

ASCENSION CHURCH/CLUB/SCHOOL RECTORY, AND CONVENT

Located between Dupont and Bryant Avenues, north of 17th Ave, the Ascension Parish has played a major role in the life of Old Highland since 1890. The Ascension complex consists of five distinctive buildings. The oldest, the church itself, dates from 1901. It is a twin-towered Gothic brick building with elaborate stained glass and exquisite interior. It was designed by E.J. Donahue of Saint Paul under the direction of Archbishop Ireland.

The Ascension Club, now the Centro Cultural Chicano, was erected in 1919 according to designs by Minneapolis architects Bertrand and Chamberlain, followed in the next year by the Georgian-style Rectory just to the south of the church. The former rectory, the Barber House (1890) was moved to 1731 Dupont Avenue North and converted to a duplex.

The Ascension School faces Dupont Avenue and is a fine example of the English Renaissance style. It was constructed in 1927 according to designs of architect Charles A. Hausler. Note the sculptural stone ornamentation, with figures of children, a boy with an open book, and an owl.

The final building in the complex is the former Ascension Convent, now Ascension Place. It was erected in the Spanish style in 1940. It is located to the north of the church at 1803 Bryant.

