B-4381
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Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries · complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Alphonsus' Church, Rectory, Convent and Halle

AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Alphonsus' Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 West Saratoga Street (Church) (No. 114 Rectory) (No. 112 Convent), (No. 125-127 Halle)

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third as of January 1973

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

COUNTY: Baltimore City — CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☒ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: St. Alphonsus' Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: 114 West Saratoga Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Baltimore City Landmark List

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 402, Baltimore City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

STATE: Baltimore
COUNTY: Baltimore City
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)		
	☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed		
	(Check One)	(Check One)	
	☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved ☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Alphonsus' Church is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Park and Saratoga Streets in Baltimore.

St. Alphonsus' Church is a Gothic-Revival building that combines German and English Perpendicular Gothic details. St. Alphonsus' is basically a large rectangular space with aisles and nave of the same height. The uniform height of the ceiling has a feeling similar to that of the box-like collegiate chapels in England, e.g. Kings College Chapel, Cambridge. At the same time the open interior space resembles a "hall-church" familiar to the Redemptorists, who commissioned the Church in the Gothic architecture of their native Germany. The star-shaped vaults, although made of plaster, and the Perpendicular-style windows and tracery came from English sources. The effect produced by the duration is reminiscent of the interiors in the British House of Parliament by Charles Barry and Augustus Puzin. The walls and ceilings are stenciled with a strong gold accent. The clustered iron columns are **marbleized.**

German Catholic examples provided the precedent for the apse containing the altar flanked on each side by an apsidal space containing a side altar. On the exterior, the central tower located over the center door on the south facade has an appearance similar to towers found in many German towns.

The floor plan--notably the vestibule which runs the entire length of the southern end of the church -- is a characteristic of the architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr. The crenelation, the stripped buttresses, the seven bay, east and west, facades, and the box-like shape -- these elements of St. Alphonsus' appear in Long's Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, a National Register of Historic Places property. Unlike the Franklin Street church, Long intended St. Alphonsus' Church to be painted a warm buff color. In 1968, in a burst of "Colonial" enthusiasm, the church had the paint blasted off. Long did not object to bare brick walls, rather he felt that the quality of brick available to him at the time was not adequate to remain bare.

In the nineteenth century the Redemptorists showed an appreciation for the architecture of Long's church and used similar designs for other church buildings on the same block. The three satellite buildings -- the Rectory, the Convent and the Halle--blend architecturally with St. Alphonsus' Church making a unified urban composition.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1842 (Church) 1873 (Halle)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [x] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [x] Other *(Specify)* Urban history

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Alphonsus' Church is an outstanding example of American Early Gothic Revival. Constructed between 1842 and 1844 it is one of the first Gothic buildings based on a careful study of medieval models which is most frequently characterized in the Anglo-American ecclesiological movement. Phoebe B. Stanton, in The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture An Episode in Taste, (Baltimore: 1968, 225-238) has given the best assessment of the architectural significance.

Mrs. Stanton's book places the Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr., in the same rank with Frank Wills, John Notman and John W. Priest. St. Alphonsus' was Long's first major commission. In it's design especially the interior, he benefited from his exposure to English Gothic Revival architects, notably A. W. Pugin. Long had travelled in Europe and had studied with Martin Euclid Thompson in New York and with his father in Baltimore. Though his brief career was terminated by his early death in 1849, Long made an important contribution to American Architectural Theory, notably in a series of articles for The Literary World (1848-1849) and for The United States Catholic Magazine (1843).

St. Alphonsus' Church, the institution, has played an important role in the history of Baltimore. The Redemptionist Fathers, a German order of Roman Catholic priests, raised the money to hire Long and erect the church. The Redemptionists had come to Baltimore to minister to the rising number of German immigrants. They erected a school at the same time as the church and provided education before the public school system had reached all children. The school burned and was replaced by St. Alphonsus' Halle (1873) which is still in use. In 1858 the Redemptionists began the St. Alphonsus' Orphan Asylum for German orphans. Two years later the Alphonsus Hall Building Association, which loaned mortgage money, became an incorporated lending institution in Baltimore City.

The Redemptionists have severed their ties with Baltimore City.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Laws of Maryland 1841. Chapter 26.

_____. 1860. Chapter 151.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day:....

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(see continuation sheet)

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	17'	36.5"	76°	37'	07"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	39°	17'	36.5"	76°	37'	03.5"							
SE	39°	17'	33"	76°	37'	03"							
SW	39°	17'	32.5"	76°	37'	06"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Six

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy Miller, Historian; Michael Bourne and William Morgan

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: Dec. 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date December 13, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GPO 931-894

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Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. Alphonsus' Church

#6 - Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks
1972 State
Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis Maryland 24

#7 - Description - Continued

St. Alphonsus' Halle, at 125-127 Saratoga Street, is a four-and-a-half-story brick structure with a central pavilion topped by a gable. A lancet shaped brick arch frames the central door. The second and third-story windows on the pavilion are lancet shaped. The dormers of the Halle are English Gothic.

The Convent at 112 W. Saratoga Street is three stories high, set on a high basement. The structure has both common and Flemish bond on its principal (south) facade. There is a molded brick cornice. The windows have flat or jack arches and marble sills.

The Rectory at 114 W. Saratoga Street, between the Convent on the east and the Church on the west is a symmetrical, five-bay, four-story structure. Built of brick, there is a belt course between the third and fourth stories.

#8 - Significance - Continued

However, the independent congregation that owns the church is an active inner-city institution ministering to the needy, irrespective of any German extraction. They maintain the Halle, a rectory and a convent.

St. Alphonsus' Church and its satellite buildings on Saratoga Street, the Halle (No. 125-127), the rectory (No. 114) and the Convent (No. 112) define the urban street scape with an important unified architectural statement.

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Form 10-300a
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

St. Alphonsus' Church

#9 - Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Stanton, Phoebe B. Notes on St. Alphonsus' Church and on Robert Cary Long, Jr. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture An Episode in Taste 1840-1856. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

(continuation sheet number 2)

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Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Alphonsus' Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 West Saratoga Street (Church) (No. 114 Rectory), (No. 112 Convent), (No.125-127 Halle)

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: Photo revised 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

B-439

Lat. 39° 17' 36.5"
Long. 76° 37' 07"

Lat. 39° 17' 36.5"
Long. 76° 37' 03.5"

ST. ALPNONSUS' CHURCH

Lat. 39° 17' 32.5"
Long. 76° 37' 06"

Lat. 39° 17' 33"
Long. 76° 37' 03"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: William Morgan

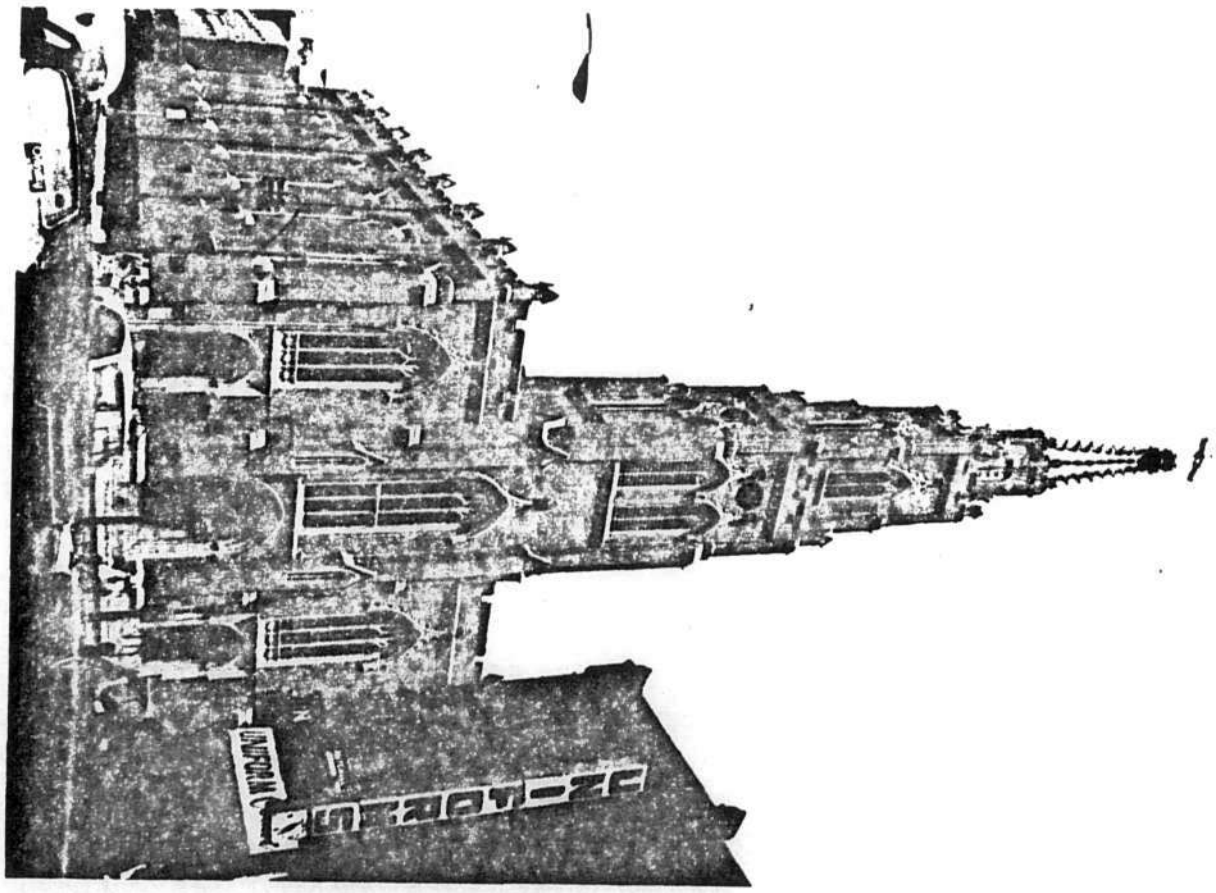
DATE OF PHOTO: June 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

St. Alphonsus'Church - southwest facade



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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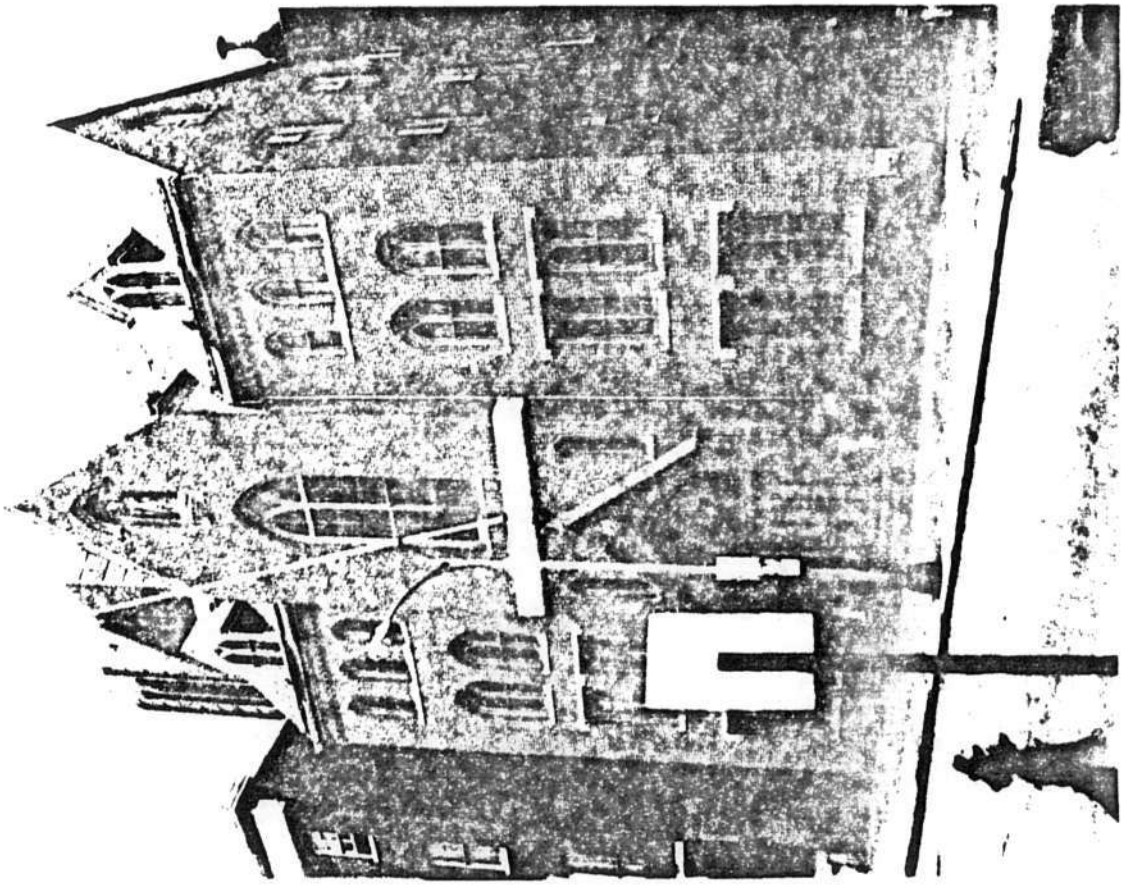
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

St. Alphonsus' Halle - north facade