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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Saint Thomas Theological Seminary  
other names/site number: Saint Thomas Seminary

**2. Location**

street & number: 1300 South Steele (na) not for publication  
city, town: Denver (na) vicinity  
state: Colorado code: CO county: Denver code:031 zip code: 80210

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
(x) private	(x) building(s)		
( ) public-local	( ) district	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u> buildings
( ) public-State	( ) site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
( ) public-Federal	( ) structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	(x) object	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>4</u>	<u>8</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>n.a.</u>		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>n.a.</u>	

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x) nomination ( ) request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( ) See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 6-15-89  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
( ) See continuation sheet
- ( ) determined eligible for the National Register. ( ) See continuation sheet
- ( ) determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ( ) removed from the National Register.
- ( ) other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Alvina Byen 7/27/89

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Functions or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church school  
RELIGION/church  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church school  
RELIGION/church  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
REVIVALS  
Other: Mediterranean Revival

**Materials**  
 (enter categories from instructions)

foundations concrete, brick (faced)  
 walls brick  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof Other: Spanish and Mission tile  
 other Cast stone trim  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Saint Thomas Theological Seminary, located in southeast Denver, is bounded by Arizona Street on the north, South Steele Street on the west, and South Monroe Street on the east. Land to the south is occupied by a new housing development which was constructed on land sold by the seminary. The property was purchased by the seminary in 1906 for \$15,000 from the Aetna Real Estate and Investment Company. Initially, the property consisted of 55 acres, with 37 acres remaining since the sale of 18 acres for residential development. The seminary property is now occupied by a complex of buildings generally grouped around a quadrangle. Roads and drives surround the buildings and parking lots are located to the east and south of the buildings. Other man-made features on the property include tennis courts (to the east of the Storage Building) and playing fields. The remainder of the property is landscaped with lawn and groupings of shrubs and trees. The property is well-maintained and provides an attractive setting for the seminary buildings, so the entire 37 acres is included in the nomination.

Six major buildings and six outbuildings make up the seminary structures. The major buildings are:

(x) See continuation sheet

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1. De Andreis House (formerly Old Red Brick) constructed in 1908;
2. Main Seminary Building
  - a. Administration Building, constructed in 1926;
  - b. Tower, constructed in 1927;
  - c. Chapel, constructed in 1930-31;
  - d. Dining Room/Kitchen, constructed in 1931;
3. Theology Building, constructed in 1955-1956;
4. Library, constructed in 1955-1956;
5. Convent, constructed in 1949-1950;
6. Recreation Building, constructed in 1950-53.

Of the six, the first two contribute to the seminary complex; the remaining four are noncontributing, but only because they are less than 50 years old. The De Andreis House is the original seminary building. The Main Seminary Building surrounds three sides of the quadrangle and is made up of four sections with distinct functions and design elements. The noncontributing buildings are carefully designed to be compatible with the older buildings; however, their dates of construction, less than fifty years ago, render them noncontributing. As these buildings age, their status should definitely be reconsidered. All but the De Andreis House are examples of the Lombard Style and are grouped around a quadrangle. The more public buildings are at the north and west sides of the grouping, and the more internal seminary buildings are on the more private east and south sides.

In addition to these main buildings, there are several outbuildings, which include:

7. Grotto, constructed in 1931;
8. Bell (1865);
9. Maintenance Building (1908 with several later modifications);
10. Storage Building (ca. 1940 with ca.1960 addition);
11. Garage (ca. 1940);
12. Gas house (ca. 1956).

The grotto and bell are both contributing objects. The remaining buildings are noncontributing primarily because of utilitarian appearance and purpose. The sketch map illustrates the locations of all the major buildings and outbuildings and each structure's status as contributing or noncontributing.

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**Building Descriptions**

1. **De Andreis House.** The De Andreis House, the original seminary building, was constructed in 1908 as an eclectic example of early 20th century revivalism. Long known as Old Red Brick, or O.R.B., because of its red brick construction material, the three-story building is topped by a hip roof covered with Spanish tile. The projecting center front pavilion is accented with a shaped, parapeted gable. At the south end of the west facade is a round tower with a conical roof. The building is topped by a domed cupola with a cross. All of the windows and doors on all four elevations are arched -- first, third, attic and cupola openings are round arched and second floor openings are flat arched. Voussoirs and sill courses are white sandstone, as is the cornice, gable coping, and water table. The building sits on a raised basement, which is also constructed of red brick. The entrance pavilion is further accented by a covered porch with round arch openings and square piers and a curved stairway with stone-capped red brick cheek walls. The two side elevations are accented by shaped gable dormers, and the rear facade has a simple gable dormer. Although the front and principal facade faces west, all four sides are meant to be viewed.

Exterior changes to the building are relatively few. The original stairway leading to the north entry porch was removed around 1930, at which time a new stairway and entry was added on the south where concrete stairs with metal railings now lead up to the doorway. At the rear, a large red brick chimney and gas fired heating plant were added in 1958.

Decidedly eclectic in style, the De Andreis House was designed by the Reverend Nicholas M.J. Steines, an architect and structural engineer. Steines' design was carried out by Denver architect John J. Huddart. Perhaps the major stylistic influence is California Mission Revival, often characterized by curvilinear gables and round arches. Hip roofs covered with tile are also characteristic. Large Mission Revival buildings such as schools and churches often boast one or two square towers. A round tower such as this, however, is more reminiscent of the Queen Anne style, which was in the latter stages of popularity at the time of construction. The cupola is decidedly uncharacteristic of either the Mission or Queen Anne styles; such a feature was common for large classically designed buildings.

Over the years the building has served many purposes and the interior has been altered to accommodate them. The most recent remodeling took place in 1984. Because of the extensive remodeling, virtually no original features remain on the interior.

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**2. Main Seminary Building.** Beginning in the late 1920s, St. Thomas began a major building program that resulted in construction of four connected buildings that form the east, north, and west sides of the quadrangle. All four were designed by Jules Jacques Benois Benedict, a well known Denver architect, in what he termed the Lombard style. Although their design is similar, the four sections have different functions and different levels of detailing, so they are described individually. Technically, each of the four is one section of a single building, each section being connected to the next.

**2.a. Administration Building.** Sometimes called the Philosophy Building, the Administration Building was completed in 1926. The west-facing building is long and narrow. The west facade of the three-story, buff brick building is articulated by a center entrance pavilion that is one story, constructed of cast stone, and topped by a flat parapet with coping. (In the original plans for this and the other Lombard style buildings, Benedict had specified Del Norte lava stone; however, the cost proved to be prohibitive and cast stone has been used throughout.) Behind the pavilion, the three center bays project slightly and the center bay is topped by a low, square tower with a hipped roof. The cornice of the tower is highly detailed with pointed arch corbels and dentil work. This was originally intended to be the main entrance to the building, but was never used as such. The center pavilion arcade and first story openings are round arched. First story windows are full length openings with brick surrounds accented with stone voussoirs. The windows themselves are paired casement with a plain spandril panel below. Second story window openings are flush and rectangular. The third story, round arch windows are set in groups of four divided by engaged columns. Window surrounds are brick and create a quoin-like pattern. The center bay is accented by a set of three, two-story tall round arch windows with engaged column mullions. The southernmost bay of the front facade also projects. It is accented by a gable roof with the same pointed arch corbeling. The first two stories are marked by full length, paired round arch openings detailed with stone mullions, spandrils, and surrounds. At the center of the third floor is a niche with a statue on a corbeled base. The end-bay entrance is also round arched and detailed with darker brick and stone voussoirs. Windows on the side and rear facade are smaller and simpler with only dark brick surrounds. The buff brick building rests on a darker brick base topped by a cast stone water table. The building is topped by a gable roof covered with red mission tile. The narrow eaves are boxed and accented with brackets. The cornice is marked with medallions and molded terra cotta in a serpentine pattern. An enclosed walkway connects the Administration Building to the newer buildings to the south.

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The interior of the Administration Building consists of small offices lining corridors. The only area of the building of note is the stair lobby at the north end of the building; this area has groined vaults, round arch openings with brick voussoirs, and terrazzo floors.

**2.b. Tihen Memorial Tower.** At the north end of the Administration Building is the Tihen Memorial Tower, which balances the southern entrance pavilion of that building's long facade. The tower was constructed concurrently with the Administration Building, though when the dedication was held in the fall of 1926, the tower was only about three-quarters finished. The tower was dedicated several months later in June 1927. In addition to serving as the principal landmark for the seminary, the 138-foot tower's first floor also serves as a narthex for the chapel and entrance lobby for the Administration Building.

The tower is constructed of the same buff brick as the other Lombard-style buildings. The first story has two round arch portals, one facing west and the other north, which are Romanesque in flavor. The cast stone jamb shafts and voussoirs are intricately carved with religious and vegetative motifs, which are continued on the door lintels. The tympanum of both doors feature circular windows with eight lights set in stone muntins surrounding a circular light. Encircling the window are motifs of the Vincentian community. The doors themselves are heavy oak slabs with elaborate cast iron hinges creating ornamentation. Over the lintels are three round arch windows. The square tower is topped by a hip roof covered with mission tile. Beneath eave brackets and simple cornice are an arcature of six round arches and an arcade of three round arches, repeated on all four sides. At the corners are statues. Below the spandrils of the arcades are arched corbels. The intervening wall surface of the four facades is articulated with corner piers and narrow, inset round arch panels. As stated previously, the first floor of the tower serves as an entrance lobby and the upper portion as an observation platform; in between are storage rooms, access to attics of the adjacent buildings, a musical practice room, and stairs to the observation platform. The observation platform is open to the air for venting the chapel. The interior of the tower lobby is dominated by a large fireplace and cast stone mantle. The floor is brick set in an elaborate herringbone and cross pattern. Hanging from the center of the groin vault is a wrought iron light fixture.

**2.c. St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.** Located to the east of the tower and forming the north side of the quadrangle is the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, which was constructed in 1930 and 1931. It is constructed of the same buff brick and has

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similar Lombard styling; the more elaborate plan and detailing is reminiscent of pre-Romanesque, Romanesque, and Gothic churches. The building has the shape of a cross with the nave extending 100 feet from the tower narthex to the crossing, above which is a square tower. Transepts and the apse extend from the crossing; three side chapels of polygonal shape extend from each transept, and the apse also has a polygonal upper story. The building's most notable feature is its intricate brick work, evident on both the interior and exterior. The architect specified that 900 shapes of brick be manufactured. It took the Denver Pressed Brick Company five months to manufacture them. Not only are the shapes diverse, but also the colors -- buff, red, green, and glazed. On the exterior, the intricate patterns of brick are particularly evident in the arch surrounds and elaborately corbeled cornice accented with a frieze of crosses and triangles. The gable roof of the nave, hip roof of the crossing, and polygonal roofs of the apse and side chapels are all covered with mission tile. All of the windows are round arched with decorative brick surrounds. Above are clerestory windows, which are round arched and grouped in threes. The chapel windows are filled with stained glass, all but three of which were made by Franz Meyer of Munich, Germany.

The interior of the chapel is highly detailed using the same brick work motifs as the exterior. The nave and side aisles are divided by arcades of round arches with multicolored brick voussoirs. Some of the brick work is in a three-dimensional, chevron pattern. The same brick work can be seen in the surrounds of the clerestory and side aisle windows. The piers and walls themselves demonstrate the remarkable quality of this masonry: standard size buff bricks are accented with bands of narrower buff brick, and the banding is emphasized with the use of a darker mortar. Around all of the voussoirs is a band of stone which is accented by use of a third mortar color. The sanctuary (under the crossing) is the most elaborately detailed portion of the interior. Brick work most evident in the voussoirs is even more intricate. Ribs support the pointed arch ceiling, which is further divided into panels stenciled in a filigree pattern. The ribs themselves are painted in a colorful filigree pattern. A large, elaborate filigreed bronze lantern hangs from the center of the vault; other light fixtures in the chapel and narthex are smaller and less elaborate. Five murals in the sanctuary were completed in 1931; the murals, painted by Colorado artist Charles Moffat Kassler, Jr., are done in fresco, and at the time were the only murals in this medium in Colorado. The main altar, accomplished by Daprato Statuary Company of Pietrasanta, Italy, is white Botticino marble with inset black marble and gold leaf mosaic. The floors of the chapel are terrazzo in different patterns and colors. The floor of the nave and side aisles are simple square panels; however, the sanctuary floor is in a quatrefoil pattern in buff,



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green, and dark and medium brown. Each of the six side chapels is dedicated to a different saint and funds for the altar and statuary in each were obtained from the Denver community. Each of the chapels has a statue of multicolored marble, a late Roman sculpture technique revived in the Renaissance. The chapel statuary also was sculpted by the Daprato Studios of Pietrasanta, Italy.

**2.d. Dining Room/Kitchen Building.** The Dining Room/Kitchen Building was constructed in 1931 to replace cramped facilities in the O.R.B. The building, designed by J.J.B. Benedict, complements the rest of the Lombard-style buildings, though it is somewhat simpler and smaller. Forming the east side of the quadrangle, the building is one story tall and topped by a mission tile gable roof. Ornamentation is limited to simple dentil work along the eaves. Round arch windows with dark brick surrounds articulate the west, north and south facades. The openings are filled with either french doors or windows. The kitchen, which was added to in 1949, is at the east side of the building. An addition of identical design was made to the dining room's north end in 1956. The need for both additions was foreseen by the architect, who designed the original building to accept these additions. The additions are sensitive to the original design and do not detract from or alter the character of the original building. Presently, the dining room has a seating capacity of 250 and a stage at one end allows the building to serve as an auditorium. The interior of the large, spacious dining room is dominated by the slightly pointed barrel vault ceiling. Originally, wrought iron lights were suspended, but these have been replaced by inset fixtures. The building is directly connected to the chapel.

**Noncontributing Main Buildings.** Four main buildings -- the Theology Building (also called the Classroom Wing) and the Library, both constructed in 1955 and 1956 and the Convent, constructed in 1949 and 1950, and Recreation Building, constructed in 1950 through 1953 -- are noncontributing only because of their dates of construction. The four are counted as separate buildings because they are freestanding or are connected to other buildings only by enclosed walkways. In material, detail, quality of design and use of the Lombard style, the four buildings are compatible with their predecessors. These buildings were designed by Benedict's successor, John K. Monroe. The primary difference is a far simpler level of detailing in the later buildings. Connected to the Administration Building by another enclosed walkway, the Theology Building forms the south side of the quadrangle. The Library Building is immediately to the south of this and connected to the other by an enclosed walkway. Both buildings are constructed of buff brick and topped by hip roofs covered with mission tile. Windows are simple double hung with plain surrounds. Center bays are accented with round arches. The eaves are boxed and have brackets and dark brick detailing similar to the original buildings. Attached to and forming part of the east end of the Theology

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Building is one story garage designed in the same style as the rest of the building. The Convent (1949-50) is a separate structure located to the east of the Dining Room/Kitchen. The Recreation Hall (1950-53), also called the Bonfils Hall and Gym, is located some distance to the east of the quadrangle. Both of these buildings are simple, two-story structures constructed of buff brick accented by a dark brick base and corbeled cornice. The roofs are hipped and covered with mission tile.

**Outbuildings**

The Seminary Grotto, constructed in 1931, was designed by J.J.B. Benedict and was built by theology students. The Grotto is about 16 feet tall and constructed of solid stone. Behind the front arch, with its cut stone key stone, is a half dome constructed of rough cut masonry. The Grotto is located south of the quadrangle, behind the Library Building. The Grotto is designated as a contributing object.

Near the center of the quadrangle is a small belfry. Although the belfry was constructed in 1947, the bell and belfry are considered a single contributing object because of the historical significance of the main resource -- the bell. The bell was brought to Colorado in 1865 for the city's first Catholic church. After hanging in several downtown churches, the bell was moved to St. Thomas in 1943 and the belfry project was initiated to celebrate Armistice Day in 1945.

Of the remaining out buildings (all noncontributing), three are simply functional in appearance with no attempt having been made to make them compatible in design with the other seminary buildings. These buildings include a storage building, a garage, and a maintenance building. These buildings are noncontributing because of their utilitarian appearance, which does not match the style of the larger buildings. The maintenance building is one story, flat-roofed and constructed of brick. It has both double hung and industrial sash windows. Prior to 1958, it served as the heating plant for O.R.B., and it still houses the pumps for the seminary's well water system. It has been extensively modified since it was originally built in 1908, with original openings having been bricked-in in several locations and new doors and windows having been added. Immediately to the east is the garage, a simple wood frame structure covered with asbestos shingles and topped by a shed roof. Across the drive is the storage building, a simple flat roof, brick structure with small windows and garage doors. The northern section of this building appears to have been built around 1940, with the larger, southern section dating to around 1960. To the south of the storage building is the gas house (1956), a very small brick building with detailing

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reminiscent of the Lombard style main buildings. It has dark brick accents and a mission tile covered hip roof. Although it is compatible in design with the other seminary structures, its age renders it noncontributing. This structure houses the equipment for distributing natural gas from the main incoming line to the seminary structures.

**Landscape Features**

Although no formal landscape plan was ever executed, the landscaping of the grounds is important to the character of the property. Three formal landscape features can be identified: one is tree-lined drives; another is area originally intended as the entry to the Administration Building; and the third is tree rows to the north of the seminary buildings.

The main drive into the complex (approaching the Tower at a diagonal from the northwest corner of the property) is lined with a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees. This pattern continues along the other drives, although on a more scattered basis. One of the earliest and most formal tree-lined drives which extends east from the Grotto and turns north at the east property line, has had its paving removed and today consists only of grass between what remains of two rows of trees. The center pavilion of the Administration Building, which at one time was intended as the main entrance, is marked by symmetrical plantings of spruce trees and small, sculpted junipers. A distinct pattern of five rows of deciduous trees dominates the area between the main (diagonal) entry drive and the drive to the De Andreis House. The remainder of the property has scattered groupings of deciduous and evergreen trees generally placed near buildings and drives, with large, open playing fields to the southwest and northeast. The only historic landscape feature to be removed was a dense grove of evergreen trees to the northwest of the grotto which was removed to make way for the new library in 1955.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ( ) nationally ( ) statewide (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria (x) A ( ) B (x) C ( ) D  
 Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) (x) A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D ( ) E ( ) F ( ) G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Education  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1906-1939  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1906; 1908;  
1926; 1927;  
1930; 1931

**Cultural Affiliation**

n.a.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

n.a.

**Architect/Builder**

Steines; Huddart; Benedict  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.**

The Saint Thomas Theological Seminary meets National Register Criterion C because of its exceptional design, fine craftsmanship and materials, and design by a prominent architect, Jules Jacques Benois Benedict. Although it is a religious property, it meets exception A because its significance is primarily architectural. The seminary complex is significant for architecture as a good example of the Mediterranean or Lombard style. The first building was constructed in 1908 as the culmination of a long-held desire on the part of the local Catholic community to build a college or seminary. Because the community had to wait 30 years to realize this goal, the original building, now called De Andreis House, was an impressive though eclectic example of early 20th century revivalism. By the mid-1920s, the seminary had outgrown the one building, and initiated a community-wide fund raising effort for expansion. The Catholic community responded enthusiastically. No expense was spared in creating a complex of beautiful landmark-quality structures at St. Thomas to demonstrate the pride of the Catholic community through fine architectural design. The locally prominent architect J.J.B. Benedict was called on to design the Administration Building, Tihen Tower, St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, and Dining Room/Kitchen in what the architect termed the Lombard Style, which could also be termed Mediterranean Revival. As such, the quadrangle-centered complex is one of the finest examples of the style in the Denver metropolitan area. Indeed, the chapel is considered by some to be the city's finest ecclesiastical building with

(x) See continuation sheet

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its intricate interior detailing and fine exterior massing. The seminary meets Criterion A for its significance in the area of education because of its uniqueness as an educational institution, being the only such school within a 1,000 mile radius. Over 1,100 priests have been trained at the seminary for dioceses and religious communities located throughout the world. Most of the graduates serve within the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains region of the U.S., so the seminary serves this part of the country in a special way. It also boasts an impressive, nationally-recognized library.

Four architects were involved in design of the seminary buildings: Nicholas M.J. Steines; John J. Huddart; Jules Jacques Benois Benedict; and John K. Monroe. Steines, who designed the De Andreis House was a native of Luxembourg. Born in 1872, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1902, possibly after developing his architectural skills in New York, where he lived before entering the priesthood. As a member of the Vincentian community, Steines was selected to design this important structure. He left the priesthood in 1910 with no further record of his whereabouts.

Steines prepared specifications for the new building and prepared some drawings (copies of which have not been preserved). However, his plans were realized by John J. Huddart who prepared the detailed working drawings from which the building was actually constructed. Huddart (1856-1930) was an English-born architect and engineer who came to Denver in 1882. Although few of Huddart's nonresidential buildings remain in Denver, he was best known as a designer of courthouses and schools, and these remain in communities throughout Colorado and the surrounding states. If, as one might suspect, Steines prepared sketch plans, Huddart was responsible for final design and overseeing construction. Therefore, this is one of the few nonresidential buildings in Denver with which Huddart can be associated. Huddart is considered by many to have been one of Denver's finest architects of the Victorian era; he was also one of the few to successfully maintain his practice through the 1893 depression.

The architect most readily associated with Saint Thomas Seminary is J.J.B. Benedict (1879-1948). Benedict was born in Chicago and trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Returning to this country in 1899, he worked for prominent architectural firms in Chicago and New York until he came to Denver in 1909. Benedict opened his own firm and prospered immediately designing houses for Denver's socially prominent families. In his designs he was a perfectionist and excelled at creating beautifully detailed historic revival structures. The four structures he designed for Saint Thomas, all in what he termed the Lombard style,

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bear this out. He considered the chapel building to be his finest creation, and local architectural historians would concur. Some consider this building to be Denver's most exquisite ecclesiastical building because of its well proportioned massing and intricate detail created with simple, well crafted materials. Two other religious buildings designed by Benedict remain in Denver: the Divine Science Church and the Holy Ghost Church. The former is an intricately detailed example of the Classical Revival, in which the Classical orders were delineated to the ultimate extent. (This instead of using Medieval and Gothic ornamentation and Christian symbolism, as at St. Thomas.) Holy Ghost Catholic Church is a good example of the Late Gothic Revival Style, but it lacks the intricate detailing that takes full advantage of Benedict's talents. The St. Thomas Seminary is an excellent example of Benedict's work, demonstrating his full range of talents as an architect.

The later buildings, all noncontributing only because of date, were designed by Benedict's successor, John K. Monroe. Monroe served as Benedict's assistant during the design of the earlier part of the seminary, so Monroe was uniquely qualified to create these highly compatible later buildings. After Benedict's death in 1948, Monroe completed a number of Benedict's other religious structures, including Holy Ghost Church, Christ the King Church, Good Shepherd Church, and St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Architecturally, Saint Thomas Seminary stands out in Denver. It is the only such Roman Catholic seminary within a radius of 1,000 miles, so its configuration and setting are unique. The Benedict and Monroe buildings, individual buildings grouped around a quadrangle, make an usually unified architectural statement, although they were constructed over a period of 30 years. No other campus in Denver, regardless of its purpose, maintains this same level of architectural integrity. And, because of this integrity and the quality of the design, the complex is one of the best examples of the style (be it termed Mediterranean Revival or Lombard) in the city.

Saint Thomas Seminary has some indirect, but nonetheless notable connections with Denver's first bishop Joseph P. Machebeuf. Machebeuf had come to Denver as a priest when the young city was part of the Diocese of Santa Fe. The Frenchman had come to this country with Archbishop Lamy of Santa Fe, about whom Willa Cather's Death Comes for the Archbishop is written. Machebeuf had from the start wanted a seminary or college in Denver and purchased land in what is now downtown Denver in about 1860. Financial need compelled him to sell the land in 1875. It

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

Saint Thomas Seminary

was not until the 1906 purchase of the St. Thomas property and the 1908 construction of the De Andreis House that Machebeuf's dream was realized.

The second connection with Machebeuf is the bell which hangs in the belfry within the seminary quadrangle. In 1863, Father Machebeuf procured a bell for his church, and it was the first of its kind in Denver. It was set up on a wooden derrick-like structure, and within one year it was blown down and the bell was broken. The following year, Machebeuf solicited funds for a new bell and was able to purchase one twice the size. The bell was manufactured by Stuckstede and Co. of St. Louis. Because of its age, it is truly a memento of Denver's pioneer years. The bell was installed in Denver's first Catholic Church. When the location of the cathedral was changed, the bell was moved to Holy Ghost Church. In 1942 the bell, which had hung in two churches of the same name at the same downtown site, was replaced by an electric carillons. The bell was transferred to St. Thomas, and it was installed in the belfry as a memorial to the alumni of the seminary who served as chaplains to the troops in World War II.

The seminary is also a notable educational institution in Denver and the west. Over 1,100 priests have been trained at the seminary during its 80 years of existence. Although many of the graduates serve dioceses and religious communities located throughout the world, most have remained in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions of the country. St. Thomas has made a special contribution to this part of the country. The 150,000-volume library collection, started in 1932, is now the largest Roman Catholic theological collection between Chicago and the west coast.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Rybolt, Father John E. History of Saint Thomas Seminary. Unpublished manuscript on file at Seminary, 1988.

Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgren. Denver: the City Beautiful and Its Architects, 1893-1941. Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1987.

(x) See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing ( 36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ( ) previously listed in the National Register
- ( ) previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ( ) designated a National Historic Landmark
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary location of additional data:
- ( ) State Historic Preservation Office
  - ( ) Other State agency
  - ( ) Federal agency
  - ( ) Local government
  - ( ) University
  - (x) Other

Specify Repository:  
Saint Thomas Seminary

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property: 37 acres

**UTM References**

A	<u>1 3</u>	<u>5 0 4 7 2 0 </u>	<u>4 3 9 3 6 6 0 </u>	B	<u>1 3</u>	<u>5 0 4 7 2 0 </u>	<u>4 3 9 3 2 8 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1 3</u>	<u>5 0 4 3 2 0 </u>	<u>4 3 9 3 2 8 0 </u>	D	<u>1 3</u>	<u>5 0 4 3 2 0 </u>	<u>4 3 9 3 6 6 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Property consists of most of the S 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the N 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 68 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, City and County of Denver, State of Colorado.

(x) See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses all of the property owned by Saint Thomas Theological Seminary. The surrounding landscaped grounds provide the appropriate historical setting for the Seminary.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Lane Ittelson

Organization: Ittelson & Associates

Street & Number: 2138 Grove Street

City or Town: Denver

Date: March 15, 1989

Telephone: (303) 477-0572

State: CO Zip Code: 80211





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Section number 10 Page 2

Saint Thomas Seminary

The property can be more specifically described as follows:

Commencing at the southwest corner of Arizona and South Monroe, proceed south for 1,291.25 feet along the fence parallel to South Monroe to the fence marking the south property line; proceed west for 1,244.75 feet along the property line fence to the fence parallel to South Steele; proceed north for 1,290.75 feet along the fence parallel to South Steele to the fence parallel to Arizona; proceed east for 1,243.25 feet along the fence parallel to Arizona to the point of beginning.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1 Saint Thomas Seminary

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Saint Thomas Theological Seminary  
Denver County, Colorado

Photographer: Lane Ittelson  
Locale of Negative: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1300 Broadway, Denver, CO  
Date of Photograph: February 1989

Overall view of front facade of Seminary looking northeast  
Photo 1 of 37

DeAndreis House, looking southeast  
Photo 2 of 37

DeAndreis House, looking northwest  
Photo 3 of 37

Administration Building, looking northeast  
Photo 4 of 37

Administration Building, looking northeast  
Photo 5 of 37

Administration Building, looking northeast  
Photo 6 of 37

Administration Building, looking southeast  
Photo 7 of 37

Administration Building, looking east  
Photo 8 of 37

Tower, looking southeast  
Photo 9 of 37

Tower, looking southeast  
Photo 10 of 37

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Saint Thomas Seminary

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Tower, looking south  
Photo 11 of 37

Tower, looking southwest  
Photo 12 of 37

Tower, lobby (narthex) interior  
Photo 13 of 37

Chapel, looking southeast  
Photo 14 of 37

Chapel, looking south  
Photo 15 of 37

Chapel and Dining Room/Kitchen, looking west  
Photo 16 of 37

Chapel, nave and sanctuary interior  
Photo 17 of 37

Chapel, sanctuary interior  
Photo 18 of 37

Chapel, sanctuary interior  
Photo 19 of 37

Chapel, nave interior  
Photo 20 of 37

Dining Room/Kitchen, view to northwest  
Photo 21 of 37

Dining Room/Kitchen, view to northeast  
Photo 22 of 37

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Saint Thomas Seminary

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Dining Room/Kitchen, interior  
Photo 23 of 37

Chapel and Tower, looking northwest  
Photo 24 of 37

Administration Building, looking north  
Photo 25 of 37

Theology Building, looking southwest  
Photo 26 of 37

Library, looking northeast  
Photo 27 of 37

Theology Building, looking southeast  
Photo 28 of 37

Convent, looking east  
Photo 29 of 37

Recreation Building, looking southeast  
Photo 30 of 37

Grotto, looking northeast  
Photo 31 of 37

Grotto, looking east  
Photo 32 of 37

Bell Housing, looking northwest  
Photo 33 of 37

Maintenance Building, looking northwest  
Photo 34 of 37

Storage Building, looking northeast  
Photo 35 of 37

NPS Form 10-900a  
(Rev. 8/86)  
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format  
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

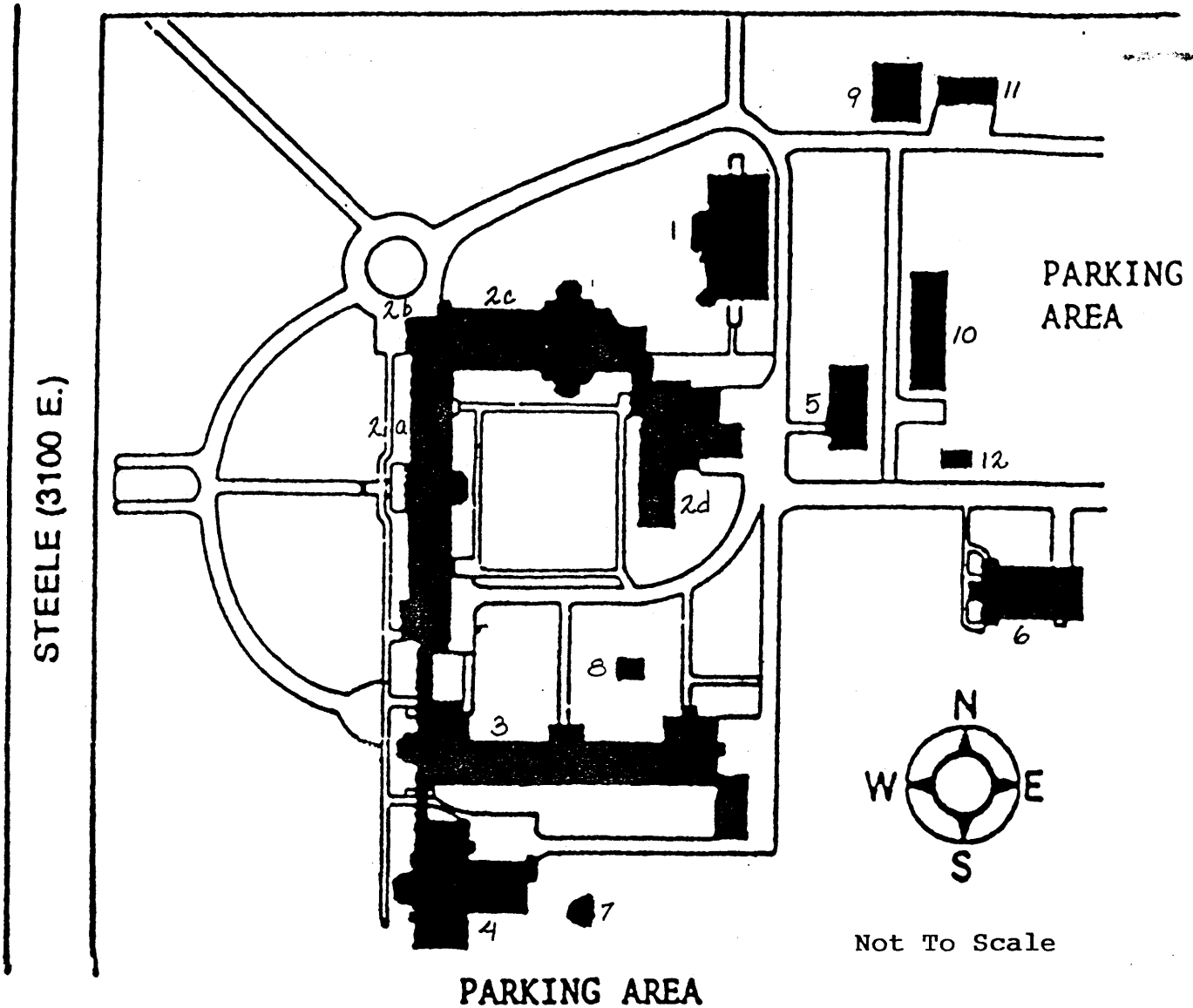
Section number Photos Page 4

Saint Thomas Seminary

Garage, looking northeast  
Photo 36 of 37

Gas House, looking northeast  
Photo 37 of 37

ARIZONA (1200 S.)



1. De Andreis House (contributing)
2. Main Seminary Building (contributing)
  - a. Administration Building (contributing)
  - b. Tower (contributing)
  - c. Chapel (contributing)
  - d. Dining Room/Kitchen (contributing)
3. Theology Building (noncontributing)
4. Library (noncontributing)
5. Convent (noncontributing)
6. Recreation Building (noncontributing)
7. Grotto (contributing)
8. Bell (contributing)
9. Maintenance Building (noncontributing)
10. Storage Building (noncontributing)
11. Garage (noncontributing)
12. Gas House (noncontributing)

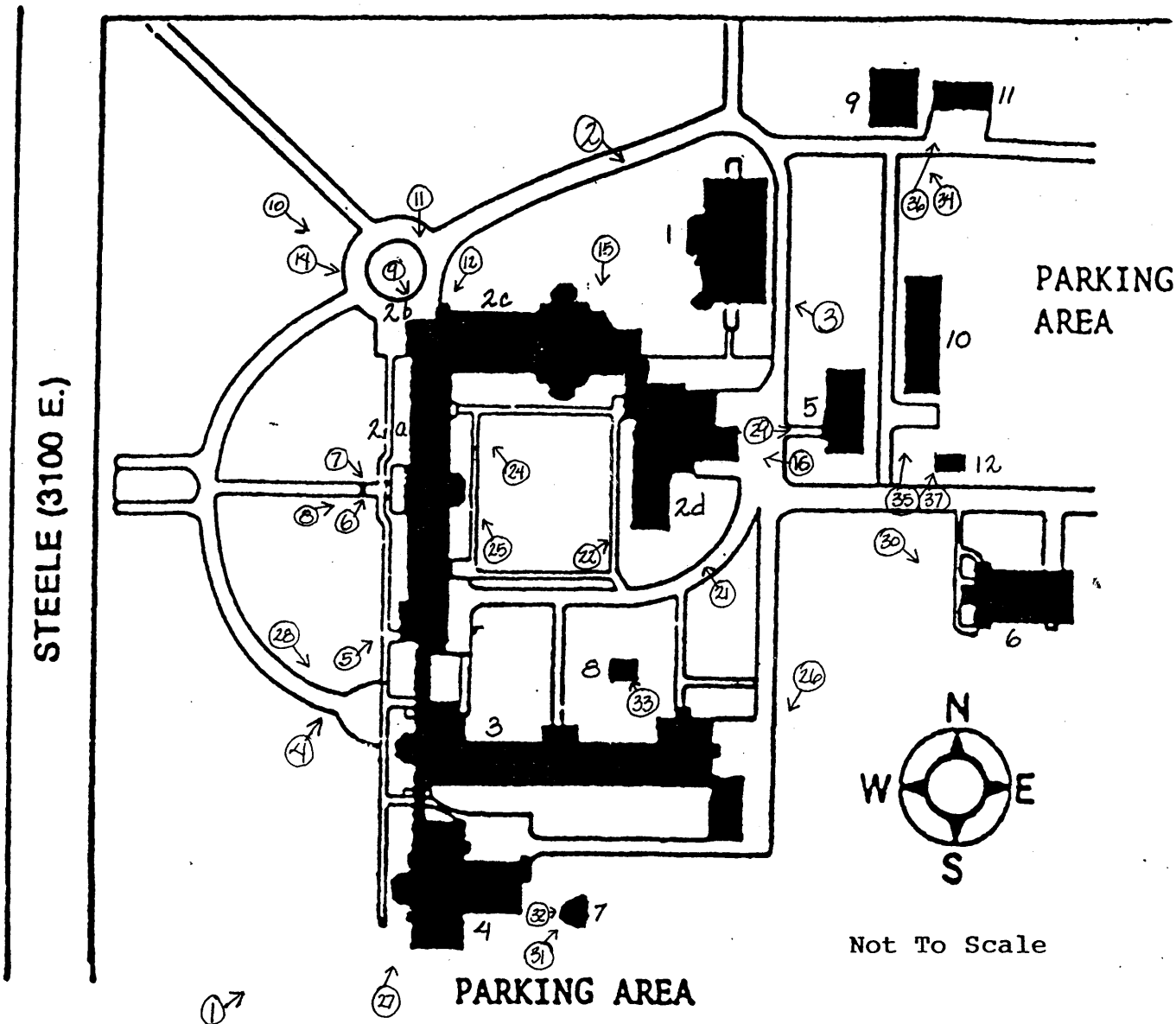
Sketch Map

PHOTO MAP

SAINT THOMAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
City and County of Denver, Colorado

PHOTO MAP

ARIZONA (1200 S.)



1. De Andreis House (contributing)
2. Main Seminary Building (contributing)
  - a. Administration Building (contributing)
  - b. Tower (contributing)
  - c. Chapel (contributing)
  - d. Dining Room/Kitchen (contributing)
3. Theology Building (noncontributing)
4. Library (noncontributing)
5. Convent (noncontributing)
6. Recreation Building (noncontributing)
7. Grotto (contributing)
8. Bell (contributing)
9. Maintenance Building (noncontributing)
10. Storage Building (noncontributing)
11. Garage (noncontributing)
12. Gas House (noncontributing)