

56-1380

NPS Form 10-900

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



United States Department of 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 an 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 St. Mary's Academy and College


other names/site number St. Mary's Institute, St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's College, and Wyalusing Academy

2. Location

street & number	604 South Beaumont Road	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Prairie du Chien	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Crawford	code 023
			zip code 53821

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)



Signature of certifying official/Title

Date 6/2/17

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

St. Mary's Academy and College

Crawford

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

Barbara Woyatt
Signature of the Keeper

7-14-17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	2 buildings
	sites
	structures
2	objects
3	2 total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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 and 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 a 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture (C)
- Education (A)
-
-
-

Period of Significance

- 1872-1914 (C)
- 1872-1961 (A)
-

Significant Dates

- 1872, 1878, 1883, 1886-1887, 1888, 1910, 1914
-
-

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

- N/A
-

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A
-

Architect/Builder

- Mix, Edward Townsend (1831-1890)
- Heer, Fridolin (1834-1910)
- Heer Jr., Fridolin (1864-1940)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15T</u>	<u>650768.08</u>	<u>4767531.98</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	<u>15T</u>	<u>650978.75</u>	<u>4767306.31</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u>15T</u>	<u>650967.07</u>	<u>4767540.15</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

4	<u>15T</u>	<u>650784.74</u>	<u>4767301.36</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Emily Ramsey	date	November 10, 2016
organization	MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC	telephone	(312) 786-1700
street & number	53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142	zip code	60604-3619
city or town	Chicago	state	IL

St. Mary's Academy and College
Name of Property

Crawford
County and State

Wisconsin

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Kevin McDonell	date	November 10, 2016
organization	Commonwealth Development Corp.	telephone	(608) 709-5677
street & number	9 Sheboygan St	zip code	54935
city or town	Fond du lac	state	WI

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 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 Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Start description on line below

Summary Description

St. Mary's Academy and College, located at 604 South Beaumont Road in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, is a sprawling two- and three-story building consisting of three interconnected masonry sections, constructed between 1872 and 1914. Section 1 is organized into five parts aligned on a north to south axis, all built between 1872 and 1888. Section 1 comprises the original school building completed in 1872 (called the "Main Building") as well as substantial additions constructed between 1878 and 1888, including an auditorium designed by Edward Townsend Mix (the "Exhibition Hall") and a chapel block (called the "Middle Building") with several connecting pavilions all designed by architect Fridolin J. Heer. Section 2, a dormitory, was also designed by Heer, and completed in 1910. The dormitory is connected to the east side of the original 1872 building. The last addition to the building, Section 3, also a dormitory, was designed by architect Fridolin Heer, Jr. and constructed to the east of Section 2 in 1914. Despite the range of construction dates, all of the additions to the L-shaped Italianate building are consistent in overall design, materials, and massing with the 1872 main building. For reference, a site chronology plan is included in the figures section.

St. Mary's Academy is a roughly L-shaped building consisting of five major units, linked by large connecting hyphens. The original building was constructed in 1872 with additions constructed through 1914. In 1914 the building achieved its current appearance. While elements of the current building, such as the 1878 Exhibition Hall, were once free standing, the various components have now been unified into a single design both inside and out. The result is a single building.

The building is situated on a large rectangular lot on the east bank of the Mississippi River, bound by South Main Street on the west, South Beaumont Road on the east, West Dunn Street on the north, and a south boundary line starting 775 south along South Beaumont Road from the intersection of Beaumont Road and Dunn Street and running perpendicular from Beaumont Road westward 640 feet to South Main Street. Large parking lots with paved access roads are located to the south and east of the buildings. Two non-historic, one-story sheds, which are not attached to the historic buildings, are located just south of Section 1. The rest of the property is primarily open green space with mature trees. The main entrance to the school is centered on the west elevation of the 1872 Main Building and features a projecting entrance porch with paired columns. Secondary entrances are located on the west side of the exhibition hall (the southernmost addition to Section 1) and at the two stairwells between Sections 1 and 2, and between Sections 2 and 3. The building is regularly fenestrated primarily with multi-paned, double-hung wood windows. The chapel and exhibition hall feature larger window openings. Italianate detailing on the exterior includes wide bracketed metal cornices, tall window openings with segmental-arched and round-arched window hoods, projecting three-sided window bays, one-story wood porches, and rusticated limestone bases.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

The interior of the building was designed to accommodate the various and expanding needs of a Catholic boarding school and college, with spaces for student housing, worship and prayer, recreation, study, and offices. The building served first as the home to St. Mary's Institute (renamed St. Mary's Academy in 1897), a boarding school for Catholic girls. In 1913, St. Mary's Academy became St. Mary's College, the first four-year Catholic college for women in Wisconsin. In 1929, St. Mary's College moved to a new facility in Milwaukee, but the building in Prairie du Chien continued to serve as a girls' school until the early 1960s. In 1969, the building re-opened as a residential treatment center known as Wyalusing Academy. Wyalusing closed in 2013. During Wyalusing's occupancy of the building, several of the interior spaces were reconfigured and redesigned to serve the new use. The chapel space was subdivided into two levels, the exhibition hall was retrofitted to serve as a gymnasium, new mechanical systems were added, and the two non-historic shed buildings were constructed at the south end of the site on the location of a former gymnasium. However, a majority of the historic floor plan, finishes, and detailing remains behind these additive alterations. The building continues to convey its historic use as a boarding school and college.

Narrative Description

Setting and Site

St. Mary's Academy and College is located at 604 South Beaumont Road in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The large landscaped site is predominantly open green space and is sited just southwest of the city's downtown. It is surround to the north, east, and south by a residential neighborhood comprised of tree lined streets with small, one- to two-story frame and masonry houses. The building is just east of Main Street which parallels the Mississippi River, and is sited so that the original Main Building faced the river. The site is accessed from Dunn Street by a paved driveway that is flanked by a pair of historic brick entrance piers with stone caps, and connects to a circular drive just north of the building. A small parking lot is just west of the circular drive. Paved walkways surround the building and connect it to a larger rear parking lot to the south. West of the original Main Building is a historic stone grotto that is accessed by a flight of concrete steps; the steps are flanked by rows of evenly spaced iron lamps. The grotto is of random rubble stone and features a smooth niche on its east side facing the steps, with a cross of stone blocks set above the niche; six mounds of stone are set in a circle around the grotto structure. To the north and west of the grotto is a non-historic oval gravel path that is currently used for go-cart racing. Located just beyond the south end of the building are two, one-story, non-historic sheds. The site boundary currently associated with St. Mary's Academy and College does not include the Fort Crawford Museum or other buildings along the south end of the block, just north of West Rice Street. The two parcels that border West Rice Street are under separate ownership and do not include any buildings that were historically associated with St. Mary's Academy and College. The site is bordered on the north and west sides by a non-historic cyclone (chainlink) fence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

St. Mary's Academy and College Building – Contributing

Exterior

St. Mary's Academy and College is a large L-shaped masonry building, two- and three-stories tall on a raised basement, designed in the Italianate style. The building is faced on all sides with Cream City brick above a rusticated limestone water table, and is built on stone and concrete foundations. Brick and limestone ornamental detailing is concentrated around the entrances and window openings. The roofs of most of the building segments are gabled or shallow hipped roofs with wide, bracketed cornices, and synthetic roofing material. The building is regularly fenestrated on all sides with rectangular window openings primarily housing double-hung windows. Many of the building's original wood windows remain intact.

St. Mary's Academy and College was expanded in stages as the need for additional space arose. Today, the building consists of three interconnected masonry sections constructed between 1872 and 1914. Section 1 was constructed in 1872 (the "Main Building") with substantial additions completed between 1878 and 1888, including an auditorium designed by Edward Townsend Mix (the "Exhibition Hall") and a chapel block (called the "Middle Building") with several connecting pavilions all designed by Fridolin J. Heer. Section 2, also designed by Heer, was completed in 1910 and connected to the east side of the original 1872 building. The last addition to the building, Section 3, was designed by Fridolin Heer, Jr. and connected to the east of Section 2 in 1914. A detailed description of these three sections is below.

Section 1 (1872-1888)

Moving north to south, Section 1 consists of the 1872 Main Building, a two-story brick connector dated circa 1883, the two-story middle building constructed in 1886-1887, a second two-story brick connector constructed in the 1888, and the two-story exhibition hall completed in 1878.

Main Building

The 1872 main building at the northwest corner of St. Mary's Academy and College is rectangular, three stories tall on a raised basement, with a shallow hipped roof. Italianate detailing includes a wide bracketed cornice at the roofline, tall, segmental and round- arched window openings with ornamental brick hoods, three-sided window bays, and corner quoins. A rusticated limestone water table with molded cap separates the basement from the raised first floor on all sides. Although historic photographs show a large bell tower at the center of the main building's roof, this architectural feature is no longer extant and was removed by the 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

The west and north facades are the only sides of the Main Building that are not obscured by later additions. The primary entrance to the building is located at the center of the west wall, marked by a slightly projecting entrance bay. The entrance location is original, and the raised porch is an early (1903) alteration. The original 1903 roof and cornice were replaced in the 1970s with a flat roof and plain boxed cornice. The historic paired fluted columns remain, but their bases were replaced or encapsulated during a later remodeling. Each outer corner of the porch also features a third column that is of cast iron with a fluted shaft and flared capital. The porch is accessed by a set of non-historic concrete steps at the west side and a large non-historic wood ramp that extends south from the porch. An entrance to the basement is located under the porch. The main entrance opening at the raised first floor houses a non-historic metal door set within a historic frame with side lights and a leaded-glass transom. The west elevation is regularly fenestrated with historic 4/4, double-hung windows. The paired windows above the entrance are set in round-arched openings, while the windows flanking the center entrance bay are in segmental-arched openings.

The north facade is regularly fenestrated and features four evenly-spaced bays, each with individual historic 4-over-4, double-hung windows in segmental arched openings.

The south facade of the 1872 Main Building is obscured by later additions. At the west end of the elevation is a historic three-story addition that is very similar to the historic building. The exterior walls are Cream City brick with a limestone water table, the first story of the addition features corner quoins and brick corbeling, while the upper floors are slightly set back on all sides with plain corners above a pressed metal cornice. The window openings on this addition are similar to the 1872 building, with brick hoods and limestone sills. The bracketed cornice also extends along this addition. Although it is not visible in early photographs, this addition was constructed by 1905 according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; school records indicate that an extension to the Main Building was constructed in 1901. The eastern end of the south elevation is obscured by the circa-1883 two-story brick connector that links the Main Building with the 1886 Middle Building, although the third story window openings and cornice are still evident above the connector. Between the west three-story addition and the connector addition, the middle of the south elevation of the Main Building is obscured by a non-historic, three-story emergency stairwell addition built in the 1990s with clapboard siding and no windows.

The east facade of the 1872 Main Building features paired window openings with segmental arched openings on the upper floors. At the north and south ends of the east elevation are two projecting, one-story window bays with round arched window openings flanking a round window at the center of the bay. The center of the east elevation is obscured by the 1910 stair hall enclosure that connects Section 1 with Section 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

North Connector (c. 1883)

A two-story, rectangular brick addition extends from the southeastern corner of the Main Building, connecting the Main Building with the Middle Building directly south. This connector, which was constructed in 1883 to serve as a dormitory for the school, features a shallow gabled roof, brick corbeling below the simple cornice and a limestone water table. The exposed east and west walls each have four bays with segmental arched window openings with brick hoods and limestone sills. On the west elevation, shallow brick pilasters separate the outer bays from the two middle bays. The windows are historic 4-over-4, double-hung wood windows. The west facade of the North Connector is partially covered at its north end by the 1990s emergency stairwell addition to the south elevation of the Main Building, and along the water table by a single-story frame shed addition built during the 1900s.

Middle Building (1886-1887)

The Middle Building, a two-story rectangular brick addition with a cross gable roof, was designed to house a larger chapel for the school and additional dormitory rooms. The chapel block is on the east side of the Middle Building, and the Romanesque design and detailing reflect this use. The east elevation features a pedimented center gable with a half-round window, flanked by corbeled brick brackets that form the base for the metal ornament. A cross tops the pedimented gable with the date of 1886 inscribed below. The east elevation is divided into four bays, each housing a tall, narrow window opening with round keystone arch hoods and limestone sills. These openings originally housed stained glass windows, but are now infilled with wood panels and small, non-historic 1/1 windows. Brick corbeling connects the window hoods and a corbeled brick cornice extends across the top of the east elevation. The north and south elevations of the chapel block feature cornice returns and brick corbeling below the cornice line. The south facade of the chapel is three bays wide and is regularly fenestrated with segmental arched window openings. Two of these openings in the easternmost bay were historically infilled with brick that is recessed within the opening and appears to be consistent with the historic brick on this elevation. The westernmost bay, next to the South Connector, retains a historic, 4/4 double-hung window on the second floor, but has non-historic replacements on the first floor. The center bay features a second-floor, round window with original stained glass. The north elevation of the chapel block is similarly fenestrated, but features a larger, round-arched window with stained glass at the center of the second floor.

The west facade of the Middle Building, west of the north and south connectors, faces the river. The west elevation features a front gable with cornice returns and brick corbeling. A large two-story projecting bay (which school records date to 1901) occupies the center of the west elevation, supported by battered stone piers. This bay features limestone stringcourses below the windows, a molded limestone cornice between the first and second floors, and slightly projecting brick corner piers. A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

molded metal cornice and brick corbeling appear above the second floor. The third floor of this section is significantly altered. Historically this level was an open porch with a large, arched opening on the west side, topped by a crenelated roof surmounted by a statue of the Virgin Mary. Historic photographs refer to the structure as "Our Lady's Tower." The roof was removed sometime in the 1970s, leaving only the outer walls.

The west and north elevations of the west side of the Middle Building are all regularly fenestrated with historic, double-hung wood windows in segmental-arched openings with brick hoods and limestone sills. The south elevation is completely obscured by a non-historic two-story shed roof addition.

South Connector (c.1888)

The south connector, completed circa 1888, connects the south end of the Middle Building with the north end of the Exhibition Hall in Section 1. The south connector is similar to the north connector, two stories tall on raised basement with a gabled roof and limestone water table. The connector is regularly fenestrated with historic, 4/4 double-hung windows within segmental-arched openings with brick hoods and limestone sills. The east elevation of the south connector features a projecting center bay with shed roof.

Exhibition Hall (1878)

The southernmost part of Section 1 was constructed in 1878 as the Exhibition Hall for the school. The building is two-stories tall with a rectangular footprint and front-gable roof, which features delicate scrolled brackets under the wide cornice and large, bracketed cornice returns on the gable ends. The building sits on a rusticated stone base and is clad with Cream City brick. The corners are decorated with brick quoins. The main entrance to the hall is located at the center of the primary west elevation, which is three bays wide. The tall graceful entrance porch, with a simple flat roof supported by columns on a stone base, appears to be original to the building. The square columns on the porch are non-historic replacements for original tapered round columns, for which historic half-column examples remain against the building. The doors have been altered, but elements of the door surround may be historic as well. Specifically, the wood frame and arched transom remain intact, but it appears that only the upper quarter of the original pair of round-arched panel wood doors remains; this upper portion was left in place as a solid panel above a modern steel door that is centered in the existing opening and flanked by solid side panels. Tall round-arched window openings with brick hoods flank the center entrance. Above the entrance is a stone plaque with the words "St. Mary's Hall, 1878." A three-part window with round-arched hood sits under the gable.

The east elevation is similar to the west elevation, but instead of a center entrance, the center bay houses another tall window opening.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

The south elevation is five bays wide, with a tall, round-arched window opening occupying each bay.

The north elevation of the building is partially blocked by the south connector, but one window bay is exposed on each side of the connector. The windows on this elevation are consistent with the rest of the Exhibition Hall.

All of the window openings on the Exhibition Hall are covered with plywood panels, which obscure existing windows.

Section 2 (1910)

Section 2, constructed between 1908 and 1910, is a large, rectangular, three-story building connected to the east side of the 1872 Main Building by a three-story connector with prominent projecting window bays. The building is clad in Cream City brick above a rusticated limestone base. Ashlar limestone banding separates the basement and first floor, and a molded limestone cornice separates the first and second floors. The roof is hipped with pedimented gables on all four sides. Although historic images show a prominent cupola at the center of the roof, that cupola is no longer extant. The bracketed metal cornice continues around the entire building. The primary north elevation features brick banding at the second floor and slightly projecting corner piers with limestone bases and capitals that connect the second and third floors. A projecting bay topped with a pedimented gable is located at the center of the primary north elevation. An oriel window is located at the second floor of the projecting bay.

The south elevation is similar to the north elevation, but without the projecting center bay or oriel window. The east and west elevations are consistent in overall design and detailing with the north and south elevations.

Unlike the nineteenth-century parts of the building, the window openings in Section 2 are generally less ornamental. The rectangular openings feature simple brick lintels and limestone sills. All of the windows are non-historic replacements within the original openings.

The connector that links the 1872 Main Building with Section 2 is three stories tall on a raised basement, with rusticated stone base, limestone banding, and corbeled brick at the second floor to match the rest of Section 2. The bracketed cornice also continues along the roofline of the enclosure. The north elevation of the enclosure features a three-story polygonal projecting window bay which marks the entrance to the stair. The ground-level entry is topped by a substantial round-arched transom with stone surround. The door itself is a non-historic replacement door. Substantial molded limestone cornices with dentil detailing are located between the first and second, and, second and third floors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

The windows on the first and second floor are 1/1 windows in rectangular openings with brick lintels and stone sills. The third floor windows are tall, narrow windows with double-hung sash below and large fixed transoms above. The window surrounds on the third floor of the projecting bay feature round arched hoods with limestone detailing. The windows throughout the stair enclosure appear to be of wood.

The south elevation of the connector also houses a polygonal projecting window bay, but all the windows are 1/1 double-hung windows in simple rectangular openings.

Section 3 (1914)

Section 3, the last major expansion of St. Mary's, was constructed east of Section 2 and completed in 1914. Designed by Fridolin Heer, Jr., the addition continues the general massing, materials, and detailing of Section 2, with a rusticated stone base, limestone banding between the lower floors, corbeled brick at the second floor, and a bracketed cornice along the roofline. Also like Section 2, the windows are double-hung windows in simple rectangular openings. Instead of a square projecting bay, Section 3 features a large canted projecting bay at the center of the primary north facade. The north end of the east facade of Section 3 projects from the wall, with second- and third-floor windows framed by corner piers with limestone bases and capitals. The remainder of the east wall is regularly fenestrated primarily with pairs of double-hung windows. The south facade of Section 3 is sparsely fenestrated, with four basement windows and three double-hung windows per floor on the upper floors. The west facade of Section 3 features a two-story brick entry porch at the south end with a rusticated stone base and arched stone entry surround at the ground level. Large square brick piers support the brick and stone cornice above on the open first-floor porch. This facade is regularly fenestrated primarily with pairs of 1/1 double-hung windows.

The connector between Sections 2 and 3 is similar in plan to the connector between Sections 1 and 2, but the projecting bays on the north and south walls are square and less ornamented, with large window openings on the second and third floors that house groups of three double-hung windows. The third-floor windows are topped with large single-paned transoms. The ground-level entrance to the stair is a large rectangular opening with non-historic door, transom, and sidelights.

The projecting bay on the south facade is regularly fenestrated with 1/1 replacement windows. On the second and third floors, the existing openings have been partially infilled with brick and smaller windows installed.

Interior

The interior of St. Mary's Academy is primarily arranged on a double-loaded corridor plan, with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

St. Mary's Academy and College

Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

rooms opening off both sides of a central corridor. Because Section 1 was constructed in phases and featured larger public spaces such as the chapel and the Exhibition Hall, the spaces south of the Main Building are less consistent in plan. On all floors, a wide corridor extends west from the main entrance on the east elevation of the Main Building through Sections 2 and Section 3, turning south at the center of Section 3 to create an L-shaped corridor. Four full-height, historic wood stairs, with wood paneled balustrades and decorative newel posts, connect the different floors of the building—one in the connector between Section 1 and Section 2, one in the connector between Section 2 and Section 3, one at the southwest corner of Section 3, and one near the center of the Middle Building in Section 1. Two non-historic stairs are housed in enclosures at the south wall of the Main Building and the south wall of the Middle Building in Section 1.

Basement

The basement of St. Mary's Academy and College extends the full footprint of the building and was used for storage and for school functions. South of the Main Building in Section 1, the basement spaces are utilitarian storage and service spaces, with a wide variety of finishes, ranging from exposed brick walls to plaster walls with bead board. A number of partial stairs indicate the grade changes between the various additions in Section 1. The basement in the Main Building houses the kitchen and cafeteria space, with non-historic tile and vinyl tile flooring, tile walls, and dropped ceilings. The only historic element in this space is the built-in cabinet at the east end of the cafeteria, set within the projecting bay on the east wall of the Main Building.

The main corridor in the basement runs east-west through the center of Main Building, Section 2 and Section 3. This corridor features wood beadboard wainscoting with wood base and trim, paneled wood doors, and a pressed metal ceiling above the non-historic dropped ceiling. The flooring is covered with non-historic vinyl tiles. The wood doors at the corridor in the Section 3 are non-historic. On either side of the corridors are large classrooms. In Section 2, some of these classrooms retain wood wainscoting, but otherwise the spaces have non-historic finishes.

First Floor

Section 1

Exhibition Hall

The Exhibition Hall is a double-height space that originally served as the main auditorium for the school, with a raised stage at the east end. After the building became Wyalusing Academy in 1969, the hall was converted to a gymnasium, and all of the interior walls were covered with solid walls that obscured the windows and the former stage was enclosed. The floor and ceiling are non-historic finishes; however, there appear to be windows still be encased between the exterior infill and the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 10

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

newer interior walls, and the stage space is still evident at the east side of the space, accessed through an opening.

South Connector

The first floor of the south connector was substantially altered during Wyalusing's occupancy. A central corridor features non-historic flooring, ceilings, wall finishes, doors, and door casings. The small rooms off this corridor appear to be larger rooms that were partitioned. Some of the walls feature wood base trim, but the rest of the finishes are non-historic. The windows retain their historic wood casings.

Middle Building

The majority of the first floor of the Middle Building is consistent with the south connector, with very little in the way of historic fabric or finishes left intact. Because the chapel block was inter-floored, no historic finishes are evident on the lower portion of this space. An L-shaped non-historic corridor extends from the non-historic stair enclosure and up through the center of this section, running on the west side of the chapel block. A small section of the first floor at the north end of the Middle Building retains historic wood wainscoting, wood flooring, and wood and glass doors with transom in the corridor, and historic wood base trim and wood window casings in the rooms.

North Connector

The corridor that runs along the east side of the first floor in this space has non-historic flooring, ceilings, wall finishes, and lighting. The rooms west of the corridor feature non-historic carpeting, non-historic trim, and dropped ceilings. The window casings are intact.

Main Building

In the Main Building, the east-west corridor that connects to Sections 2 and 3 features exposed brick walls and an intact pressed metal ceiling. The rooms on either side of the corridor exhibit little in the way of historic fabric, with non-historic flooring and ceilings and furred out perimeter walls. The windows in many of these spaces have been covered from the interior with painted wood panels. On the south end of the first floor, there is a large cased opening with decorative carved wood trim and paneled pocket doors. This opening has been infilled and a smaller door installed. At the north end of the first floor, at the location of the former chapel, the windows feature paneled bases and painted wood casing, and the substantial wood base trim is intact. The polygonal bay features double-hung windows with a tracery detail at the top sash, and a round window with leaded glass at the center.

Section 2

The first floor of Section 2 is a continuation of the main east-west corridor, but with plaster walls instead of exposed brick. The corridor in this section features wood trim, door casings and historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 11

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

wood doors with transoms, and historic pressed metal ceilings. The flooring in the corridor is non-historic vinyl tile. South of the main corridor at the west stair between the Main Building and Section 2, a narrow corridor angles around the stairs that lead from the first floor to the basement. This corridor also features historic pressed metal ceilings and wood trim. The window openings along the east side of this corridor feature historic casework, sills and lintels.

The spaces north and south of the main corridor in Section 2 retain good integrity, with wood base trim, chair rails, wainscoting, door casings and historic wood doors (some with large transoms). The room center north of the corridor, at the location of the projecting window bay, retains some decorative ceiling details above the dropped ceilings.

Section 3

The first floor of Section 3 continues the main east-west corridor condition seen in Section 2. The corridor turns at the center of Section 3 and continues south to the historic stair at the southwest corner of Section 3. The spaces off of the corridor feature wood trim, window and door casings, but mostly non-historic flooring and ceilings. The small room at the east end of the east-west corridor features a decorative pressed metal ceiling and large panels at the upper sash of the windows.

Second Floor

Section 1

South Connector

The second floor of the south connector was substantially altered during Wyalusing's occupancy. A central corridor features non-historic flooring, ceilings, wall finishes, doors, and door casings. The small rooms off this corridor appear to be larger rooms that were partitioned. Some of the walls feature wood base trim, but the rest of the finishes are non-historic. The windows retain their historic wood casings.

Middle Building/Chapel Block

The majority of the first floor of the Middle Building is consistent with the south connector, with very little in the way of historic fabric or finishes left intact. The upper level of the chapel block retains vaulted ceilings, wood trim, and stained glass windows, although the finishes have been damaged by water infiltration and mechanicals run through the space.

North Connector

The second floor of the north connector is primarily one large room with wood chair rail, wood trim and wood window casings. Flooring, ceilings, and lighting are non-historic. Three smaller rooms are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 12

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

located off a small corridor at the north end of the space.

Main Building

On the second floor of the main building, the west end of the main corridor is interrupted by a paneled wood partition with large four-light transom and double paneled wood doors with lights above. West of the partition, the corridor features exposed wood floor, wood trim and wainscoting, and a pressed metal ceiling. The ceiling, wood trim and wainscoting continue along the corridor east of the partition wall, but the floor is covered with non-historic tile. Windows flanking the stairs along the corridor are cased and feature non-historic panels that obscure most of the window from the inside. A second paneled partition with no doors but with sidelights and blind transom is located a few feet east of the first partition, and a non-historic reception desk is located in the space between the partitions. Large ducts and pipes run below the ceiling and are exposed.

In the Main Building, the spaces north and south of the corridor feature wood casings, trim. The flooring and ceiling are non-historic, as well as most of the doors. The windows throughout these spaces also feature non-historic panels that obscure all or part of the windows from the inside.

Section 2

The second floor of Section 2 continues features and finishes of the main corridor. A non-historic solid partition wall with a center door is located near the center of the corridor in Section 2. West of this partition, the corridor walls are flat drywall with no wainscoting and the wood trim is non-historic. Some historic doors remain in this section of the corridor.

The spaces north and south of the main corridor in Section 2 are primarily non-historic, with only window casings along the perimeter walls remaining.

Section 3

The first floor of Section 3 continues the main east-west corridor condition at the east end of Section 2. The corridor turns at the center of Section 3 and continues south to the historic stair at the southwest corner of Section 3.

The spaces north and south of the main corridor in Section 2 are primarily non-historic, with only window casings along the perimeter walls remaining.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 13St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Third Floor***Section 1 (Main Building only)***

The east-west corridor on the third floor of the Main Building features historic wood door casings, wood trim, metal pressed ceiling, and carpeted floor. Large mechanical units currently intrude into this corridor. A wide cased opening connects the Main Building and Section 2 corridors. At the east end of the corridor, a non-historic stair enclosure houses a wood stair that leads to the attic, and a secondary corridor leads to the warren of small spaces north of the main corridor. The door casings, doors and trim in these spaces and the spaces south of the main corridor appear to be later than those on the lower floors. The ceilings and flooring are non-historic. The window casings and perimeter wood trim is intact in some locations south of the main corridor.

Section 2 and Section 3

The main corridor on the third floor of Section 2 is split into two smaller corridors at the location of the west stair. Historic wood trim, moldings, and doors and casings are intact on the outer walls of the corridors and the pressed metal ceiling is intact. It opens back up moving east through Section 3. As on the second floor, a non-historic solid partition wall crosses the corridor near the center of Section 2.

As with the second floor, most of the spaces inboard of the corridors have been reconfigured over the life of the building and only the molding and casings along the perimeter walls remain intact. The flooring and ceilings throughout these spaces are non-historic.

Lourdes Grotto – Contributing

The Lourdes Grotto was added in the early-twentieth century, during the period of significance, and is located west of the Main Building at the end of a concrete path and flight of steps. The steps and path are illuminated by flanking rows of iron lamps. The grotto is a singular structure composed of random rubble rock encircled by a concrete path and a ring of six short mounds of random rubble rock. Each mound historically served as a decorative planter. The grotto features a smooth finished niche on its east side, which original held a statue of the Virgin Mary. Above the niche is a peaked roof with stone finial; a cross of light stone is set in the east side above the niche.

Entrance Piers on Dunn Street – Contributing

A pair of piers flanks the main Dunn Street driveway entrance to the site. The square piers are composed of brick in a common bond with a plain stone cap. The partial half walls of brick extend from the piers for a few feet away from the driveway; the west pier and half wall meet the non-historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 14

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

cyclone fence, which borders the site along the north and west boundaries. The piers replaced a decorative entrance structure in the mid-twentieth century, which featured a pair of plain iron columns supporting an arched sign that reads "ST. MARYS ACADEMY." Although these are second generation driveway piers, they were constructed during the period of significance.

Non-Contributing Buildings

Two non-historic buildings stand just to the south of the Exhibition Hall. These are two, long, sheet metal clad shed buildings, oriented east to west, with shallow gable roofs. The northernmost of these two buildings has two vehicular openings with overhead garage doors on the east elevation, and the southernmost building has a vehicular entrance on both its east and west elevations.

Alterations on the Property

Sanborn maps of the property shows four buildings located south of the main building in 1905, on the south half of the property—two one-story frame buildings (one rectangular and one round) labeled "rest houses," which may have served to house overnight guests to St. Mary's Academy; a one-story rectangular brick gymnasium, and a two-story, rectangular frame storage building. By 1924, the gymnasium had been converted to storage and a one-story power plant (labeled as built in 1919) had been constructed just west of the Exhibition Hall at the south end of Section 1. The storage building and gymnasium were demolished by the 1970s. No remnants of these buildings remain and these sites are not included in the resource count.

Photographs and historical records also show that large monument—a classical column topped by a large statue of Father Jacques Marquette—was erected near the northwest end of St. Mary's grounds in 1910, commemorating the discovery of the Mississippi River by Marquette and Louis Joliet in 1673. The statue has been moved to the grounds of the Prairie du Chien Chamber of Commerce.

Integrity

Overall, St. Mary's Academy and College retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance under National Register Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture.

The exterior of the building is well preserved, with no major non-historic alterations or additions. The brick facades remain intact with original architectural detailing, and the building retains the majority of its original windows.

The interior of St. Mary's was continually modified as the campus grew during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. When the Middle Building was built in 1886, the small chapel in the Main

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 15

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Building was repurposed for other uses. Tin ceilings and hardwood floors were added to the Main Building in 1901 and wainscoting in 1903, according to school records. The changes that occurred after St. Mary's ceased to function as a girls' school in the early 1960s were more substantive, but did not result in the wholesale removal of historic fabric, particularly in the prominent public spaces. The two-story volume of the 1886 Middle Building was partitioned into two floors, but the vaulted ceiling, window openings, plaster detailing and several stained glass windows remain intact. The Exhibition Hall was converted into a gymnasium, but the stage remains behind the newer partition walls and additional historic fabric is likely to remain on the perimeter walls, including the historic windows. In the classroom and dormitory spaces throughout, the original double-loaded corridors remain, including tin ceilings, wood trim, door and window casings, wainscoting, and a few historic doors and built-ins. The historic stairs are intact throughout the building.

 End of Description of Physical Appearance

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Insert Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

St. Mary's Academy and College is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A for Education for its association with St. Mary's Academy and College, an all-female Catholic school (variously known as St. Mary's Institute, St. Mary's Academy, and St. Mary's College) that operated in the building between 1872 and 1961. St. Mary's was one of the only Catholic girls' schools operating in the region during the late-nineteenth century and drew students from throughout the Midwest, particularly Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. In 1913, the school became the first four-year Catholic college for women established in Wisconsin. St. Mary's College relocated to Milwaukee in 1929 (with the new name Mount Mary College), but the complex in Prairie du Chien continued to serve as a preparatory high school for girls until 1961.

The building is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, notable as a large and intact example of an institutional building designed in the Italianate style. Although constructed in phases over a period of over four decades (1872-1914), all of the historic period additions in the St. Mary's building are consistent in overall design, materials, and massing with the 1872 Italianate main building, and consistently exhibit the character-defining features of the style. The character-defining exterior features include wide bracketed wood cornices, tall window openings with segmental-arched and round-arched window hoods, projecting three-sided window bays, one-story wood porches, rusticated limestone water tables, brick corbeled detailing at the corners and cornice lines of the buildings, and low hipped and gabled roofs. The interior of the building was designed to accommodate the various and expanding needs of a Catholic boarding school and college, with spaces for student housing, worship and prayer, recreation, study spaces, and offices.

St. Mary's Academy and College retains a high level of exterior integrity with few major non-historic additions or alterations. The interior retains sufficient integrity to convey the building's significance under Criterion A.

Criteria Consideration A

Because St. Mary's Academy and College was a religious property, Criterion Consideration A must be applied. St. Mary's Academy and College is being nominated for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for education, and Criterion C for architecture and derives its primary significance from its function as an educational building and its architectural design and not for its religious affiliation. Thus, the property meets Criterion Consideration A.

The period of significance for the building is 1872-1961, reflecting the time during which the building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

functioned as a school.

Brief Archaeological Summary

The site on which St. Mary's Academy and College was constructed, is richly steeped in the history of Wisconsin. Four archaeological sites, including a burial site, have been identified on this property which will be described briefly below. In short, the school was constructed on top of the site of the Second Fort Crawford, and the fort was built on top of a Native American mound group. The Second Fort Crawford is, in and of itself, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

CR-0151/Burial Site #BCR-0175
Second Fort Crawford Mound Group (Woodland Indians)

According to information in the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) at the State Historic Preservation Office, this site consists of at least one conical mound, possibly accompanied by others. Some sources describe a single massive mound, while others mention three smaller mounds. The massive mound was reported to be approximately 200 feet in diameter and up to twenty feet high. It was originally chosen as the site of the Prairie du Chien courthouse due to its elevation, but Second Fort Crawford was built there instead. During construction 'cart-loads' of bone were removed from the mound. The most detailed sources describe the removal of forty-eight burials, some enclosed in wooden or bark coffins. The same sources mention that 'many Indian graves were scattered over the surface of the Prairie in its vicinity'. Subsurface portions may still be present. This human burial site is protected under Wis. Stats 157.70.

CR-0247
Second Fort Crawford (American)

According to information in the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) at the State Historic Preservation Office, this is the site of the Second Fort Crawford, built on Indian mounds (CR-0151). Intact foundations were discovered under Beaumont Road in 1999. Test units revealed intact foundation under two to three feet of overburden. Portions of seven rooms were uncovered, five in the Company quarters and two in the Officers' quarters. The foundations were in excellent condition. Areas to be impacted by water lines were mitigated. A privy (probably for the Officers' quarters) was also found during monitoring of trenching between the Fort Crawford Museum (formerly the Fort Hospital) and the fort Officers' quarters. Excavations recovered 45 cubic feet of non-structural artifacts. GPR studies revealed that large sections of the northern officers' quarters are still extant on the St. Mary's Academy and College grounds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

CR-0646

Volleyball (Woodland, Late Woodland Indians)

According to information in the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) at the State Historic Preservation Office, this is the site of ten positive shovel tests recorded along two transects. Shovel tests were placed at a 10 meter interval and they encountered a cluster of prehistoric artifacts at between 30-50 centimeters below the ground surface. Update 2003: Phase II excavations opened eleven two by one meter test pits. Two Late Woodland components were uncovered at the site (Lane Farm and Eastman Phases). A scatter of debris related to the occupation of Second Fort Crawford was found along the eastern edge of the site. In 2010, the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) staff monitored topsoil removal and pole installation within the site boundaries, with negative results. In 2015, 104 square meters of the western twenty meters of the site were mitigated. The top 30 cm of soil consisted of historic fill with recent debris, mixed with older historic materials relating to Second Fort Crawford, and pre-Contact items. Below the fill, largely intact soil horizons were encountered, as well as cultural deposits extending to a depth of approximately 60 cm. One feature--a ceramic concentration-- was identified. The pre-Contact component appears to be a Late Woodland habitation site dating to AD 500-1050.

CR-0765

Wyalusing/Main Street Limestone Feature (Historic Euro-American)

According to information in the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) at the State Historic Preservation Office, this site consists of a small limestone feature that is rectangular in shape. This feature was found while monitoring top soil removal during construction for the USH 18 Bypass. The limestone rocks form a rough square approximately 5.5 feet across. Because of this feature being in a vacated street, the tax and deeds records did not shed a lot of light on the age of this feature. It is almost too small to have been part of a structure, but the function is unknown. Although the feature is located on what used to be the Fort Crawford Military Tract, it is several hundred feet away from Second Fort Crawford buildings excavated by MVAC in 1999. The limestone piece is small and appears to have been chopped off of bigger pieces, and the construction in no way matches the careful construction of Second Fort Crawford. There was no mortar apparent with this feature. The pieces of limestone may have been scavenged from the fort after its abandonment by the military in the mid-1800's, so it could date to the latter part of the 19th century. The site was preserved in place.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Brief History of Prairie du Chien

Situated near the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers at the border between present day Wisconsin and Iowa, the area now known as Prairie du Chien was home to successive Native American cultures for thousands of years before European settlement began in the late 1600s. Jesuit missionary Father Jacques Marquette and fur trader Louis Joliet mapped a water route from Montreal to the Mississippi that would lead a stream of explorers, missionaries and fur traders to the area that would become Prairie du Chien. The city began as a remote fur trading village dominated first by French-Canadian and subsequently by British fur traders. After the War of 1812 ended British trade in the upper Mississippi region, Prairie du Chien was one of many towns where forts were built by American soldiers in an effort to secure control of the western frontier.

The first Fort Crawford was constructed along the eastern bank of the Mississippi in 1816 where the Villa Louis now stands. After a series of floods destroyed the wooden fort in the 1820s, a second Fort Crawford was built of stone on higher ground, at the site now occupied by St. Mary's Academy and College. Between 1816 and 1830, a series of treaties were signed with area tribes at Fort Crawford that resulted in the relocation of these tribes and the opening up of the area to white settlers. Troops were removed and the fort was abandoned in 1856, although it would be utilized primarily as a temporary hospital during the Civil War before being demolished in the 1870s.¹

The coming of the railroad in 1857 initiated Prairie du Chien's transition from fur trading post to regional agricultural and commercial center. The Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad also brought with it a young Irish immigrant, John Lawler, who would become one of the region's most influential citizens and key figure in the history of St. Mary's Academy and College. Lawler was sent to Prairie du Chien as a station agent and rose quickly to become General Agent of the Milwaukee Railroad and president of the Northwest Packet Company. He also designed, constructed, and operated a pontoon bridge that more efficiently transferred freight and passengers across the Mississippi. By charging the railroad for the use of his bridge, Lawler made a substantial fortune.

A devout Catholic and proponent of education, Lawler funneled a substantial portion of his wealth into the development of religious and educational institutions in Prairie du Chien, including St. Gabriel's Parish (of which he was a member) and St. Mary's Academy and College.² In the 1860s he acquired much of the land that once served as Fort Crawford, and in the early 1870s, at the urging of his pastor,

¹ The 1831 hospital building, the only structure on Fort Crawford that was not demolished by the early 1870s, remains and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1935.

² "John Lawler, Pioneer Catholic Layman," Crawford County Wisconsin Archives Church Records on St. Gabriel's parish, via USGenWeb Archives, Parish <http://files.usgwarchives.net/wi/crawford/churches/stgabrie29gbb.txt>, accessed January 19, 2016.

"John Lawler is Dead," *The Milwaukee Journal*, February 24, 1891, 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Father Peter Abbelen, Lawler donated seven acres of that land to the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the establishment of the school that would become St. Mary's. Lawler was also the driving force behind the establishment of the Prairie du Chien school district and was elected as its first president in 1875. In addition to providing funds for the construction of various phases of St. Mary's Academy and College (detailed below), in 1876 Lawler also donated the first building that would serve as the beginning of the College of the Sacred Heart (later Campion College and subsequently Campion Jesuit High School), which provided training and education for boys. In 1884, Lawler was awarded knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory by Pope Leo XIII for his work to further the cause of Catholic education in the region.³

Criterion A – Area of Education

Catholic Education for Women in Wisconsin (1847-1930)

During the mid-1800s, several Catholic women's orders were established in Wisconsin which would play an important role in expanding educational opportunities for Catholic girls and women over the next 100 years. The Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, the first women's order in Wisconsin, was founded in 1847 by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli with the primary mission of teaching. The order opened St. Clara's Academy for Women in 1848. After Mazzuchelli's death in 1864, the sisters moved the school to the vacant buildings on Sinsinawa Mound, "where their founder's efforts to start a Dominican seminary...had not come to fruition." The academy served as a boarding school with an emphasis on arts and music. In 1903, the sisters began a two-year college for women on the site, which was expanded in 1922 to Rosary College. Soon after, Rosary moved to River Forest, Illinois and later became Dominican University.⁴

The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration were both established in Milwaukee in 1849. The Sisters of St. Francis established St. Mary's Academy for high school girls in Milwaukee in 1904 and St. Clare College as a teaching institution in 1937. In 1946, the college was renamed Cardinal Stritch College and academic programs were open to lay women.⁵

The School Sisters of Notre Dame was founded in Bavaria in 1833 by Caroline Gerhardinger with the primary mission of education girls for leadership as mothers of Christian families. Gerhardinger took the name Mother Theresa and worked for fourteen years to educate young girls in poor, rural areas of Bavaria. By the late 1840s, the order had expanded into America, with a mission school in

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Saint Clara Academy, Sinsinawa" The Father Mazzuchelli Society, <http://www.fathermazzuchellisociety.org/sinsinawa-dominicans/saint-clara-academy/>, accessed April 26, 2017.

⁵ Cardinal Stritch University web site, <http://www.stritch.edu/About/History---Tradition/>, accessed April 26, 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Pennsylvania and a motherhouse in Baltimore. Mother Theresa traveled across the country with five fellow sisters, including Sister Caroline Friess, gaining new members along the way. In 1850, Sister Caroline was appointed to a three-year term as Vicar General of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in America and sent to Milwaukee (which had a greater German population than Baltimore) to establish a new Motherhouse for the order. After the Motherhouse was established and thriving, Mother Caroline oversaw the planning and construction of a convent, orphanage and school in what would become the village of Elm Grove in Waukesha County.

Mother Caroline and the School Sisters of Notre Dame remained a thriving force within the Catholic Church in Wisconsin through the remainder of the nineteenth century. Between 1850 and 1892, the year Mother Caroline died, the order had established 237 institutions, primarily schools, educational institutes, and orphanages, including St. Mary's Institute in Prairie du Chien. The number of students served by these institutions numbered approximately 70,000 by 1892.⁶

Catholic Higher Education for Females in the Twentieth Century in Wisconsin

Although the primary focus of Catholic higher education continued to be on seminaries that were designed specifically to prepare young men for priesthood, the number of Catholic colleges that served only women or admitted both women and men expanded significantly during the twentieth century, reflecting the nationwide trend in expanding educational opportunities for women. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* identified ten four-year Catholic colleges or universities that were established in the first half of the twentieth century and which were still operating in Wisconsin. By the 1980s, almost all of these facilities were co-educational and offered broad liberal arts programs. Although the oldest coeducational institutions in the state typically began admitting women some decades after their initial founding—Marquette University in Milwaukee was established in 1864 but only began admitting women in 1909, and St. Norbert College in De Pere was established in 1898 but did not admit women until 1953—most of the coeducational facilities listed in the CRMP were founded by female orders as teacher training programs for young members and evolved in later years into coeducational colleges. These institutions all began admitting men in 1969-1970, likely as a way to survive during a time when colleges and universities across the county were opening their doors to women. Viterbo College in La Crosse, founded as the St. Rose Normal Training School in the early 1890s, began as a teacher training program for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1923. The college changed its name to Viterbo College in 1937, but did not admit men until 1970. Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee (described above) also began admitting men in 1970. Other examples include Edgewood College in Madison (established as a girls' high school and junior college in 1927, a coeducational four-year college by 1970), Silver Lake College in Manitowoc (established as Holy Family College for the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in 1935, co-educational by 1969), and

⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Visitation Convent Complex, Elm Grove, Waukesha County, WI

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Marian College of Fond du Lac, founded in 1936 by the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes and co-educational by 1970.⁷

Only Mount Mary College (the successor of St. Mary's Academy and College) and Alverno College in Milwaukee continue to operate as female-only educational facilities. Alverno College developed from three separate schools—St. Joseph's Normal School, St. Joseph Convent College of Music, and Sacred Heart School of Nursing—that were founded by the Sisters of St. Francis in the late nineteenth and early-twentieth century. St. Joseph's Normal School (renamed Alverno Teacher's College in 1936) and St. Joseph Convent College of Music (renamed Alverno College of Music in 1937) merged with Sacred Heart School of Nursing in 1951 to become Alverno College, a four year liberal arts women's college.⁸

Status and Integrity of Extant Catholic Colleges in Wisconsin

Marquette University and St. Norbert College, in addition to being the oldest of the campuses listed above, are also the largest, with complexes of buildings ranging from the early 1900s through the twentieth century. St. Norbert's Main Hall (built 1903) housed all of the college's facilities for the first fifteen years. The impressive and intact Richardsonian Romanesque Revival building was designed by W. E. Reynolds and is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (AHI 1880). The I. F. Van Dyke Hall is also an architecturally distinctive element of the campus. Designed by William E. Reynolds and completed in 1930, the Tudor Revival style building was substantially enlarged in 1999 (AHI 47179). A Neoclassical residence hall, which is also intact, was constructed on the campus in 1942 (AHI 121422).

Viterbo College in La Crosse also retains its historic facility—a large, Neoclassical brick building designed by the Brielmeyer Brothers and completed in 1941—as the centerpiece of a campus populated with building constructed between 1971 and 2011. This building, known as the Murphy Center, served as the first purpose built facility for the college and was designed to house 500 female students, with dormitories on the fourth floor. It retains good exterior integrity, but has been modernized on the interior (AHI 32942).

The large historic school building that was constructed in 1894 on the Edgewood College grounds in Madison (known then as Sacred Heart Academy) and expanded in 1908 was razed in 1969. The 1925 Art Deco high school building, designed by Albert Kelsey and expanded in 1937, remains intact with

⁷ Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties [Madison, Wisconsin]: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viterbo_University, accessed May 9, 2017.

<http://www.sl.edu/about-silver-lake/general-information/history>, accessed May 9, 2017.

⁸ Wyatt.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

later addition (AHI 102278). The oldest building on campus, Marshall Hall, was built as a coach house for the Marshall estate in 1864 and redesigned as a dormitory in 1944 (AHI 95975).

Silver Lake College in Manitowoc was established as Holy Family College in 1935 and operated out of a newly constructed wing of the larger convent building until 1960, when a new structure was built adjacent to the convent. This building still functions as the primary college facility and appears to have good exterior integrity as a post-war, Contemporary style educational building (AHI 66019).

The Marian University campus in Fond du Lac was constructed largely between 1961 and 1968, and is an excellent example of a post-World War II college campus, with seven buildings designed by the Chicago firm of Schmidt, Garden & Erickson in the Contemporary style and constructed of precast concrete, limestone, and glass. Architecturally, the most notable building in the campus is Dorcas Chapel, with its screen walls of diagonal precast concrete members (AHI 151781).

The original home of Alverno Collage in Milwaukee, designed by St. Louis architects Maguolo & Quick and completed in 1951, still stands at 3401 South 39th Street. Although later additions and separate buildings have been added to the campus, the 1951 building appears to be intact with some alterations (AHI 113264).

Within the context of these Catholic colleges, St. Mary's Academy and College in Prairie du Chien is among the oldest and best preserved, as well as the only extant example designed in the Italianate style. St. Mary's Academy and College; therefore, stands out as a very early and long-standing institution unique for its dedicated mission of educating young women. That this school always served an all-female student body, and that it became the first four-year Catholic college for women in Wisconsin adds to its historic distinction in the state.

Planning and Development of St. Mary's Academy and College (1872-1929)

The establishment of St. Mary's Academy and College in 1872 was largely the effort of the Reverend Peter Mathias Abbelen, pastor of St. Gabriel's Parish, and of local railroad entrepreneur John Lawler. When Abbelen first came to St. Gabriel's, one of his primary missions was to establish a center for Catholic education in Prairie du Chien. He traveled to the Milwaukee motherhouse of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and implored them to come to the community to teach. John Lawler donated the seven acres of land on the former Fort Crawford site, along with thousands of dollars for the construction of a school building on the grounds. Abbelen and Lawler worked closely with the Reverend Mother Caroline Friess, leader of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in North America, to coordinate for the construction and staffing of the new school.⁹ No architect was named in the

⁹ Mary Elise Antone, *Legendary Locals of Prairie du Chien* (Arcadia Printing: Charleston, SC, 2015), 47-49. *Chronicles of St.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

historical documents for the original building. As noted in the Annals of St. Mary's Institute, the project advanced rapidly through the spring and summer of 1872.

On the first of May, not a brick was on the ground for the erection of the new institute, and the old forts were still standing from which the stones were to be taken for the basement of the new building. The corner stone was laid on the 30th of June 1872. At the request of Mr. Lawler it was called St. Mary's Institute.¹⁰

By November 1872, the building was so far completed that the sisters moved in, and the first Mass was celebrated in the school chapel on November 21. St. Mary's opened to the public on December 9, 1872 with a class of 50 pupils, 15 of which were out-of-town boarders. The school struggled financially during its first years in operation, and John Lawler provided additional funds and supplies to keep the Institute afloat.¹¹ Lawler and Abbelen established a parochial school (no longer extant) on the site of St. Mary's Institute in 1872, which would also be operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame until the early 1900s. Lawler also devoted considerable effort to the improvement of the grounds surrounding the buildings, removing the remnants of the fort, enriching the soil and planting hundreds of trees to give the Institute the appearance of a well-established school campus.

By 1877, the Institute had found its footing and was ready to expand. The first graduating class in 1876 held just 6 students, but enrollment was increasing. St. Mary's Institute received its official charter from the State of Wisconsin in 1877, and the school's reputation was gaining ground throughout the Midwest. John Lawler and Wisconsin Secretary of State, Peter Doyle proposed the construction of a new exhibition hall south of the main building, which could be used for assemblies, recitals and plays, and other school gatherings. The construction of the foundation of the new hall commenced during the fall of 1877. As the building was nearing completion in spring 1878, a violent storm passed over the site and leveled it. Lawler responded quickly. According to school records, he paid the architect and masons who built the first hall (although they are not mentioned by name) and hired a new architect and masons from Milwaukee to design and construct the replacement building. Perhaps inspired by the nearby Villa Louis, which was completed in 1872, Lawler chose Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix to design the second exhibition hall. The *Daily Milwaukee News* reported on April 18, 1878 that Mix had been engaged "to prepare plans and superintend the re-building of St. Mary's Institute Hall at Prairie du Chien, in place of the one recently demolished by the gale."¹² The new building was completed in time for the annual commencement, and Lawler donated 400 chairs for the hall as well.

Mary's Academy and College, 1872-1929, Mount Mary College archives, Series I, Folder 8.

¹⁰ *Chronicles of St. Mary's Academy and College, 1872-1929*, Mount Mary College archives, Series I, Folder 8, 3.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 4-5.

¹² *The Daily Milwaukee News*, Thursday, April 18, 1878, 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

The Institute continued to expand through the 1880s. The sisters completed a dormitory addition to the main building (the north connector of Section 1) in 1883 with a capacity for 100 boarding students.¹³ By 1886, work had begun on another major expansion of St. Mary's Institute, which would include, at the Reverend Mother's request, a new chapel. Dubuque architect Fridolin Heer was commissioned to design the "Middle Building," so named because it was situated between the 1872 Main Building and the 1878 Exhibition Hall. This would begin a long standing professional relationship between Heer's firm and St. Mary's Institute. As always, construction proceeded quickly through the summer so that the building would be ready for the fall semester. The corner stone was laid on June 23, 1886 and the building was completed by September. The new chapel, named St. Catherine's Chapel after John Lawler's wife, Catherine, was dedicated on November 21.¹⁴

By 1888 the school housed 27 sisters, 90 boarding students, and 50 day-pupils. Sister Mary Seraphia served as the headmistress for the school, a position she would hold for over 50 years. With all the major components of a well-appointed boarding school in place—classrooms, study and dining halls, chapel, dormitory, and assembly hall—remaining construction slowed during the 1890s and early 1900s. A two-story addition was built to connect the Middle Building and the Exhibition Hall in the 1890s, and small additions and interior improvements were completed in 1901 and 1903.¹⁵

In 1891, John Lawler passed away. His son, T. C. Lawler, was charged with continuing to look after the interests of the Institute. The following year, the Reverend Mother Catherine died. Despite the deaths of these integral founders of the school, St. Mary's continued to grow under the direction of Sister Mary Seraphia and Father Abbelen of St. Gabriel's parish.

In 1897, the school celebrated its 25th anniversary. To reflect the institution's evolution and its adherence to strict academic standards, St. Mary's Institute was renamed St. Mary's Academy. The school was glowingly described in the 1898 publication, *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*:

Six imposing structures, comprising the main building, dormitory, middle building, music hall, "St. Mary's Hall" and "St. Mary's Chapel" each superbly furnished and adapted for its purpose and work, all surrounded by spacious lawns beautifully laid out and embellished in the highest style of landscape gardening known to the art.....Overlooking the blue waters of the Mississippi...it is indeed an ideal place, well calculated to inspire and incite to noblest endeavor those who avail themselves of its

¹³ Roman Catholic Schools,

¹⁴ Annals of the St. Mary's Institute, 1888-1889, Mount Mary Archives.

¹⁵ The south connector is assumed to be the building referred to as "Music Hall" in the school records, which was designed by Fridolin Heer, Sr. and completed in 1883.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

*privileges.*¹⁶

During the early 1900s, the school implemented a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, and by 1908 the school was accredited as meeting the standards for admission for the University of Wisconsin. With the goal of expanding further to include college courses for its students, the school administrators initiated the first major expansion of the complex in over 20 years. Fridolin Heer, now in partnership with his son, Fridolin Heer Jr., was commissioned to design the new building (Section 2 in the building description), which was constructed just east of the 1872 Main Building. *The Telegraph Herald* in Dubuque, Iowa reported on the dedication of the \$70,000 building on June 17, 1910, describing the building as a “structure of cream colored brick, with Bedford stone trimmings, galvanized iron cornice and metal roof to conform to the row of four other buildings which comprise the school property.”¹⁷ Fridolin Heer, Sr. died on September 19, 1910, just after the building was completed.

The new building housed playrooms, locker rooms, storage and bathrooms in the basement; classrooms, study halls, and music rooms on the first floor; study halls, a needlework room, art room and china painting room on the second floor; and a large laboratory, classrooms and library on the third floor. This range of functions reflected the school's dual goals of preparing young women for college or professional life while also accomplishing a “training of the will and the formation of habits of virtue” that were considered essential for the “character development of the ideal Catholic girl.” Needlepoint, social grace, tact, and habits of neatness and order were considered as important as biology, literature, music, and mathematics.¹⁸ Although the general location, function, and in some cases finishes of these specialized spaces are described in written accounts of St. Mary's during the 1920s and 1930s, without historic plans it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where these rooms were located in the building. No historic features—bookcases, desks, laboratory tables or equipment, stages, etc.--remain that would indicate these specialized uses, and many of the rooms.

In 1913, St. Mary's reached another milestone by commencing a college-level liberal arts course of study. The name of the school was changed by an act of the legislature to St. Mary's College; giving St. Mary's the distinction of being the first four-year Catholic college for women established in Wisconsin. The preparatory academy remained in operation at the school until 1925, at which time the school was generally known as St. Mary's College and Academy.¹⁹

¹⁶ Harry Hooper Heming. *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin ... A history of the Catholic Church in Wisconsin from the earliest time to the present day* (Milwaukee: Catholic Historical Pub. Co, 1898)1003.

¹⁷ “Pay Homage to Fr. Marquette,” *The Telegraph Herald*, June 17, 1910, 1-2.

¹⁸ John Goadby Gregory, *Southwestern Wisconsin: A History of Old Crawford County* (Chicago: Clark Publishing Company, 1932), 126.

¹⁹ St. Mary's Academy and College Finding Aid, Records, Prints and Photographs circa 1872-1989, Mount Mary University

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

To accommodate the needs of both the college and the academy, St. Mary's commissioned Fridolin J. Heer Jr. in 1914 to design the final expansion of the sprawling school. Heer (succeeding his father, who had died in 1910) designed the new building (Section 3 in the description) as a continuation of the previous expansion, with similar massing, materials, and fenestration.

By 1925, attendance for St. Mary's College had so far surpassed the academy that the school discontinued the high school department because the buildings could not accommodate both groups of students. This realization led the Sisters of Notre Dame to announce in 1927 that St. Mary's College would be relocated to a larger purpose-built facility in Milwaukee, which would bring more students to the college and allow students to take advantage of the proximity of a metropolitan center. A seventy-four-acre parcel was purchased at 90th and Burleigh in Milwaukee, and the cornerstone for the new building was laid on September 12, 1928. Nearly one year later, Mount Mary College of Milwaukee opened its doors.²⁰

In Prairie du Chien, the St. Mary's College once again reverted to its original role as a preparatory high school for girls.

Criterion C – Area of Architecture

Italianate Architecture in the United States and Wisconsin

The Italianate style was one of the most popular architectural styles in America between roughly 1850 and 1880. The style began in England as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction to the formal classicism that had been fashionable in architecture for over two hundred years. Italianate buildings, particularly large country houses designed in the style, were modeled on the rambling, informal farmhouses of the medieval Italian countryside. By the early 1840s, the movement had migrated to America. The publication of Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences* in 1842, which illustrated romantic designs of Gothic Revival cottages based on medieval precedents and Italianate cottages freely adapted from Italian Renaissance traditions, is often cited as the beginning of the Picturesque movement in the United States. Italianate buildings in America were loosely based on the Old World prototypes, but modified and adapted to create what architectural historian Virginia Savage McAlister calls "a truly indigenous style with only hints of its Latin origin."²¹

Archives.

²⁰ "From St. Mary to Mount Mary," *The Arches of 1930*, published by the Senior Class of Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 91.

²¹ Virginia, A. McAlester, Lee McAlester, Lauren Jarrett, and Juan Rodriguez-Araiz. *A Field guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 2013), 302.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Italianate buildings are typically of two or three stories, with low-pitched roofs that feature wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets. They are fenestrated with tall narrow windows, often with arched or curved lintels, ornamented with decorative window hoods. Many examples include one- and two-story projecting window bays. Square cupolas or towers are common, as are one-story porches with restrained detailing. More formal Renaissance Revival examples feature corner quoins, rusticated bases, stone belt courses, and segmental or pedimented windows.

The Italianate style was particularly popular in the rapidly expanding towns and cities of the American Midwest, because it was easily adapted to numerous building types. Rural residences, urban townhomes, and commercial and institutional buildings were all designed in the Italianate style across Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest during the mid- to late-1800s. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) identifies nineteen examples of the style in Crawford County, all but one located in the city of Prairie du Chien. Of these, the buildings that are most comparable in scale and level of detail to St. Mary's Academy and College are the Crawford County Courthouse (AHI #3896) at 220 Beaumont Road, St. Gabriel's Rectory and Grade School, (AHI #3903 and 3904) at 506 Beaumont Road, and Villa Louis (AHI #12633) at 3rd and Bolvin streets. The Crawford County Courthouse, built in 1843 with additions in 1867 and 1931, is a roughly rectangular building of rusticated limestone with a center pedimented entry bay, segmental-arched windows, corner quoins, and a projecting cornice. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 as part of the County Courthouses of Wisconsin thematic listing. Although St. Gabriel's Catholic Church and Rectory are both listed as Italianate in the AHI, the church building is Gothic Revival. The rectory (1874) and grade school (1892) at St. Gabriel's, however, are good examples of the Italianate style. One of the most imposing and well-known Italianate villas in Wisconsin is the Villa Louis (AHI #12633) at 3rd and Bolvin streets in Prairie du Chien. Constructed in 1870 and individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, the villa exhibits many of the character-defining features of an Italianate villa, a low-pitched hipped roof, wide bracketed eaves, segmental windows with brick hoods and projecting keystones, and a one-story porch with scrollwork brackets. The property was deeded to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1950 and opened to the public as a Wisconsin Historic Site in 1952.

St. Mary's Academy and College exhibits all of the character-defining features of the Italianate style. Although many of the components of the building were built well after the Italianate's height of popularity, all of the additions were intentionally designed to be compatible with the 1872 Main Building. Details such as the continuous rusticated stone base, bracketed metal cornice, arched windows with ornamental hoods, corner quoin detailing, and the use of Cream City brick throughout all serve to connect the various additions into a single, architecturally unified complex. Although certain prominent design elements, including the entry porch and bell tower on the Main Building and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

the cupola on 1910 addition (Section 2), have been removed or altered, the complex remains an excellent and large example of the style in Prairie du Chien.

Architects

Although no architect of record has been located in the historical documents for the original 1872 Main Building, architects have been determined for all of the other sections of the building. The Exhibition Hall, the second oldest section, was designed by prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. The sections constructed between 1886 and 1910, including the Middle Building with chapel block, the north and south connectors in Section 1, and Section 2, were all designed by well-known Dubuque architect Fridolin J. Heer. Section 3, the last section, was designed by Heer's son, Fridolin J. Heer, Jr.

Edward Townsend Mix (1831-1890)

Prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1831. He apprenticed under New Haven architect and developer Sidney Mason Stone in the late 1840s and early 1850s before moving to Chicago in 1855. Mix practiced jointly with Chicago architect William W. Boyington for a little over a year. After moving to Milwaukee in 1856 to manage several projects with Boyington, Mix decided to stay in Wisconsin and establish a solo practice. Mix was known for his versatility and his knowledge of wide array of building types and architectural styles, including Italianate, Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, and Richardsonian Romanesque. He designed prominent residences, commercial buildings, churches and government building, throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota during his 40-year career. Mix's most notable commissions included the Old Main building at the National Soldiers Home in Milwaukee (1868), Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien (1872), the Mitchell Building in Milwaukee (1876), Fair Oaks Mansion in Minneapolis (1883), the Alexander H. Allyn residence in Delavan, WI (1885), and the Metropolitan Life Building in Minneapolis (1888).²²

Although Mix is not credited with the design of the 1872 Main Building at St. Mary's Academy and College, it is possible that he served as the architect for the building. Villa Louis had just finished construction, which would have brought Mix to Prairie du Chien regularly. The fact that Mix was commissioned in 1878 to design the school's Exhibition Hall also suggests that he may have had a previous relationship with the school.

Fridolin Heer (1834-1910) and Fridolin Heer, Jr. (1864-1940)

Fridolin J. Heer was born in Wallenstadt, Switzerland in 1834. After apprenticing to a master

²² Chris Szczesny-Adams, "The Mark of Mix," *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, Spring 2008, 33-40.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

stonecutter in Switzerland for six years, Heer studied art in Munich before returning to Switzerland in 1860 to work as a master stone cutter. Financial struggles pushed him to immigrate to the United States in 1865 in search of better opportunities. Heer lived briefly with his wife in Belleville, Illinois and then Chicago before moving the family to Dubuque, Iowa in 1869. After working as a stone cutter for two years, Heer set up shop as an architect in Dubuque, designing such buildings as the Levi store, the Town Clock Building, and St. Francis Convent and Orphans' Home. He also designed the homes of several prominent Dubuque citizens, including William L. Bradley, Sr., David B. Henderson, James Levi, and Andrew Tredway.²³

During his later years, Heer practiced jointly with his son, Fridolin Heer, Jr. Heer, Jr. was born in 1864 in Switzerland. After his parents settled in Dubuque in 1869, he was educated in public and parochial schools before moving to Chicago for an apprenticeship with the esteemed architecture firm Adler and Sullivan. Heer graduated from Campion College in Prairie du Chien in 1883, studied architecture in Germany for two years, and returned in the late 1880s to join his father under the firm name of Frid. Heer and Son.

In Dubuque, Heer and Son designed the Dubuque County Courthouse, the church, parochial school and auditorium of the Sacred Heart Parish, St. Joseph's Academy, and Mary of the Angel's Home. In Prairie du Chien, Heer designed the St. Mary's Academy and College Buildings (1883-1914) the Campion college heating plant, and the Charles Grelle home.

A devout Catholic, Heer, Jr. also designed Catholic churches in Ft. Madison, IA, Pomeroy, OH, Oregon, IL, Dyersville, IA, and Wabasha, MN.²⁴

Later History of St. Mary's Academy and College (1929-2015)

The St. Mary's building in Prairie du Chien continued to serve as a preparatory high school for girls until 1961. Between 1933 and 1941, the School Sisters of Notre Dame also operated the Diocesan Teachers' College on the campus. By the 1950s, attendance at St. Mary's had dwindled significantly, and the Sisters transferred the operation of St. Mary's to a local Franciscan order. The school closed in 1961.

In 1969, the building re-opened as a residential treatment center known as Wyalusing Academy. Wyalusing closed in 2013. The building is currently vacant.

²³ "Heer, Fridolin," Encyclopedi Dubuque, http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php?title=HEER%2C_Fridolin, accessed January 18, 2016.

²⁴ "Fridolin J. Heer, 76, Famed Architect, Dies" *The Telegraph-Herald*, March 3, 1940, 1-2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Conclusion

St. Mary's Academy and College is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A for Education. The building served as an all-female Catholic school (variously known as St. Mary's Institute, St. Mary's Academy, and St. Mary's College) between 1872 and 1961. St. Mary's was one of the only Catholic girls' schools operating in the region during the late-nineteenth century and drew students from throughout the Midwest, particularly Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. In 1913, the school became the first four-year Catholic college for women established in Wisconsin.

The building is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, locally significant as an excellent and large example of an institutional building designed in the Italianate style of architecture. This style flourished in Wisconsin and across the United States during the last half of the nineteenth century and was popular for commercial, institutional and residential buildings. Although constructed in phases over a period of over four decades (1872-1914), all of the components of the St. Mary's building are consistent in overall design, materials, and massing with the 1872 Italianate main building.

St. Mary's Academy and College retains a high level of exterior integrity with few major non-historic additions or alterations outside of the period of significance. The interior retains sufficient integrity to convey the building's significance under Criterion A as an excellent and intact example of a private boarding school in Prairie du Chien. The period of significance for the building is 1872-1961, reflecting the period during which the building functioned as a school.

Statement of Archeological Potential

While extensive archaeological resources are known to exist on this property, further archaeological evaluation was outside the scope of this project to nominate the school to the National Register of Historic Places. Further study of this area may produce evidence of additional archaeological resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The St. Mary's Academy and College is located on a partial block in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, bounded by Beaumont Road to the east, Main Street to the west, Dunn Street to the north and a private property to the south. The south boundary begins 775 feet south along Beaumont Road from the north east corner of the site at the intersection of Beaumont Road and Dunn Street; the south boundary continues westwards perpendicular to Beaumont Road across the property for 640 feet to a point along Main Street.

Boundary Justification:

The nomination boundaries encompass the northern portion (approximately 11.5 acres) of the large parcel of land historically associated with St. Mary's Academy and College in Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin. The boundary has been drawn to include all of the extant historic features associated with St. Mary's—the building, grotto, the gate, street frontage on the north, east, and west sides, and excludes extraneous property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Mary's Academy and College

City or Vicinity: Prairie du Chien

County: Crawford **State:** Wisconsin

Photographer: John Cramer

Date Photographed: November 6, 2015

- Photo 1 of 26:** Aerial View - looking northwest.
- Photo 2 of 26:** East and North Elevations - looking northwest.
- Photo 3 of 26:** Exhibition Hall, East Elevation - looking west.
- Photo 4 of 26:** Middle Building, West Elevation - looking southeast.
- Photo 5 of 26:** Section 2, North Elevation - looking south.
- Photo 6 of 26:** Main Building, West Elevation - looking northeast.
- Photo 7 of 26:** Exhibition Hall, West Elevation - looking southeast.
- Photo 8 of 26:** Non-Historic Shed Buildings, south and west elevations – looking northwest.
- Photo 9 of 26:** Dunn Street entrance and piers – looking north.
- Photo 10 of 26:** Lourdes Grotto – looking southwest.
- Photo 11 of 26:** Middle Building Basement - looking north.
- Photo 12 of 26:** Main Building Basement - looking northeast.
- Photo 13 of 26:** Exhibition Hall First Floor - looking west.
- Photo 14 of 26:** Middle Building First Floor - looking northwest.
- Photo 15 of 26:** North Connector First Floor, corridor - looking north.
- Photo 16 of 26:** Main Building First Floor, typical room - looking east.
- Photo 17 of 26:** Section 2 First Floor, main corridor - looking east.
- Photo 18 of 26:** Section 2 First Floor - looking north.
- Photo 19 of 26:** Section 2 First Floor, Library - looking southeast.
- Photo 20 of 26:** Section 3 First Floor, typical room - looking north.
- Photo 21 of 26:** Middle Building Second Floor, chapel - looking southeast.
- Photo 22 of 26:** North Connector Second Floor - looking north.
- Photo 23 of 26:** Main Building Second Floor, main corridor - looking west.
- Photo 24 of 26:** Section 2 Second Floor, typical room - looking south.
- Photo 25 of 26:** Section 3 Third Floor, typical room - looking north.
- Photo 26 of 26:** Section 3 Third Floor, corridor - looking south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Crawford County Atlas, George Ogle, 1901. Note former Crawford Fort wall outline.
Historic Map Works.

Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1905.

Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1912.

Figure 4: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1924.

Figure 5: Annotated 1924 Sanborn Map of St. Mary's Academy and College.

Figure 6: Historic photograph of 1872 Main Building, taken shortly after completion.

Figure 7: Postcard of St. Mary's Academy and College, c.1907.

Figure 8: Photograph c. 1930, of St. Mary's, showing north elevations 1872 Main Building, 1910 addition (Section 2), and 1914 addition (Section 3).

Figure 9: c.1920 photograph of west elevation of Section 1, showing "Our Lady's Tower" at west elevation of Middle Building.

Figure 10: Circa 1920s postcard of St. Mary's Academy and College.

Figure 11: Photograph looking west toward the east elevation of the Chapel (center), May 1969.

Figure 12: May 1969 photograph of the north elevation of 1910 addition (Section 2).

Figure 13: May 1969 photograph looking southeast at the north and west facades.

Figure 14: May 1969 photograph showing the west elevation of the 1872 Main Building.

Figure 15: May 1969 photograph looking southwest toward the north facade.

Figure 16: Library interior, c.1920.

Figure 17: Lourdes Grotto, c. 1920.

Figure 18: Chronology Plan

Figure 19: Site Plan and Photo Key

Figure 20: Basement Plan and Photo Key

Figure 21: First Floor Plan and Photo Key

Figure 22: Second Floor Plan and Photo Key

Figure 23: Third Floor Plan and Photo Key

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 2

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Crawford County Atlas, George Ogle, 1901. Note former Crawford Fort wall outline. *Historic Map Works.*



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 3

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1905.

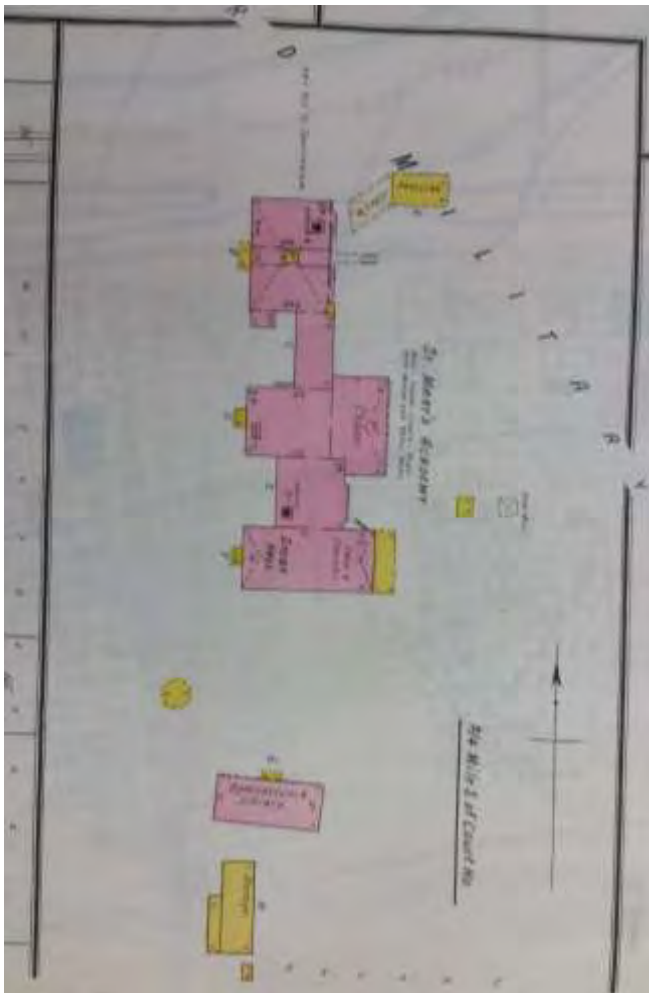
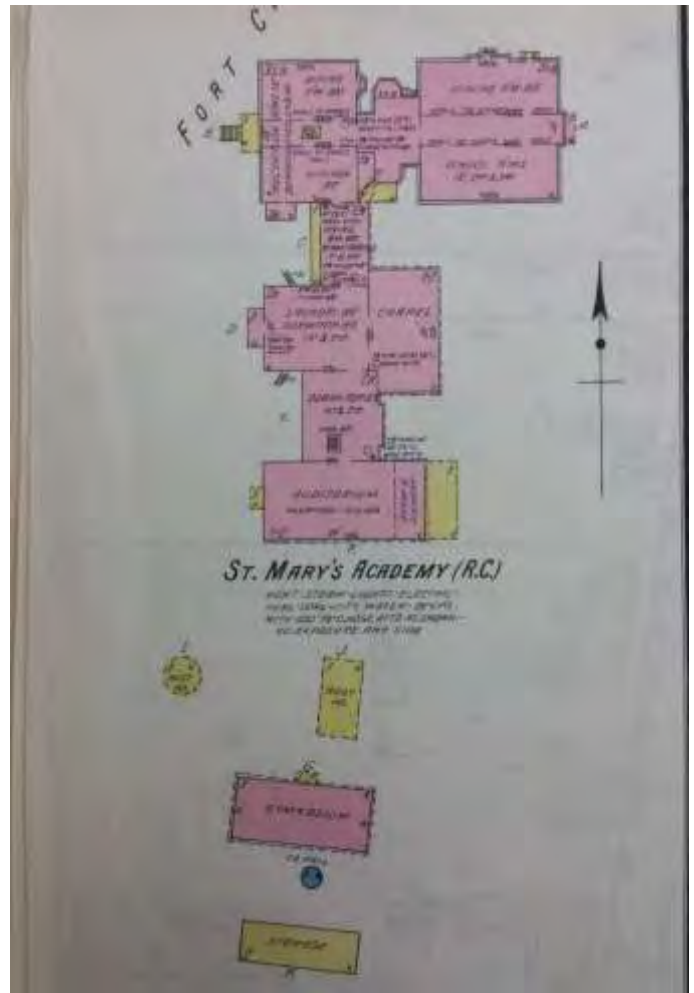


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1912.



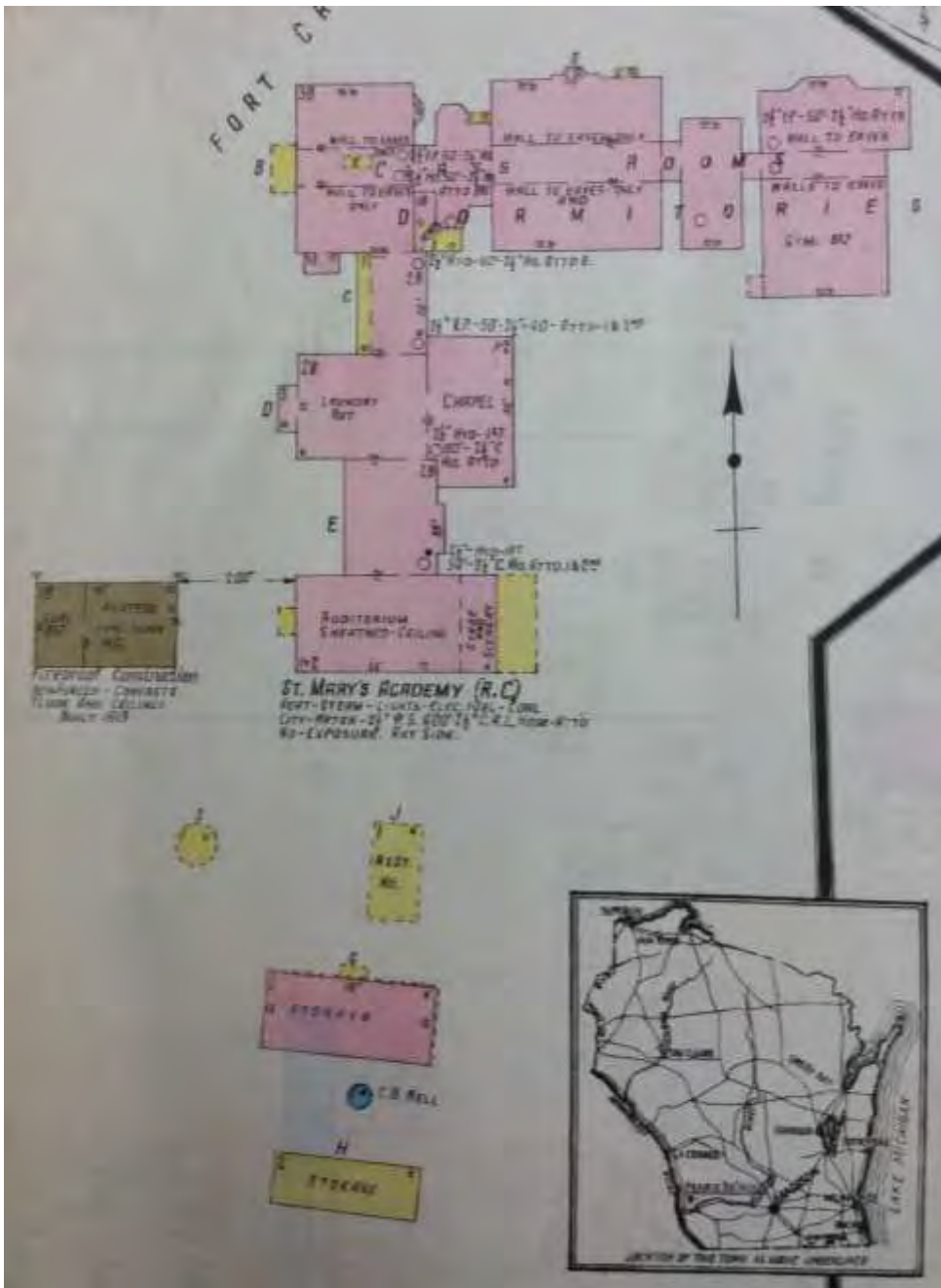
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 4

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 4: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1924.



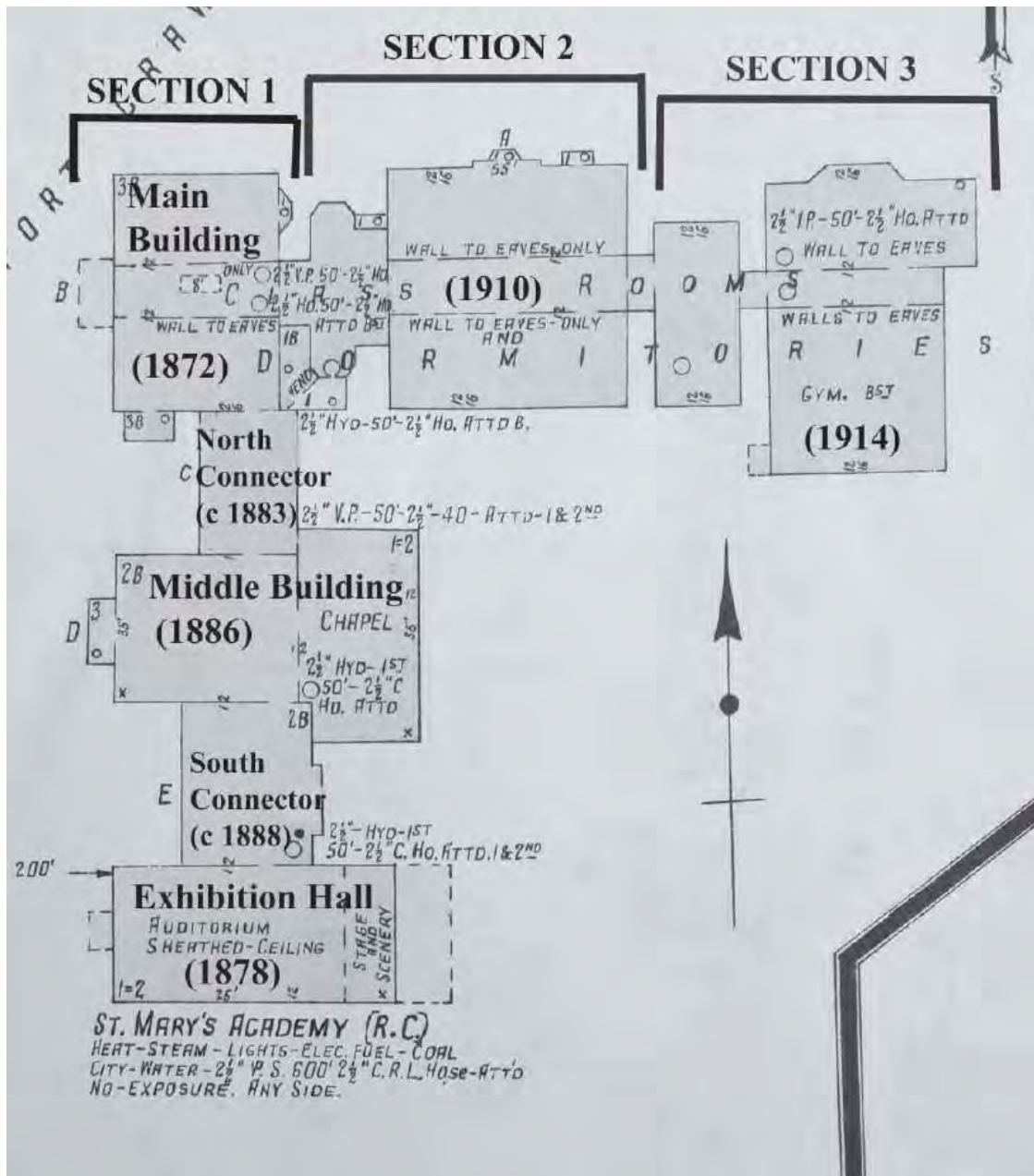
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 5

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 5: Annotated 1924 Sanborn Map of St. Mary's Academy and College.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 6

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 6: Historic photograph of 1872 Main Building, taken shortly after completion.
Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 7

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 7: Postcard of St. Mary's Academy and College, c. 1907. *Wisconsin Historical Society*



Figure 8: Photograph c. 1930, of St. Mary's, showing north facades 1872 Main Building, 1910 addition (Section 2), and 1914 addition (Section 3). *Wisconsin Historical Society*



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 8

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 9: Circa 1920 photograph of west facade of Section 1, showing "Our Lady's Tower" at west facade of Middle Building. *Wisconsin Historical Society*



Figure 10: Circa 1920s postcard of St. Mary's Academy and College.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 9

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 11: Photograph looking west toward the east elevation of the Chapel (center), May 1969.



Figure 12: May 1969 photograph of the north elevation of 1910 addition (Section 2).



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 10

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 13: May 1969 photograph looking southeast at the north and west facades.



Figure 14: May 1969 photograph showing the west facade of the 1872 Main Building.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 11

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 15: May 1969 photograph looking southwest toward the north facade.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 12

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 16: Library interior, c.1920. *Mary Mount College Archives*



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 13

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 17: Lourdes Grotto, c. 1920.



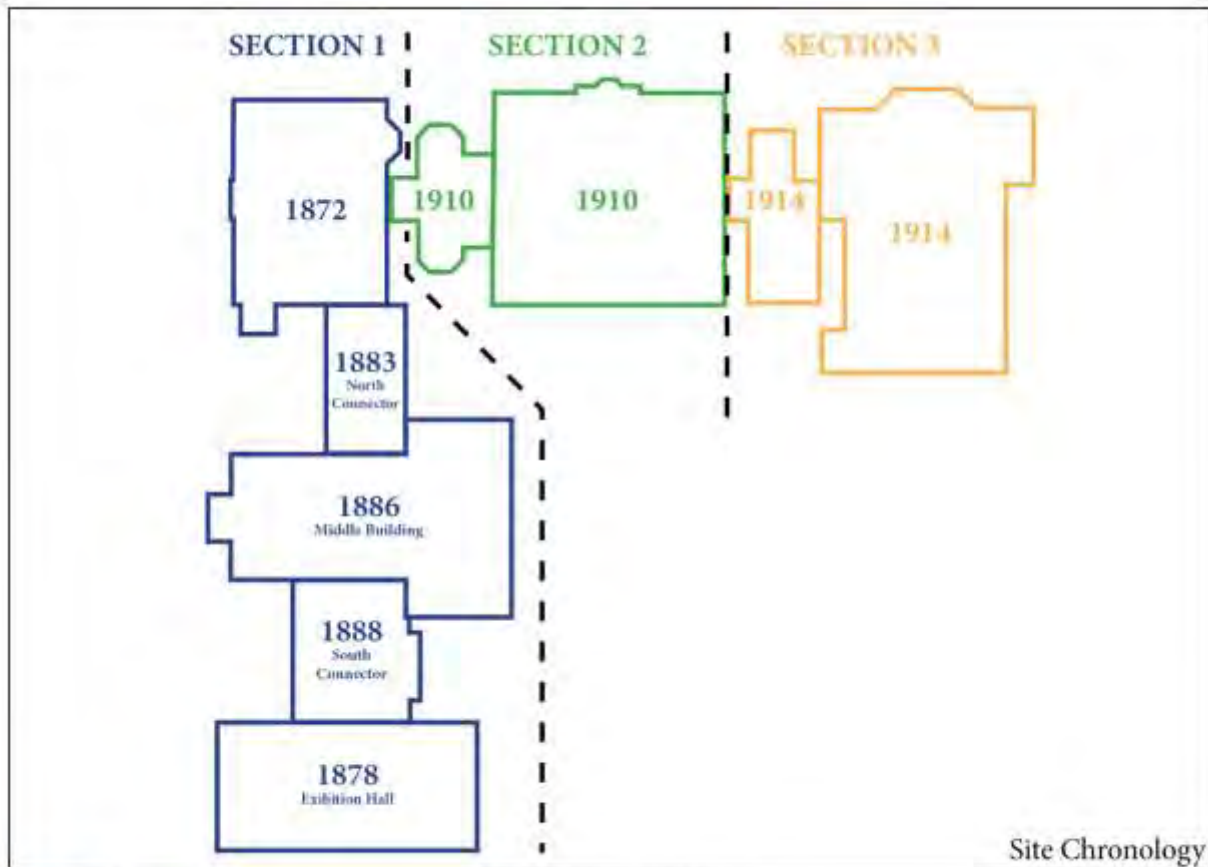
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

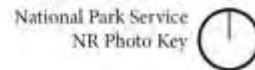
Section figures Page 14

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 18: Chronology Plan



St. Mary's Academy and College
604 South Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, Crawford, Wisconsin



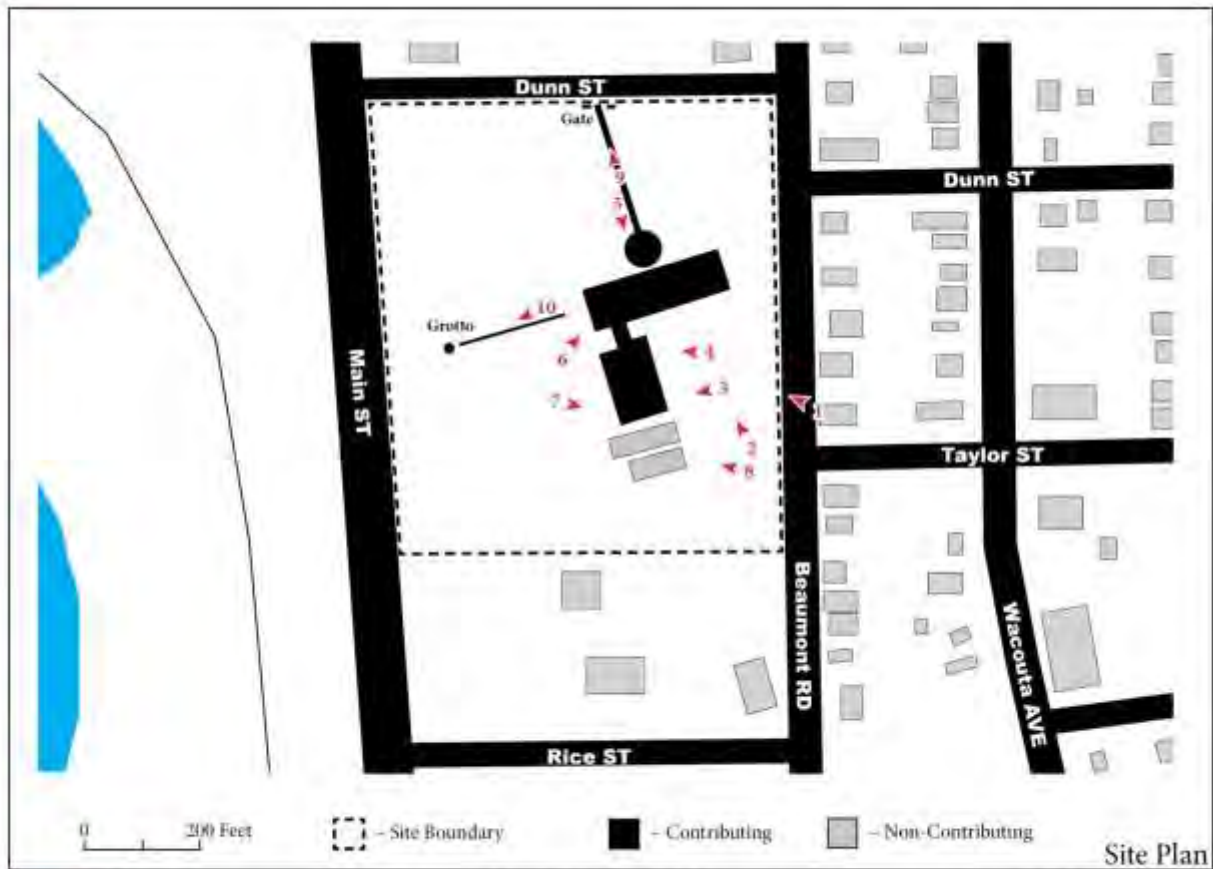
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 15

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 19: Site Plan and Photo Key



St. Mary's Academy and College
604 South Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, Crawford, Wisconsin

National Park Service
NR Photo Key

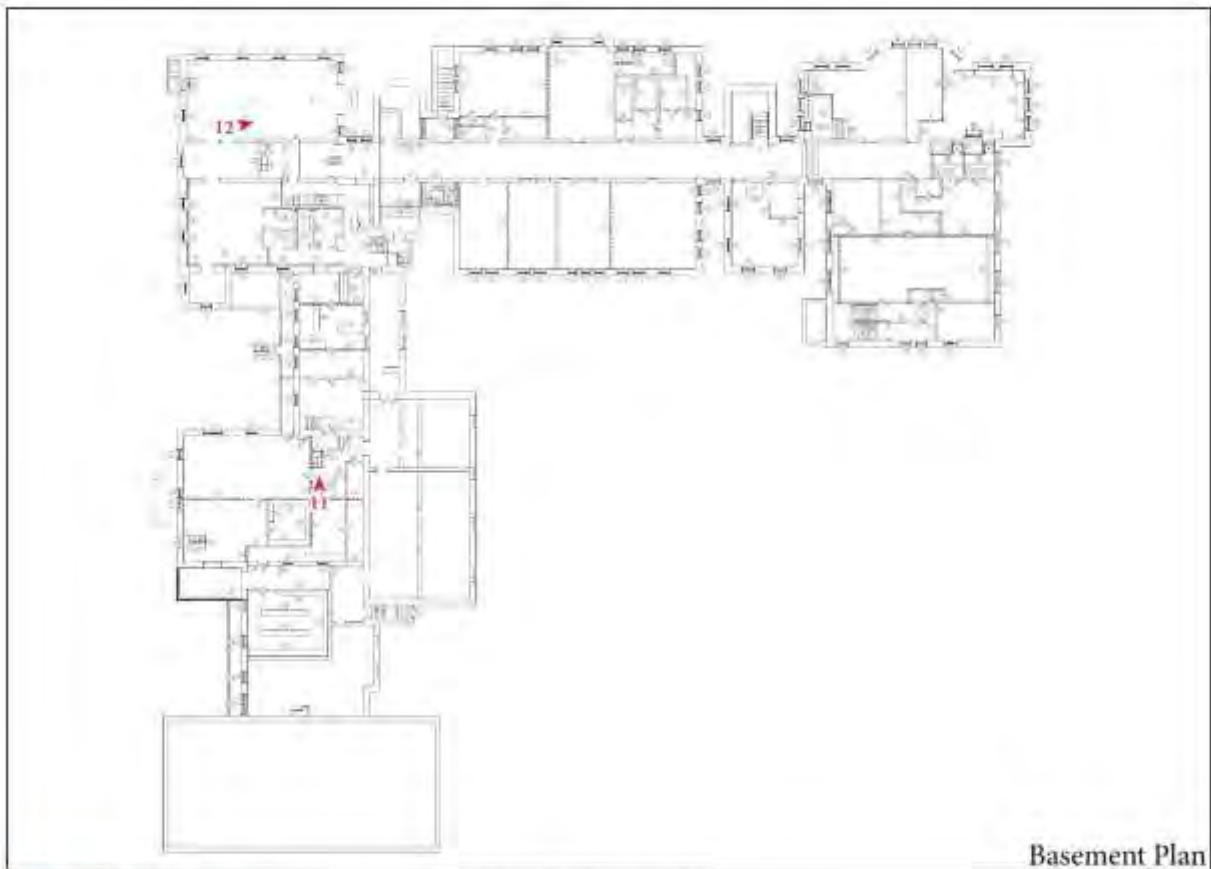
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 16

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 20: Basement Plan and Photo Key



Basement Plan



St. Mary's Academy and College
604 South Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, Crawford, Wisconsin

National Park Service
NR Photo Key



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 17

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

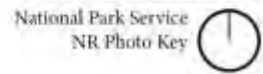
Figure 21: First Floor Plan and Photo Key



First Floor Plan



St. Mary's Academy and College
604 South Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, Crawford, Wisconsin



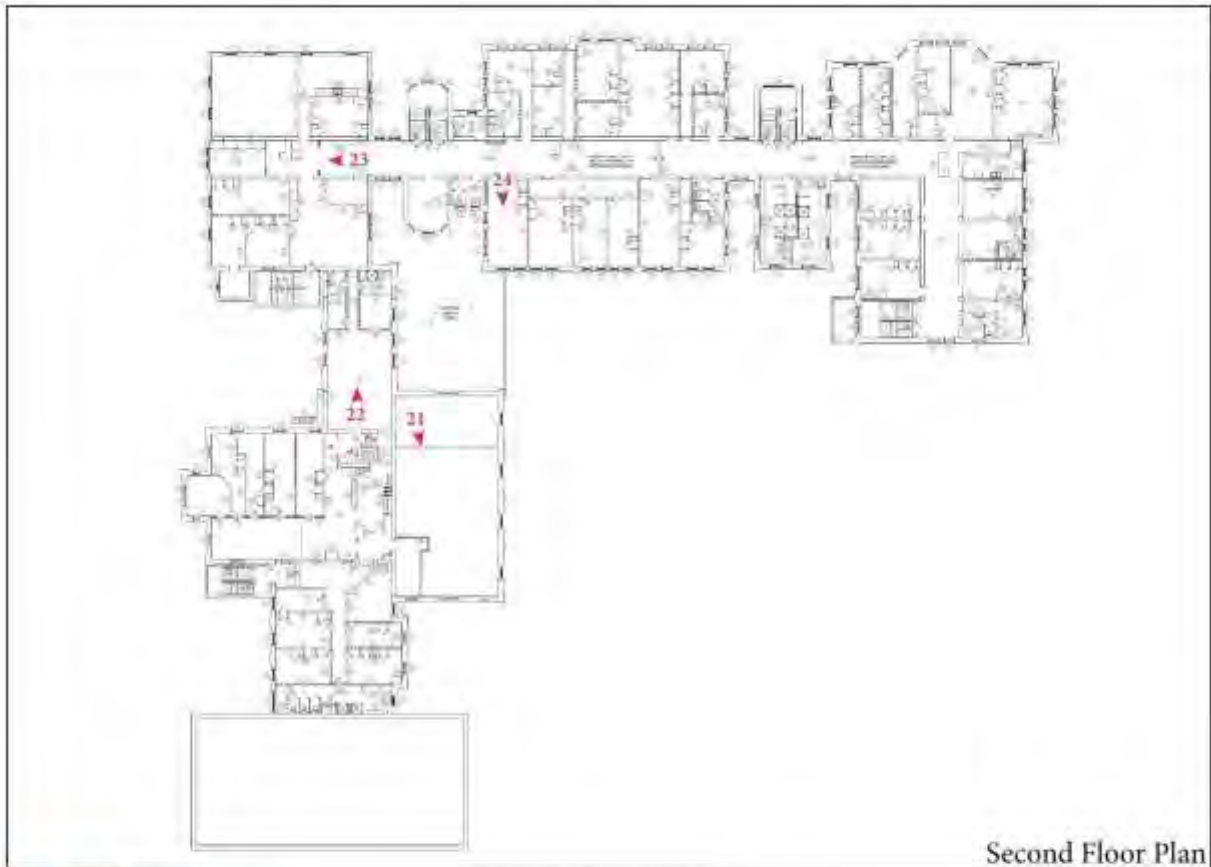
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

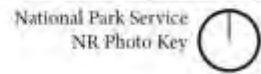
Section figures Page 18

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 22: Second Floor Plan and Photo Key



St. Mary's Academy and College
604 South Beaumont Road
Prairie du Chien, Crawford, Wisconsin



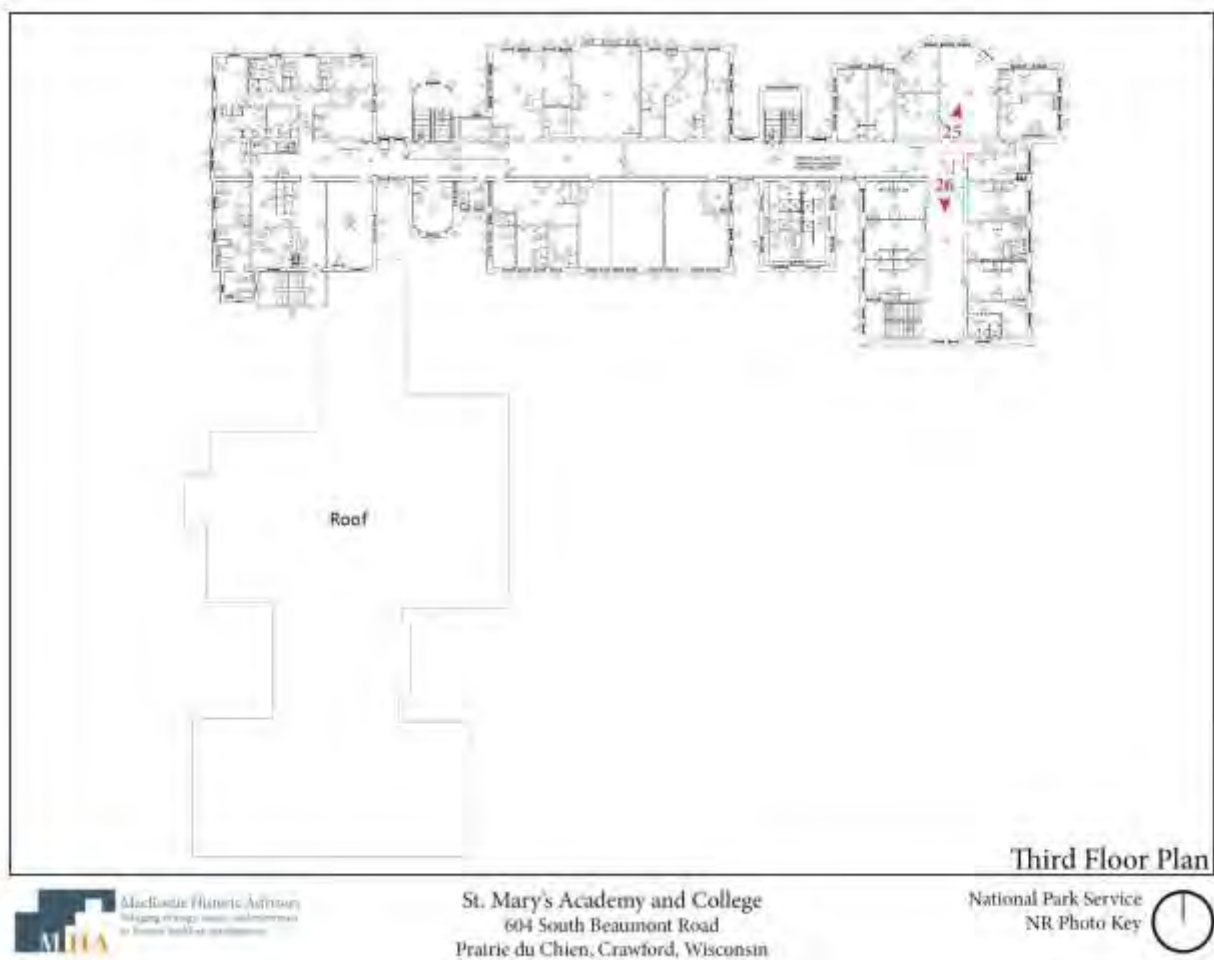
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 19

St. Mary's Academy and College
Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Figure 23: Third Floor Plan and Photo Key



End Figures



















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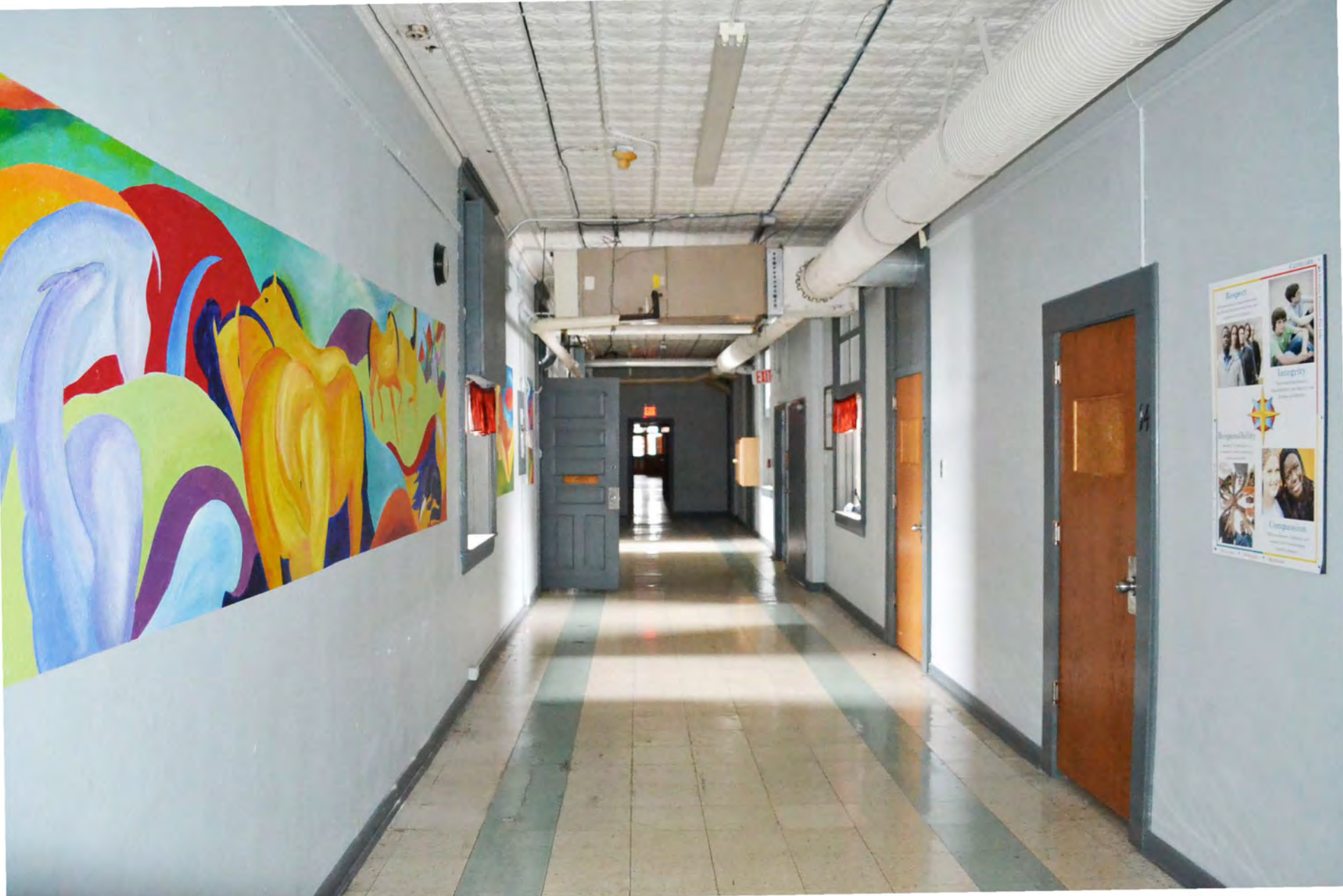
















Bob
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COVERAGE**





15



EXIT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 7/14/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



LEE NERISON

96TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Capitol:

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Madison, WI 53708-8953

(608) 266-3534

Toll-Free: (888) 534-0096

Fax: (608) 282-3696

Rep.Nerison@legis.wi.gov

District:

(608) 634-4562

Serving Crawford, Monroe,

and Vernon Counties

April 21, 2017

RECEIVED
APR 28 2017

BY:

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
c/o Peggy Veregin
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in support of the nomination of St. Mary's Academy and College in Prairie du Chien to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places.

As you know, St. Mary's was founded in Prairie du Chien in 1872 after John Lawler, a local ferry operator, donated the land for the academy. In 1913, St. Mary's became the first women's college in Wisconsin. The important contribution that St. Mary's made to Wisconsin in the field of women's higher education deserves to be recognized.

In closing, as State Representative for Prairie du Chien, I hope you will approve St. Mary's Academy's nomination as this will add to the city's rich history. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lee Nerison
State Representative
96th Assembly District



River to Valley Initiatives

109 East Blackhawk Ave. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

judywallstreet@hotmail.com

www.RiverVI.com

(608)412-1271

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: St. Mary's Academy & College, 601 South Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien, WI
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are the owner of the St. Mary's Academy & College building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin and the future owner of the property (Commonwealth) will be closing shortly on the financing of the property for development as affordable housing apartments. One of the historic tax credit investor's requirements is that the property be listed in the National Register at the time of closing. In order to facilitate a closing in mid-July, 2017, we are requesting that the National Park Service shorten the public comment period contained in 36 CFR Part 60.13(a) for National Register listing from 15 days to 3 days.

Shortening the comment period will allow the closing to go forward and will be a critical factor in providing for the preservation of this important historic building in Prairie du Chien.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 608.412.1271 or k.mcdonell@commonwealthco.net with any questions you may have, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Judith Wall
River to Valley Initiatives, Inc.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Second day of June 2017, for the nomination of the St. Mary's Academy and College to the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
<u> </u>	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>35</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>23</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u>1</u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u> </u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

<u> </u>	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
<u>x</u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u> </u>	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
<u> </u>	Other:

MHA MIDWEST

53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142

Chicago, IL 60604

P | 312.878.1246

F | 312.786.1766

E | ajohnson@mac-ha.com

www.macrostiehistoric.com

From: Allen Johnson

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 3:12 PM

To: Paul Loether (paul_loether@nps.gov) <paul_loether@nps.gov>; Barbara Wyatt (barbara_wyatt@nps.com) <barbara_wyatt@nps.com>

Cc: Bill MacRostie - MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC (bmacrostie@mac-ha.com) <bmacrostie@mac-ha.com>

Subject: St. Mary's Academy And College, 604 South Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien, WI

Hello Paul. Thank you again for your recent assistance to expedite the National Register nomination for the Mandan (ND) High School. That same client is finding themselves in a similar bind with the same lender on another project. Unless they achieve NR listing by 7-21-17, their closing will be postponed and the project imperiled. Currently vacant, the former academy complex is significant as the first four-year Catholic college for women established in Wisconsin; it is to be rehabilitated according to the SOI's *Standards* for use as affordable housing.

I have reached out to Barbara Wyatt to request her expedited review of the NR nomination which was received at NPS on June 9th. Once Barbara has completed her review, we request that you do anything you can to get the nomination into a bundle as soon as possible to move up the approval chain for Federal Register posting. Attached is a letter from the owner of the property requesting a shortened Federal Register comment period. Please let me know if you need anything more from us to speed the process.

I second Bill's recent comments thanking you and your staff for helping us out on this and other special requests we've made recently. You and your staff are responsive and professional, and we appreciate the attention you've given our developer clients to make these challenging but valuable projects easier to get done. And we don't anticipate having to drag you into any additional fire drills due to these new and more stringent lender requirements. Thanks again, Allen

Allen F. Johnson

Partner | Director, MHA Midwest



MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC

| Bringing strategy, equity, and experience to historic building development

MHA MIDWEST

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--
Barbara Wyatt, ASLA

National Park Service

National Register/NHL Programs

New address:

1849 C. St., NW - Mail Stop 7228

Washington, DC 20240

Email address and phone number remain the same:

barbara_wyatt@nps.gov 202.354.2252

--
Barbara Wyatt, ASLA

National Park Service

National Register/NHL Programs

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Washington, DC 20240

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