

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Bartholomew Parish School
other names/site number N/A (JF 1851)

2. Location

street & number 2036 Buechel Bank Road not for publication
city or town Louisville vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40218

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
KY Heritage Council
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer KY Heritage Council
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Bartholomew Parish School
Name of Property
Jefferson County, KY
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

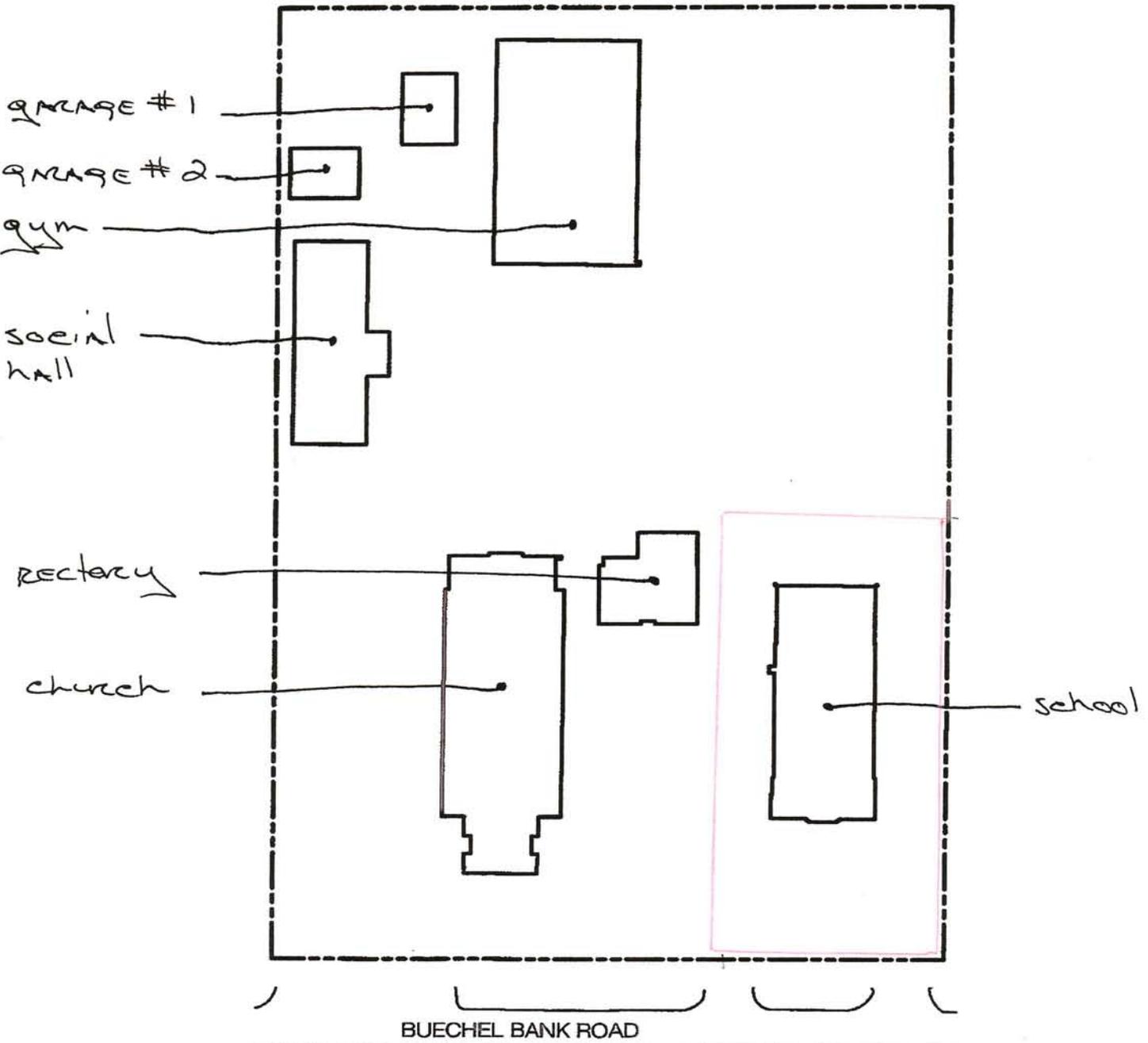
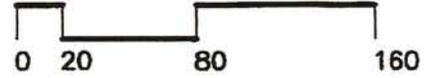
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Map 2 Sketch map showing property boundaries

----- = Block & Lot Boundary

----- = NR Site Boundary

NORTH ↑



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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religious

Religious

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT SHINGLE

other: N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The St. Bartholomew Parish School (JF 1851) is a three-story brick school building located in southeastern Jefferson County. It was constructed in 1942 with influences from the Moderne Style. The building's primary façade faces Buechel Bank Road which is located just south of Bardstown Road and the Buechel Bypass.

The St. Bartholomew Parish School (JF 1851) is located on the east side of Buechel Bank Road and rests on a relatively flat lot of less than one acre. Historic photographs indicate that the school was originally sited in a rural setting, surrounded by flat, grassy fields. At present, the school is surrounded by paved parking lots and narrow access roads on all sides. Only a narrow swath of grass, a concrete sidewalk, and several small trees and shrubs stand toward the building's main entrance. Another narrow band of grass featuring small trees and shrubs is found along the north side of the Parish School, adjacent to two secondary entrances.

The St. Bartholomew Parish School sits on a portion of land that is less than one-acre in size. It rests on a small sub-set of the original 6-acre site that once formed the St. Bartholomew Parish complex. The St. Bartholomew Parish complex was originally comprised of seven buildings: the Parish School (1942, with a 1958 addition), the St. Bartholomew Parish church (1959, primary façade significantly altered circa 1970s), rectory (1967), a gym (c. 1980s), garage #1 (c. 1980s), garage #2 (c. 1980s), and a social hall (c. 1980s). All of these buildings are located either north or northeast of the school proper.

Only the Parish School is included in this National Register nomination because it is the only building of the original seven that meets the age criteria for National Register listing and it is the only building in the parish complex that has not been significantly altered. It is anticipated that the section of the original site that contains the school will be legally parceled off in the near future for development purposes.

Narrative Description

Exterior

The St. Bartholomew Parish School is a three-story school building that exhibits architectural influences from the Moderne style. It is a simple building, void of excessive ornamentation, that speaks to the economic realities of the post-depression/pre-World War II era in which it was planned and built.

The west block of the building, that which faces the street and contains both the primary and secondary school entrances, is slightly wider than portions of the building toward the rear. The school's primary façade faces the street and is organized into a tripartite arrangement. The central bay features the building's main entrance. This main entrance is slightly recessed and is enframed by decorative brick detailing to the sides and a massive stone lintel above. Entryway access consists of paired metal doors adorned with stained glass panels that are topped by a single, unifying stained glass transom. On the 2nd and 3rd floors, directly aligned with the ground level entryway, are paired sets of one-over-one windows. This central portion is offset by decorative rusticated brick pilasters that rise from the first floor level up to the third floor of the building. Sets of one-over-one windows, grouped in threes on all three floors, flank this central entrance bay. A simple stone parapet wall topped by simple stone coping caps the building. A shed roof that is not street-visible tops the structure.

The sides and rear of the St. Bartholomew Parish School are plain in character and are distinguished only by multiple sets of one-over-one wood windows. On the north side façade of the building, in the bay closest to the building's main entrance, the building's windows are arranged in stepped fashion in architectural reference to the stairwell that these windows light. Several metal entrance doors, each of which is topped by a simple, flat, projecting entry hood, are located on the ground level of this north façade as well. A chimney-stack is located on the building's northeast side toward the rear. The rear façade at the ground level features a centered single man door with a window to one side. On the second and third floors, directly aligned with the ground level door/window arrangement, are single one-over-one windows. All fenestration on the rear façade provides light for the rear stairwell.

Interior

The interior of the St. Bartholomew Parish School follows a typical school floor plan. The primary space of the basement level features a primary space characterized by a single large, unadorned cafeteria/multi-use room punctuated by metal columns. Secondary spaces are utilitarian in nature and include an institutional kitchen with walls of structural glazed tiles, two restrooms, a

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custodian's room, a utility room, storage rooms and several classrooms. On the second and third floors, a central hallway that runs east/west is flanked by multiple classrooms. Each floor also has a girls and boys restroom. Each classroom is equipped with chalkboards, coat hooks, a broom closet and cubbies for coat and book storage. Access between all floors is provided by communicating stairs characterized by simple metal spindles. One set of stairs is located toward the north and the other is to the east side of each floor. Most of the floors in the parish school building are terrazzo, though some have been changed to tile and others are covered with carpet. Walls throughout the building are either concrete block or glazed brick. Ceilings are composed of dropped acoustical tiles interspersed with florescent lighting. Wood doors and trim are found throughout the building and most remain unpainted.

Non-contributing buildings

The St. Bartholomew Parish School has no non-contributing buildings on site.

Alterations to the Structure

The exterior of the St. Bartholomew Parish School has changed little since its construction in 1942. Early photographs indicate that windows on the building's primary façade were originally six-over-six. They are now one-over one. Early photographs also reveal that an addition was made to the rear of the school building (toward the building's east end). This addition was added to accommodate a central rear stairwell flanked by 2 new classrooms for each floor. This 1958 addition closely resembles the original school block and is distinguished from the exterior by three added window bays with one-over-one windows and by a slight change in brick color. To the rear of this addition, arranged in a stacked fashion is a centered entry door and window topped by windows for the second and third floors. In as much as this addition closely mimics the original, is sited on a secondary façade, and is not street visible, it does not significantly diminish the architectural integrity of the Parish School Building.

Other changes to the building that are clearly reversible in nature include the use of multiple window air conditioning units and several kitchen vents that pierce the windows on the ground level of the north side of the building.

Change in Use

In May of 2006 the building ceased to be used as a conventional Catholic parish school building. In that year, it was closed as part of the Archdiocese of Louisville's plan to regionalize three elementary Catholic schools into one school, the John Paul II Academy. Soon thereafter, the school was designated a regional Catholic Pastoral Center for Hispanic Ministry. Soon thereafter, adult education classes and religious formation programs began using the center.

The St. Bartholomew Parish School is currently owned by the Archdiocese of Louisville. Long term plans are for ownership of the property to be transferred to the Catholic Charities of Louisville. Catholic Charities plans to rehabilitate the property into low income housing for senior citizens. To that end, Housing and Urban Development funding is being sought and Rehabilitation Tax Credits will be part of the financial packaging of the project. Full compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* is anticipated.

Conclusion

Though the St. Bartholomew Parish School property has been parceled off from the original six acre site that it once shared with 7 other parish structures, the school itself remains intact. The school retains much of the historic fabric that was present during the years when it was used as a school facility. As the remaining historic resource most closely associated with the St. Bartholomew Parish's contribution to Louisville, the St. Bartholomew Parish School is a locally significant property.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1942-1960

Significant Dates

1942

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wagner & Potts

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The St. Bartholomew Parish School (JF-1851) at 2036 Buechel Bank Road in Louisville, Kentucky meets the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, significant within the context, "The Growth of Public and Parochial Schools between World War I and World War II in Buechel, Kentucky, 1917-1965". The property's Period of Significance begins in 1942, the year the Parish School was constructed, and runs until 1960, the conventional end of the historic period.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The St. Bartholomew Parish School meets Criterion "A" because it is owned by a religious institution. The school building reveals the way that Catholic theology unites spiritual activity and educational service as interdependent goals.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Narrative Statement of Significance

The St. Bartholomew Parish School (JF-1851) at 2036 Buechel Bank Road in Louisville, Kentucky meets the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, significant within the context, "The Growth of Public and Parochial Schools between World War I and World War II in Buechel, Kentucky, 1917-1965". Within this context, the school is important because it helps us understand the varied ways that two large school systems, the public and Catholic parochial, faced the challenge of accommodating massive social change during this era of population growth in Louisville. This context looks closely at how the nominated property compares with 4 other schools in a Louisville suburb, Buechel, upon the belief that comparison with larger numbers of schools in both Public and Parochial systems would yield similar results. The comparison shows well that Catholic Parochial schools erected during the context period stood as a distinct population of educational facilities from public schools. These schools show well the effort by a social institution, the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, to construct a facility that provided two interdependent needs, spiritual and educational. Such school buildings reveal the way that Catholic theology unites spiritual activity and educational service as interdependent goals. The property's Period of Significance begins in 1942, the year the Parish School was constructed, and runs until 1960, the conventional end of the historic period.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context: The Growth of Public and Parochial Schools between World War I and World War II in Buechel, Kentucky, 1917-1965

Research Design

Louisville experienced the population growth and demographic shifts that most American cities underwent during the early- to mid-20th century, with the white population leaving the city's urban core for the developing suburbs. These shifts led to the emergence of new schools in rapidly populating areas that had not long before been rural. Louisville is also home to the largest Catholic population of any Kentucky city. Between 1917 and 1965, the number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Louisville rose from 115,391 to 197,794.ⁱ Two large school administrations, the Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville and the Jefferson County School System, each worked to provide for the educational needs of children in these growing communities, such as Buechel, during the period of rapid suburbanization. This nomination will examine the way in which those two systems achieved their mission by comparing their schools' physical plants in a single community, Buechel, as a sample of the larger county-wide efforts by both organizations to accommodate radical changes in population movement and growth.

An initial point of reference for this study was the context, "The Growth of the Catholic Church in Louisville, Kentucky, 1914-1955," in the nomination for St. Columba Catholic Campus, Jefferson County, Kentucky (2005).

The *Encyclopedia of Louisville* was consulted early for information on the local development of Catholicism and parochial elementary school education in Louisville. This source provided a preliminary sketch of the emergence of Catholic education in the city. Information from this source was also gleaned for information on education in Louisville and Jefferson County as well. The University of Louisville Special Collections, The Filson Society and the Louisville Free Public Library collections were checked for information concerning the education in Louisville and Catholic education specifically. The Louisville Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission files were an important source of information for architecture and school history, particularly those listed in the National Register of Historic Places. *An American Holy Land: A History of the Archdiocese of Louisville* (1985) provided useful information related to the emergence of Catholicism in Kentucky and to the construction of Catholic schools in the Louisville area during the period of significance. Files located at the Archdiocese of Louisville were also consulted for specific information about the St. Bartholomew Parish. A brief parish history written in 1969 was located in the files of the Archdiocese of Louisville and provided a useful chronology of the St. Bartholomew Parish.

Sources consulted regarding the history of education in Jefferson County in the 1900s were sought as well. Most notable were records at the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Archives and Records Center.ⁱⁱ Files from the Louisville/Jefferson County

ⁱ The Official Catholic Directory (formerly known as The Kenedy Directory)

ⁱⁱ The JCPS records reflected the former Jefferson County Public Schools District and the former Louisville Public Schools District. Both are now part of the Jefferson County Public Schools district.

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Metro Archives and Records Center were examined and were particularly helpful in tracking growth in eastern Jefferson County during the time periods examined. Additional sources consulted included city directories, deed records, obituary notices, and *The Courier-Journal* newspaper.

Suburban Growth in Louisville, Kentucky 1917-1965

The contextual period, 1917-1965, is an era in which Louisville saw unprecedented growth in population and suburban development. The movement of whites away from the inner city to emerging suburbs began to be noticeable between the two world wars, and continued unabated after WWII. Because the inner city population remained stable, much of the increase in numbers of people occurred in suburbs built both within and outside of the city. In fact, by 1950, the increase in the number of people living in suburbs was 24% over the number in 1940, and by 1960, that increase had jumped to 36%. Among the many efforts to accommodate this growth, new schools were constructed and Catholic parishes began to open in these burgeoning suburban areas.

From 1917 to 1945, Carl Kramer notes that

...in less than three decades, the city experienced its greatest period of industrial growth and residential development, witnessed the displacement of the streetcar by the automobile as the primary mode of transportation, suffered through its deepest economic depression and its severest flood, and felt the effects of two international wars. In the process the city began its evolution from an industrial city into a modern corporate metropolis, characterized by an increasing degree of local, state, and federal participation in and regulation of the urbanization process, the establishment of several large industrial plants owned by giant corporations, and inexorable transfer of much local business and industry from local to outside ownership. Some of these trends would not become immediately apparent until the 1950s or 1960s. But some of the circumstances which made them possible began to appear between 1917 and 1945.ⁱⁱⁱ

After the end of World War I, Louisville experienced unprecedented industrial growth and development, due in large part to the City's own self promotion. This, coupled with governmental financial assistance that encouraged the development of new industries, resulted in a commercial, residential and industrial building boom.^{iv} While much of the commercial growth in Louisville was focused on the city's Central Business District, growth in outlying rural or semi-rural areas, such as Buechel occurred as well.

Growth in outlying areas was fostered in this post-war period in part by upgrades to the City's infrastructure. Improvements in the City's sewer and water system were put into place. Similarly, the Louisville Gas and Electric Company which, by the 1920s, was already serving large numbers of customers in both the City and in the outlying suburban areas, built newer and larger utility plants in anticipation of industrial and residential growth. Transportation improvements were taking place as well. Roadway surface upgrades, expansion of streetcar lines to outlying areas, and later, the prolific use of the automobile, created opportunities for increased mobility both within the city limits and in the outlying rural farmland that surrounded the city proper. The transformation of old turnpike roads into a radial transportation network was key to population dispersion, particularly along Bardstown Road in eastern Jefferson County near Buechel.^v

As municipal infrastructure was expanding to outlying areas, subdivision developers took note and began platting land for residential and commercial development. The residential building boom in eastern Jefferson County and the related increase in population did not go unnoticed by Jefferson County school officials or by the Archdiocese of the Catholic Church. Each responded in a distinct fashion. In all, during the contextual period, 1917-1965, there were 64 schools constructed by the city school system, 12 were constructed in outlying Jefferson County, and 40 parochial schools were built in the Louisville area.

Public Schools in Louisville and Jefferson County County Schools

Our understanding of Jefferson County's public schools during the contextual period (1917-1965) should be shaped by our recognition of how a school's physical plant was organized to achieve educational goals and objectives at the time of construction. In order to answer this question a view of each school facility must be examined. One attempt to present a comprehensive view of public schools emerged in 1944-1945. In that school year, the George Peabody College for Teachers, Division of Surveys and Field Services, of Nashville, Tennessee was hired by County District School Superintendent Orville J. Stivers to complete a comprehensive

ⁱⁱⁱ Louisville Survey East Report, p 86.

^{iv} Louisville Survey East Report, p 87.

^v Louisville Survey East Report, p 110.

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report entitled "Jefferson County Kentucky School Buildings". The report reflects data gathered from 1944 and 1945. Findings were finalized in 1946.

At the time the Peabody Report was undertaken, the independent, county district and city district schools were considering a merger. In anticipation of this merger, the county schools and the independent schools were closely examined and were, to a certain degree, compared to the existing city schools. Inasmuch as the St. Bartholomew Parish School is located in what was then under the jurisdiction of the old county school system, this presents a good opportunity for examination and comparison.

In 1944 and 1945, when data were collected for the Peabody Report, public schools in Jefferson County were governed by four distinct and independent school units: those that were located in the City of Louisville, those in Jefferson County but just outside the city limits, the Anchorage Independent School District defined by the city limits of Anchorage in northeastern Jefferson County, and the Hikes Graded School District, an independent school jurisdiction in southeast Jefferson County, an area which included Buechel.

The Peabody Report indicated that according to the 1944 census the total population of Jefferson County, outside of Louisville, was 84,457. Of this number, 18,018 of the population are described as school-aged children, between the ages of six and twenty-one years. Whites formed the overwhelming majority at 17,213, while blacks were in the minority at 805.

According to the Report, in 1944-45 there were thirty elementary schools for whites and nine elementary schools for African Americans in Jefferson County. These schools were sited in areas that were characterized as formerly rural in character but were feeling the effects of rapid development into suburbs.

The Peabody Report describes in detail what the public schools in the Buechel area had to offer:

The Newburg School (for whites): District 8

Newburg is a two-teacher school in which grades 1-8 are taught. The enrollment is sixty-three. The school building is of frame construction and consists of one story and a basement. The building is heated by jacketed stoves. Pit toilets are provided, and water is obtained from a pump. The desks are of the fixed to the floor type. The school has a piano. Day lighting is supplemented by electric lights. There is a space in the basement for a cafeteria but no cafeteria is maintained.

The Edward C. Roy Elementary School (for whites): District 51

Edward C. Roy is an eight-grade school in which three teachers are employed. The enrollment during the school year 1944-45 reached 101. The building is of brick construction, is heated by hot air, and is equipped with a fixed type of desk. Bottled water is furnished for drinking. The school has inside sanitary facilities. Except for the fact that one of the three classrooms is very small (10' x 22'), this building would receive a rating of "good".

Newburg Elementary School (for blacks): District B

Newburg is an eight-grade, five teacher school in which 188 pupils were enrolled during the school year 1944-45. The building is a one-story and basement structure of brick construction. Bottled water is furnished for drinking purposes. The school has a central heating plant and pit toilets. Cafeteria facilities are provided.

Hikes Graded School (Independent)

The Hikes school building was built in 1927. It is a two-story and basement brick structure with concrete corridor floors and stairs. There are four classrooms on each floor to house the eight teachers and 294 students in grades 1-8. The office of the non-teaching principal is located on the second floor. Classrooms are modern and well equipped. Lighting fixtures are the florescent type. Toilet facilities in the basement are sufficient in number but not well lighted. The boiler room was rather littered at the time of the inspection. The lunchroom is a small basement not designed for the purpose. Space and equipment are too limited for the enrollment. There is no school library. The auditorium is a combination assembly-playroom with a small stage. Seats consist of steel folding chairs. Space is not sufficient to seat all students at one time. The building is in excellent repair. Playground space is ample.

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Additional information on each of these schools was learned from historic documents:

Newburg School (for whites): District # 8

Its last address was near the intersection of Old Shepherdsville and Poplar Level Roads. According to school records, it opened circa 1876 and was initially housed in a one-room school. A basement was added in 1923. It served students in grades one through eight. After the school's closure in 1949 the building was auctioned to H. B. Slaughter.

The Edward C. Roy Elementary School (late-19th century--1955)

The Roy School was located at the intersection of Bishop Lane and Newburg Road. The Roy School was first housed in 1898 in one-room school house.^{vi} A new school building opened in 1912 near the Southern Brick and Tile Company on a two-acre site between Buechel and Poplar Level Roads. In 1920, the school was relocated to the Miller Grocery at 2222 Dundee Road. There is speculation that it may have served as a school for the St. Thomas Orphanage for Boys which was once located at Preston Park (and is now the site of Bellarmine University on Newburg Road). It closed in 1955 and was eventually decommissioned.

Newburg Elementary School (also called Newburg Colored School): District B, 1878-present

This school was located at 5008 Indian Trail, has been referred through the years as the Newburg Elementary and Junior High School; Newburg Colored School; Newburg School B, or the Division No. 3, Newburg Middle School. The Newburg Colored School was a segregated school for African American children. It opened its doors in 1878. The school was originally located in a two-story frame building that served both as a school and as a church. By 1929, the school moved to a new location: a newly constructed two-room frame building located between the Southern Railroad Tracks and Indian Trail. In 1954, with financial assistance from the Rosenwald School Fund, the school was moved into a new building on Exeter Avenue. It was renamed the Newburg Elementary and Junior High School at that time. In 1975 it was again renamed, this time as Newburg Middle School, educating those in sixth through eighth grades.^{vii}

The Hikes Graded School (1845-1975)

This was the first school to open in Buechel serving students in grades one through eight. It was located at 3819 Bardstown Road and has, through the years been identified as either the Hikes Elementary School or the George Hikes, Jr. Graded School. Students paid tuition fees to cover the required cost of attendance at Hikes in the early years. After 1850, attendance was free. From the mid-1800s until 1910 it operated under the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County School system. In 1910, Hikes became an independent school district. The last Hikes School was located in a building that was constructed in 1927. In 1950, the school again became part of the Jefferson County School District. In 1975, the Hikes Graded School closed and was eventually decommissioned by the school system.

From the results of this Report and the documentary record, a picture begins to emerge of public elementary schools in the Buechel area. Of the four schools examined, three served whites and one served African Americans. All four served students in grades one through 8. Enrollment in each school ranged from a low of 63 pupils to a high of 294 pupils with the average number at 160. The number of teachers varied from school to school, depending on school size, and ranged from two to eight. One of the four buildings was of frame construction, while the remaining three were constructed of brick. In this grouping there was one two-story building and a single one-story building. All but one mentioned the presence of a basement. Two of the four schools had a cafeteria, one had adequate room for a cafeteria but no equipment, and one did not state if a cafeteria was present or not. All had a heating system but one relied on a "jacketed stove". Water for students and staff was provided by a pump for one school, two used bottled water, and only one had full plumbing. Two of the schools had pit toilets (outhouses) and two had "inside sanitary facilities". All were equipped with electrical service for lighting.

^{vi} There is speculation that it may have replaced the short lived Shady Side School (1894-1895).

^{vii} Separation by Race/Educational School Segregation: In 1891, a provision of the state constitution called for separate schools for African Americans and for whites. In the Louisville area school funding for blacks and whites was anything but equal. Schools for African Americans were poorly funded, minority teachers received lower pay than their white counterparts, supplies were scarce, and buildings were inadequate. The Julius Rosenwald Fund, established by the Jewish president of the Sears, Roebuck, & Company partially offset the discrepancy in white/black education. The Newburg School was one of five Rosenwald schools built in Kentucky. It was located between the Southern Railroad Tracks and Indian Trail, near the St. Bartholomew School.^{viii} It was not until the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case of 1954 that school desegregation was mandated nation-wide. By 1956, the Louisville City Schools plan implemented the Supreme Court directive by redistricting school attendance boundaries.

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Generally speaking the Peabody Report confirms that the dawn of the post-WWII era, Buechel area public elementary schools conform to the general profile of county public schools. The Peabody Report reveals that while most elementary schools in Jefferson County were adequate in terms of size, many had interiors that were not well planned or functional. The report noted that county school buildings in the outlying areas of Jefferson County had evolved over time in a rather haphazard way. In essence, buildings used as schools were not always designed as school buildings. Instead, these structures were originally constructed for another use and were later converted to school use. In other instances, buildings designed as schools were either poorly designed or had been rendered obsolete given current methods of teaching. In many instances, additions were made to these older schools in a haphazard manner, with little regard to pedestrian traffic flow. Cafeteria spaces were most often multipurpose rooms located in basements or on the ground floors and lacked adequate spaces and equipment. Several schools reportedly had a student population that still relied on outdoor pit toilets and some relied solely on bottled water instead of the accommodations of indoor plumbing.

The Peabody Report recommended that solutions had to be found for what it observed to be the school system's greatest weakness: planning for the future. It was strongly recommended that school sites be acquired in anticipation of future growth and that architects trained in the design and construction of educational facilities be hired to plan buildings that addressed minimum requirements of design, utility, function, flexibility and comfort. The report observes the physical attributes of these schools thusly:

Schools have grown large without the combination or consolidation of the schools in some of the areas. It has been necessary to add to school plants for which additions were not anticipated in the original plans in which the designs were what might be termed "frozen". That is, the planning of building did not foresee the necessity for future expansion, and the design of the buildings made no provisions for additions. This has resulted in very poor circulation of the pupils between new and old parts of the same building, and between new and old buildings on the same grounds.

The Peabody Report acknowledged that parochial schools are an important component of the school composition in Jefferson County. For comparative purposes both the parochial and public schools in Jefferson County taught students in grades one through eight. The report observes that there are nine parochial school institutions in the study area. Of these nine schools, fifty-one teachers instruct an enrollment of 2, 226 students.^{viii}

Catholic Schools in Louisville and Jefferson County Establishment of Parishes

Just as the Jefferson County school system was providing for the education needs of Buechel-area youngsters with the establishment of the Hikes Graded School, Newburg School # 8, the Newburg Colored School, and later by the Edward C. Roy School, the Archdiocese of Louisville provided for the educational needs of children in the Buechel area. The establishment of the St. Bartholomew Parochial Elementary School in Buechel reflected trends in parochial school education with origins that can be traced as far back as the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore of 1884. This Council formally adopted the educational policy that required each pastor in the United States to build his own parish school. Each Catholic school operated autonomously by rising its own money, collecting its own tuition, and administering its own instructional program. Schools maintained contact with one another by working through and with the various religious communities that staffed them. By 1887, a Catholic School Board of Pastors was established. By 1892, Louisville's 25 parochial schools, five Catholic academies and three Catholic orphanages had a total of seven thousand students."^{ix}

In the 1920s and 1930s, states around the nation began regulating non-public schools in a systematic fashion. In Kentucky, by 1926, it was required that all public and parochial teachers be officially certified. This had a major impact on both the public school system and on the Parochial School system throughout the state and brought about an era of increased professionalism among educators in both public and parochial school systems.

By 1925, Bishop John A Floersh (later Archbishop) called for the establishment of a Catholic School Board. This Board mimicked the action in 1920 by the Kentucky State General Assembly that required that County School Boards to appoint school superintendents to oversee educational activities in their jurisdiction. Bishop Floersh put Father Felix N. Pitt in charge of the newly formed Catholic School Board. Acting as superintendent, Pitt "...quickly established a diocesan-wide process for teacher

^{viii} Peabody Report, p 6.

^{ix} Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 165.

St. Bartholomew Parish School

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certification, textbook standardization, teacher in-service, academic and personnel recordkeeping, supervision of teachers, student assessment and a league of Catholic parent/teacher associations (PTS).”^x ^{xi}

In the 1940s, despite the economic hardships at the end of the Great Depression and World War II,^{xii} the Archdiocese constructed three elementary schools in the Louisville area, with St. Bartholomew among the three. The Archdiocese seems to have anticipated the post-WWII population boom. By 1950, Catholic schools became increasingly crowded, with up to 70 students per classroom verses the more typical class of 30. “In the years from 1940 to 1960, American Catholics had grown at a phenomenal rate, doubling in fact from 21 to 42 million. As a major Catholic historian noted ‘the birthrate was high, immigrants joined the church, [and] converts were numerous’.”^{xiii}

As Catholics moved out of the center city and into the outlying suburbs like Buechel, the job of managing Parochial School education became increasingly structured. An office for Catholic High Schools, directed by Father Alfred W. Stinehauser, was established by Archbishop Floersh in 1947.

The parochial school building boom continued well after the war’s end. The years after the WWII reflected a marked increase in suburban growth. Between 1945 and 1965, the Archdiocese formed thirty new parishes. By the 1950s, there were a total of 83 parochial elementary schools with an enrollment exceeding 22,000 in the Louisville diocese. In Louisville, there were 10 Catholic high schools.^{xiv} Between 1950 and 1966, 29 new parishes, most with new schools, were formed. By 1966, there were 50,924 Catholic school students in the archdiocese. This record number doubled the enrollment of the early 1950s and made it possible for 95 % of Catholic children to be educated in a Catholic school setting. The majority of the Catholic School students were enrolled in the seventy-two elementary schools and nine high schools that were now located in Jefferson County.

The tenure of Bishop Floersh (1924-1967) was marked by a period of unprecedented growth in Catholic parishes in the Louisville area. This was in contrast to his predecessor, Bishop O’Donaghue (1910-1924), who established just 3 parishes in the Louisville area while in his seat: St. Denis in 1916, and St Benedict and St. Rita in 1921.^{xv}

While Floersh developed few parishes during the 1930s due to the economic chaos surrounding the Great Depression, just prior to the Crash, in 1928, he set up Christ the King School, and in 1929 he established Holy Family. It would be eight years before any new parishes were formed.

In the same year as the Great Ohio River Valley Flood of 1937, Floersh remarkably oversaw the establishment of 3 new parishes: Holy Spirit, Most Blessed Sacrament, and Our Mother of Sorrows. It was a tremendous accomplishment, given the devastation left by the flood throughout Louisville and the Ohio River Valley.

The rate of parish formation increased significantly in the 1940s. St. Bartholomew was constructed in 1941, on the eve of World War II. Despite severe shortage of building materials because of the war, St. Thomas More would follow in 1944. Bishop Floersh’s penchant for building would continue even after the conflict in Europe had ended. As described by Catholic Historian Fr. Clyde Crews,

After the war ended, as the nation went on a veritable binge of mobility and suburban growth, the Catholic Church would move into the heyday of its “brick and mortar” era. In the Louisville area alone, thirty new parishes would be formed from 1945 to 1965, their titles reading like a litany of the saints. Thus the diocese constructed in its *see* city in this one generation the same number of churches that it had taken sixty years, 1885-1945, to construct before World War II....Groundbreakings and dedications became a regular calendar item for Archbishop Floersh.^{xvi}

^x Encyclopedia of Louisville, p. 165.

^{xi} In 1937, the Diocese of Louisville was elevated to an Archdiocese, Crews, p. 272.

^{xii} The United States Entrance into World War II was precipitated by the December 7, 1941 bombing by the Japanese of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

^{xiii} Crews, p 279.

^{xiv} Crews, p 280-81.

^{xv} Crews, An American Holy Land, p 239

^{xvi} Crews, An American Holy Land, p 192

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St. Raphael the Archangel would follow in 1947 and St. Stephen Martyr in 1948. In all, the 1940s saw the formation of four new parishes.

Our Lady of Lourdes, which dates from 1950, was the first parish formed in the 1950s. In 1951, four parishes were established: St. John Vianney, St. Margaret Mary, St. Matthias, and Sts. Simon and Jude. The year 1953 was marked by three new parishes: St. Gabriel the Archangel, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Jerome, and St. Leonard. St. Barnabas dates to 1955 and St. Clement and St. Pius X were established in 1956. In 1957, Bishop Floersch established four new parishes: Guardian Angels, Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Resurrection. Three were formed in 1959: St. Albert the Great, Mother of Good Counsel and Our Lady of Consolation. The 1950s were boom years for the formation of new parishes. In just one decade, nineteen parishes were established...more than any other decade before or since.

The year 1960 saw three new parishes established by Bishop Floersch: St. Athanasius, St. Basil, St. Martha, and St. Polycarp. The parishes of St. Bernard, St. Ignatius Martyr, and St. Timothy were formed in 1963. Two years later, in 1965, the parishes of Ascension and St. Luke were formed. Thus, during the first half of the 1960s, nine new parishes formed in the Archdiocese.

With the 1917 to 1965 context period viewed in retrospect, it is clear that the ebb and flow of parish formation and subsequent construction of Catholic church buildings gained a slight momentum in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s and then increased mightily in the 1950s and first half of the 1960s. St. Bartholomew signifies the beginning of the Archdiocese of Louisville's "brick and mortar" era and is emblematic of the seeds of growth sown by WWI to the end of WWII. According to Fr. Crews, by addressing population growth trends slowly in the first half of the century followed by accelerated growth in the second half of the century, Bishop Floersch solidified his reputation as a real estate genius.

It is difficult to discern exactly what drove Bishop Floersch to embark on such a vast building campaign. Crews speculates that four influences led to the Bishop's actions:

- 1) The Bishop identified existing geographic gaps in opportunities for Catholics to worship near their homes
- 2) Floersch saw the opportunity and economy of securing available land at reasonable prices for construction of parish buildings in anticipation of inflation fueled by the law of supply and demand,
- 3) The archdiocese took advantage of land donations made by parishioners who sought the formation of parishes in locations convenient and accessible to them and their fellow worshipers, or
- 4) An existing parish may have become too large and unwieldy to manage effectively by the pastor and his associates.

Thus, for the reasons stated above and for perhaps reasons unknown, outlying areas were prime targets for Floersch's building campaign. St. Bartholomew Parish was established according to the typical pattern: the Archdiocese would segregate portions near the edges of existing parishes, and sew together those portions into the new parish. The existing parishes would remain vibrant, and the newly-formed parish had a sufficient base of families to begin anew.^{xvii}

The St. Bartholomew Anniversary Booklet of 1991 speaks to this phenomenon:

As neighboring parishes had "contributed" members for our founding, we soon began to contribute members to other new parishes: in 1953, St. Gabriel; in 1955, St. Barnabas; [and] in 1963, St. Bernard. On April 21, 1963 we gave birth to St. Ignatius along with a gift of \$10,000 in start-up money.

Programmatically, churches within the archdiocese followed a strategic pattern of campus growth. Initially, a multi-functional structure, a church/school, was built. Often a rectory or other church-related building was located on the parish campus as well. With time, and after many parish fundraisers, a single-purpose church was constructed, usually alongside the old church/school. The former church/school would become a school building exclusively. The application of this business-like approach to growth allowed a parish to meet both immediate needs and reach long-term goals for expansion. It fit well within the Archdiocese's vision of broad growth for parishes. With St. Bartholomew, it would take eighteen years to complete this cycle. As indicated in the 1991 parish history,

Growth of membership inspired the building of the new church in 1959. At four times the cost of the first church/school, its sole purpose was the worship of God. In just seventeen years, the parish that had worshipped in the rectory basement holding less than one hundred now needed a church which could accommodate 1,000.

^{xvii} Crews, personal interview with the author, February 18, 2010.

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According to Crews, the erection of a church/school was an outgrowth of Catholic theology as well. Emphasis on construction of the church/school conveyed to the parishioners the importance the Catholic Church placed on education of Catholic youth. Schools became a tangible symbol of the mandate set forth in Canon law that emphasized the key role a Catholic education played in meeting the spiritual needs of the community.

Architecturally, the new churches built between 1916 and 1965 were best described as Moderne, or functional, in design, with few distinguishing features. Only two generations earlier, Louisville Catholics had strived to exemplify their European heritage in buildings of English Tudor Gothic, Italian Renaissance, and Byzantine styles.^{xviii} Stylistically, parish structures, including schools, evolved from high art to functional design. Presumably, this trend was in part a reflection of the increased popularity of industrial design and architecture, particularly evident during the Post WWI period. However, it was likely functional as well, since it was far less expensive to construct an industrial box than it was to construct a building in the High Gothic style of years past. With the economic realities presented by the Great Depression, and those followed by WWII materials shortages and war rationing, it makes sense that parish buildings were restrained in form and style. St. Bartholomew presents the perfect combination of functionality of design with a slight nod to architectural fashion in its Moderne appearance.

Growth of Buechel

Prior to World War I Buechel was largely rural in character. It was located just outside of the city limits of Louisville in eastern Jefferson County. In 1883, this rural farming community adopted the name “Buechel” in reference a post office named for Swiss cabinetmaker John Buechel. By 1900, farmers in this part of the county grew apples, peaches, onions and potatoes, and brokered their goods at the Buechel Produce Exchange. Farm produce was later transported to city markets by way of the Southern Railway line. Around 1900, the area gained attention as a Mecca for race horse breeding. Three Kentucky Derby racehorse winners were raised and trained in Buechel. The notoriety brought on by the horse racing industry’s success, in part, prompted the area’s first bank, The Buechel Bank, to open its doors in 1909. At this time, the Buechel area was characterized as a farming community with little commercial activity, except for a small commercial node—consisting of a grocery, a drugstore, a hardware store and a barber shop—on Bardstown Road, the area’s main transportation artery.

This rural community was populated with farmers and their families. With families, there was a need for schools. As early as 1845 there were public schools in the Buechel area to serve the educational needs of this farm community’s children. The first, the Hikes Graded School (1845-1975) was soon joined by the Newburg School #8 (c. 1876-1923), the Newburg Colored School (1878-present), and later by the Edward C. Roy School (1898-1955). St. Bartholomew was built in 1941 on the cusp of WWII. Each played a vital role in meeting the area’s growing educational needs.

^{xviii} Crews, *An American Holy Land*, p 192.

St. Bartholomew Parish School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
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St. Bartholomew Parish School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): JF 1851

St. Bartholomew Parish School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre (0.89)

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

Quadrangle: Louisville East
Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference 16/618370/4239295

Coordinate values expressed below according to 1927 NAD

1	<u>16</u>	<u>618 438.06</u>	<u>4226 979.51</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The St. Bartholomew Parish School (JF 1851) is located at 2036 Buechel Bank Road in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. The area proposed for National Register listing includes portions of the same property described in Jefferson County Deed Book 2289, Page 221 and Tax Block 618, lot 60. The proposed boundary includes the St. Bartholomew Parish School, the small grassy lawn adjacent to the school, and portions of the parking lot that surrounds the school building.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The entire property proposed for listing on the National Register is less than one acre (0.89) and includes the St. Bartholomew Parish School. Excluded from this nomination are 7 additional resources that were historically associated with the St. Bartholomew Parish: the Church, Rectory, Gym, Parish Office, Garage #1, Garage #2, and the Social hall. All excluded resources have either lost historic and architectural integrity or do not meet the age criteria for National Register listing.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Weeter
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date March 1, 2010
street & number 4302 Talahi Way telephone (502) 296-7666
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40207
e-mail Joanne.weeter@insightbb.com

St. Bartholomew Parish School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, KY
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: St. Bartholomew Parish School

City or Vicinity: Louisville

County: Jefferson **State:** KY

Photographer: Joanne Weeter

Date Photographed: Fall, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

All photographs share the same information:

Photographer: Joanne Weeter
Location of Negatives: Joanne Weeter
Date: September 30, 2009

1. Primary façade of the St. Bartholomew Parish School. School faces Buechel Bank Road to the west. Note the small grassy area adjacent to the school's front entrance, the parking lot in foreground, and the non-contributing Rectory to the left of the school building.
2. West and south face of the St. Bartholomew Parish School.
3. West and north face of the St. Bartholomew Parish School.
4. Close-up of the St. Bartholomew Parish School entrance.
5. Rear of the St. Bartholomew Parish School. Note the non-contributing 1959 rectory to the right (north).
6. The St. Bartholomew Parish Church lies just north of the school and is not included in the delineated boundary of this National Register nomination. The brick building partially visible on the right (toward the south) is the nominated property, the St. Bartholomew Parish School.
7. Typical interior hallway, 2nd floor
8. Typical classroom, 2nd floor
9. Cafeteria, 1st floor

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

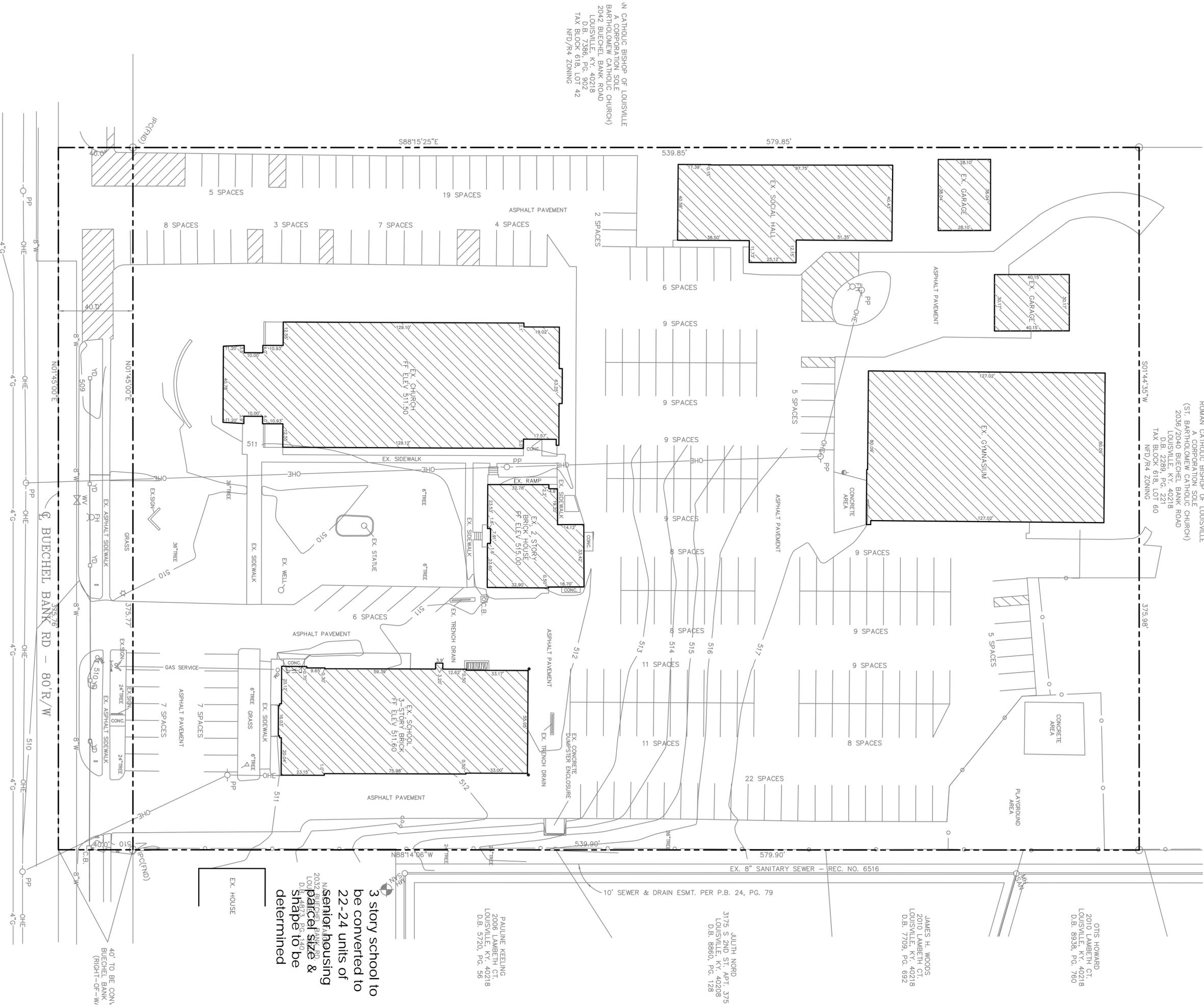
name The Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop of Louisville
c/o David Duetchke, Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry Department

street & number 2911 South 4th Street telephone (502) 637-9786 ext. 132

city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40208

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF LOUISVILLE
 A CORPORATION SOLE
 (ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH)
 2042 BUECHEL BANK ROAD
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218
 D.B. 7386, PG. 902
 TAX BLOCK 618, LOT 60
 NFD/R4 ZONING

OTIS HOWARD
 2010 LAMBETH CT.
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218
 D.B. 8939, PG. 750

JAMES H. WOODS
 2010 LAMBETH CT.
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218
 D.B. 7709, PG. 692

JULITH NORD
 3175 S 2ND ST. APT. 375
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40208
 D.B. 8860, PG. 128

PAULINE KEELING
 2006 LAMBETH CT.
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218
 D.B. 5720, PG. 56

3 story school to be converted to 22-24 units of senior housing parcel size & shape to be determined

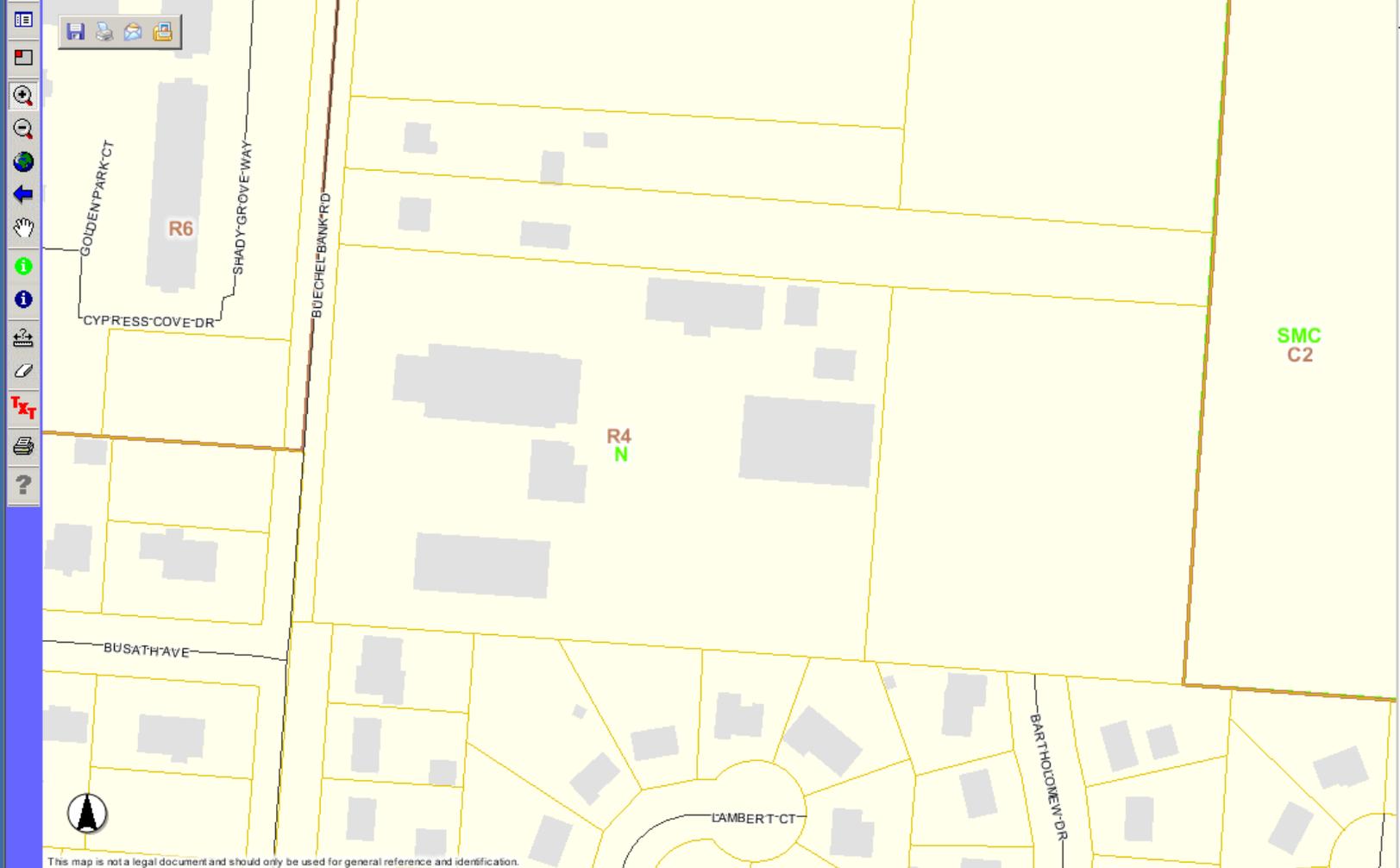
EX. HOUSE

40' TO BE CONV. BUECHEL BANK (RIGHT-OF-WAY)

N CATHOLIC BISHOP OF LOUISVILLE
 A CORPORATION SOLE
 BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH)
 2042 BUECHEL BANK ROAD
 LOUISVILLE, KY. 40218
 D.B. 7386, PG. 902
 TAX BLOCK 618, LOT 42
 NFD/R4 ZONING



Standard Information Map



SEARCH LAYERS RE

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- [Parcel Dimension](#)
- [Layer Change](#)
-
- Floods Fork (DR0)
- Waterfront Review
- Plan Certain District
- Protected Waterway
- Pond
- Stream
- Potential Steep Slope
- Subdivision
- Unstable Soil
- Urban Renewal
- Potential Wetland (Hy)
- Building
- Proposed Subdivision
- FEMA 100 Year Review
- Floodplain
- Floodway
- Ohio River
- Aerial Photography
- Jefferson County
- Municipality
- Louisville Metro

This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

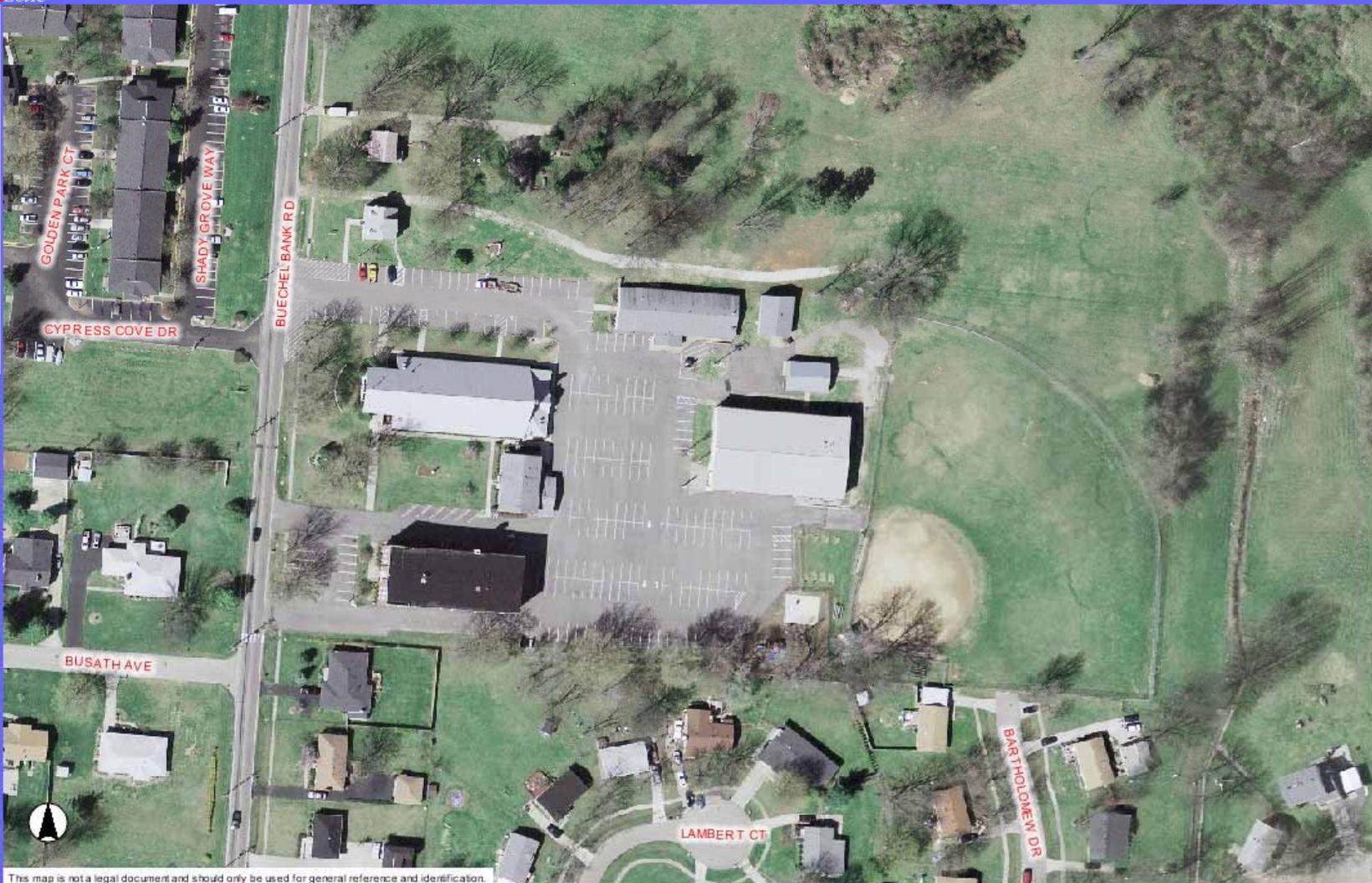
Having Problems?

Scale: 1 inch = 121 feet

-Switch



Aerial Photography Map



This map is not a legal document and should only be used for general reference and identification.

Having Problems?

Scale: 1 inch = 121 feet

Search by Parcel ID
(ie. Block 014J Lot 00)

Block

Search by Street Address
(ie. 700 W Liberty)

Search by Street Intersection
Street (ie. W Liberty

Street (ie. S 7th S



SAINT
BARTHOLOMEWS
SCHOOL

2024

SAINT
BARTHOLOMEW'S
SCHOOL

2034





DO NOT
ENTER



DO NOT
ENTER

13
14



Magel Center



BARTH HALL

1952-1953







SAINT BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH