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NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Vincent's Infant Asylum

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 809 West Greenfield Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Milwaukee vicinity N/A

state WI code WI county Milw. code 079 zip code 53204

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

9/14/87
Date

State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

**Entered in the
National Register**

[Signature]

9-25-87

Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Social/Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
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Gothic

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Limestone

Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description

St. Vincent's Infant Asylum is located on the southwest corner of South Eighth Street and West Greenfield Avenue in a working-class neighborhood of late nineteenth century, 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 story wood houses and cottages. West Greenfield Avenue in the vicinity of the building contains a mixture of residential and small neighborhood commercial structures. The building is sited about 2-1/2 miles southwest of the city's central business district. The main facade of the building sits about fifteen feet back from the sidewalk facing West Greenfield Avenue from atop a grassy berm.

The St. Vincent's Infant Asylum is a large, L-shaped, 3-1/2 story, cream brick, mansard-roofed, High Victorian Gothic style building. The east half of the building was constructed in 1878 to the designs of architect Charles A. Gombert and the west half was built in 1890 to plans drawn by Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. An addition to the rear of the Mix addition was made in 1900 by architect Charles Crane. The building is trimmed with ornamental sheet metal and limestone and rests on rusticated limestone foundations.

The facade facing West Greenfield Avenue is asymmetrical in character as a result of Edward Townsend Mix's 1890 addition to Gombert's original 1878 structure. Gombert's east section is comparatively restrained in detail. It has two projecting, shallow, rectangular brick bays that terminate in gables at the roof line. Two hip-roofed dormers project from the mansard roof between the gables. The gables are boldly trimmed with ornamental sheet metal copings. A bold, corbelled, brick cornice at the eaves and a belt course at the third floor level articulate the building's horizontal divisions. Each floor is equal in height and features tall, segmentally arched, four-over-four sash windows. The center bay has the gabled Gothic main entrance in its first story, above which, at the third floor level is the large carved limestone, plaque with block-style raised letters reading 'St. Vincent's Infant Asylum.' Gombert had made a master plan for the complex, which was intended to be built in stages, and, by conjecture, it probably consisted of a symmetrical extension to the west to mirror the design of the original building.

The distinguishing feature of the east elevation of Gombert's 1878 building that faces South Eighth Street is a small gabled apse on the first

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story that responds to the plan of the first floor chapel. The apse is detailed with ornamental brickwork that forms a cross and contains two small arched windows. The detailing on the remainder of the east side repeats that of the main facade with segmentally arched windows, a mansard roof with two dormers, a gabled brick bay at the rear south corner, the corbelled cornice and the stone belt course.

The west half of the building, designed by Edward Townsend Mix is a much bolder interpretation of the Victorian Gothic style betraying the influence of the French Chateausque style. The facade of the addition that faces West Greenfield Avenue and abuts Gombert's original building is framed by two broad, shallow, chamfered bays that terminate in low, faceted, pyramidal roofs with ball finials at the peak. The front of each of these pyramidal roofs is pierced by a gabled dormer containing a large arched window. A massive, panelled chimney stack flanked by a tall narrow window on each side at each floor level fills the space between the chamfered bays and rises towerlike above the eaves to a boldly corbelled cap. The window openings are the same height as those in Gombert's section, but Mix used one-over-one sash windows surmounted by large, flat, sandstone lintels. Mix continued the third floor sandstone belt course from Gombert's building across his addition to unify the two structures. The earth embankment that Gombert's building rests on was cut-away down to sidewalk level in front of Mix's wing with the result that the full height of the rusticated limestone basement story is exposed. The west elevation of Mix's addition faces an alley and is simple in design with regularly-spaced windows.

A large, flat-roofed addition is attached to the rear of Mix's addition along the alley and gives the complex its 'L' shape. It was designed in 1900 by Milwaukee architect Charles Crane and increased the size of the building by about half. Also constructed with rusticated limestone foundations and cream brick walls, this addition is utilitarian in design with windows and doors placed to respond to the requirements of the interior floor plan.

The rear elevation is a patchwork of the designs of all three architects. Crane's 1900 addition obliterates most of the rear elevation of Mix's 1890 wing. All of the rear elevation of Gombert's original building survives and it is of utilitarian design with a mansard roof and many, closely-spaced, segmentally arched windows.

The exterior of the complex is in good condition and appears to be largely original. The original slate mansard roofs have been reroofed with modern asphalt shingles and the cream brick has been cleaned. The original

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main entrance to the building from West Greenfield Avenue, which is no longer used, is about eight feet above the street level. The current entrance to the building is the door in the basement level on east elevation.

The interior has been extensively remodelled and contains no significant spaces. The rooms are plastered and mostly have modern doors, woodwork and drop-ceilings. The floor plan of the buildings' three levels originally consisted of a broad east-west hall with large rooms opening off it facing the front and back of the building. A transverse hall from the original Greenfield Avenue entrance in the 1878 part of the building extended to the back wall of the building where the main staircase is located. Another north-south hall extended from the 1890 Mix wing into the 1900 Crane wing at the rear. The main corridors have been partitioned off at various places and the original rooms subdivided into smaller office spaces. The chapel at the northeast corner of the first floor has also been altered. Some of the heavily roll-molded Tuscan door casings and the boldly molded panelled doors in the Gombert wing survive as does the three-story main staircase with its steambent railings and turned balusters.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C D

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Architecture	1878-1937	1878 ¹ ;1890 ² ;1900 ³
Social History		

	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	Architect: Gombert, Charles A. ⁴
	Architect: Mix, Townsend ⁵
	Architect: Crane, Charles D. ⁶

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

Significance

St. Vincent's Infant Asylum is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the areas of architecture and social history under criteria A and C.

In terms of its local architectural significance under Criteria C, St. Vincent's Infant Asylum is a fine example of High Victorian Gothic institutional architecture. It is interesting as an example of a structure built in stages over a period of time by several architects who strived to make their additions compatible with their predecessor's work to create a unified composition. The resulting building is an excellent example of two different interpretations of the Victorian Gothic style by important Milwaukee architects Charles A. Gombert and Edward Townsend Mix.⁸ It is locally historically significant in the area of social history as a well-preserved example of a Victorian era institution built to alleviate the growing social problem of abandoned and orphaned infants in a burgeoning industrial city. It reflects the growth of the humanitarian movement and the increasing importance of institutions in dealing with social issues in post-Civil War Milwaukee. The building has continued its role as the home of important humanitarian organizations down to the present, although it is no longer used as an infant asylum. The period of significance corresponds with the heyday of the institution from 1878 to 1937 when it served its original purpose as a largely privately supported Roman Catholic order charitable facility.

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The Wisconsin Cultural Resources Management Plan has cited as a priority the need to identify those properties closely associated with the rapidly declining Roman Catholic clergy population and those structures affiliated with Roman Catholic social service agencies, including orphanages. As the only infants asylum ever built in Milwaukee and the only surviving nineteenth century orphanage, it is especially important to the architectural and social history of the city. It was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on August 15, 1978.

Historical Background

The near South Side is defined as the section of the City of Milwaukee that lies south of the Menomonee River Valley between Lake Michigan and the Village of West Milwaukee. The oldest settled portion is the eastern third known as the Walker's Point plat, much of which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Walker's Point Historic District on December 19, 1978. The nominated structure is located directly west of the old Walker's Point plat in a later developed area commonly known as West Walker's Point or simply as the near South Side. The neighborhood's principal period of development was from 1870 to 1900. This area was always a modest working class neighborhood of small, detached, frame, worker's cottages. Its original residents were almost entirely European immigrants who worked in the heavily industrialized Menomonee Valley or maintained small commercial establishments. To a large extent, that is still true today. National Avenue is the principal traffic artery and commercial street in the area. Because of the modest character of the housing, churches, fraternal lodge halls and institutions are the principal architectural monuments on the near South Side.

The near South Side has always been one of Milwaukee's most dynamic melting pot neighborhoods. First settled by a mixture of German immigrants and Yankees from New York and New England in the early 1850s, the neighborhood evolved over the years into one of the most ethnically mixed areas of the city. Eventually communities of Irish, Swedes, Norwegians, Poles and Serbians came to occupy the compact area as well. Although the Germans remained the dominant group for years, the other minorities each developed their own religious and social institutions. The important wave of post World War II immigration from Eastern and Central Europe renewed Milwaukee's nationally known, but by then fading, multi-ethnic old world character by bringing significant numbers of European immigrants into the city. Many of the immigrants settled on the near South Side reviving its multi-ethnic character. The neighborhood has continued its historical role as the city's most important melting pot, but today is becoming home to Hispanic and Southeast Asian minorities rather than European immigrants.

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St. Vincent's Infant Asylum History

St. Vincent's Infant Asylum was founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1877. The history of the order itself dates to 1851 when it was created as the result of a merger of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, organized in the United States in 1809 by Elizabeth Ann Seton, and the French Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul, which had been founded in 1633. The St. Vincent DePaul sisters primarily cared for foundlings and other needy infants and provided protection for unwed mothers. The Sisters of Charity served as nurses to the poor and destitute. The first members of the order came to Milwaukee in 1846 after receiving an invitation the previous year from Bishop John Martin Henni to teach and establish a hospital and orphanage. The order established St. John's Infirmary in 1848, the forerunner of the present St. Mary's Hospital, and St. Rose's Orphanage for Girls, both of which soon located in the North Point area on the east side of the city where their successors are still located today. Plans were proposed in 1875 by the sisters to build an infants asylum on land near their hospital at North Point, but for some reason those plans did not materialize. St. Vincent's Infant Asylum was opened instead in a rented house on the southwest corner of South Fifth and West Virginia Streets on June 2, 1877. The three nuns assigned to the house cared for nine infants. During the winter of 1877-78, land on the high ground at the southwest corner of South Eighth Street and West Greenfield Avenue was purchased from George Burnham for \$2,000 as a site for a permanent building.⁹

Milwaukee architect Charles Gombert was hired to design the building and in June of 1878 the plans were finished. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday August 18, 1878 before a crowd of 2,000. Rev. Fr. Kundig conducted the ceremonies which included speeches in English and German.¹⁰ The building cost about \$12,000 to build and opened on May 27, 1879. Through 1891 the facility housed an average of 35 infants per year. In 1890 work was begun on a \$15,000 west wing designed by Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix.¹¹

When the addition was finished in April of 1891 it doubled the building's capacity. Another addition was made to the rear of the building in 1900 by architect Charles Crane increasing its size by half again.¹²

As the site became cramped with building additions, meatpacker Patrick Cudahy and his family donated to the asylum a parcel of lakefront land in Cudahy next to Sheridan Park complete with a \$15,000 building designed by Alexander C. Eschweiler. St. Vincent's used this as its summer house every July through September from the early twentieth century into the 1950s.¹³

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Social History

In terms of social history, St. Vincent's is historically significant as a specialized institution founded to deal with the growing social problem of unwanted infants. Although it had always existed, this problem grew into a major social dilemma in post-Civil War urban America as increasing numbers of women moved to the cities to work. Separated from the extended families and tight social structure of rural and small town life, unmarried women from the poorer classes who found themselves with child often had little choice but to abandon their infants, especially since such a pregnancy was often grounds for dismissal from their jobs. Even a married woman often had to give up custody of her children if she found herself suddenly widowed and without adequate support. In the case of immigrant women, this problem was particularly severe since family relations were often far off in Europe and could not render aid. The creation of facilities like St. Vincent's was a direct response to a social need that had previously been addressed within the family structure, but had grown to the point where an institutional solution was required.

St. Vincent's was the only Milwaukee institution established specifically to care for orphans from infancy to six years of age. It also cared for unwed mothers when necessary. After 1932 the Catholic Social Welfare Bureau controlled the admission to St. Vincent's and it also assumed responsibility for the children's placement and future when they left the institution.

Before 1932, infants came to St. Vincent's in several different ways. Some were left on the doorstep. Some were accepted directly from parents or individuals or from families experiencing crisis who were temporarily unable to care for their infant or toddler. Other children came as transfers from Misericordia Hospital on the West Side or by commitment from Juvenile Court. Often, unwed mothers would let the Sisters take care of their children until they were financially able to take them back home. St. Vincent's would try to place the homeless and abandoned children with adoptive parents or in licensed boarding places. If the children were not placed by the age of six, they would transfer the girls to St. Rose's Orphanage at North Point and the boys to St. Emilian's Orphanage. When unwed mothers were accepted, they were taught domestic skills and were paid for work they did until jobs on the outside could be secured for them. This maternity department was transferred to Misericordia Hospital in 1929. By 1945 St. Vincent's had admitted 7,315 children and 2,782 mothers. By 1958 some 9,000 infants and toddlers had been cared for. Between 1937 and 1945 the institution had a staff of nine sisters and a daily capacity of 100 infants and 25 mothers. The institution maintained a kindergarten and nursery school and even had a dental office on the premises until World War II. In its early years, the asylum was supported

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by donations and the proceeds of the programs of the St. Vincent's Aid Society. Later the institution increasingly began to receive government support to maintain its operations. Drastic changes in the policies of the State Welfare Department in the 1950s led to the closing of St. Vincent's on October 1, 1958.¹⁴

The St. Vincent DePaul Society used the building from 1959 to 1968 as a home for the treatment of alcoholic men. Since 1969 the building has been the headquarters for the United Migrant Opportunity Services, a social service agency for migrant workers.

Architecture

St. Vincent's is a fine example of High Victorian Gothic institutional architecture. The Victorian Gothic style, in all of its various manifestations, enjoyed a fairly extensive popularity in Milwaukee from the 1870s to the 1890s. A number of major residences, commercial blocks, industrial buildings, fraternal and lodge halls, public buildings (especially police facilities) and public schools were built in that mode, as well as many churches. Today, except for the churches, most of the examples have disappeared. St. Vincent's is one of the few major Victorian Gothic institutional structures still extant in Milwaukee.

The asymmetrical character of the facade of St. Vincent's is particularly interesting because it is the result of the juxtaposition of two different architects' interpretation of the Victorian Gothic style. It is not known precisely why the Sisters of Charity abandoned Gombert's original 1878 master plan and did not use his designs for the 1890 expansion of the institution, but much like medieval churches that were begun in one phase of the Gothic style and were completed in a later Gothic style, St. Vincent's is an excellent illustration of the evolving Victorian Gothic style in Milwaukee. Milwaukee and the United States entered the 1890s with an increased interest in architectural plan, ornament and decoration drawn from an ever widening pool of historical sources. Mix's addition, which seems to reflect the influence of the emerging French Gothic style then being popularized in the east by architect's such as Richard Morris Hunt, may reflect the increased wealth and sophistication of St. Vincent's benefactors and the desire of architect Mix to be current in architectural style. It contrasts subtly with Gombert's earlier work, a somewhat boxy and austere manifestation of what was described when it was built as the English Gothic style. The comparison between Gombert's 1878 structure, done toward the beginning of his Milwaukee career and Mix's 1890 addition, done at the end of the latter's career, is instructive on the evolution of the Victorian Gothic style from the somewhat flat earlier mode to the more volumetric expression of its later phases.

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Also important is the fact that St. Vincent's is the oldest remaining institutional structure of its kind in Milwaukee. In fact, it is one of the very few such structures still extant, since most of the other historic institutions have been razed. Its only surviving contemporary is the former National Soldiers Home at Wood, outside of Milwaukee, which was built from the 1860s onward and was also partially designed by Edward Townsend Mix. St. Vincent's is significant as the best surviving example of its kind of a Victorian era private institutional structure in Milwaukee.

The Architects

Edward Townsend Mix was one of Milwaukee's leading nineteenth century architects. His firm received many of the city's important architectural commissions in the last half of the nineteenth century. Other extant examples of Mix's work include: portions of the Soldier's Home at Wood (1860's); All Saints Cathedral (1868), 828 East Juneau Avenue; Immanuel Presbyterian Church (1874), 1100 North Astor Street; the Mackie Building (Chamber of Commerce) (1880), 225 East Michigan Street; the Mitchell Building (1878), 207 East Michigan Street; and St. Pauls Episcopal Church (1882), 904 East Knapp Street. All of these buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mix was born in New Haven, Connecticut on May 13, 1831, the eldest of six children. His father Edward A. was a sea captain of Welsh descent. His mother, Emily M. Townsend, was of English descent and her family was also in the sea trade. Mix's father and maternal grandfather had distinguished themselves in trade with India. Because the elder Mix's job kept him away from home for extended periods, his wife has been credited with the early education of young Edward.

In 1836, the elder Mix interrupted his sea career and moved the family west to Andover, Illinois and purchased a large farm. Farming soon bored Captain Mix and, in 1845, he moved the family back to New York and accepted the command of another ship. Edward T. subsequently entered the academy at Batavia, NY to prepare himself for a career in mathematics. At the academy he took an interest in sketching, but no definite interest in architecture. After leaving the academy, he worked in a variety of jobs as a clerk in a Wall Street shipping house, as a dry goods house employe, as a grocer's clerk, as a canvasser for a city newspaper, as a draftsman in a patent attorney's office, and as a clerk in a real estate office. Finally in the summer of 1848 he became the assistant of the architect Major Stone and spent seven years there learning the architecture profession. In 1855 he moved to Chicago and took a job as foreman in the office of architect William W. Boyington. Within a year

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he formed a partnership with Boyington and moved to Milwaukee to establish a branch office of Boyington & Mix. A depressed economy in 1857 brought the partnership to an end. Mix remained in Milwaukee and continued his practice alone until 1887 when he took on Walter A. Holbrook as a partner.

Mix was appointed state architect in 1864 by Wisconsin Governor Fairchild. His tenure lasted until 1867 and he supervised all state building projects including the state capitol building. In 1889-89 Mix temporarily moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota and designed a number of homes and the Guarantee Loan & Trust Building. Mix was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and from 1888 to 1890, president of the Wisconsin Architectural League. He died in Minneapolis on September 23, 1890. The St. Vincent's addition would have been one of the last projects with which he was associated in Milwaukee.¹⁵

Charles A. Gombert was an important Milwaukee architect who received many prestigious commissions in the late nineteenth century. His best known work is the 175-foot-tall North Point Water Tower built in 1873 at the east end of North Avenue, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other Gombert buildings in Milwaukee listed in the National Register include the Victor Schlitz House (1890), 2004 West Highland Boulevard; the Seuss House (1881), 1843 North Palmer Street; the Henry Manschot House (1874), 718 East Wells Street; and the John Lipps Building (1878), 1103 North Old World Third Street. The now demolished County Jail (1885) which formerly stood at the corner of North Broadway and East Wells Streets, was one of the major commissions of his career.

Gombert was born in Prussia (now part of northeastern Germany) in 1833. He immigrated to New York City in 1866. He probably received most or all of his architectural training in Europe. Gombert first appeared in the 1868-1869 Milwaukee city directory. He worked as a draftsman and lived at the St. Charles Hotel. Gombert's name disappears from city directories after 1869 but reappears in 1873, the year his North Point Water Tower was built. His occupation was listed as architect by that time and he lived at 212 Sycamore Street (now Michigan Street). What Gombert did and where he lived in the intervening years is unknown, but his papers declaring his intent to become a U.S. citizen were filed in Polk County, Iowa in 1870.¹⁶ Gombert also had some ties to Michigan and he may have spent some time there. His wife, Emma Ehling, was a Michigan native and her family ties to the state reportedly were instrumental in winning for Gombert the commission for the "Henderson Castle," a large private residence built between 1890-95 in Kalamazoo, Michigan and now listed in the National Register. He designed other buildings in Kalamazoo as well, but most have been razed.

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The 1880 Federal Census reported that Gombert was living at 549 North Sixth Street and the household included his wife Emma, their four-year-old son Victor and Katie Olsen, a 16-year-old, Norway-born servant. Although his output does not seem to have ever been very great, Gombert's busiest years were probably the 1880s. In 1880 he furnished plans for a public school and a residence in Kalamazoo, Michigan (both razed) in addition to his work in Milwaukee. In 1885 he designed a magnificent mansion for millionaire brewer Valentine Blatz at the southwest corner of Van Buren Street and East Juneau Avenue at a cost of \$54,000. It was his most opulent Milwaukee residential commission. In the same year he built the County Jail at North Broadway and East Wells Streets. Both the Blatz house and the jail have been demolished.

In 1893 Gombert's name disappeared from the Milwaukee directories, but reappeared in 1900. An 1895 Milwaukee newspaper article reported that Gombert was living in Europe, but it is possible that he lived in Kalamazoo before moving to Europe, because the huge Henderson house was under construction there from 1890 to 1895 and Gombert is reported to have designed other buildings in Kalamazoo during that period.

When Gombert returned to Milwaukee in 1900 he resumed his practice as an architect, according to city directories, although his output must have been modest. He cannot be credited with any major buildings after 1900 and what he did design remains unidentified. According to a 1901 newspaper account, local officials blamed Gombert for structural problems with the county jail that he had designed in 1885. Gombert said the problem was created by a broken water pipe that had washed away the foundation. He claimed the allegations damaged his professional reputation and he threatened legal action against the county officials.

Gombert lived in Milwaukee until 1917 and although he was in his 70s and 80s the directories continued to list his occupation as architect, except for the years 1910-1914, when no occupation was given. Gombert moved to Neenah, Wisconsin in 1918 and lived there with his only child, Victor, until his death on September 23, 1920.

Charles Crane was the architect who signed the building permit for the asylum's large, rear addition that was constructed in 1900. Most likely, however, it was the partnership of Charles Crane and Carl Barkhausen, a Milwaukee architectural firm that existed between 1888 and 1902, that was responsible for the design of the addition. Crane and Barkhausen designed many Milwaukee houses and commercial buildings during the 1890s. Before starting their own architectural firm, both Crane and Barkhausen worked for Edward Townsend Mix who designed the 1890 addition to St. Vincents.

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Crane was born July 6, 1850 in Johnson's Creek, New York.²⁰ In 1853 his family moved to Wisconsin and settled in Spring Prairie. In 1863 the family moved to Burlington where Crane attended high school. Crane's first job was as a store clerk in 1869. After that he moved to Chicago in 1871 to pursue some unidentified occupation and in 1874 came to Milwaukee and began working for E.T. Mix.

Carl Barkhausen was born November 6, 1860 in Thiensville, Wisconsin, a small farming community north of Milwaukee.²¹ Barkhausen attended local schools in Thiensville and Milwaukee before going to Germany at the age of 16 for architectural training. It is unclear how much training he received in Germany, but his biography states that he returned to Germany in 1881 for additional architectural training. Later in 1881 he began working for E.T. Mix in Milwaukee.

Crane and Barkhausen dissolved their partnership in 1902 when Barkhausen took a job with a New York City construction company. Crane continued to practice in Milwaukee and his known work includes several large houses and commercial buildings such as his own house (1904) at 2603 North Lake Drive and Marquette University's Johnston Hall (1906) at 1131 West Wisconsin Avenue. Crane closed his architectural office sometime before 1910 and worked for an appraisal company in Milwaukee until a few years before his death at the age of 78 on April 8, 1928.²²

Barkhausen returned to Milwaukee in 1912 and opened an architectural office. Some examples of his work from this later period include the Meyer house (1914) at 3004 North Hackett Avenue, and the Oestereich house (1916) at 2825 East Newport Avenue. Barkhausen apparently retired in 1928 and died on December 12, 1934.²³

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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Johnson, Rev. Peter Leo, Daughters of Charity (Milwaukee: The Daughters of Charity, St. Mary's Hospital, 1946), p. 197.
- 2 Building Permit #54, July 28, 1890, City of Milwaukee.
- 3 Building Permit #6060, the City of Milwaukee, dated October 21, 1900.
- 4 Johnson, Daughters of Charity, p. 197.
- 5 Building Permit #54, July 28, 1890, City of Milwaukee.
- 6 Building Permit #6060, the City of Milwaukee, dated October 21, 1900.
- 7 Milwaukee Sentinel, June 25, 1878, p. 4.
- 8 Building Permit #6060, the City of Milwaukee, dated October 21, 1900.
- 9 Johnson, Daughters of Charity, p. 197.
- 10 Milwaukee Sentinel, August 19, 1878, p. 3.
- 11 Building Permit #54, July 28, 1890, City of Milwaukee.
- 12 Building Permit #6060, the City of Milwaukee, dated October 21, 1900.
- 13 Johnson, Daughters of Charity, p. 197.
- 14 Milwaukee Journal, September 22, 1958, clipping from the Milwaukee County Historical Society files, page number unidentified.
- 15 Conard, Howard Louis, Ed., History of Milwaukee County from its First Settlement to the Year 1895, Vol. II (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company), pp. 445-448.
- 16 Citizenship papers, Petition #1941, Vol. 4, p. 150, June 13, 1882.

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- 17 Federal Census, 1880, Soundex #G516, Charles A. Gombert.
- 18 Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Microfilm roll entitled Architects.
- 19 Wisconsin Necrology, (Madison: Wisconsin State Historical Society), Vol. 18, p. 176.
- 20 Jerome A. Watrous, (Ed.), Memoirs of Milwaukee County, Vol. II (Madison: Western Historical Association, 1909), p. 316.
- 21 John D. Gregory, History of Milwaukee (Milwaukee: S.J. Carke Publishing Co., 1931), p. 579.
- 22 Milwaukee Sentinel, April 9, 1928.
- 23 Milwaukee Sentinel, December 13, 1934.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Books

Conard, Howard Louis, Ed. History of Milwaukee County From its first Settlement to the year 1895, Vol. II. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company.

History of Milwaukee. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881.

X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) been requested

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

 previously listed in the National Register

Primary location of additional data:
 X State historic preservation office

 X previously determined eligible by the National Register

 Other State agency

 designated a National Historic Landmark

 Federal agency

 recorded by Historic American

 X Local government

 Buildings Survey # _____

 University

 Other

Specify repository:

 Historic Preservation Commission

 809 North Broadway, Milw. WI 53202

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1/6 4/2/4/9/4/0 4/7/6/2/8/8/0
 Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / /
 Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

G. Burnham's subdivision in the NW 1/4 Sec 5-6-22 Block 149 Lots 1-2 & 3 in the City of Milwaukee

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire original parcel purchased and used by the St. Vincent's Infant Asylum

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Les Vollmert/Paul Jakobovich

organization Dept. of City Development

Date April 15, 1987

street & number 809 North Broadway

telephone (414)223-5705

city or town Milwaukee

state WI zip code 53202

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Johnson, Rev. Peter Leo. Daughters of Charity. Milwaukee: The Daughters of Charity, St. Mary's Hospital, 1946.

Milwaukee's Leading Industries. New York: Historical Publishing Company, 1886.

Periodicals

Directory of Milwaukee, 1868-1920 (all years).

Milwaukee Journal, September 22, 1958.

Milwaukee Sentinel, April 25, 1877, August 19, 1878, December 12, 1880, November 15, 1886.

Wisconsin Necrology, Madison: Wisconsin State Historical Society, Vol. 18, p. 176.

Miscellaneous Sources

Building Permits. City of Milwaukee, Permit #54, July 28, 1890; Permit #6060, October 21, 1900.

Citizenship Papers. Charles A. Gombert, Petition #1941, Vol. 4, p. 150.

Federal Census, 1880. Soundex #G516, Charles A. Gombert.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Owner Page 1

St. Vincents Infant Asylum, Milwaukee, WI

Owner of property:

United Migrant Opportunity Services Inc.
809 West Greenfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204