrooms and those classrooms did not have direct access to the exterior. St. Francis Xavier School is an excellent example of Modern Era school design trends: multiple wings that extend off the main corridor are designated for distinct functions and create irregular massing while stacked buff and brown brick along with large expanses of glass walls communicate the curtainwall structure. Compared with contemporary local elementary schools, both public and parochial, St. Francis is more closely aligned with the original concepts of the Finger Plan, exemplified through direct access from each classroom, except those on the north side of the north wing, to a sheltered outdoor area at the center of the building.

A reconnaissance survey of Catholic and public elementary schools in Kansas City confirmed that most schools built during the Modern Era (1950 through 1970) reflected the basic design aesthetic of the Modern Movement of low but irregular massing, brick curtainwall construction,

<sup>2</sup> Rosin and Nugent, “Historic Resources of the Kansas City Missouri School District Pre-1970,” E-29, F-52.

<sup>3</sup> Amy F. Ogata, “Building for Learning in Postwar American Elementary Schools,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 67, No. 4, December 2008, 566.

<sup>4</sup> Rosin and Nugent, E-7.

<sup>5</sup> Ogata, 566-567.

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and flat roofs. Public elementary schools are larger and more expansive in plan while parochial schools exhibit more variety in execution. However, St. Francis Xavier is the only school to incorporate the Finger Plan concept of providing direct access to the exterior from the majority of classroom. The Kansas City School District constructed eighteen new schools in the Modern Era, beginning in 1953 with the completion of Douglass School at 2640 Belleview, roughly four miles northwest of the nominated property. Douglass School has an I-shaped plan with red brick walls and extensive metal and glass curtainwalls (*Figure 18*). The main corridor connects the offices, the gymnasium/auditorium, and the classroom wing, which has one double-loaded corridor lined with classrooms. The school district constructed at least one elementary school each year for the next ten years, with similar results: Hartman (1953), Martin (1954), Longan (1955), Wheatley (1955), Dunbar (1956), Switzer Primary (1957), Melcher (1959), Garfield (1960), and West Rock Creek (1961) (*Figures 19-27*).<sup>6</sup> The L-shaped buildings have one- or two-story classroom wings and an adjacent wing for the gymnasium/auditorium, cafeteria, and offices; the flat roofs have shallow eaves; and large expanses of banded windows pierce the red or buff brick walls. The construction of Richardson School in 1963 marked the beginning of a new era in experimental school design in the district. District schools constructed beginning in 1963 have more compact plans and fewer windows than earlier schools. Richardson School, located at 3515 Park Avenue, about two miles north and slightly east of the nominated property, has a polygonal plan with classrooms radiating out from a central core (*Figure 28*). The classrooms are connected internally, but are not connected directly to the exterior. Concrete posts that support the overhanging eaves define the sides of the buff brick polygon, each with a short ribbon window. The square or rectangular plans for Chester A. Franklin Elementary and Mary Harmon Weeks Elementary School (Part of Martin Luther King Jr. junior high school complex) do not have any fenestration except at the entrances (*Figures 29 and 30*). Red brick walls enclose all sides of these schools.

The Catholic schools in Kansas City do not express the uniformity of design present in public schools, although there are some similarities among these schools.<sup>7</sup> The Catholic schools are smaller than the public elementary schools. Schools constructed as early as 1946 shift away from the historical revival styles used for early-twentieth century schools and begin exhibiting features of the Modern Movement aesthetic, specifically simple brick buildings with flat roofs and ribbon windows or bands of large windows. Christ the King School at 425 W. 85<sup>th</sup> Street and St. John the Baptist School at 548 Brooklyn Avenue reflect earlier influences of the Streamlined Moderne influence with polychrome brick and individual windows (*Figures 31 and 32*).<sup>8</sup> Catholic schools constructed in the mid-1950s and into the 1960s have more linear massing, ribbon windows, and flat roofs with shallow eaves. St. Elizabeth (2 E. 75<sup>th</sup> Street, 1953), Annunciation (2800 Linwood Boulevard, 1954), and Assumption (309 Benton Boulevard,

<sup>6</sup> Rosin and Nugent, Appendix A 84-87. All of the Kansas City public schools listed here are extant, unless otherwise noted. These schools are scattered around Kansas City at various distances from the nominated property.

<sup>7</sup> The Catholic schools discussed in this section are extant, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>8</sup> These schools are located southwest and northeast of the nominated property, respectively

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1954) schools are modest, simple versions of Modern Era schools (*Figures 33-35*). Guardian Angel Parish School (1955) at 4262 Mercier Street, Holy Trinity School (1959) at 4012 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and St. Bernadette Church and Parish School (1960) at 9020 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terrace) are low, rectangular parochial elementary schools with bands of hopper windows, blond brick veneer cladding, and a flat roof (*Figures 36, 39, and 41*). The St. Stephen's Parish School (1959) at 1025 Bennington Avenue has two buff-brick masses that front the street and the two-story glazed wall into the stairwell is the only fenestration on the primary façade (*Figure 40*). Non-historic EIFS panels with punched single window openings clad the side elevation that likely would have had banded windows at each story. Holy Cross School (1962) at 121 N. Quincy Avenue has a shallow V-shaped footprint where the façades facing into the center do not have windows while the side elevations have banded windows (*Figure 43*). Holy Name Parish School (2210 Kansas Avenue, 1955), St. Mary's Parish School (2402 Swope Parkway, 1957), Visitation Parish School (5134 Baltimore Avenue, 1960), and St. John Francis Regis Church and Parish School (8941 James A. Reed Road, 1966) are examples of contemporary schools where exterior alterations have impacted the features that communicate Modern Era design concepts, such as the façade, the roof, or the plan (*Figures 37, 38, 42, and 44*). While Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi designed these four schools along with three others from this era, other architects were designing Modern Era elementary schools for parishes throughout the diocese (*Figures 14-16*). St. Francis Xavier is the only school to illustrate the multi-wing design of the Finger Plan and include exterior entrances from most classrooms.

Like public schools, Catholic parochial schools in the Modern Era incorporated specialized areas, such as a gymnasium, along with classrooms. However, distinct from public schools, parishes with parochial schools had the challenge of housing the religious teaching staff that provided instruction at the school. Housing was often provided in a convent located adjacent to the school. Convents designed during the Modern Era also typically reflected the Modern Movement style. When the St. Elizabeth Parish built a convent for its school in 1957 at the northeast corner of W. 75<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, it exhibited the Modern Movement aesthetic with a low massing, banded windows in the upper story, and buff brick veneer cladding (*Figure 33*). In some cases, room and board was incorporated into the design of the school itself. Catholic parochial schools built during the Modern Era sometimes incorporated minimal religious imagery, typically a cross, into the exterior design. St. Stephens Parish School (1959) incorporated a cross into the glass curtain wall of its primary entrance (*Figure 40*).

The architectural significance of St. Francis Xavier School is as an excellent intact example of a modified Finger Plan school. The linear arrangement of classrooms along a corridor, rather than a cluster of classrooms with three or four exterior walls illustrates how the design of St. Francis is modified from a pure Finger Plan school as it was originally developed. The residential component of St. Francis is not common to Finger Plan schools. The design of the second-floor residential area for the school's sister-teachers provides distinction among its contemporary Catholic schools which often had convents in separate buildings (*Figure 10*). In

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keeping with typical Modern Era school designs, distinct masses on the exterior indicate a differentiation of function on the interior. Two long corridors lined with classrooms form the perimeter of an enclosed courtyard. The courtyard is directly accessible from each of the classrooms facing it while exterior cantilevered walkways from the classrooms on the perimeter of the building connect to the courtyard as well. Glazed curtainwalls comprise both the corridor and exterior classroom walls, which allow direct and diffused light into each classroom. Classrooms designed for specialized subjects had their own distinct forms, specifically the kindergarten on the east side of the center wing and the library and music room in the cylindrical portion on the west side of the center wing. Differences in cladding materials distinguish the basement-level gymnasium and cafeteria.

### International Style

The International Style rose to prominence in the early 1920s in Europe through the works of Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Le Corbusier. While in Europe the development of the Modernist aesthetic was inextricably tied to social reform, in America the language of Modernism and eventually the International Style was the inevitable result “when one built functionally, rationally, and economically.”<sup>9</sup> Richard Neutra, Rudolf Schindler, and Mies introduced the style in the United States in the late 1920s and early 1930s.<sup>10</sup> The Modern era in the mid-twentieth century adopted many of the principles of the earlier International Style as it evolved under the continued work of Mies and Philip Johnson. By the 1960s, the style evolved to where architects, aided with the availability of cladding materials and structural systems that could be manipulated in new ways, began experimenting with more expressive forms that illustrated a departure from traditional styles.<sup>11</sup> The spread of Modernism in general and specifically the International Style linked to the economic and population growth that dominated the post-war period in the United States. America embraced the efficiency, austerity, and ahistorical qualities of Modernism as the appropriate expression for this new age of expansion in the private sector.<sup>12</sup>

The result was not a unified definition of the style but a series of common characteristics that resulted in a wide variety of forms. Characteristics of the International Style are the absence of ornament, the emphasis on volume rather than mass and weight, and, rather than symmetry, the balance of components reflected the emphasis on both horizontal and vertical, solid and void, rectilinear and curvilinear.<sup>13</sup> Flat roofs are common, as are integrated window systems (compared to punched openings) and cantilevered elements. Curved surfaces and cylindrical forms balance the predominant horizontality and rectilinearity.<sup>14</sup> Overhanging eaves often provide cover for walkways or balconies, blurring the line between indoor and outdoor space.

<sup>9</sup> Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture*, (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1999), 250.

<sup>10</sup> Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780*, (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996), 249, 251.

<sup>11</sup> Gelernter, 261.

<sup>12</sup> Gelernter, 263.

<sup>13</sup> William J. R. Curtis, *Modern Architecture Since 1900*, (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1987), 158.

<sup>14</sup> Whiffen, 247, 249.

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Early International Style buildings in the United States often had flat, white plaster or concrete façades while later buildings have curtainwall façades with glass and aluminum. The use of traditional materials, such as brick, in new or unexpected ways emphasized the Modernist embrace of new construction technologies.

The International Style provided the ideal architectural expression for St. Francis Xavier School to incorporate a variety of functions in a cohesive way. The classroom wings are low, rectilinear masses with banded windows (*Figure 17*). Specialized functions were distinguished through curvilinear and cylindrical forms, specifically the curved wall of the kindergarten room on the east side of the center wing (*Photo 10*) and the cylindrical mass at the west side of the center wing (*Photo 5*). The cylindrical space contained the library and music room on the first floor (*Photo 22*) and the residential rooms for the sister-teachers on the second floor (*Photo 32*). Wide overhanging eaves with slender steel supports covered the walkways and balconies that cantilevered from the concrete frame (*Photos 2, 8, and 29*). Curtainwalls comprised of stacked buff or brown brick and tall aluminum-frame windows enclosed the classrooms, the corridors, and the residential areas (*Photos 12, 17, and 31*).

The survey of Kansas City public schools yields very few stylistic comparisons with St. Francis Xavier. Douglass (1953) and Switzer Primary (1957) schools have asymmetrical massing and expansive curtainwall façades without the expressive features of overhanging eaves or curvilinear forms (*Figures 18 and 24*). Richardson (1963) and Weeks (1968) incorporate polygonal or cylindrical forms without the delicacy of materials such as stacked brick or metal columns (*Figures 28 and 30*). There are two Catholic schools in Kansas City that provide a comparison to St. Francis. St. Stephens (1959) has asymmetrical massing, a metal screen at the entrance that helps blur the line between interior and exterior, and a tall aluminum and glass curtainwall at the stairwell that is balanced with a large expanse of brick (*Figures 40*). The V-shaped Holy Cross School (1962) has an expressive form that conceals the recessed windows on the front façade and while the side walls have large expanses of windows with concrete sun shades (*Figures 43*). Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi designed the two Catholic schools. St. Francis Xavier is a particularly good example because it retains excellent integrity of design and materials and combines more of the characteristics of the International Style.

Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi

Joseph B. Shaughnessy was born in Kansas City, Kansas in 1898. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in architecture in 1922. After working as a draftsman at the Kansas City, Kansas firm Rose & Peterson after graduation, Shaughnessy started the firm Shaughnessy and Bower in 1928.<sup>15</sup> Not much is known about Edmund L Bower, other than that he joined the AIA in 1947. Frank Grimaldi, born in Alma, Kansas in 1924, joined the firm as a

<sup>15</sup> "Joseph B. Shaughnessy," Obituary, *Kansas City Times*, April 23, 1992. Vertical File: Joseph B. Shaughnessy, Kansas City Historic Preservation Office.

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draftsman immediately following his graduation from the University of Notre Dame in 1947.<sup>16</sup> Grimaldi became principal in 1955 and the firm was renamed Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi Architects.<sup>17</sup> Shaughnessy served as President of the Kansas City chapter of the AIA from 1950 to 1952 and its director from 1952 to 1955.<sup>18</sup> He retired as partner in 1967 and died in 1992.<sup>19</sup> The firm continued as Bower and Grimaldi and eventually became Frank Grimaldi Architecture.<sup>20</sup> Grimaldi also served as President of the Kansas City chapter of the AIA, in addition to his involvement in other professional organizations. Grimaldi continued to practice architecture until his death in 2010.<sup>21</sup> The firm in all its iterations was best known for the Modern Movement design of schools, churches, and hospitals in the Kansas City area. The firm designed approximately ten new elementary and secondary school buildings for the Archdiocese of St. Joseph and Kansas City in the mid-twentieth century.<sup>22</sup> The first three buildings designed for the Diocese were high schools, completed in 1941. Bishop Hogan High School at 1221 E. Meyer Boulevard and Bishop Lillis High School at 3740 Forest Avenue are red brick buildings with limestone trim. The tapestry brick buildings do not convey specific historical revival styles but have the restrained architectural expression in keeping with the era of construction. The third high school, Glennon, is no longer extant. The elementary schools designed by the firm are Guardian Angels (1955), Holy Trinity (1959), St. Stephens (1959), St. Bernadette Church and Parish School (1960), and Visitation (1960).<sup>23</sup> Other projects include renovations of or additions to diocesan properties, as well as designs for corporations such as United Missouri Bank (UMB) and Southwestern Bell Telephone.<sup>24</sup>

## BACKGROUND HISTORY

### Catholic Parochial Education in Kansas City, Missouri

With the establishment of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City in 1880, the first appointed bishop, John Joseph Hogan, assumed the task of establishing parishes and authorizing the

<sup>16</sup> "Biography," *Frank Grimaldi (1924-2010) Architectural Records Collection* (K1252), 2012. The State Historical Society of Missouri – Research Center – Kansas City: <http://shsmo.org/manuscripts/kansascity/k1252.pdf> (accessed April 13, 2017).

<sup>17</sup> George S. Koyl, ed., "Grimaldi, Frank." and "Shaughnessy, Joseph Bernard," *American Architects Directory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, American Institute of Architects (New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1962), 268 and 365. Available online through the American Institute of Architects: [http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker\\_1962\\_S.pdf](http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/American%20Architects%20Directories/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory/Bowker_1962_S.pdf) (accessed March 3, 2017).

<sup>18</sup> Koyl, 365.

<sup>19</sup> Koyl, 365.

<sup>20</sup> "Biography."

<sup>21</sup> "Biography."

<sup>22</sup> "Joseph B. Shaughnessy" Obituary.

<sup>23</sup> Charles M. Coleman, J.C.L., Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, *This Far by Faith. A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1992), 223. The front façade of Visitation School, at 5134 Baltimore Avenue, was covered or re-clad with EIFS panels and no longer communicates the era in which it was constructed.

<sup>24</sup> "Biography."



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construction of parochial schools in accordance with the diocesan and parish budgets.<sup>25</sup> In 1880 when the diocese was established, Kansas City's population was approximately 56,000 with about 19,000 Catholics.<sup>26</sup> The number of Catholic worshippers would double within the ensuing decade, and throughout Bishop Hogan's administration from 1880 through 1912, fourteen parish schools and five Catholic academies were constructed (*Figure 12*).

The next bishop, Thomas Francis Lillis, administered the diocese from 1913 through 1938.<sup>27</sup> Parish school construction continued, particularly throughout the 1920s, as Kansas City's population grew and more parishes were established. In total, Bishop Lillis oversaw the construction of eighteen new parish schools (*Figure 13*). Three Catholic academies were also built in Kansas City during this period. During the Depression, construction slowed. The next diocesan bishop of Kansas City, Edwin Vincent O'Hara, had a reputation as a progressive educational leader.<sup>28</sup> One of Bishop O'Hara's first directives was to construct three diocesan high schools in Kansas City; these were Hogan High School (1941) at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Troost Avenue; Lillis High School (1941) in Hyde Park, and Glennon High School (1945) in the northeast residential area of Kansas City. Bishop O'Hara also oversaw the construction of ten new parochial primary schools (*Figure 14*). The next bishop, John Patrick Cody, administered the diocese, which was combined with the diocese of St. Joseph in 1956, from 1956 until 1961. During Bishop Cody's tenure, there was a continued push to remodel and expand parochial schools in the diocese. For the 1959-1960 school year, 100 additional elementary school classes were added throughout the diocese through remodeling, expansion, and new construction.<sup>29</sup> Four new parish schools were constructed, and one new combination church and school was built in the diocese (*Figure 15*).

In 1962, Charles Herman Helmsing became the bishop of the diocese.<sup>30</sup> The new St. Francis Xavier Parish school was the first parish school constructed under Bishop Helmsing's administration (*Figure 16*). By 1963, approximately 16,857 children were enrolled in parochial schools in Kansas City.<sup>31</sup> Bishop Helmsing would see enrollment decline in the inner-city areas of Kansas City as middle-class families moved south and east, increasing demand in those areas. Meanwhile, the costs associated with operating a parochial school increased, primarily

<sup>25</sup> Thomas Hornbeck, "Historical Geography of the Catholic Church in Kansas City, Missouri: 1822-1930" (master's thesis, University of Kansas, 2008), 38.

<sup>26</sup> Hornbeck, 29.

<sup>27</sup> "Bishop Thomas Francis Lillis," *Catholic Hierarchy*, accessed April 4, 2017, <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/blillis.html>.

<sup>28</sup> Barbara Magerl, "Biography of Edwin O'Hara," *Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library*, accessed April 6, 2017, <http://www.kchistory.org/u?/Biographies.329>.

<sup>29</sup> "Parochial Schools and Classrooms," *Kansas City Times*, August 14, 1959.

<sup>30</sup> "Bishop Charles Herman Helmsing," *Catholic Hierarchy*, accessed April 23, 2017, <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bhelmsing.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Patricia Jansen Doyle, "Catholics, Too, Beset by Problems in Educating Their Young," *Kansas City Times*, July 29, 1963.

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due to rising costs of supplies, equipment, construction, and teacher salaries.<sup>32</sup> In the Kansas City metro area in 1963, there were approximately 260 lay teachers to 397 religious teachers.<sup>33</sup> While teachers from religious orders typically worked for low pay and received boarding, lay teachers needed to be paid a salary approaching fair market value. A noticeable gap in pay existed between public and parochial teachers. In 1963, the starting yearly salary for a teaching position in a parochial elementary school in the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese was \$3,000 for those with two years of college and \$3,500 for those with a degree, while public elementary schools offered a starting yearly salary of \$4,800.<sup>34</sup> Teachers who chose to work in the parochial educational system cited the stricter discipline and spiritual atmosphere as motivators.<sup>35</sup> Since teacher salary stretched the parish budget thin, the compromise was typically overcrowded classrooms in parochial schools. During the Depression era, elementary parochial class size averaged about twenty-five, but by the 1960s elementary parochial classrooms often had forty to fifty students.<sup>36</sup>

St. Francis Xavier Parish School was built during a period in the first half of the 1960s in which enrollment in Catholic parochial schools was still on the rise nationally and in Kansas City. Its construction served the parish's desire to have a school building that could hold a larger number of students. While it was constructed at a time when lay teachers were beginning to become a larger component of the parochial educational system, St. Francis Xavier Parish School was designed with a residential wing for the sister-teachers at the school, reflecting that religious teaching orders were still a component of parochial schools in the 1960s.

### PARISH HISTORY

The nominated resource is the second purpose-built school constructed for the St. Francis Xavier Parish. The parish was established in July 1909, with boundaries from 47<sup>th</sup> to 59<sup>th</sup> streets and from McGee Street to Woodland Avenue on land that was included in the 1909 expansion of the city limits from 47<sup>th</sup> Street south to 77<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>37</sup> Establishment of a parish allowed the Jesuits to found a college within that parish, which was the primary reason the order moved to Kansas City in 1886.<sup>38</sup> After three decades of teaching in the city's elementary and high schools, the Jesuits founded a college (now Rockhurst University) on a twenty-five-acre tract of land on the east side of Troost Avenue between 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> streets. The parish initially included an estimated twelve families. Within a year of founding, the parish constructed a frame building that contained a church, a sacristy, and a two-room school. When the school opened in September 1910, three Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary order were charged with teaching the

<sup>32</sup> Patricia Jansen Doyle, "Catholics, Too, Beset by Problems in Educating Their Young," *Kansas City Times*, July 29, 1963.

<sup>33</sup> Patricia Jansen Doyle, "Woes in Teacher Recruitment," *Kansas City Times*, July 31, 1963.

<sup>34</sup> Doyle, "Woes in Teacher Recruitment."

<sup>35</sup> Doyle, "Woes in Teacher Recruitment."

<sup>36</sup> Doyle, "Catholics, Too, Beset by Problems."

<sup>37</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 223.

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fifty enrolled students.<sup>39</sup> As the surrounding residential neighborhoods grew in the 1910s, the parish quickly outgrew the church and thus began a capital campaign to construct new buildings to house distinct parish functions. Within twelve years of founding, St. Francis Xavier Parish had constructed a campus on the west side of Troost Avenue (on the site of the nominated property) to serve the 643 households and 2,592 persons in the parish.<sup>40</sup> A two-story brick school building was constructed first in 1922 (*Figure 11*). The building included residences for the Sisters on the second floor. Two years later, the parish completed a convent, opening the entire 1922 building for classrooms to accommodate up to 550 students. The parish petitioned the City to vacate Harrison Street on the west side of the property in 1926. The following year they constructed a new church at the corner of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and the vacated Harrison Street. In 1931, the parish constructed a six-room addition to the existing school.<sup>41</sup>

St. Francis Xavier Parish continued to expand during the 1930s and 1940s, again outgrowing existing facilities. By 1941, the parish began planning for the construction of a new church on a newly purchased parcel of land immediately north of the existing campus, although U.S. entry into World War II halted the construction campaign before it began. Once the war ended, plans resumed. The parish selected Chicago and New York architect Francis Barry Byrne to design the new church in 1947. Local architect Joseph Shaughnessy served as associate.<sup>42</sup> St. Francis Xavier Church opened at the corner of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and Troost Avenue in July 1950.<sup>43</sup>

The desire to modernize the facilities associated with the strikingly Modern church inspired the parish to proceed with plans to build a new school.<sup>44</sup> Local architects and prominent Catholic school designers, Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi, designed the 35,000 square-foot elementary school to occupy the site of the original campus. The 1920s and 1930s buildings were demolished and construction began on June 4, 1961. When it was completed for the opening of classes in 1962, the new \$600,000 St. Francis Xavier School had fourteen classrooms, a kindergarten, a music room, a library, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria (*Figure 9*). The cafeteria and gymnasium, which are accessible from the exterior on the elevation facing the adjacent church, accommodated parish functions, specifically as a parish hall. The school building included a 7,000 square-foot convent on the second story. The convent had eleven dormitory rooms for resident Sisters, a chapel, a parlor, a community room, and dining room with a full kitchen (*Figure 10*).

St. Francis Xavier School educated hundreds of children each year over the forty years following its opening. Following national and city-wide trends, enrollment declined steadily in

<sup>38</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 222.  
<sup>39</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 223.  
<sup>40</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 224.  
<sup>41</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 224.  
<sup>42</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 225.  
<sup>43</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 225.  
<sup>44</sup> *This Far by Faith*, 225.

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recent years. In 2003, the parish school closed and the building was leased to a charter school. The charter elementary school operated for five years before relocating to a different address in 2008. The building has remained vacant for nearly ten years.

**CONCLUSION**

St. Francis Xavier School is architecturally significant for its expression of the International Style as well as for its design as a modified Finger Plan indicative of Modern Era school design. The balance of rectilinear and cylindrical masses with cantilevered covered walkways and balconies exemplify the International Style while the long corridors lined with classrooms, most of which have access to the exterior, and the enclosed courtyard communicate the modification of the Finger Plan. The adoption of elements of experimental Modern Era educational design was common in public and private schools across the country. The integration of the second-floor convent into the school's design distinguishes St. Francis Xavier School, even among its parochial peers, most of which constructed separate buildings to house the convent. St. Francis Xavier retains excellent integrity of the design, materials, and workmanship to convey associations with its architectural significance.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

The nominated parcel occupies a 2.2-acre site at 5220 Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. The eastern boundary of the site is Troost Avenue; the southern boundary is E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street; the western boundary is the west property line; the north boundary is formed by an asphalt drive that connects the parking lot to Troost Avenue.

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the nominated school during the period of significance. The legal parcel to the north is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and has been developed with a parish church. This resource is not associated with the architectural context for which the St. Francis Xavier School is being nominated.

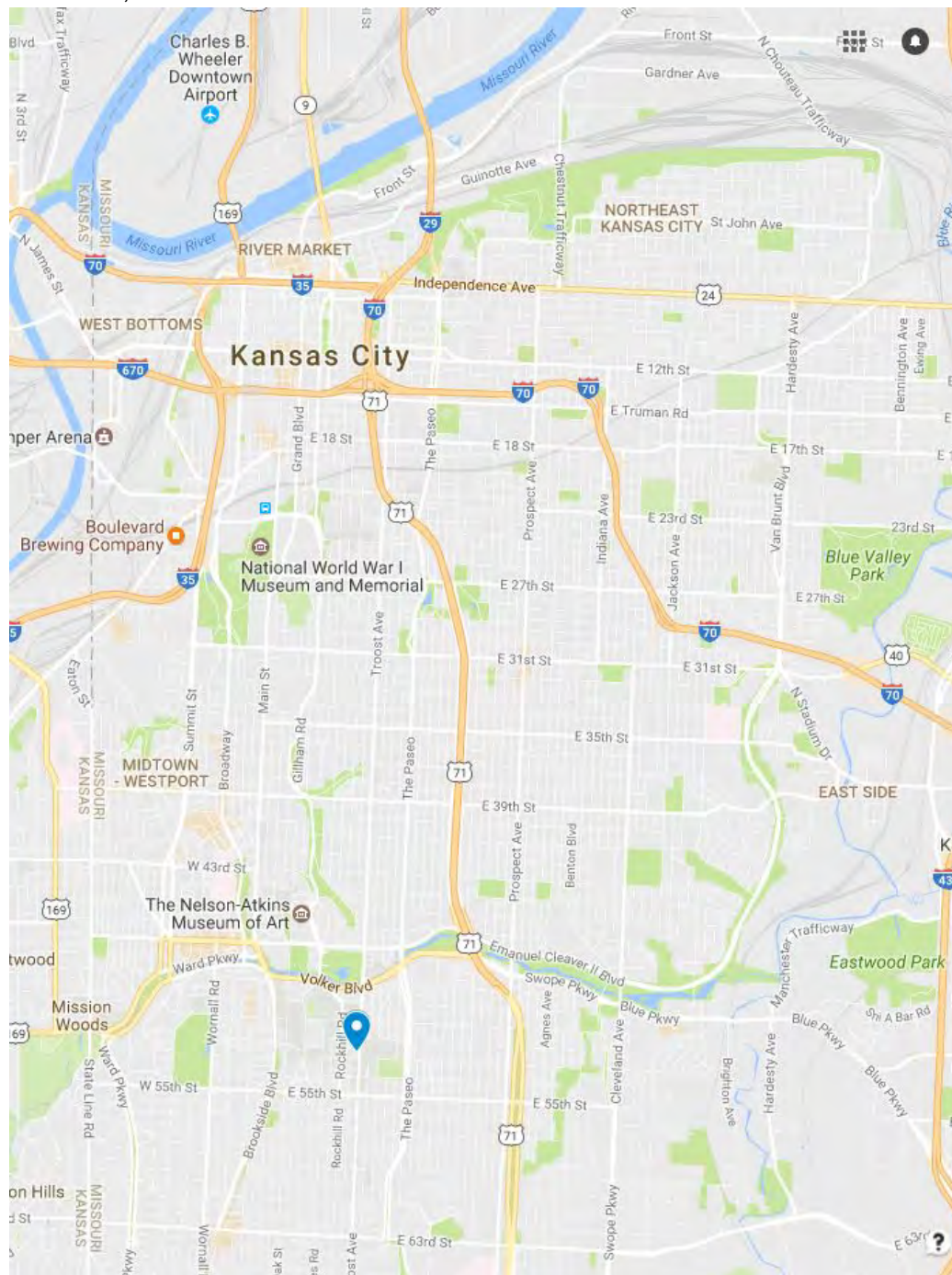
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**Figure 1.** Context Map. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*

St. Francis Xavier School  
5220 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri  
39.03142, -94.57412

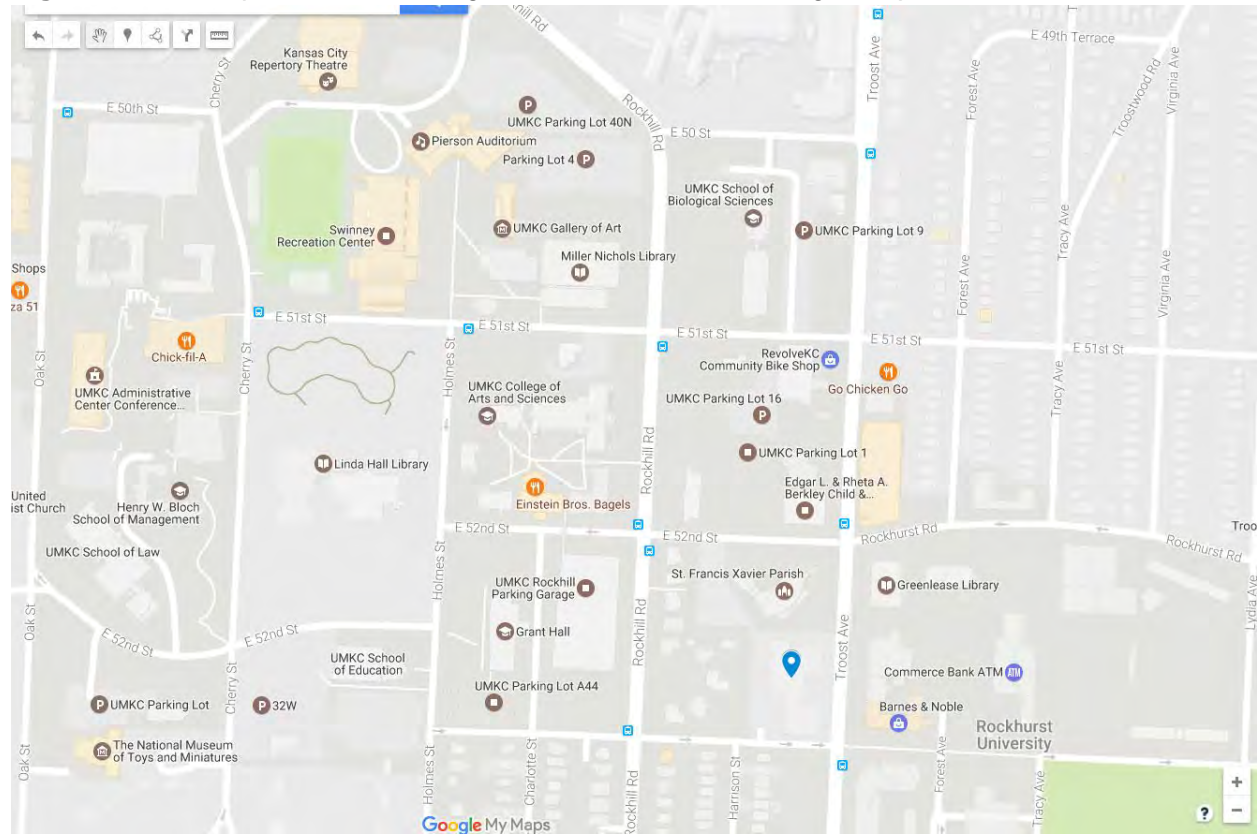


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**Figure 2.** Site Map with surrounding institutions. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





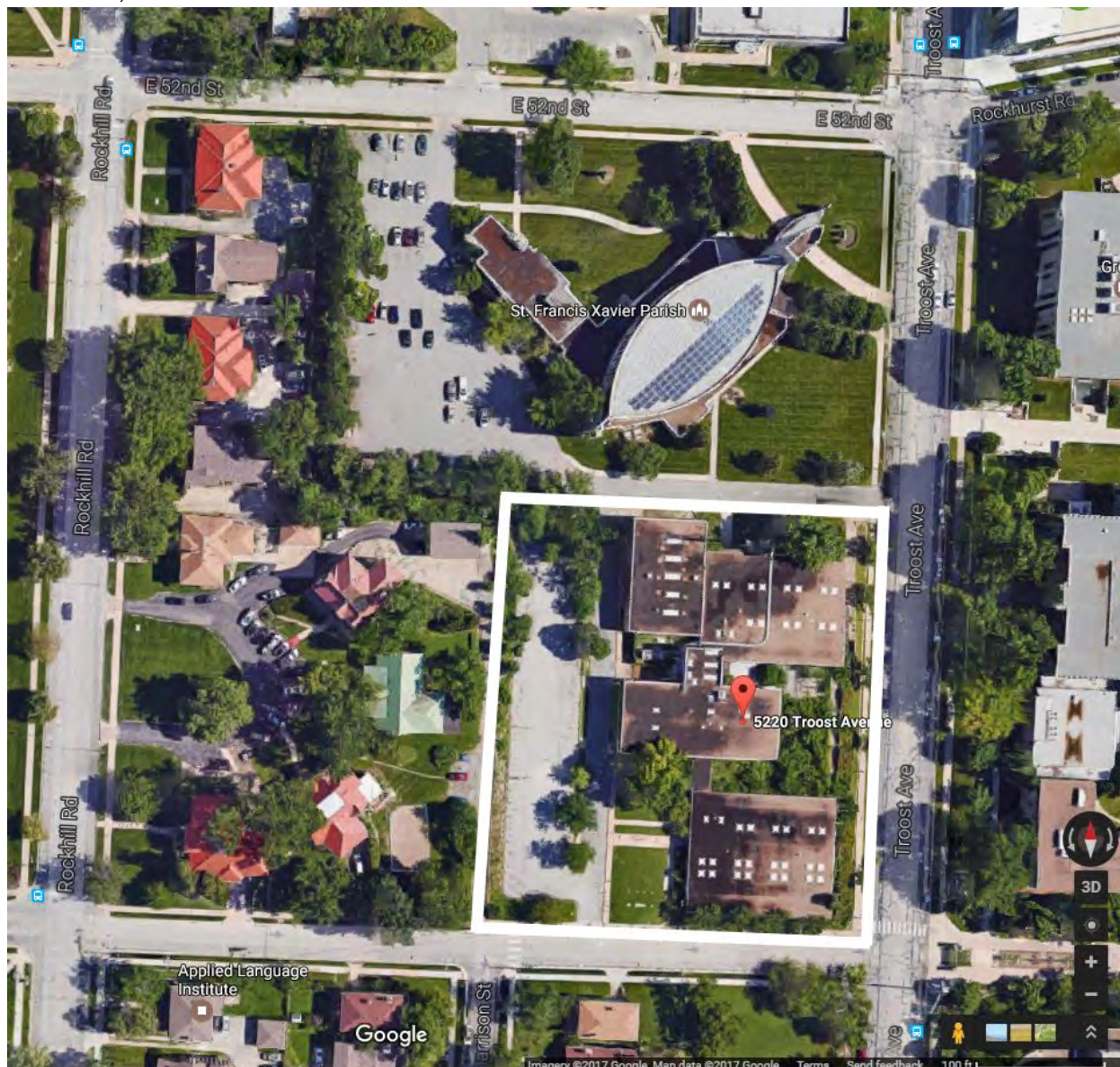
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**Figure 3.** Site Map. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*

St. Francis Xavier School  
5220 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri  
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Figure 4. Photo Map, Exterior. Source: Google Maps, 2017.

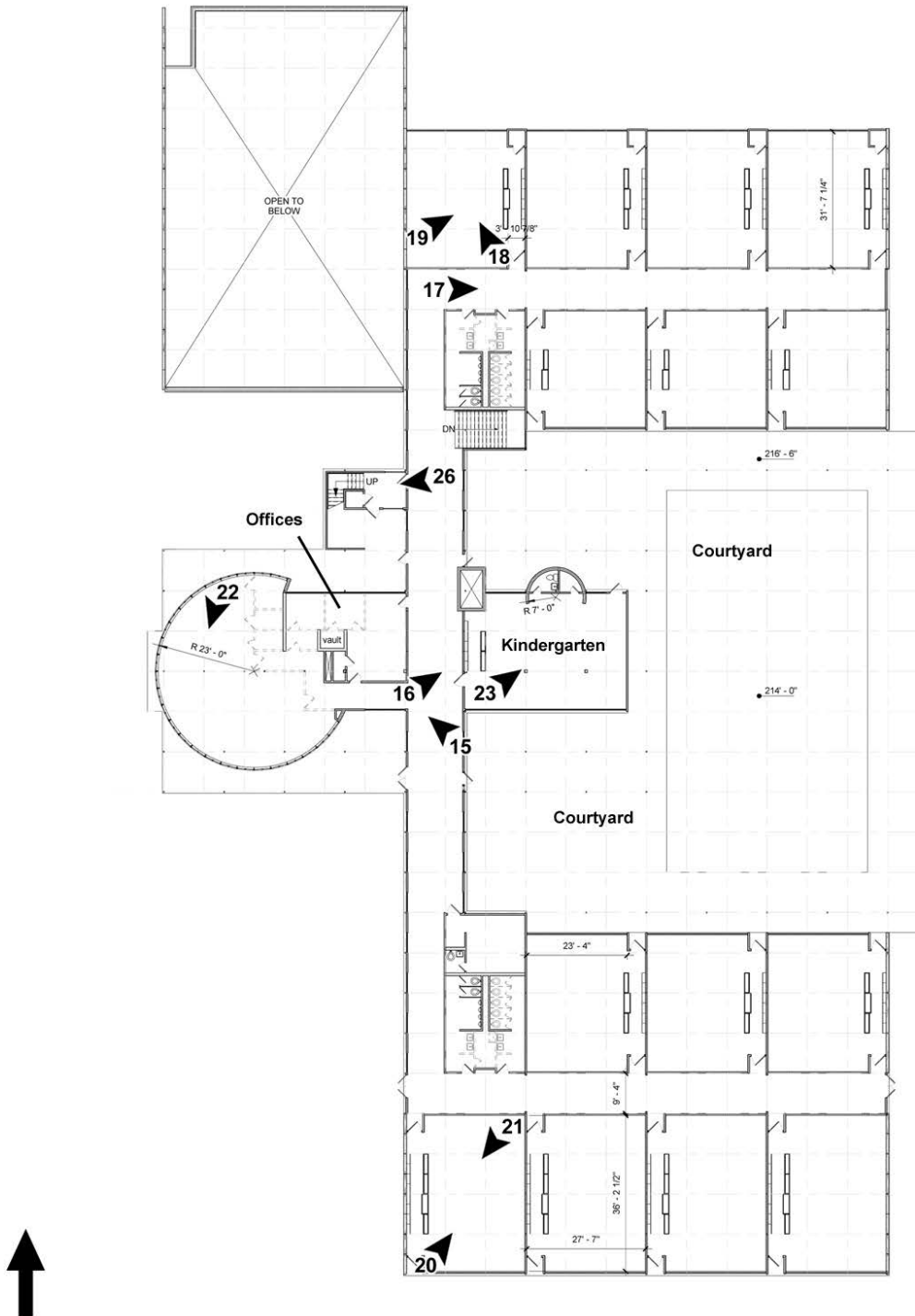


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**Figure 5.** Photo Map, First Floor. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*

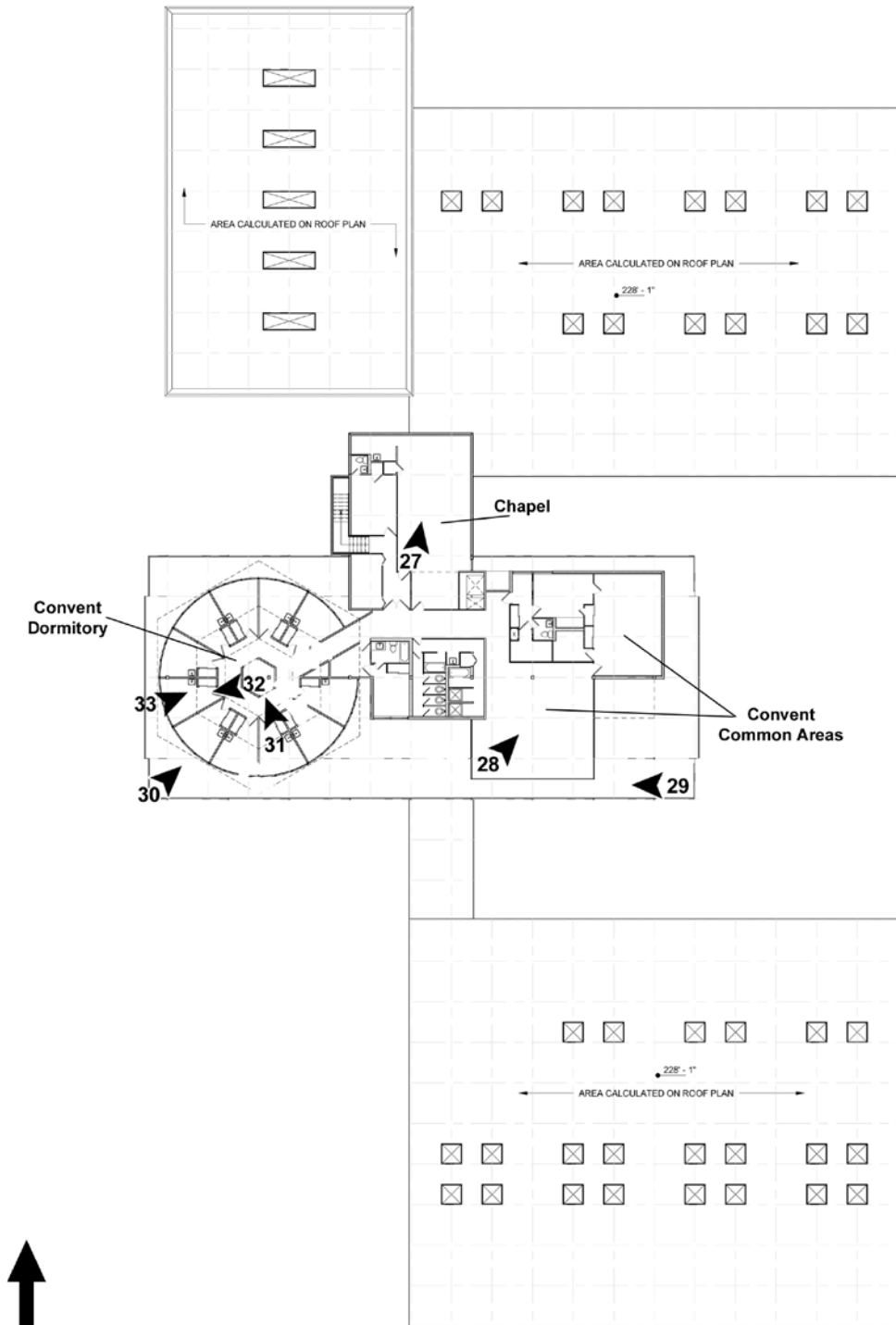


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**Figure 6.** Photo Map, Second Floor. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*

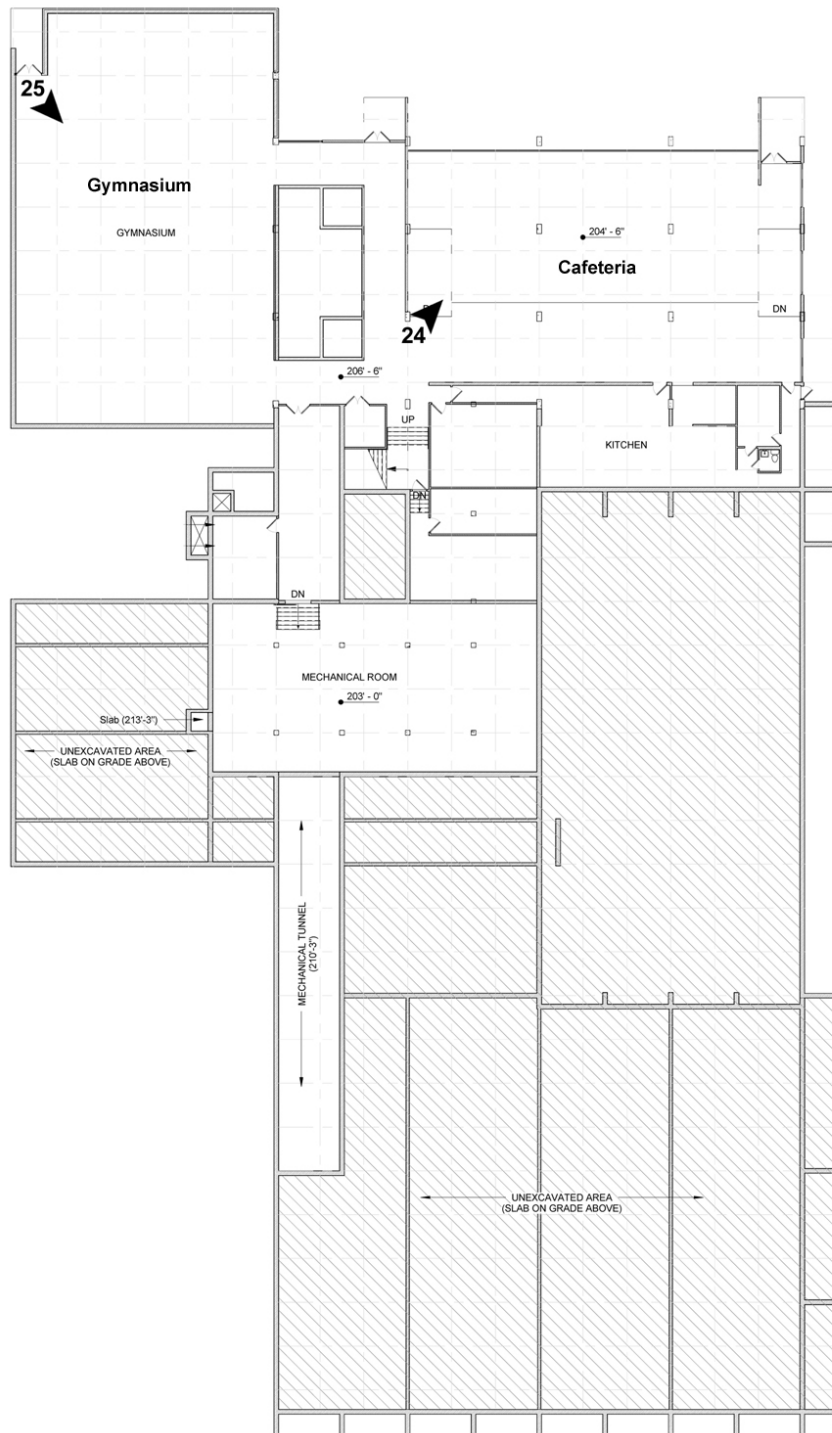


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**Figure 7.** Photo Map, Basement. The floor plans reflect the current configuration of the building. *Source: Foutch Brothers, 2017.*



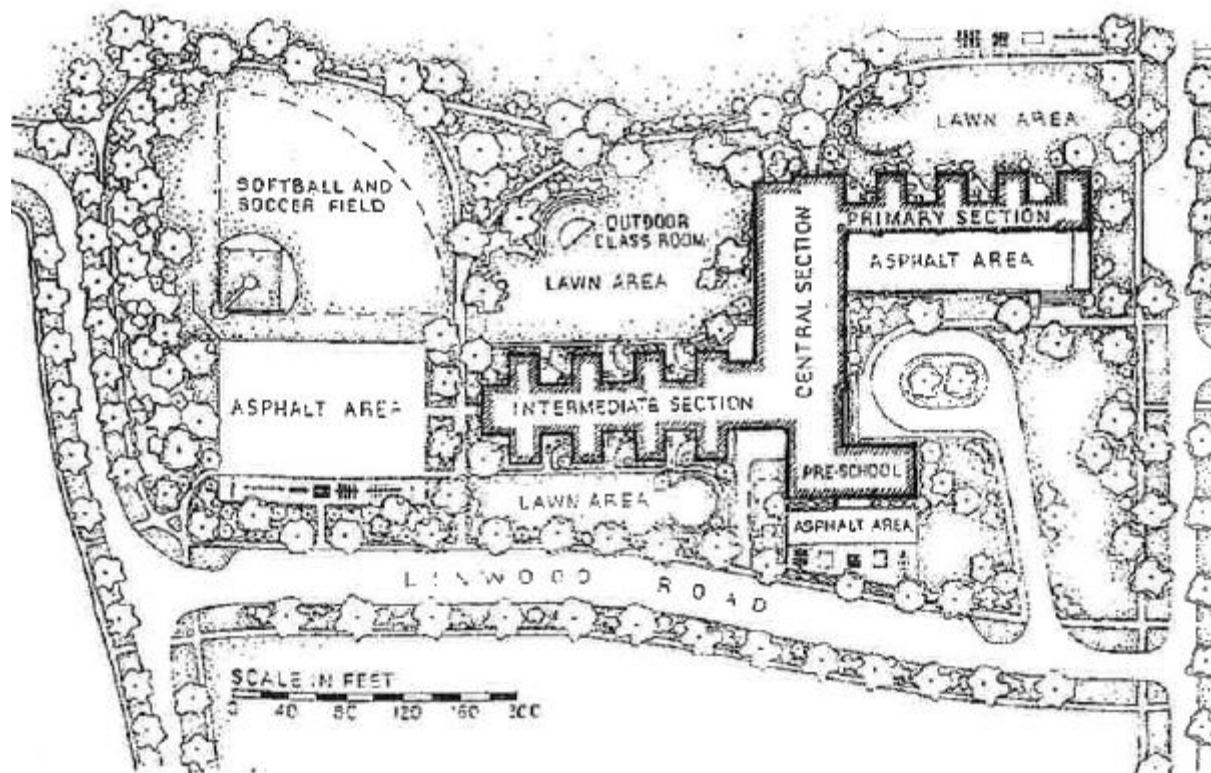


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Figure 8. Example of Finger Plan School. Source: Ogata, 365.

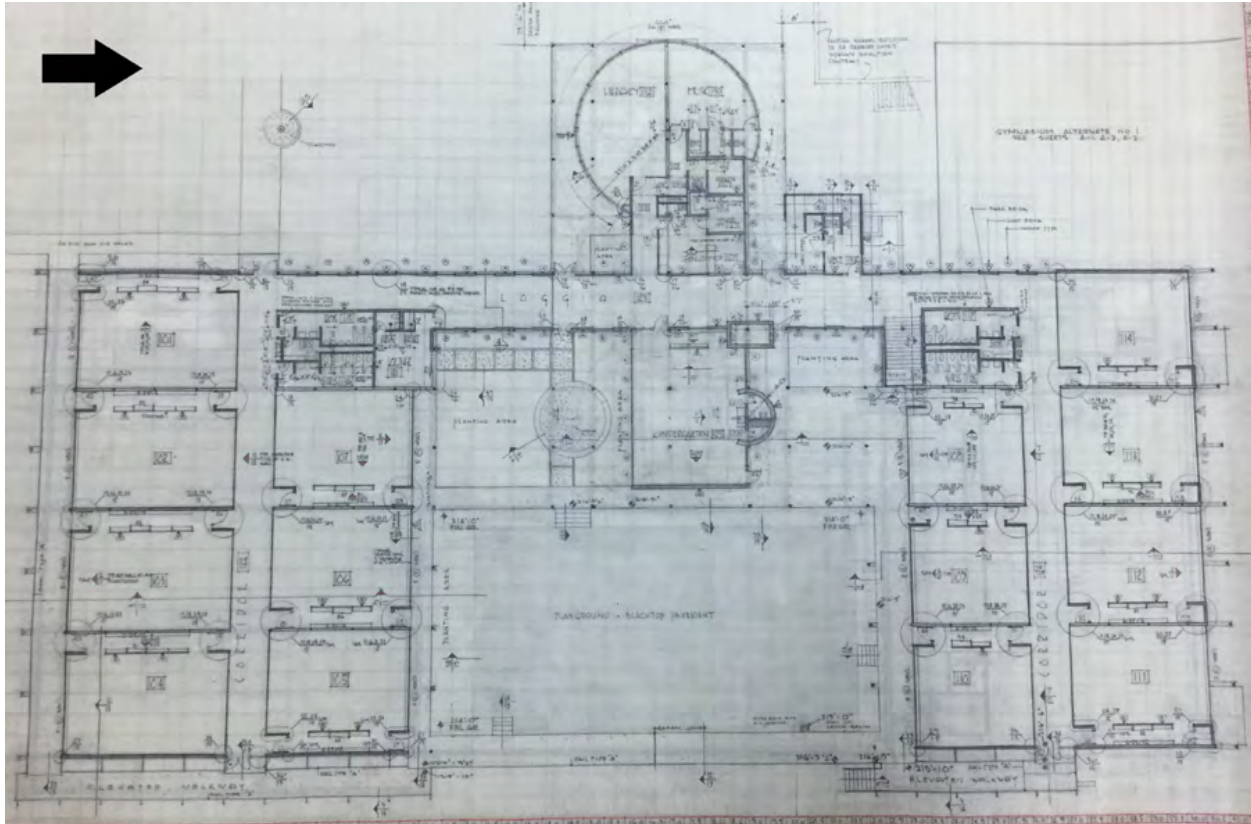


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**Figure 9.** Historic Plans, First Floor. *Source: Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi Architects. "Saint Francis Xavier School and Convent." Architectural Plans, 1961. Frank Grimaldi (1924-2010) Architectural Records Collection (K1252). State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center – Kansas City.*

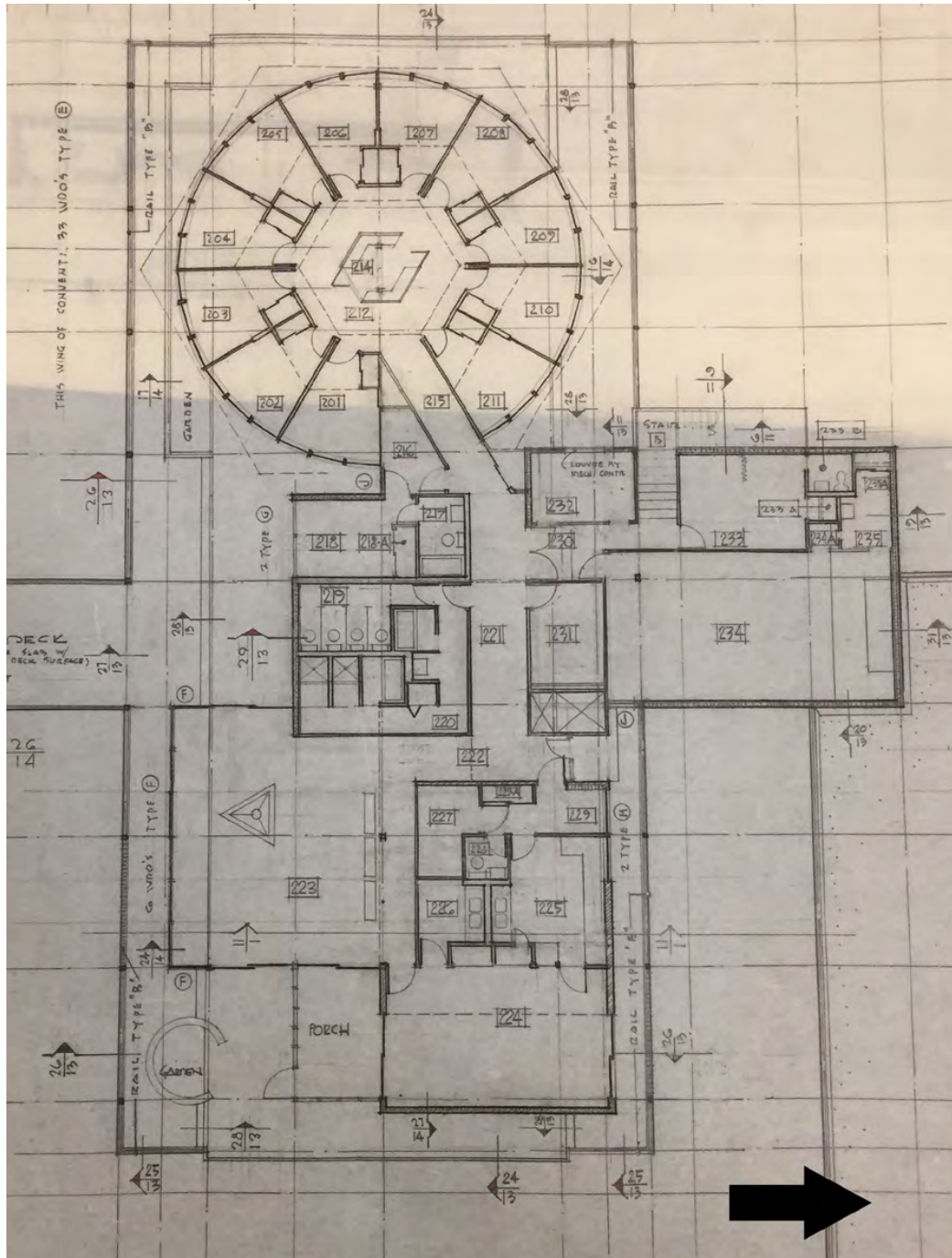


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**Figure 10.** Historic Plans, Second Floor. Source: *Shaughnessy, Bower and Grimaldi Architects. "Saint Francis Xavier School and Convent." Architectural Plans, 1961. Frank Grimaldi (1924-2010) Architectural Records Collection (K1252). State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center – Kansas City.*





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**Figure 11.** Old St. Francis Xavier School, constructed 1922. 1940 Tax Assessment Photograph. *Source: Missouri Digital Heritage.*



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**Figure 12.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1880 through 1912 (during Bishop Hogan's administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*

Purpose-Built Catholic Schools in Kansas City, 1880-1912	Address	Date / Architect	Extant
St. Patrick's Parish School Hall	NE corner of Locust and 8 <sup>th</sup> Sts	ca. 1881 / Unknown	No
St. Aloysius Parish School	NE corner of Prospect and Peery Aves	ca. 1887 / Unknown	No
Sacred Heart Parish School	NE corner of Belleview Ave and W. 26 <sup>th</sup> St	1888 / Unknown	No
Cathedral Commercial School (specialized academy)	414 W. 12 <sup>th</sup> St	1889 / Unknown	No
Holy Name Parish School	2319 Walrond Ave	1890 / James Bannon	No
St. Francis Seraph Parish School	811 N. Agnes Ave	1897 / Unknown	No
St. Agnes Academy	134 N. Hardesty Ave	1901 / Unknown	No
St. Joseph Parish School	1824 Forest Ave	1902 / Unknown	Yes
Loretto Academy	1111 W. 39 <sup>th</sup> St	1903 / Barnett, Haynes, & Barnett	Yes
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Parish School	SW corner of Linwood Blvd and Wyandotte St	ca. 1904 / Unknown	No
Holy Rosary Parish School	529 Campbell St	ca. 1907 / Unknown	No
Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Parish School (German congregation)	422 E. 26 <sup>th</sup> St	ca. 1907 / Unknown	No
St. James Parish School	NE corner of Tracy Ave and E. 40 <sup>th</sup> St	1907 / Ernest Skofstad	No
St. Vincent Academy and Parish School	SW corner of Flora Ave and E. 31 <sup>st</sup> St	1907 / Jerome Donnelly	Yes
St. John the Baptist Parish School	534 Tracy Ave	1909 / Unknown	No
De La Salle Academy	1524 The Paseo	1910 / Unknown	Yes
(New) St. Teresa's	5600 Main St	1910 / Unknown	Yes

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Academy			
Guardian Angel Church and Parish School (German congregation)	NW corner of Mercier St and Westport Rd	1910 / Unknown	No
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School	SE corner of W. 38 <sup>th</sup> Terr and Pennsylvania Ave	1912 / Unknown	No

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**Figure 13.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1913 through 1938 (during Bishop Lillis' administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*

Purpose-Built Catholic Schools in Kansas City, 1913-1938	Address	Date / Architect	Extant
St. Monica Church and Parish School (African American congregation)	NE corner of Lydia Ave and E. 17 <sup>th</sup> St	1913 / Dr. Thomas E. Purcell	Yes
Rockhurst Academy and High School	5225 Troost Ave	1914-1916 / Unknown	Yes
Holy Trinity Parish School	3914 E. 10 <sup>th</sup> St	1919 / Michael J. O'Connor	No
St. Stephen's Parish School	1025 Bennington Ave	ca. 1919 / Unknown	No
Visitation Parish School	5134 Baltimore Ave	1921 / Unknown	No
St. Francis Xavier Parish School	5224 Troost Ave	1922 / Unknown	No
Holy Cross Parish School	5108 St. John Ave	1923 / Unknown	Yes
Redemptorist School / Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish School	211 Linwood Blvd	1924 / Edgar P. Madorie	Yes
(New) St. James Parish School	3941 Tracy Ave	ca. 1924 / Unknown	No
St. Louis Parish School	5840 Swope Pkwy	1925 / Unknown	Yes
St. Michael's Parish School	2415 Brighton Ave	1926 / Unknown	No
St. Therese Little Flower Parish Church and School	5809 Michigan Ave	1926 / Unknown	Yes
Assumption School (wing added to Assumption Church)	3210 Lexington Ave	1927 / Unknown	Yes
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish School (Mexican congregation)	2310 Madison Ave	1927 / Unknown	Yes
St. Elizabeth Parish School	14 W. 75 <sup>th</sup> St	1927-1934 / Raney & Corman	Yes
St. Augustine Parish School	1818 E. 79 <sup>th</sup> St	1928 / Unknown	Yes

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Section number Figures Page 37

St. Francis Xavier School
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St. Peter's Church and Parish School	6400 Charlotte St	1928 / J. P. Dillon	Yes
Notre Dame de Sion School	3823 Locust St	1929 / Unknown	Yes
St. Stanislaus Church and Parish School (Polish congregation)	1734 Ewing Ave	ca. 1929 / Unknown	Yes
St. John's High School and Seminary	2015 E. 72 <sup>nd</sup> St	1931 / Unknown	Yes
(New) St. Aloysius Parish School	2610 Peery Ave	1934 / Unknown	No



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**Figure 14.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1939 through 1956 (during Bishop O'Hara's administration of the Kansas City Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*

Purpose-Built Catholic Schools in Kansas City, 1939-1956	Address	Date / Architect	Extant
Blessed Sacrament Parish School	3001 E. 39 <sup>th</sup> St	1941 / Unknown	Yes
(New) St. Francis Seraph Parish School	823 N. Agnes Ave	1941 / Joseph B. Shaughnessy	No
Hogan High School	1221 E. Meyer Blvd	1941 / Shaughnessy and Benberg	Yes
Lillis High School	3740 Forest Ave	1941 / Shaughnessy and Benberg	Yes
Glennon High School	134 N. Hardesty Ave	1945 / Shaughnessy and Bower	No
Christ the King Parish School	425 W. 85 <sup>th</sup> St	1946 / Unknown	Yes
St. Catherine Parish School	10526 Grandview Rd	1948 / Voskamp and Slezak	Yes
St. John the Baptist Parish School	548 Brooklyn Ave	1948 / Carroll and Dean	Yes
(New) Cathedral Commercial School	1112 Broadway Blvd	1953 / Samuel W. Bihr	Yes
(New) St. Elizabeth Parish School	2 E. 75 <sup>th</sup> St	1953 / R.J. Raney	Yes
(New) Annunciation Parish School	2800 Linwood Blvd	1954 / Unknown	Yes
(New) Assumption Parish School	309 Benton Blvd	1954 / Unknown	Yes
(New) Guardian Angel Parish School	4232 Mercier St	1955 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
(New) Holy Name Parish School	2210 Kansas Ave	1955 / Unknown	Yes

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**Figure 15.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1956 through 1961 (during Bishop Cody's administration of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman's This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*

Purpose-Built Catholic Schools in Kansas City, 1956-1961	Address	Date / Architect	Extant
Immaculate Heart of Mary (St. Mary's) Parish School	2402 Swope Pkwy	1957 / R.L. O'Brien	Yes
(New) Holy Trinity Parish School	4012 E. 10 <sup>th</sup> St	1959 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
(New) St. Stephen's Parish School	1025 Bennington Ave	1959 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
St. Bernadette Church and Parish School	9020 E. 51 Terr	1960 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
(New) Visitation Parish School	5134 Baltimore Ave	1960 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes

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**Figure 16.** Table of Catholic academies and parish schools constructed from 1962 through 1966 (during Bishop Helmsing’s administration of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese). *Source: Rosin Preservation, 2017. Data compiled via review of Charles M. Coleman’s This Far by Faith: A popular history of the Catholic people of west and northwest Missouri, Kansas City City Directories, Sanborn Maps, and field reconnaissance survey.*

Purpose-Built Catholic Schools in Kansas City, 1962-1966	Address	Date / Architect	Extant
(New) St. Francis Xavier School	5224 Troost Ave	1962 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
(New) Holy Cross School	121 N. Quincy Ave	1962 / Shaughnessy, Bower, and Grimaldi	Yes
Notre Dame de Sion Academy	10631 Wornall Rd	1962 / Unknown	Yes
O’Hara High School	9001 James A. Reed Rd	1964 / Drake O’Meara Associates	Yes
St. John Francis Regis Church and Parish School	8941 James A. Reed Rd	1966 / Russell O’Brien	Yes
St. Thomas More Church and Parish School	11800 Holmes Rd	1966 / James V. Marra	Yes
(New) Loretto Academy	12411 Wornall Rd	1966 / Unknown	Yes

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**Figure 17.** Courtyard, view south to classrooms. *Source: Brad Finch, 2017.*





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**Figure 18.** Douglass School (2640 Bellevue Ave., 1953), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 19.** Hartman School (8111 Oak St., 1953), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan.  
Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.





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**Figure 20.** Martin School (716 N. Garland Ave., 1954), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 21.** Longan School (3421 Cherry St., 1955), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



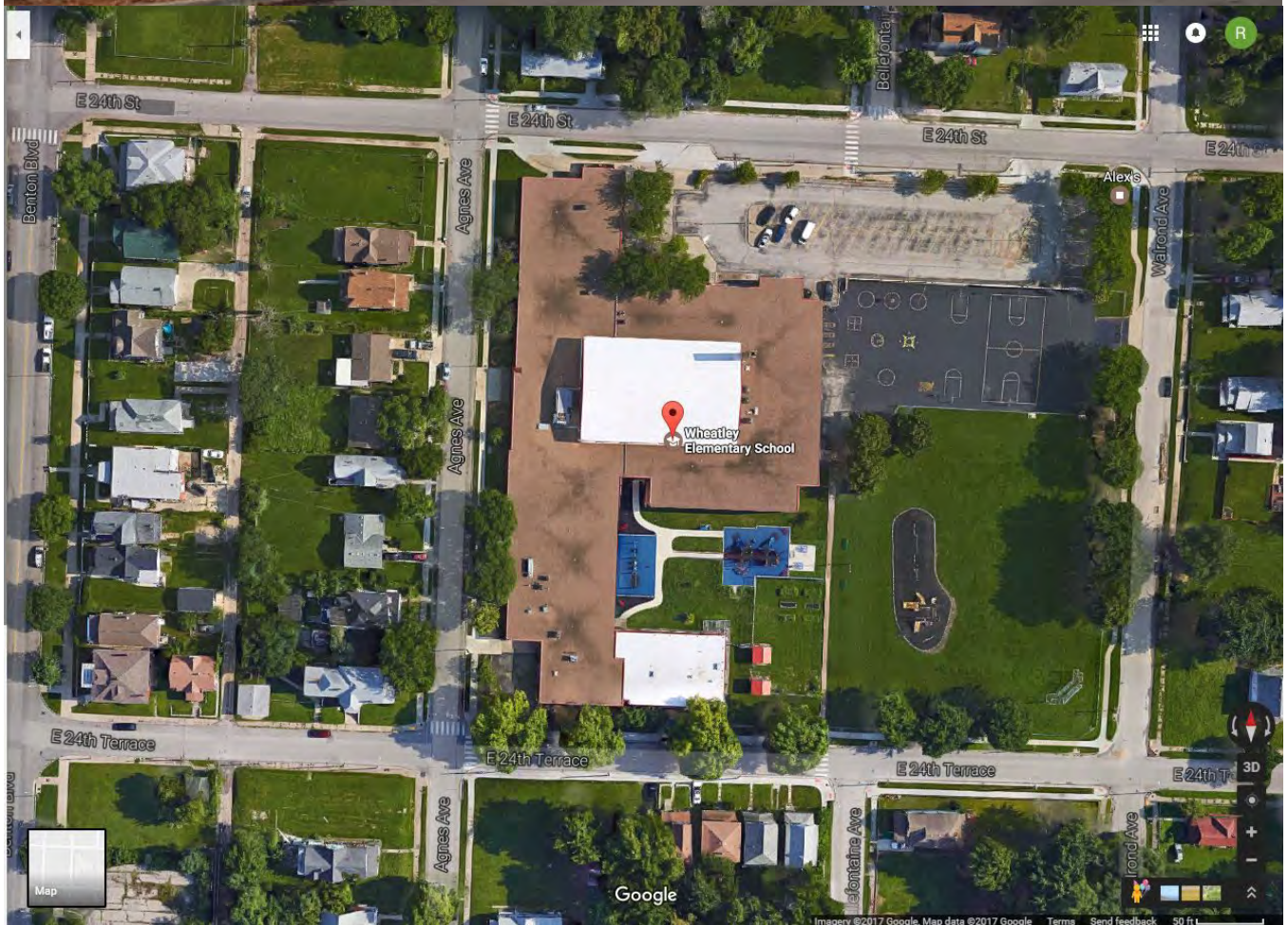


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**Figure 22.** Wheatley School (2415 Agnes Ave., 1955), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.





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**Figure 23.** Dunbar School (5419 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 1956), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



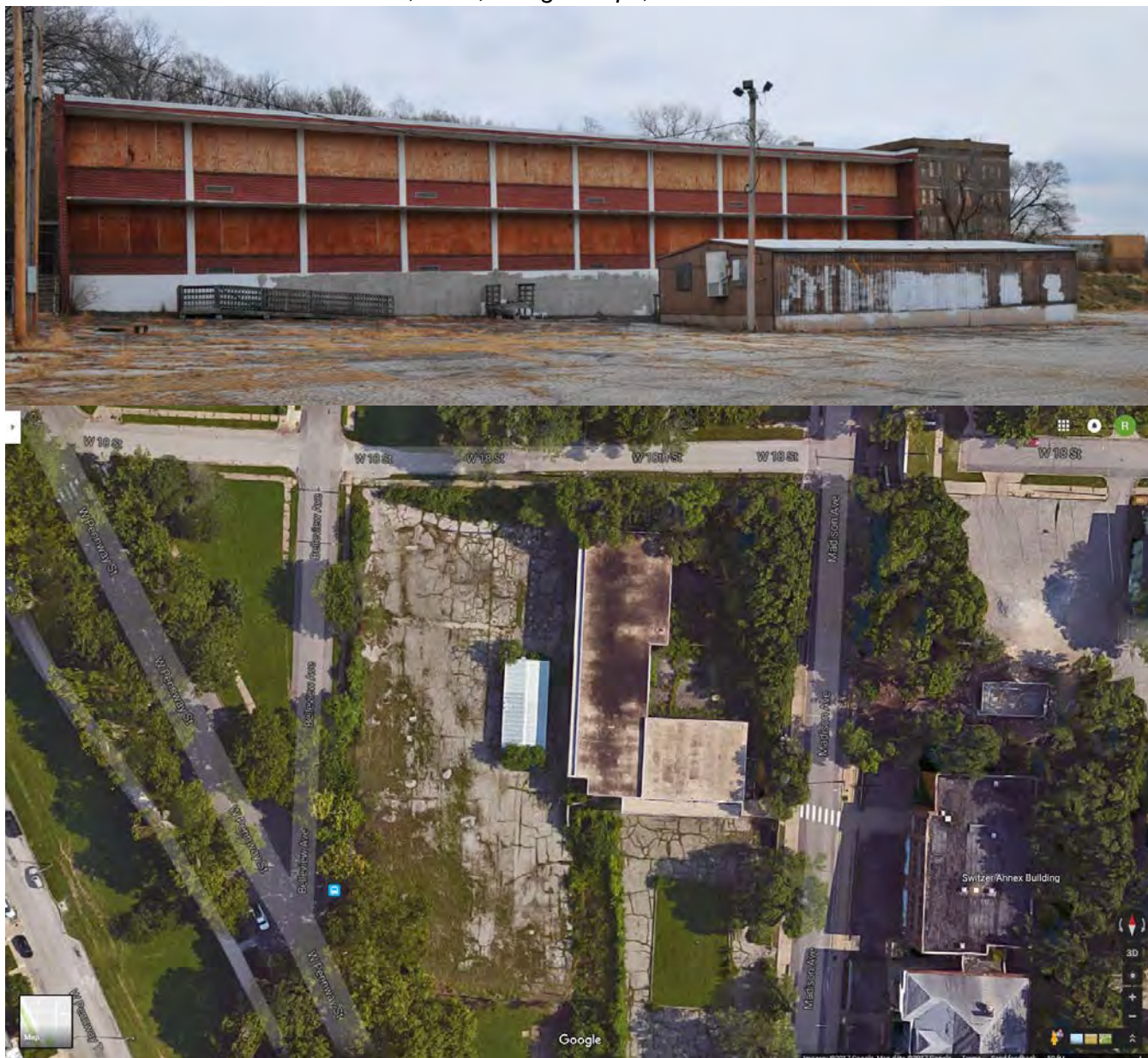


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**Figure 24.** Switzer Primary School (1810 Madison Ave. 1957), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 25.** Melcher School (3958 Chelsea Ave., 1959), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



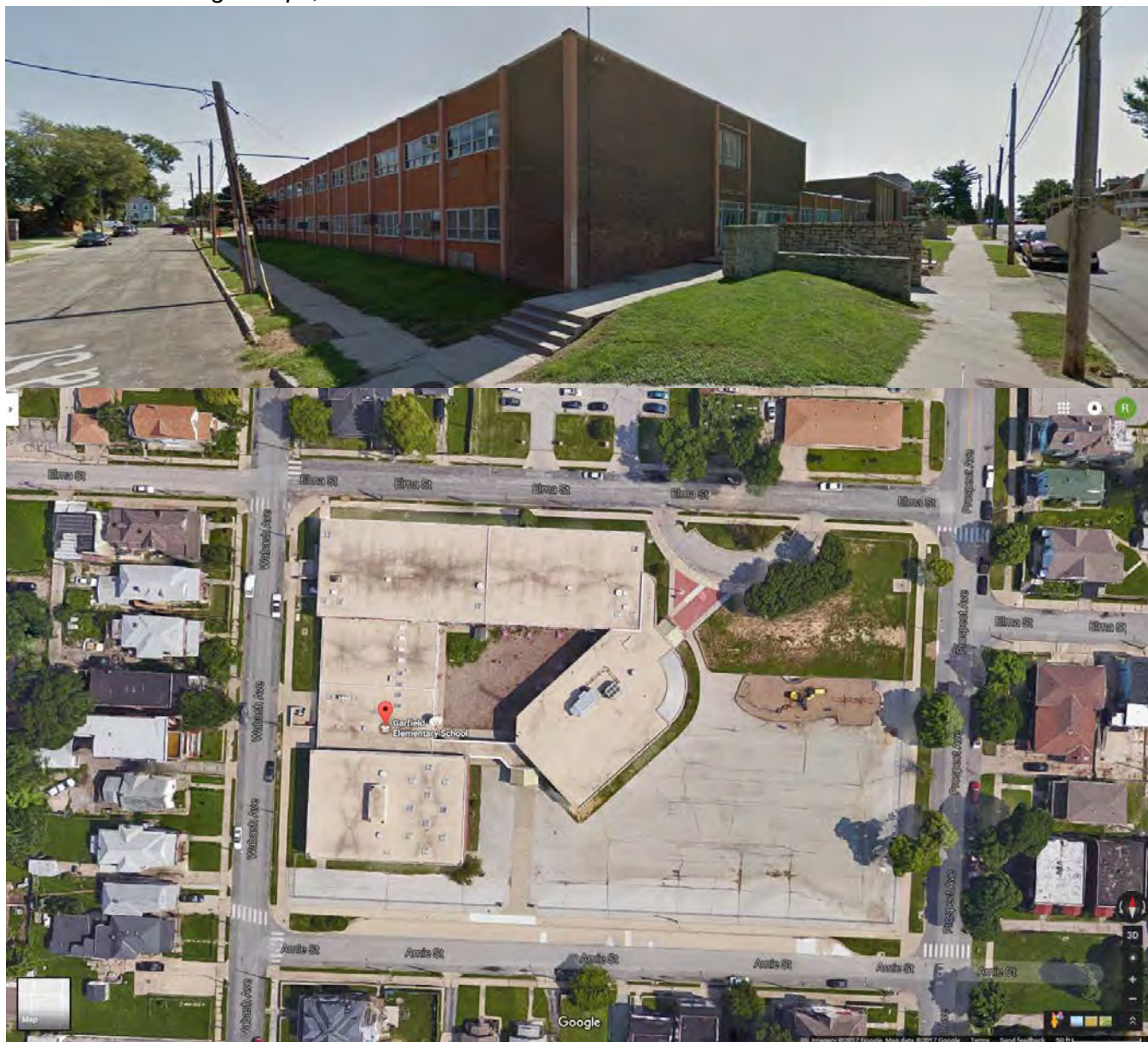


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**Figure 26.** Garfield School (436 Prospect Ave., 1960), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 27.** West Rock Creek School (8820 E. 27<sup>th</sup> St., 1961), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



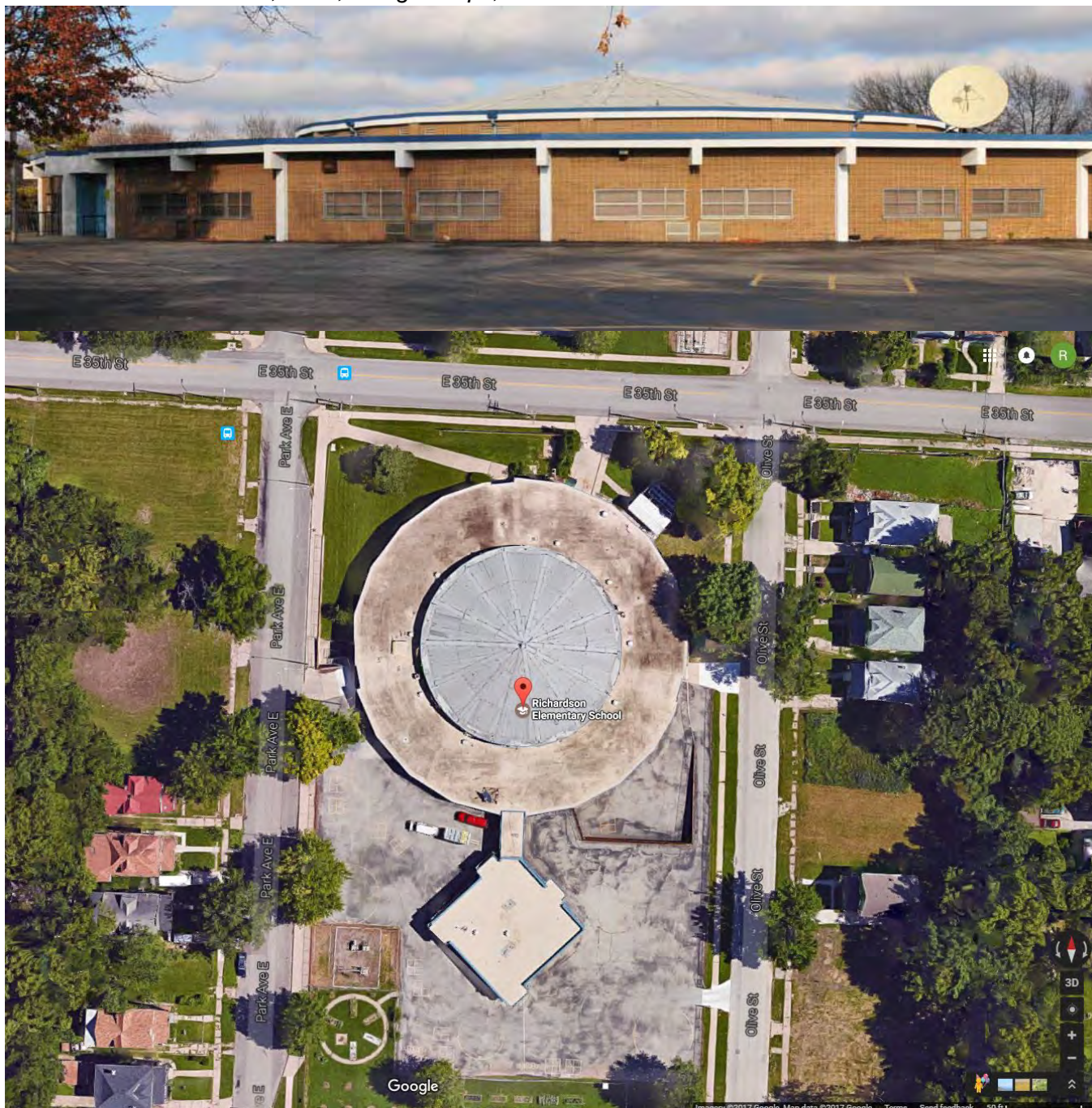


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**Figure 28.** Richardson School (3515 Park Ave., 1963), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



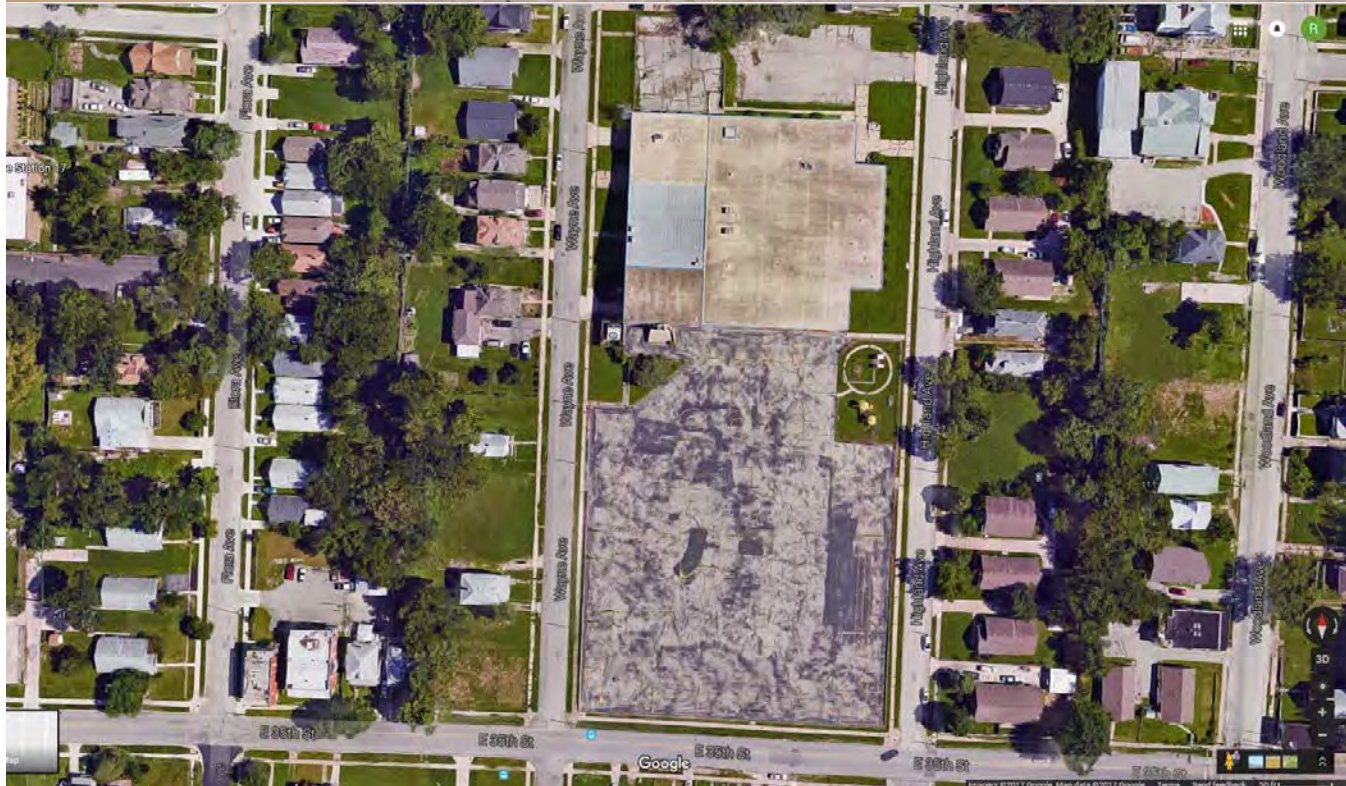


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**Figure 29.** Franklin School (3400 Highland Ave., 1968), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 30.** Weeks Elementary School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School complex (4201 Indiana Ave., 1968), Kansas City Public Schools, Photo and Plan. *Source: Brad Finch, 2011; Google Maps, 2017.*



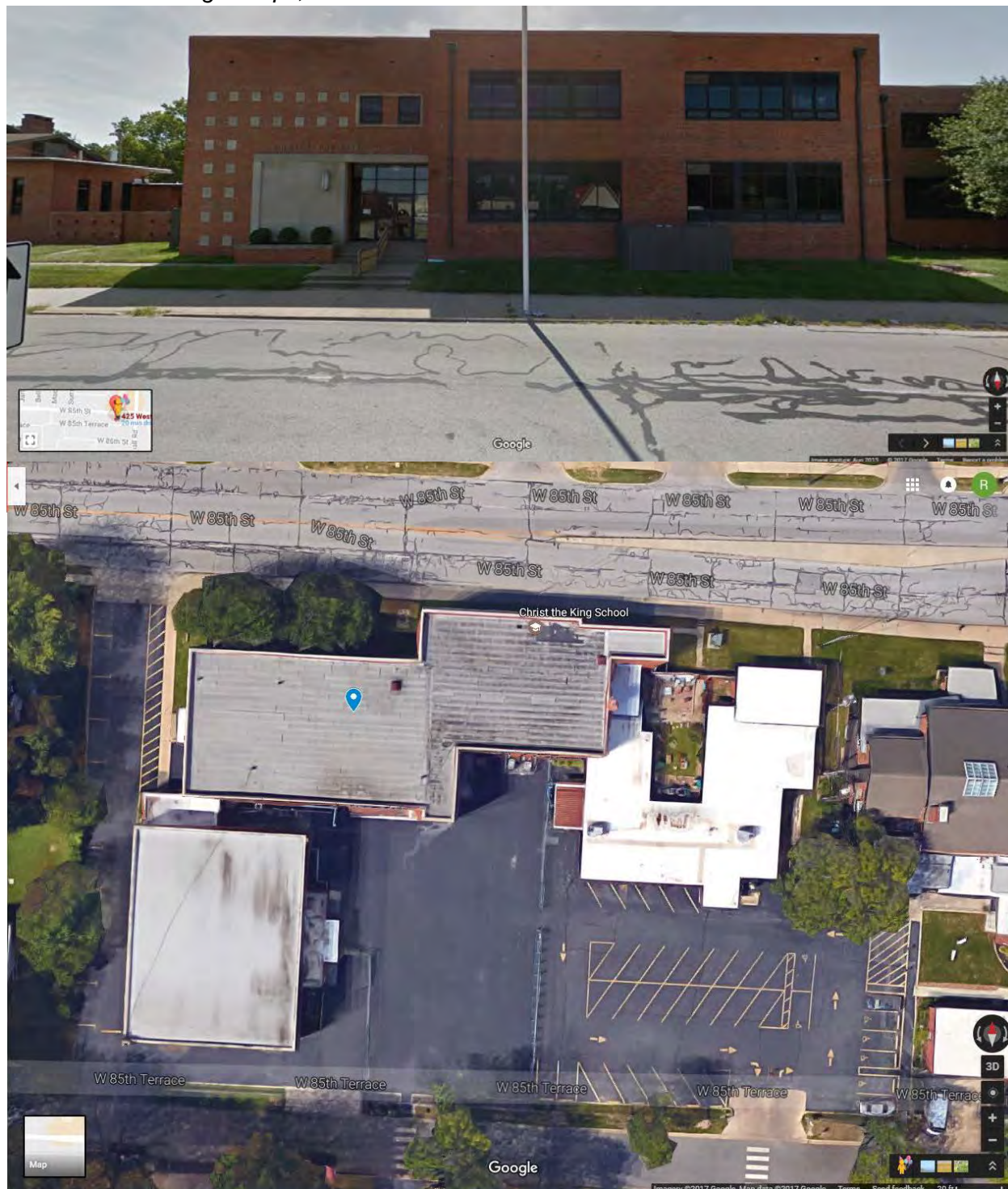


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**Figure 31.** Christ the King Parish School (425 W. 85<sup>th</sup> St., 1946), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



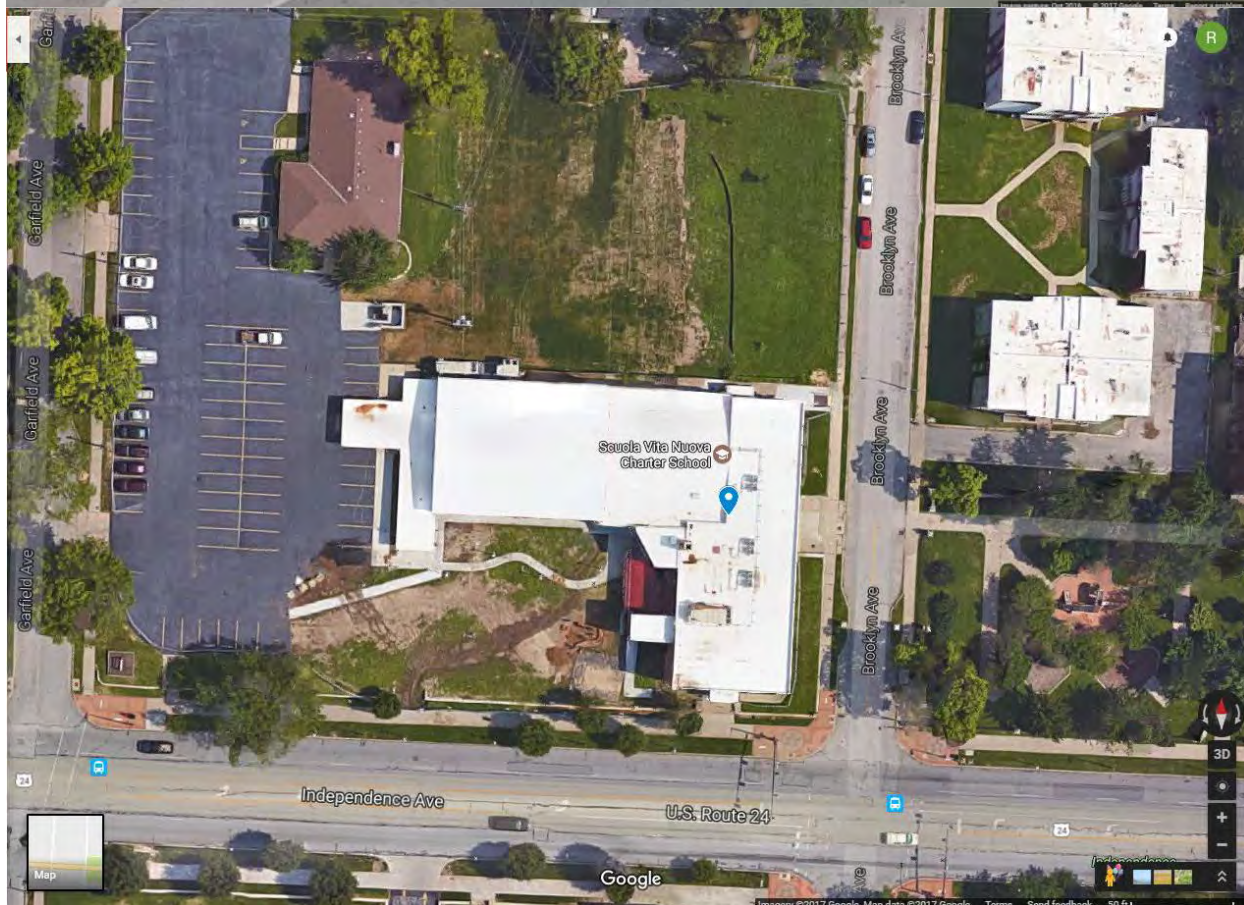


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**Figure 32.** St. John the Baptist Parish School (548 Brooklyn Ave., 1948), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



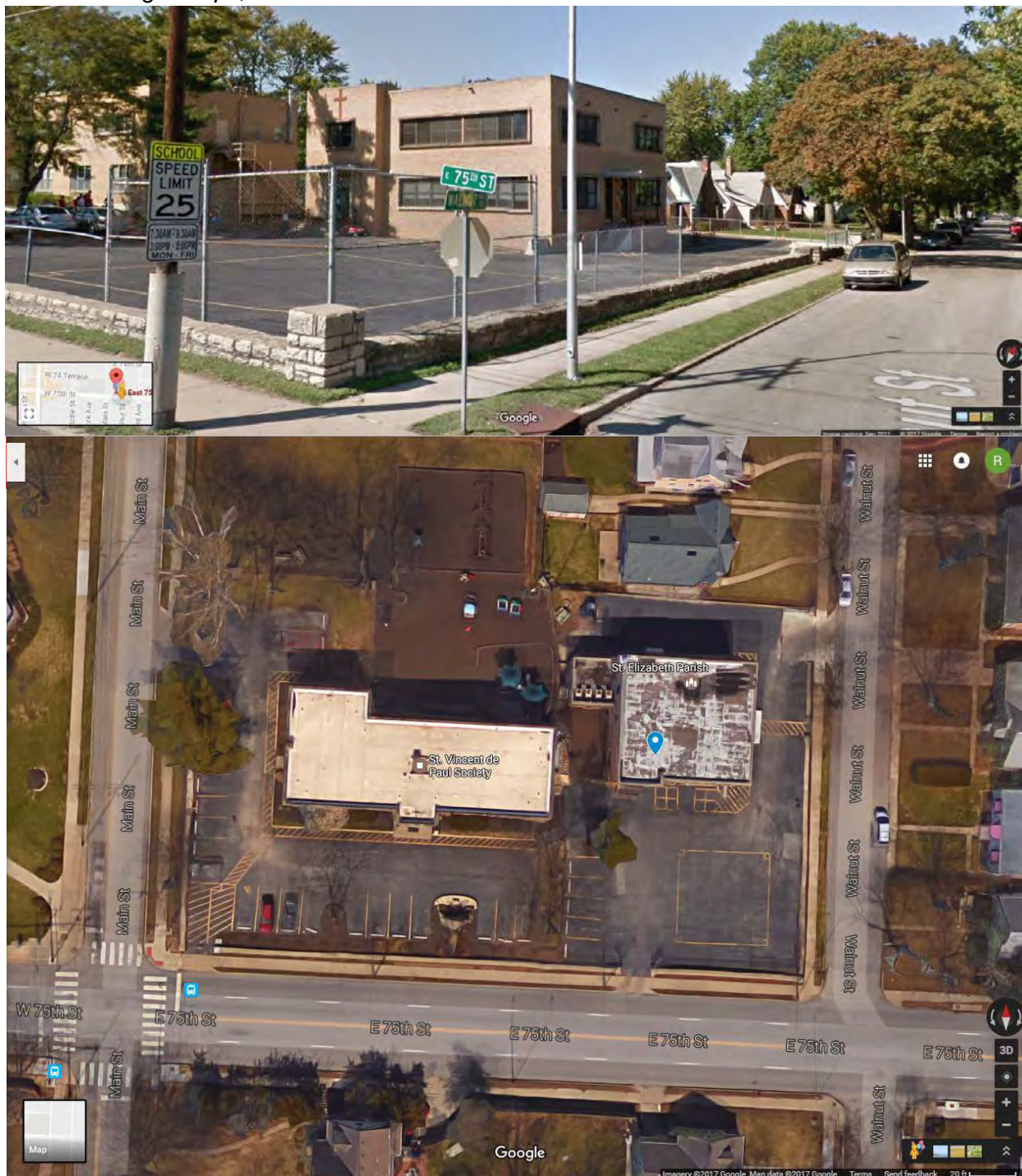


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**Figure 33.** St. Elizabeth's Parish School (2 E. 75<sup>th</sup> St., 1953), Catholic School, Photo and Plan.  
*Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



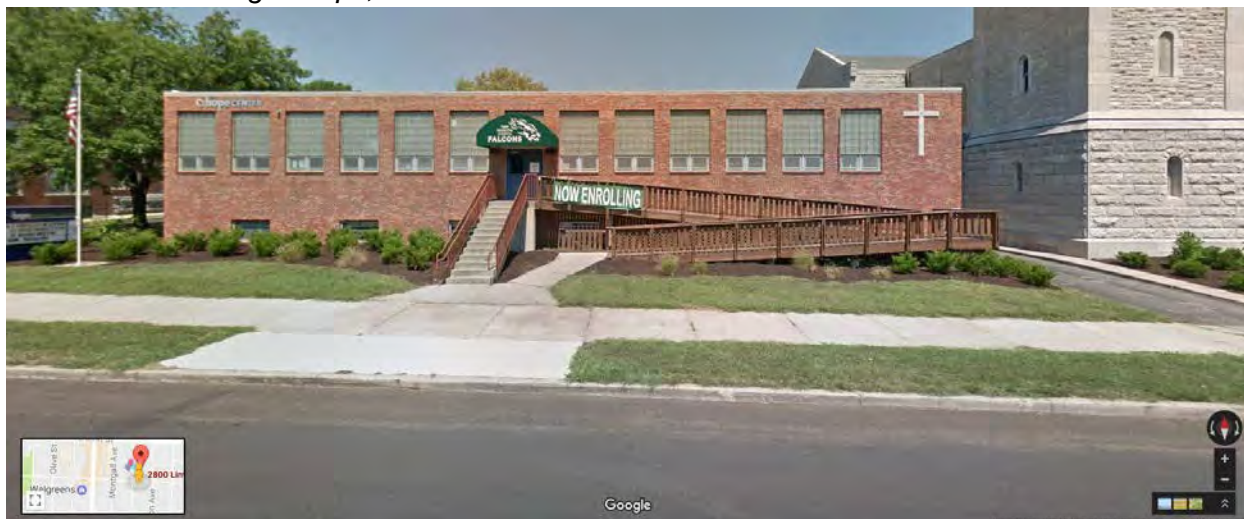


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**Figure 34.** Annunciation Parish School (2800 Linwood Blvd., 1954), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



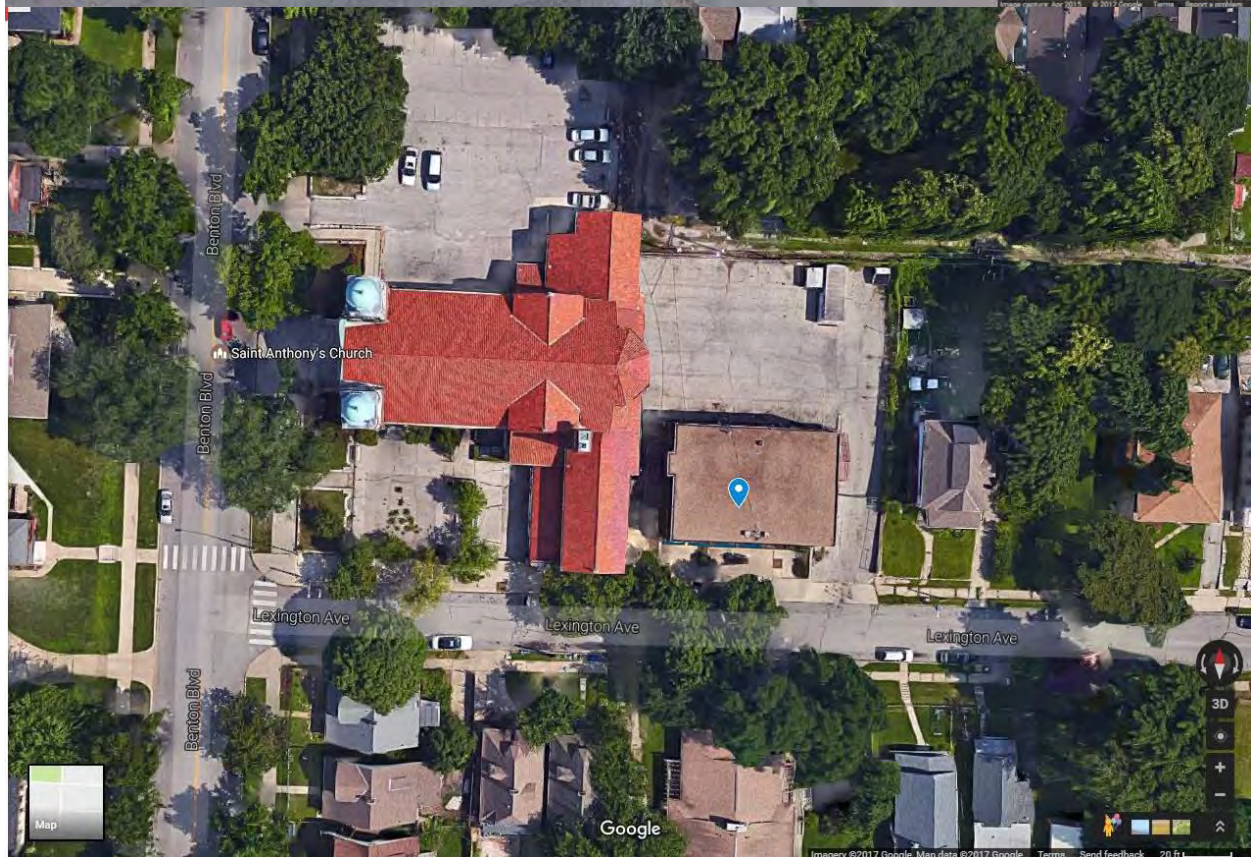


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**Figure 35.** Assumption Parish School (309 Benton Blvd., 1954), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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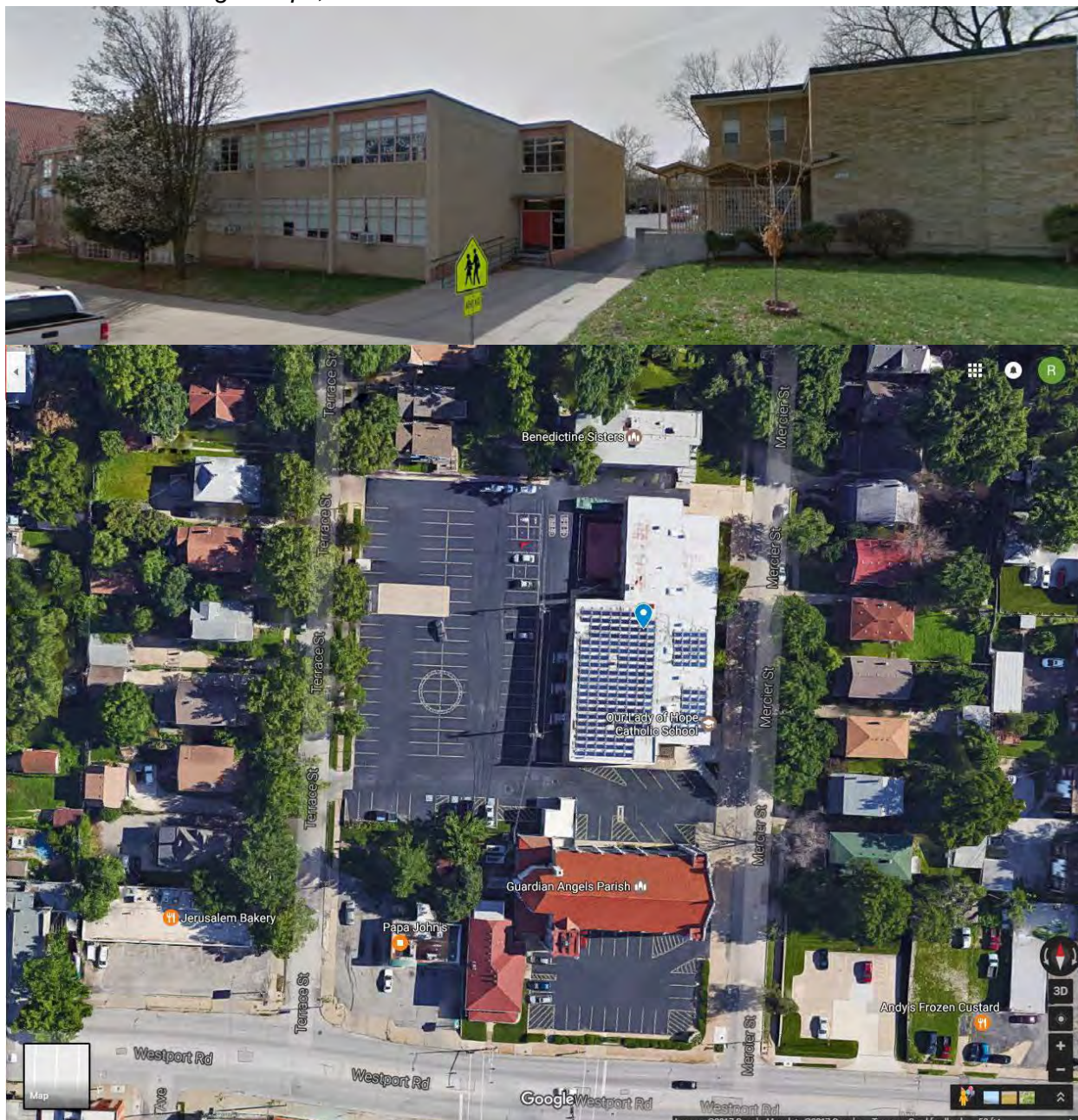
Jackson County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

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**Figure 36.** Guardian Angel Parish School (4232 Mercier St., 1955), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 37.** Holy Name Parish School (2210 Kansas Ave., 1955), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



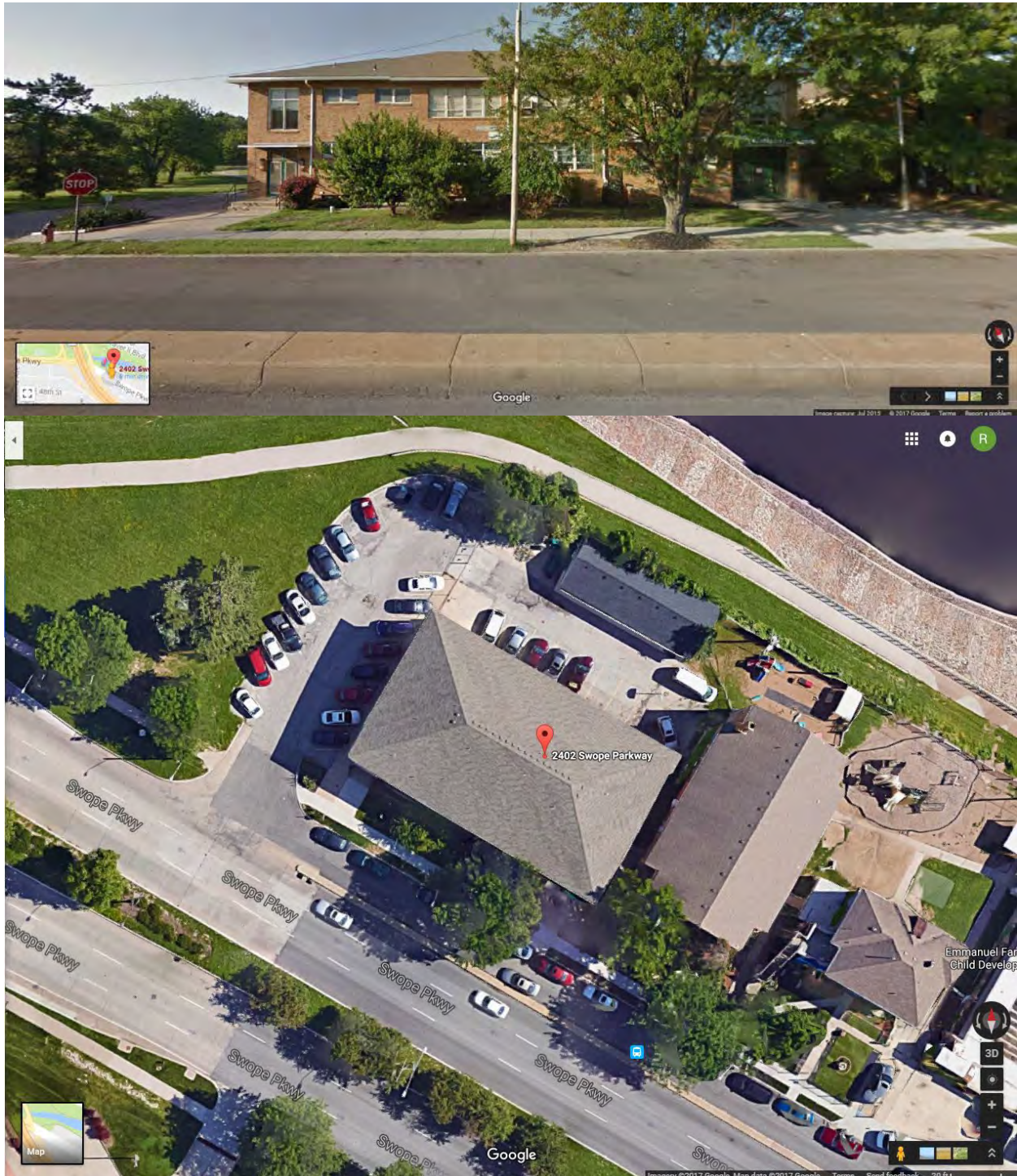


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**Figure 38.** Immaculate Heart of Mary (St. Mary's) Parish School (2402 Swope Pkwy, 1957), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



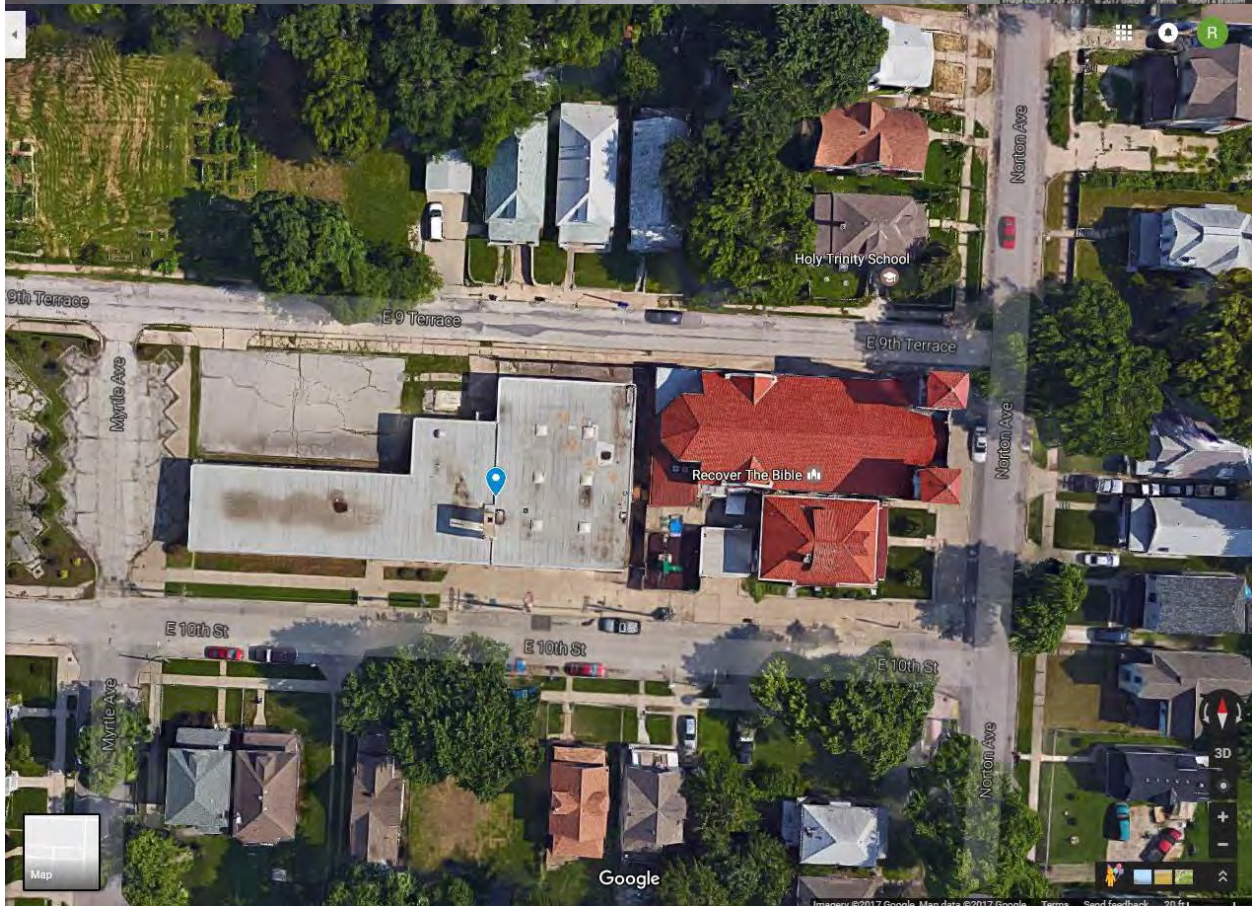


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**Figure 39.** Holy Trinity Parish School (4012 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St., 1959), Catholic School, Photo and Plan.  
*Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 40.** St. Stephen's Parish School (1025 Bennington Ave., 1959), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 41.** St. Bernadette Church and Parish School (9020 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Terr., 1960), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 42.** Visitation Parish School (5134 Baltimore Ave., 1960), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*



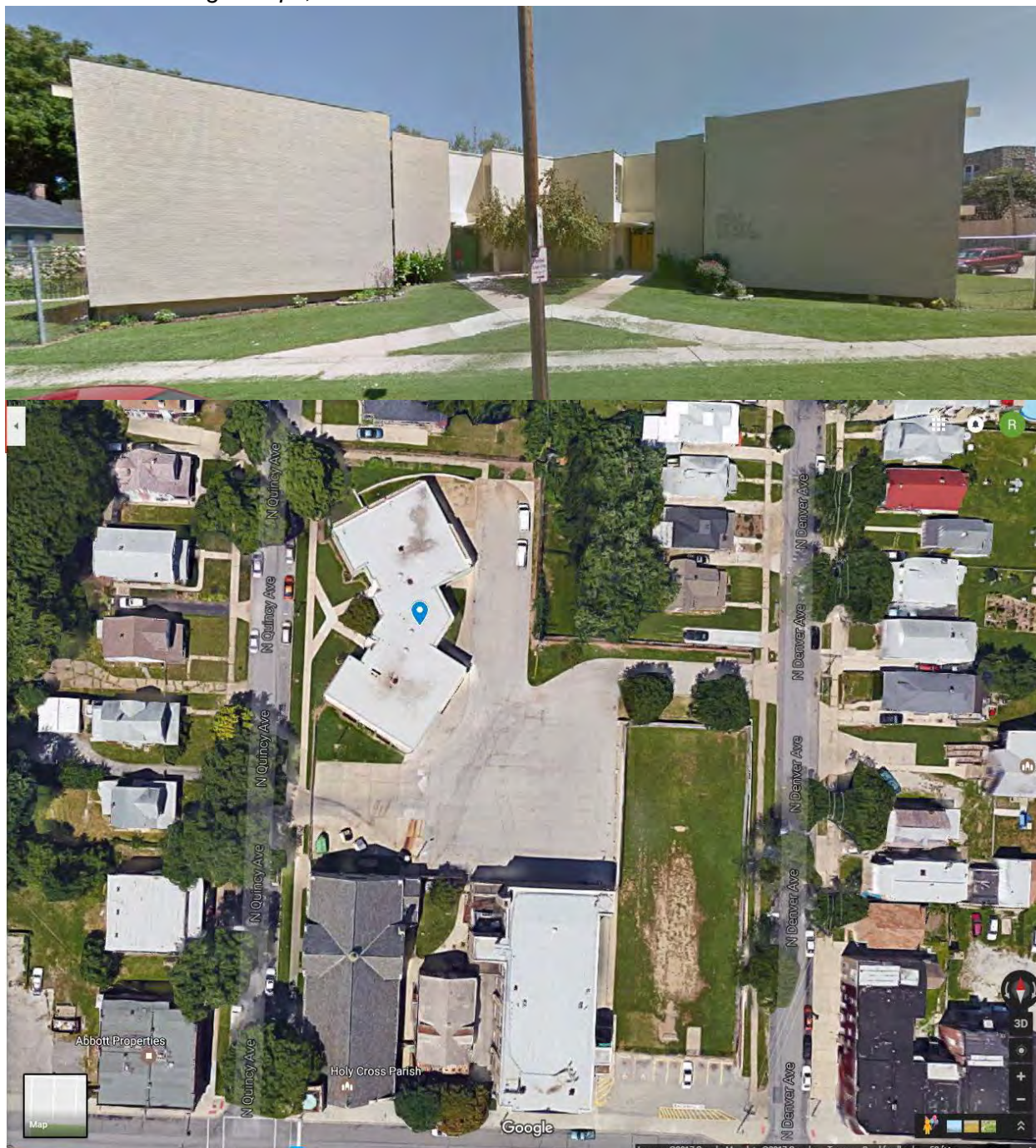


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**Figure 43.** Holy Cross Parish School (121 N. Quincy Ave., 1962), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*





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**Figure 44.** St. John Francis Regis Church and Parish School (8941 James A. Reed Rd., 1966), Catholic School, Photo and Plan. *Source: Google Maps, 2017.*











TROOST  
15th St





















































EXIT

FIRE





































VISITORS































66



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 9/8/2017      Date of Pending List: 10/23/2017 2:48:24 PM      Date of 16th Day: 10/19/2017      Date of 45th Day: 10/23/2017      Date of Weekly List: 10/27/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      10/23/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



# NATURAL RESOURCES

Eric R. Greitens, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director



## Memorandum

**Date:** September 5, 2017

**To:** Paul Loether, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

**From:** Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO and Director, Missouri SHPO *TMP*

**Subject:** St. Francis Xavier School, Jackson County, MO, National Register Nomination

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on **August 4, 2017**. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. **The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.**

Please find enclosed the following documentation:

- 1   CD with original National Register of Historic Places registration form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Photographs
- 1   CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
- 2   Piece(s) of correspondence (cover letter and signature page)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do        do not        constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_