Form 10-900
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

TYPE all entries completely applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Alphonsus' Church, Rectory, Convent and Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Alphonsus' Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
114 West Saratoga Street (Church), Convent (No. 114 Rectory) (No. 112 116 West Saratoga Street (Church), Convent (No. 125-127 Hall)
CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore
STATE:
Maryland

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
□ District □ Site □ Structure
□ Building □ Site □ Object
□ Site □ Structure □ Object

OWNERSHIP
□ Public □ Private □ Both
Public Acquisition:
□ In Process □ Being Considered

STATUS
□ Occupied □ Unoccupied □ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
□ Yes: □ Restricted □ Unrestricted
□ No:

PRESENT USE (Check One or more as Appropriate)
□ Agricultural □ Government □ Park
□ Commercial □ Industrial □ Private Residence
□ Educational □ Military □ Religious
□ Entertainment □ Museum □ Scientific
□ Transportation □ Other (Specify) □ Comments

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

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Baltimore City Landmark List

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 402, Baltimore City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore
STATE:
Maryland

---

For NPS Use Only

ENTRY DATE:

---

MAGI # 04 00222408
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 Pugin. 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)
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 Nottman 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.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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


...... 1860. Chapter 151.

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>39° 17' 36.5&quot;</td>
<td>76° 37' 07&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>39° 17' 36.5&quot;</td>
<td>76° 37' 03.5&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>39° 17' 33&quot;</td>
<td>76° 37' 03&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>39° 17' 32.5&quot;</td>
<td>76° 37' 06&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Six

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>CODE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

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 [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name Orlando Ridout, IV
Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date December 13, 1972
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.
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.


(continuation sheet number 2)
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) Convent), (No.125-127 Halle)
   CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore
   STATE: Maryland
   CODE: 24
   COUNTY: Baltimore City
   CODE: 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 boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24,000
photorevised 1966

ST. ALPNONUS' CHURCH

Lat. 39° 17' 36.5"
Long. 76° 37' 07"

Lat. 39° 17' 33"
Long. 76° 37' 03"

Falls Point
Locust Pt
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

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
   - STATE: Maryland
   - CODE 24
   - COUNTY: Baltimore City
   - CODE 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON: St. Alphonsus' Church, Rectory, Convent and Halle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC: St. Alphonsus' Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: (No. 114 Rectory) (No. 112 Convent) 116 West Saratoga Street (Church), (No. 125-127 Halle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODE: 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY: Baltimore City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODE: 510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: William Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: June 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Alphonsus' Halle - north facade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **State**: Maryland  
   **County**: Baltimore City  
   **Town**:  
   **Street No.**: Park Ave. & Saratoga St.  
   **Vicinity**:  

2. **Name**: St. Alphonsus R. C. Church and related buildings  
   **Date or Period**:  
   **Style**:  
   **Architect**:  
   **Builder**:  

3. **Notable Features, Historical Significance and Description**: Open to Public  

4. **Physical Condition of Structure**: Endangered  
   **Interior**:  
   **Exterior**:  

5. **Location Map**: (Plan Optional)  

6. **Published Sources**: Author, Title, Pages  
   **Interviews, Records, Photos, Etc.**:  

7. **Photograph**:  

8. **Name, Address and Title of Recorder**:  
   **Date of Record**: 
B-22
Saint Alphonsus Church
114-120 West Saratoga Street
Block 0579 Lot 018A
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

GIS data Courtesy of the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS