### 1. Name

**historic**

St. Vincent's Hospital

**and/or common**

### 2. Location

- **street & number**: 7301 St. Charles Rock Road
- **city, town**: Normandy
- **vicinity of congressional district**: #1, Hon. William Clay
- **state**: Missouri 63121 **code**: 29
- **county**: St. Louis **code**: 189

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. Owner of Property

- **name**: 1. Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- **street & number**: Marillac Provincial House, 7800 Natural Bridge Road
- **city, town**: Normandy
- **vicinity of state**: Missouri 63121

### 5. Location of Legal Description

- **courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.**: Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis County Government Center
- **street & number**: 7900 Forsyth Boulevard
- **city, town**: Clayton
- **state**: Missouri 63105

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- **Volume I, Survey**: Missouri's Comprehensive Statewide Preliminary Historic Preservation Plan
- **Title**: Determined Eligible
- **date**: 1973
- **repository for survey records**: State Historic Survey and Planning Office, now Department of Natural Resources
- **city, town**: P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City
- **state**: Missouri 65101
2. Harvey A. Friedman  
Castle Park Associates  
10 S. Brentwood  
Clayton, Mo. 63105
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>X unaltered</td>
<td>X original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>%unexposed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Vincent's Hospital is a long four-story red-brick structure sited along the top of a hill so that its romantic and picturesque silhouette is emphasized. It is separated from its nominal address on St. Charles Rock Road by a small post-war subdivision through which it is actually approached by Salerno Drive. The grounds are also accessible by a new drive leading from St. Charles Rock Road to the new county park. A second approach leads from 7800 Natural Bridge Road through the grounds of the former Marillac College which is now a part of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, and past the remaining provincial house of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The four-story main building is composed of a central pavilion with wings on either side articulated as two ranges, the first range of four bays terminating in a three-bay end pavilion, connected in turn to the second range, which is somewhat recessed, of five bays and a second end pavilion. On the east front of the building, the first floor is articulated as a basement of rock-faced random ashlar, while the fourth floor is a series of additional gabled dormers. The west elevation is more conventionally composed of five stories and has a straight roofline with a series of hipped pavilions and eyebrow dormers above. The central pavilion is crowned by a large pyramidal roof with large gables on all four sides. Semi-circular bays flank the entry, which is set between carved stone escutcheons and beneath a stone arch which has a balustrade of flamboyant tracery and forms a second floor balcony. A brick arch at third-floor level creates a second balcony at the upper level. Small turrets are placed in the angles between the main building and the bays, while larger square towers with steep pyramidal roofs mark the transition to the wings. Each wing pavilion has on its outer wall a semicircular turret topped by a conical roof; centered on each pavilion roof is a circular copper fleche or air-vent. Much copper is employed elsewhere on the roof, to edge the dormer gables, to cap the ridges and line the valleys, and to create finials on each point. Similarly, the redness of red brick and mortar in the walls is relieved by ashlar window sills and beltcourses, by brick corbeling and by panels of patterned brickwork.

A chapel on axis with the central door creates a west wing on the central pavilion. Although the fittings of the chapel were auctioned in 1978, the outlines of the space remain intact. It is a three-aisle, four bay design with a barrel vault on round arches and a ribbed apse. The main staircase to the right of the entrance retains its original oak newel post balusters and paneling, while several of the reception rooms near the entrance have mantelpieces of the period.

Along with several nondescript outbuildings to the west of the main building is a four-bay, two-story building matching the main building in materials and detailing. The Laboure Clinic of 1958 is at right angles to and south of the main building. It is of salmon brick, four stories high with a penthouse, and has twelve bays of unpretentious utilitarian design.
Now surrounded by suburban residential and industrial development, the site preserves to a remarkable degree its original semi-rural aspect, as the entire hillside to the east of the hospital is occupied by St. Peter's Cemetery and Glen Echo Country Club. The design of the new county park pays respect to this view, restricting new drives to the shelter of the wooded area at the north edge of the property and to the west side of the hospital. A chain link fence now surrounds the buildings but this should be removed if they are successfully converted to housing as planned.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates 1894-95       Builder/Architect George R. Mann, Harvey Ellis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Vincent's Hospital is significant as a restrained but finely articulated version of the Chateauesque architectural style, popularized in nineteenth century America by the architect Richard Morris Hunt. The Hospital is important also for its association with the Order of Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, which has provided medical care and charitable services to the city of St. Louis since its establishment there in 1828. St. Vincent's Hospital is the second hospital constructed for the Daughters of Charity in the St. Louis area.

St. Vincent's Hospital had its origins in 1828 when four sisters of the Order of Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul came to St. Louis from the mother house in Emmitsburg, Maryland. They established a general hospital at Main and Menard, and in 1858 opened a separate "Institution for the Insane" at 9th (Decatur) and Marion Streets in the Soulard neighborhood. The new hospital, occupying a city block, opened with three patients, but numbers were soon swelled by the closing of the state mental institutions as a result of the disruptions of the Civil War by the 1870's. St. Vincent's Asylum was "one of the most renowned in the west."3

Plans to construct a new building on a large site in the country outside St. Louis were considered as early as 1863, but the building that is the subject of this nomination was not opened until 1895. The main portion of the site was a tract of 85.67 acres that had previously been owned by Charles Lucas Hunt and grandson of J.B.C. Lucas, who, early in the century had purchased a large tract that now includes almost all of downtown St. Louis.6 Lucas and his children also owned over 800 acres in the area between St. Charles Rock Road and Natural Bridge Road, an estate which they called Normandy Park. Nine religious institutions were to occupy parts of this land, including Marillac College, another undertaking of the Daughters of Charity.7

Our knowledge of the architects for St. Vincent's Hospital is based on a perspective drawing dated 1891 but published in unfinished form in the Architectural Review in 1908. It is labeled a "State Institution Near St. Louis" but except for a few minor details, it shows St. Vincent's Hospital as it now stands. The architect's name printed in the upper left-hand corner of the drawing is George R. Mann; he was the partner of Edmond Jacques Eckel in St. Joseph, Missouri from 1880 to 1893 and afterwards practiced on his own in St. Louis.9

The signature of Harvey Ellis is scrawled in the right-hand corner of the drawing. Ellis (1852-1904) "was a marvelous draftsman and an incorrigible alcoholic" who produced outstanding designs but usually in someone else's office, in Rochester, New York (his probable birthplace), Minneapolis, St. Joseph and St. Louis. His last years were spent working for Gustave Stickley's Craftsman magazine in Syracuse, New York. Due primarily to the work of Roger Kennedy, Ellis is now recognized as one of the chief designers to pick up the work of H.H. Richardson after the latter's death in 1886. Several works by or partly
by Ellis are already on the National Register, including buildings in New York, Wisconsin and Missouri. The drawing makes it certain that Ellis had an important role in the design of the hospital, which lends it national interest.

The chateauesque style employed in St. Vincent's Hospital derives from the early sixteenth century in France and the transition there from late Gothic to early Renaissance. It achieved popularity in this country with the construction by Richard Morris Hunt of the W.K. Vanderbilt House in New York City (1881).

In St. Louis, two other large buildings were executed in this style roughly concurrently with St. Vincent's Hospital: Visitation Convent by Barnett, Haynes and Barnett (1893, now demolished) and the St. Louis City Hall by Eckel and Mann (erected 1894-95). Ellis seems to have been the central figure in the use of this style locally. He produced a rendering of the City Hall in 1890; this and his 1891 drawing of the hospital no doubt influenced the younger Barnett firm.

In its day, St. Vincent's Hospital was the finest institutional building in the metropolitan area, and even today, it has few rivals for beauty of detail and grandeur of conception. Over the years, the hospital managed to keep pace with the times without altering the character of the building, a very rare achievement in hospital management. A new wing, the Laboure Clinic for the acutely ill, was opened in 1958. In 1978, the functions of the hospital were consolidated with the DePaul Community Health Center in Bridgeton, and the building was vacated. About 132.66 acres of the grounds and the adjacent Marillac College property were sold to St. Louis County for use as a park, while the remaining 21.11 acres, including the building were leased to private developers who are planning to adapt it to residential use.

FOOTNOTES


2. Dr. B.J. Allen, Physician's Report of the St. Vincent's Institution for the Insane (St. Louis, 1864, p.3).


9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 85.67 acres

Quadrangle name: "Clayton, Missouri"

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UMT References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>73426.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification: St. Vincent's Hospital occupies a portion of Survey 2684, bounded on the east by the tracks of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, extending a distance of 1742.32 feet; on the south by properties of the subdivision (cont.)

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>Missouri</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

| name/title | Esley Hamilton |
| organization | St. Louis Parks & Recreation Dept. |
| date | December 1979 |
| street & number | 1723 Mason Road |
| telephone | 314/822-8475 |
| city or town | St. Louis, |
| state | Missouri |
| state code | 63131 |

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national  ____ state  ____ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: __________

For HCRS use only:
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register: __________

Chief of Registration


of Thomas Locke's Estate, a distance of 1873.49 feet; on the west by the grounds of Zion Cemetery and the village of Greendale, a combined distance of 2460.97 feet; and on the north by a jagged line marking the southern boundaries of Surveys 2507 and 2508, now owned by St. Louis County except for a parcel 350 feet wide and 951.39 feet northwest of the railroad tracks, which is owned by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and contains the cemetery of the Provincialate.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

March 7, 1980
314/751/4096
Missouri 65101
**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **St. Vincent's Hospital**
City or Vicinity: **Normandy**
County: **St. Louis County**  
State: **MO**
Photographer: **Esley Hamilton**
Date Photographed: **Mar. 1980**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:**

1 of 5. View from SE.
2 of 5. View of main building from S, with Laboure Clinic to left.
3 of 5. View of central pavilion from E.
4 of 5. View of main entrance from SE.
5 of 5. View of Laboure Clinic, 1958, which terminates the S wing of the building.