United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 2 6 1987

date entered   2 6 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic   St. Frances of Rome School

and/or common   The Ursuline-Pitt School

2. Location

street & number   2105-2117 Payne Street   _na_ not for publication

city, town   Louisville   _na_vicinity of

state   Kentucky   code   021   county   Jefferson   code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_XX_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_XX_ building(s)	_XX_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	_XX_ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	_na_ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	_na_ being considered	_XX_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Archdiocese of Louisville

street & number   212 East College Street

city, town   Louisville   _na_ vicinity of   state   Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number   6th and Jefferson Street

city, town   Louisville   state   Kentucky 40202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   KY Historic Resources Inventory (JFEG-708)   has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _xx_ no

date   December 1984   ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town   Frankfort   state   Kentucky

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Frances of Rome School is one of Louisville's finest examples of Italian Renaissance style architecture. Designed by architect Thomas J. Nolan, Sr. and completed in 1930, this educational facility is one of the city's most impressive ecclesiastical buildings.

The school is located just south of the Clifton Historic District (National Register: August 1983). The Crescent Hill and Butchertown Historic Districts (National Register: November 1982 and August, 1976) lie to the east and west.

The Clifton neighborhood, named for its steep bluffs and hilly terrain, is the location of the St. Frances of Rome School. The greatest period of development occurred in this middle and working class neighborhood between 1885 and 1910. Clifton's major commercial development branches from Frankfort Avenue, a primary throughfare (Refer to USGS Map: Jeffersonville Quadrangle). St. Frances of Rome School is located on Payne Street, a secondary east-west transportation artery that is located one block south of Frankfort Avenue (Refer to site map). Frame construction predominates in this largely residential neighborhood although some brick structures can be found in the area as well. Most of the homes in Clifton are reasonably well cared for and retain much of their architectural integrity (Photo #2).

The St. Frances of Rome School is a three-story "H" shaped building that stands approximately 12' from the street (refer to site map and Photo #1). The school's massing is block-like with a slight horizontal emphasis. Multi-light windows are regularly spaced on the structure's symmetrical facade. A projecting facade plane capped by a gabled, Spanish tile roof accentuates the building's central bay. The surface material on all sides is a matte-finished yellow brick except in the rear where a simple red brick is found. A broad, hipped roof of Spanish ceramic tile tops the building.

The main facade of the St. Frances of Rome School features a projecting central bay (Photo #3). A Palladian-inspired entry adorns this portion and is elaborately detailed (Photo #4). Paired Corinthian columns,(Photos 5, 6, 7) each with distinct bas relief patterns decorating their shafts, support small, denticulated and medallioned entablatures that spring into a single, finely carved arch. The arched entry frames a recessed pair of wooden paneled doors that are flanked by multi-paned sidelights and topped by a multi-paned transom. A small, stone Madonna and child, set within a carved niche and framed by a tympanum patterned entirely in polychromatic tile mosaic, completes the building's entry treatment (Photo #8).

The window arrangement on the first floor level of the projecting central facade bay, features simple nine-paned windows with stone sills and iron security grills (Photo #3). The second floor windows have an eight-over-eight light configuration. The third floor windows are the most ornate: they are in a group of three above the building's arched entry and are singular on either side (Photo #9). Each window on this level is fully arched, lined with beading, and is finished with carved bosses. The windows on the flanking bays have plain,

8. Significance

Specific dates 1930   **Builder/Architect** Nolan, Thomas J. Sr., Architect
Warren and Ronald, Consulting Engineers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Frances of Rome School is one of the city's most noteworthy examples of Italian Renaissance style architecture. Adding to its significance is its association with architect Thomas J. Nolan, Sr., an important designer of ecclesiastical buildings in Louisville.

This educational facility has been a landmark to the Clifton neighborhood since its construction in 1930 (Photos 1 and 2). The surrounding area, however, had been experiencing growth and development since the latter half of the 1800s. Clifton's expansion was directly influenced by the Louisville, Cincinnati, and Lexington Railroad line and by Frankfort Avenue, a major artery to the state's capital. By 1890 much of the area had been subdivided and more and more families were taking up residence in this eastern suburb. With the increase of the area's population, churches of all denominations were built. By 1887 the St. Frances of Rome parish was well established and had completed construction of its first church.

The St. Frances of Rome parish continued to grow and by 1918 a new school building was needed. Funds were raised and in 1929 the architect Thomas J. Nolan, Sr. was selected to design the new school building. Nolan, in turn, hired the firm of Warren and Ronald as consulting engineers. Nolan chose to build the school in the Italian Renaissance style with details borrowed directly from Italian originals (Photo #3). Nolan's choice of the Italian Renaissance style is unusual for the Louisville area. The Walnut Street Theater (National Register: September, 1978) is the only other large scale public building in the city designed in this style that has been recognized for its architectural excellence.

Thomas J. Nolan is most noted for his ecclesiastical buildings. His designs include Holy Cross Catholic Church School and Rectory (National Register: September, 1983) built in 1927 and Christ the King Church and School (National Register: September, 1983) built in 1928. Both were constructed in the Gothic Revival style. In addition, Nolan designed a number of courthouses, schools, and churches around the state.

Nolan's experience, prior to the St. Frances of Rome School commission, was quite extensive. He was first employed as an architect by the prestigious local firm of Dodd and Cobb. Later, he worked for the celebrated architect, D. X. Murphy. Thus, Nolan had a solid footing by the time he branched off to open his own firm in 1911. The firm bearing his name continues to operate to the present day under the direction of his surviving son.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _1.25 acres_
Quadrangle name _Jeffersonville_   Quadrangle scale _1:24000_
UTM References

A |1|6| |6|1|3|1|6|0| |4|2|3|0|3|0|0| B |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|
   Zone   Easting   Northing   Zone   Easting   Northing

C |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| D |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

E |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| F |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

G |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__| H |__| |__|__|__|__|__| |__|__|__|__|__|

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state na   code   county   code

state na   code   county   code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Weeter, Research Coordinator

organization Louisville Landmarks Commission   date   12/86

street & number 609 W. Jefferson   telephone (502) 587-3501

city or town Louisville   state   Kentucky 40202

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national   ____ state   _X_ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David C. Morgan

title   State Historic Preservation Officer   date February 13, 1987

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

St. Frances of Rome School, Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY
Continuation sheet   Item number 7   Page 2

rectangular multi-paned windows with stone sills (Photo #3).Surface
design found on the building's main facade includes an unraveled stone
scroll, a centered medallion with radiating feathers and a coquillage
motif.

The side entrances to St. Frances of Rome School are located on the
secondary east and west facades. Framed by bell-shaped arches, the
two entrances closest to Payne Street are composed of paired, multi-
light, glazed doors topped by a vertical light transom window (Photos
10 and 17). Another single entrance is situated close to the alley on
the east facade (Photo #14). It has paired, multi-paneled doors framed
by a segmental arch that is topped by a bas relief medallion. The
window configurations on these secondary facades include simple
square-headed and arched windows (Photos 10 through 17).

The interior spaces of St. Frances of Rome School are dominated by long
central hallways intersected by secondary hallways with classrooms
branching from each.   The 1930s wood detail found throughout the
interior is typical of the period but is undistinguished
architecturally. The auditorium is the largest single space in the
school and exhibits the most elaborate detail. The room's principal
feature is a cantilevered, single-tiered balcony that faces a broad
stage (Photo #18). Plaster roping, egg and dart, and foliature adorn
the balcony's fascia (Photos 19 and 20).   The walls of the auditorium
are articulated by regularly spaced panel moldings enhanced by
cartouche motifs (Photos 18 and 21).

The St. Frances of Rome School is located on a site shared by two other
buildings. The first building to be built on the site is a Carpenter
Gothic style church that was constructed by the St. Frances of Rome
parish in 1887. Besides a minor rear addition, the church's massing
and setback have remained the same. However, it was damaged by fire in
1912 and again in 1942: both times the interior sustained damage and
significant details were destroyed. In addition, after the 1912 fire,
the exterior frame was stuccoed and in 1937 most of the simple
rectangular windows were exchanged for lancet-shaped art glass windows
salvaged from the razed St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. The other
building that occupies the site is the 1920s church rectory which faces
Payne Street and has no significant interior or exterior details. It
is sheathed in aluminum siding. For the purpose of this nomination,
these buildings are considered non-contributing because they have lost
much of their architectural integrity (Refer to site map).

The nominated area includes one contributing and two non-contributing
buildings.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

St. Frances of Rome School, Louisville, Jefferson Co., KY

Continuation sheet   Item number 8   Page 2

The Ursuline Sisters presently lease the St. Frances of Rome School for use as a facility to teach children with learning disabilities. The Ursuline-Pitt School, as St. Frances of Rome School is now referred to, continues to use and enjoy this fine 1930s school building for its originally intended purpose. Through the years, the school has remained untouched by additions or alterations that might damage its architectural integrity.

Thomas J. Nolan Jr's design of St. Frances of Rome is noteworthy as one of the few large scale buildings in the area designed in the Italian Renaissance style. Since 1930 it has served as an historical point of reference for the surrounding Clifton neighborhood and represents an outstanding example of ecclesiastical architecture.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____. Caron's Directory of the City of Louisville. Louisville: Caron Directory Company, 1900-1935.

_____. Louisville Survey East Report. Louisville: City of Louisville Community Development Cabinet, 1979.

_____. St. Frances of Rome Parish: Story of Seventy-five Years (1887-1962). Louisville: circa 1962.
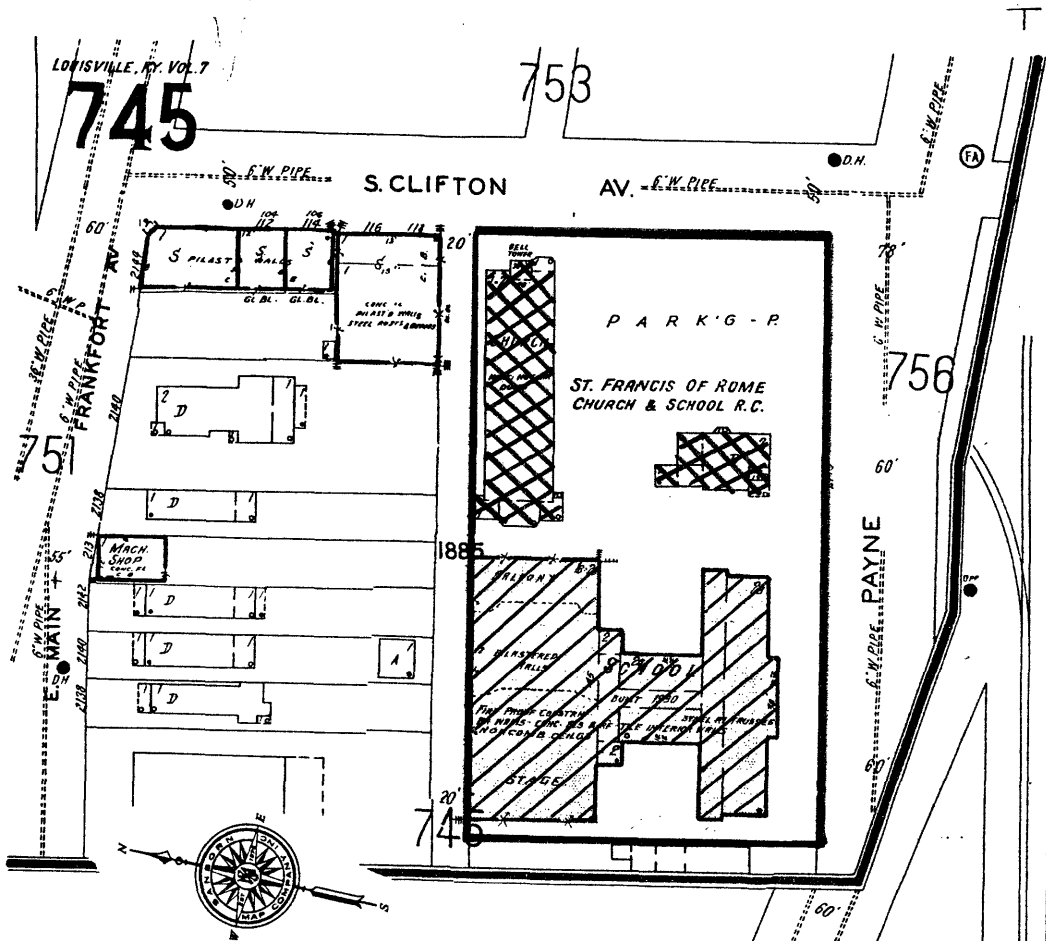
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

The legal boundary chosen for this nomination is based on the lot that has been historically associated with St. Frances of Rome School. Three structures occupy Block 70F, Lot 34 but only the school, located on the western portion of the lot, is being submitted for nomination. The lot measures 312± x 180".

ST. FRANCES OF ROME SCHOOL
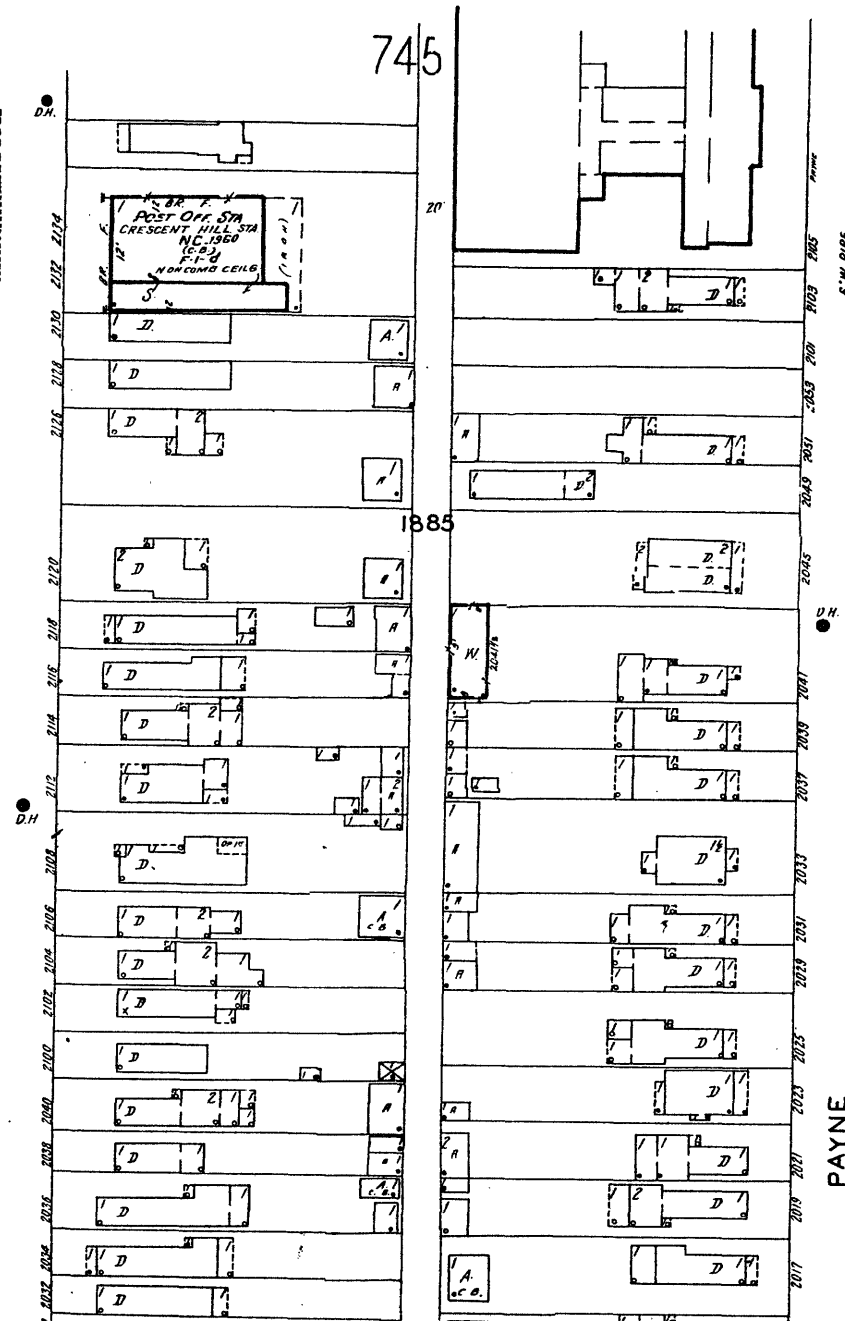2105-2117 Payne Street
Louisville, KY 40206

Site Map showing building configurations and boundary of properties being nominated
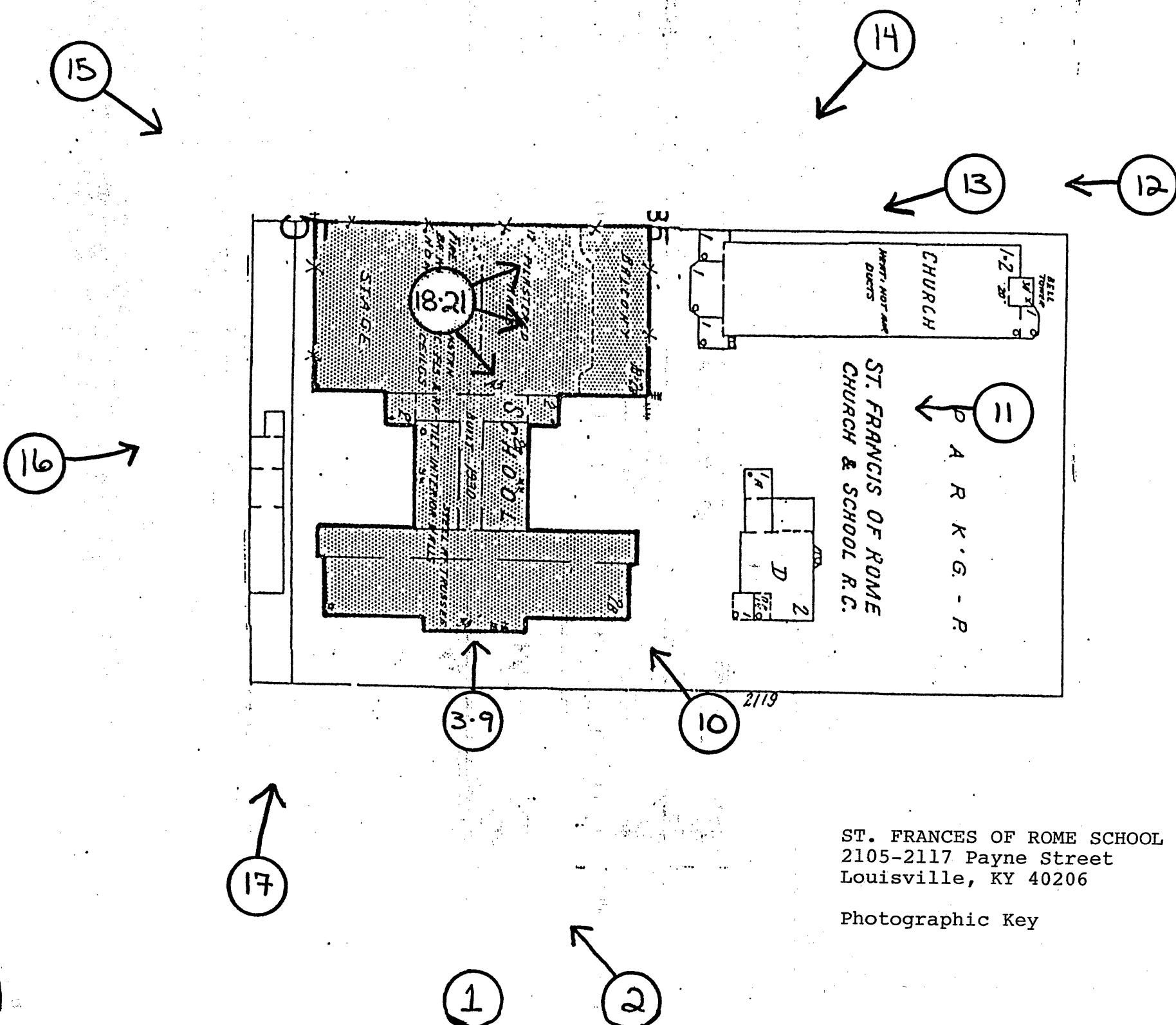
=Building being nominated

=Non-contributing buildings that fall within boundary being nominated

ST. FRANCES OF ROME SCHOOL
2105-2117 Payne Street
Louisville, KY 40206

Photographic Key