

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688657

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Presentation Academy

AND/OR COMMON

Presentation Academy

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

861 South Fourth Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky,

CODE

021

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

III

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Nazareth Literary and Benevolent Institution, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

861 South Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

531 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Presentation Academy is situated on the north-east corner of Fourth and Breckenridge Streets, several blocks north of the Old Louisville Residential District. Presentation Academy is in the same block as Spalding College, Calvary Episcopal Church (National Register, January 1978), the First Unitarian Church (National Register, April 1976), and the First Christian Church (now Lampton Baptist).

Presentation Academy is a handsome three and a half story brick structure in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The facade of the structure is divided into three sections.

The center section of the building consists of four large Romanesque arches on the lower floor. The arches spring from engaged piers which have interlaced foliage decoration on Romanesque capitals. The arches are accentuated by sandstone banding. The second archway from the left contains the entry. The entry has arched double walnut doors of wood and glass. The doors are encased in a leaded glass arch with walnut panels below. PRESENTATION ACADEMY appears in the glass design. The entry is approached by a flight of stone stairs with brass railings. The other central arch contains a large double arched window which fills the entire area and is articulated vertically by a fluted pilaster. The end archways contain a single window in a segmental brick arch, the area around the window is enclosed in brick. The second floor of the central section has four small arched windows above the two central arches. The brick arches around the windows spring from engaged columns with Romanesque capitals. A cluster of five columns divide the windows into two pairs. A panel of carved interlaced foliage is above the columns. On either side of these windows are two single windows topped by segmental brick arches. The windows to the right have stained glass in a Gothic design. The third floor has four pairs of simple arched windows. This section of the building is capped by a plain cornice and gabled roof. The roof has two dormers. The dormers are constructed of brick with three small windows topped by an arched window with brown stone lintels. The gable has brown stone trim. (Photo 1)

The right section of the facade consists of a four story circular tower. The facade of the tower has a single window per floor. The second floor window also has stained glass. A band of boldly carved rinceau decoration articulates the tower at the cornice line. The fourth story has sixteen sides and consist of alternating windows and blank recessed panels. Atop the roof is a cupola which was reconstructed according to the original design after a fire in 1977. (Photo 2)

The left section of the facade projects slightly and is treated simply with two windows per floor. The windows are topped by segmental brick arches. The third floor has four smaller arched windows. This floor is topped by a gable with a large arched window.

The building is handsomely landscaped and has retained an iron fence from a previous residence on the site around the structure on three sides. (Photo 3)

The interior of the school still contains much of the original fabric of the building. The double exterior doors open into a small foyer which has walnut woodwork and a multi-colored ceramic tile floor. A second set of paneled walnut doors with glass insets open into a corridor which runs parallel with the facade plane. This doorway is on a direct axis to a sculpture niche which contains a stain glass window. The woodwork throughout is walnut

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 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 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 1893 BUILDER/ARCHITECT D. X. Murphy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Presentation Academy is the oldest existing school in Louisville. The Academy, run by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, moved to its present location in 1893. The structure was designed by the Louisville architectural firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers and is an outstanding example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth have been responsible for founding numerous schools, hospitals and orphanages. The community was founded in 1813 by Bishop Benedict Flaget of Bardstown and John Baptist David. The order was first located in a log cabin on St. Thomas Seminary about five miles outside of Bardstown, Kentucky. The order was incorporated by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 1829. The sisters opened Nazareth Academy in 1814. Their activities have remained focused on teaching and nursing. In the order's sesquicentennial year, 1962, there were 1600 members, they staffed 105 grade schools, 31 high schools, 2 colleges, 12 hospitals, 3 orphanages, 1 convalescent home, 1 infant home and two summer camps.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth had communities located in eleven states--Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia--as well as Washington, D. C. and India.

Mother Catherine Spalding, the founder of Presentation, was one of the first three members of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. She was elected as the first superior of the order in 1813. Under her patronage many educational and social institutions were begun including Nazareth Academy, St. Vincent Academy, Presentation Academy, St. Vicentio Orphanage and St. Joseph's Infirmary.

Presentation was begun at the urging of Reverend Robert Abell, who was in charge of St. Louis Church, the only Catholic Parish in Louisville. Reverend Abell saw the need for an organized school for his community and enlisted the aid of Mother Catherine Spalding. She arrived in Louisville with three companions, Sisters Clare Gardiner, Appolonia McGill and Serena Carney. The school was begun in a rented frame house but moved to Fifth Street in October of 1831. The school remained at that location for fifty years.

Only one other organized school predates Presentation. A Public Monitorial School was established in 1829 which was to be free to all children under 14. City funds were not approved the next year and the free school became a thing of the past. Kentucky did not pass public school legislation until 1838.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greenwood, Berenice, SCN. Nazareth's Contribution to Education 1812-1933.
 Doctorial Dissertation. New York: Fordum University, 1933.

Jefferson County (Ky) Deed Books 368, p. 77 (1892); Book 239, p. 280 (1881); Book 204, p. 345 (1876); Book 204, p. 344 (1876).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .50 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville West Quadrangle QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	6 0, 8 6, 2, 0	4, 2 3, 3 1, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 Block 29D
 Lot 79
 City of Louisville

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 Marty Poynter Hedgepeth, Research Director

ORGANIZATION Louisville Landmarks Commission DATE August 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 727 West Main Street TELEPHONE 587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville, STATE Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Eldred H. Peltorby del

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 10-24-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER Ann W. Gilmore DATE 12-22-78

ATTEST Ann W. Gilmore DATE 12/24/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET Presentation
Academy ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

though some of it has been painted in the classrooms. The door and window trim is embellished with rosettes. Several marble fireplace mantels are extant. All the mantels have blue and rust ceramic art tile hearths with medieval decorative motifs. A large walnut staircase with panels of stain glass at the landings still serves the building as the primary stairs. A metal stairway with a decorative iron rail serves as a firestair.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Presentation Academy ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Presentation, from the first, was well patronized by both Catholics and non-Catholics. The school continued to expand and by 1891 Nazareth bought a lot and house at the corner of Fourth and Breckenridge for \$35,000. In June of 1892 arrangements were made to replace the house which had been built in 1867 by Thomas Jacobs with a new building designed by D. X. Murphy. The building was to cost approximately \$66,000.

The old Presentation Academy was sold to the Catholic Club. The gentlemen of the club paid \$5,000 down and at the end of the year could not meet their financial obligations. They asked the sisters to take back the building and return their money. The sisters were firm and impressed upon the club that "business is business" and they had purchased the dwelling.

The enrollment increased at Presentation with the transfer to the new building until it reached 450 pupils in 1917.

The school discontinued the lower elementary grades in 1927. The primary department was reopened in 1932 and was closed again in 1945. A gym and auditorium were added in 1938 and another class room addition to the rear was made in 1958.

The Academy was designed by one of the leading Louisville architectural firms, D. X. Murphy and Brothers. D. X. Murphy (1854-1933) received his training under Henry Whitestone and succeeded to his practice in 1880. His brother, James (1864-1935), served as a draftsman in Murphy's office and became a partner in the firm in 1890.

Murphy's sister was Sister Mary Anselm of the Nazareth community of Bardstown. D. X. Murphy had designed a Mother house in Bardstown in 1901. Murphy reduced his fee sometimes to as little as one percent on his commissions for the Roman Catholic Community.

D. X. Murphy and Brothers designed numerous structures in Louisville and the surrounding areas. Their buildings follow a variety of architectural styles and they kept abreast of current changes in fashion over the long career of the firm. Presentation reflects the great interest in Louisville in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Many residential designs in Old Louisville were influenced by the style.

The firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers were also responsible for the design of St. Boniface Church 1890, the Jefferson County Jail 1902 (National Register, July 1973), Churchhill Downs 1894-1933, the Snead Office Building (National Register Nomination pending) and the German Bank of 1913.

Presentation Academy stands as an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture by a major Louisville architectural firm, D. X. Murphy and Brothers. Not only is it the oldest school in Louisville still in operation, it is one of the few parochial schools left in the downtown area.

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Presentation

CONTINUATION SHEET Academy

ITEM NUMBER 9

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McGan, A. G. "Mother Catherine Spalding!" New Catholic Encyclopedia. Washington, D. C.: University of America, 1967, v. 13.

McGill, Anna Blanche. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. New York: Encyclopedia Press, 1917.

"Murphy, D. X. obituary!" The (Louisville) Courier-Journal, 29 April 1933.

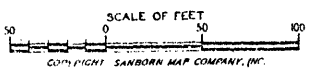
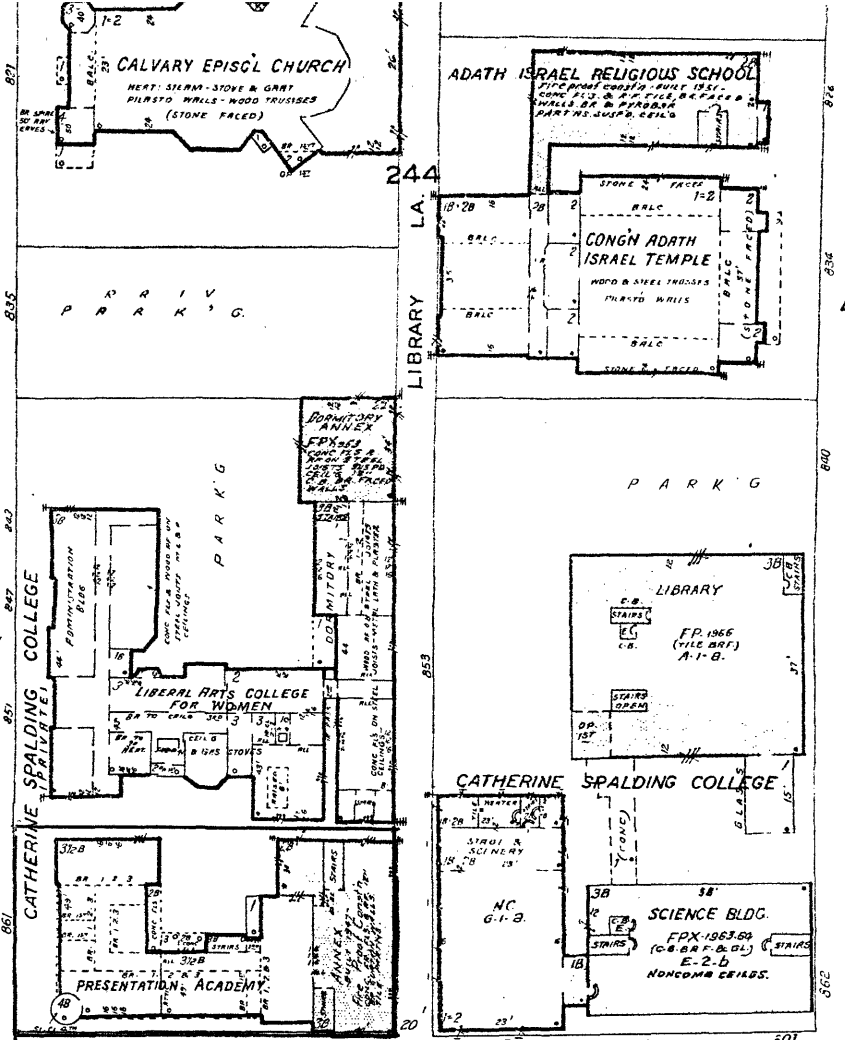
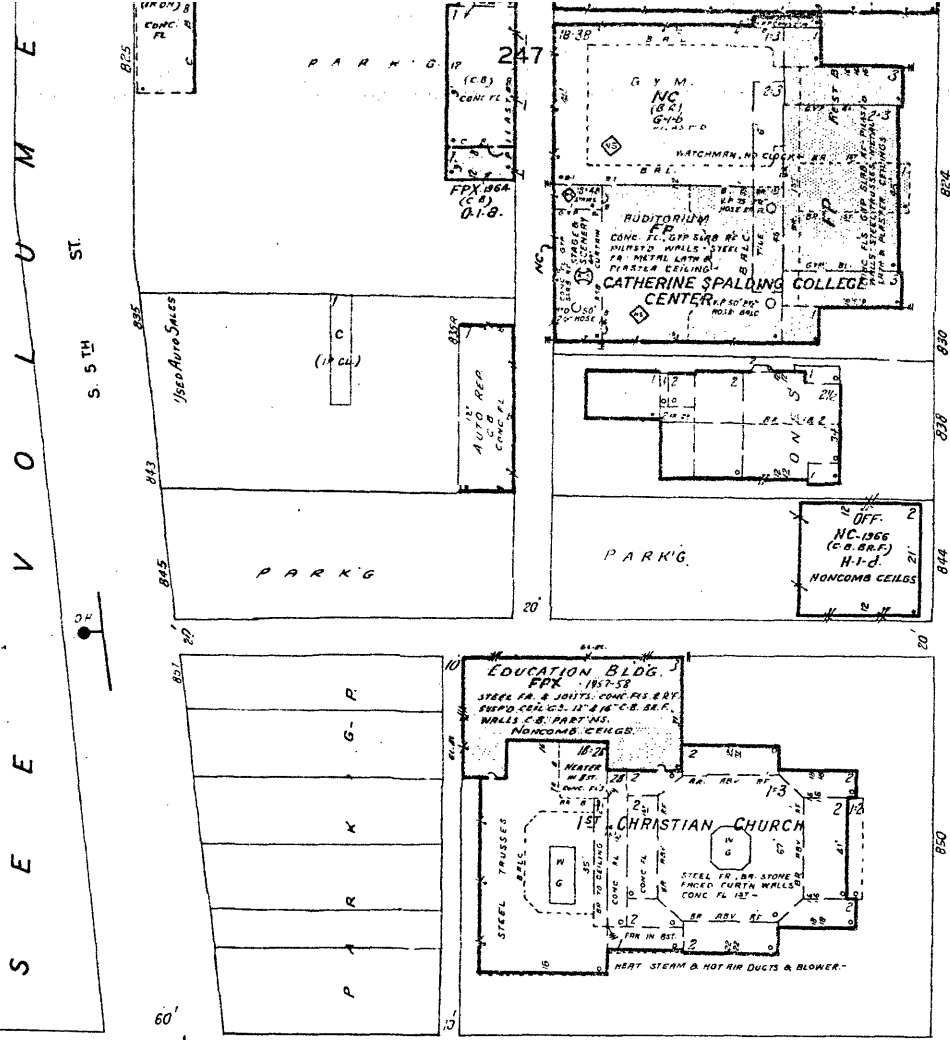
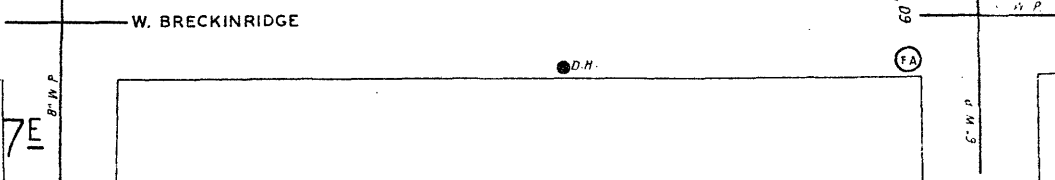
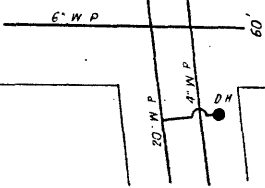
Withey, Henry and Elsie Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.

S E E V O L U M E

S. 5 TH ST.

S. 4 TH ST.

S. 3 RD ST.



Presentation Academy
861 South Fourth Street
Louisville Jefferson, Kentucky
Sanborn Map Company (1972)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Map 1 Sanborn Map *DEC 22 1978*

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