RESOLUTION - EXHIBIT I
ST. FRANCES CABRINI CATHOLIC CHURCH & RECTORY
LANDMARK HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

WHEREAS, Reverend A. J. McMahon is the representative of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church; and,

WHEREAS, this representative, on November 13, 1978, requested that the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church & Rectory be designated as a Landmark under the City of Omaha's Landmark Preservation Ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church & Rectory was designed by Omaha's nationally recognized architect, Thomas Rogers Kimball; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, constructed in 1908 and Rectory constructed in 1910, are important early examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style of Architecture which reached its zenith in American architecture between 1915 and 1940; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church is historically related to the oldest parish in continuous existence in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANDMARKS HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OMAHA:

THAT, the St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory, 1335 So. 10th Street, be designated as a Landmark of the City of Omaha.
Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

INSPECTION DATE 12-1-78

REQUEST
X Landmark Designation
 _ Landmark Heritage
 _ District Designation
 _ Certificate of Approval to Perform Work

CATEGORY
District
X Building
 _ Structure
 _ Site
 _ Object

APPLICANT Catholic Archbishop of Omaha

LOCATION OF PROPOSED DESIGNATION OR WORK
1335 S. 10th Street (St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church)

PRESENT USE
Religious

CONFORMANCE WITH MASTER PLAN
Conforms to 1977 Community Development Master Plan's Major Rehabilitation Areas in which construction or reconstruction of public facilities is encouraged

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
Existing: Mixed high and low density residential area composed of 19th century homes and medium-rise, early twentieth century apartment buildings which to some degree support the Grace Bible Institute's residential needs.

Probable future effect on neighborhood if designation is granted or work is approved.
Will establish an awareness for historic preservation in a major 19th century residential area threatened by Grace Bible's encroachment.

PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approval

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approval

ADDITIONAL DATA
APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK OR LANDMARK HERITAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

NAME OF STRUCTURE

Historic  St. Philomena's Cathedral

and/or Common

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church

LOCATION

Street and Number  1335 So. 10th St., (10th and William St.), Omaha, Nebraska  68108

CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>Military</td>
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OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Catholic Archbishop of Omaha  Phone Number  558-3100

Street and Number  100 No. 62 St., Omaha, Nebr. 68132

City, State and Zip Code  Omaha, Nebraska  68132

Representative Rev. A. J. McMahon  Phone Number  342-2464

Street and Number  1334 So. 9 Street

City, State and Zip Code  Omaha, Nebraska  68108

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots 8 thru 17, Forest Hill Park, Douglas County, Nebraska

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title Omaha City Architecture, Landmarks, Inc.  Federal  State  County  Local (Over)
DESCRIPTION
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Specific Dates
Architect
Builder

[Signature]
Date
Signature of Owner/Representative

Mar. 12, 1975
DESCRIPTION

Designed by the nationally recognized Omaha architect Thomas Rogers Kimball and erected in 1908, St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church is an important early example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style which reached its zenith in American architecture between 1915 and 1940. Although the massing is similar to many Mission Style structures that preceded it in the West, surface ornamentation and the asymmetrical composition of the main facade categorizes the church as belonging to the later revival period.

Kimball based his design for the cathedral on the historical building styles which Spain had brought to the Valley of Mexico and then to the remote missions of the Pacific coast in the 17th and 18th centuries. The first clergyman of any faith known to have visited Nebraska was the Franciscan friar Juan de Padilla who accompanied Coronado. Later, in the 18th century, this region was a missionary area subject to the see of Santiago de Cuba.

Built by contractor Thomas Herd at an approximate cost of $40,000, the steel frame 45' x 123' stucco and limestone clad structure rises to a height of thirty feet. Color and texture within the stucco expanses of the lower wall surfaces are provided by the broad red-tiled roofs and projecting eaves. The ornate limestone low-relief carvings which highlight the round arched portico, central window surround, cornice and parapets of the main facade are also employed in the sixty foot, octagonal copper domed bell tower. This Baroque detailed tower with its adjoining curvilinear gable maintains the delicate balance between the pictorial and more strictly architectural qualities of Kimball’s design.

The low one-story side walls, defined by the projecting eaves of the sanctuary’s tiled gable roof, are punctuated by segmental-headed, stained glass double hung windows. These window areas are defined by stucco-clad brick piers which project through the roof’s surface and are capped by pyramidal red tile roofs which tie back into the main roof surface.
The rhythm set up by these piers is repeated within the austere sanctuary's interior by exposed triangular beamed wooden trusses which are set against a tongue-and-groove, dark stained wooden ceiling. A central recessed arched opening located at the front of the sanctuary breaks the unadorned beige plaster walls and frames a high altar of Carrara marble. An 1869 Johnson & Son pipe organ, the first in Omaha if not in the State of Nebraska, is located on a rear balcony.

In 1910, a brick and stucco "priest's home" was erected to the east of the existing church for a cost of $10,000. Designed by Thomas Kimball in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style and constructed by B. J. Bock, this 27' x 39' two-story structure is void of major ornamentation. The smooth walls are regularly punctuated by rectangular windows and projecting red-tiled awnings. Spanish tile hip roofs with exposed rafters extend well beyond these walls, the only exception being a south wall which ends in a split curvilinear gable.
SIGNIFICANCE

In the year 1854, the Indians, by treaty, yielded right to the territory now occupied by the city of Omaha. One year later, the new settlement was visited by the Rt. Rev. J. B. Miege, S. J. Vicar-Apostolic of Leavenworth, Kansas, by Rev. W. Emonds of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and by Rev. J. F. Tracey of Jackson, Dakota County. Father Tracey came at the request of Bishop Miege but Father Emonds had preceded both and was the first priest to set foot on Nebraska soil. It is also claimed that Father Emonds said the first Mass ever offered in Omaha on May 14 or 15, 1855, either in the Representative Hall of the old statehouse, Ninth and Farnam Streets or in the home of Hon. J. B. Cumming at 18th and Dodge Streets.

At this time there were about 100 Catholics in Omaha and by 1856 it was resolved to build a Catholic Church. The trenches for the foundation were dug on the northeast corner of Eighth and Howard Streets, but on account of some difficulty regarding the site a change was made to a point 100 feet further north. July 18, 1856, the Omaha Nebraskan was able to report: "It is somewhat significant that the first public house of worship now in progress of building in Omaha City, and perhaps in the Territory, is a Catholic church, a nice fine brick building on Park Place". St. Mary's Church was a structure 24 by 40 feet, its outer brick facade and inner decor in keeping with the severity of the life of the day.

Father Emonds was called away before the foundations were laid so upon completion Rev. Father Scanlan of St. Joseph, Missouri, came to Omaha and dedicated the church under the title of "St. Mary's". This church was the only place of worship that the Catholics had in those early days as all of Omaha was one parish. Father Scanlan remained only a few weeks after the dedication of the new church and was succeeded by Father Cavanaugh of Illinois who also left after three months. This resulted in the closing of the church.

Among the visiting priests in 1857 and 1858 was Father Augustine, O. S. B. of Atchison,
Kansas, Father G. H. Plathe, Father Tracey, and Father Power from Missouri. In August, 1858, Rev. Francis Cannon became the first resident pastor of St. Mary's.

In May, 1859, Rev. James O'Gorman, a Trappist, was sent from his monastery at Dubuque, as Vicar-Apostolic of Nebraska. St. Mary's was then elevated to the rank of a cathedral. The Bishop had as his assistants two priests to minister to the spiritual needs of about 300 Catholic families scattered up and down the river counties of Nebraska. His vicariate embraced the vast territory now included in the dioceses of Omaha, Lincoln, Helena, Cheyenne, Fargo, and Sioux Falls.

The rapidly increasing population of Omaha in 1866 brought its full quota of Catholics, and it soon became apparent that the pioneer church at Eighth and Howard was inadequate. Even at this date there was very little of Omaha beyond the territory now bounded by 15th on the west, Douglas on the north, and Pierce Street on the south.

Father Cannon was succeeded in the pastorate of St. Mary's Cathedral by the Rev. Father Kelly, who was the first priest ordained in Nebraska on the 25th of June, 1859. Bishop O'Gorman soon sent him on two missions, the first to collect funds in St. Louis to aid the Sisters of Mercy, whom the Bishop had brought to Omaha, and the second to collect funds for the new cathedral which the Bishop determined to build at Ninth and Harney Streets. Father Kelly left on the former of these missions in 1864 and on the latter in 1865. He visited a number of eastern cities and his zealous efforts were successful in both instances.

The other priests who succeeded Father Kelly after his appointment for the above named work were Fathers Dillon, Lawrence, McMahon, Hayes, Curtis, Daxacher, Grunebaum, and Egan. In the spring of 1867, the work for the new cathedral was begun, and the cornerstone was laid on June 2nd, 1867 in the presence of a crowd of 2,500. The building was enclosed before winter and dedication took place on Passion Sunday, March 29th, 1868. Rev. Father
Egan, during whose pastorate the work of building St. Philomena's Cathedral was begun, was transferred, and Rev. John Curtis, who had been sent to Sioux City was recalled and made the first pastor of the new cathedral.

St. Mary's was converted into a schoolhouse and placed in charge of the Sisters of Mercy. The cost of the cathedral was variously estimated between $40,000 and $60,000, the principal benefactors being Mr. and Mrs. Edward Creighton. The marble altar, costing $5,000.00, was the gift of Mrs. Creighton. It was finished and placed in the church late in the fall of 1868. The organ, costing $4,000.00, was put in place in 1869.

Omaha was doubling its population every year at this period, and the new church was soon crowded as much as the old one had been. In 1873, a letter in the Freeman's Journal observed that "it is said that Catholicism is firmly established in Omaha - the cathedral is filled every Sunday with the elite of the city among whom some of the military officers of rank and their ladies". On October 13, 1907, the last services were held there and the site was taken over by John Deere Plow Company. The people belonging to the parish worshiped for two years at St. Mary Magdalena until their new church was built at Tenth and Williams Streets.

The new St. Philomena's was built in 1908 at a cost of $41,500 with furnishings taken from the old church. The next year a parish house was built, and in 1956 a two-story brick schoolhouse. St. Philomena's became the interim cathedral until St. Cecilia's was completed at Fortieth and California Streets.

In 1958 the name of the church was changed to St. Frances Cabrini, since data substantiating Philomena's history had not been authenticated. The new name honored Mother Cabrini, the first American citizen canonized who had established schools, hospitals and orphanages throughout the United States.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


"Catholics made modest Omaha 1855 start". Sun Newspapers, September 2, 1976, page 4-B.

"Diamond Jubilee of an Organ", Sunday World Herald Magazine, page 9-C.

"Neighboring Churches Offer Contrast in Architecture", Omaha World Herald, August 16-17, 1978, page 2-J.


Sacred Concert at St. Philomena's Church, 1950, pp. 15-19.

Case No. HI-78-12, APPLICANT Rev. A.J. McMahon requests LANDMARK DESIGNATION for 1335 South 10TH Street (St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church). Area to be designated is shaded.

10TH STREET
LOT 12
LOT 13
LOT 14
WILLIAM STREET
9TH STREET

SCALE: 1" = 50'
ORDINANCE NO 28651

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory located at 1335 South 10th Street, as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

Section 1  That the St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory is located at 1335 South 10th Street, which is legally described as follows
Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Forest Hill Park, Douglas County, Nebraska

Section 2  That for the reasons recited in Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit I, and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the architectural characteristics of the St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory are hereby deemed significant and worthy of preservation

Section 3  That the St Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory is hereby designated pursuant to Section 4 16 080 of the Omaha Municipal Code and hereby subject to all of the provisions of the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha

Section 4  That this Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect fifteen (15) days from and after the date of its passage

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER

Steve Rosenkrantz

APPROVED

Larry Papenfuse
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA DATE 2/15/19

PASSED FEB 13 1979
ATTEST

Mary Gallagher
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF OMAHA

APPROVED AS TO FORM

CITY ATTORNEY

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original document now on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Buster Brown, City Clerk, City of Omaha
ORDINANCE NO 28651

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory, located at 1335 South 10th Street, as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL

1st Reading JAN 30, 1979
Hearing 2-6-79

Hearing FEB 6, 1979
Over to 2-13-79

Final Reading FEB 1st 1979
Passed

Mary Lee, write
NOTICE TO PUBLIC
ORDINANCE NO 79-03

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory located at 1335 South 16th Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha

SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory located at 1335 South 16th Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha

PASSED: February 22, 1979
APPROVED

AL. VESEY
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
MARY GALLIGAN CORNETT
2-22-79
City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE to designate the St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church and Rectory located at 1335 South 16th Street as a Landmark pursuant to the Landmark Heritage Preservation Ordinance of the City of Omaha.

MARY GALLIGAN CORNETT
2-2-79
City Clerk