VLR Listed: 3/16/2005 NRHP Listed: 6/2/2005

1NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

☐ other (explain)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



OMB No. 10024-0018

525

the information requested. If any 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 Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church other names/site number VDHR # 121-0032 2. Location street & number 230 33rd Street □not for publication N/A city or town Newport News (Independent City) □vicinity N/A code 700 zip code 23607 code VA county Newport News (Independent City) state Virginia 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 🗵 nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property 🖾 meets 🗆 does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant □nationally □ statewide ☒ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification for signature of the Keeper lattick Andus I, hereby certify that this property is: d entered in the National Register 6/2/2005 ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined eligible for the **National Register** ☐ See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ removed from the National Register

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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

5. Classification				
	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Non-contributing	9
☑ private ☐ public-local ☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	<ul><li>☑ building(s)</li><li>☐ district</li><li>☐ site</li><li>☑ structure</li><li>☑ object</li></ul>	3 1 0 0 4	0 0 1 0 1	buildings sites structures _objects _Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RELIGIOUS: church		Current Function (Enter categories RELIGIOUS: 0	from instructions)	
RELIGIOUS: church-related residence		RELIGIOUS: church-related residence		
DOMESTIC: secondary structure		DOMESTIC: garage		
FUNERARY: grave		FUNERARY: grave statuary		
LANDSCAPE: object		LALNDSCAPE: picnic shelter		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival		Materials (Enter categories foundation BRI) walls BRI	<u>CK</u>	
		·	TE SHINGLE	
			ch GRANITE	
		other Win	dows STAINED GLASS	

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

See Section number 7 Continuation Sheet page 1

8. Stat	em	ent of Significance	
		e National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
		n one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the or National Register listing)	(Enter categories from instructions)
☑ A Property is associated with events that have made		Property is associated with events that have made	SOCIAL HISTORY
		a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	RELIGION
_	_	•	
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>
X	С	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.	Period of Significance 1916 – 1917
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
		onsiderations in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1916-1917
Proper	ty is	3:	
X	Α	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
	B C	removed from its original location. a birthplace or a grave.	<u> </u>
	D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
		a reconstructed building, object, or structure. a commemorative property.	N/A
		less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Carl RuehrmundArchitect
Narrati	ive	Statement of Significance	-Contractor
(Explai	n th	ne significance of the property on one or more continuatio	n sheets.)
9. Majo	or E	Bibliographical References	
<b>Bibliog</b> (Cite th		phy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this fo	orm on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previo		documentation on file (NPS)	Primary Location of Additional Data
		eliminary determination of individual listing (36 FR 67) has been requested.	<ul><li>☑ State Historic Preservation Office</li><li>□ Other State agency</li></ul>
		eviously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
	pr	eviously determined eligible by the National Register	□ Local government
		esignated a National Historic Landmark corded by Historic American Buildings Survey	<ul><li>☐ University</li><li>☐ Other</li></ul>
Ц	#		Name of repository:
		corded by Historic American Engineering ecord#	

10. G	eographic	cal Data				
Acrea	ge of Pro	perty67 ac	res			
_	Reference additional UT	e <b>s</b> M references on a c	ontinuation sheet)			
1	18	372523	4093759	3		
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone 4	Easting	Northing
_	See conti	nuation sheet.		· <u></u>		<del></del>
<b>Verba</b> (Describ	I Boundar be the bound	ry Description aries of the property	on a continuation sheet.)			
	dary Justi why the boo		ed on a continuation sheet.)			
11. F	orm Prepa	ared By				
name/	title <u>Susa</u>	an G. Horner				
organi	zation <u>Cor</u>	nsultant			date 19 July 2	2004
street	& number	P.O. Box 743	1		telephone 80	<u>04-355-9460</u>
city or	town R	ichmond			state VA	zip code <u>23221-0421</u>
Additi	onal Doc	umentation				
Submit	the following	items with the comp	oleted form:			
Conti	nuation S	heets				
Maps						
шаро	A USGS	<b>map</b> (7.5 or 15	minute series) indication	ng the property's	s location.	
	A Sketc	h map for histor	ic districts and properti	es having large	acreage or numero	ous resources.
Photo	graphs					
		entative <b>black a</b> u	nd white photographs	of the property		
	·		ia winte photographic	or the property	•	
	onal item with the SHF	<b>S</b> PO or FPO for any a	dditional items)			
Prope	rty Owne	r				
		at the request of the Diocese of Rich				
street	& number	230 33 <sup>rd</sup> Stree	et	te	elephone <u>(757) 2</u>	<u> 245-4234</u>
city or	town New	vport News		Si	ate <u>Virginia</u>	zip code <u>23607</u>

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503.

## **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number	7	Page	1
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#### **Summary Description:**

Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, designed by the architect Carl Ruehrmund (1855-1927) and built in 1916-1917, is a 1½-story, brick, Classical Revival-style, longitudinal-plan church. The church complex is located in an urban setting in Newport News, Virginia. The church fronts northwest on 33rd Street with a grassed setback to the front, low concrete retaining walls along public sidewalks, and a chain link fence around the perimeter of the lot. The rectory is sited southwest of the church building with a landscaped prayer garden and open picnic shelter adjacent to the dwelling and a garage southwest of the dwelling. The church is in good condition. A new wooden altar was installed in 1972 and other interior changes have also been made since the church's completion in 1917. The most notable changes date to the period immediately following Vatican Council II. The impact of these liturgical changes affected Roman Catholic churches nationwide. There are two additional contributing buildings included in this nomination: A 1917 brick rectory located slightly southwest and adjacent to the church also facing on 33rd Street as well as the 1917 brick garage.

### **Inventory of Resources:**

- 1. Main Church Building, 1916-1917, contributing building
- 2. Rectory, 1917, contributing building
- 3. Garage, 1917, contributing building
- 4. Prayer Garden, contributing site
- 5. Picnic Shelter, non-contributing structure

### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

#### **Detailed Description:**

Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, designed by the architect Carl Ruehrmund (1855-1927) and built in 1916-1917, is a 1½-story, brick, longitudinal-plan church. The church is an excellent example of Classical Revival-style architecture typical of the American Renaissance, usually framed by the years 1876-1917. In architectural terms the American Renaissance was expressed in buildings with a clear relation to great works of the past through the use of domes, triumphal arches, the classical orders, colonnades, and temple fronts. In keeping with this tradition, the front of the church contains a pedimented portico with four fluted Corinthian columns. The church rests on a raised foundation with water table. Straight granite steps with a solid railing in front, rise from ground level to the four large fluted Roman Corinthian columns of the portico. There are two engaged piers with Corinthian capitals on each corner of the wall surface at the front of the portico.

The church narthex is entered through one of three double-leaf paneled wood doors with transoms and pedimented frames that open on the interior vestibule. Above the three doors are three arched, stained glass windows. Narrower arched stained glass windows decorated with keystones and separated by pilasters flank the front doors and span the sides of the building. A flat-roofed 1-bay extension is sited on either side of the pedimented portico. A full neoclassical entablature spans the cornice line. The vestibule contains a stair on its left and a restroom (previously the baptistery) on the right. One enters the sanctuary through one of three double-leaf paneled wood doors with shouldered architraves. At the end of the nave is a round apse (where the main altar used to be located) flanked by two altars with marble statues. An altar to the Virgin Mary is on the collect side and the Altar to Joseph is sited on the epistle side of the apse. Behind the altars are a storage room and sacristy.

The sanctuary contains marble wainscot, a coffered ceiling, modillion cornice, oak pews, Stations of the Cross, and statues of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Anthony of Padua. The balcony contains the organ and a choir changing room. Elaborate earth-toned stenciled panels and murals dress the interior of the sanctuary. Geometric and filigree designs are mixed throughout. This is most evident in the central recessed diamond-ceiling panel. A unique modified Greek-key pattern is painted in the frieze board of the entablature below the coved ceiling. The elliptical rondels and bell flower chain filigree create lyre like scrollwork details in recessed pilaster panels. These designs are reminiscent of Fourth-style Roman wall paintings found in the House of the Vetii, Pompeii. Angel's heads are incorporated in the Corinthian capitals of the pilasters. Recessed lights in the cove create the illusion of hidden light and the Stations of the Cross are supported on the wings of angles.

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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Some painting details were lost over time. The apse was once decorated with elaborate geometric motifs and the recessed cove once hosted scrolls alternating with fleur-de-lis. These original stenciled details deteriorated over time and the congregation could not afford to have them restored. Fortunately the Roman inspired stenciling of the recessed ceiling panels as well as the ceiling of the apse with the mural of God and Trinity and the mural of St. Cecilia in the ceiling over the balcony remain intact. Additional murals include The Adoration, Jesus as Child with Holy Family, and an extremely intriguing Crucifixion that marries a full in-the-round painted plaster crucifixion with a two dimensional eclipse and the Ascension. The Crucifixion is on the southwest wall of the nave in a niche over the entry into the Winter Chapel. The Winter Chapel is sited along the southwest wall of the church acting as a hyphen joining the church and the rectory.

As with all Catholic churches following liturgical changes wrought by Vatican Council II the main altar and winter chapel were modified. Saint Vincent de Paul retained the reconciliation rooms largely unaltered in their original locations at the rear of the nave.

A door on the right side of the nave leads to the Winter chapel. The chapel contains arched stained-glass windows, dark-stained chair rail, and modillion cornice. A hall from the winter chapel leads to the rectory.

The rectory and garage, completed in 1917, also contribute to the historic character of the building complex. The rectory reflects the neoclassical design of the church. It is 2 ½ stories tall with a 1-bay portico containing a flat roof and upper-level balustrade. The building has a pyramidal hip roof with wide overhang. An open deck runs the width of the building on either side of the portico and is enclosed with a short wood balustrade containing straight pickets. The front door has stained-glass sidelights and transom. On either side of the front door is an engaged fluted pilaster. Each of the 9 over 1 wood windows on the first floor is capped with an inset brick arch and stone keystone. A stone belt course runs the perimeter at the bottom of the second-floor windows. A 5sided, two-story bay is located at the west elevation. French doors from the parlor and dining room lead onto the bay's first level. This first level of the bay is actually an open porch with a short balustrade between brick posts similar to that on the front of the The house has working wood panel-and-louver shutters. The dormer windows have lattice muntins. There are 3 dormers on the front, 1 on the right side and 1 on the left side.

On the inside, the first floor of the rectory contains a central hall with open-string stair containing turned balusters. The parlor and dining room are on the right side of the hall. Three rooms suitable for offices are on the left side of the hall. The entry to the parlor from both the hall and dining room is characterized by the presence of fluted Tuscan

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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columns and pilasters. A kitchen spans the rear of the building. The upstairs (with 5 bedrooms, 1 sitting room and 3 full baths) was originally used for the priests' and maids' apartments; they now are used for classrooms and storage. The housekeeper's room originally contained the back stair, which has been removed. The rooms contain 1960s paneling and dropped ceilings. The side bay on this floor is an enclosed porch with jalousie windows. The stair to the attic level is open string with turned balusters.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is architecturally significant as one of the most prominent landmarks in downtown Newport News. The neoclassical design of the church is perfectly complemented by the Colonial Revival design of the rectory. Saint Vincent de Paul is unique. The building is a well-preserved example of the types of churches constructed in the early twentieth century. More significantly this is a vital and growing inner city Catholic congregation. The congregation is actively involved with the impoverished community. They provide hot meals, a free grocery, warm clothes and shelter. Members of the congregation travel as much as 120 miles round trip to attend services and volunteer their time. The congregation crosses all socio-economic and cultural boundaries ranging from state and local leaders to the homeless. The church continues to thrive and nurture this inner-city community at a time when the Catholic church is facing monumental challenges and most inner-city congregations are desperately struggling to survive.

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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#### **Summary Statement of Significance**

St. Vincent de Paul Church is an excellent example of Classical Revival-style architecture typical of the American Renaissance, and is culturally significant as home to the oldest Roman Catholic Parish in Newport News, Virginia. The church is historically significant as one of the earliest congregations in Newport News with its establishment downtown in 1881 as a mission. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is locally significant because it parallels the history of the City of Newport News, Virginia. The church is socially significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News that shaped leaders of the Catholic community. Saint Vincent de Paul is also significant for its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Barry Ryan. Ryan, a native Virginian, noted financier and patron of the arts, donated more than twenty million dollars to Roman Catholic causes throughout his life. Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, donated the original convent and girls school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished, the Ryan's association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance. Saint Vincent de Paul is eligible for the National Register under criterion A as the earliest Roman Catholic Church in Newport News, Virginia. The church is also eligible under criterion A because the Ryan's gift of the church school and convent is representative of the monumental benefactions to churches and universities by the barons of American industry and finance at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. St. Vincent's is also eligible under criterion A on the local level due to its association with Father Lloyd Franklin Stephenson (b.1954-d.2004), the first African-American pastor of the parish. The church is also eligible under criterion C as an excellent example of the American Renaissance and the work of German trained architect Carl Ruehrmund.

## **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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### **Historical Background**

St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church was established as a mission in 1881 in downtown Newport News, Virginia. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is locally significant because it parallels the history of the City of Newport News. The church is also significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News as well as its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, who donated the original convent and girls' school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished, the Ryans' association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance.

The history of Newport News, like that of Old Wythe and Hampton, has always been connected to the waterfront even though, for most of its history, the city was a rural agricultural region. Following the Civil War streetcars were common in larger urban areas. John S. Darling introduced them in Hampton in 1888 with the Hampton and Old Point Railway Company initially laid out to connect Hampton with Old Point. By 1890 additional track was laid to connect Hampton with Newport News and the Old Soldier's Home. On the end points of the streetcar line to Newport News was the shipyard operated by the owner of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Collis P. Huntington. The shipyard and railroad provided large numbers of well-paid jobs for both skilled and unskilled labor. The success of the shipyard provided stable jobs, which created a demand for housing and growth.

In 1881, the economy of the entire area, which was to later become the city of Newport News, was based primarily on farming and fishing; and depended on transportation by water. Mr. Collis P. Huntington's extension of the lines of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway to deep water at Hampton Roads marked the inception of Newport News both as a port and as an urban community. Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church parallels the history of the City of Newport News, Virginia when, in 1881, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Lohman moved to Newport News from Richmond. The Lohman's met with thirty Catholics in their house at 201 23<sup>rd</sup> and organized them into Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. St. Vincent's was the third major religious denomination to become established in Newport News and the second Catholic Church on the Peninsula. By 1890 Newport News had her first rail lines and Saint Vincent's had its first resident pastor.

In 1881 St. Vincent de Paul Parish was organized in Newport News as a mission of the St. Mary's Star of the Sea church at Old Point Comfort. Charles E. Donahoe became

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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the first resident pastor in 1890. Construction of the first church began on the east side of Washington Avenue between 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets in 1891. The 1-story frame building with gas lighting and gas-heated radiators was connected to a separate 1-story building on the north elevation. By 1887, a 2-story frame rectory had been added at the southeast corner of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Avenue.

In 1902 the church constructed a boys' school operated by the Xaverian Brothers at 35<sup>th</sup> Street and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard). A convent and girls' school at 34<sup>th</sup> and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard) were added to the church's holdings by 1903. The convent and girls' school were donated by Ida Mary Berry Ryan.

In May of 1916 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for construction of a new church and rectory on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. The architect for the building was Carl Ruehrmund of Richmond. Ruehrmund, a native of Germany, had studied architecture and engineering at the Royal Academy of Architecture in Berlin before emigrating to the United States in 1881. On May 17, 1917, the first mass was celebrated in the new church. During World War I the old church and rectory were used by the Red Cross for relief services. By 1918, the buildings had been turned over to the Knights of Columbus. In 1929, the boys' school closed; students there were transferred to the girls' school. In December 1930 a new school was completed to add to the existing convent and school building at 34<sup>th</sup> and Virginia Avenue (Warwick Boulevard). The school later became known as Peninsula Catholic High School. During World War II, the evergreen hedge in front of the church was replaced with a chain link fence; the lampposts in front of the church were removed and the railing on the front steps of the church was added. According to parishioners: "In 1945 a team of New York professionals conducted repairs and interior decorating." By 1946 the church had 2,000 communicants.

In 1968, as a result of Vatican policy changes, the pulpit, communion rail, winter chapel altar, and baptismal font were removed. The St. Vincent's and St. Alphonsus (located on Marshall Avenue) congregations merged in 1970. In 1972, the original main altar was removed and replaced with a wood altar. The 1970s renovations to the church included: replacing a number of the marble slabs on the side walls of the church; replacing the gutters with new copper gutters; replacing portions of the church roof; covering the rectory soffits with aluminum siding; waterproofing the masonry of the entire complex; and renovating the rectory kitchen (including removing the back stair). In the 1980s the baptistery at the right front corner of the church was modified into a restroom; the church's stained-glass windows were covered with Lexan; the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor priest's apartment in the rectory was converted to classrooms; and the outdoor open-

## **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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sided picnic pavilion was added. Today the rectory serves as offices, kitchen, and entertaining space on the first floor and classroom space on the second floor. In 1990 membership included 340 households.

St. Vincent de Paul Church built in 1916-1917 is historically significant as one of the earliest congregations in Newport News with its establishment downtown in 1881 as a mission. The church is also significant for its establishment of two parochial schools in downtown Newport News as well as its association with Thomas Fortune Ryan and his wife, Ida Mary Berry Ryan, who donated the original convent and girls' school. Though the convent and girls' school were demolished the Ryan's association with this church typifies the tradition of patronage so closely related to the American Renaissance. Saint Vincent de Paul stands alone as a testament to an earlier age. The church continues to thrive and nurture this inner-city community at a time when the catholic church is facing monumental challenges and most inner-city congregations are desperately struggling to survive.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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### Bibliography

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Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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**Geographic Information** 

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The property of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church is identified on the enclosed tax parcel map copy for the City of Newport News as T.M. 30503(02)-32 and T.M. 30503(02)-27.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the following historic components of the Saint Vincent de Paul Parish: church, rectory and garage building, which are identified as tax parcels 30503(02)-32 and 30503(02)-27.

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

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### **Photographic Index**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church; 121-0032

Location: Newport News (Independent City), Virginia

Photographer: Susan G. Horner Date: 19 July 2004

Negatives filed: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Negative Number: 21635

1 of 12	Interior Rear View: Center Aisle and Organ Detail
2 of 12	Interior View: Ceiling Detail with Light and Roman Inspired Decorative Elements
3 of 12	Interior Front View: Apse End with Altar
4 of 12	Interior View: Windows and Stations of the Cross Detail
5 of 12	Interior Collect Side Front View: Altar of the Virgin Mary
6 of 12	Interior Epistle Side Front View: Altar of Joseph
7 of 12	Interior Detail: Saint Vincent de Paul with Child (Nave)
8 of 12	Interior Detail: Saint Vincent de Paul with Child (Balcony)
9 of 12	Exterior View: Front View of Church from Northwest Corner
10 of 12	Exterior View: Church Complex
11 of 12	Exterior View: Front View of Rectory (Parish House)
12 of 12	Exterior View: Rear View from Northeast Corner

#### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032)

Newport News (Independent City), VA Section Number Chronology **Page** 12 CHRONOLOGY OF SAINT VINCENT de PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 1820 Original Diocese of Richmond established. Diocese boundaries included entire Commonwealth of Virginia and West Virginia. (Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church. Commemorating the Centennial of St. Vincent de Paul Church: Newport News, Virginia 1881-1981. Newport News, Virginia: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1981., 11) 1820 First Bishop, Right Reverend Patrick Kelly, DD, former President of Birchfield College, Ireland was posted to Virginia. Kelly resided in Norfolk. (St. Vincent de Paul, 11) 1855 October 14 At the first Diocesan Synod Saint Vincent de Paul was chosen Patron Saint of the Diocese. (St. Vincent de Paul, 12) Saint Mary, Star of the Sea, Fortress Monroe, Virginia was the original home of the 1855 ca Roman Catholic Church on the Peninsula. (St. Vincent de Paul, 12) 1881 ca Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Lohmann, Sr. moved to Newport News from Richmond. With thirty Catholics they organized Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church that same year. (St. Vincent de Paul, 14) Saint Vincent de Paul became the second Roman Catholic Church on the Peninsula 1881 ca and third major religious denomination in Newport News, Virginia. (St. Vincent de Paul, 14) 1881 ca Saint Vincent de Paul became a mission of Saint Mary's, Fort Monroe, under Father Thomas J. Murray; and later under Father Thomas J. Mercer; offering mass at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lohmann. (St. Vincent de Paul, 14)

1881-1891 ca Fathers Francis X. McCarty and Richard A. Drake commuted to Newport News during the first ten years to minister to Saint Vincent de Paul parishioners.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 14)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)

Section Number Chronology Page13				
1890	March 30 Bishop Van de Vyver was petitioned by the parishioners for a per (	manent priest. St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1890	April Father Richard Drake was assigned to the mission.	St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
April 20 The first baptism was officiated by Father Richard Drake. The infant, Mary H attended by parents Patrick and Catherine Hughes and sponsored by John T Mary Watson.				
		St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
Father Drake resided in Richmond, Virginia, and said Mass at Saint Vincent de the first and third Sundays of the month at Johnson's Hall, and later in the origin Baptist Chapel which stood at the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and		ter in the original		
	Street. (	St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1890 ca	Reverend Charles E. Donahoe, a native of Richmond, Virginia, s	nond, Virginia, succeeded Father Drake		
	becoming the mission's first resident pastor.  (	St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1891	February Construction of the first church was begun on Washington Avenu (	e near 34th Street. St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1891	A Richmond, Virginia, firm was awarded the contract for construct	ction of the church.		
	Parishioners assisted with much of the physical labor.  (	St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1891	April 5 The first Mass was celebrated in the new church building.	St. Vincent de Paul, 16)		
1891 ca The Sanctuary Society, the first Parish organization, was organized with Mrs. Lohmann, Annie Hogan (sister of Mrs. Lohmann), Bessie French, and Mary Desmond as charter members.				

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)

Section Nur	nber Chronology Page14	
1891	October 31 The first Nuptial Mass was officiated by Father Charles E. Dona and Louise Heider were wed with Joseph Melvin and Theresa	
1891 ca	First deaths were recorded.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
January 1 Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 175 parishioner Smithfield Missions hosted 12 parishioners.		and the Williamsburg and
		(St. Vincent de Paul, 16)
1893	January 1 Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 325 parishioners.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
1893	The first choir was organized by Mr. A. E. Monge with Miss Anr Phoebus, Virginia, as organist. Miss Mary Desmond succeede	
1895	Construction began on the rectory. Prior to completion of the rectory Father Donah resided in a two-room cottage adjacent to the church and took meals with the	
	Lohmanns.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
1896	June 16 Newport News was incorporated as a city with a population in 6	excess of 9,000. (St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
1896 ca	Charles W. Lohmann, Sr. was a member of the original Newpo	rt News City Council. (St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
1897	September 27 The rectory was completed.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 17)
in the	Saint Vincent de Paul hosted approximately 1,000 parishioners field and Williamsburg missions. One hundred children attende parish; the Knights of Columbus (Council 511) and the Ladies Alic Benevolent Association were organized.	d Sunday school

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Nur	nber Chronology Page15	
1902 ca	Father Donahoe was succeeded by the Reverend Thomas J. Wilson and his assistar	
tne Re	everend Father Lawrence Kelly.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
with a	The Xaverian Brothers open the Saint Vincent's Boys' Academy ia Avenue (now Warwick Boulevard). First through seventh grad n optional commercial program in grades 8 and 9. Four to five Ed the school.	e were offered
		(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
1903	October 2 Four Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky arrived in Newport school for girls. Sister Charlotte (Superior); Sisters Frances, Ag Lorenza. Sister Mary de Paul, the music teacher, arrived later in number of Sisters to five.	nes Sienna and
October 5 Saint Vincent de Paul School opened. The red brick school was a gif Fortune Ryan [Ida Mary Berry Ryan]. The Ryans were New York and philanthropists.		
		(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
1903	One-hundred four girls enrolled in the school. Mrs. Harry King of Parish was a member of the original class.	of Saint Vincent de Paul
		(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
1903	Public school books were used until Catholic textbooks could be Wilson donated books form the church library and with a borrow library was started.	
	iibrary was started.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 18)
1904	The four Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, moved into the donated by Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan.	ne convent building also
	donated by Mis. Thomas i Ortune Ryan.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)
1905	The Reverend Joseph Frioli succeeded Father Wilson. Reverend F. J. Lucke an	
	Reverend John J. Massey served as assistants to Father Frioli.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 21)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section	Number Chronology Page16		
1905	The following additional parish organizations were established: The Solidity of the Blessed Virgin, The Holy Name SocietySenior and Junior, Saint Vincent de Paul		
	Society, and The Mission Society.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 21		
1910	The Saint Vincent de Paul School held its first graduation. Graduates included Katherine Eakins, Anna Carvil and Anna G. Folan.		
	(St. Vincent de Paul, 21		
1912	The Reverend Thomas E. Waters temporarily succeeded Father Joseph Frioli. (St. Vincent de Paul, 21		
1912	Father David Francis Coleman became the permanent Parish priest. Father Coleman was born in Petersburg, Virginia, on December 12, 1873. Coleman was ordained to he Priesthood upon completion of his ecclesiastical studies at St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, August 14, 1898.		
	(St. Vincent de Paul, 21		
1916	May Ground was broken for the Church and Rectory on 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Newport News, Virginia. (St. Vincent de Paul, 23		
1917	May 27 The first Mass in the new church was officiated by Father Coleman. (St. Vincent de Paul, 23		
1917	May 27 The first baptism in the new church was officiated by Father John J. Massey. Baptized were infants Mary Jane Mecleod and Leonard Cornelius Richardson. Mecleod was attended by parents Alexander and Anna Boyle Mecleod and sponsored by Sarah and William Balmer. Richardson was attended by parents Henry H. and Elizabeth Roth Richardson and sponsored by Leonard Roth, Ann Healy and by proxy: Margaret Healy. (St. Vincent de Paul, 23		
1917	May May Procession took place at 5 p.m.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 23		
1917	June 3 The new Church was dedicated. Bishop O'Connell was present for the dedication and he Richmond Choir sang High Mass.		
	(St. Vincent de Paul, 23		

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Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Nun	nber <u>Chronology</u> Page17	
1919	Father Leonard J. Koster succeeded Father John J. Massey.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
1924	Father Francis J. Byrne succeeded Father Koster, serving from	1924-28. (St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
1928	Father E. W. Johnson succeeded Father Koster, serving from 1	928-33. (St. Vincent de Paul, 28)
1929	June Xaverian Brothers closed Saint Vincent's Boys' Academy.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
1930	January Bishop O'Connell authorized construction of a new Catholic sch	nool for boys and girls. (St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
1931	January 4 The school, completed in December 1930, was dedicated by Bi Brennan.	·
1932	December 16 Father Coleman expired. Coleman was the first priest to die in t News.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 32) he City of Newport (St. Vincent de Paul, 32)
1932	December 17 Newport News City Council met in Special Session to pass a "s permitting interment of Father Coleman's remains alongside the	•
1932	December 20 Solemn High Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Andrew James A. Brennan, of Richmond, delivered the eulogy. Music for provided by a priests' choir, directed by Father Francis J. Byrne Father Coleman.	or the mass was
1933	January Parish census shows three hundred families as members, for a parishioners.	total of one thousand (St. Vincent de Paul, 34)

of the Home Bureau.

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Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

(St. Vincent de Paul, 41)

	Newport News (Independent City), VA
Section	on Number Chronology Page18
1933	January The Reverend William A. Gill, Pastor, St. Mary's, Fort Monroe, Virginia became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father Gill was a native of Goochland County, Virginia.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 36)
1933	October 14 The Reverend Carrol T. Dozier succeeded Father Widmer. Father Dozier was ordained in March 1937 and Saint Vincent de Paul was his first mission.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 36)
1941	August Father Dozier was reassigned to Saint Joseph's, Petersburg, Virginia. The Reverend A. Preston Campbell was appointed Assistant Pastor.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
1942	World War II caused an influx of military personnel to the port of embarkation in Newport News, Virginia. Sunday Mass was offered in the Coca Cola Building, 32nd Street and Huntington Avenue, to accommodate the large increase in military personnel. The additional mass supplemented the regularly scheduled four masses held at 6:00 a.m. (to accommodate the shipbuilders), 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.
	(St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
1943	November 22 Investiture ceremony was held at Saint Vincent de Paul for Father Gill. Father Gill was invested as Domestic Prelate of the Papal Household, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 38)
	(St. Vinocht de l'adi, So
1949	September 22 Father John T. Cilinski succeeded Father Campbell as the Assistant Pastor and Director of the Home Bureau.  (St. Vincent de Paul, 41)
1951	January Father John J. McMahon succeeded Father Campbell as Assistant Pastor and Director

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number Chronology Page 19 1955 September Father Donfred Stockert succeeded Father McMahon as Assistant Pastor and Director of the Home Bureau (St. Vincent de Paul, 43) 1956 January 18 Saint Vincent's Council of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women inaugurated by directive of the Bishop. (St. Vincent de Paul, 43) 1959 July Father Paul T. Gaughan succeeded Father Stockert and assumed directorship of the Home Bureau. (St. Vincent de Paul, 44) 1960 June Ownership of the school transfer to the Diocese. The name of the school was changed to Saint Vincent's Central High School to emphasize that it was a Peninsula facility rather than a parish facility. Saint Vincent's Parish retained use of the facility for religious education and parish functions. (St. Vincent de Paul, 44) 1961 October 28 Monsignor Gill expired. A Solemn High Requiem Mass was offered at Saint Vincent de Paul. Father Frank J. Hendrick, Associate Pastor, was appointed Administrator of the Parish. (St. Vincent de Paul, 45) 1961 ca The original girls' school building and Sisters' convent building, both donated by Mrs. Thomas Fortune Ryan, were sold outside the parish. The buildings were subsequently demolished. (St. Vincent de Paul, 46) 1962 The Reverend Robert O. Hickman became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father F. Allen Grant, Assistant. (St. Vincent de Paul, 47) 1962 September Father Frank J. Ready was also assigned as Assistant and Director of the Home Bureau. (St. Vincent de Paul, 47)

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number Chronology Page 20 1965 August Father Don Michael Hanna was appointed Assistant and Director of the Home Bureau. (St. Vincent de Paul, 47) Saint Vincent Central High School was renamed Peninsula Catholic High School. 1966 (St. Vincent de Paul, 47) 1966 June Father James M. Noto was appointed Assistant Pastor and succeeded Father Hanna as Director of the Home Bureau. Father Noto organized the Parish Council; committee chairmen were appointed. Lectors and cantors were added. (St. Vincent de Paul, 47) 1966 December 11 Sunday, December 11, 1966, marked the 85th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Vincent de Paul parish and the 50th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the current church building. Mass of Gaudete with the Principal Concelebrant the Most Reverend John J. Russell Gaughan and concelebrants: Reverend John T. Cilinski, Reverend John J. McMahon, Reverend Paul T. Gaughan, Reverend Frank J. Hendrick and Homilist, Right Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Byrne, Master of Ceremonies, Reverend Thomas Shreve. (St. Vincent de Paul, 49) 1968 August St. Alphonsus to be merged with Saint Vincent de Paul; St. Alphonsus was established March 19, 1944. Father Thomas B. Gunner, of the Redemptorist Fathers, formed St. Alphonsus with a group of zealous members of the Apostolate. The group met in a small frame house at the foot of Marshall Avenue, Newport News, Virginia. (St. Vincent de Paul, 51) 1968 August Bishop Russell implemented the recommendations of the Search Committee he had appointed. The committee recommended consolidation of the four Peninsula parishes

1968 September 3

Father Edward L. Tobin succeeded Father Hickman. Father Tobin was the former Pastor of St. Joseph's, Buckroe Beach, Virginia. Father Joseph A. Slattery became Assistant Pastor.

into two units. Under the reorganization plan, St. Alphonsus would be merged with

Saint Vincent de Paul, with the former operated as a mission.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)

(St. Vincent de Paul, 51)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

education.

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

(St. Vincent de Paul, 58)

Section	on Number Chronology Page21	
1968	October Father Noto became Administrator pro-tem of the Parish.	(St. Vincent de Paul, 55)
1968	December 8 Father Thomas J. Quinlan was assigned to Saint Vincent de P existing priests with the increased responsibilities placed on the paris	
1968	Liturgical renovations, under the Vatican II guidelines, saw the communion rail, the Winter Chapel altar and the Baptismal fon Mass was scheduled at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning once a morni	t. Initiation of the Folk
1969	February The inner-city Newport News denominations united to form the Churches. Saint Vincent de Paul participated in the Palm Sunday prohas become a tradition.	•
1969	Saint Vincent's Elementary School was ordered closed at the of 69 school year by the Diocesan School Board. The high school was operations.	completion of the 1968-
1969	September Father Frederick A Heckel succeeded Father Noto, assuming of Bureau.	
1970	August Father Slattery took leave to resume study on doctorate in scri	,
1970	Fall Under the leadership of Father Quinlan, St. Alphonsus' congre- Vincent de Paul. Former St. Alphonsus parishioners faithfully served lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, and teachers in	as cantors,

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number	Chronology	Page _	22	
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1971 Because of the shortage of priests, Saint Vincent de Paul received its first Pastoral Associate, Sister Virginia Bauer, S.C.N. Sister Virginia assisted with the Liturgy Committee, religious education, the catechumenate program, counselor to the youth, the summer program for children of the parish and inner city, the elderly, and social development. In June 1977, Sister Virginia accepted a Diocesan assignment with the newly organized Southside Virginia Ministry.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 59)

1971 July 26

Father Heckel departed from the parish. The Catholic Home Bureau, administered by the current Associate Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul, was intended to provide for parishioners as well as non-parishioners in times of need. With Father Heckel's departure from the parish, the Home Bureau ceased to be the responsibility of Saint Vincent de Paul.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 59)

1971 July

With the departure of Fathers Quinlan and Heckel, for the first time in its history, Saint Vincent de Paul was administered by an Order rather than the Diocesan Priests. Father James. J. Noonan was the first La Salette Pastor and Father Garry F. Vance, Associate Pastor. Father Noonan and Mr. Joseph Harney successfully negotiated the sale of the St. Alphonsus property. The proceeds were used to established a Trust Fund for the Inner-City Apostolate.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)

1972 March

The main altar was removed from the sanctuary. Father Vance, with help of the sexton, constructed the massive wood altar and benches in the church today. Gold fabric chairs were added to the sanctuary and Winter Chapel.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)

Fathers Noonan and Vance completed an update of parish records. The Parish Profile disclosed a total of 1,441 souls in the parish, 1,000 of whom were regularly practicing Catholics. Twenty-three percent (23%) resided in the inner city, forty percent (40%) in the "outer parish," and thirty-seven percent (37%) outside the parish limits.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)

1973 October 14

Eucharistic Ministers were implemented.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 61)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number Chronology Page 23 1974 June 4 The Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese succeeding Bishop Russell (retired on April 1973) as Ordinary of the Diocese. (St. Vincent de Paul, 60) 1974 August La Salette Father Salvatore A. Pignato was assigned to Saint Vincent's staff. Father Camillo A. Avitabile succeeded Father Noonan as Pastor. Father Avitabile, affectionately called Father "Sonny," directed the Social Action Center. The center was staffed with professionals on a volunteer basis. (St. Vincent de Paul, 61) 1975 June Father Ron Gagne was assigned to the parish to direct religious education and liturgy. The staff included Fathers Avitabile and Gagne, Sister Virginia Bauer (Pastoral Associate), with Father Pignato in residence. (St. Vincent de Paul, 62) 1976 May Bishop Sullivan announced his decision to have Saint Vincent re-staffed by Diocesan priests. (St. Vincent de Paul, 62) 1976 May 13 Father John J. Dorgan, Principal of Norfolk Catholic High School, became Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul and Director of the Social Action Center. Father Thomas Reardon, of Richmond, served as Associate Pastor until May 1977. (St. Vincent de Paul, 64) 1979 October Under the direction of Mr. Steven James, Saint Vincent's Gospel Choir was formed. James would later form the Children's Choir. (St. Vincent de Paul, 69) 1980 August 16 Lloyd Franklin Stephenson (1954-2004) was ordained for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Virginia. Stephenson would eventually become part-time Pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul. Father

Stephenson, born in Newport News, Virginia, and a member of St. Alphonsus, returned as the first African-American priest assigned to St. Vincent de Paul. Stephenson, with a special fondness for youth and, music brought new life to the inner-city congregation.

(St. Vincent de Paul, 70)

## **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (121-0032) Newport News (Independent City), VA

Section Number	Chronology	Page	24	

2004 March 10

Father Lloyd Franklin Stephenson died.

2004 March 15

A Liturgy of the Resurrection was celebrated in Father Stephenson's honor at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Virginia. The Liturgy was presided by The Most Reverend Walter F. Sullivan, D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Richmond.

(The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. <u>Liturgy of the Resurrection: Monday March 15, 2004</u>. Richmond, Virginia: Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 2004.)

#### APPENDIX I EXTENDED BACKGROUND ON THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE 1876-1917

American civilization, facing the approaching Centennial and following the Civil War, was in a period of maturation. During this period America developed an economic, social, political and artistic sophistication equal to the extraordinary resources unleashed by the Western Expansion and the Industrial Revolution. This period of empire building illustrated by the Spanish American War, Teddy Roosevelts Big Stick policy, the White Fleet, and the Panama Canal was characterized by the imperialistic appropriation of forms and symbols from other cultures.<sup>1</sup>

In architectural terms the American Renaissance was expressed in buildings with a clear relation to great works of the past through the use of domes, triumphal arches, the classical orders, colonnades, and temple fronts. Architecture dominated the American Renaissance by giving substance and form to the dream of a great civilization through majestic public buildings such as Arthur Brown, Jr.'s San Francisco City Hall (1912-1915), George Post's Bank of Pittsburgh (1894) and McKim, Mead and White's Madison Square Presbyterian Church (1903-1906). For Ecole trained architects it was essential that the mass or volume of a building be reflected in the plan and elevation.<sup>2</sup>

For one architect and writer, Joy Wheeler Dow, this period of architectural development embraced all styles including local variations such as "American Georgian, Greek Revival, and Federal, that could be traced back to the Old World." Writing in 1904 he went on to say "we call Biltmore French Renaissance now; it will be American

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> I relied on the following sources for information on the American Renaissance: R. L. Duffus, <u>The American Renaissance</u> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1928); Richard Guy Wilson, Dianne H. Pilgrim, Richard N. Murray, <u>The American Renaissance</u> (New York: The Brooklyn Museum, 1979).

<sup>2</sup> Wilson, 28, 30.

Renaissance later on."3

Patronage was an essential element of the American Renaissance. Patrons supported the arts, scientific research, technological advancements, social and religious institutions. The so-called American "robber barons," such as the Astors, the Whitney's, the Morgan's and the Rockefeller's had been preceded by European merchant princes like the Medici.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As quoted in Wilson, 45.

### APPENDIX II BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THOMAS FORTUNE RYAN

Thomas Fortune Ryan was born October 17, 1851 in Lovingston, Virginia and died November 23, 1928 in New York City. As a patron of architecture his support was most notable in his Fifth Avenue villa: designed by Carrere and Hastings it included a Renaissance room as well as an Art Gallery to house what could not fit into the mansion proper.<sup>2</sup> He also made a one million dollar gift for the new facade of St. Jean de Baptiste, New York City, and contributed to the restoration and expansion of Oak Ridge, Lovingston, Virginia, as well as being the sole benefactor for the construction of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond.3

He was born in poverty and orphaned at the age of five. A Protestant and exposed to both Baptist and Presbyterian theological influences he converted to Catholicism by 1873.4 Throughout his life Ryan and his wife would donate more than twenty million dollars to Catholic causes. The total proposed donation for the Sacred Heart Cathedral, amounting to just under \$500,000, was of the same magnitude as J. P. Morgan's \$500,000 gift for he erection of St. John the Divine and J. J. Hill's million dollar donation for the Catholic theological seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota.<sup>5</sup>

Ryan arrived in New York at the age of twenty-two. Marrying Ida Mary Barry (1854-1917) provided Ryan the funds necessary to secure his own seat on the New York

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lee Marmon, <u>The Measure and Mirror of Men: Generations of the Oak Ridge Estate</u> (Lynchburg, Virginia: Warwick House Publishers, 1992) 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Marmon. 54-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rvan purchased Oak Ridge in 1901 and made a contribution for the new facade of St. Jean de Baptiste in 1912. Marmon, 51.

4 Marmon, 25, 27, 51.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Landmarks Register, File No. 127-137, Item 8, Sheet 2; Joseph Alexander Amrhein, "The Sacred Heart Cathedral of Richmond, Virginia" (Thesis, University of Richmond, 1941-2), 8; Marmon, 24-58.

Stock Exchange in 1874.<sup>6</sup> He developed interests in utilities, railroads, coke, coal, diamonds in the Belgian Congo, oil, rubber, and lead. At the time of his retirement he controlled utilities valued at \$1,500,000,000. William C. Whitney called Ryan "the most adroit, suave and noiseless man" American finance ever knew.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Marmon, 33, 51.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Marmon, 24-58; VLR, Item 8, sheet 2; <u>Encyclopaedia Britannica</u>, 15th ed., s.v. "Thomas Fortune Ryan."

## APPENDIX III BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON CARL RUEHRMUND

Carl August Ruehrmund (1855-1927), a native of Berlin, Germany, studied architecture and civil engineering at the Royal Academy of Architecture in Berlin. Following graduation Ruehrmund worked for the Prussian Surveyor of Buildings and later the Royal Railroad System. As noted by Herrmann Schuricht, when faced with limited prospects for promotion "Ruehrmund resolved to try his luck abroad, and after spending some time in Scotland and England, he came to the United States where he initially worked as a draftsman in Philadelphia."

Ruehrmund moved to Washington, D.C. where he was employed as an architect for the U. S. Treasury Department. In 1884, under contract, he was sent to Richmond to renovate the U. S. Post Office and Custom House. Ruehrmund decided to settle in Richmond and formed a partnership with Albert Lybrock in 1882. He was also associated with Albert Huntt in 1893-1894. Ruerhmund's work in Richmond exhibited the influence of many styles, including the Art Nouveau.<sup>2</sup>

Ruehrmund's designs were quite versatile and often eclectic, drawing on many architectural styles as needed to appeal to clients demands. Both Ruehrmund and Lybrock were introduced to the German Rundbogenstil. The Rundbogenstil is a round-arched academic style that synthesizes Greek and Gothic architecture, juxtaposing Classical repose and Gothic verticality with a unique

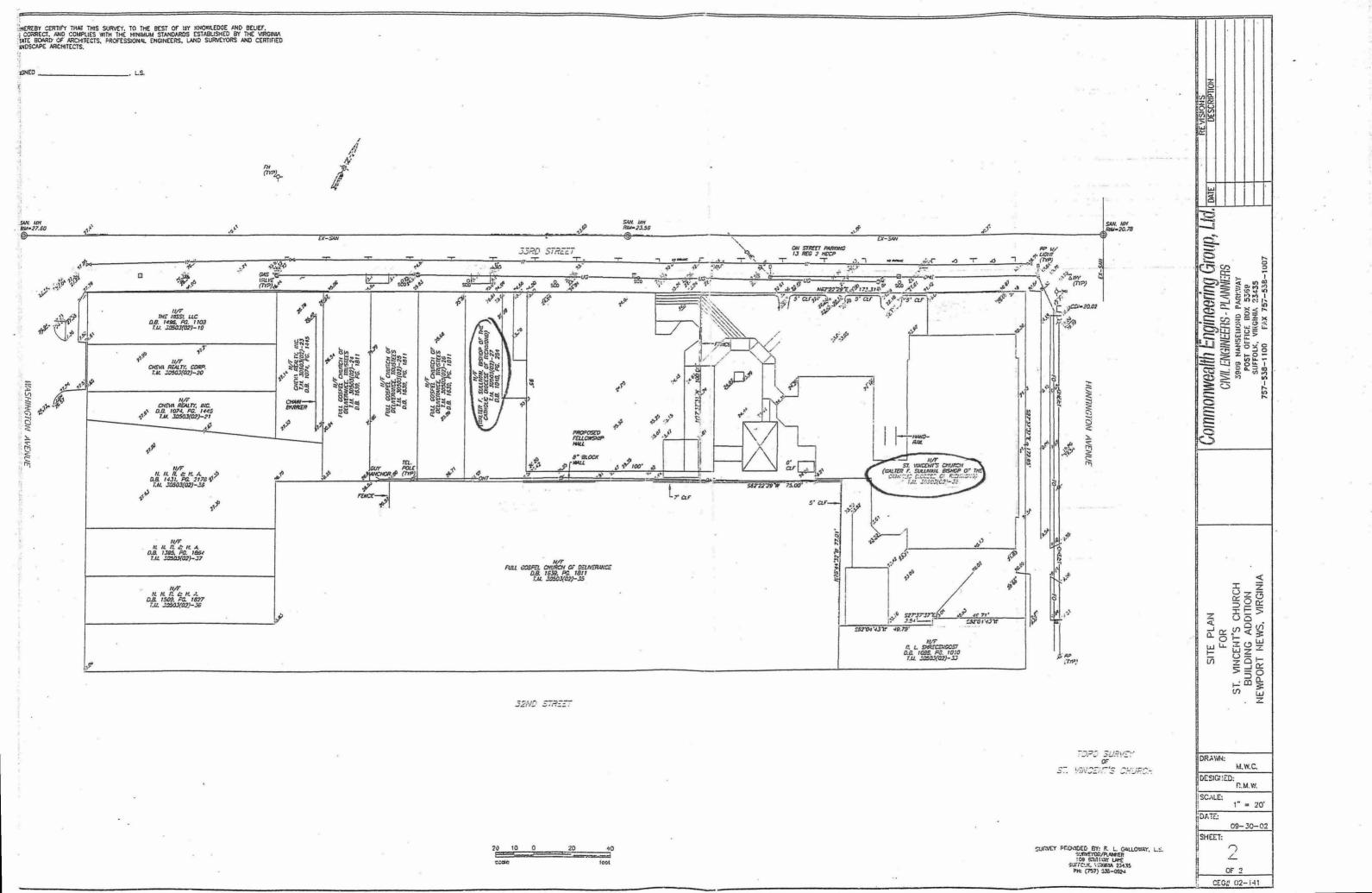
<sup>2</sup>John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, <u>The Virginia Architects</u>, <u>1835-1955</u>: A <u>Bibliographical Dictionary</u> (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1997), 392-395.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Herrmann Schuricht, <u>History of the German Element in Virginia, Volume II</u> (Baltimore; Genealogical Publishing Company, 1977), 49-50.

mix of Byzantine and Romanesque ornament. This distinctly German style changed when it reached this side of the Atlantic. Kathleen Curran adopted the term American Round-Arched Style in order to distinguish the American variation, considered less academic, from the more formal Rundbogenstil. The American form exhibits more straight forward Romanesque, Italianate, Renaissance or simple round-arched characteristics. This style is expressed by Ruehrmund in works such as the Henrico County Court House, Richmond, Virginia (1896), and Cohen Brothers Storehouse, Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, (ca. 1890).<sup>3</sup>

Ruehrmund married Rosa R. Heiss in 1883, and through her became related to the Phillips family. The Phillips' were active real estate developers and many of his commissions came through this family connection. Ruehrmund was active in German social organizations in Richmond, holding office in the Teutonic Club. He is credited with sixty projects, eight of which he completed with his son, Max E. Ruehrmund (b 1891), as a partner.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Janet G. Blutstein, "Albert Lybrock, Carl Ruehrmund, and the Influence Nineteenth-Century German Architecture in Richmond" (Seminar report, ARH 502 (Brownell), Virginia Commonwealth University, 1994). <sup>4</sup>Wells, 393, 395.



TH OF VIRGINIA NERAL RESOURCES

# NEWPORT NEWS SOUTH QUADRANGLE VIRGINIA 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

STS8 MPTON

