

# **CHURCH, MANSION RECTORY BUILT IN 1858 BEING RAZED**

St. Elizabeth Church, 2721 Pine boulevard, with its rectory built in 1858 as the mansion of a wealthy merchant, was being razed today by the Aalco Wrecking Co.

The church, which served the oldest Negro Catholic parish in St. Louis, was closed because of its proximity to St. Malachy's. The congregation is to be absorbed by other churches. Church officials said no plans have been made for the site.

The three-story brick mansion which later became the rectory was built by Robert Funkhauser, a merchant who was one of the founders of the Southern Bank. The house, which had mantels made in Italy, was considered one of the finest in St. Louis in its day, according to Dr. William G. Swekosky, dentist and authority on old St. Louis buildings. He reported that Funkhauser, having a \$10,000 mortgage and desiring to make a quick profit, sold the place for \$53,000 in 1859 to Edward Walsh, millionaire flour miller and steamboat owner.

In 1885 it became the home of the University Club, which later built an addition to the west. In 1913 Walsh's heirs transferred the mansion and grounds to the Catholic diocese for a nominal \$10. The addition became the church building.

The 16-room rectory, which originally had a colonial front, was remodeled in 1944 following a fire.