

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Vincent's Hospital

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7301 St. Charles Rock Road not for publication

city, town Normandy vicinity of congressional district #1, Hon. William Clay

state Missouri 63121 code 29 county St. Louis code 189

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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
title Historic Preservation Plan has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1971 federal state county local

depository 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

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Continuation sheet ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL

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2. Harvey A. Friedman
Castle Park Associates
10 S. Brentwood
Clayton, Mo. 63105

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

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. Semicircular 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 corbelling 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.

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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

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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 Chateausque 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.¹ 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.² 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 1863,⁴ 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.⁵ He was the son of the noted philanthropist Anne 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 1908.⁸ 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"¹⁰ 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,¹¹ 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 1886.¹² Several works by or partly

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by Ellis are already on the National Register, including buildings in New York, Wisconsin and Missouri.¹³ The drawing makes it certain that Ellis had an important role in the design of the hospital, which lends it national interest.

The chateausque 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).¹⁴ 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).¹⁵ 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;¹⁶ 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 1958.¹⁷ In 1978, the functions of the hospital were consolidated with the DePaul Community Health Center in Bridgeton, and the building was vacated.¹⁸ 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

1. Mary Kimbrough, "St. Vincent's Century of Progress," St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe Democrat, October 15, 1957.
2. Dr. B.J. Allen, Physician's Report of the St. Vincent's Institution for the Insane (St. Louis, 1864, p. 3).
3. Richard J. Compton, ed., Pictorial St. Louis (St. Louis, Western Engraving Co., 1875, p.202).
4. Doris Benz and Barbara Ann Windt, History of Normandy (Normandy, Mo.: Normandy District School Central Office, 1973).

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5. Julius Ptizman, Pitzman's New Atlas of the City and County of St. Louis (Philadelphia, A.B. Holcombe & Co., 1878).
6. Louis Houck, A History of Missouri (Chicago: R.R. Donnelley, 1908), Vol.III, p.41; Frederick L. Billon, Annals of St. Louis (St. Louis: Author, 1888), Vol.II, pp.213-215.
7. "The Lucases-Hunts," St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe Democrat, September 4, 1934.
8. Hugh M.G. Gorden, "Harvey Ellis, Designer and Draughtsman," Architectural Review, Vol. XV (Dec., 1908); reprinted in The Prairie School Review, Vol.V, No.1-2 (1968), p.37.
9. John Albury Bryan, Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), p.50.
10. Wayne Andrews, Architecture in Chicago and Mid-America (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), p.31.
11. Roger Kennedy, "The Long Shadow of Harvey Ellis," Minnesota History, Vol.XL (1966), pp.97-108; "Long Dark Corridors: Harvey Ellis," The Prairie School Review, Vol.V, No.1-2 (1968), pp.5-18.
12. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (New York: Penguin Books 1977), p.319.
13. The Federal Building, Rochester, New York, and two buildings in Menomonie, Wisconsin; the Compton Hill Water in St. Louis and the German-American Bank Building in St. Joseph.
14. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969), p.142.
15. Bryan, pp.93, 99.
16. Jean R. France, "Harvey Ellis: Architect," A Rediscovery - Harvey Ellis: Artist, Architect (Rochester, N.Y.: Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, 1972) p.19.

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-
17. Kimbrough, op. cit.; St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe-Democrat, "St. Vincent's New Clinic," May 23, 1958.
18. James C. Rogel, "St. Vincent's Hospital Attracts Possible Public, Private Purchasers," St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe Democrat, February 24, 1978.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Allen, Dr. B.J., Physician's Report of the St. Vincent's Institution for the Insane. St. Louis, 1864.
2. Benz, Doris, and Windt, Barbara Ann. History of Normandy. Normandy District School Central Office, 1973.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 85.67 acres

Quadrangle name "Clayton, Missouri"

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis code 189

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. 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 63131

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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

Signed

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 Feb 82

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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3. Bragdon, Claude, "Harvey Ellis," Architectural Record, Vol. XXV (1908), pp. 173 - 183; reprinted in The Prairie School Review, Vol. V, No. 1-2 (1968), pp. 19-35.
4. Faga, Mary Ellen. "Inside State's Only Private Hospital For Mental Illness," Clayton /Missouri/ Citizen, October 6, 1976.
5. Garden, Hugh M.G., "Harvey Ellis, Designer and Draughtsman," Architectural Review, Vol. XV (Dec., 1908); reprinted in The Prairie School Review, Vol. V, No. 1 - 2 (1968), pp. 36-39.
6. Hyde, William, and Conard, William L., Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. New York, Louisville, St. Louis: The Southern History Company, 1899, Vol. IV, pp. 1977-1978.
7. Kennedy, Roger. "Long Dark Corridors: Harvey Ellis," The Prairie School Review, Vol. V, No. 1-2 (1968), pp. 5-18.
8. Kimbrough, Mary. "St. Vincent's Century of Progress," St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe Democrat, October 15, 1957.
9. Royal, James G., "St. Vincent's Hospital Attracts Possible Public, Private Purchasers," St. Louis /Missouri/ Post-Dispatch, Feb. 24, 1978.
10. St. Louis /Missouri/ Globe Democrat, "St. Vincent's New Clinic," May 23, 1958.
11. University of Rochester. A Rediscovery - Harvey Ellis: Artist, Architect. Rochester, N.Y.: Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, 1972.

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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 Provinciate.

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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



ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL
Normandy, Missouri
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Clayton, Mo." (1954) photorevised 1968 and 1974

Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
A. 15/734265/4285880

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.









