

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 11 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Mary's Academy

and/or common St. Mary's High School

2. Location

street & number 7th St. E. _____ not for publication

city, town Devils Lake _____ vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Ramsey code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name St. Joseph's Parish

street & number 4th St. and 6th Ave.

city, town Devils Lake _____ vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Engineer's Office

street & number 423 6th St.

city, town Devils Lake _____ vicinity of state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no
N/A

date N/A _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A _____ vicinity of state N/A

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Mary's Academy in Devils Lake is a massive three story, I-shaped, Neo-Classical building with three-story bays centrally located on each side elevation. It stands on a raised foundation of granite boulder rubble with an exterior face of cut granite. All exterior facades are finished in buff brick and are trimmed with corner quoins, relieving arches, and stringcourse of light mottled Hebron, North Dakota brick. Keystones and window sills are light pink Kettle River sandstone and the water table and stair coping are Port Wing brownstone.

Fenestration is regular on all elevations with one-over-one wood sash windows which are surmounted by flat jack arches. Nearly all the sandstone keystones have been removed (ca. 1940) with the exception of the front central recessed area.

A hipped roof spans the central portion of the building and merges with the wing roofs, which are gabled at the south (front) and hipped on the north. End bay roofs are also hipped. The gable end planciers are finished in beadboard and are visually supported by heavy wood modillions. All eave lines, as well as the horizontal cornice of the gable end pediments, were originally similarly treated. The date of removal of the eaves is unknown but is believed contemporary with the removal of the rear facade porches (ca. 1940). Bands of lighter colored brick at the eave line as well as the rear porch levels indicate that refacing followed these alterations. Both gable end tympanums are punctuated by round windows framed in a pressed zinc wreath of garlands.

Three hip-roofed dormers originally punctuated both the rear and front slopes of the main hip roof. Only one dormer survives on each facade and both have replacement case-ment windows. Also missing are three of the chimneys originally placed symmetrically at the four corners of the building's central portion; the sole survivor is at the southeast corner. A metal cupola, removed when the original green cedar shingles were replaced with asphalt in the 1940's, originally straddled the center of the main roof ridge.

The two-story front portico, centrally located on the front facade, protects the main entry and provides visual interest to the symmetrical facade. Clusters of three wood Ionic colossal columns with non-original square tin bases support the second and third story portico floors. A crimped metal freize, held in place by wood moldings and brackets and crowned with wood modillions and cornice, rests on the Ionic capitals of the columns. The cornice once supported an iron balustrade with large corner posts with ball capitals clustered in the same manner as the six columns and two pilasters of the supporting structure. A metal trinitarian cross stands at the center of the cornice and probably came from the original cupola. The second floor balustrade is iron and rests on a wood freize-like platform. The portico floor at the entry is laid with hexagonal tile in a stylized floral pattern with a geometric border. Matched hardwood double-panel/single light doors crowned with a tripart fan light comprises the main entry. The entry is framed in a smooth wood surround. A brick Roman arch with carved sandstone keystone in the acanthus lead motif frames the curve of the fanlight surround and terminates at a horizontal brick band. The portico ceiling is beadboard. The portico structure is supported on a foundation of cut granite while the stairs are enclosed by crumbling brick sidewalls.

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The interior of St. Mary's Academy is generally made up of large classroom spaces flanking either side of an east-west corridor which opens up to stairways on either end. Classroom spaces are finished with hardwood floors, four-panel doors with florentine glass transoms, and hardwood door and window surrounds, baseboards and picture rails. Slate and cork boards line the walls in large expanses. Wainscoting was original to all first classrooms. The stairwells, open on one side, are enclosed by turned hardwood balustrades and molded handrail. Each landing is marked by a square fluted newel post and simple cap.

The faculty lounge, originally used as a parlor, is centrally located on the north side of the main floor corridor and is the most handsomely finished room in the building. It is distinguished by a colonnade of two fluted columns with Ionic capitals on high rectangular piers that front the corridor. The colonnade was framed-in with florentine glass and the existing single-panel and light doors ca. 1910.

The basement is finished with clay tile flooring, plastered walls and structural pillars. In 1968 when the nuns moved to their new quarters in McCauley Hall, the east end basement kitchen and refectory was converted to locker rooms for the gymnasium which was built east of the building in 1947. The two buildings are connected by doorways on the basement and first floor levels. At the same time, the basement pantry became a small kitchenette and snack bar for the students.

Additional alterations to the building include the removal of the rear facade two-story porch ca. 1940. This resulted in the addition of the fire stair across that facade. A small brick addition, built at the same time, shelters the first floor rear entrance. In 1957, when the new St. Joseph's grade school was built, the wall between the west end classrooms on the first floor was removed to create a new library space. The original wainscoting was also removed from these rooms at that time. It is not known whether metal ceilings were original to the entire building, but informants recall its existence in the second floor west end chapel and it can still be seen in the first floor bath. Most of the linoleum flooring was installed during the 1950s and the stair carpets about 1960. Acoustic tile ceilings and fluorescent lighting in some areas were installed ca. 1965. A dumbwaiter on the south side of the corridor at the east end of the building served all four levels but was converted to closet space at an unknown date.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** Hancock Brothers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Mary's Academy in Devils Lake, built in 1909, is significant as an example of the work of one of North Dakota's earliest and most prominent architectural firms, the Hancock Brothers of Fargo. It represents statewide interest in parochial education in North Dakota as well as the early involvement of the Catholic Church in the Devils Lake region.

The Hancock Brothers, who designed St. Mary's Academy, also produced plans for other important religious, educational, institutional, and commercial structures in North Dakota. The Hancock Brothers' religious designs in general included St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Casselton and Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo (National Register 1980). Their Roman Catholic designs in particular included St. James Catholic Church in Jamestown (National Register 1982) and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Forks. Their educational designs included brick edifices at North Dakota State University in Fargo and Mayville State College in Mayville. Two Hancock designed dormitories at Mayville State College, East Hall and West Hall, bear a striking resemblance to St. Mary's Academy. Because of their work designing religious and educational buildings, it seems fitting that the Hancock Brothers were chosen to draw up the plans for St. Mary's Academy.

St. Mary's Academy was designed in the popular Neo-Classical style of the period, and it featured fine detailing such as a front portico with massive columns, eave dentils, and corner quoining. Constructed on a sturdy granite foundation, St. Mary's Academy served to house both students and the Sisters of Mercy. The dining room and kitchen were located in the basement; the office, parlor, and classrooms on the first floor; the chapel, music room, and more classrooms on the second floor; and dormitories for student boarders and sleeping rooms for the Sisters on the upper floors.

As an educational institution, St. Mary's Academy served the changing needs of students from Devils Lake and the surrounding area for seventy years. One hundred students were admitted to the day/boarding school when it opened in 1909. St. Mary's was one of fewer than fifteen Catholic boarding schools in North Dakota and served as an educational center for students from across the state. The boarding school portion of St. Mary's Academy was discontinued in the 1950s because of the growth of public schools. After the construction of the new St. Joseph's elementary school in 1957, St. Mary's Academy functioned exclusively as a high school until it was closed after a fire in 1979.

St. Mary's Academy demonstrates the active role St. Joseph's Parish played in the history of Devils Lake. The Parish was established in Devils Lake soon after the town's founding in 1882 and grew with the town. Examples of that early growth include the construction of a church building, rectory, monastery, convent, and hospital, as well as St. Mary's Academy. Working with St. Joseph's Parish, the Sisters of Mercy were dedicated to serving both the body and soul of people in the region.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Devils Lake Daily Journal, Various Articles, 1909 and 1912.
 "Devils Lake Deanery," Catholic Action News Special Edition, 1939, pp. 75-81.
 Original Specifications for "Convent School at Devils Lake, N.D."
 Sister Mary Ursula, personal interview, March, 1981.
 St. Joseph's Church, 60th Anniversary: 1908-1968, Devils Lake, North Dakota, April 28, 1968

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Devils Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References

A

1	4	5	1	1	3	3	0	5	3	2	8	9	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie J. Halda, Historical Architect
Jackie Sluss, Historical Assistant

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date June, 1981 and December, 1982

street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone (701)224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James E. Sperry

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date January 3, 1983

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

Tom van Duzend date 2/24/83
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrus date 2/24/83
 Chief of Registration

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The Sisters of Mercy operated an Indian school at neighboring Belcourt as well as a small hospital in Devils Lake. In 1903, with the assistance of St. Joseph's Parish, the Sisters of Mercy replaced the old hospital with Mercy Hospital, designed by the Hancock Brothers. After the Belcourt school was destroyed by fire in 1907, the Sisters solicited funds from across the state and established St. Mary's Academy beside Mercy Hospital to serve as a day/boarding school as well as a motherhouse. The Sisters lived in the school building until the mid-1960s when they moved to a nearby convent.

St. Mary's Academy is illustrative of the Hancock Brothers' Neo-Classical style of design that they predominately used for educational buildings. The building also stands as a reminder of the Devils Lake Catholic community's commitment to education.

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The property owned by St. Joseph's Parish in its entirety is not desired to be considered for the National Register, but only that part containing the St. Mary's Academy. The legal description for this section of Parcel DL-76 is as follows:

Commencing at the East side of Tenth Avenue and the North side of Seventh Street; thence East along the North side of Seventh Street a distance of 710 feet to the point of beginning. Thence East along the North side of Seventh Street a distance of 320 feet; thence North parallel with Tenth Avenue a distance of 230 feet; thence West parallel with Seventh Street a distance of 320 feet; thence South parallel with Tenth Avenue, a distance of 230 feet, to the point of beginning.