

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 9 1987

date entered MAR 17 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Mary Academy Complex

and or common

2. Location

street & number Between 4th, 5th, Monroe, and Jefferson Sts. — not for publication

city, town Paducah — vicinity of

state KY code 021 county McCracken code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

Fourth Street Partnership, P.O. Box 7506, Paducah KY
name CareerCom Business College, 218 N. 5th, Paducah KY 42001

street & number

city, town Paducah — vicinity of state KY

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McCracken County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Paducah state KY

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources of Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state KY

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Mary Academy is an architecturally significant complex of contiguous structures whose development reflects the growth of Paducah most important private educational institution. The complex lies within a half-block area between Fourth and Fifth Streets, Jefferson Street and Monroe Street and between the Paducah Downtown Commercial District and the Lower Town Residential District, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One section of this complex, the 1891 convent and classroom building, is the only surviving nineteenth century educational building in Paducah and it is a locally significant example of Queen Anne architecture used on the monumental scale. Other structures in the complex are locally significant examples of Classical Revival architecture. The complex of structures remains relatively unaltered and retains its architectural integrity.

The oldest section of the complex is the northernmost, two-story brick building, constructed in 1891 as a convent and classroom building. (Photos 1,2,3) This rectangular building sits at the corner of Monroe Street and Fifth Street, with the main entrance facing Fifth Street. The front of this structure is distinguished by a pair of Queen Anne parapet gables, with stone detailing and round-arched windows. The front of this structure originally had a small wooden Gothic Revival porch. In 1925 a one-story brick addition was added to the front, providing a new entrance, chapel, and schoolroom. The room serving as the chapel was crowned with a dome and a cross. This addition was carefully designed to blend into the main facade, with red masonry walls, stone details, and two-over-two windows used.

The long Monroe Street facade of the convent section is distinguished by a series of two-over-two windows which provided light to classrooms. Dormer windows provided light to the attic area, which served as living quarters for the sisters. A steeply pitched, standing seam metal roof remains on the building. The interior retains original Queen Anne woodwork such as doorway and window surrounds, wainscoating, and staircases.

In 1908 a new grade school in the Classical Revival style was built facing Fifth Street next to the 1891 convent-classroom building. While the grade school is a separate structure from the 1891 convent building, the two buildings relate well due to a common height, setback, number of stories, and use of building materials. Reflecting its early twentieth century building date, the structure was designed in a restrained manner of the Classical Revival style. The two-story, brick building has a central projecting portico containing a round-arched main entrance. The second story of the portico has a row of four windows which provide light to the main staircase of the building. The rhythm of four windows grouped together as a whole is repeated on each level of the two adjoining wings. The interior of the first and second floors remain offices and classrooms, with the basement being used as lounges and a cafeteria. Distinguishing interior features are the painted woodwork around doors and windows and the tile floors. (Photos 4,5,6,7)

In 1932 a new high school building and gymnasium (Photos 10,11, 12) were built at the corner of Fourth Street and Monroe Street. While originally a separate building from the main complex, the high school continued the architectural traits of the other buildings in the complex. This

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1891, 1908 1932, 1939	Builder/Architect	UNKNOWN
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This complex of buildings stands today as a monument to Paducah's first major private educational institution, St. Mary Academy. Since 1858, St. Mary Academy has been the most important private educational institution in Paducah. Generations of Catholic students were educated here, providing the community with a core of well-educated and committed citizens. Graduates of St. Mary Academy have served this community as leaders of government, religion, business, and civic participation.

The cornerstone of the complex, the 1891 convent-classroom building, is the oldest surviving educational building in Paducah and the only 19th century educational building still standing in Paducah. Later buildings in the complex testify to the growth and prominence of the school. The structures, which range in architectural styles from the Queen Anne to the Classical Revival, are architecturally significant in the community's development. The complex, which remains relatively unaltered, is a unique survivor locally of the large school complexes that educated generations of students.

The academy was founded in 1858, after Bishop John Spalding of Louisville suggested to the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Nelson County that they open a school in Paducah. In September, 1858, three Sisters of Charity arrived in Paducah to found the school. The sisters were lead by a Sister Martha, known for her "surpassing zeal, energy, kindness, and piety." The sisters opened a school that October in a building on Broadway. In December, 1858, the sisters bought property at the corner of Fifth and Broadway for \$3000. A frame building on the corner was used for the sisters' residence and a brick building was converted into a school. Enrolling sixty students in the first year, St. Mary Academy was the first major educational institution in Paducah. The first commencement exercises were held in June, 1859.

St. Mary Academy made a giant stride in 1891 with the construction of a two-story brick convent and classroom building at the corner of Fifth and Monroe. This building was constructed on the site of the frame structure used as a residence for the sisters. The building contained classrooms, offices, and living quarters for the sisters. At the time of construction, this was the largest educational building in Paducah.

From 1907 to 1908, a new building was constructed adjacent to the 1891 building for use as a grade school. The building was blessed by a Father Jansen and school began in it in February, 1908. In October of 1908, St. Mary celebrated its Golden Jubilee. An afternoon reception was held and the public invited to inspect the new building.

In 1925 a new addition was added to the 1891 building, providing a chapel for the sisters and students. During the 1920s, it was Sister Mary Raymond's greatest desire to build a new high school building. Sister Macrina, who succeeded Sister Mary Raymond, was able to accomplish this dream. In the spring of 1932, two frame buildings at the corner of Fourth (see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"St. Mary Has Survived Wars, Pestilence," The Paducah Sun-Democrat. July 25, 1956

Donovan, John. The Catholic Church In Paducah, Kentucky. Paducah: Young Printing Co., 1934.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Paducah East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

7	16	3	5	7	8	2	10	4	17	0	5	6	4	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification L-shaped property, starting at SE corner of 5th and Monroe, then S 231.67', then E 115.5', then N 88.80', then E 225', then along 4th St. N for 131.5', then W along Monroe St. 195.75' to starting point. Legal boundaries for three tracts making up complex.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Holland

organization Growth, Inc.

date May 15, 1986

street & number 500 Clark

telephone 502-443-9284

city or town Paducah

state KY

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David C. Meyer*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date January 29, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Almy Schaefer
Keeper of the National Register

date March 17, 1987

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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included the use of brick masonry walls, stone detailing, and two-story height. The high school building continues the Classical Revival detailing of the earlier grade school building. The dominating feature of the high school building is a projecting portico containing the main entrance and interior staircase. The doorway is graced with Corinthian columns supporting an arched opening. The double, glass-paned doorway is topped by a beautiful round-arched, stained glass window. The central portico of the building is balanced by a slightly projecting southern wing. North of the central portico is wing containing additional classrooms. Behind this wing is the gymnasium, which is distinguished on the exterior by brick piers dividing the facade into multiple bays. Large windows on the second floor level provide light to the interior of the gymnasium. The interior of the gymnasium contains the original stage area.

In 1939 the St. Mary Music Hall was constructed, joining the 1932 high school-gymnasium building with the 1891 convent building. This building was very modest in design, but continued the architectural traits of the other buildings in the complex by being two stories tall with red brick masonry walls and stone details. Focus on this simple addition is concentrated on a granite doorway with the words ST. MARY ACADEMY carved into the stone. The interior classrooms open onto central hallways, which also provided access from one section of the complex to another. The building became an integral part of the complex by its critical position between the two oldest sections. The common use of building materials and details also integrates this section into the overall complex. (Photo 12)

The only other building in the complex is a detached, one-story brick boiler house located in the courtyard parking area. This building, now used for storage, has a large smoke stack rising from it.

The St. Mary Academy possesses a significant position in the architectural heritage of Paducah. The 1891 convent section is an important example in Paducah of Queen Anne architecture used on a monumental building. The grandiose design of the convent section testifies to the original intentions of its builders to raise an edifice that reflected the stability and prosperity of Paducah's major private educational institution. This structure stands with Paducah's Grace Episcopal Church and Broadway Methodist Church as the last monumental religious-educational-governmental buildings in the downtown area that date from the Victorian period.

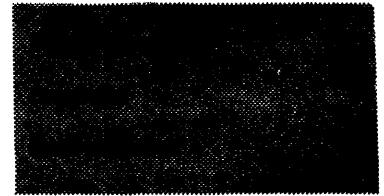
Over a fifty year period, this message of stability and prosperity was repeated as new buildings on the monumental scale were added to the complex. The two most significant additions, the 1908 grade school and the 1932 high school-gymnasium, are among the most significant examples of Classical Revival architecture in downtown Paducah. These buildings, along with Paducah's Market House and the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, contribute to downtown Paducah's architectural character as a turn-of-the-century town. A later addition to the complex, the 1939 Music Hall, is modest in design but is significant because of its critical, connecting location between the earlier structures.

The St. Mary Academy stands unique among Paducah structures, in its representation of both the Queen Anne and Classical Revival architectural styles and its unaltered testimony to the life of an educational institution.

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and Monroe Street were demolished to make room for the new high school and gymnasium. The \$50,000 cost was raised through denations from local citizens. In 1939 the St. Mary Music Hall was completed, providing 19 complete music rooms.

In the late 1960s, the St. Mary Academy was moved to a new modern facility on the outskirts of town. Since then, the 1908 section has been occupied by Draughon's Business College, a Paducah educational institution since 1901. In 1985, the 1932 high school-gymnasium area was restored by PEBCO for corporate offices. Developers are currently being sought for the restoration of the 1891 and 1939 sections of the complex.

Beyond its educational significance, St. Mary Academy is significant in the architectural development of Paducah. The St. Mary Academy complex stands as a monument to the growth and prominence of this educational institution from 1891 to the 1960s. Starting with a monumental Victorian structure, the Academy grew for fifty year to meet new needs and demands. All of these additions, while each unique in purpose and design, relate well to each other because of common building traits, such as use of materials, numbers of stories, height, and setback. St. Mary retains the appearance and feeling of a complex of monumental buildings constructed to meet the needs of a dynamic educational institution.