

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility, church school
church-related residenceRECREATION & CULTURE / sports facility-gym

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ religious facility, church
related residenceRECREATION & CULTURE / sports facilityVACANT/ NOT IN USE**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVAL/ITALIAN RENAISSANCEEARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN/ BUNGALOW/ CRAFTSMAN

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Limestone; concretewalls Brick , concrete block, concreteroof Asphaltother Stone, Concrete, Wood, Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION

RECREATION / ENTERTAINMENT

Period of Significance

1909 - 1949

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Erhart, Frederick

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

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Louisville Archdiocese Chancery Office & Archives
Louisville, KY

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 (two) acres

UTM References

A 16 605780 4232120
Zone Easting Northing

C 16 605880 4231960

Louisville West Quadrangle / 7.5 minute
Scale 1: 24,000

B 16 605920 4232030
Zone Easting Northing

D 16 605750 4232020

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel associated with St. George's Roman Catholic Church through 1947.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description:

St. George's Roman Catholic Church Complex: A Descriptive Chronology of Transformation

The St. George's Roman Catholic Church, Rectory, School, gymnasium and convent are located in a complex covering 2/3 of a city block, or approximately 2 acres, in the southwest-central inner city area of Louisville, Kentucky. This nomination is a Boundary Increase that augments the original listing of the church and rectory to include the school, gymnasium, convent and garage, all the remaining buildings located on the parrish property.

This area of southwest Louisville began to develop following the Civil War and was known as Marysville, a working class neighborhood, characterized by frame and brick single family residences reaching one and two-stories. The shotgun was one of the most typical house types of the area (Yater 1987:96-7). Along Standard Avenue, facing the church complex and completing the north side of the street west of St. George's property, are rows of single story, frame shotgun residences which have co-existed with the parrish complex since its establishment (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Looking west along Standard Avenue to the row of shotgun houses on the south side

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Section number 7 Page 2

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description: (continued)

Soon after the establishment of St. George's parish in 1897, a frame church, rectory, and school were built facing east to Eighteenth Street (Figure 2). A copy of the 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows the locations of St. George's buildings and the footprints of the shotgun dwellings that characterized the housing stock of the neighborhood (Figure 3).

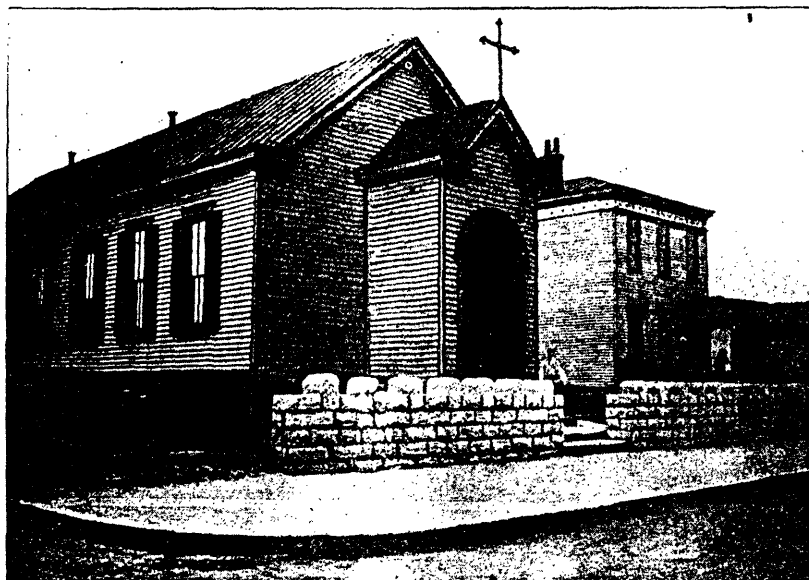


Figure 2. This historic photograph, looking northeast from the intersection of Eighteenth Street and Standard Avenue, shows the original church, rectory and in the distance, the school (St. George 1948).

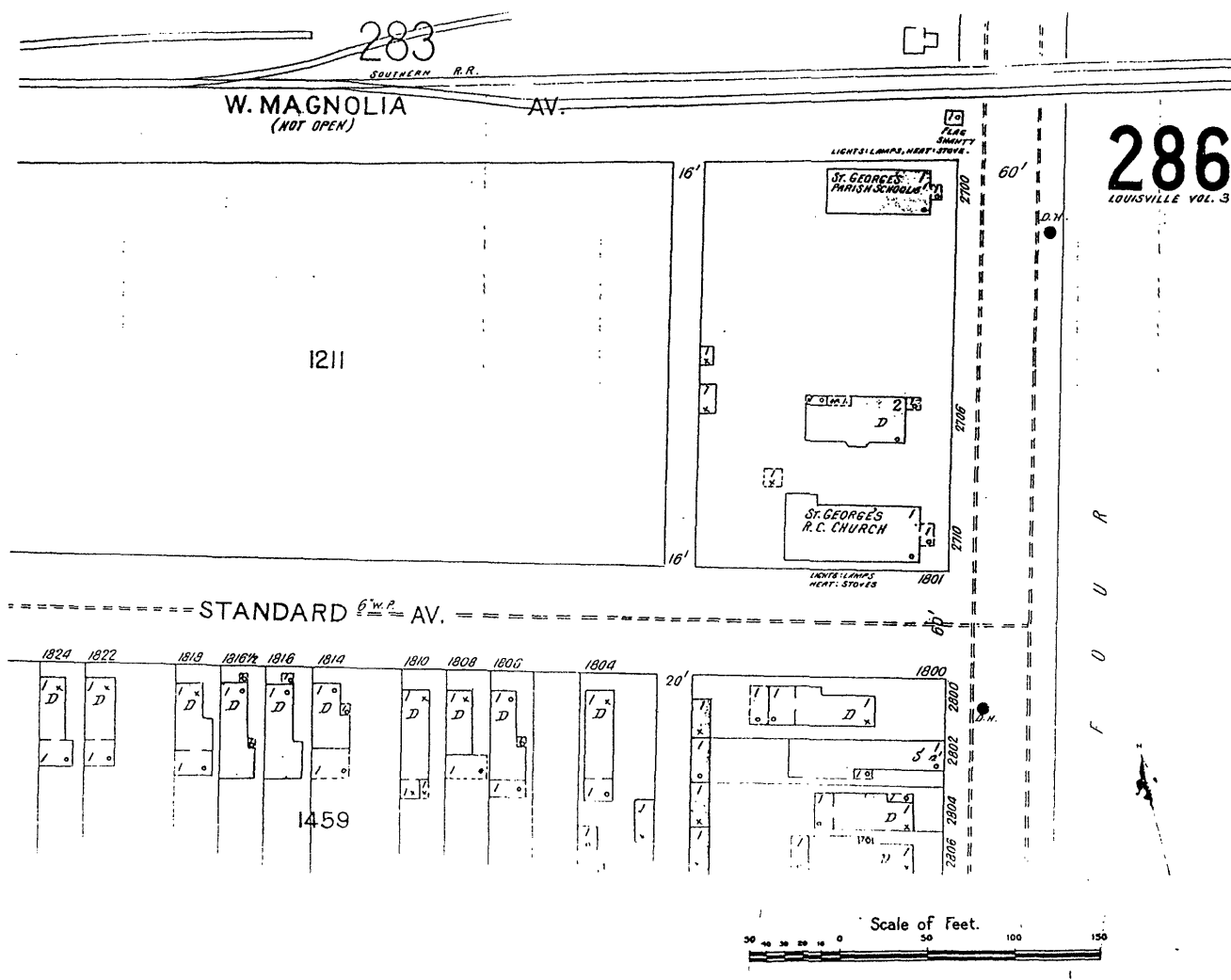
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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description: (continued)



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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description: (continued)

Since this initial building, St. George's has effected frequent and consistent rebuilding, enlargement and renovation to meet the growing needs of the congregation. Soon after the turn-of-the-century, the parish had outgrown the church and school accommodations and hired Louisville architect Frederick Erhart to design the Romanesque Revival church that stands today facing Standard Avenue. The church, dedicated in 1910, was originally placed in the northeast corner of the parcel, facing Eighteenth Street. With the occupation of the new church, the cramped school moved into the old church building. Despite these larger accommodations, until 1923 when the new school was completed, additions and "cottages" augmented classroom space.

The first Ursuline Sisters to teach at the school rode the streetcar daily to St. George's and lived with other Ursulines at St. Anthony's Convent. As the teaching staff grew, the need for a convent on the premises became a necessity and so, in 1915, the original rectory was moved from its location facing Eighteenth Street to address Standard Avenue. The clapboarded residence was placed on a new basement foundation, given a brick veneer, and fitted with central heating (Figure 4). A new and larger, two-story brick rectory was built in the location of the old. This is the building co-listed with the church on the National Register with architectural significance in 1980.



Figure 4. Looking northeast to the convent as it faced south to Standard Avenue. The foundation and brick veneer modifications were part of the 1915 move (St. George's 1948).

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description: (continued)

In 1923, the appearance of the St. George's campus again changed, with the construction of the large, three-story, brick elementary school. Located east of the convent addressing Standard Avenue, the school related surprisingly well in form and materials to the more elaborate church with a large rectangular mass, simple three-bay facade, and projecting metal cornice that echoed the elaborate cornice of the church. Although the school was built with eight classrooms, nurses and principal's offices, cafeteria and stage, within a decade the growing enrollment prompted the construction of a two-story rear addition containing a gymnasium and additional classrooms (St. George's 1973).

The most unusual occurrence in the history of St. George's building complex occurred in 1937, with the establishment of the Dixie Highway along Eighteenth Street. Necessary widening and the construction of an overpass for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad precipitated the moving of the church. In a monumental undertaking that transpired over a series of weeks, the church was raised, moved backward to the west, pivoted to face south and moved forward to its present location addressing Standard Avenue (Figure 5).

4

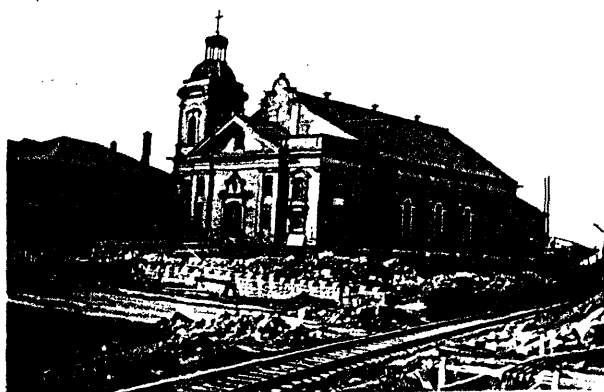


Figure 5. Copy of a photograph taken when St. George's Church was moved back from Dixie Highway to face Standard Avenue. This view looking southwest shows the original grade of the railroad and the relationship of the church to the road. (Louisville Archdiocese Chancery Archives, St. George's File).

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description: (continued)

Continued growth of the parrish population, especially in the years immediately preceding and following World War II prompted the construction of a classroom/gymnasium facility at the rear, northwest corner of the parcel. Initiated in 1947, and built in two stages, the first building phase included space for six classrooms on a single level (Figure 6). The following year, the second story gymnasium was added, giving the complex a sports and recreation facility that was unique among Louisville parishes.

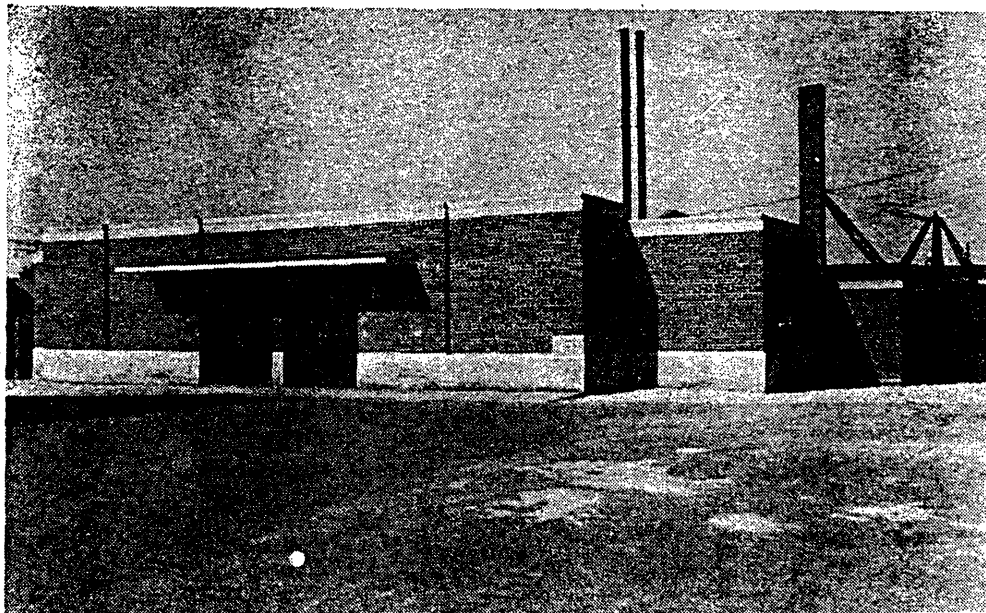


Figure 6. The appearance of the classroom/gymnasium building before the upper gym was added (St. George's 1973).

The final and most recent construction within the St. George's complex was the building of a new and larger convent for the Ursuline Sisters, completed in 1959. This two-story, brick veneer facility replaced the older convent and complimented the other buildings of the site in scale and materials.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)

1. St. George's Church (C):

St. George Church is a two-story structure with a buff brick facade (Figure 7). The facade is divided into three bays. The central bay is surmounted by a gable face which has a shield containing the monogram IHS. The gable is supported by paired pilasters at the end of the bay. The pilasters have Ionic capitals with garlands. Between the pilasters are two small windows of stained glass. The first floor window has a stone surround with an arched crown. The second story window has a classical stone surround with crosettes. The entry has a stone surround with paneled pilasters and Ionic capitals. The surround is capped by an arched crown. The double doors are recessed and are wood paneled with stained glass windows in the upper sections.

The side bays contain recessed entries with classical stone surrounds. The surrounds continue around the second story segmentally arched window. This is capped by a broken pediment. Pilasters articulate the ends of the bays. A tower rises from the left bay and contains a blind arch with a stone surround. A convex panel merges into a domed roof. A colonnaded cupola caps the tower.

The Church originally faced Dixie Highway. Because of the construction of a railroad viaduct, the church had to be moved back on the lot and turned to face Standard Avenue. Accounts of the move report that the church was picked up and placed on rollers and set on the new foundation. Mass was said in the church during the move.

(Marty Hedgepeth: 1980, National Register of Historic Places Nomination)

2. St. George's Rectory (C):

The rectory (1915) is attached to the church by a corridor at the rear of the church. The rectory is a two-story brick building with a central porch. The porch has paired columns and a pedimented roof sheltering a single door. Paired windows with stone lintels flank the porch. The second story has three windows. The hip roof is pierced by two dormers (Figure 8).

(Marty Hedgepeth: 1980, National Register of Historic Places Nomination)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)



Figure 7. South facade of St. George's Church, facing north.



Figure 8. East facade of St. George's Rectory on Eighteenth Street.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)

3. St. George's School (C):

Constructed in 1922, to the west of St. George's Roman Catholic Church on Standard Avenue, this three story school building has a common bond, brick masonry covering on the main and second stories and a formed concrete daylight basement (Figure 9). The flat, built up roof is surrounded by a raised parapet with a stone coping. Square stone blocks decorate the parapet frieze and a large, projecting, metal cornice extends around the front and sides of the main block beneath the parapet. Brick work detailing includes full-length, inset panels, found on corners and aligning the central entry bay; brick corbelling beneath the shaped metal cornice; soldier coursing at the base brick course; and large, blind, wall panels in side elevations outlined by brick coursing. The south (front) facade is divided into three main bays with a slightly projecting central entry bay, having concrete steps, solid railing and a lighted entry door beneath a grid of glass block which is topped with a stone lintel reading "ST. GEORGES SCHOOL." The door bay is flanked by large window bays which do not retain original sash, instead being infilled with stucco panels and horizontally divided, five light windows with hopper and awning movements. Historic photos show the original window treatment as four multi-light double hung sash windows joined in each bay. Historic photographs also show replacement windows on the building by the 1960s, possibly added in the 1950s (Figure 10). Basement fenestration includes a glass block grid on side bays with one operable awning pane and a recessed entry beneath the front stairway, all original.

A full-width, two-story, rear (north) addition, dated circa 1935, relates to the original building with red brick masonry construction in a common bond pattern on the main floor and a concrete block basement floor. Soldier course defined panels with stone corner blocks are located on the east and west walls of the addition while a band of 6/6 divided light sash windows extend across the rear. A one-story, concrete block shed finished with stucco, is attached to the northwest corner of the building at the rear. A similar, but smaller shed is attached to the east wall. At the intersection of the main block and the rear addition is a large smokestack featuring panels on four sides with a raised cross in each side and a corbelled top.

The interior of the school features a basement and two stories of classrooms. The basement houses a cafeteria with arched front entry, pressed tin ceiling and glass block windows;

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)

a raised stage area, (originally the auditorium), with a plaster proscenium arch decorated with acanthus leaves; and a large kitchen with pine cupboard. The rear portion of the basement, which was the original gymnasium, is at a lower grade than the front, original portion of the basement (cafeteria area).

The main floor, containing six classrooms, features maple strip flooring, acoustical tile ceiling and plaster walls. Each classroom has a coat area and a corner supply closet fronted by a slate chalkboard. Four classrooms and two smaller rooms which served as the principal's office and the nurse's station are located on the second floor.



Figure 9. Looking north at St. George's School as it presently faces Standard Avenue. The windows are replacements, possibly from the 1950s.

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)



Figure 10. Historic photograph of St. George's School, facing north and showing original window treatment (St. George's, 1973).

4. St. George's Gymnasium (C):

The gymnasium is located in the northwest, rear corner of the complex, a monolithic building constructed from 1947-1949. The building was constructed in two phases: the first being construction of the now lower level to contain classrooms in 1947. The second phase added the upper gymnasium and front entry block in 1949 (Figure 11). Oriented east-west, the building is two stories tall, having a flat, built up roof with stone coping and stone cross located above the main entry. The continuous foundation is poured concrete except at the front entry block which is cut stone. The building has slight Art Moderne features including block glass windows and linear details (such as inset panels). The brick masonry is seven course common bond. The front block features a central entry beneath a grid of glass block, with two sets of paired, metal and glass doors topped with a flat, concrete roof. A cornerstone displays the construction date of the building and a cross. Typical side wall windows of the gym are glass block grids, fronted with metal screens and having one operable awning pane and stone sills. Square, brick pilasters line the side walls while the west (rear) wall has one brick smokestack extending above the roofline.

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Continuation Sheet

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)



Figure 11. East facade of St. George's gymnasium, looking west.

The interior of the building has good integrity with the entry featuring a poured terrazzo floor and steps leading to the gymnasium and basement levels. The basement is a large, open space. Poured terrazzo floor classroom divisions have been removed. The gymnasium extends the length of the building with original, maple, hardwood floor; wood bleachers that fold flat against the north and south walls; and a platform stage on the rear, west wall.

5. St. George's Convent (NC):

The convent is located in the southwest corner of the complex, a two-story building with a full-length basement, constructed in 1959. The building has a brick veneer, brick quoins and a gable end roof with asphalt shingles. Typical windows are 6/6 doublehung with non-original shutters and stone sills. The foundation is poured concrete. The east, gable end wall features two entries with wood and glass doors, fronted with one-bay, poured concrete porches with iron

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)

railing. A historic photograph shows the original entry facing south, addressing Standard Avenue (Figure 12). This entry was enclosed with brick and an added windows in the early 1970s (Figure 13). An early 1970s, concrete addition on the north wall creates a central entry, facing the interior of the complex. The addition has a mansard roof with standing seam metal, a poured concrete foundation and is fronted by a concrete driveway ramp with iron rails. One brick chimney is found west of the addition while a one-story, brick utility shed is found east of the addition. The interior of the building is divided into three floors, each with a central hall flanked by rooms, originally living quarters. Most of these rooms originally had a built-in closet with drawer space and a sink basin. The interior of the addition is a large, open room, used as a recreational space.

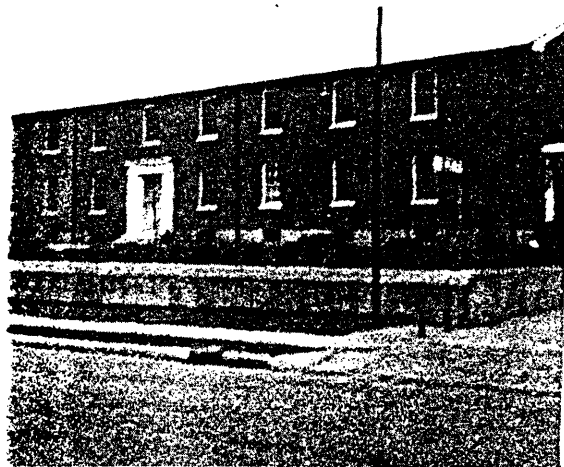


Figure 12. Historic photograph showing the convent's original south facade entry (St. George's, 1973).

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Description (continued)



Figure 13. Photograph showing the convent's present south elevation.

6. Storage Shed/Garage (NC):

Along the northern edge of the complex, north of the rectory in the northeast corner of the property, is a modern, one-bay, concrete-block storage shed/garage. The west (front) facade has a brick covering and one metal, overhead, garage door. The gable roof has asphalt shingles.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 15

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance

This nomination is a boundary increase of St. George's Roman Catholic Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 (Hedgepeth 1982). It expands both the area of eligibility and the number of resources included with the property. The original National Register form nominated the St. George's Church and Rectory under Criterion C, with the church being... "a rare example of the neo-Baroque style in Louisville. The Church is the earliest and smallest of three churches with Baroque features designed by local, ecclesiastical architect Frederick Erhart" (ibid).

This nomination provides a more comprehensive way of looking at the St. George's Roman Catholic Church complex and expands the property boundary beyond the previously listed Church and Rectory, to add the School, gymnasium, convent and garage. The nominated boundary increase includes all of the property associated with St. George's and owned by the Archdiocese of Louisville since the construction of the gymnasium in 1947. This nomination views the St. George's Church complex as eligible to the National Register under Criterion A, as a good example of a local institution, responsive to the educational and social needs of the members of this urban Louisville parish for a period of fifty years from 1897 through 1947.

The development of Catholicism in Louisville is well documented. By late 1784, Kentucky's first Catholic church was established at Holy Cross in present Marion County, south of Louisville (Crews 1987:37). By 1805, pioneer priest, Rev. Charles Nerinckx noted that..."St. Louis Parish in the city of Louisville on the Ohio, where there is much trade and wickedness, has 20 families." (Maes 1880, in Crews). Before the Civil War, several "ethnic" parishes were well established in the city, in response to a rapidly growing, ethnic, working class population. German congregations included St. Boniface, established 1838 on East Liberty; Immaculate Conception, 1845 on Eighth Street; St. Martin, 1853 on Shelby Street; and St. Peters in 1855 on Southgate Street. An Irish parish was established with St. Patrick's in 1854 on Market Street, and for the French-speaking population, Our Lady's was founded in Portland in 1839 (ibid 117,118). All of these parishes are located in what is now the central urban area of Louisville.

After the Civil War, town expanded primarily west and south as the working class population sought modest, single family residences on small lots, convenient to areas of work. By 1870, an impressive street car network supported this new, urban way of living. The shotgun house which "proliferated in Louisville in the years after the Civil War, coincided with expanding industrialism and the rise of the blue collar worker" (Yater 1987,96-7). The shotgun, in its many

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Section number 8 Page 16

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance, continued

forms, is perhaps the most characteristic late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century working class house type in Louisville.

As the city expanded, it gained a diverse character of distinctive neighborhoods, identified by ethnic associations or geographic limits (Yater 1987, 105). Louisville's late nineteenth century expansion westward included Parkland (1871), south of Broadway and west of the city, a 342 acre development of 1,074 lots. By the 1890s, the city had assumed the Parkland area west to 32nd street into its limits (ibid, 106-8, 143).

In response to this steady growth, many established parishes expanded their social organizations and educational responsibilities near the turn-of-the-century. Yet, perhaps more a reflection of both the city's growth and church's commitment to the social and educational needs of it's congregations, is the fact that between 1890 and 1908, fourteen parishes with schools were organized in Louisville - almost one per year (Crews 1987, 397-9). St. George's parish was among this number.

In 1897, to serve the needs of Catholic families in the part of town known as "Marydale" the Diocese established St. George's Church and school, with Father George Weiss as pastor. The following year, a 25' by 75' frame church and a rectory were erected facing Eighteenth Street between Magnolia and Standard Avenue. In 1899, a one room school, 20' by 30' was opened with two Ursuline Sisters from the Convent on Shelby and Chestnut Street teaching 45 pupils (St. George's 1973).

By the first years of the new century, the active parish which included over 800 families, had outgrown the facilities on Eighteenth Street. To meet this need, the present brick masonry sanctuary designed by Louisville architect, Frederick Erhart was completed in 1909. Still, the existing school facilities and housing for the Ursuline sisters remained inadequate. The Ursuline Sisters that taught at St. George's lived with the Sisters of St. Anthony's convent and rode the streetcar daily to school.

St. George's determined to meet two parish needs with the next building effort in 1915-16. To provide a home on the church grounds for the sisters and upgrade the accommodations for the priests and visiting missionaries, it was decided to move the original, frame, two-story rectory from Eighteenth Street to Standard Avenue and renovate it for a convent, and build a

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 17

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance, continued

new, larger rectory facing Eighteenth. In this comprehensive effort, the old rectory was moved, given a brick veneer, placed on a new concrete foundation, and fitted with central heating for the Sisters. A stylish brick, two-story rectory was built next to the buff-colored brick church facing Eighteenth Street. (Both the church and the second rectory were listed on the National Register in 1982). Now, not only did St. George's display a more impressive assembly of buildings, the Sisters no longer had to travel on the streetcar each day.

The increasing complexity of the twentieth century required the parishes play a more active and effective role in the community's growth and identity. During this era, outreach programs of the small, institutional church began to reach beyond the ordinary methods of preaching, visitation and prayer meetings. Services and organized activities and the facilities required to accommodate them eventually grew to include gymnasiums and schools with multi-purpose meeting rooms for athletic programs, lectures, concerts, dramatic entertainment, group study, day nurseries, cooking and sewing classes, lectures and outreach education. With this expanded concept of social compassion and community service, the newly emerging Catholic church became not only a space to worship but a place to nurture the collective memory of the community. St. George's was at the forefront of this new concept of the built parish complex which became the model for today's church facilities (Wright 1995).

Almost immediately after the completion of the rectory and convent construction, St. George's recognized that, even after several additions to the school, the facility needs for education and social outreach within the parish were inadequate. So, prior to World War I, plans for a new, modern elementary school (K-8) were begun. Additional land was purchased behind (west) of the church and a fund raising campaign began. As with the building of the church, the rectory and the convent, the financial burden of building the school fell to the congregation. So, as in the past, picnics, lawn fetes, house collections, monthly collections, and various forms of entertainment were held to raise building funds. These events and gatherings not only generated funds, but provided the social interaction and chance for neighborhood fellowship that so strongly bound the parish. With the onset of World War I, building was forbidden, but in fall of 1922 and spring of 1923, contracts were let to build the three-story school (daylight basement and two upper classroom levels) at a cost of \$78,000.00. When completed, the school compared favorably to any in the city. Each spacious room featured a bank of sash windows, a blackboard partition concealing a coat area and a storage closet. An office for the Ursuline sister who served a dual role and the eighth grade teacher/principal and a nurse's office were

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 18

**St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky****Significance, continued**

contained on the top floor. The downstairs cafeteria contained a raised stage with acanthus leaves outlining the proscenium arch. With the completion of the school, St. George's complex stood as a landmark of the west Louisville neighborhood, admired throughout the Catholic community. It would not be until the 1940s however, that the construction of another building would set St. George's apart from other parishes in town.

In the years between World War I and II, St. George's continued to respond to the needs of the parish. In 1934, a \$16,616.00 rear addition enlarged the school with two classrooms and a basement gymnasium. Although most Louisvillians remember 1937 as the year of the great Ohio River flood, St. George's parishioners recall 1937 as the year the church was moved. In that year, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad planned to vacate its crossing of Eighteenth Street (by then Dixie Highway) in favor of an overpass. Grading and right-of-way for the new structure would impact the 1909 church. Offered less than it would cost to rebuild, the congregation decided to move the church instead. The L.P. Friestedt Co. of Chicago raised the church on pylons, and by lateral and pivotal mule-powered movements, relocated the church from Eighteenth Street to its address on Standard Avenue. Begun in October of 1937, the church was not lowered on to its new foundation until early 1938, yet services were held in the sanctuary during the moving period.

The final historic phase of construction at St. George's began just prior to World War II. Yet, as the first World War halted construction of the school, the second war postponed construction of still more classrooms and a gymnasium facility until 1947. As more families were moving into the parish, a single story, rectangular brick building designed with movable partitions creating six classrooms was built. Two years later, the Moderne-influenced facility was completed with the construction of a large gymnasium with glazed block interior walls, terrazzo basement and hall floors, a maple strip gymnasium floor, showers, ticket booth, and raised stage area. The gym quickly became the talk of the Louisville Catholic community and hosted many Catholic city tournaments. With access to a full time gymnasium facility, St. George began winning many Catholic City tournaments, creating a tradition of school pride and bolstering camaraderie in the community. According to the Most Reverend Charles Maloney, few gymnasiums were built adjacent to parish schools prior to Vatican Two in the 1960s. Following that date, he observed a "gymnasium epidemic", but prior to then, very few parishes could boast an athletic facility like that at St. George's (Maloney 1995).

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Section number 8 Page 19

**St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky**

Significance, continued

The final construction event at St. George's was the building of a new convent in 1959. The two-story brick facility, replacing the old convent, upgraded the accommodations for the Ursuline Sisters teaching at the school. Not long after this effort however, profound societal changes in Louisville, its west side neighborhoods and the community of St. George's, would effect not only the convent but the parish itself.

During the 1957-58 school year, St. George's School had a student enrollment of 532 pupils taught by thirteen Sisters and two lay teachers. The Ursuline Sisters, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Ursuline Community in Louisville, anticipated the building of their new convent at St. George's. Yet, five years later, the Ursulines regretfully wrote to the Louisville Bishop that there was a "teacher crisis" and "no additional teachers will be available; also, that, during the coming year we shall be unable to supply the schools with substitute teachers in the event of a Sister's illness" (Mother Agnes Marie 1963). Throughout the Sisterhood, fewer and fewer young women were choosing the religious vocation.

The decline of Louisville's inner city population in the 1960s has been documented in newspapers and recent local histories. Following the war, large corporate industry became the primary economic influence, replacing the old small, local manufactures located within the urban sector. Suburbia expanded south and east as new roads opened Jefferson County to the development of new schools, churches, shopping and communities. As a result, "white flight" from the west end to the suburbs accelerated during the decade (Yater 1987, 230). Unrest within the Black community resulted in riots in Parkland in 1968. The discord and threat of violence accelerated the exodus of whites from old west end neighborhoods (Pillow 1989, 87). In positive reaction to these fundamental changes in its parish, St. George's held "Informative Open Houses" for the community. One, held in 1963 counted 600 neighborhood visitors in attendance, with at least one half being Blacks who were not members of the parish. The assistant pastor of St. George's explained that over a five year period, the school enrollment declined over 100, due to a loss of white families. And, although over 50 black families lived within the parish boundaries, only two were members of the congregation (Courier Journal 10-7-63).

Despite the efforts made by the church, the parish population continued to decline in numbers. The convent was closed in 1968 due to expense of operation, and the few sisters teaching at the school lived at a convent nearby, driving to work like the majority lay teachers at the school. In 1969, the convent was rented to a health maintenance organization as a local

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Significance, continued

neighborhood clinic. The school closed in the early 1980s with the parish paying tuition of the 11 children of the parish (in 1987) at St. Mathias or Holy Angels Academy. On November 8, 1995, Thomas C. Kelley, Archbishop of Louisville decreed the suppression and cojoining of the St. George's and St. Ann's parishes, with the new parish to be based at St. George's (Archdiocese Chancery Archives).

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Jefferson County, Kentucky

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PHOTOGRAPHS (continued)

St. George's Rectory, south and west, facing northeast

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St. George's School, detail on south facade, facing north

6 of 13

St. George's School, north and west elevations, facing southeast

7 of 13

St. George's School, north and east elevations, facing southwest

8 of 13

St. George's Gymnasium, south elevation, facing northwest

9 of 13

St. George's Gymnasium, west elevation, facing east

10 of 13

St. George's Gymnasium, north elevation, facing southwest

11 of 13

St. George's Convent, north facade, facing southwest

12 of 13

Storage shed/garage, facing northeast

13 of 13

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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, KY

PHOTOGRAPHS

St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase), Jefferson Co., KY

Photographs by: Christine A. Amos
Burry & Amos, Inc.
926 Main Street
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Date: November, 1995

St. George's Church and Rectory, facing west

1 of 13

St. George's Church, School and convent, facing northwest

2 of 13

North (rear) view of St. George's complex, facing southeast

3 of 13

North (rear) view of St. George's complex, facing southwest

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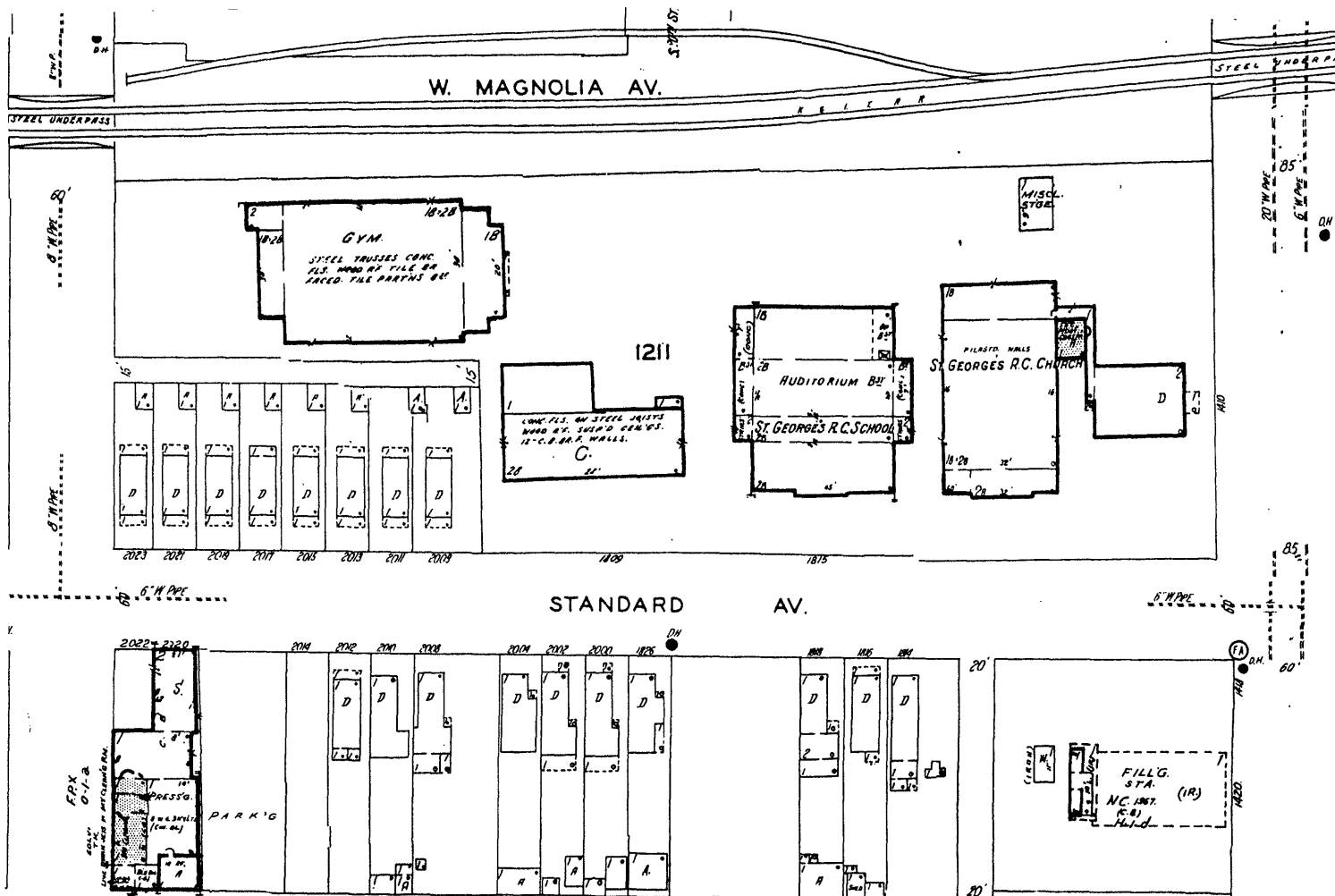
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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description



St. George's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Louisville, KY. 1986 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the National Register boundaries.

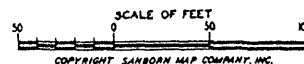
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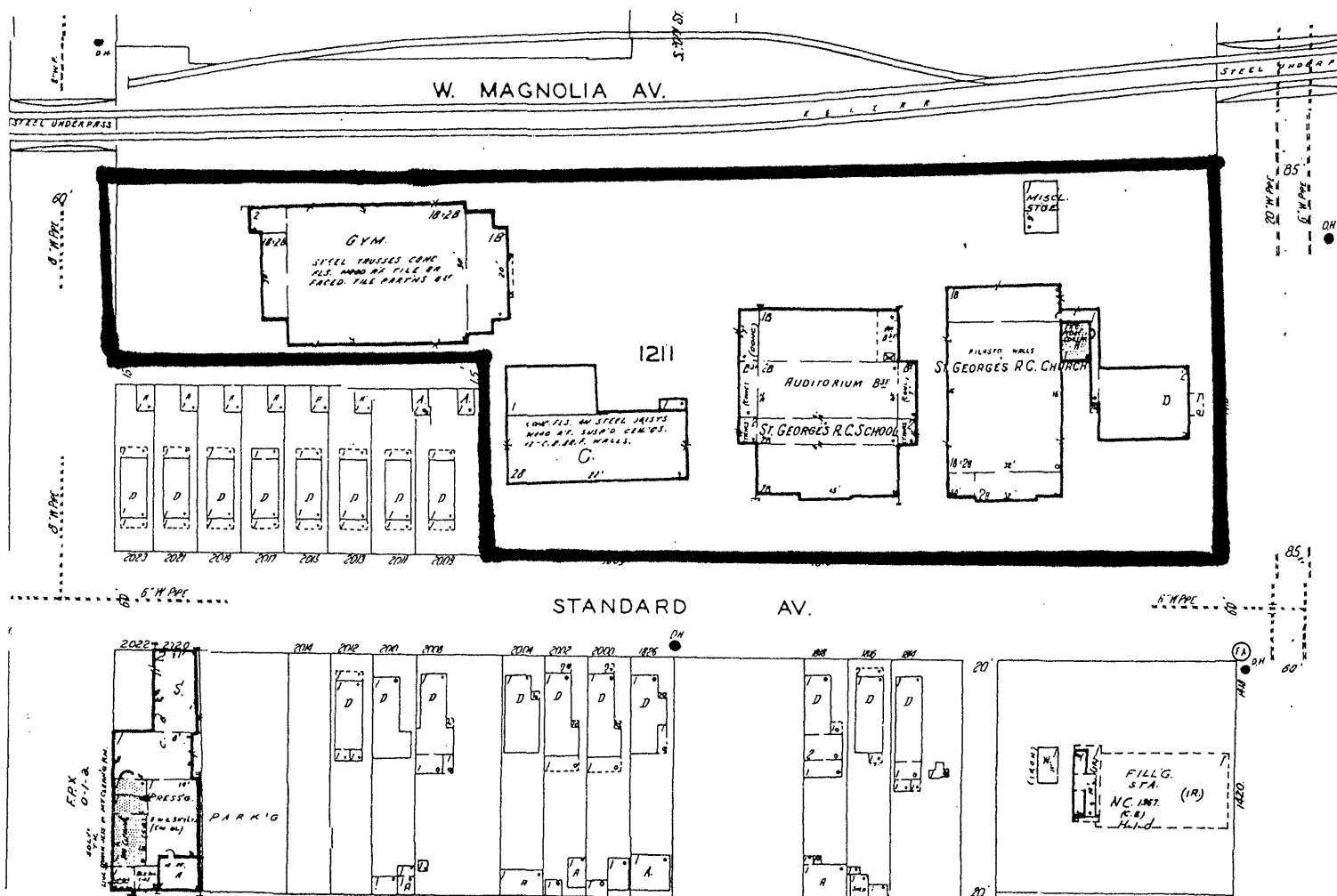
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St. George's Roman Catholic Church and School (Boundary Increase)
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description



— District Boundary

St. George's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Louisville, KY. 1986 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the National Register boundaries.