

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Milwaukee
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Henni Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
St. Francis Seminary

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3257 South Lake Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Francis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Wisconsin 4th

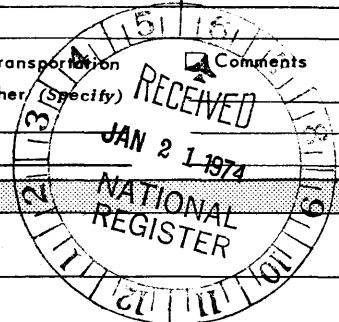
STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Milwaukee** CODE: **79**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

STREET AND NUMBER:
345 North 95th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Milwaukee

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Milwaukee County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Milwaukee

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971-1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin CODE: **55**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing northeast on part of a large, beautifully landscaped ground on the shore of Lake Michigan, Henni Hall, the original St. Francis Seminary building, was constructed in 1855-1856, and though it formally opened on January 29, 1856, it was not fully completed until the completion and consecration of the chapel occurred in 1861. The architect was Victor Schulte, and the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis cooperated closely, along with other workers, in erecting the building.

The structure is of cream colored brick which was made in a brickyard on seminary property. The seminary purchased 120 additional acres near Cudahy to provide sufficient wood for firing the kilns. While the Sisters cooked for all of the workingmen, "The Brothers made the bricks, hauled the lumber from the lake front, the firewood for the brick yard from the land near Cudahy and did carpenter work." Besides the Brothers there were apparently about 80 additional workers, varying from common laborers to wood cutters to skilled craftsmen.

The building is Italianate in style. Originally, before completion of the chapel, it was essentially U-shaped, consisting of an elongated main portion of four bays at either side of a three-bayed, pedimented central pavilion. This portion was four and a half stories in height, with a truncated gable roof and frieze windows under the eaves. At either end of this elongated part was a full five-story, gable-roofed wing, each three bays wide and five deep, projecting slightly forward of the front wall level and pedimented at both gable ends. At the center of the main roof is a large, domed, octagonal cupola with a small octagonal lantern at the top, surmounted by a hotonée cross. The flat portion of the roof contained six brick chimneys on either side of the cupola and had a balustrade at the edges, thus providing a walkway with a superlative view of Lake Michigan and several miles of the surrounding area. The chimneys and balustrade are no longer present. All window openings of the cupola and lantern are round-arched as are all openings of the central pavilion except the frieze windows.

By 1861 the 100-foot long chapel was completed, extending to the rear of the building from the central pavilion and making the structure E-shaped. The first major alteration came in 1868 with a rearward (southwest) elongation of the north wing, doubling its length. A pedimented central pavilion was also built onto the north wing at this time. In 1876 a much larger addition was made on the south side. It is esthetically unfortunate that this was added as an ell. It consists principally of a large, four-story separate building facing south (southeast) which is connected by a rather narrow wing to the original seminary building. Happily, at least during the summer, this addition is largely obscured by trees and shrubbery as one views Henni Hall directly from the beautifully landscaped front lawn so that it is mainly the original building that one sees.

Inside, Henni Hall is notable particularly for the twin serpentine staircases of its main entrance foyer and its exquisite chapel.

At a date which has so far remained elusive, the beauty of the original seminary building (now Henni Hall) was much enhanced by application of an

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- array of excellent gingerbread ornamentation to the main facade. The most striking part of this is a two-tiered, three-bayed, round-arched arcaded portico across the central pavilion, with metal covered, paneled square columns supporting the first level and round, attenuated columns supporting the upper tier. There are harmonizing single-story arcaded porticos across the third story level of both end wings as well, and liberal use of delicately ornamented, balustraded balconies at the same level--all based along the original belt course between the second and third stories. A similar balustrade encloses the top deck of the center portico just below the pediment, and here and there are segmental, lacy iron-railed balconies--never more than two bays wide--arranged symmetrically below both fourth story and frieze windows on either side of the pavilion.

All of this tasteful, harmonious, completely Italianate ornamentation, abundantly furnished, but not to excess, with bosses, quatrefoils, brackets, slender rails, and various refinements of decoration, lends further character and a graceful charm to the already attractive edifice known as Henni Hall.

Standing atop the roof of the central pavilion is a statue of St. Francis de Sales, patron of the seminary. Immediately below, carved on the face of the tympanum, is a large bird, head turned to its right and wings held aspread by coiled scrolls, symbolizing the halcyon of ancient legend which is part of the seal of the seminary. The seal itself appears in the hand inlaid flooring of the main foyer at the entrance to the chapel.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1856, 1861**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Henni Hall is probably significant mainly as a work of Victor Schulte, who for a time during the middle 1800's was an important Milwaukee architect, especially in the designing of churches. Architectural historians generally agree that his best work was St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, 1847-1853, which has undergone important changes since that time. But he was also the architect of two other fine old Milwaukee churches which still stand and are both Official Landmarks of the City of Milwaukee and National Register properties, Old St. Mary's and Holy Trinity. These three, among the few churches of their period which have survived in the city, all exhibit strong German Zopfstil influences, according to Richard W. E. Perrin.

Although Henni Hall, while basically an architecturally good Italianate style building, is perhaps not comparable artistically or esthetically with Schulte's Milwaukee churches, although one might argue the point, it is nevertheless a well-built and attractive building which has demonstrated great soundness throughout all of its years, and its chapel is indeed beautiful. Its appearance was greatly enhanced by tasteful use of gingerbread ornamentation on its main facade, probably not too many years after the seminary was built, making it now a handsome and delightful building to view and photograph. Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, who recorded the structure for the Wisconsin inventory, states, "It is an attractive edifice, notable particularly for the twin serpentine staircases of its main entrance foyer and its exquisite chapel. It stands on beautifully landscaped grounds and is now part of a complex that must surely rank among the finest ensembles of religious architecture in Milwaukee County."

The building was named for John Martin Henni, first Bishop of Wisconsin when Wisconsin became a diocese in 1843 with headquarters in Milwaukee. (Henni arrived in 1844.) Henni later (1875) became Archbishop of Milwaukee. "For many years the leading spirit in Wisconsin Catholicism, at his death [in 1881], Henni had built the Church in Wisconsin into three dioceses with a large membership and numerous churches, schools, and institutions." During his early years in Wisconsin beginning promptly upon his arrival in 1844, Bishop Henni worked toward the establishment of a major seminary because of the serious shortage of priests at a time when increasing numbers of the newly arriving immigrants in the area were of the Roman Catholic faith. Following Henni's arrival in 1844, several temporary seminaries were started and operated in Milwaukee and the surrounding area, and a few priests were ordained. These seminaries in general were short-lived and not complete institutions, and they accommodated candidates for the priesthood who had

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blued, Benjamin J., "The Seminary Architect," Salesianum, 41:150-154 (1946).
 Guth, Alexander C., "Early Day Architects in Milwaukee," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 10:17-28 (1926); "Early Day Architects in Wisconsin," ibid., 18:141-144 (1934).
 Janicki, Rev. Joseph A., Information from interview by D. N. Anderson, (1973).
 Johnson, Peter Leo, Centennial Essays, (Milwaukee, 1943), 72-109 et passim.
 Johnson, Peter Leo, Halcyon Days, (Milwaukee, 1956), 11-69 et passim.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, (Milwaukee, 1962), 53-54.
 Wietczykowski, Mary Ellen, "Henni Hall, St. Francis Seminary," Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites (1971-1973).

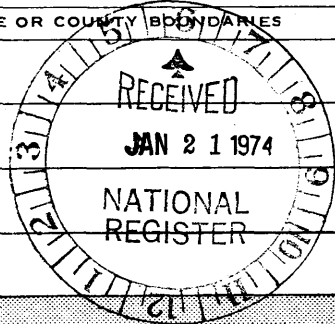
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 42° 58' 55.5"	W 87° 52' 15.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6.5**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites and Markers Division
 ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 11 December 1973
 STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local
 Name: James Morton Smith
 Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Date: January 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 7/24/74
 ATTEST:
Wm. M. ...
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 7-19-74

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8. already completed most of their higher education at other institutions-- Notre Dame in Indiana for one. Henni was the driving force behind the organization and building of St. Francis Seminary in 1855-1856, the first major Roman Catholic seminary in Wisconsin and one of the oldest in the United States. Appropriately, when the various new buildings of St. Francis Seminary were being named, shortly after the centennial year of 1956, the original seminary building was named Henni Hall.

Today Henni Hall is part of the complex known as the St. Francis School of Pastoral Ministry. Henni Hall itself is little-used for seminary purposes, however; other buildings have taken over its original functions. It now houses the Albert Cardinal Meyer Institute, which is principally a school for the continuing education of both priests and laity. It also serves to some extent as a residence hall for some of the seminary faculty. The fourth and fifth floors are currently used very little.

Henni Hall nevertheless remains the symbolic and beautiful central structure which was the original St. Francis Seminary. It is one of the significant landmarks of Milwaukee County and Wisconsin, important in both educational and religious history in this state.

