

611

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY at LAURALTON HALL**

other names/site number **Lauralton Hall, Island View, Pond Estate, Taylor Estate**

2. Location

street & number **200 High St.** not for publication

city or town **Milford** vicinity **N/A**

state **Connecticut** Code **CT** county **New Haven** code **009** zip code **06460**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David Baker
Signature of certifying official

7.13.11
Date

SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Elson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

8.31.11
Date of Action

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY / LAURALTON HALL

Name of Property

MILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- Public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	building
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
8	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire / Queen Anne

LATE 19TH & 20TH C. REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite

walls BRICK

STONE: Granite

roof STONE: Slate

other Wood; Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLEASE REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEETS

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

SECTION 7

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall is a 33-acre secondary school campus located on the grounds of a former private estate in the suburban coastal community of Milford, Connecticut. The enclosed campus is located between the commercial center of Milford and a residential neighborhood and consists of six historic buildings, two contributing structures and one non-contributing building, all clustered at the center of the campus and surrounded by manicured lawns, mature trees, parking areas and athletic fields. The individual buildings and the campus as a whole retain integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association as described below.

The campus of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall consists of three connected main buildings:

- Mansion (Island View/Luralton Hall), an eclectic brick and granite Second Empire/Queen Anne style residence erected in 1864 and remodeled in 1889;
- School Building (St. Joseph Hall), a three-story brick and limestone Neo-Gothic building erected in 1906 as the main classroom building and expanded in 1930 with construction of the Gymnasium;
- Administration Building (Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall), a three-story brick and limestone Neo-Gothic/Tudor style building completed in 1917 as a dormitory and classroom building with an Auditorium and Chapel.

Three ancillary buildings are located behind the main complex:

- Carriage House (1864), a two-story brick building in the Second Empire style;
- Water Tower (1864), a three-story brick building in a modified Second Empire style;
- Boiler Room / Laundry (1917), a one-story brick building in a functional style.

Two additional structures contribute to the character of the property: the Carousel (c. 1890) from the private estate period and the Grotto (1945) dating from the school period.

The only non-contributing building is the Athletic Center (2001), a contemporary brick and cast concrete building recently erected by the school and located south of the main complex.

Architectural Description

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall occupies a single level parcel of 33 acres that represents the limits of the Pond/Taylor Estate first established as a suburban retreat in 1864.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The campus is bordered on the north and west by a residential neighborhood of single-family homes dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries. It is bordered on the east by a modern public school complex and on the south by a modern residential development of the Milford Housing Authority.

The primary entrance to the campus is at the east end (200 High St., Photo 0001). The entrance is parked by a wide driveway flanked by four six-foot gateposts constructed of granite blocks with granite caps. The outer posts located adjacent to the sidewalk have low pyramidal caps; the inner posts set back from the street are topped with granite spheres. A tall iron fence with narrow pickets extends north and south from the outer gateposts. A single pair of iron gates (not original) hangs from the inner gateposts. (The original monumental iron gates are in storage pending restoration.)

The main driveway follows the path of the old carriage track (Photo 0002) for the Pond/Taylor Estate, curving gently past areas of open lawn to the cluster of buildings at the center of the campus (Photo 0003). Mature trees including a massive beech tree and ginkgoes border the carriage loop in front of the main buildings.

The Mansion (Island View/Lauralton Hall, 1864 & 1889 – Photo 0004) is a three-story residence originally constructed in the Second Empire style in 1864, but expanded with Queen Anne and Classical Revival elements in 1889. The footprint of the building is essentially an elongated rectangle, but with porches, bays and towers projecting on every elevation. The exposed foundation consists of two courses of granite blocks supporting a simple granite water table. The walls of the main story are composed of granite ashlar in varying sizes with red-tinted mortar in the joints. The granite blocks are accented by red brick quoins at each corner angle and by window and door surrounds of red brick at each opening in the wall. A continuous wooden porch follows the contour of the house on the south and east elevations. A complex mansard roof defines the second story of the building above the line of the porch and is accentuated by two tall towers – a square tower with a pyramidal roof on the east elevation and a round tower with a conical roof on the south elevation.

The first floor of the Mansion is shaded by a deep wooden porch or verandah that runs continuously along the south and east elevations. The verandah framing consists of square pedestals with paneled sides, spaced at regular intervals to support fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. A moulded handrail supported by vase-shaped balusters runs between the pedestals. A broad frieze and simple cornice define the verandah roofline with scrolled brackets above each of the columns supporting the cornice projection. A single set of granite steps

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section number 7 Page 3

provides access to the verandah near the southeast corner. The verandah floor consists of rectangular red clay tiles. The roof consists of exposed rafters and roof decking, painted white. At the west end of the verandah, a pair of oak doors provides access to a short brick hyphen that connects the Mansion directly to the adjacent Administration Building (Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall).

On the south elevation, the verandah bows out at the center to conform to the outline of the three-story round stone tower projecting from the main wall of the house. At the first floor, the tower accommodates three sets of French doors connecting the verandah to the interior. Above the roofline of the verandah, the tower is flanked by the almost-vertical pitch of the mansard roof while the exposed stone wall of the tower is fitted with a string of three double-hung windows. At the break in the roof pitch, a wooden clerestory is fitted with wooden diamond-paned sash with panels of imbricated shingles against the rear roofline. The tower is topped by a tall conical roof with a pattern of green and red slate bands against a field of gray slate. The turret terminates in a large copper finial supporting a copper cross.

On the east elevation of the Mansion, the verandah extends eastward to conform to the outline of a square tower at the southeast corner of the building and continues without interruption along the main house. A low triangular pediment supported by Corinthian columns near the north end of the verandah marks the location of the porte-cochere (no longer extant) that formerly extended east over the carriage track. Centered behind the two columns is the primary entrance to the house, consisting of a rectangular projection with a granite arch supported by granite quoins and fitted with a recessed pair of doors. The paneled oak doors are ornamented with copper laurel wreaths hung in front of the glass lights in the upper section of the doors. Just south of the main entry, the stone walls of the square tower accommodate brick corner quoins and an arched double-hung window with a sandstone lintel and brick surround.

Above the verandah roofline, the square stone tower interrupts the junction of the asphalt-shingled mansard roof with granite walls, brick corner quoins and window surrounds, and double-hung windows. The tower extends above the upper pitch of the mansard roof to form a tall pyramidal roof covered in asphalt shingles with arched lights in the south and east slopes and a decorative iron cresting at the top. Flanking the square tower on the second story of the east elevation are a single dormer window with a cross-braced gable hood and a polygonal wooden bay projecting from the almost vertical pitch of the mansard roof. Small arch-topped dormers set into the upper slope of the mansard roof bring additional light to the interior of the house.

North of the verandah, the east elevation steps back to accommodate a service entry that

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section number 7 Page 4

connects the main house to a large polygonal service wing with a lower roofline at the north end. The two-story service wing continues the exterior granite and red brick detailing of the main house and features a mansard roof with dormer windows projecting under cross-braced gable hoods at two levels.

On the north elevation, a modern three-story, flat-roofed hyphen near the northeast corner connects the Mansion on two levels directly to the St. Joseph building to the north. At the rear of the building, the north elevation of the mansion is partially exposed and shows a continuation of the granite foundation, ashlar walls and red brick corner quoins and window surrounds. The north wall accommodates a pair of 2/2 arch-topped windows while the asphalt-shingled mansard roof above contains a two-story wood framed bay with a pair of second story windows and a single third story window arrayed under a cross-braced gable hood.

On the west elevation (rear) elevation, the first floor and the two upper stories enclosed by the mansard roof are fully exposed. The granite foundation and walls form a large rectangular projection to the west of the main house flanked by the recessed wall of the north service wing and the covered verandah of the south wing. On the upper stories, the mansard roof is interrupted by projecting bays and dormers, some with cross-braced gable hoods. A brick projecting bay at the center of the west elevation (formerly a connection to a glass conservatory, no longer extant) supports a two-story wood framed dormer under a bracketed and cross-braced gable.

On the interior, the Mansion is a spectacular celebration of Victorian decoration with hand-carved mahogany woodwork, decorative plaster, parquet floors, stained glass and Dutch tile throughout. While the lavish materials and exuberant ornament are concentrated in the social spaces on the first floor, a high level of detailing is maintained in the second story bedrooms and in the north service wing.

The main entrance on the east elevation leads to an entry vestibule with a mosaic tile floor, mahogany paneled walls and a coffered ceiling. From the vestibule, a wide pair of mahogany pocket doors leads to the grand hall and spiral staircase.

The grand hall is an expansive room with an oak parquet floor, mahogany panel walls under a plaster field, complex mahogany columns with Corinthian capitals and a twelve-foot high beamed and coffered mahogany ceiling with carved brackets and pendant bosses. A huge marble fireplace at the north end features a projecting mahogany mantle carved with cherubs and garlands.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section number 7 Page 5

The centerpiece of the grand hall is the mahogany spiral staircase that rises three full stories to a stained glass oculus below the roof. The spiral stair is self-supporting, set out from the walls and connected directly to the floor plates at each level. With three steps to the broad first landing flanked by full Corinthian columns, the staircase rises dramatically with the sweep of the spiral defined by the carved handrail and vase-shaped mahogany balusters. The paneled newel post at the center of the spiral is topped at the upper level by a bronze statue of a woman holding aloft an electric lamp.

To the south of the grand hall on the first floor is the parlor, set partially within the footprint of the round tower. The north wall of the room holds a massive wooden fireplace flanked by tall entry doors. The plaster walls and twelve-foot ceiling are ornamented with complex plaster mouldings and applied plaster ornaments. Several sets of French doors provide access directly to the adjoining verandah.

Northwest of the grand hall on the first floor is the dining room, reflecting the extensive remodeling of 1889. The long rectangular room with a twelve-foot ceiling features oak-paneled walls, elaborate windows surrounds and carved heraldic arms and mottoes of the Taylor family. The most prominent feature of the parlor is the oak-paneled inglenook along the north wall with a glazed-tile fireplace projecting into the room and two face-to-face seats completely sheltered by a large oak hood. The south wall is occupied by a range of massive bookcases and connects to an adjacent library with plaster walls, parquet floor and Dutch tile fireplace. The west wall at the end of the dining room formerly opened to a glass conservatory (no longer extant).

Directly north of the grand hall are two rooms with plaster walls and hardwood strip flooring that were originally service areas for the mansion. A narrow space between the grand hall and the service wing on the east side has been fitted as a lavatory with ceramic tiles walls and fixtures. The room's most unusual feature is a narrow stained glass window with painted medallions commemorating two key events in the early history of Milford: the purchase of land along the Wepawaug River by English colonists (Feb. 23, 1639) and the sheltering of the regicides Goffe and Whalley (Aug. 20, 1661) after the restoration of the English monarchy.

On the second floor of the Mansion, the main bedrooms are ornamented with wood and plaster mouldings, parquet and hardwood strip flooring and a diverse array of carved wooden mantels each with a different pattern of painted Dutch tiles on the firebox and hearth. The tower room on the south side is the most elaborate with wooden paneling, carved pilasters and an ornamental cornice around the perimeter of the room.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The third floor rooms are noticeably simpler, having been designed for children and household staff. The tower room on the south side is accessed by three steps under a broad arch, leading to a raised floor that allows a panoramic view through the diamond-pane windows to Long Island Sound. The plaster walls and hardwood strip flooring throughout the third floor are more conventional, but at least one room retains a marble corner sink and a mid-19th century white marble fireplace surround.

The School Building (St. Joseph Hall, 1906 – Photo 0005 & 0006), located just north of the mansion, is a rectangular red brick building in the late Gothic Revival style with a partially exposed basement level, three full stories and a partial attic story. The building features a low granite foundation supporting a red brick exposed basement wall, paneled brick and voussoir arches on the first floor, continuous brick walls at the second and third floors and a complex hipped roof with corbelled eaves and scrolled brackets. An elaborate Gothic arch in tan limestone frames the main entry and is echoed in the limestone water table, banding, and decorative accents. Windows are double-hung (1/1) white vinyl replacement sash throughout. The roof is covered in gray asphalt shingles.

On the east (primary) elevation, the School Building is composed of three components: a recessed central segment, a hip-roofed south segment and a gable-roofed northern segment. The central section is arranged asymmetrically with a tall set of steps supported by brick cheek walls leading to the Gothic-arched limestone entry. The entry surround consists of slender columns with foliate capitals supporting a progression of Gothic arches. Quatrefoil panels fill the upper corners of the entrance surround. The doorway currently consists of a pair of glass and aluminum doors under a brown metal arch panel. Directly above the entrance at the level of the stair landing between the second and third floors is a large stained glass Gothic window with foliate and quatrefoil tracery set under a projecting limestone arch. A single narrow window defines each floor level to the north of the entry bay. Joined rows of four windows define each floor level to the south of the entry bay. At the roofline, the deep eave overhang is supported by scrolled wooden brackets. The field of the roof is interrupted by a pair of wooden dormers with flared hipped roofs, the northern dormer with three windows under a Gothic arch, the southern dormer with two windows under a straight eave line.

The southern segment of the east elevation has a row of three double-hung windows slightly recessed within a single voussoir arch at the first floor level. The second and third floor levels each have four separate double-hung windows, symmetrically arranged, with limestone lintels and sills. The hipped roof at the south end of the building has scrolled eave brackets a single dormer with a flared gable.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The northern segment of the east elevation is significantly different in character and features a deep polygonal bay projecting from the main wall at the basement and first floor levels. Above the limestone water table, each face of the bay is defined by a tall voussoir arch enclosing a red brick panel or a window within a panel. A shallow limestone cornice and brick parapet support a simple iron fence around the flat roof of the projecting bay. At the main wall plane, the second story features three arch-topped window openings inscribed within a flush brick arch while the third story features a symmetrical arrangement of four single windows under a limestone band.

The steep brick gable at the attic level of the north section features a shallow arch at the base enclosing a limestone roundel. Above the arch is a carved limestone plinth supported a Gothic-arched niche in which stands a full-scale statue of St. Joseph the patron. The flared rake of the gable is supported by brick corbelling and limestone blocks. The gable terminates at the peak with a large copper cross.

The north elevation of the school building continues the masonry treatments of the front elevation, but with simple limestone sills and no other trim. The windows are joined in ranks of four at each level. The overhanging eaves are supported by scrolled wooden brackets. A rectangular brick addition on the north end runs the full height of the building and partially hides a single flared gable dormer in the roofline.

The south elevation is similarly detailed, but is partially concealed by a modern flat-roofed connector that joins the main floors of the School Building to the adjacent Mansion.

On the west elevation, the masonry details of the school building continue uninterrupted for most of the wall. Windows at each level are arrayed in ranks of four. A single flared gable dormer is set in the west roofline.

The interior of the School Building is laid out with a central corridor at each level serving up to six classrooms on each floor. The hallways have been updated with vinyl flooring, sheetrock walls and drop ceilings, but the historic cast iron newel posts and balusters are intact on the staircases. The classrooms have been modernized with vinyl flooring or carpeting, sheetrock walls and window returns, drop ceilings and fluorescent lighting. Historic interior trim may still be in place under the drywall overlays.

A rectangular three-story brick addition on the west elevation of the School Building connects directly to the old Gymnasium (current Library). The connector is fitted with double-hung

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section number 7 Page 8

windows with multi-pane lights that echo those on the Gymnasium.

The Gymnasium (1930) is a flat roofed rectangular building in the Colonial Revival style. The red brick walls are divided by projecting piers into five panels and accented by a cast concrete water table and belt course. The partially exposed basement has a symmetrical arrangement of double-hung (12/12) windows along each side. The double-height main floor has five colossal arch-topped windows spaced evenly along each side (north and south), the easternmost with a horizontal split to accommodate a second floor balcony. At the west end of the building are three arch-topped windows, the middle one modified at the main floor level to provide a secondary egress.

On the interior, the Gymnasium is a single open floor with an enclosed balcony at the east end. The interior has been carpeted and furnished with new lighting, shelving and finishes to accommodate its new role as a library in 1989.

The Administration Building (Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall, 1917 – Photos 0007 & 0008) is a 3-1/2 story T-plan brick building in the castellated Gothic Revival style, located just south of the Mansion. The building consists of a long north-south axis joined at the center by an expansive west wing. The building has a high granite foundation with a partially-exposed basement story. The main walls are red brick with tan limestone trim. The roofline has a limestone cornice and a crenellated parapet concealing the low-pitched roof with a partial fourth-floor projection above the central pavilion.

On the east elevation, the Administration Building presents a long primary elevation with projecting four-story square towers flanking a slightly recessed four-story center entrance bay. A set of granite steps flanked by gently curving cheek walls leads to a central Tudor Gothic arch in tan limestone surmounted by a cross and supported by polished granite columns with foliate capitals. A deep porch beyond the arch provides a welcome area with a ceramic tile floor and mosaic ceiling directly in front of the paired wooden doors at the main entrance. The rest of the east elevation is severely regular with limestone banding defining the floor levels and windows arranged in pairs (on the north and south sections) and triplets (on the central pavilion). The double-hung wooden sash are fitted with exterior storms and topped with simple Tudor-style limestone hoods at the second and third floor levels. The narrow Gothic windows at the fourth floor of the central pavilion echo the rhythm of the crenellated roofline and the crenellated square towers.

The south elevation of the Administration Building shows scars on the masonry where two-story

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

wooden porches were formally attached to the building. The north elevation is only partially visible and accommodates a modern hyphen connection to the adjacent mansion.

The red brick walls and limestone trim of the Administration Building continue on the west elevation, but are interrupted by the perpendicular west wing. The west wing features the same exposed granite foundation, red brick walls, limestone banding and cornice and crenellated roofline as the east section, but terminates in a polygonal bay at the west end supported a two-story rectangular block below. On the north and south elevations, the long west wing reveals a more dramatic architectural style with paired windows at the basement and first floor levels giving way to double-height paired lancet windows at the upper level. Smaller lancet windows adorn the polygonal bay at the west end.

On the interior, the Administration Building consists of a long central corridor on each floor serving classroom and offices on the east and west sides of the building. The perpendicular base of the T-plan serves as the cafeteria at the basement level, the auditorium at the first floor level and the chapel at the upper levels.

At the basement level, the Administration Building has white mosaic tile floors bordered by red Greek key designs in the main corridor. Varnished wood baseboards, chair rails and moulded window and door surrounds remain in most locations, but the offices are generally carpeted with acoustical tile ceilings. The teachers' lounge at the south end retains a hardwood strip floor and plaster ceiling. The student Cafeteria (1917) in the west wing has paired windows arrayed along the north and south sides, a double line of columns down the center (each with composite capitals), vinyl flooring and pendant fluorescent light fixtures. Cast iron staircases with white marble treads and wooden handrails lead from the basement corridor to the first floor.

On the first floor, the central corridor of the Administration Building features hardwood strip flooring with wooden baseboards and chair rails. The offices arrayed along both sides of the corridor are marked by recessed entrances with varnished wood surrounds and large transoms over each door. At the intersection of the two main axes of the building is a large lobby and study area flanked by cast iron staircases with marble treads. In the west wing is the main Auditorium (1917), a well-lit neoclassical space with hardwood strip flooring, paired windows along the north and south walls, a raised proscenium stage at the west end, pendant light fixtures and cased ceiling beams supported by arched brackets.

The second floor of the Administration Building is similar in plan and detailing to the floor below. The most notable feature of the second floor is the Chapel (1917), a clear-span room that

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section number 7 Page 10

occupies the entire west wing. The chapel is surrounded on three sides by figural and geometric stained glass windows in Gothic lancet frames. The walls are ornamented with pierced grilles at the lower level and divided by engaged pilasters with gilded capitals. The flat plaster ceiling is supported by cased beams with elaborate wood and plaster mouldings. The raised altar area is located under a coffered ceiling at the west end of the chapel. A semi-elliptical balcony supported by scrolled brackets projects from the organ loft at the east end of the chapel. Two banks of fixed pews fill the main floor with rows of prie-dieux along the sidewalls.

The third floor of the Administration Building is similar in plan and detailing to the floors below, but is not currently utilized. The hardwood flooring and plaster walls are intact as are the marble and tile bathroom that originally served boarding students. At the south end of the third floor is a residential apartment that was formerly occupied by lay staff. East of the organ loft on the partial fourth floor is the "Angels" room surrounded by Gothic windows that give a clear view of the campus. The room formerly served as a dormitory for the school's youngest students.

The Carriage House (1864 – Photos 0009 & 0010) is a two-story red brick building in the Second Empire style with the second story enclosed under a large mansard roof. The brick walls of the Carriage House are supported by projecting brick piers and corbelled eaves. The brick walls are in very poor condition and sections of the walls and corbelling has already collapsed. The mansard roof supported by scrolled wooden brackets is currently being restored and is completely covered by a roof tarp. The central cupola has been removed from the roof and is currently set on the ground for repair.

The south (front) elevation of the Carriage House consists of an arched center entrance fitted with a double-leaf wooden barn door. The entrance is flanked by single window openings with brick arched lintels. Directly above the entrance is an arched hayloft opening with double-leaf wooden doors and remnants of the hoist system. The west elevation consists of single windows and a scar on the brickwork where a one-story shed was formerly attached. The north elevation abuts the north property line and features additional single windows. The east elevation features five high windows that lit the horse stalls and a cleanout door at the northeast corner.

On the interior, the Carriage House is divided into three sections with a paneled tack room and livery closet at the southeast corner, stalls and feeding bins for the five horses (Franz, Herman, Yvette, Sans Gene, Spray) along the east wall and open space for carriages at the center aisle and west side of the building. Remnants of the historic 6/6 wood sash remain in evidence. The second floor is open hay storage with chutes connected to the feeding bins for each horse.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The Water Tower (1864 – Photos 0011 & 0012) is a 2-1/2 story red brick building in a simplified Second Empire style with a square footprint and a flared pyramidal roof. The four corners of the building are reinforced with brick buttresses. The only openings are a single wood door on the south elevation and a single window opening above. The steep pyramidal hipped roof features ornamental wooden pendants below the eave line and a field of gray slate with red and green decorative banding. A single triangular gabled dormer projects from the south slope of the roof.

The interior of the water tower is an unfinished space that accommodates the control system for the flow of water. Period instructions mounted on the brick wall indicate which valves will fill the storage tank and which valves will send water to the mansion.

The Boiler Room and Laundry (1917 – Photo 0014) is a one-story, rectangular flat-roofed red brick building in a functional style located directly behind (west of) the Mansion. The plain brick walls are fitted with white vinyl replacement windows with granite sills and lintels. The east end of the building (formerly the laundry) now functions as the music room for the school with vinyl tile flooring, painted brick walls and acoustical tile ceilings. The central section serves as the functioning boiler plant for the campus and has a tall brick smokestack. The north end of the building serves as an equipment shelter for a telecommunications company that has mounted cellular antennas on the smokestack.

The Athletic Center (2001 – Photo 0016) is a one-story hip-roofed building with red brick walls and classical detailing. It is located south of the main school buildings near the southwest corner of the campus. Although the Athletic Center is not old enough to be a contributing resource in the National Register nomination, its low profile and simple red brick exterior make it compatible with the visual character of the historic campus.

The extensive greenhouses and gardens that adorned the Pond/Taylor Estate in the 19th century are no longer extant. The current grounds consist of open lawns, paved parking areas and groomed athletic fields. Small memorial benches and devotional statues are distributed throughout the campus, but only two major structures are evident.

The Carousel (c. 1890 – Photos 0013 & 0014) is located to the west of the mansion between the main house and the carriage house. It consists of an octagonal hipped roof supported by a central post and posts at each of the eight outer corners. The central post extends through the roof peak to terminate in a ball finial. Set on the ground is a raised wooden platform in the form of a rotating outer ring and a fixed center circle. The carousel horses are no longer extant and have been replaced by wood and iron lawn benches.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 12

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The Grotto of Saint Bernadette (1945 – Photo 0015) is located southeast of the main school buildings and is a replica of the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. It consists of a tall undulating fieldstone wall facing a flagstone patio. The wall incorporates a large recess with an altar and a small statue of St. Bernadette at one end and an elevated niche with a statue of Mary, Our Lady of Fatima at the other end. The Grotto was dedicated in 1945 as a memorial to Sr. Mary Augustine Claven, the founder of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Luralton Hall.

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY / LAURALTON HALL

Name of Property

MILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CT

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant & distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

PLEASE REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEETS

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLEASE REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEETS

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1864-1960

Significant Dates

1864 original construction by Pond family

1889 major remodeling by Taylor family

1905 est. of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 1

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

SECTION 8

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall is a private secondary school campus located on a former suburban estate in the shoreline community of Milford, Connecticut. The nomination includes the original Mansion constructed by Charles H. Pond in 1864 and remodeled by Henry A. Taylor in 1889 as well as the associated Carriage House and Water Tower from 1864. The nomination also includes three school buildings erected after the establishment of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy: the School Building/St. Joseph Hall (1906 & 1930), the Administration Building/Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall (1917) and the Boiler Room/Laundry (1917). Two contributing structures are included in the period of significance: the Carousel (c. 1890) from the private estate period and the Grotto (1945) from the school period.

The nomination of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Social History at the state and local level as a well-preserved example of a 19th century upper-class suburban retreat associated with the lifestyles and culture of two prominent families.

The nomination also meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Education at the state and local level as a representative example of 20th century progressive education in the form of a private girls' school established and run by a Roman Catholic religious order.

The nomination meets National Register Criterion C at the state and local level as 1) a well-preserved expression of the Victorian "Second Empire" style in residential construction, 2) an intact and highly-detailed Victorian residential interior reflecting the highest standards of taste and craftsmanship in the remodeling of 1889, and 3) a coherent and connected cluster of buildings reflecting early 20th century progressive design standards for education and moral training and an early and effective example of adaptive reuse.

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Lauralton Hall continues to operate as a private secondary school owned by a religious organization and meets Criteria Consideration A.

Narrative History & Significance

Criterion A: Broad patterns of American history

Early History (1639-1860)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 2

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The Town of Milford, Connecticut was settled in 1639 when English colonists purchased land along the Wepawaug River and Long Island Sound from Native American tribes. In the Colonial Period, Milford was linked to other settlements by the Post Road that ran from Manhattan (NY) to Providence (RI) and on to Boston (MA). The Post Road followed a Native American trail along the southern New England coast and was used for commerce and mail delivery between the colonies, especially after the setting of mile markers in the 1760s under Deputy Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin.

The population of Milford remained between 2,000 and 3,000 people from the first United States census in 1790 through the 8th census of 1860. While passenger steamboat routes had operated along the Connecticut coast and Long Island Sound as early as 1815, the New York & New Haven Railroad (opened in 1849) established a new and viable coastal transportation corridor in Connecticut and encouraged residential and commercial development in Milford and other shoreline communities.

Suburban Development in the Late Industrial Period (1860-1905)

Following the recommendations of style-setters such as Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) and Alexander J. Davis (1803-1892), affluent businessmen of the early Victorian period began to recognize the value of a country retreat or suburban estate where they and their families could be refreshed by proximity to nature. The early development of Lauralton Hall was an outgrowth of that trend.

Charles H. Pond & Island View

Charles Hobby Pond (1833-1881) was a member of one of Milford's oldest families, tracing his ancestry back to the time of settlement in the 1630s.¹

Charles H. Pond married Mary Elizabeth Miles (1834-1925) about 1859 and together they had six children. Pond pursued a successful career as a hardware dealer and merchant in New York City which may have brought him in contact with architects and builders. The 1860 census showed Pond as a resident of Brooklyn (New York) with real estate valued at \$10,000 and a personal estate valued at \$10,000 as well. Business must have been good, for the 1870 census

¹ Pond's life overlapped with that of his great uncle, a former Governor of Connecticut who carried the identical name (Charles Hobby Pond, 1781-1861), but had no direct role in the building of Island View (later Lauralton Hall) in Milford.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

showed him as a resident of Milford ten years later (at age 36) with real estate valued at \$40,000 and a personal estate of \$30,000.

Charles and Mary's first two children Mary ("Ella," b. 1860) and Matilda (born 1862) were both born in New York, but by the time their third and fourth children (Bessie Gilman, born in 1863 and Winthrop, b. about 1865) were born the family had returned to Milford.

Pond purchased about forty acres of undeveloped land on Middle St. (later High St.) in Milford and set about building a twenty-room suburban estate for his growing family and his widowed mother and unmarried sister. In 1864, he named the completed house Island View (Historic Photos A & B) since on clear days the view from the upper story took in Charles Island about a mile offshore in Long Island Sound.

The estate included an adjacent parcel known as Spring Close that Pond furnished with spring houses and pipes to carry water to the water tower adjacent to the house. According to deeds, the springs and water system had been surveyed for Nathan A. Baldwin by S.W. Searle, Civil Engineer, in July 1864.

Although the architect of the house has not been identified, Pond clearly followed the recommendations of published architectural sources, siting the house at the middle of the large parcel and surrounding it with carriage drives and gardens. Based on two historic photographs from the 1870s in the archives of Lauralton Hall, the Pond House was constructed of granite and brick in the current form with a massive mansard roof and corbelled chimneys, but with only a square tower rising above the roofline on the east elevation. The dormer windows showed great variation. Those on the main roof at the front corners had acroteria. Those on the upper slope of the roof were smaller windows with triangular hoods. An oriel window extending southwest from the west wing of the house was crowded on the west by two dormer windows at different levels, both with cross-braced gables.

The house was originally shaded by a one-story verandah that ran along the west, south and east elevations. The verandah roof was supported by thin square posts with scrolled brackets and the eave line was decorated with pierced wooden pendants like those that remain on the water tower. The porch railing was low with square-cut balusters running beneath. Lattice panels provided ventilation under the porch.

The primary entrance to Island View was at the center of the south elevation (the current location of the round tower) approached by a central set of steps in front of the porch. Additional

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

entrances were located on the south elevation at the base of the east tower and under the oriel window near the southwest corner. The high-hipped roof and cupola of the Carriage House (Historic Photo A) northwest of the main house are clearly visible in the photographs.

On the east elevation, a stone polygonal bay on the first floor supported a wooden bay that projected through the mansard roof above. These bays later became the location of the new entrance to Luralton Hall created by Henry A. Taylor.

By 1870, Charles and Mary Pond had five children with the youngest, Florence, having been born in 1868. The household at Island View included not only Charles and Mary and their five children, but also Matilda W. Pond (46) and Martha G. Pond (32), possibly sisters or cousins; Annie Karr (22) and Maggie Duggan (17), both domestic servants from Ireland; Matthew Leddy (22), a gardener from Ireland; David Donovan (50) and Christian Daley (60), both Irish laborers; and Henry Jacobson (28), a Connecticut-born laborer.²

The next two Pond children (Cecil Laurence, b. 1872 and Nathalie, b. 1875) both died young. Charles Pond decided to take the family to Europe in 1879. In his passport application, Charles, then 46, was described as 5'6" tall with an oval face, fair complexion, dark hair, grey eyes and an aquiline nose.

The family returned to New York via steamship from Liverpool in July 1880. The federal census that year listed Charles Pond as secretary of the Sharpe Rifle Company with his wife Mary and two daughters Matilda (18) and Bessie (17) at home. The two young children, Winthrop (15) and Florence (12) were both in school.

Charles Pond died unexpectedly in February 1881 at age 47, leaving his wife Mary pregnant with their youngest son, Charles Miles Pond (b. 1881). Mary and the family stayed at Island View until 1884 when the first phase of development came to a close and Mary Pond decided to rent the property as a summer residence to Henry Augustus Taylor of New York.

Henry A. Taylor & Luralton Hall

Milford's population had increased by twenty percent in the twenty years since the Pond family had built Island View. The old New York & New Haven Railroad had grown through mergers

² The 1870 photographs show a number of people not identified in the federal census including two young children at the east door (noticeably distant from the family) and an African American women leaning out an upstairs window.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

into the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in 1872, eventually becoming a part of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. The ease and speed of new steamboat and rail connections made Milford and other shore towns a desirable location for upper-class summer homes.

Henry Augustus Taylor (1838-1899) had deep roots in New England, tracing his ancestry to Jonathan Fairbanks who came to Boston in 1633. H.A. Taylor was the oldest son of Laura E. Thomas and Henry John Taylor, a former mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey. He made his fortune as a banker and railroad financier in New York City.

Henry A. Taylor had married Mary Ann Meyer of New Brunswick (NJ) in 1865, but three of their seven children had died in infancy and Mary Ann herself passed away in 1878. The federal census in June of 1880 showed the widowed Henry A. Taylor living on West 49th St. in New York with his parents (Henry J. and Laura Taylor) and his four children (John Howard, 10; Margharetta, 8; Mollie, 6; and Henry A. Jr., 4) as well as a niece Fanny Taylor and two servants, Thomas Kelly and Anna Doherty. Henry A. Taylor listed his occupation at age 40 as "retired."

The crowded household on West 49th Street may have been a temporary accommodation, since Henry married his second wife, Elizabeth Prudence Conrey of New York, in July of 1880. When Laura Peters Taylor was born in 1883 and Washington Taylor was born in 1884, the need for an expansive summer home may have become apparent.

Henry Augustus Taylor began renting *Island View* in Milford from Mary Pond in 1884 and continued to rent the property for five years while his family increased. (Henrietta Augustus Taylor, Eleanor Van Vredenburg Taylor and Bayard Taylor were all born between 1885 and 1889.)

In 1889, Taylor purchased the property outright from the Pond family and began to enlarge and remodel "Island View" into "Lauralton Hall" (Historic Photos C, D & F). The new name and the idiosyncratic spelling may have been a joint tribute to Henry Taylor's mother (Laura E. Taylor, nee Thomas) and to his own daughter, Laura Peters Taylor, who died in 1888 at age five.

Taylor divorced his second wife Elizabeth in 1890 on the grounds of intemperance and maintained a long relationship with his housekeeper, Louise Catherine Duvernoy, whose son Columbus Henry Taylor was born in New York in 1893.³

³ The unusual spelling of the first name "Columbus" is consistent in decennial census records for Mr. Taylor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 6

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT

Henry A. Taylor invested in railroads, real estate and life insurance and must have done quite well. In 1891, he agreed to provide the location and funding for a new Methodist Church (1893) on Broad St. in Milford. (A stained glass window installed in the new church was a memorial to Taylor's young daughter Laura.) In 1893, he donated \$25,000 to build a new town library, completed in 1895. By the time of Taylor's own death in 1899 his estate was valued at over \$20 million.

Taylor's remodeling of Island View into Lauralton Hall was quite extensive. Two late nineteenth-century photos of the landscape in the archives of Laurelton Hall show an allee of young trees planted along the carriage drive, extensive greenhouses, orchards and grapevines and a formal garden with boxwood edging (Historic Photo E). While some of the landscaping may have been accomplished earlier by Charles A. Pond, the remodeling of the mansion was completely driven by Henry Augustus Taylor.

Research has not yet identified the architect or designer who guided the extensive improvements to Lauralton Hall. On the exterior, the change was dramatic with a French medieval style round tower constructed on the south elevation of the house in place of the old main entrance. The simple porch was removed and replaced with a larger and more complex structure terminating at the northeast end with a granite porte-cochere (removed in 2001) that arched over the carriage drive. A glass conservatory was added to the west end of the house. The private **Carousel** to the west of the house was installed for Taylor's three young children from his second marriage.

On the interior, the main social spaces were completely transformed. The new oak entry doors (with their discreet laurel wreaths), the tiled vestibule and the dramatic mahogany grand hall and spiral staircase were expertly constructed and were clearly designed to make an immediate impression on guests.

The long dining room on the west side of the house features a projecting fireplace and oak-paneled inglenook with the Taylor coat of arms and the legend *Consequitur Quodcunque Petit* (He achieves all that he pursues). The arch above the bay that formerly led to the conservatory is inscribed -

*As wearied pilgrims once possest
Of long 'd for lodgin' go to rest
So now having rid my way
Fix my button 'd staff and stay*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 7

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT

The verse is taken from *His Own Epitaph* by the English poet Robert Herrick (1591-1674) whose poetry, including the more famous *Gather ye rosebuds while ye may*, was rediscovered in the nineteenth-century. The stanza inscribed in the dining room at Luralton Hall omits the final couplet –

*Youth, I confess, hath me misled;
But age hath brought me right to bed.*

Henry Augustus Taylor owned Luralton Hall for ten years before his death in 1899 at age 61. His estate was contested by his former wife, his housekeeper/mistress and his remaining children from two recorded marriages. Left substantially vacant, Luralton Hall began to deteriorate and its future was in doubt.

The Modern Period (1905-1960)

Between 1900 and 1960, Milford grew from a small town of 3,783 people in 1900 grew to an incorporated city with a population of 41,662 people in 1960.

The rail connection to New York City (65 miles southwest) and New Haven (10 miles northeast) encouraged the development of a suburban commuter culture. The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad introduced electric streetcars within and between municipalities by 1900, encouraging the development of summer cottages along the shore in Milford. The streetcar lines consolidated as the Connecticut Company in 1907 and operated most of the streetcars and interurban routes in Connecticut until the advent of bus service in the 1930s.

The widespread popularity of the private automobile in the decades after 1910 brought the most lasting change to the community. The Old Post Road that connected Connecticut's coastal communities was paved and improved for automobile traffic and designated as US Route 1 by the Federal Highway Act in 1921. From 1910 to 1920, Milford's population more than doubled (from 4,366 to 10,193), primarily because of the accessibility and freedom offered by the automobile.

As the Old Post Road became clogged with traffic, the state introduced limited access highways that roughly paralleled the old road. The Merritt and Wilbur Cross Highways (State Rte. 15) were built north of the Post Road in 1937-40 and Connecticut Turnpike (Interstate 95) was constructed almost adjacent to the old route in 1955-57. Still the volume of traffic along the coast increased. Milford's population doubled again to more than 20,000 by the mid-1940s, then

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 8

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

doubled once more to over 40,000 by 1960. The pace of new residential construction in the first half of the 20th century transformed Milford from a rural community to a modern city.

The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy

In the nineteenth century, Connecticut developed two complementary systems of education. District schools, maintained and operated by local municipalities, offered free elementary education to all residents. Private academies, some free and some tuition-based, offered a more rigorous educational program and included secondary education and college preparatory courses. While some of the private academies in Connecticut filled the role of a public school (notably Woodstock Academy in Woodstock and Bacon Academy in Colchester), others were more narrowly focused on reaching students of a particular social class and economic background. Many of the private academies were rooted in a specific Protestant religious tradition and maintained strict moral and ethical codes even while welcoming students of varied backgrounds.

Roman Catholic parochial schools were established throughout Connecticut in the late nineteenth century, primarily to serve the needs of Catholic students of Irish, French Canadian and later Italian and Polish ancestry. Catholic schools were initially viewed as a threat to the public school system and a challenge to the nation's political order.

The Religious Sisters of Mercy (R.S.M.), a Catholic religious order started by Catherine McAuley in Dublin in 1831, was one of the earliest orders to take an interest in the education of American girls and women. The Sisters of Mercy came first to Pittsburgh in 1843, then branched out to Providence, Rhode Island (1851) and Hartford, Connecticut (1852) to serve the needs of women, children and the poor through health care and education.

About 1855, the Sisters of Mercy built Notre Dame Academy in eastern Connecticut (Putnam) and St. Catherine's Academy (later St. Joseph's) in central Connecticut (Hartford). Both were girls' schools offering elementary and secondary education.

Mary Ellen Claven (1859-1921), a Connecticut native who entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy at St. Bridget convent in Meriden (Connecticut) in 1883, became the driving force in the establishment of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Luralton Hall in Milford. As Sister Mary Augustine R.S.M., she was appointed Mother Superior of the Meriden community in 1900. By 1903, Rev. Mother Mary Augustine Claven was negotiating to build a new girls' school southwest of Hartford in Southington, Connecticut.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

The Rev. Peter H. McClean of St. Mary's Church in Milford persuaded the Mother Superior to consider locating the school in the southern part of the state along the convenient and more heavily populated coastal rail corridor. He directed Mother Mary Augustine's attention to the forty-acre Pond/Taylor estate and discussed the potential of the site with Rev. John Russell, pastor of St. Patrick Church in New Haven. Father Russell was a driving force in Catholic education in Connecticut and had successfully negotiated an agreement with the City of New Haven to have the public school system directly support the cost of maintenance and salaries (both lay and religious) at St. Patrick's school.

With the assistance of Father McClean, Father Russell, Bishop Michael Tierney and other capable advisors, Mother Mary Augustine negotiated with the Taylor family heirs for the purchase of the 40-acre Pond/Taylor estate for the very reasonable price of \$35,000 (a discount from the asking price). The purchase, concluded on February 28, 1905, included the 1864 mansion (Luralton Hall), the stables (Carriage House), ice house, greenhouses, and graperies (no longer extant), tennis courts and six late 19th century homes on High Street (at the northeast corner of the property) that had been built for employees of the Pond and Taylor families. The transaction also included a half-interest in Spring Close, the water supply for the estate. (The Sisters of Mercy acquired full title to the springs in 1927.) The only special provision in the 1905 sale was that the estate should always retain the name of Luralton Hall.

Preparations began immediately after purchase to accommodate an elementary and secondary school for 200 girls. After repairs and improvements totaling \$25,000, the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Luralton Hall opened Sept. 12, 1905 as a boarding school and day school for twenty-five students. By the second year (1906-07), the school's enrollment included 70 boarding students and twenty day students. An advertisement in the *New-York Tribune* (Sept. 14, 1905), which ran repeatedly over the course of the year reads:

Luralton Hall, Milford, Conn. – Select school for young ladies and children; Sisters of Mercy; delightful location; thorough equipment. Address Mother Superior.

Rev. Peter McClean's annual report for calendar year 1905 recorded pastoral services to four religious teachers, one lay teacher, four other sisters and 35 female students at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall. Subsequent reports show a consistent increase in the school population, reaching 175 students by the end of 1918.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

An advertisement in the Catholic Transcript ran regularly throughout the year:⁴

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy
Lauralton Hall, Milford, Conn.
Conducted by the Sisters of Mercy

This Academy is delightfully located in one of the most healthful parts of the State. It is surrounded by forty acres of grounds tastefully laid out in lawn, garden, grove and playground, well equipped for all kinds of out-door exercises. The course of studies is thorough embracing all the branches requisite for a solid and refined education.

For further information apply to the Sisters of Mercy, Milford, Conn.

The educational philosophy of the Sisters of Mercy was distinctive in that it emphasized the importance of educating middle class girls and young women in addition to the poorer classes (as was common in most parochial schools). The Society's founder, Sr. Catherine McAuley R.S.M. of Ireland (1778-1841), came from a prosperous Irish family, but devoted her life to working with the poor and infirm. Sister Catherine theorized that educating the middle class could help to resolve societal tensions and forge a stronger link between the upper and lower classes. Her teachings were taken to heart by the Sisters of Mercy in America and helped to counteract the prevailing bias against Catholic education.

The original program for the elementary school at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall offered a standard course of studies in reading, writing, arithmetic and other basics. The high school program was more progressive with four distinct tracks: Preparatory (preparing women for four-year college or university studies), Academic (preparing women for Normal School study or vocational training), Commercial (preparing for business careers) and Music (cultivating gifted students in appreciation and performance). The school's emphasis on advanced study and professional careers for women beyond secondary school placed it well ahead of most public high schools and helped to attract middle class students from throughout Connecticut and New York.

The St. Joseph Building (1906 – Historic Photos G & H), located north of the mansion, was the first new building constructed specifically to meet the needs of the school. Its construction was supported by a mortgage to the Aetna Life Insurance Company in the amount of \$9,000 (June 27,

⁴ Vol. XIX, #51, p. 6 and subsequent issues

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 11 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

1905) and a second in the amount of \$29,000 (Aug. 16, 1906). Dedicated on December 12, 1906, the three-story building included multiple classrooms, a chapel (Room S-116), a dining hall and an auditorium/gymnasium (on the top floor). The St. Joseph Building was expanded and renovated in 1930 when the new Gymnasium wing was added to the west side.

The current Administration Building (1917 – Historic Photos I & J) was first known as the Sacred Heart Building and later as Mercy Hall. Construction began in 1914 and was supported by a mortgage to Derby Savings Bank in the amount of \$80,000 (Sept. 27, 1916). The second story oriel window formerly at the southwest corner of Luralton Hall was modified in 1917 to provide a direct connection between the mansion and the new building located just to the south.

Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall took three years to build due to shortages of labor and materials during World War I and was dedicated May 30, 1917. It was designed to serve as classrooms and dormitory space with a student cafeteria, a large auditorium and an ornate chapel. The building's T-shaped plan placed the chapel at the symbolic and physical center of the school's activities. Older students were housed in the third floor dormitory. Primary students were housed in the "Angels" room on the fourth floor of the central tower.

The Chapel (1917) on the second floor was designed with a seating capacity for five hundred students. The interior includes thirty-seven stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ and representations of twenty-eight Catholic saints and educators. The chancel behind the altar includes stained glass windows depicting the three religious patrons of the school: Our Lady of Mercy, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Joseph.

The Boiler Room and Laundry Building (1917) located behind the Administration Building had been built to house the school's steam heating system that was installed at a cost of \$16,807. The building was pressed into service as additional classroom and educational space as the school's program expanded. At various times, the simple one-story building functioned as a sewing room, dance studio, crafts studio and a music room (its current use).

In the early years of the school, four of the houses along High St. at the northeast corner of the campus were used as dormitories for boarding students and housing for staff. The houses were gradually separated from the campus and sold to private owners, but survive with some modification outside the boundaries of this nomination.

Over the years, the former mansion Luralton Hall (1864) came to signify the philosophical foundation of the school. The two towers (one round, one square) were identified with the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

school's essential values of truth and mercy. The Taylor family motto inscribed on the parlor fireplace, "Consequitur quodcunque petit" (He attains whatever he attempts) was re-imagined as "Fides consequitur quodquonque petit" (Faith attains whatever it pursues).

The grand hall of the mansion was converted to the library (after 1956) while the gracious first floor rooms were used by the Admissions Office and the Alumnae Office for receptions and events. The numerous bedrooms on the upper floors became classroom space for teachers and students.

The last major building added to the campus in the twentieth century was the Gymnasium (1930), a physical education facility connected to the west side of the St. Joseph Building. Improvements to the campus undertaken at the same time provided outdoor basketball and volleyball courts, a hockey field, archery and track facilities for the active body of students.

At the south end of the campus, the Grotto of St. Bernadette (1945), a replica of the grotto at Lourdes, France) was constructed as a memorial to Mother Mary Augustine Claven, R.S.M., the founder of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Luralton Hall. No other significant buildings or structures were added to the campus for the rest of the 20th century.

The number of boarding students at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy began to decline in the 1930s as the preponderance of automobiles and buses made commuting to the campus more viable. In 1956, the Academy closed its elementary school in order to focus on the more stringent requirements of secondary education. The boarding option was phased out that same year (1956) and the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy has enrolled only day students since that time.

Without the need for dormitories, the space in the Administration Building (Sacred Heart/Mercy Hall) could be reallocated. In the late 1950s, the main library was moved into the grand hall of the mansion and the library space in the Administration Building was converted to the school's Main Office. The dormitories and bedrooms were converted to classrooms on each floor. The building's large reception parlors, no longer required for visiting parents and guests, were converted to offices for faculty and staff.

Luralton Hall since 1960

As a physical campus, the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Luralton Hall was unchanged for the rest of the twentieth century. Uses were rotated through individual buildings as the demand

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

required, but all of the buildings continue to be used by the school. Minor changes such as the addition of an access ramp at the rear porch of the mansion have made the buildings more functional without any adverse effect on their historic character. The Chapel in the Administration Building was restored in 1982 and again in 1996 and has lost none of its elegant architectural character.

A *Decorator's Mansion* fundraising event in June of 1984 transformed the twenty rooms of the Luralton Hall mansion and highlighted the work of thirty artists and interior designers. The scope of the event was limited to surface finishes (paint and wallpaper), lighting and furnishings, so that the visual excitement of the event had no lasting physical impact on the historic or architectural character of the mansion.

Many of the larger trees on the Mercy campus were lost in Hurricane Gloria (Sept. 1985), but the monumental copper beech (planted in 1908), several ginkgoes and many younger trees remain. The mature shade trees and manicured lawns of the campus provide an inviting atmosphere for study, contemplation and socializing. Portions of the east lawn between the main school buildings and the High St. houses were converted to softball and soccer fields in 1989.

The most significant change in use in the campus buildings was the conversion of the old Gymnasium (1930) to the new library in 1989. The library had been housed in the grand hall of the mansion since 1956, but had outgrown the space. The new installation in the former gymnasium took advantage of the double-height space to create a bright and airy study atmosphere. The former balcony at the east end of the gymnasium was closed in to create a computer and media room accessible from the second floor of the connector to the St. Joseph building.

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the school began to address changing needs and expectations. The granite porte-cochere on the east front of the mansion had deteriorated and was demolished in 2000. A new student Athletic Center located south of the Administration Building was opened in 2001 and provided new basketball and volleyball courts with bleachers to accommodate seven hundred fans. The Athletic Center represented the first major new construction on the campus since the completion of the old gymnasium in 1930.

Since 1960, the school's enrollment has remained relatively steady even as costs have increased. Between 1905 and 2005, more than 6,000 young women were educated at Luralton Hall, resulting in a broad and supportive base of alumnae.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14 Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT

The school currently (2010) has 430 female day students in grades 9 through 12. The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Lauralton Hall is governed by a board of trustees with the administration of the school in the hands of a professional educator hired as principal.

Criterion C: Distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction

The six contributing buildings on the campus of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall represent the evolution of architectural styles for residential and institutional use in the period 1864-1917.

Lauralton Hall (the Mansion), the Carriage House and the Water Tower all date from the original construction of the Charles H. Pond property in 1864. All three buildings express an individualistic interpretation of the Second Empire (Mansard) style as conveyed by pattern books and builder's guides. The architect or builder of the original *Island View* mansion (later renamed *Lauralton Hall*) has not been identified.⁵

Lauralton Hall (the Mansion) was extensively remodeled by Henry Augustus Taylor in 1889 to express the current Queen Anne or High Victorian style. Exterior improvements included the reconfiguration and redesign of the verandah and entrance, the addition of a granite porte-cochere (no longer extant) and the construction of a massive round tower on the south elevation of the house. Interior remodeling was extensive resulting in the grand entry hall and spiral staircase as well as the oak-paneled dining room and inglenook.

Henry Augustus Taylor maintained a primary residence on West 46 St. in New York City and may have called on a New York based architect or designer to expand and remodel the former *Island View* as *Lauralton Hall* in 1889. The round tower and conical turret that Taylor added to the original house is an expressive element that shows up in buildings from the same period designed by Joseph W. Northrop of Connecticut.

⁵ A local historian has suggested that the original buildings (mansion, carriage house and water tower) may have been the work of Hezekiah Baldwin Beardsley (1836-1901), a prominent local house builder in Milford. Beardsley was born in Connecticut and worked first as a carriage maker and joiner in New Haven. In the early 1860s he moved to Milford and began a career as a contractor and builder. Hezekiah Baldwin Beardsley "who for many years conducted a large contracting and building business at Milford" (*Connecticut Biography*) may have been assisted at times by his younger brothers George (b. 1838) who taught cabinet work in the New Haven schools and Theodore (b. 1840) who established a large contracting business in Springfield, Massachusetts. While Beardsley was certainly active in Milford in the 1860s, no documentary evidence has so far come to light linking him directly to the construction of Charles H. Pond's *Island View* estate.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 15 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Joseph W. Northrop (1860-1940) was born in New Haven. His father was a carver and by age 19, Joseph was apprenticed to an architect (*New Haven Directory, 1880*). He soon moved to Bridgeport and set up his own practice designing churches and private residences in Connecticut and New York. By the time of his death in 1940 he was "considered the dean of state architects" and had been in business in Bridgeport for more than fifty years.⁶

Northrop's association with the Taylor family is clear since he designed the Mary Taylor Memorial Methodist Church in Milford in 1892. The Colin M. Ingersoll House on Whitney Ave. in New Haven, designed by Northrop in 1896, features a round tower very similar in form and detailing to that of Luralton Hall. Northrop published designs for houses and churches throughout the 1890s in *American Architect and Building News* and in the *Scientific American Architects & Builders Edition*, but no documentary link to the renovations at Luralton Hall has yet been found.

St. Joseph Hall (1906) reflects the neo-Gothic style preferred for academic buildings and particularly associated with the architectural traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Administration Building (Mercy Hall / Sacred Heart Building) was constructed in 1914-17 and reflects the continued influence of the neo-Gothic style in academic architecture. The Laundry/Boiler Room was completed at the same time, but expresses a simple industrial style of building.

The architect of the main school buildings has not been identified, but Joseph W. Northrop is a plausible possibility due to his extensive practice with churches and public buildings in Connecticut and New York and his possible earlier involvement in the remodeling of Luralton Hall. The only documentary evidence yet brought to light is a 1915 contract in the archives of the Hartford Archdiocese that identifies the G.W. Cunningham Company as the contractor responsible for the installation of a steam heating system to a design developed by the New York civil engineering firm of Serrell & Schenck (John A. Serrell and Tunis R. Schenck).

Archaeological Potential

Given the proximity of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall to the Wepawaug River and the Connecticut shoreline, there is some potential for archaeological deposits related to

⁶ Obituary of Joseph W. Northrop, *Hartford Courant*, May 26, 1940

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 16

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Native American occupation and use of the site.

For the historic period (since 1864), there is great potential for archaeological documentation of the spring-fed water system, the formal gardens and the greenhouses and related outbuildings on the Lauralton Hall site. Archaeological investigation may also discover evidence of the two major construction periods for the mansion (1864 & 1889) as well as artifactual evidence related to foodways and household life.

The only significant ground disturbance that has taken place since the 19th century is the excavation required for construction of the new Athletic Center on the south side of the campus in 2001. Topsoil in some areas has been removed or regraded for playing fields and paved parking areas, but much of the site remains undisturbed.

Summary

The nomination of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall will recognize the historical and architectural significance the Pond/Taylor Estate and the related campus buildings and assist the school in garnering the support required to preserve, maintain and continue to utilize the historic buildings into the 21st century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT

Section 9: Bibliographic References

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Obituary of Henry Augustus Taylor, *New-York Tribune*, April 9, 1899.

Obituary of Joseph W. Northrop, *Hartford Courant*, May 26, 1940.

Town of Milford, Connecticut: Assessor's Records & Building Department records.

Trow (formerly Wilson's) Co partnership and Corporation Directory of New York. NY: Trow Directory, Printing and Bookbinding Co.; 1906

United States Census Bureau, decennial census records, 1850-1930.

United States Geographical Survey. Topographical maps of Milford, Connecticut: Bridgeport Quadrangle (1893) and Milford Quadrangle (1951).

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY / LAURALTON HALL

Name of Property

MILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 29.18 acres (Map 54 / Block 323 / Lots 7 & 7A)

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. Zone 18 Easting 661990 Northing 4565310

3. Zone 18 Easting 662510 Northing 4565370

2. Zone 18 Easting 662370 Northing 4565575

4. Zone 18 Easting 662150 Northing 4565115

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to continuation sheets

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to continuation sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory Farmer, consultant, with Stacey Vairo, NR Director, CT Commission on Culture & Tourism

organization Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation date June 2011

street & number 940 Whitney Ave. telephone 203-562-6312

city or town Hamden state CT zip code 06517

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Lauralton Hall

street & number 200 High St. telephone 203-877-2786

city or town Milford state CT zip code 06460

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10

Page 1

**Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, CT**

Section 10: Boundaries

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination contains the parcels designated by the Town of Milford as Assessors Map 54, Block 323, Parcels 7 & 7A. The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall occupies a rectangular parcel on the west side of High St. in Milford, CT. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel, the boundary runs southeast parallel to High St. along the rear lot lines of the adjacent residential lots a distance of 453 ft., then turn northeast out to High St. and continues southeast along High St. a distance of 333 ft. to the northwest corner of High St. and Jepson Dr. From that point, the boundary runs southwest a distance of 1,435 ft. along the north side of Jepson Dr. to a point on the east side of West Town St., then northwest following the contour of West Town St. a distance of 833 ft. to a point at the southeast corner of West Town St. and Lamplight Lane. The boundary continues running northeast along the south side of Lamplight Lane and Luralton Court approximately 1,300 ft. to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The district boundary represents the full extent of contiguous land owned by the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy and historically associated with the use of the property as a school. Adjacent parcels that were previously associated with the property under the ownership of the Pond and Taylor families were sold off in the early 20th century for private development and do not directly contribute to the significance of the nominated resources.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Property Owners **Page** 1 **Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall**
Milford, New Haven County, CT

Milford Assessors Map 54, Block 323, Parcels 7 & 7A

Owner: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Lauralton Hall
 200 High St.
 Milford, CT 06460

 Tel. 203-877-2786

Attachments

Maps & Plans (8 sheets total)

Map A: Aerial view of Milford, CT showing the location of 200 High St. (Bing maps, 2010)

Map B: Atlas of the Town of Milford (town boundaries), Beers Atlas of New Haven County, CT (1868).

Map C: Atlas of the Town of Milford (town center detail), Beers Atlas of New Haven County, CT (1868)

Map D: Site Plan of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall, 200 High St., Milford, CT, prepared by Land Surveying Services (rev. 2002)

Map E: Floor Plans of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall, prepared by Philip H. Cerrone III, Architect (2004).

- A-3 Basement Plan
- A-4 First Floor Plan
- A-5 Second Floor Plan
- A-6 Third Floor Plan

Historical photographs (10 total)

Historic View A: Exterior view of Luralton Hall, south and east elevations, c. 1875

Historic View B: Exterior view of Luralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1875

Historic View C: Exterior view of Luralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1890

Historic View D: Exterior view of Luralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1890

Historic View E: View of greenhouses, orchard and gardens at Luralton Hall, c. 1890

Historic View F: Interior view of Main Hall at Luralton Hall, looking north, c. 1890

Historic View G: Aerial view of Mercy Hall, Luralton Hall & St. Joseph buildings, c. 1940

Historic View H: Mercy Hall (left), Luralton Hall (center) and St. Joseph Hall (right), c. 1920

Historic View I: View of Mercy Hall, south and east elevations, c. 1920

Historic View J: Interior view of auditorium in Mercy Hall, looking west, c. 1920

National Register of Historic Places – Digital Photo Submission Form

Name of Property: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall
200 High Street
Milford, New Haven County, CT

Name of Photographer: Gregory Farmer
Date of Photographs: June 2010
Location of files: Agricola Corporation, PO Box 861, Chicopee, MA 01014
Number of Photos: 20

About the digital files:

Camera Used (make, model): CANON PowerShot A570IS (7.1 megapixels)

Resolution of original image capture (camera setting including resolution and file format):

JPEG image, 3072 x 2304 pixels, fine resolution, 2.4 to 3.1 MB

File names:

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0001.tif

Entrance to the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall, 200 High St., Milford, CT – view looking west from High St.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0002.tif

Carriage drive at the main entrance to the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall – view looking west from the entrance gates.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0003.tif

Campus of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall – view looking northwest from the carriage drive to the south and east elevations of Mercy Hall (left), Luralton Hall (center) and St. Joseph Hall (right).

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0004.tif

Exterior view of Luralton Hall (Mansion), south and east elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0005.tif

Exterior view of St. Joseph Hall, east elevation.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0006.tif

Exterior view of St. Joseph Hall, east and north elevations

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0007.tif

Exterior view of Mercy Hall (Administration) and adjacent Luralton Hall (Mansion), east and north elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0008.tif

Exterior view of Mercy Hall (Administration), east and north elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LuraltonHall_0009.tif

Exterior view of the Luralton Hall Carriage House, south and east elevations,

National Register of Historic Places – Digital Photo Submission Form

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0010.tif

Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Carriage House, west & south elevations

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0011.tif

Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Water Tower, west and south elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0012.tif

Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Water Tower, south and east elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0013.tif

Exterior view of the Taylor Carousel, looking northeast.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0014.tif

Exterior view of the Taylor Carousel with the Boiler Room at right (north and west elevations) and Mercy Hall and Chapel in the background (west and north rear elevations).

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0015.tif

Exterior view of the Grotto of St. Bernadette, view looking southwest.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0016.tif

Exterior view of the Athletic Center, north and west elevations.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0017.tif

Interior view of the Main Hall at Lauralton Hall, 1st floor, looking northeast.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0018.tif

Interior view of the Grand Staircase at Lauralton Hall, looking up from the first landing.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0019.tif

Interior view of the Auditorium at Mercy Hall, 1st floor, looking west.

CT_NewHavenCounty_Milford_LauraltonHall_0020.tif

Interior view of the Chapel at Mercy Hall, looking west from the balcony.

About the prints:

Printer make & model: EPSON Stylus Photo R280

Paper brand & type: EPSON Ultra-Premium Photo Paper (glossy)

Ink: EPSON Claria Hi-Definition Ink (six cartridges)

Signature: (By signing below you agree that the information provided here is true and accurate.)

Signature:  Date: 6/30/11

Gregory Farmer

June 30, 2011



Photo 0001: Entrance to the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall, 200 High St., Milford, CT – view looking west from High St.



Photo 0002: Carriage drive at main entrance to the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall – view looking west from entrance gates



Photo 0003: Campus of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall – view looking northwest from carriage drive to south and east elevations of Mercy Hall (left), Luralton Hall (center) and St. Joseph Hall (right)



Photo 0004: Exterior view of Luralton Hall (Mansion), south and east elevations



Photo 0005: Exterior view of St. Joseph Hall, east elevation



Photo 0006: Exterior view of St. Joseph Hall, east and north elevations



Photo 0007: Exterior view of Mercy Hall (Administration) and adjacent Lauralton Hall (Mansion), east and north elevations



Photo 0008: Exterior view of Mercy Hall (Administration), east and north elevations



Photo 0009: Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Carriage House, west and south elevations (Note cupola stored on the ground at left)



Photo 0010: Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Carriage House, south and east elevations



Photo 0011: Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Water Tower, west and south elevations



Photo 0012: Exterior view of the Lauralton Hall Water Tower, south and east elevations



Photo 0013: Exterior view of the Taylor Carousel, looking northeast



Photo 0014: Exterior view of the Taylor Carousel with the Boiler Room at right (north and west elevations) and Mercy Hall and Chapel in the background (west and north rear elevations)



Photo 0015: Exterior view of the Grotto of St. Bernadette, view looking southwest

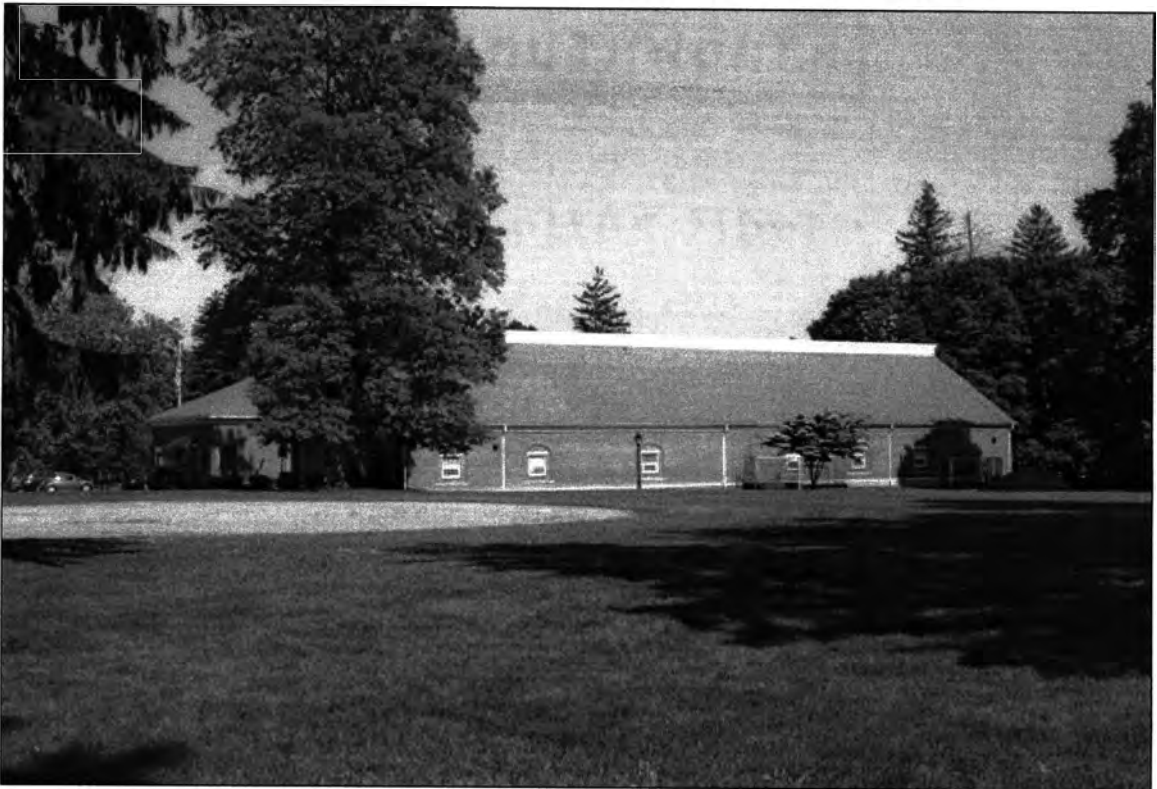


Photo 0016: Exterior view of the Athletic Center, north and west elevations



Photo 0017: Interior view of the Main Hall at Luralton Hall, 1st floor, looking northeast



Photo 0018: Interior view of the Grand Staircase at Luralton Hall, looking up from the 1st landing



Photo 0019: Interior view of the Auditorium at Mercy Hall, 1st floor, looking west

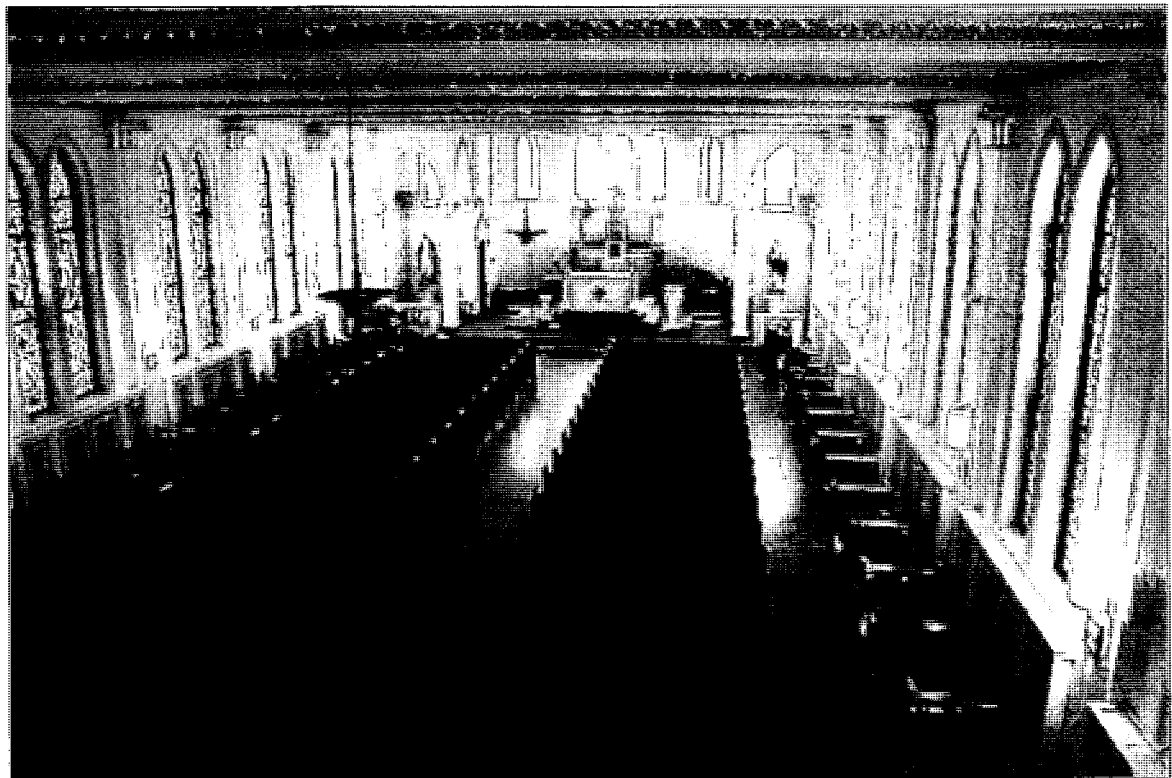


Photo 0020: Interior view of the Chapel at Mercy Hall, looking west from the balcony

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Lauralton Hall

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, New Haven

DATE RECEIVED: 7/22/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/30/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/06/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000611

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8-31-4 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



Historic View A: Exterior view of Lauralton Hall, south and east elevations, c. 1875



Historic View B: Exterior view of Lauralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1875

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



Historic View C: Exterior view of Lauralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1890



Historic View D: Exterior view of Lauralton Hall, west and south elevations, c. 1890

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



Historic View E: View of greenhouses, orchard and gardens at Lauralton Hall, c. 1890



Historic View F: Interior view of Main Hall at Lauralton Hall, looking north, c. 1890

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall



Historic View G: Aerial view of Mercy Hall, Luralton Hall & St. Joseph buildings, c. 1940



Historic View H: Mercy Hall (left), Lauralton Hall (center) and St. Joseph Hall (right), c. 1920

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



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Historic View J: Interior view of auditorium in Mercy Hall, looking west, c. 1920

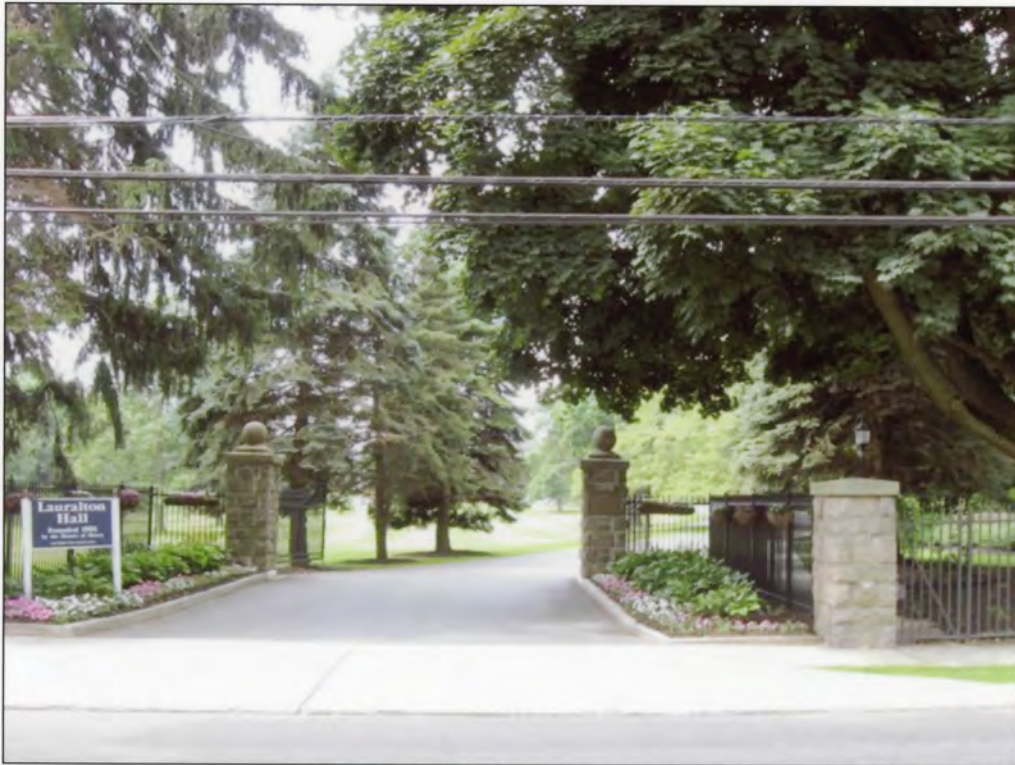


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CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Luralton Hall



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Photo 0006: Exterior view of St. Joseph Hall, east and north elevations

CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



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CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall



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CT: Milford, New Haven County – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall

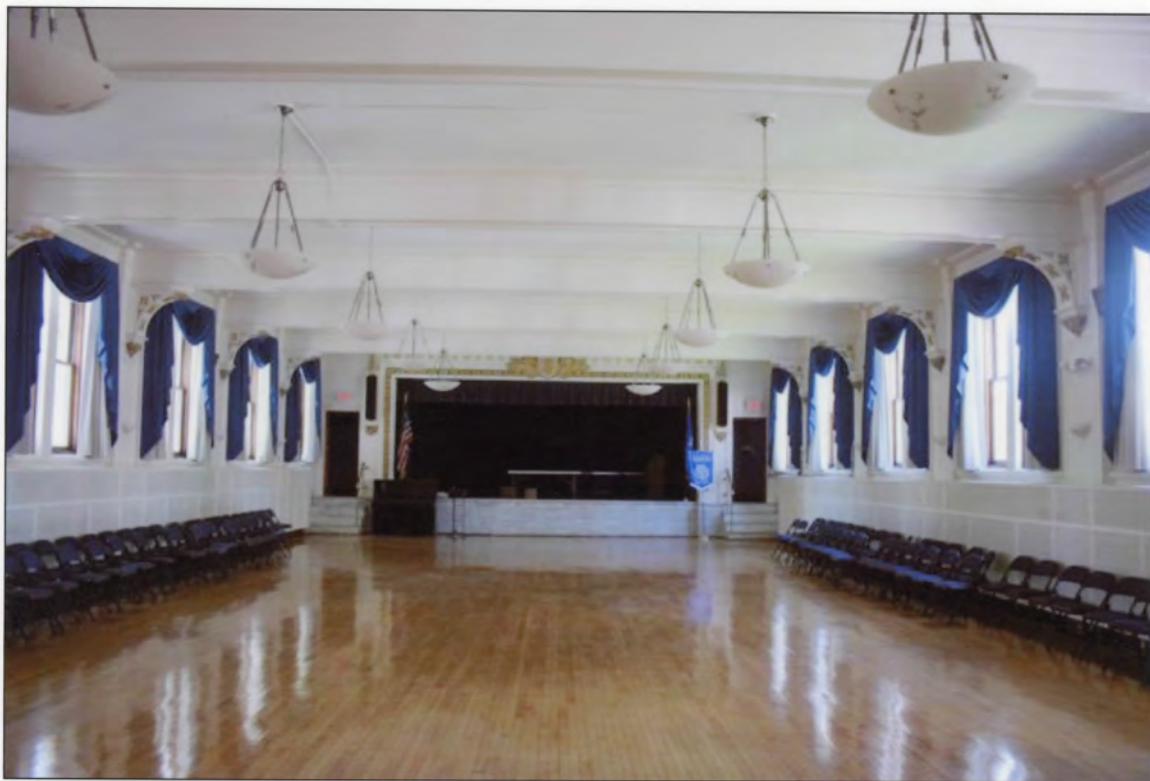
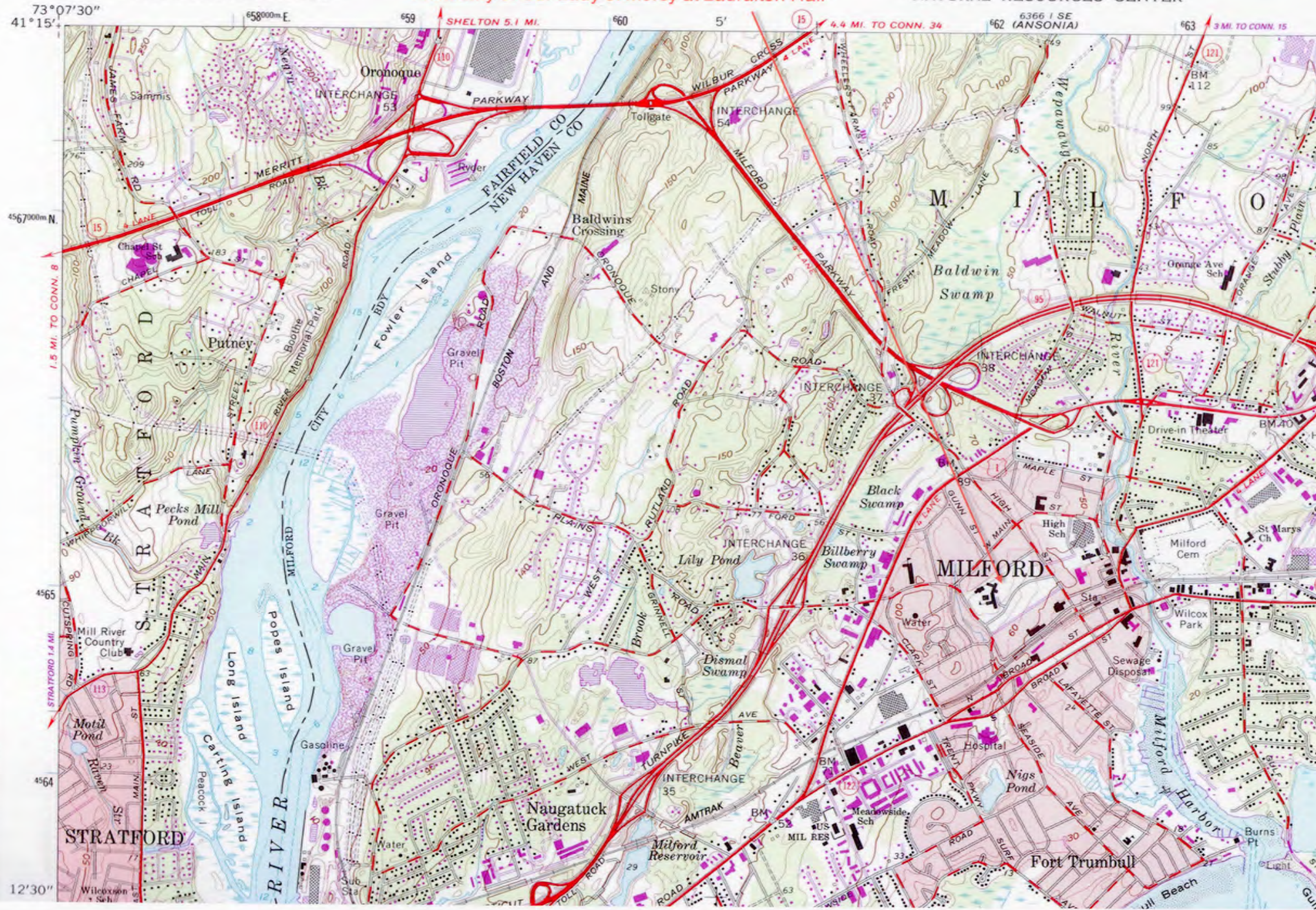


Photo 0019: Interior view of the Auditorium at Mercy Hall, 1st floor, looking west



Photo 0020: Interior view of the Chapel at Mercy Hall, looking west from the balcony


766 1 S.W.
10 Hill

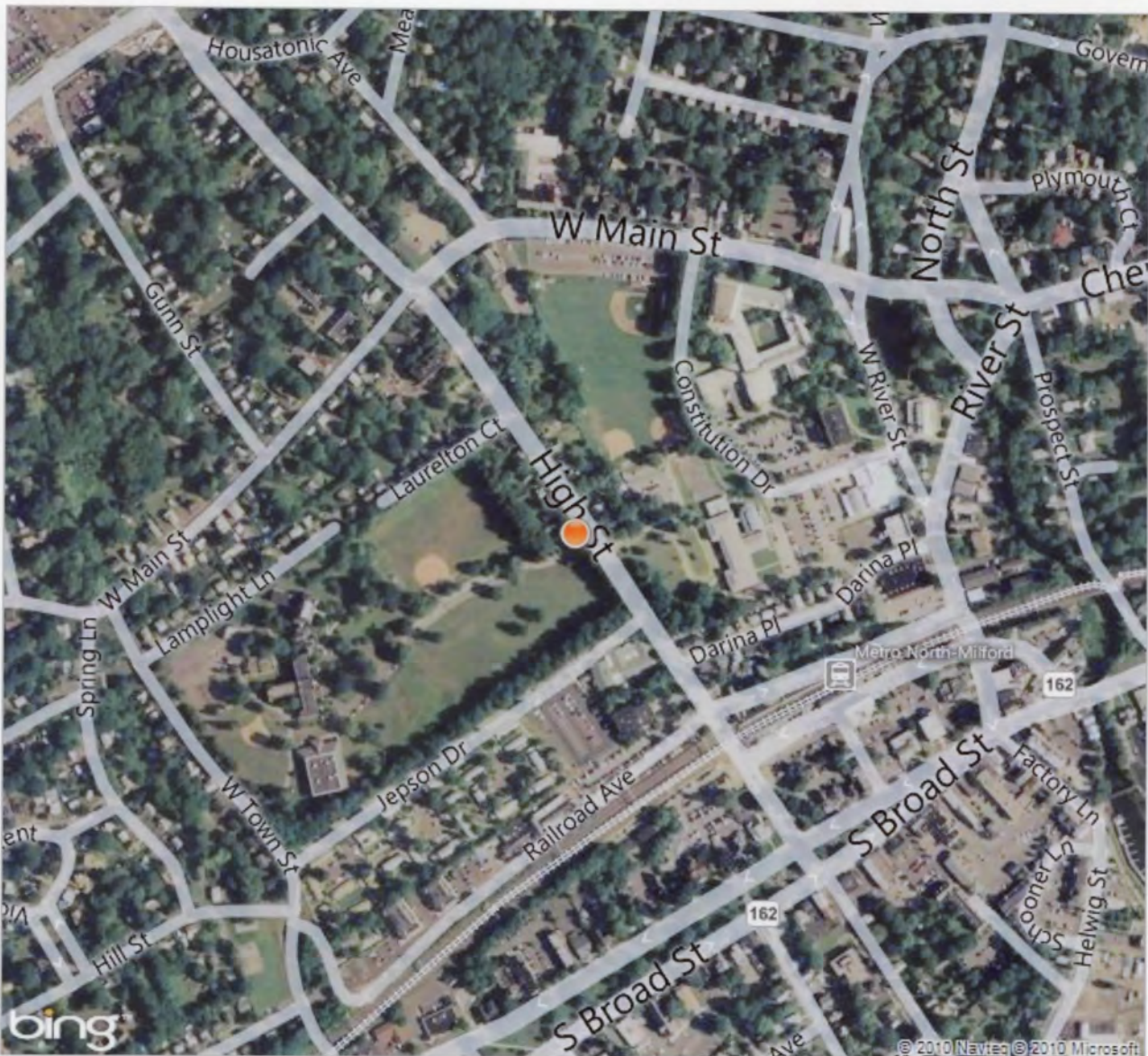


Print
Bing Maps (Map A)

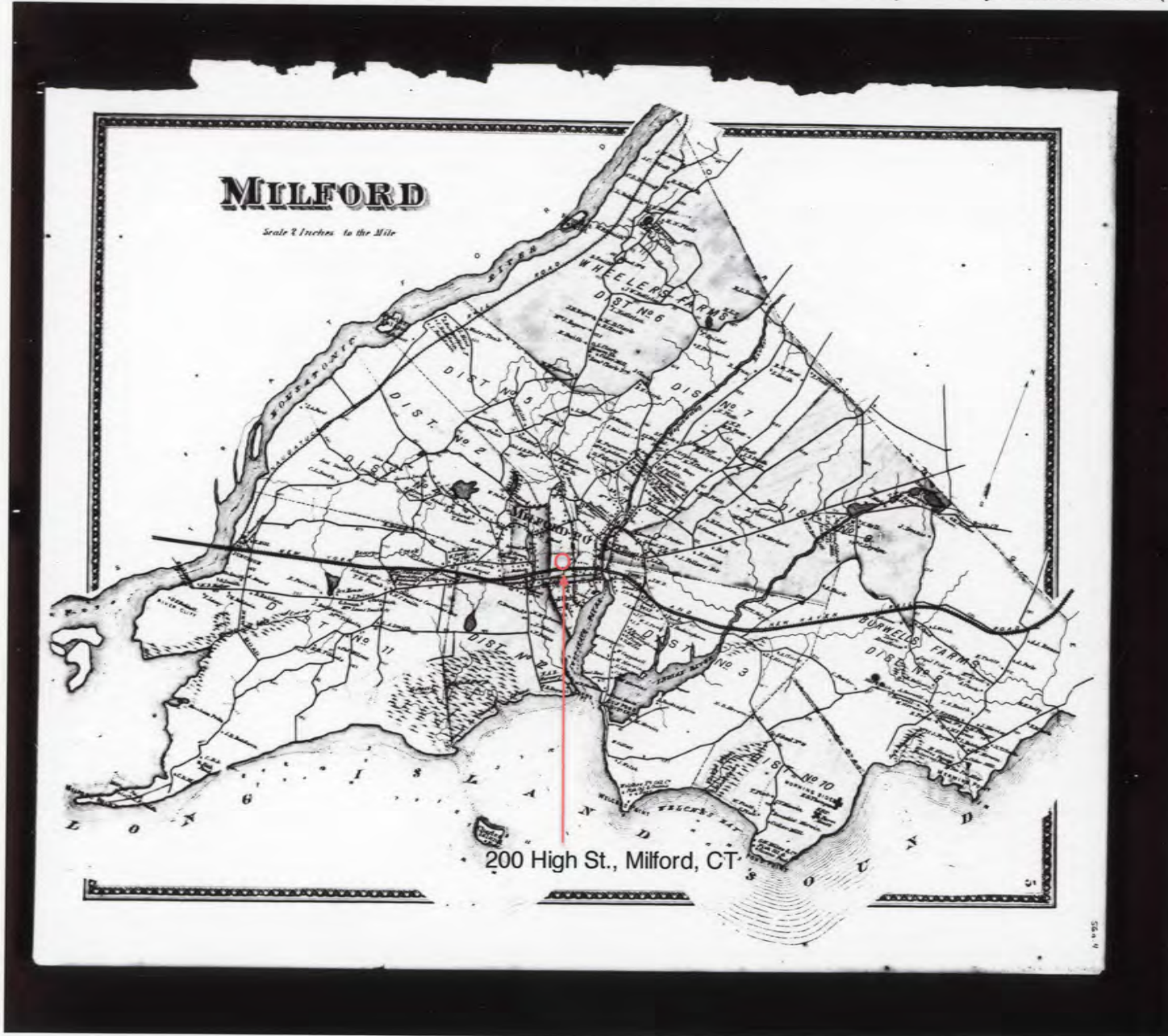
200 High St, Milford, CT 06460-3249

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy /
Lauralton Hall

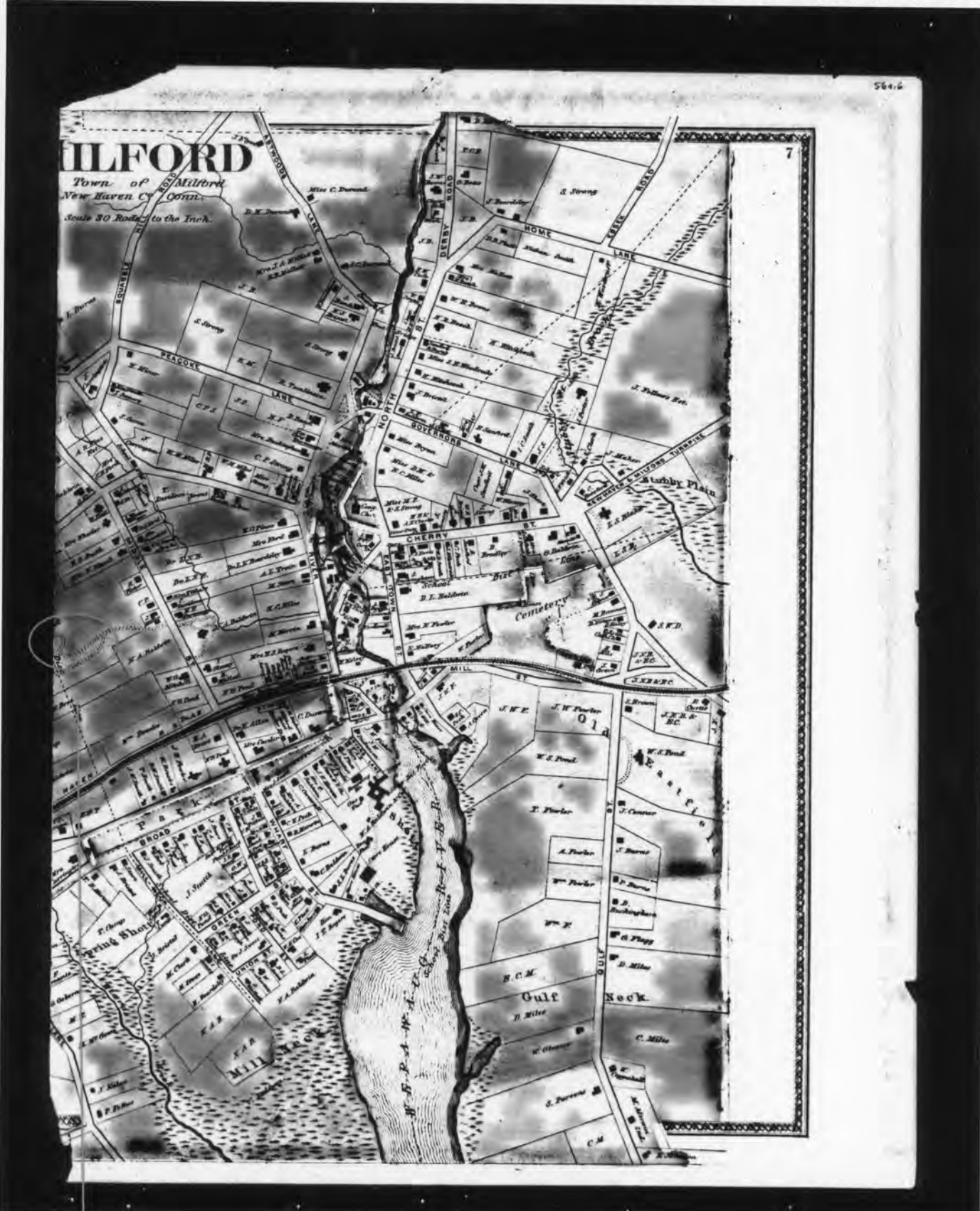
 FREE! Use Bing 411 to find movies,
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Map B: Milford, CT - 1868 Atlas showing approximate location of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall (red circle)

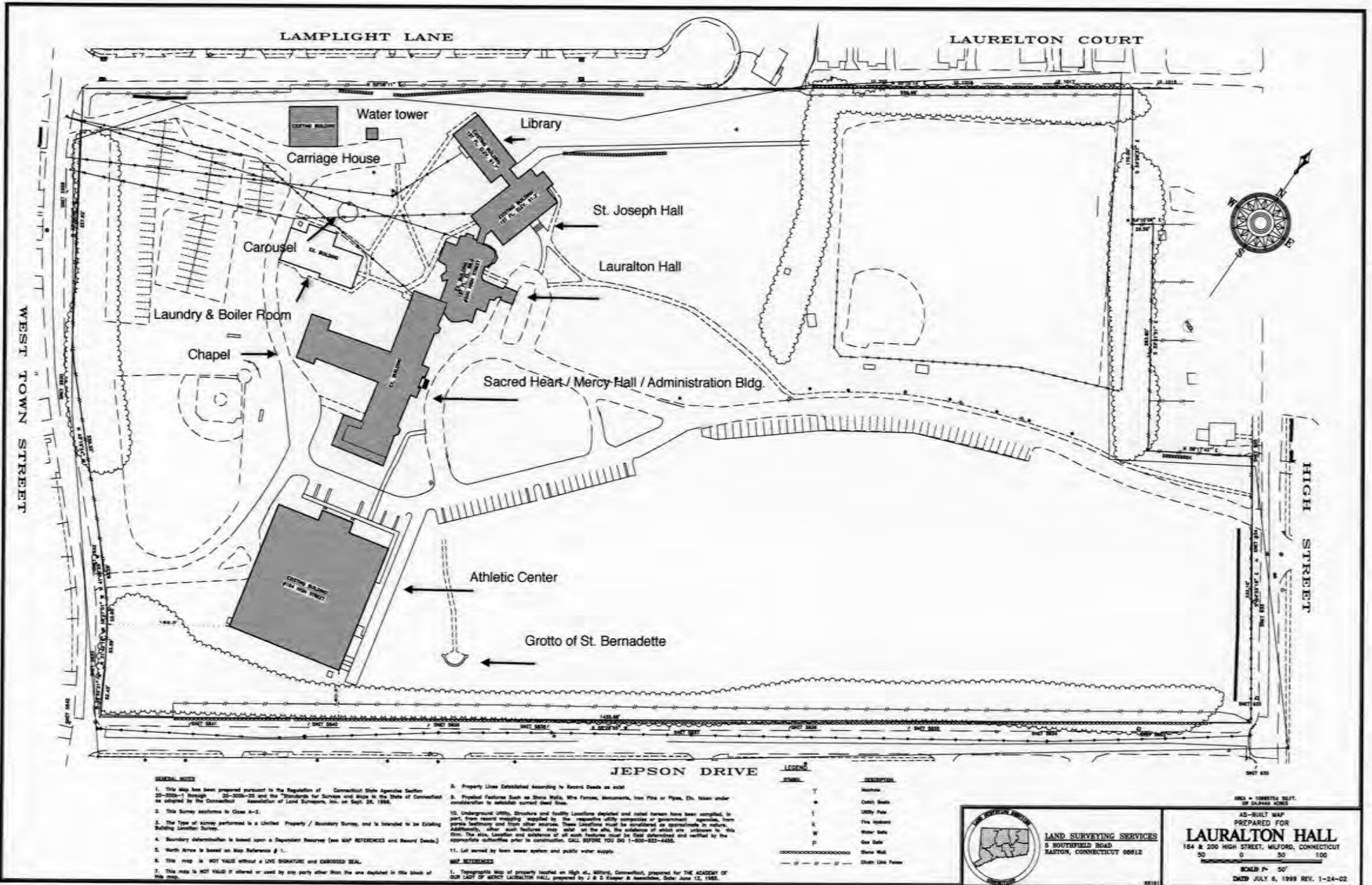


Map C: Milford, CT - 1868 atlas showing location of Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall (red circle)



200 High St., Milford, CT

Map D: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall, 200 High St., Milford, CT



GENERAL NOTES

1. This map has been prepared pursuant to the Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies Section 20-200a-1 through 20-200a-23 and the "Standards for Surveys and Maps in the State of Connecticut" as adopted by the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, Inc. on Sept. 28, 1986.
2. This Survey conforms to Class A-1.
3. The Type of survey performed is a Unified Property / Boundary Survey, and is intended to be Existing Building Limited Survey.
4. Boundary determination is based upon a Dependent Reserve (see MAP REFERENCES and Record Deeds).
5. North Arrow is based on Map Reference # 1.
6. This map is NOT VALID without a LIVE SIGNATURE and EMBOSSED SEAL.
7. This map is NOT VALID if altered or used by any party other than the one depicted in this block of this map.

8. Property Lines Established According to Record Deeds as well.
 9. Property Features Same as Above, Walls, Wire Fences, Masonwork, Iron Pins or Pipes, Etc. None under consideration in establish correct field lines.
 10. Underground Utility, Structure and Facility Locations depicted and noted herein have been compiled, in part, from record drawings supplied by the respective utility companies or governmental agencies, from private utilities and from other sources. These Locations must be confirmed as appropriate in nature. Additionally, other such features may exist on the site, the existence of which are unknown to this firm. The title, location and existence of all such features must be field determined and verified by the appropriate authorities prior to construction. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-352-4426.
 11. Lot served by lawn sewer system and public water supply.
- MAP REFERENCES**
1. Topographic Map of property located on High St., Milford, Connecticut, prepared for the ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY LAURALTON HALL, prepared by J. & S. Cooper & Associates, Sider June 12, 1985.

LEGEND

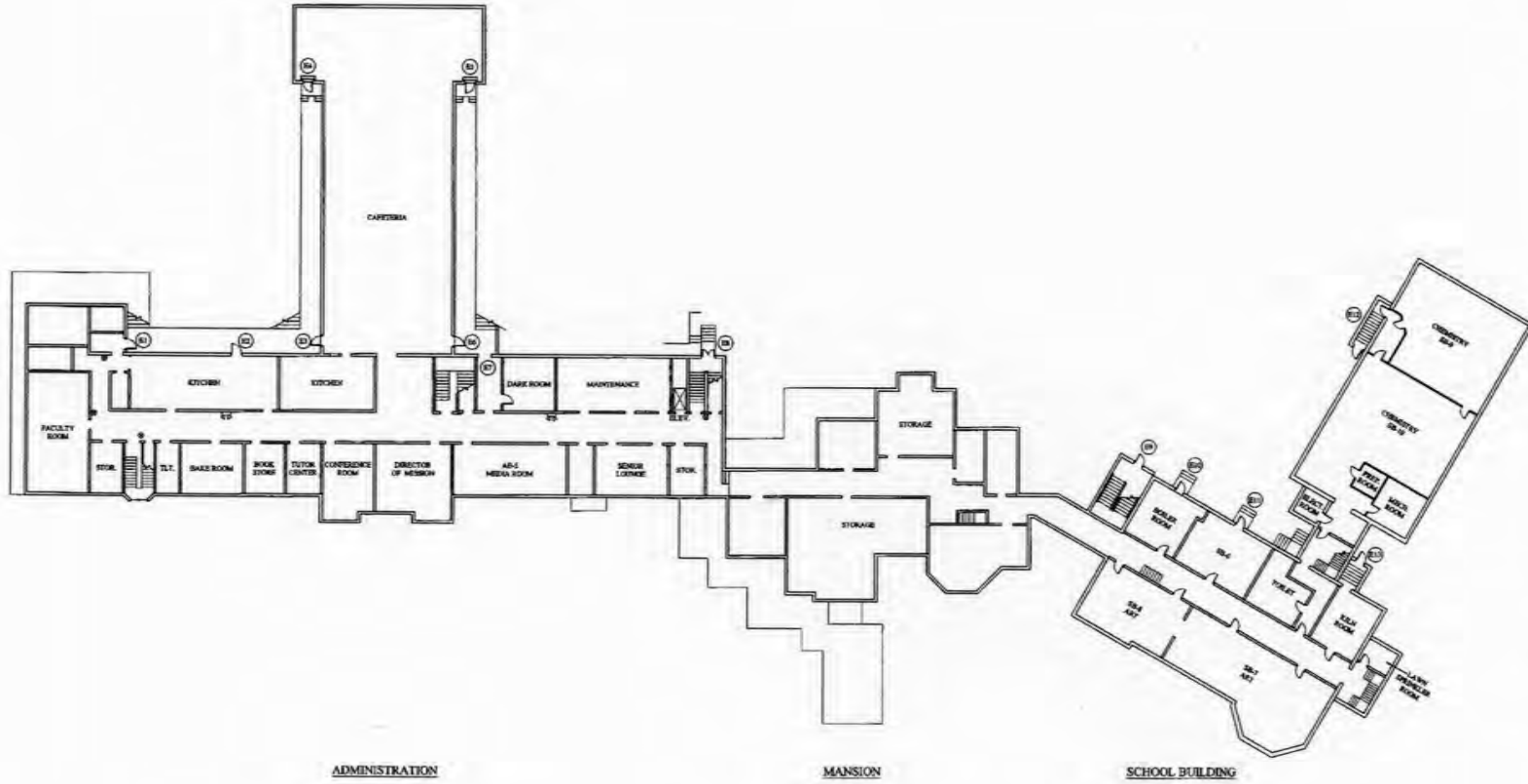
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
Y	Monument
+	Corner Stake
U	Utility Pole
V	Fire Hydrant
W	Water Meter
P	Gas Meter
○	Stone Wall
— — — — —	Chain Link Fence



LAND SURVEYING SERVICES
 5 ROVERFIELD ROAD
 EASTON, CONNECTICUT 06812

AS-BUILT MAP
 PREPARED FOR
LAURALTON HALL
 184 & 200 HIGH STREET, MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
 50 0 50 100
 SCALE 1" = 50'
 DATE JULY 8, 1999 REV. 1-24-02

Map E.0 - Foundation Plan



1 FOUNDATION PLAN
10/17/12



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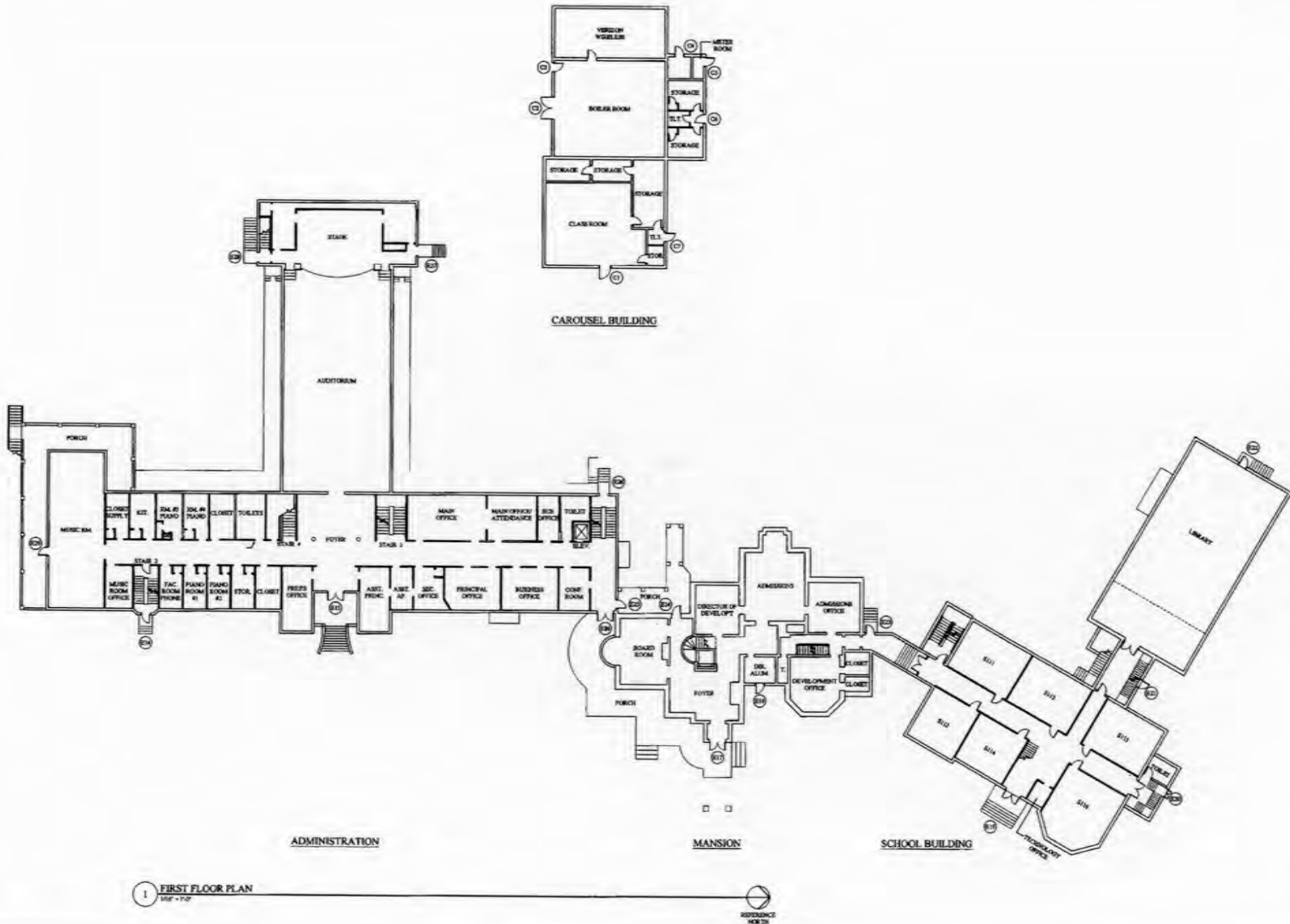
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DATE	11-11-12
REVISION	001
PKA	

PHILIP H. CERRONE III
ARCHITECT A.I.A.
421 Main Street
Milford, CT 06455
203.333.2200



LORALTON HALL
200 High Street
Milford, CT
BASEMENT PLAN

21-25
A-3

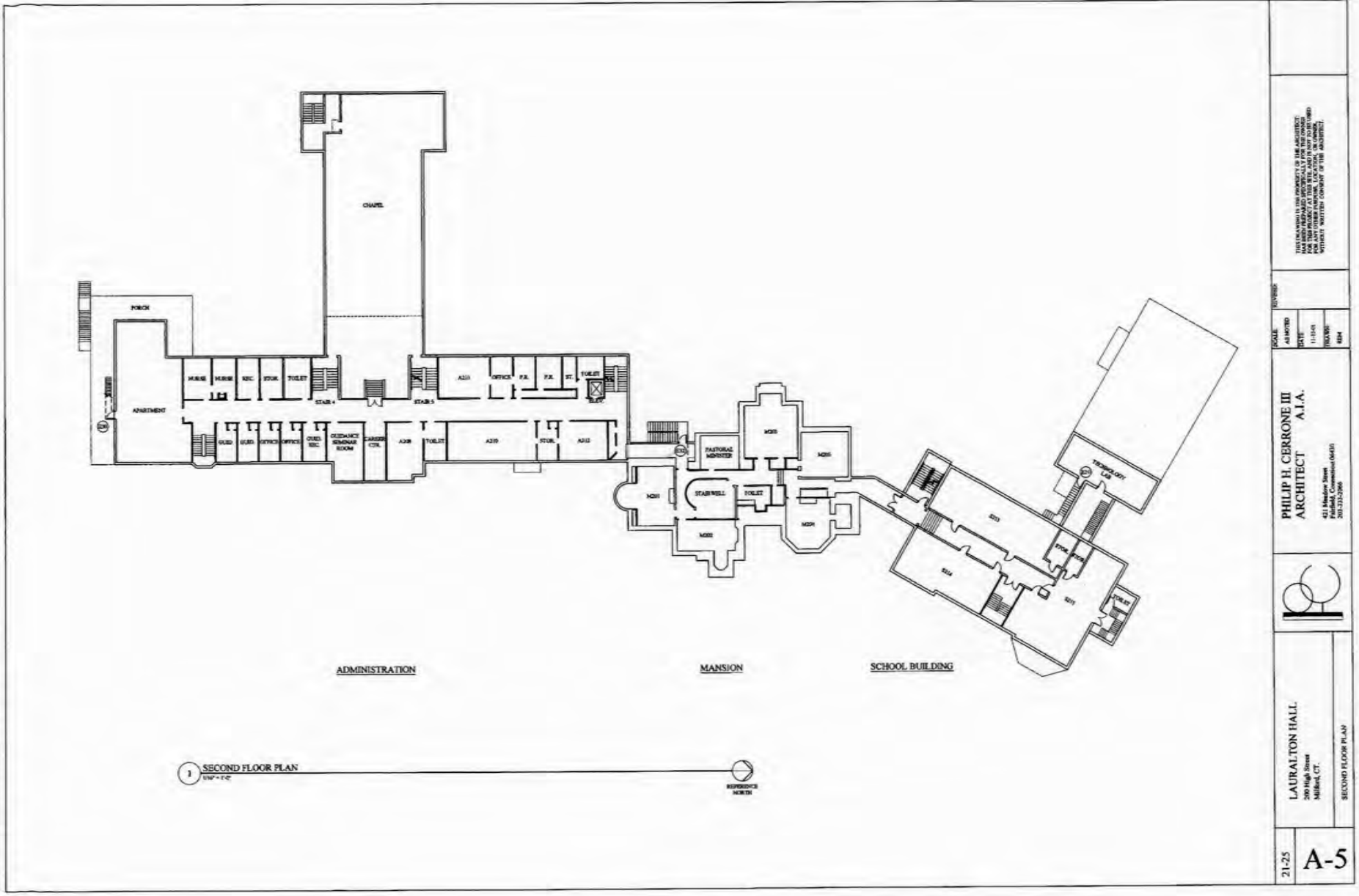


1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SIF 7-72



21-25	A-4	LORALTON HALL 200 High Street Middletown, CT. FIRST FLOOR PLAN		PHILIP H. CERRONE III ARCHITECT A.I.A.		SCALE	DATE	BY	CHKD BY	DATE	BY	THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF THE ARCHITECT. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS CONTRACT, AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT.
				ASSISTED	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE			

Map E.2 - Second Floor Plan



1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"



21-25
A-5

LAURALTON HALL
200 High Street
Middletown, CT.



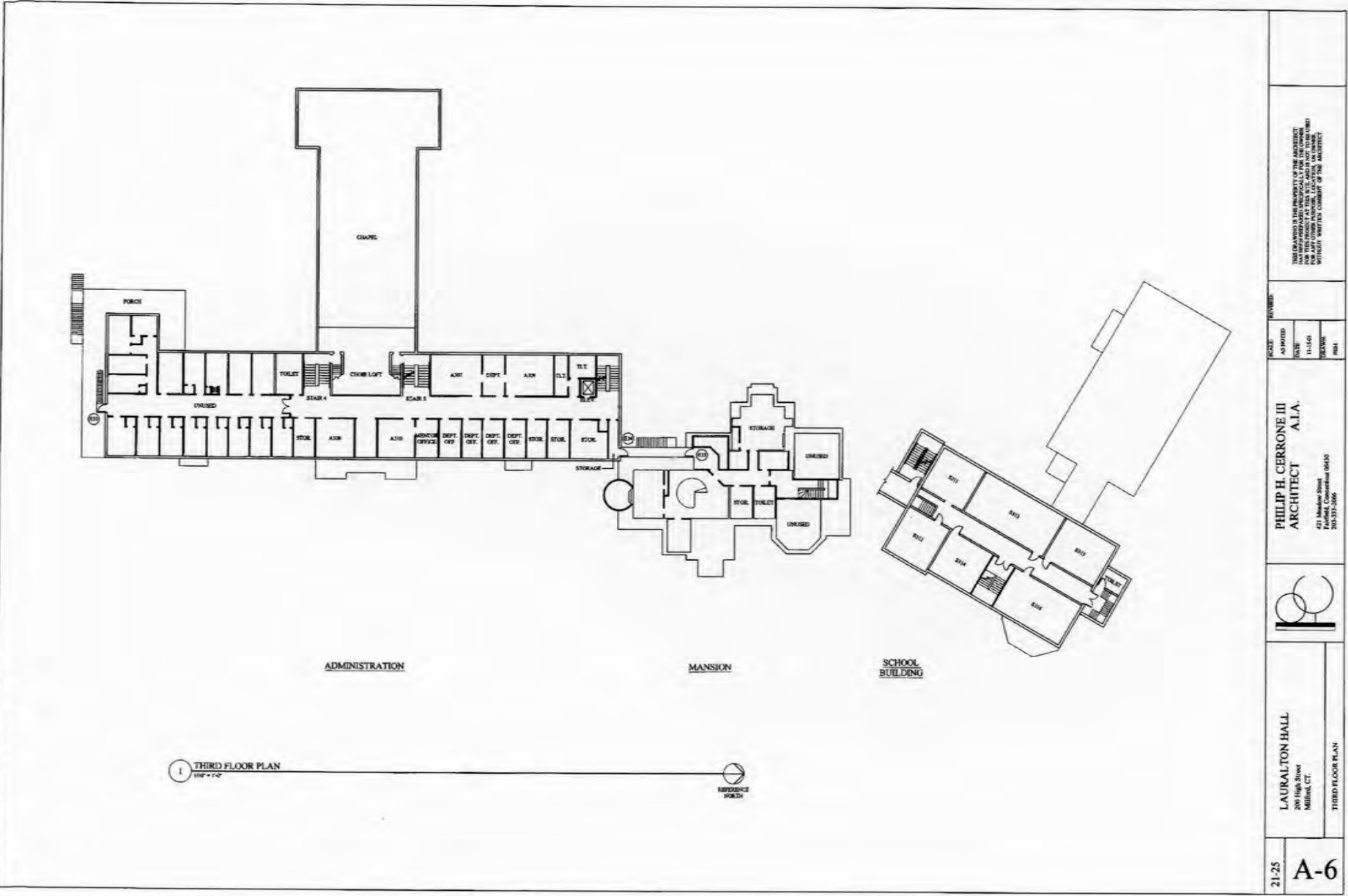
PHILIP H. CERRONE III
ARCHITECT
A.I.A.
421 Main Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06451
203-232-2286

SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	11-14-04
	10-22-05
	04-14-06

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BY THE ARCHITECT'S WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Map E.3 - Third Floor Plan



21-25
A-6

LAURALTON HALL
200 High Street
Milford, CT.
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

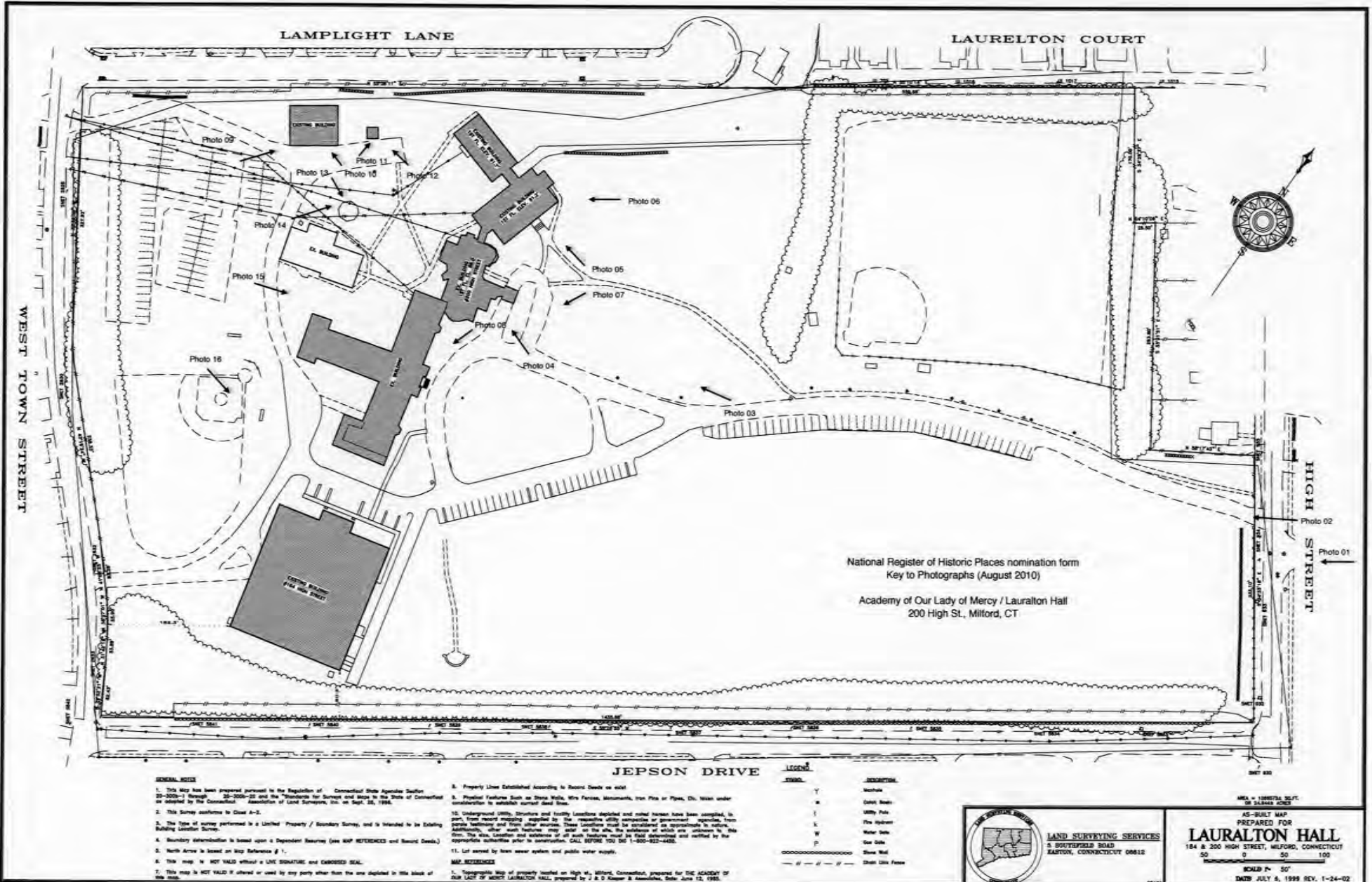


PHILIP H. CERRONE III
ARCHITECT A.I.A.
471 Main Street
Milford, Connecticut 06450
203-337-2500

SCALE	DATE	BY	CHKD
AS SHOWN	11-14-68	PHH	PHH

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Key to Photographs: Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall, 200 High St., Milford, CT (August 2010)



National Register of Historic Places nomination form
 Key to Photographs (August 2010)
 Academy of Our Lady of Mercy / Lauralton Hall
 200 High St., Milford, CT

GENERAL NOTES

1. This Map has been prepared pursuant to the Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies Section 20-200a-1 through 20-200a-20 and the "Standards for Surveys and Maps in the State of Connecticut" as adopted by the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors, Inc. on Sept. 25, 1984.
2. This Survey conforms to Class A-2.
3. The Type of survey performed is a Unified Property / Boundary Survey, and is intended to be Existing Building Location Survey.
4. Boundary determination is based upon 4 Dependent Sources (see MAP REFERENCES and Record Books).
5. North Arrow is based on Map Reference # 1.
6. This map is NOT VALID without a LMS SIGNATURE and EMBOSSED SEAL.
7. This map is NOT VALID if altered or used by any party other than the one depicted in this block of this map.

MAP REFERENCES

1. Topographic Map of property located on High St., Milford, Connecticut, prepared for THE ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY LAURALTON HALL, prepared by J & O Kesser & Associates, Date: June 12, 1985.
2. Property Lines Established According to Record Books as well.
3. Physical Features Such as Stone Walls, Wire Fences, Monuments, Iron Pins or Pipes, Etc. Were used and/or observed in establish current field lines.
4. Underground Utility, Structure and Facility Locations depicted and noted herein have been accepted, in part, from record existing supplied by the respective utility companies or governmental agencies, from aerial photographs and from other sources. These locations shall be considered as approximate in nature. Additionally, other such features may exist on the site, the existence of which are unknown to this firm. The site, location and existence of all such features must be field determined and verified by the responsible authorities prior to construction. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-852-4429.
5. Lot served by sewer system and public water supply.

LEGEND

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
Y	Wetlands
X	Cont. Book
I	Utility Pole
K	The Hubner
P	Water Tank
W	Fire Sign
○	Stone Wall
—	Short Line Fence



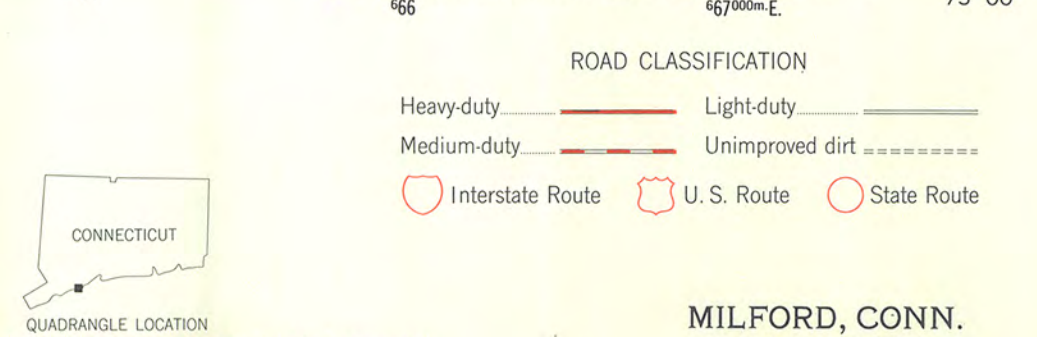
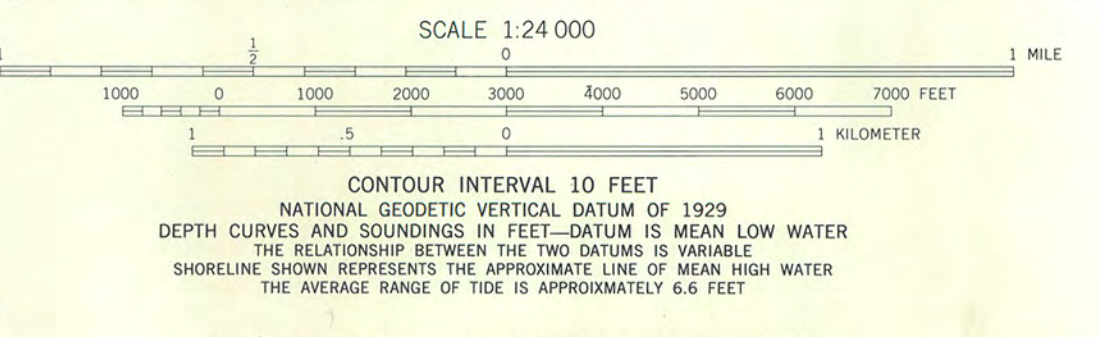
LAND SURVEYING SERVICES
 5 BOUTWICK ROAD
 EASTON, CONNECTICUT 06812

AS-BUILT MAP
 PREPARED FOR
LAURALTON HALL
 184 & 200 HIGH STREET, MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
 50 0 50 100
 SCALE 1" = 50'
 DATE: JULY 4, 1999 REV. 1-24-02

Academy of
Our Lady of Mercy
at Labyrinth Hall
Milford
New Haven County, CT
UTM References
A. 18/661990/4565310
B. 18/662370/4565795
C. 18/662170/4565270
D. 18/662150/4565115



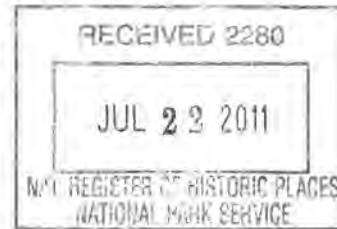
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOA, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1949. Field checked 1951. Revised 1960
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA charts
218 and 219 (1959)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Connecticut
coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
37 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with State of Connecticut agencies from aerial photographs taken
1982 and other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1984
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

MILFORD, CONN.
41073-B1-TF-024
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 6366 II NE-SERIES V816



TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 20 day of July

2011, for nomination of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy at Laurelton Hall
Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____