

PH0660281

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

RECEIVED JAN 16 1978  
DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Limerick Historic District

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER (See annexed U.S.G.S. map.)

Between Breckinridge and Oak, Fifth and Seventh Streets

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Louisville 3 and 4

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Kentucky 021 Jefferson 111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Louisville Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Louisville, Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Metropolitan Preservation Plan (St. Louis Bertrand only)

DATE 1973  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS KIPDA

CITY, TOWN STATE  
517 Ormsby Louisville, Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Limerick area, an early Irish enclave, originally developed just south of Broadway bounded by Seventh Street on the east and the L & N Railroad tracks on the west. Modest brick and frame cottages lined the streets of this area, which today is largely industrial rather than residential, although a few isolated, early shotgun type dwellings remain. (See photo #26.)

During the final third of the nineteenth century, residential growth shifted east to the area presently nominated as the Limerick Historic District. This district, generally speaking is bounded by Seventh Street on the west, with portions of the Old Louisville Historic Preservation District lying to the south and east. Though once primarily residential, the area to the north of Limerick, from Breckinridge Street to Broadway, now contains a number of more recent commercial structures. The present Limerick Historic District is divided into two portions by a block of commercial intrusions between Kentucky Street and Zane Street, but is unified along a common axis, Sixth Street. Within the Limerick boundaries is a marvelously intact, late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhood. Among the very few commercial intrusions within the present district are a modern, one-story red-brick, commercial structure at No. 1031 S. Sixth Street, an armored car firm, and a single-story, unpainted cinderblock building at No. 1041. At No. 1043 S. Sixth Street a one-story cinderblock structure has been added to a nineteenth century carriage house. The carriage house is used as a laundry facility. (See photos #13 and #15)

Located at No. 944 South Sixth Street is a plain one-story, concrete block building which is set back some distance from the street. Just south of Bertrand Street, on the east side of South Sixth between St. Catherine Street and Oak Street is a parking area at the front of a lot, with a small metal quonset hut in the rear, used for commercial purposes. The only other intrusions within the predominantly residential district are several business signs, which do not seriously detract. (See photos #12 and #17)

The St. Louis Bertrand Church and parish complex, located on the southwest corner of Sixth and St. Catherine Streets is the focal point of the Limerick neighborhood. This church, which replaces an earlier frame structure of 1866, dates from 1869 and is the core around which the Limerick area developed. Tradition attributes the design for the church to architect Patrick C. Keeley (1816-1896), who is also said to have designed the nearby Gothic-detailed convent and House of Studies Building in 1867. Louisville architect H. P. Bradshaw was cited, however, by contemporary newspaper accounts as designer of the church structure. The church, one of three buildings in the complex is a magnificent limestone structure designed in a Gothic revival style. The gable facade is pierced with lancet arched openings surrounded with smooth White River limestone trim. The first story has three recessed doorways. The asymmetrical facade has two towers. Stylistically, the larger square tower to the north is of Norman derivation, with lancet windows and topped by a parapet wall and finials. The smaller, octagonal tower to the south rises from a buttressed base. The nave wall is pierced by lancet-shaped stained-glass windows separated by buttresses. (See photo 23.)

The old parish school, formerly the convent and House of Studies building, is the far building to the south in the complex and is the oldest of the three structures. The

(continued)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1866-1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Numerous (see statemnt of sig.)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Limerick neighborhood developed in the area south of Broadway as essentially an enclave of Irish immigrants and persons of Irish derivation in Louisville during the final third of the nineteenth century, although many other nationalities also lived in the area.

The Catholic Advocate of December 19, 1872 discussed the area as "nothing but commons the dreariness of which was hardly broken by a few isolated dwellings. When the land came into market the industrious Irish invested their earnings in lots and formed a nucleuos [sic] generally known as New Limerick." (See photo #24)

Central to the development of the area was the establishment of St. Louis Bertrand parish, which served from the beginning as the core of the community. Bishop Peter Joseph Lavialle, who succeeded Bishop Spalding, invited the Dominicans to Louisville to establish a House of Studies and a parish. By August 7, 1866, a Father William Dominic O'Carroll had written to the Dominican Master General in Rome, Father Jandel, that the frame church of St. Louis Bertrand in Louisville was completed and the foundation had been laid for the convent. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Lavialle in August 1866. The convent structure was designed by P. J. Keeley and James Murphy. The parish was located in the Ormsby subdivision between Sixth and Seventh Streets.

The first Prior and Pastor was Father Dennis Joseph Meagher. He and a Father M. A. O'Brien lived at the home of Madame Fillion on Sixth Street and said Mass at the home of Michael Connolly on Seventh and Oldham Streets. The temporary Church, which was constructed of second-hand lumber from the Quartermaster Supplies Building and stables built during the Civil War, was located on Seventh Street. It was an extremely plain structure with a seating capacity of over four hundred. A two room school built next to the frame church was also of second-hand lumber and was used from 1867 to 1889.

The placement of the frame church and school building on Seventh Street facing west was in response to the first dense residential enclave, which was actually slightly to the west of the presently nominated Limerick area. The vast majority of these brick and frame cottages, located roughly between Seventh Street on the east and the railroad tracks on the west, according to the 1876 Atlas, were occupied by persons with Irish surnames, a number of whom were employed by the nearby L & N Railroad.

Soon after completion of the red-brick, Gothic-detailed convent and House of Studies Building in 1867, it was decided to begin a permanent church structure, and the cornerstone was laid on August 15, 1869. Provincial tradition attributes the design of St. Louis Bertrand Church to the Keeley Brothers. Patrick C. Keeley (1816-1896), who came to the

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of the City of Louisville. Louisville: Louisville and Abstract Loan Association, 1876.

Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments. (Louisville) Metropolitan Preservation Plan. Text and selection by Walter E. Langsam. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(continued)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 19 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	6 08 3, 1, 0	4, 2 3, 3 2, 6, 0	B	1, 6	6 0, 8 4, 2, 0	4, 2 3, 2 6, 0, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 6	6 0, 8 0, 5, 0	4, 2 3, 2 4, 2, 0	D	1, 6	6 0, 8 1, 4, 0	4, 2 3, 3 2, 6, 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning at the southeast corner of W. Breckinridge and S. Sixth Street, thence south to the northern property line of 1019 1/2 Sixth, thence east along the line to the east side of the alley, thence south to the south side of Zane Street, thence due east to the intersection of Zane and Fifth, thence due south along the west side of Fifth Street, across St. Catherine Street to the alley which is an extension of Fifth Street, south to Bertrand Street. Thence due west along the northern edge of Bertrand to the southwest corner of Bertrand and Garvin. (continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth F. Jones, Douglas Stern and Denise E. McNulty December 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission 587-3501

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

617 W. Jefferson Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Louisville, Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Edward W. Miller*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*R. B. Roth*

DATE 9/13/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William Brown*

DATE Sept 11, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Limerick Historic District

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Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky  
1977 State  
Kentucky Heritage Commission  
Frankfort, Kentucky

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building is a three-story, red-brick structure topped by a mansard roof. Graceful bell-shaped dormers originally highlighted the roof area. Gothic details accentuate the structure. The fenestration consists of pairs of windows with round arch, segmental arch and modified lancet arch caps on the first, second and third floors respectively. (See photo #25.)

The rectory building, on the north end of the site, is a three-story yellow brick structure of recent vintage. Window openings and doors are highlighted by black wrought iron trim. (For a more thorough discussion of the architecture of the St. Louis Bertrand parish complex see section 8.) (See photo #26.)

Reminiscent of the types of structures which existed in the early days of Limerick west of Seventh Street are the modest shotgun cottages within the district. A most impressive grouping of seven, identical brick shotgun dwellings is located at Nos. 933-945 South Seventh Street. Each structure has an Eastlake-style entry hood, flatstone lintels, a camelback rear portion and common bond walls. (See photo #20.)

A group of five similar Italianate style shotgun residences are found at Nos. 1117-1125 S. Sixth Street. These are constructed of brick. No. 1123 has a recently added brick front porch. No. 1125 is a camelback shotgun type with a two story rear portion. Several shotguns of wood construction with clapboard siding are situated on the south side of Zane Street's 500 block. The most outstanding of these is No. 528, with a stone foundation, Eastlake-style trim, metal roof, finely carved spans within its end gable, and a lovely stained-glass transom. (See photo #12.)

The residences which line the 500 and 600 blocks of St. Catherine Street, as well as those along the 900 and portions of the 1000 block of S. Sixth Street are perhaps Limerick's most elegant structures. Constructed of brick, and rising to two, and two-and-one-half stories, these late nineteenth century residences are principally Italianate and Romanesque inspired. Many were the homes of prominent local architects, who likely designed these structures for themselves. (See photos #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.)

No. 514 St. Catherine Street at the southeast corner of its intersection with Garvin Place was the home of architect Kenneth McDonald (1852-1940) who designed a large number of buildings, among them the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka and Louisville's American Life Building at Third and Main Streets. No. 514 is a two-and-one-half-story brick residence with an iron fence in the front. On the first story to the west is a round arch window with a stained glass transom topped by rusticated voussoirs. An ornate Eastlake hood above the arched entry, though probably not original, but visually interesting, is above the door. The second story has three windows in a corbelled oriel. The third story has three small square windows beneath a denticulate cornice.

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No. 517, at the northwest corner of West St. Catherine Street and Garvin Place was the home of local architect L. Pike Campbell, a partner with Cornelius A. Curtin (1853-1926) in the designs of many of Louisville's finest nineteenth century buildings. This residence is a tall, three-story, Italianate-style structure composed of brick with flat stone lintels. At the roofline is an extended cornice. (See photo #8)

No. 529-531 West St. Catherine is a rather unique two-and-one-half-story red brick structure rich in sandstone carvings and trim. It is a double structure of strong Romanesque character and each side is a mirror image of the other. Both east and west sides bear a two-story shingled oriel and a leaded glass window. The metal roof is marked by dormers. Although there is currently no evidence to support an attribution of this design to local architect Mason Maury (d. 1912), No. 529-531 is strikingly similar in materials and detailing to Maury's residence for Judge Russell Houston at the corner of Fourth and Park Streets within the neighboring Old Louisville Historic Preservation District. (See photo #10)

No. 539 is a two-and-one-half-story brick and stone residence. The first story, perforated by rectangular fenestration, has horizontal striations of rusticated limestone and sandstone. The second story is red brick with two pair of round-arch windows with brick and sandstone trim. A relief course of festive garlands in sandstone separates the second story from a classically-proportioned, shingled gable at the roofline. Within the spacious gable pediment is a Palladian window. This residence was the home of eminent local architect Cornelius A. Curtin (1853-1926). (See photo #7)

At the northwest corner of West St. Catherine and Sixth Streets are three nineteenth century residences, all of which are architect-designed. No. 601, a chaste, neo-classical dwelling, is constructed of light brown brick with dark brown brick trim and rises to two stories. There are two main entries with classical porticos. The structure was designed by architect Cornelius Curtin. F. W. Mowbray is credited with the designs for both No. 605 and No. 607. No. 605 is a three-story brick dwelling with a limestone facade and relief details. The recessed entry is below a round arch, but all remaining openings are rectangular. The extended cornice is underscored by brackets. No. 607 is a two-and-one-half-story red brick residence with rusticated stone trim. The entry hood is of the Eastlake-style. A stained-glass transom accents the round-arch window on the first floor. Mowbray accomplished, among many others of importance, the design for Louisville's Union Station (1890). (See photo #6)

Local architect J. J. Gaffney designed No. 609 West St. Catherine, a two-and-one-half story red brick residence executed in the "French Gothic" style. First and second story fenestration is rectangular. At the roofline is a pediment with a Gothic arch and stone detailing. Gaffney also designed numerous residences located within the Cherokee Triangle Historic Preservation District, locally designated in January, 1975. (See photo #6)

Located on the northeast corner of Seventh and St. Catherine Streets is No. 633, which sits at the rear of its lot and thus has a large yard in contrast to the other structures in this block. The residence rises to two-and-one-half stories, and is constructed of red brick with stone trim. The gabled structure has an inset main

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entry and a second entrance to the east in a setback under a shed roof. Interestingly, there is a two-story brick wing attached to the structure on the east, which may have been a carriage house. There is no known architect for this unusual, late nineteenth century structure. (See photos #5 and #22)

The west side of Sixth Street's 900 block contains many impressive structures. Most notable is No. 926, built by prominent local architect William J. Dodd for Louis Seelbach. The 1888 edifice rises to two-and-one-half stories, and is constructed of brick with both brick and stone trim. Its entry, located within a semi-circular, keyhole-like opening, is counterpoised by another round-arched window in the wrought stone principal story, and flat and segmental topped windows in the brick upper stories. Handsome stained-glass transoms are located by both main stories. An unusual bas relief form in the tympanum accents the ensemble. Dodd worked in Chicago, in the west for railroad concerns, and in Louisville for some 40 years. (See photos 17, 18 and 19)

At the southeast corner of Zane Street and Sixth Street is an extremely fine three-story, red-brick residence with the stone and terra-cotta trim painted gray. The two entry doors are below a frieze of foliated relief work. The second story is marked by a rough stone course and panels of foliated relief work. A high angular dormer accents the third story. Along the west side of the 1000 block of Sixth Street are a number of fine, Italianate residences. (See photos #14 and #15)

Four strikingly similar residences are grouped at the intersection of Zane Street and a north-south alley. Nos. 611, 613, 610 and 612 present a uniquely unified architectural image, each being two stories in height and constructed of red brick with a basic ell or cruciform shape. (See photo #3)

Of particular interest is No. 608-16 Breckinridge Street. This structure, located near the southwest corner of Breckinridge and Sixth Streets, rises to two-stories and is constructed of dark brick. Essentially five residences, No. 608-12 is one of few existing row house structures dating from the last half of the nineteenth century in Louisville. The edifice is a Romanesque-inspired design with each residence bearing a separate entry and individualizing articulation. Fenestration is both arched and of the flatheaded type. Fine stained-glass transoms, a slate mansard roof, and rusticated stone foundation accent the structure. (See photo #1)

Also located within the Limerick area are a number of residences which date from the early twentieth century. Nos. 1028-1044 S. Fifth Street, and Nos. 1028-1040 Garvin Place are all finely constructed, two-story, red brick structures of that vintage.



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U. S. from Ireland in 1841, was a noted architect. He designed the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville. Tradition also cites Keeley as the designer of the earlier convent building, soon to be used as the school. In contemporary newspaper accounts H. P. Bradshaw, an architect of Louisville, is credited as the designer of St. Louis Bertrand Church. Bradshaw also designed the Church of the Messiah (now the First Unitarian Church) which was completed in 1871. The building contractor for St. Louis Bertrand was John Haley and his superintendent was Thomas Trainor, a master mason. The dedication was held on December 22, 1872. An article on the dedication in The Catholic Advocate for December 26, 1872 gives a full description of the dedication ceremony. They also give a description of the building as follows:

The building is 190 x 78 feet, and is constructed of stone from the quarries in the vicinity of Beard's Station, with dressings of White River limestone, and a slate roof.

The principal front is on Sixth Street, and when completed will include a tower and spire about 100 feet high--the central gable being about 80 feet in height [sic]. The style of architecture is the decorated style of the early English architecture, which prevailed for about one hundred years from the reign of Edward, I in 1272 to the end of the reign of Edward, III in 1377. Geometric and flowing lines distinguish the windows, doors, arches, and moldings, such as semi-circles, circles, ellipses [sic] trefoils, quatrefoils, and cinquefoils. The arches are the Ogee style. A prominent feature is the four-leaved flower cut in stone and enclosed in a little square. The corbels and finials are highly carved, and the buttresses are fretted over with foliated points and pinnacles...The church will cost, when fully completed, over \$100,000 and was designed by H. P. Bradshaw, an excellent architect of this city.

Several changes were made to the church in ensuing years including a heating plant in 1874, a bell for the tower in 1881, a new organ in 1883, and a new marble altar in 1885.

A new priory was completed in 1890 and was designed by Cornelius A. Curtin (1853-1926). Curtin was an architect who had worked in Louisville since 1878 and was the designer of the Columbia building, Louisville's first skyscraper. Curtin lived nearby on St. Catherine Street. He also designed the structure on the northwest corner of Sixth and St. Catherine which was purchased as a convent for the teaching sisters in 1956. Curtin was the architect of St. Charles Borromeo Church in 1903-1905 and the City Hall Annex in 1909. His firm of Curtin and Hutchings designed a home for Louis Hite in 1897. The priory structure was of brick with Gothic details. It stood until 1971 when it was replaced by the current rectory building designed by Thomas J. McClorey of Cincinnati, Ohio. The chapel from the 1890 priory was preserved and incorporated into the new priory.

The old House of Studies or convent building, built in 1866, which proved too large for use as the priory, was made into the parish school. This building is still standing but is no longer used as a St. Louis Bertrand parish school, but houses Holy Angels Academy. Remodeling was done in 1903 and 1916. In the early

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1890's, the original wooden church and school building on Seventh Street were demolished.  
(See photo #23)

In 1916 St. Louis Bertrand Parish prepared for their fiftieth anniversary celebration by repair work on both the school and the church buildings. The interior of the church was completely repainted. Changes were made in the heating system, the choir loft and vestibule. Three new altars were also installed. In addition, the interior of the priory was changed and the house chapel was redecorated. The new altar and choir stalls were of white oak and the stained-glass windows were designed by Emile Grey of St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1928 a carillon was added to the belfry, and the strengthening and alteration of the belfry tower was supervised by the architect, Wilfred Anthony. The parish complex served as a collection point for refugees during the 1937 flood and has been a focal point and landmark in the Limerick area for more than a century.

The St. Louis Bertrand parish complex was designated a local historic landmark and landmark site in August 1975. Two institutions of paramount significance to the history of black higher education in Kentucky are also located within the Limerick neighborhood, and each had contributed to the area's demeanor. The Central Colored High School (1873) at Sixth and Kentucky Streets (now the Mary D. Hill School) and Simmons University (1879) at Seventh and Kentucky Streets have been recognized as historical and architectural treasures individually as well. The Mary D. Hill School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (9-13-76) and has been designated a local historic landmark and landmark site in August 1975.

In the continuum of architectural history in the late nineteenth century in Louisville the Limerick area exhibits many of the same trends observed in other parts of the city. In addition to the frame and brick residences west of Seventh Street, there were residences built on Sixth and Seventh Streets by 1876. These were one and two story modest brick structures with Italianate motifs popularized in Louisville by the designs of the architect Henry Whitestone (1819-1893). The vernacular shotgun-type of residence, on which either Italianate motifs or Eastlake motifs predominated, was also among the early structures in the area. No documented information exists on architect designed residences from the 1870's although there were architects associated with the institutional structures built in the Limerick area in the 1870's.

Known architects were responsible for residences in the late 1880's and early 1890's in the area subdivided by W. H. Dulaney at St. Catherine between Fifth and Seventh. It is this area, together with the St. Louis Bertrand parish complex on the west side of Sixth Street at its intersection with St. Catherine Street, which forms the visual core of the southern portion of the nominated Limerick neighborhood. Interestingly, some of the residences built were the homes of several prominent architects whom we can assume designed their own homes. Kenneth McDonald's (1853-1940) residence was at 514 West St. Catherine, and is one of the finest of the street's many handsome abodes. Built in 1886, it is among the earliest in the two-block stretch of St. Catherine Street. McDonald was one of three architect-brothers whose careers would span nearly a half-century and account for buildings such as the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka and Louisville's American Life Building (Vaughn Building; "300" Building)

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which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Cornelius A. Curtin (1853-1926) resided at 539 West St. Catherine, built in 1889. Curtin was born in Louisville and trained professionally in the office of prominent local architect H. P. Bradshaw. After setting up his own office, Curtin designed a number of fine residences and commercial buildings in Louisville. His most significant achievement was the Columbia building (now demolished) the city's first skyscraper, ten stories high and of solid masonry construction, completed in 1890. He also designed the City Hall Annex in 1907. No. 601, erected in 1908 for G. A. Vantroostenbergh, was also designed by Curtin. At 517 West St. Catherine Street is the home of architect L. Pike Campbell, former partner in a firm with C. A. Curtin, with whom he co-designed the Columbia Building at Fourth and Main Streets. Nos. 605 and 607 West St. Catherine Street which date from 1894 and 1891 respectively were designed by Union Station's architect F. W. Mowbray (b.1848) in partnership with Ferdinand Bohne. The firm was to have erected three homes on the corner lots, according to building reports of the period, for landowner Joseph Murphy, but could only complete these two. No. 605 was first the home of J. Milton Brown. Brown was a traveling agent for Myer, Bridges, and Company, Main Street dealers in Willowware. No. 607 was first the home of John Gault, who was employed as a trainmaster by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. His moving to St. Catherine Street coincides exactly with the opening of the railroad's superb passenger depot. Architect Mowbray had gained a national reputation for ecclesiastical and railway architecture during the final decades of the nineteenth century. Born in Leicest, England, Mowbray entered the study of architecture at age 16 in 1864. He emigrated to Philadelphia in 1872 after a brief practice in England and quickly established a thriving business and respected reputation. One early accomplishment was his selection as principal assistant architect from 1874-1876 for Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition. Work in New York followed with projects for a number of ecclesiastical buildings, and designs for the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company and the U. S. Rolling Stock Company. Assignments with the New York, West Shore, and Buffalo Railroad, and Pennsylvania Railroad led to his selection as L. & N's chief architect. Soon after the completion of Union Station in 1890, Mowbray entered private practice with Bohne. (See photos #9, 7, 8, 6 and 25)

No. 609 West St. Catherine was designed by architect J. J. Gaffney. Gaffney was responsible for the design of St. James Church on Bardstown Road and several apartment houses in the Cherokee Triangle area (National Register, June 30, 1976). Thus, in a two-block span of St. Catherine Street we have representative examples of four well-known architectural firms' residential work in Louisville at the fin-de-siecle. (See photo #6)

Located at No. 926 South Sixth Street and considered the architectural gem of the block, is the residence of Hotelier Louis Seelbach, dating from 1888. The design of this structure has been attributed to the eminent local firm of Oscar Wehle and William J. Dodd (1862-1930). This edifice compares favorably with other large efforts seen especially in the vicinity of nearby St. James and Belgravia Courts, which has been listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places (December 1972), as the site of the gala Southern Exposition of 1883. Dodd, who would join local architect Mason Maury the year after the home's completion, charted a remarkably prosperous career which included work in Chicago, where he trained until coming to Louisville in 1884, and where one can most readily locate sources for the Seelbach work. He

(continued)

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Limerick Historic District

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practiced architecture in Louisville for nearly forty years, and in Los Angeles until his retirement. Among Dodd's achievements are the 1889 Louisville Trust Company Building, the first fireproof structure of more than one story erected in the city, and the design for the Presbyterian Seminary, completed in 1904. The Louisville Trust Building was given local historic landmark status in March, 1975. Seelbach lived here on Sixth Street well into the new century. At the time, he operated his hotel at current 600-604 West Main Street. Sometime after its completion in 1904, Seelbach moved to his new hotel on Fourth Avenue. The completion of No. 926 for one of Louisville's most notable and wealthy figures by architect Dodd set the course of design for the sixteen houses on the 900 block which would be completed by the end of the century, making this one of the area's more elegant rows of detached nineteenth century residences. The Seelbach residence is the focal point of the northern portion of the nominated Limerick area. Bounded roughly by Breckinridge Street on the north, Kentucky Street on the south, and defined on the east and west by Sixth and Seventh Streets respectively, this portion is separated from the southern portion of the Limerick area by various recent commercial intrusions located principally between Kentucky Street and Zane Street. It should be stressed that this division is only for practical purposes since both portions share a common history and architecture. In addition, the belfrey tower and Gothic silhouette of St. Louis Bertrand church, which can be seen from any point in the area, create a special ambience and visually unify the neighborhood. (See photos #18 and #19)

Within the Limerick area are a number of architecturally and historically significant structures for which there is no known architect. These structures, primarily residences, represent late nineteenth century and early twentieth century architectural tastes, and resemble very closely the types of structures located within the Old Louisville Historic Preservation District (October 1974). The locally designated Old Louisville area has also received National Register status (February 1975). (See Photos #4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 21)

Few rowhouses were constructed in Louisville after mid-century, therefore the very least that one could say about No. 608-16 Breckinridge Street is that it is unique. Not intended as an apartment house, it was instead considered as five individual dwellings. Information from city directories support this. In 1886 the first residents are listed. These include: W. H. Newman, an agent for a railway concern, in No. 608; Rebecca Macaulay in No. 610; Alfred J. Wright, a bookkeeper with the ornamental and architectural iron foundry of Snead and Company, in No. 612; and Rev. J. H. Morrison, a pastor of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church, in No. 614. The edifice presents an impressive image. Slightly Romanesque because of its rounded forms and warm texture, it contains a combination of arched and flat-hooded windows. Essentially a rowhouse-type, with separate entrances and a visual individualizing articulation by section, it also contains fine stained glass transoms, a slate mansard roof and a rusticated foundation. (See photo #1)

Along the east side of Seventh Street at Nos. 933-945 is a row of seven identical, individual, brick shotgun houses which date from 1889. These structures form a rare grouping and a unique architectural image with their repetitive, boldly articulated Eastlake-style entries, camelback rears and common bond walls. Approach to many is by brick, intact walks. (See photo #20)

(continued)

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Limerick Historic District

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The 1000 block of Garvin Place has an unusual architectural arrangement. Nos. 1031-1041, on the east side, are all brick, Victorian residences of two, to two-and-one-half stories. These date from 1893 to 1895. No. 1033 is especially notable for its graceful Flemish-style gable, one of very few in the Louisville area. On the west side of Garvin Place are five abodes, Nos. 1028, 1030, 1034, and 1038-40, which appear as a two-story, red brick unit. Interestingly, all five share the same date of construction, 1909. Located at the eastern boundary of the Limerick area, on the west side of Fifth Street between Zane Street and St. Catherine Street is an intact grouping of seven two-story, red brick residences. These structures built in 1910-11 represent a type of early twentieth century architecture. With the exception of Nos. 1032, 1042, and 1044, the remainder have a gambrel roof, not a common feature in Limerick, but reminiscent of some structures within the neighboring Old Louisville area. (See photo #2)

The architectural and historical fabric of the Limerick neighborhood is rich and varied. Focused upon the St. Louis Bertrand parish complex at the intersection Sixth and St. Catherine Streets, and containing a large number of elegant, architect-designed residences as well as unique groupings of unusual architectural types, the Limerick area is an accurate, intact expression of Louisville's nineteenth century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Limerick

ITEM NUMBER 1

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The south west corner of Sixth Street and West Kentucky contains a parking lot and office structures. The structure at 1012 South Sixth Street is a non-descript two-story modern building which was built from 1966-72. The one-story office building at 1014-1016 South Sixth was constructed in 1953 and is a visual intrusion in the neighborhood which is composed of nineteenth-century structures.

The apartment complex on the south east corner of South Seventh Street and West Kentucky is a new structure which is not a contributing factor visually in the community.

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Thence south along the west edge of Garvin to the southern property line of No. 1116 Garvin. Thence along the southern property edge to the alley, thence south along the alley between Sixth and Garven, thence the line turns at a 90° angle at the alley and follows the alley due west across Sixth Street, thence due south to the southern property line of No. 1146 S. Sixth Street west to the alley between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Thence due north along the eastern edge of the alley to the intersection with the alley south of St. Catherine and turning 90° west to Seventh Street. Thence north along the western edge of Seventh Street to the alley between St. Catherine and Zane Streets, due east to the intersection of alleys and thence due north along the alley between Seventh and Sixth Streets, the northern edge No. 622 Zane thence following the property line west and turning 90° along the western edge and continuing north across Zane along the western edge of the property line of No. 613 Zane and turning 90° along the northern property line to the alley. Thence north along the alley to the northern edge of the property at No. 1020 S. Sixth Street, thence east to the west side of S. Sixth Street, thence north to the north side of W. Kentucky, thence west to the east side of S. Seventh Street, thence north to the northern property line of 933 S. Seventh, thence east along the line to the alley between Sixth and Seventh, thence north to the rear property line of 618 W. Breckinridge, thence west along the line, thence north along the west property line of 618 W. Breckinridge to the south side of W. Breckinridge, thence east to the beginning point.





Limerick Historic District  
Louisville, KY Jefferson County  
Atlas of the City of Louisville.  
Louisville: Louisville and  
Abstract Loan Association, 1876.

Map 2. View of Limerick area.

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Map section showing the top portion of a city block. Streets include **SEVENTH**, **SIXTH**, **FIFTH**, **THIRD**, and **ARCADE**.

Buildings and businesses in this section include:

- W. H. Dulaney 411**
- W. H. Dulaney 5**
- W. H. Dulaney 410**
- Thompson & Ainslie 407**
- THE KENTUCKY NORMAL AND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE 407**
- W. H. Dulaney 6**
- W. H. Dulaney 7**
- W. H. Dulaney 8**
- W. H. Dulaney 9**
- W. H. Dulaney 10**
- Maggie Judge 2**
- Michael Keans 415**
- Old Ladies 2**
- Old Ladies 3**
- B. Stewart 10**
- Z. Shipley 10**
- W. H. Dulaney 1**
- W. H. Dulaney 2**
- W. H. Dulaney 3**
- W. H. Dulaney 4**
- W. H. Dulaney 5**
- W. H. Dulaney 6**
- W. H. Dulaney 7**
- W. H. Dulaney 8**
- W. H. Dulaney 9**
- W. H. Dulaney 10**

Map section showing the middle portion of a city block. Streets include **SEVENTH**, **SIXTH**, **FIFTH**, **THIRD**, and **ARCADE**.

Buildings and businesses in this section include:

- ST. LOUIS BERTRAND BRANCH 2**
- 4 CONVENT OF ST. DOMINIC FATHERS 5 E**
- W. H. Dulaney 408**
- SCATHARINE 372.0**
- BERTRAND 372.0**
- W. H. Dulaney 1**
- W. H. Dulaney 2**
- W. H. Dulaney 3**
- W. H. Dulaney 4**
- W. H. Dulaney 5**
- W. H. Dulaney 6**
- W. H. Dulaney 7**
- W. H. Dulaney 8**
- W. H. Dulaney 9**
- W. H. Dulaney 10**
- ST. LOUIS BERTRAND BRANCH 1**
- 4 CONVENT OF ST. DOMINIC FATHERS 5 E**
- W. H. Dulaney 1**
- W. H. Dulaney 2**
- W. H. Dulaney 3**
- W. H. Dulaney 4**
- W. H. Dulaney 5**
- W. H. Dulaney 6**
- W. H. Dulaney 7**
- W. H. Dulaney 8**
- W. H. Dulaney 9**
- W. H. Dulaney 10**

Map section showing the bottom portion of a city block. Streets include **SEVENTH**, **SIXTH**, **FIFTH**, **THIRD**, and **ARCADE**.

Buildings and businesses in this section include:

- W. H. Dulaney 682**
- SCATHARINE 372.0**
- BERTRAND 372.0**
- W. H. Dulaney 1**
- W. H. Dulaney 2**
- W. H. Dulaney 3**
- W. H. Dulaney 4**
- W. H. Dulaney 5**
- W. H. Dulaney 6**
- W. H. Dulaney 7**
- W. H. Dulaney 8**
- W. H. Dulaney 9**
- W. H. Dulaney 10**
- W. H. Dulaney 11**
- W. H. Dulaney 12**
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- W. H. Dulaney 100**

- LEGEND:
- EXP. [Symbol] Exp.
  - Butch [Symbol] Butch
  - Precu [Symbol] Precu
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  - Sewer [Symbol] Sewer
  - Water [Symbol] Water
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  - Gate [Symbol] Gate
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  - Hand [Symbol] Hand
  - Show [Symbol] Show

Map section showing the bottom portion of a city block. Streets include **SEVENTH**, **SIXTH**, **FIFTH**, **THIRD**, and **ARCADE**.

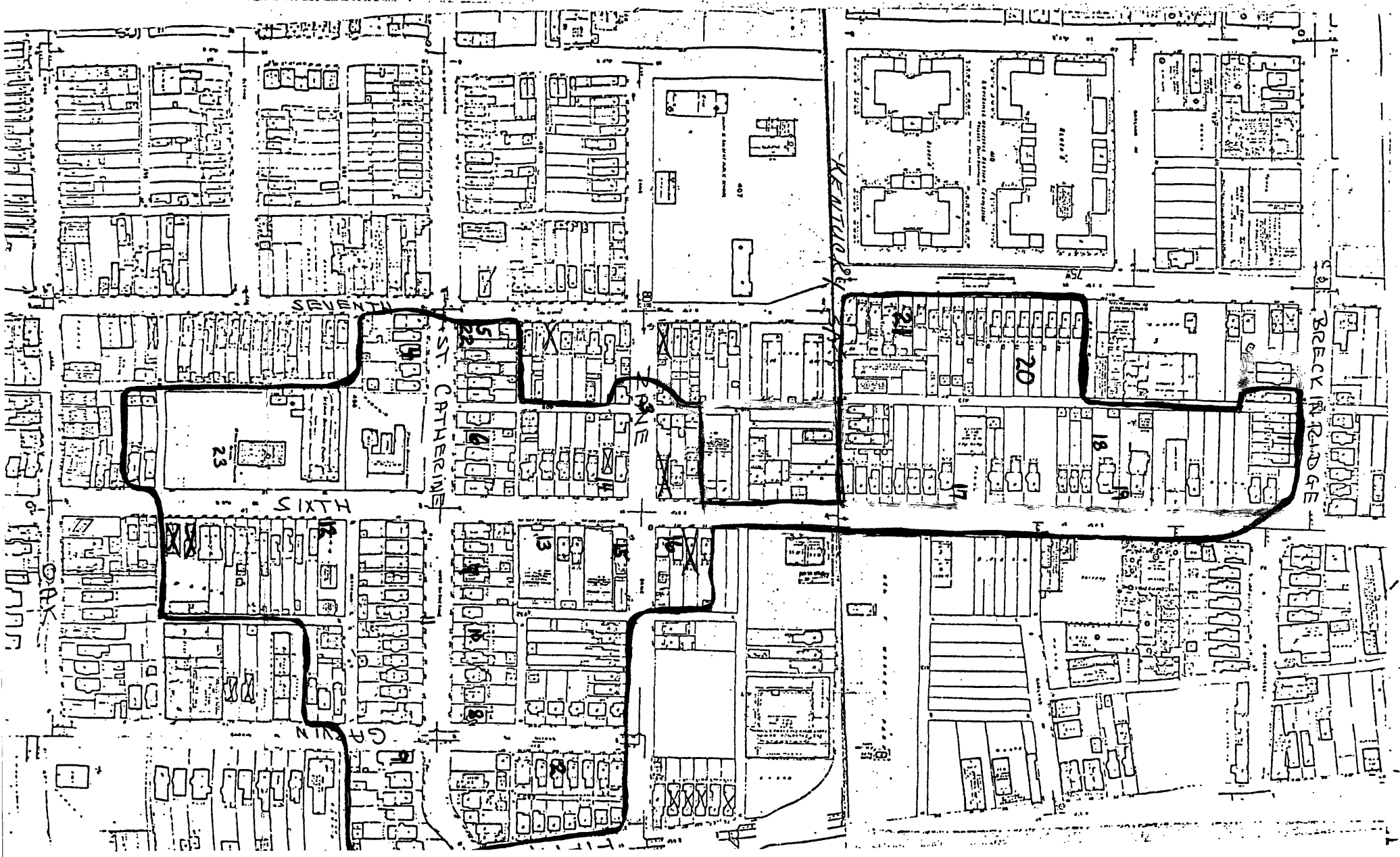
Buildings and businesses in this section include:

- ST. LOUIS BERTRAND BRANCH 1**
- 4 CONVENT OF ST. DOMINIC FATHERS 5 E**
- W. H. Dulaney 1**
- W. H. Dulaney 2**
- W. H. Dulaney 3**
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- W. H. Dulaney 100**

Limerick Historic District  
Louisville, KY Jefferson County  
Atlas of the City of Louisville,  
1884.

SEP 13 1978

Map 3. View of area. Note  
division of Dulaney property at  
St. Catherine between Fifth and  
Seventh Streets. JAN 16 1978



SEVENTH

ST. CATHERINE

KENTUCKY

BRECKENRIDGE

23

SIXTH

13

21

17

20

18

FIFTH

96

Limerick Historic District  
Louisville, KY Jefferson County

Map 4. Current view of  
Limerick and boundaries.

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