

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

MAR 2 1982

HISTORIC NAME: St. Mary's Hall COUNTY: Rice
 CURRENT NAME: CITY/TWP.: Faribault
 LEGAL DESC.: See continuation sheet ADDRESS: off 4th Street NE and 4th Ave. NE.

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Education</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted X PRESENT USE: School
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____
 OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1926 ORIGINAL USE: School
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Episcopal Church ARCHITECT/BUILDER: C.H. Johnston

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bishop Whipple Schools Faribault, MN 55021	ACREAGE: Less than one acre approx. <u>4.5</u>
LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Rice County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5, Faribault, MN 55021	UTM REFERENCE: Faribault Quad. 7.5 15 / 479025 / 4904500
FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg	
DATE: April 1981	

DESCRIPTION:

St. Mary's Hall is located due east of downtown Faribault on the east bank of the Straight River. The campus is situated on a high bluff overlooking the river valley and the main part of Faribault. The campus is bordered to the north by the State School for the Deaf and on the south and east by a residential neighborhood. St. Mary's is the smallest of the private and state institution campuses on Faribault's east side. Unlike the other campuses which comprise a complex of academic buildings and associated structures, St. Mary's is housed in principally one building.

St. Mary's Hall is a large Late Gothic Revival building designed by St. Paul architect C.H. Johnston and constructed in 1926, after an earlier 1883 structure was destroyed by fire. The building faces east and is basically I-shaped in plan, with the long axis running north and south. A chapel wing is located south of the main structure, attached by a small gabled passageway. The building is constructed of rough cut stone with smooth cut stone trim and is two stories in height. Dominant features are the slate roof, coped gables, hipped dormers, oriels, and bays. Fenestration is regular, and windows are rectilinear, double-hung, with six over six lights on the upper and basement floors, and six over twelve lights on the main floor. The main entry is at the center of the long axis and incorporates three bays; three arched openings are located on the main floor, and an oriel with a three part window is on the second floor over the door. The flanking bays terminate in coped gables and feature paired windows on the second and third floors. The Bishop Whipple Memorial Chapel to the south of the main building is also of stone construction with a slate gable roof and coped gable ends. Engaged buttresses separate the small stained glass windows of the side bays (east and west), and stone crosses adorn the coped gable peaks.

St. Mary's Hall retains excellent design integrity. The building continues to serve its original multi-purpose function, housing administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, dormitory rooms, dining room, and chapel. The school merged with Shattuck and St. James Schools in 1971: the three are now known as the Bishop Whipple Schools. Classes are held on both campuses, but the girls continue to reside at St. Mary's.

Also included in the nomination are two supportive buildings in close proximity to St. Mary's Hall; both pre-date the 1926 structure. The power plant (c.1890) is a few feet north of St. Mary's Hall and is connected by an underground tunnel. It is of rough cut stone construction with a tall brick chimney at the northeast corner. Immediately to the rear of the power plant is the original infirmary (c.1900), a one story painted brick building with a low hip roof.

(see continuation sheet)

Significance:

St. Mary's Hall is significant as the distinctive third home of an important component of the Episcopal schools established in Faribault during the mid-nineteenth century. St. Mary's Hall was established in 1866 as a boarding school for girls; Seabury Divinity School, an Episcopal seminary, and Shattuck School, the seminary's "grammar school" and boarding school for boys had been established only a few years before St. Mary's. Bishop Henry Whipple and his wife Cornelia had identified the need for a school for girls and opened St. Mary's in their home at Sixth Street and Central Avenue in 1866. Cornelia assumed the position of housemother and became the driving force behind the school, greatly influencing its direction until her death in 1890. In 1872 the school was turned over to a board of trustees, and the Whipple family moved to a new home. The school's enrollment and reputation grew simultaneously, and in 1881 land was purchased on the bluff for expanded facilities; a new building was completed in 1883. The present structure is the third building to house St. Mary's; it was constructed in 1926 after a tragic fire destroyed the 1883 structure in 1924. Its locally distinctive Late Gothic Revival design makes the building an appropriate replacement for a distinguished secondary institution.

Legal Description:

Part of the SE NE NE Sec. 31 T110 R20. Begin at a point on the east line of Sec. 31, 50 ft. south of the northeast corner of the SE NE NE Sec. 31. Commence Wly 400 ft.; thence Sly 500 ft.; thence Ely 400 ft.; thence Nly 500 ft. to point of beginning.

Bibliography:

Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed., History of Rice and Steele Counties Minnesota, Chicago: 1910.

"St. Mary's Hall, 1866-1966," booklet, property of The Bishop Whipple School, Faribault.