

National Register Eligibility Evaluation

Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School, 1500 Prentiss Street, New Orleans, LA 70122

Applicant: Roman Catholic Church/ Archdiocese of New Orleans

The campus is located in the Oak Park subdivision within the Gentilly section of New Orleans. The campus consists of several buildings: an administration building connected to three classroom buildings; a separate elevated classroom building; a rectory; a life center; a mechanical building; a maintenance building; and a church. The St. Frances Cabrini Church will be evaluated in a separate eligibility determination. The campus of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School was purchased by the Archdiocese in 1952 to develop a new parish in the section of New Orleans then called "Mirabeau Gardens." The parish was developed for the large number of Catholic families settling in the area. The community expressed a special interest for a catholic educational facility in the newly developed neighborhood. The notable architecture firm of Curtis and Davis were commissioned to create a master plan for the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini facility and designed all the original buildings on the campus. Curtis and Davis received several awards and recognition for their Modernist architecture. They worked both nationally and internationally, but had their biggest impact on the City of New Orleans. They designed numerous modern structures in the International Style throughout the city. Many of their designs can be found in civic institutions and commercial structures.

Administration, Classrooms and Mechanical Buildings

The school consists of an administration building, four classroom buildings and a mechanical building, all constructed in 1953 and designed by Curtis and Davis. The administration building faces Prentiss Street with the three classroom buildings located behind it, all connected by glass-enclosed breezeways. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation. The walls are clad with brick veneer. The roof is a series of concrete connected barrel vaults spanning the building and entryway. The metal front doors and sliding glass doors appear to be original. The three classroom buildings, also constructed in 1953, rest on concrete slab foundations and are clad with a combination of brick veneer, concrete masonry units, and T1-11 siding. The classroom buildings have flat built up tar and gravel roofs. The two-over-two aluminum sash windows are original, while aluminum sliding windows are replacements.

The elevated classroom building was also constructed in 1953. It is supported by fourteen square metal columns. There are two brick veneer vestibules located at ground level with stairs leading to the elevated classrooms. The walls are clad with vinyl and T1-11 siding. The two-over-two aluminum sash windows are original. The mechanical building was constructed at the same period to house the mechanical systems of the school buildings. The structure rests on a concrete slab foundation with brick screen wall

with a decorative geometric pattern which masks the mechanical and electrical systems for the school facility.

While the school facility won two Awards of Merit from the American Institute of Architects in 1954, the buildings have a typical plan found in many other schools within New Orleans. There was an increase in construction of schools within the City of New Orleans in the 1950s, due to a study initiated by the school board identifying the long-range needs. Due to the study, thirty new schools were constructed between 1952 and 1960. Most notably were two designs by Curtis and Davis. Curtis and Davis designed Lafon Elementary School in 1954 and the Carver Complex in 1958. These two schools also won awards from the American Institute of Architects and possess more complex plans following Curtis and Davis' design principles.

Rectory

The rectory was also designed by the architecture firm of Curtis and Davis and completed in 1954. The building has a rectangular footprint and rests on a concrete slab foundation. The walls are clad with a combination of brick veneer and vinyl siding. The flat roof is of built up tar and gravel construction. The six-over-six wood sash windows are original. The brick structure is simple in form without the decorative elements of other Curtis and Davis buildings. The rectory is connected to the church by a metal canopy walkway. There is an addition clad in vinyl siding located on the rear of the building constructed in 1961.

Life Center

The life center was constructed in 1985. The brick structure is hexagonal in shape with no windows. The asphalt roof is pyramidal in shape. The building was utilized as an activity center for the students of the school.

Maintenance Building

This one-story wood framed structure was constructed in 1973 as a recreational facility for young people of the parish. It was most recently used as a maintenance building. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation. The walls are clad with composite wood siding. The front gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The wood sash windows have been fixed shut and are covered with metal security grating. There are also two post-1960 pre-fabricated sheds located next to the maintenance building.

Determination

The above listed buildings are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as they do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. It is unlikely that the structures are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A or B, as there is no evidence that the buildings are associated with an individual or event significant at the local, state, or national level. They do not appear to be eligible under Criterion D, as they have not yielded, nor are likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Prepared by: Valerie Gomez, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist

Date: November 17, 2006

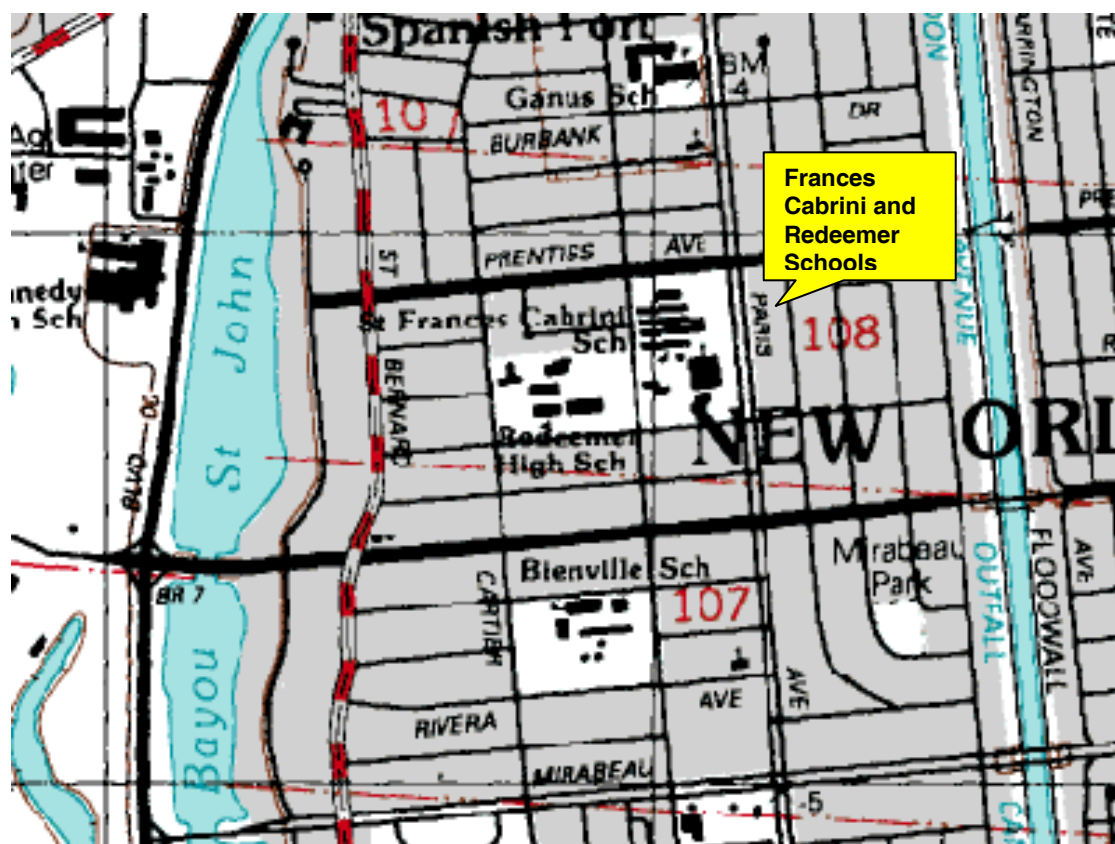
Section 106 Review : USGS Quad Location Map

Map Name: USGS New Orleans East Quad

Resource Name: St. Frances Cabrini and Redeemer-Seton School

Resource Address: Bounded by Prentiss Avenue, Paris Street, Crescent Street, and Cartier Street.

Resource Coordinates: 30.01307 N; -90.07814 W





Section 106 Review : Aerial View Location Map

Resource Name: St. Frances Cabrini Campus

Resource Address: 1500 Prentiss St., New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

Resource Coordinates: 30.01482, -90.07677



	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School Site, 1500 Prentiss Street, New Orleans, LA 70122
View of Administration Building from Prentiss Street (2006)	 A photograph showing the Administration Building of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School. The building is a long, single-story structure with a brick facade and a series of arched windows. It is surrounded by lush greenery, including large trees and palm plants. In the foreground, there is a wooden fence with a diagonal slat design. A red date stamp "NOV 17 2006" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.
View of Classroom Building #3 facing Northeast (2006)	 A photograph showing Classroom Building #3, a long, single-story building with a red roof and a chain-link fence in front. The building has a series of large windows along its side. The foreground is a grassy area with some trees and a utility pole. A red date stamp "NOV 17 2006" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School Site, 1500 Prentiss Street, New Orleans, LA 70122

View of
Breezeway of
School
Buildings facing
East (2006)



View of
Elevated
Classroom
Building facing
Northeast
(2006)



	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School Site, 1500 Prentiss Street, New Orleans, LA 70122
View of Mechanical Building facing West (2006)	 <p>A photograph showing a mechanical building with a brick wall and a large tree. A green dumpster is in the foreground. The date stamp 'NOV 17 2006' is visible in the bottom right corner.</p>
View of Rectory facing West (2006)	 <p>A photograph showing a rectory building with a white porch and a large tree. A red caution tape is in the foreground. The date stamp 'NOV 17 2006' is visible in the bottom right corner.</p>

	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini School Site, 1500 Prentiss Street, New Orleans, LA 70122
View of Life Center facing Southwest (2006)	
View of Maintenance Building facing Northwest (2006)	