NPS Form 10-900 (Gct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

See continuation sheet [].

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NOV 1 5 1994

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register* of *Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name <u>St. Ignatius Loyola</u>	Church			<u></u>		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
other names/site number	St. Ignatiu	s Loyola	Cathol	ic Church;	5DV1095.60	
2. Location						
street & number <u>East 23rd Aver</u>	nue at York Street			h/d not for	publication	
city or town <u>Denver</u>		Lana 11 - 112 - 1121 - 11		·····		[n/ a vicinity
state <u>Colorado</u> code	<u> </u>	y <u>Denver</u>	code	<u>031</u> zip	code <u>80205</u>	_
3. State/Federal Agency Certifi	ication					
As the designated authority under the Nat of eligibility meets the documentation star requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 property be considered significant [] nati See continuation sheet for additional con Signature of certifying official/Tit State Historic Preserva State or Federal agency and bure In my opinion, the property [] meets [] See continuation sheet for additional con	Hartman e tion Office au				Date	19 <i>9</i> y
Signature of certifying official/Titl	e				Date	
State or Federal agency and bure	au					
4. National Park Service Certif	fication	1				
I hereby certify that the property	is:	Į s	ignafure of	f the Keeper		Date
 [V entered in the National Regist 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].	2 	<u>alsar</u> E N	ntered in ational Re.	the gistor	12.23-94

St. Ignatius Loyola Church **Name of Property**

5.Classification

Denver/Colorado **County/State**

buildings

sites

Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) (Do not count previously listed resources.) Contributing Noncontributing [x] building(s) [x] private [] public-local [] district 1 1 [] public-State [] site [] public-Federal 0 0 [] structure [] object 0 0 structures 0 0 objects 1 1 Total Name of related multiple property listing. Number of contributing resources (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) previously listed in the National Register. N/A N/A 6. Function or Use Historic Function Current Functions Religion: Religious Facility Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation_	Brick	
walls	Brick	
roof	Tile	
other	Concrete	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

8.Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

[] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

 $[\]$ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

[x] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C a birthplace or grave.

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[] F a commemorative property.

[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Art

Periods of Significance

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

<u>N/A</u>

Cultural Affiliation

Arcbitect/Builder

Frewen, Frank W., Jr. Mountjoy, Frank E.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bihliographic References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

[] previously listed in the National Register

[] previously determined eligible by the National Register

- | | designated a National Historic Landmark
- [] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

| | recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [] Other State Agency
- [] Federal Agency
- | | Local Government
- [] University
- [x] Other:

Name of repository: St. Ignatius Loyola Church Rectory

<u>Denver/Colorado</u>

County/State

<u>St. Ignatius Loyola Church</u>	Denver/ C	Colorado	
Name of Property	Coun	ty/State	
10.Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property _2.3 Acres			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)			
A. Zone 13 Easting 503440 Northing 4399950	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
C. Zone Easting Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
	[] See cor	ntinuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)			
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)			
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title_George Malesich and Frances K, Feeney			
organization St. Ignatius Loyola Historic Designation	Committee	date <u>Augu</u>	<u>ist 5, 1994</u>
street & number_828 East 22nd Avenue	telephone_ 303	3-894-8046	
city or town Denver	stateO	zip code	80205
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form	1:		
Continuation Sbeets			
· · ·	•	s.	
Continuation Sbeets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the prop	large acreage or numerous resource:	S.	
Continuation Sbeets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the proj A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Pbotographs	large acreage or numerous resource:	S.	
Continuation Sbeets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the prop A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Pbotographs Representative black and white photographs of the pro Additional Items	large acreage or numerous resource:	S.	
Continuation Sbeets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the prop A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Pbotographs Representative black and white photographs of the pro Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Property Owner	large acreage or numerous resource:	S.	
Continuation Sbeets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the proj A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having Pbotographs Representative black and white photographs of the pro Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	large acreage or numerous resource:		ust 5, 1994

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

GENERAL DESCRIPTION/EXTERIOR

Saint Ignatius Loyola Church is a bichrome, multi-architectural form structure which most clearly resembles Tudor Gothic in design, incorporating symmetrical towers, panel tracery on the windows, three-centered arches, brick and artificial stone facades, and a gabled roof covered with red tiles. Built in a truncated cross (or cruciform) design, its longest axis is oriented from east to west. The church is 192 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 109 feet high. The interior of the church is an immense auditorium constructed in the Roman Waggon or barrel vault design with intersecting arches, decorated pilasters, oak paneling, and "echo-proof" Celotex-tiled ceiling emplaced in a herringbone pattern.

The church is located in the Whittier neighborhood, a lower middle class section of northeast Denver. It fronts on City Park to the east (York Street) and is set on a cultivated, landscaped lawn on three sides with parking lot for church and school activities on the remaining north side. The church and adjacent school are located on a square city block parcel, bounded on the west by Gaylord Street, on the east by York Street, on the south by 23d Avenue, and on the north by 24th Avenue. The property is in good overall condition and has had virtually no alterations inside or out since its construction.

The facade of the main entrance (York Street) is dominated by two symmetrical towers which accentuate the verticality of the Tudor Gothic design of the church. Two sets of "doglegged" concrete steps with brick and concrete-topped banisters rise to a concrete platform between the twin towers, followed by more concrete steps which provide access to the main entrance. The main entrance consists of three drop-arched, perpendicular vaulted doorways. Each of the rectangular-shaped doorways is recessed into a niche of artificial stone and is topped with a glass transom divided by three mullions. (The artificial stone mentioned here and in subsequent paragraphs was a change by the contractor from his original plan of using terra cotta where artificial stone is now emplaced. The plan was amended without explanation.) Above the main entrance in artificial stone are sculpted Moorish arches in bas relief. The gabled sculpture over the center door contains an empty niche on either side and a Romanesque cross in bas relief. On each side of the cross, out to empty niches, is a blind arcade.

Above the main entrance arches and gabled blind arcade is a single, three-centered inset Tudor arch of artificial stone which encloses a six-section painted glass window. The window contains paneled tracery with Moorish arches and a Tudor flower at the apex of the arch. Above the arch is a drip molding on which are carved corbels resembling classic human faces which serve as dripstones. These corbels are at the label stops.

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

Above the six-section window is a latticework of artificial stone that crisscrosses the brick. Two more corbels in human face design adorn the outermost studs of this latticework. Centrally located in the latticework, below the apex of a parapet that follows the angle of the roof, is a niche that contains a stone statue of Saint Ignatius Loyola. The crown gable above the latticework is decorated with a blind arcade consisting of narrow Moorish arches. Atop the gable is a Romanesque cross.

The symmetrical towers, each 110 feet in height, flank the center main entrance facade. As in the rest of the church building, the towers are constructed of Coffeyville red brick and artificial stone. Each tower is identical in design and rises symmetrically above the eaves of the church. There are two inset casement windows on the first level of each tower on either side of the main entrance. The southeast corner of the south tower contains the cornerstone. Sculpted molding five feet from the ground and at the separation of the first and second levels girds three sides of each tower. On the second level of each tower are lancet windows on two sides with projecting buttresses with gablets below them. The third level of each tower contains a louvered belfry with Moorish arched designs above it on all sides and projecting gabled buttresses also on each side of the tower. Each tower is capped at the four corners with crocheted pinnacles, each with finial. Between each pinnacle is a single shouldered merlon.

The north facade of the church, for descriptive purposes, can be broken down into eight sections (including tower facade), and numbered consecutively 1-8 from east to west, with section 1 being the tower. Sections 2-5 are separated by vertical, gabled-buttressed pillars. Each of these sections contains a 5-section Tudor arched painted glass window with three Tudor flowers and Moorish arches atop each window.

The 1st level of sections 2-4 between the pillars has an undecorated red Coffeyville brick facade with brick-arched window openings at the ground level and one recessed rectangular window at the top of the wall below a secondary red tile roof line. Section 5 has an undecorated red brick facade with an offset shuttered window casement. Decorative molding enhances the pillars between sections 2-5.

Section 6 represents the northern portion of the "truncated cross" (exterior of the northern transept) and extends 8 feet north from sections 5 and 7. On the first level, a doorway arch composed of sectioned, shaped, artificial stone contains a centered, Tudor-arched double wooden door. A three-section mullioned window sits above the door. Section 6 is girded by decorative artificial stone molding. The second level of section 6 contains a wider, five-section recessed Tudor-arched painted glass window with three Tudor flowers and Moorish arches at the top.

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

Section 6 is fully gabled on the north side with gablets on the east and west sides.

Section 7 is identical in appearance to sections 2-5 except for a smaller, brick-arched opening in the northwest corner. The pillar between sections 7 and 8 is identical to the pillars between sections 2-4, except that it is capped by a red brick chimney. The second level of section 7 contains a stained glass Tudor-arched window with three Tudor flowers and Moorish arches at the top.

The first level of section 8 consists of a brick facade with two small recessed windows centrally located at ground level and three medium-sized rectangular recessed windows centrally located at the first level. This level is capped by a flat roof. The second level of section 8 is inset by approximately eight feet and contains a three-section Tudor-arched stained glass window with Tudor flowers at the top. On its north and south sides, section 8 is capped by its own pitched, red tile roof.

The south facade of the church mirrors the north facade in all aspects, except there is no chimney atop the pillar between sections 7 and 8 on the south facade.

Projecting ten feet from the west facade is a red brick vestibule with an unremarkable wooden door entryway, serviced by a 5-step concrete stairway. The north and south sides of the vestibule are red brick bifurcated by a brick pillar with narrow, single rectangular windows at the first level.

The west facade north of the vestibule is red brick with seven variously spaced rectangular window casements at the ground level and three variously spaced larger rectangular windows at the first floor level. The second level of the west facade is centered on the main body of the church and consists of a single five-section recessed Tudor-arched stained glass window containing three Tudor flowers at the top. The west facade south of the vestibule consists of a shorter red brick wall with one centered rectangular inset casement window at ground level and a larger, centered rectangular window at the first floor level. The entire west facade is capped by a single large gable.

The grounds of the church are landscaped with lawn, evergreens, and hedge rows on the east, west, and south sides. The north side is paved and used as a parking lot for church and adjacent school activities. Other ornamentation includes on the southeast side of the front facade a stone grotto containing a religious statue and a 6-foot high "Peace Pole" on the northeast side of the front facade. An eco-urban habitat project, funded by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is now

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

underway on the southwest corner of the church where native grasses, flowers, and shrubs will be planted in the near future.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS

Although there have been no substantive changes to the exterior of the church since 1924, some minor additions and necessary repair work have occurred. None of these additions or repairs have altered the basic church building. These include: installation of 1/4 inch "wired" (wire mesh) storm windows on all the painted and stained glass windows of the church during the 1950s/1960s. (Adequate records do not exist to pinpoint the precise dates, but the first request to install the storm windows occurred in 1949; the final request to complete the job occurred in late 1959.); installation of a new red tile roof in 1986; tuck point work over the years on the brick work, the last of which occurred in 1991; installation of the stone grotto (mentioned in the preceding paragraph) in the late 1940s/early 1950s; and installation of the "Peace Pole," also mentioned in the preceding paragraph, on the grounds of the church in 1993.

LOYOLA SCHOOL BUILDING

Within the boundaries of the St. Ignatius Loyola Church land parcel is Loyola Grade School. The school is a 2-story brick building, rectangular in shape, with a flat roof. Located north of the church and separated from the church by a parking lot, Loyola School began operations in 1952 as a single story structure with full basement. A second story was subsequently added and dedicated in 1954. This building is a noncontributing resource for purposes of this application for historic designation.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

From the main or east entrance, a spacious vestibule is entered. A ceiling of intersecting transepts of white plaster highlights walls of the same Coffeyville red pressed brick as the church exterior. On the left or south side of the vestibule is a brick-arched baptistery with a wrought iron gate entrance. On the right or north side of the vestibule is a larger brick-arched room containing stairs up to the choir loft and down to the basement. The three double oak rectangular entrance doors are mirrored on the west of the vestibule by arched oaken doors leading into the nave.

The church interior has been described as an "immense auditorium" [1] "devoid of pillars." [2] The main altar is 170 feet from the entrance doors with sides of the church 80 feet apart except

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

for the transepts which are 90 feet apart. The ceiling which is 80 feet from the floor [3] is Roman Waggon vaulted with intersecting vaults (barrel vaulted). An equilateral arch separates the back or western-most portion of the chancel from the front of the chancel and the nave. Intersecting vaults run perpendicular from each of four side windows and from galleries atop the north and south transepts.

The ceiling "resembles masonry" [4] and is composed of Celotex in a herringbone pattern except on the six supporting arches where it has a running bond style. The Celotex over the main altar is a mottled gray while that in the remainder of the chancel, nave, and choir loft is brown.

A five-sectioned, Tudor-arched, deep blue, purple, and red stained glass window adorns the west wall above the main altar. Four more Tudor-arched, stained glass windows with religious scenes are contained in the chancel: two smaller windows on the north and south walls of the back chancel and two larger five-sectioned windows on the north and south walls of the front chancel. The five stained glass windows are framed by drop arches and set in oak tracery.

All walls in the chancel are decorated with faux paintings from five feet above the floor to the ceiling. Immediately behind the main altar and extending to the bottom of the stained glass window is a trompe l'oeil scarlet red brocade drapery with gilded edges. This painting is covered by a maroon velvet drape.

Stenciled mosaic paintings incorporating religious symbols appear next to and half as high as the painted drapery. These mosaics continue around the north and south walls of the back chancel. The remaining wall areas in the chancel are painted with pastel rectangles to simulate stone blocks. Narrow ribbons of stenciling outline all of the chancel walls and the five stained glass windows in the chancel as well as the equilateral arch that separates the back and front chancel areas.

Centered below the smaller stained glass windows on the north and south walls of the back chancel are regular oak doors. The south door leads into a small chapel and the north door into an L-shaped sacristy.

Five foot-high solid "oak framing with oak panel inserts" [5] decorates the lower walls of the chancel and extends throughout the nave.

The main altar of Carrera marble with a marble ciborium is elevated on a three-step marble dais. Ten chromium electric chimes hang from the wall to the right of the main altar. Two smaller

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Carrera marble side altars in recessed, arched openings are found in the front chancel on either side of the main altar. The front chancel is elevated by three steps above the main floor of the nave. The chancel is separated from the nave by a marbleized, wooden communion rail capped with Carrera marble.

Above the north and south transepts are Tudor arches that frame five-panelled cathedral glass windows hand-painted to simulate stained glass. The walls around these windows are painted plaster. Below each window is a gallery with oak pews to seat 50 people and an oak balustrade. The transept wall from the floor to the balustrade is solid oak framing with oak panel inserts. Double oak doors centered in the oak facades lead to stairs to side exits and to the basement.

Looking east from the transepts, there are five pilasters (ribs) rising from the floor and extending to the vault. Each pilaster is decorated with long narrow columns of stenciling similar to that in the chancel. Every other rib is topped with the painted face of an angel. Four five-sectioned painted cathedral glass windows in panel tracery and framed by drop arches are found between the five pilasters.

Between the first and second ribs at the gallery level are five-arched airway ducts. Between the second and fifth ribs are 12 four foot-square "ivory" [6] stations of the cross. Below the stations of the cross on either side of the church are three confessionals. The oak doors to the priests' sitting areas are flanked by two large penitent areas covered by heavy maroon velvet drapes.

The rear or east wall contains the eleventh and largest Tudor-arched, hand-painted cathedral window. Below the window is a choir loft with a pipe organ, an oak pew and wooden chairs to seat 50 people. The north wall of the choir loft is painted plaster. The south wall contains arcade oak panelling with Moorish arch design which contains pipes for the organ. The north and south walls next to the choir loft are painted beige and have narrow ribbons of stenciling along the vertical borders of the choir loft. An oak balustrade overhangs from the choir loft.

The two remaining stations of the cross are on either side of the three double entrance doors. Single oak doors in the north and south corners of the east wall lead to an ushers' room and a women's rest room. Grated wooden air ducts are centered in the oak paneling along the back or east wall.

Exit from the nave is through three double arched oak doors into the vestibule.

The main floor of the nave is a truncated Latin cross with a large center aisle and four narrower,

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

side aisles. Four columns of "pews sufficient to seat 1000 people are arranged on a sloping floor of cement" [7] covered by a light brown carpet.

INTERIOR ALTERATIONS

During the past 70 years, there have been only a minimum of alterations to the interior of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. In 1962, 130 of the wooden kneelers were repaired for unknown damage. In the mid-to-late 1970s, all of the wooden kneelers were covered with brown vinyl padding. Sometime after the 1974 Silver Jubilee, the red trompe l'oeil painting behind the main altar was covered with a maroon velvet curtain suspended from a rod attached to the wall. This velvet curtain remains in place today.

Between 1940 and the mid-1980s, carpeting in the church sanctuary was changed on two occasions. In the late 1970s, carpet was laid for the first time in the aisles of the nave. This gold-brown carpet remains in place.

In the mid-to-late 1980s, a significant roof leak resulted in discoloration of some of the Celotex tile and plaster damage on several pilasters (with resultant damage to decorative paintings.) The damaged areas on the pilasters only were painted over in 1992 to match the adjacent walls of the church. In late 1993 and early 1994, the women's rest room in the southeast corner of the church was refurbished. A new sink and vanity and new carpeting and furniture were installed.

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

Saint Ignatius Loyola Church meets National Register Criterion C under Criteria Consideration A because it is the only church designed by a prominent, prolific, Denver-based architect and his only Gothic Tudor work. Also of significance is the unusual and massive use of Celotex in the ceiling. The church further meets Nomination Criterion C because of the high quality of its antique, mouth-blown, stained glass windows which were designed by a prominent German glass craftsman. Spectacular hand-painting and stenciling done on the church's interior walls in 1948 is significant and notable because it is a magnificent example of its period and unique to Denver.

HISTORY OF SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA CHURCH

St. Ignatius Loyola Church is located in the McCullough's Addition of Denver's Whittier Neighborhood. This 99 square block area was originally served by Sacred Heart Church located on the corner of Larimer Street and 28th Avenue. Opened on September 12, 1879, Sacred Heart Church was the first permanent Denver home for the members of the Society of Jesus (S.J.), the Jesuits. [8]

The Catholic population of Colorado increased dramatically from 40,000 in 1889 to 117,435 in 1906. Fifty percent of the Coloradans who were members of churches in 1906 were Catholic, and two-thirds of the Catholics were urban. [9] Crowding at Sacred Heart prompted its third pastor, Edward Barry, S.J., an amateur architect, to design and construct an \$8000 chapel at 2536 Ogden Street. [10] Known as Loyola Chapel, this structure opened on January 6, 1910, and was administered by the pastor of Sacred Heart Church. "This little, double gabled chapel soon overflowed with Sunday worshippers leading Father Barry to propose building a much larger and grander church. The dream remained a dream until Charles A. McDonnell, S.J., became pastor of Sacred Heart and Loyola Chapel in 1921." [11] Father Barry's original plan had been to build a larger structure on the chapel site, but Father McDonnell envisioned other plans. Increasing enrollments at Sacred Heart School and at Annunciation School on 36th and Humboldt plus changes in the area surrounding Loyola Chapel prompted Father McDonnell to look for a new church site. Father McDonnell was assisted and advised in this work by a Financial Committee composed of prominent parishioners.

A deed on file with the Clerk and Recorder for the City and County of Denver indicates that on September 1, 1922, "all of Block 17 of McCullough's Addition" was purchased by the Alpha and Omega Mission Society. Later documents indicate that Charles A. McDonnell, S.J. was Secretary of the Alpha and Omega Mission Society, a Colorado corporation. This prime land on the west side of City Park Golf Course between York and Gaylord and 23rd and 24th Avenues was purchased for \$17,000[12]. This block provided space for Father McDonnell's vision, a quartet

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

of buildings including a church, a regional high school, a rectory, and a convent. In a letter to the Bishop dated September 9, 1922, Father McDonnell says the new church "must be larger and beautiful but suited to the purse. It must be a great ornament to the East End."[13] Plans for the new church had already been made and excavation of the basement was begun as soon as the ground was bought. [14] Father McDonnell then plunged into a building campaign which included a house-to-house canvass for funds and the sale of Loyola Chapel.

On June 20, 1923, the Board of Directors of the Alpha and Omega Mission Society adopted a resolution:

"Resolved that for the purpose of financing and erecting of a new church to be known as the Loyola Church on Block numbered 17, McCullough's Addition...that this corporation, the Alpha and Omega Mission Society, issue and sell its 5 1/2 percent Serial Real Estate first Mortgage Gold Notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$100,000."

The basement chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola Church was completed and opened on October 1, 1923. One year later, on October 12, 1924, the new \$225,000 church was dedicated with ceremonies said to be among the finest in the history of the Denver Diocese. [15] The Right Reverend J. Harry Tihen, Bishop of Denver, officiated, and 2000 people jammed the inside of the church while 1000 people waited outside. [16]

On May 21, 1935, a Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of the Alpha and Omega Mission Society was filed. The first article of the Certificate changed the corporation name to "The Roman Catholic Congregation of Sacred Heart-Loyola, Denver, Colorado." The Second Article of Incorporation said that the corporation's purpose was "To build churches, schools, and academies..." The Certificate of Incorporation was signed by T. H. Devlin, President, a member of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, and Max G. Mankowski, S.J., Secretary. Father Mankowski was an associate at Sacred Heart Church and a Jesuit Counselor. In the Society of Jesus, Counselors represent the Provincial (the leader of the Jesuit priests in a specific region) in local areas where it is not convenient or practical for the Provincial to visit on a frequent basis. Counselors have additional responsibility as advisors or representatives of the Provincial in business matters. The Provincial for the Jesuits in Denver resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

St. Ignatius Loyola Church was administered by the pastor of Sacred Heart Church until 1944 when Loyola became an independent church with its own pastor. St. Ignatius Loyola Church is presently the only Jesuit-administered church in Denver.

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St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Denver County, Colorado

ARCHITECT

The architectural firm of Mountjoy and Frewen was selected by Father McDonnell to design the new St. Ignatius Loyola Church. There is no information on record, including obituaries, about Frank E. Mountjoy.

Frank W. Frewen was born in Denver on September 28, 1897. [17] He attended Denver public schools and Manual Training High School from which he graduated in 1906. There is contradictory information about Mr. Frewen's professional education. His obituary states that he attended the University of Colorado from 1906-1908, then enlisted in the Army during World War I where he served for a short time in the Engineering Corps. [18] <u>The Biographical Dictionary of American Architects</u> indicates that after completing an architectural course of study at Colorado State University, Mr. Frewen entered the Denver office of Henry Manning. [19] It is unclear if Mr. Frewen received a degree in architecture. In 1916, Mr. Frewen became a junior partner in the firm of Mountjoy, French, and Frewen.

Mr. Frewen was president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and president of the Colorado Board of Examiners of Architects when he died at age 50 in 1937. [20] Described in his obituary as a "leading Colorado architect" and "a specialist in the design of schools and buildings of that type," [21] Mr. Frewen was a prolific architect. In 21 years of practice, he "planned and directed the construction of more than eighty buildings in Colorado and Wyoming." [22] Included in his achievements were : Boulder High School, Idaho Springs High School, Crofton/Ebert School, various buildings at Western State College, the Guldman Building in Denver, the Nurses' Home at St. Luke's Hospital, the Lutheran Sanitarium in Wheat Ridge, and the Swedish National Sanitarium in Englewood. The Guldman Building and St. Luke's Nurses' Home no longer exist. The two sanitariums no longer exist as such. Portions of their original structures have been incorporated into the medical centers which replaced them.

St. Ignatius Loyola Church is the only church designed by Mr. Frewen and his only Gothic Tudor work.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC VALUES

General Values

Described as the realization of a dream, the dedication of the new St. Ignatius Loyola Church was

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a widely publicized event in 1924. Heralded in front page articles, the church was referred to as "majestic" in size and adornment, a church that "will take its place as one of the show places in the city." [23] The edifice, it was written, "ranked with the finest of church buildings in the city," [24] and was "Denver's last word in church edifices." [25] The official dedication book refers to the church as "one of the most beautiful Catholic temples in the West." [26]

Externally, the Gothic style of architecture is faithfully carried out in the church's strong vertical emphasis, traditional cruciform plan, and symmetrical design. Internally, the Roman Waggon vaulted ceiling with intersecting vaults characterizes the Gothic styling, while Tudor arches and windows set in oak tracery with Tudor flower design emphasize Tudor style.

At its dedication, the structure had the largest seating capacity of any church in Denver, accommodating 1200 people. [27] The interior was described as a "strikingly beautiful" auditorium "peculiar to church architecture because it is devoid of pillars." [28] This allowed every portion of the sanctuary to be visible from any corner of the church.

Three Carrera marble altars, a Carrera marble-topped altar rail, six oak confessionals, oak paneling, and fourteen "ivory" stations of the cross adorned the church at its dedication and remain unchanged in the church today.

<u>Celotex</u>

Peculiar to St. Ignatius Loyola Church was its "extraordinary acoustic properties" [29] attributed to a cane pulp ceiling called Celotex, soft plaster on the walls, and soft oak paneling. These features made the church "echo-proof" and "allowed any word uttered from the altar (to) be distinctly understood from any corner of the church." [30]

The Celotex Corporation was started in 1921. In 1923, a double layered Celotex ceiling, which looks like masonry, was installed in St. Ignatius Loyola Church. The entire, massive acoustical ceiling remains intact today. According to Mr. Dick Case, regional Sales Manager, the Celotex Corporation has no historical records about products installed by the company in the 1920s and 1930s, and no information about other existing examples of Celotex tile dating from the 1920s. Mr. Case explained that the sugar cane or bagasse core of the product used in Loyola has not been used commercially for "many, many years".

Mr. Bob Strom, an architect with Slater Paull and Associates, Inc. of Denver, stated that Loyola's usage of Celotex is on a "massive scale"" compared to the more modest usage normally found

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in religious buildings. Mr. Strom also said that the fact that the Celotex in St. Ignatius Loyola Church is applied in a large, public area that remains an integral part of the church may support the uniqueness of this installation. Additional information from experts will be necessary to substantiate the true historical significance of the Celotex in St. Ignatius Loyola Church.

Stained Glass Windows

The sixteen massive windows in the church originally contained textured glass. They were specifically designed and manufactured by the McPhee and McGinnity Company of Denver for St. Ignatius Loyola Church. Between 1924 and 1929, four stained glass windows from Conrad Schmitt Studios in New Berlin, Wisconsin, replaced the plain glass windows in the sanctuary. In correspondence from R.P. Schmitt beginning in 1928, the windows are described as "all antique glass executed by Gustav Van Treeck, Munich, Germany."

Mr. Bernard O. Gruenke, present Chief Executive Officer of Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc., stated in a telephone conversation that Gustav Van Treeck was a German artist who worked at Conrad Schmitt Studios in the early 1900s. Mr. Van Treeck returned to Germany and opened a stained glass company of his own in Munich, Germany. Mr. Van Treeck's company cooperated in many stained glass projects with Conrad Schmitt Studios for years. The "Executed by Gustav Van Treeck, Munich Germany" appearing on the central sanctuary window in Loyola Church means that parts of the window were designed and created in Germany and then sent to Conrad Schmitt Studios. An April 20, 1929, invoice indicates that Mr. Van Treeck provided stained glass for two other of Loyola's sanctuary windows.

Mr. Gruenke characterized Mr. Van Treeck as a "prominent German glass craftsman."

The antique or mouth-blown glass process used for the Loyola windows produces various thicknesses of glass. This, according to Amy Nowell of Creative Stained Glass Studio Ltd.in Lakewood, Colorado, accounts for the vibrant colors in the windows. Ms. Nowell examined the stained glass windows at Loyola and indicated that the excellent definition of the figures in the windows was the result of a multiple-step process of hand-painting the figures onto the glass, firing the glass, and repeating the process. Ms. Nowell also stated that the sixty-plus year old stained glass windows were in good condition, requiring only minimal refurbishment. She added that Conrad Schmitt Studios is a premier American stained glass company that has been in business 100 years.

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The fifth and final stained glass window was designed and created by Conrad Schmitt Studios and installed in the Loyola sanctuary in December, 1943. Additional research is planned to determine the whereabouts and condition of other antique glass works by Gustav Van Treeck.

Through interviews with long-term church members, it was established that light-weight material draperies which were controlled by ropes at the floor level had covered the remaining eleven glass windows for a period of time. These draperies were removed in 1947 or 1948.

Painted Windows

In preparation for the church's Silver Jubilee in October 1948, the church interior was decorated for the first time at a cost of \$8000.

Mrs. Mary Buckley was 17 years old in 1947. She recounts how her uncle, Emil Frei, the church janitor for forty years, climbed up on tall scaffolding and applied appliques to the plain windows. At approximately the same time, all the hundreds of remaining glass window panes were painted to simulate stained glass windows. It is unclear if Mr. Frei or an Austrian artist who was decorating the church walls was responsible for the window paintings. Amy Nowell of Creative Stained Glass Studio Ltd. stated that the only appliques are on small round and triangular panes at the tops of the 11 windows near the ceiling. The appliques are in excellent condition. Ms. Nowell said the rest of the windows are covered with oil paint as evidenced by their severe peeling and flaking.

Decorative Painting

Anton Schwaerzler, an Austrian painter who specialized in the interior decorating of churches, was hired to prepare the church for its 25th anniversary. Mr. Schwaerzler arrived in the United States in 1930 from Austria after taking extensive training in painting and ecclesiastical architecture. His work in Europe was primarily oil painting. [31] Mr. Schwaerzler was an associate of Theodore Brasch, a noted ecclesiastical artist. [32] According to long-term members of Loyola, Mr. Schwaerzler constructed massive scaffolding in the church in 1947 and worked alone for one year to complete the decoration for the October 12,1948, Silver Jubilee. [33] These same members state that Mr. Schwaerzler used his fingers to apply real gold leaf to the paintings.

Prior to painting Loyola Church, Mr. Schwaerzler had worked on Sacred Heart Church in Leavenworth, Kansas, Sacred Heart Cathedral in Baker City, Oregon, St. Rose Residence, St. Clara's Orphanage, Regis College, and St. Elizabeth's Church and Monastery, all in Denver. St

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Clara's and St. Rose's have been demolished. The hand-painted and stenciled walls at Sacred Heart Church, Sacred Heart Cathedral, and St. Elizabeth's Church have all been painted over. No evidence of existing decorative wall paintings could be obtained from Regis College.

In June 1994, Mr. Rodd Wheaton, Chief of the Division of Cultural Resource Management Operations and Resource Management for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior and Mr. Ken Miller of the Denver decorative painting firm, The Grammar of Ornament, visited St. Ignatius Loyola Church. In a letter dated July 28, 1994, Mr. Wheaton describes the church's interior workmanship including "spectacular wall murals and arabesque panels on the pilasters" as "superb." Mr. Wheaton stated that he and Mr. Miller originally believed the art work was done in the 1920s. He said that the fact it was painted by an Austrian muralist in 1947-1948,

"would account for the style of the painting being very Viennese in the manner of late Werkstadt decorative arts popular in the early 20th century. The faces of the cherubs on the pilasters are somewhat reminiscent of the work of Gustav Klimt who painted exotic portraits of Viennese society ladies during the period. This style also emphasized the use of pastel colors."

Mr Wheaton continued,

"The style of St. Ignatius Loyola's decorative painting certainly reflects the artist's training in Austria. He obviously was painting in a style albeit retardataire with which he was familiar. Mr. Miller and I are of the opinion that this decorative work is probably unique to Denver."

"In addition to the stylistic qualities, the execution of the painting is very interesting. The great mural behind the altar is a tour de force of trompe l'oeil with its painted draperies. The imitation ashlar stonework is also well-executed with its mottled surfaces that contrast to the decorative panels that infill the dado areas of the sanctuary. The panels, imitating tapestries characteristic of medieval church walls, have trompe l'oeil borders and mosaic stenciling in the fields. The arabesque ornamentation on the pilasters is in the same technique and lends important visual substance to the structural system of the nave."

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Mr. Wheaton indicated that Mr. Miller believed

"...there is more than enough original work to define the original scheme and provide for a full restoration. The walls could be infilled where painting is missing from the repaired areas of water damage. In addition, cleaning the wall surfaces would restore the surfaces of the existing work and could be accomplished expeditiously."

In conclusion, Mr. Wheaton writes that,

"Even if the existing decorative painting is not augmented, it represents a magnificent example of its period and certainly enhances the church with its great nave space uninterrupted by interior columns and side aisles."

Because Mr. Schwaerzler's paintings were completed in 1948, they do not meet the requirement of the 50-year rule for historic consideration. However, the fact that an entire "auditorium" full of unique art indicative of its period and in excellent condition still exists makes this a most significant and important cache. That St. Ignatius Loyola Church may be the only remaining example of this artist's work also makes it worthy of consideration for historic recognition.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

A review of surnames in the Denver City Directories for the years 1920-1924 reveals that the neighborhood around the new Loyola Church was made up largely of Germans and Irish as well as a component of Italians. The region was predominantly residential with single family, brick dwellings, many two-storied, dominating the area. The housing reflected the middle and upper middle class nature of the neighborhood. City directories also indicate that many professionals, managers, and small business owners lived in the area. A large portion of these people worked in the central business district which was 15 minutes away by streetcar. The importance of this location was evident to Father McDonnell when he evaluated the site for purchase. In a letter to the Bishop dated June 18, 1922, Father McDonnell stated "it is practically speaking within striking distance of the 22nd, 25th, and 28th Avenue car lines." [34]

The grand plans for a quartet of buildings, in addition to the church, beginning with a school were nullified by the Depression. The Depression also halted plans to install 15 religious stained glass windows and a large stained glass memorial to the war dead planned for the east, front window of the church.

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Interviews with individuals who were affiliated with Loyola during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s describe the church as a focal point of the community. Members belonged to large, active religious groups and social clubs at the church. The annual Loyola Bazaar was a huge social event that was covered in the press and became an important financial function for the church.

The African-American population of Denver, which had been centered in Five Points, began to expand east toward City Park during the early and mid-1920s. Crowding in the Five Points area and geographical barriers such as the rail yard to the west and the Central Business District to the south determined, in part, that African-Americans would move northeast. [35] Racial prejudices at that time including a strong Ku Klux Klan triggered violent reaction to this movement. In the 1930s and 1940s, restrictive real estate covenants continued to prevent African-American expansion beyond Five Points. Early covenants forbade the sale of rental property east of Downing Street to "colored persons." [36] During this time period, a few African-Americans attended Loyola Church, but they walked from Five Points to do so and did not participate in social events at the church.

In 1940, 1100 families were registered members of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. It was also in this year that grade school classes began in the basement of the church.

World War II heralded many social changes including increased availability of jobs in war industries such as the Remington Arms factory and in military service and civil service positions at the Army Medical Depot and Lowry Air Force Base. After the war, African-Americans who had served in the Armed Forces and qualified for home loans began buying property east of Five Points. High Street then became the new "boundary" for African-Americans.

Total indebtedness on Loyola Church was removed in 1948 just prior to the Silver Jubilee observance. During its entire history, Loyola had been known for the generosity of its members. Within a period of ten years, a \$123,000 church mortgage was paid, a convent and rectory were purchased, and the church was decorated. All of this was accomplished without special collections or appropriations. Future debts for a new school were similarly handled by church members.

The period from 1950 to 1960 was a major transition time for the Whittier neighborhood. In 1951, the Air Force Finance Center opened on 38th and York. More than 100 new families from the finance center joined Loyola Church. This influx taxed the existing school which had 300 children in classrooms in the church basement and the two sacristies. On March 9, 1952, a modern, one-story school building with a full basement was opened with classrooms for fifth,

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sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Four grades were continued in the church basement. The new school cost \$200,000, but generosity of Loyola members reduced the school debt by \$58,000 in the following 18 months.

When the new Manual High School was built in 1953, between 50 and 60 African-American homes were destroyed and the families were relocated outside the Whittier neighborhood.

In 1954, a second floor was added to the Loyola School building to accommodate the more than 350 students then enrolled.

As the color line disappeared, more and more African-Americans moved west and north of City Park. The first African-American family to buy a home on York Street did so in 1954. More African-American families were now joining St. Ignatius Loyola Church, but a larger number were moving north of City Park and joining Cure d'Ars Catholic Church on 32nd Avenue. During the same time period, 70% of Anglos moved out of Whittier. In 1950, Anglos comprised 39% of the Whittier population. By 1960, they were 9% of the neighborhood. [37]

Gradually, African-Americans became permanent members of Loyola Church, involved in all functions and church organizations. Regardless of the changes in the neighborhood, Loyola Church remained an active component of the community. Five masses were scheduled on Sunday to accommodate the church's large membership.

On October 13, 1974, St. Ignatius Loyola Church celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Six months later, on April 24, 1975, Father Thomas J. Kelly, pastor, recorded a short history of Loyola Church. In it, he stated that the eleven hundred families in Loyola in 1940 had "dwindled to a mere 135 in 1975." Four masses were still being scheduled every Sunday, but of the 600 worshippers they attracted, "many of them are former (members) who now return to the church of their youth from their suburban homes."

By the early 1970s, the shrinking, aging church membership was unable to support the school. Father Kelly described the church's financial situation as critical. It was at this point that the Archdiocese of Denver considered closing St. Ignatius Loyola Church. The answer to the church's problems was bingo. The church basement was refurbished and bingo games that had been in operation for years began to pay off. In the five-year period from 1970-1975, the school continued in operation at an annual deficit of more than thirty-five thousand dollars a year, all of which was subsidized by bingo.

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In the aftermath of Vatican II in the early 1960s, the trend for Catholic churches was to modernize. Statues, traditional altars, and altar railings were frequently removed from the churches. Many churches underwent total refurbishing with new painting, changed lighting, and even structural changes to buildings. Limited financial resources made such changes impossible at St. Ignatius Loyola Church. Two angel statues from the sides of the main altar and the altar railing gates were removed from the sanctuary. A simple, wooden altar was placed on the dais in front of the main Carrera marble altar to allow participants to see all aspects of the mass. Other than these limited changes, St. Ignatius Loyola Church remained unchanged.

During the past 20 years, the inhabitants of the Whittier Neighborhood have aged and become poorer. The same is true of the members of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. Today, there are 240 families or 516 registered church members. As in previous years, many people still travel long distances from the suburbs to maintain a relationship with Loyola and to participate in Sunday mass and other church functions. St. Ignatius Loyola's 1994 membership is primarily African-American, with a significant Hispanic segment and some Anglos.

The history of St. Ignatius Loyola Church is the history of an urban neighborhood. From a wealthy, magnificent temple to a poor, struggling church in need of restoration, St. Ignatius Loyola Church has always reflected the people and the trends of the Whittier Neighborhood and has survived to serve both its members and the greater Whittier community.

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- 2. "St. Ignacius Church, One of City's Finest, to be Dedicated on Sunday," <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain News</u>, 11 October 1924, p.1.
- 3. "Catholics Will Dedicate New Denver Church," <u>Denver Times</u>, 11 October 1924, p.4.
- 4. Dedication Book, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 12 October 1924, p.19.
- 5. "St. Ignacius Church, One of City's Finest, to be Dedicated on Sunday," <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain News</u>, 11 October 1924, p.1.
- 6. "Impressive Ceremony Will Mark Dedication of New Catholic Church," <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain News</u>, 8 October 1924, p.3.
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- 15. "Saint Ignatius of Loyola Ceremonies Among Finest in History of Denver Diocese," <u>Denver Catholic Register</u>, 14 October 1924, p.1.

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- 16. "2000 Jam St. Ignatius Church at Dedication of New Edifice," <u>Rocky Mountain</u> <u>News</u>, 13 October 1924, p.1.
- 17. <u>History of Colorado Stone</u>, Vol. III, p.703.
- 18. "Frank Frewen, Noted Denver Architect Dies," <u>The Denver Post</u>, 16 December 1937, p.14.
- 19. <u>Biographic Dictionary of America's Architects</u>, (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), p.678.
- 20. <u>History of Colorado Stone</u>, Vol. III, p.703.
- 21. <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects</u>, (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), p.678
- 22. Ibid.
- 23. "Saint Ignatius Loyola Ceremonies Among Finest in History of Denver Diocese, <u>Denver Catholic Register</u>, 14 October 1924, p.1.
- 24. "St. Ignatius Church, One of City's Finest, to be Dedicated on Sunday," <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain News</u>, 11 October 1924, p.1.
- 25. "St. Ignatius of Loyola Among Beauties of Kind in West," (by Ray Humphreys), name of newspaper and date not identified.
- 26. Dedication Book, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 12 October 1924, p.19.
- 27. Ibid.
- 28. "St. Ignatius Church, One of City's Finest, to be Dedicated on Sunday," <u>Rocky</u> <u>Mountain News</u>, 11 October 1924, p.1.
- 29. Ibid, Dedication Book, p.19.
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- 31. "Denver Artist Feels 'Church Must Look Just Like a Church,'" <u>Denver Catholic</u> <u>Register</u>, 25 March 1948, p.4.

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- <u>Rocky Mountain News.</u> "St. Ignatius Church, One of City's Finest, to be Dedicated on Sunday," 11 October 1924.
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 through 30, Inc, Block 17, McCullough's Addition.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is the land historically associated with St. Ignatius Loyola Church.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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PHOTOLOG

The information below is the same for all photographs:

St. Ignatius Loyola Church
City and County of Denver, Colorado
George A. Malesich
August, 1994
2123 Gaylord Street, Denver, Colorado, 80205

- Photo 1: East elevation, camera facing west.
- Photo 2: North elevation, camera facing south.
- Photo 3: South elevation, camera facing north.
- Photo 4: West elevation, camera facing east.
- Photo 5: Main (east) entrance vestibule, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 6: Nave, choir loft, and doors to main (east) entrance, camera facing east.
- Photo 7: Pilaster with "angel face" art work (in nave), camera facing south.
- Photo 8: "Ivory" Station of the Cross and pilaster art work (in nave), camera facing northwest.
- Photo 9: Celotex ceiling in nave, camera facing southeast.
- Photo 10: Chancel area with main altar and two side altars, camera facing west.
- Photo 11: Main altar and decorative paintings in chancel area, camera facing southwest.