

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota
COUNTY: Ramsey
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 5 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Saint Joseph's Academy
AND/OR HISTORIC: Saint Joseph's Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 355 Marshall Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th	
STATE Minnesota	CODE 2227	COUNTY: Ramsey	CODE 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Multi-purpose

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Sisters of Saint Joseph	
STREET AND NUMBER: 1884 Randolph Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul	STATE: Minnesota

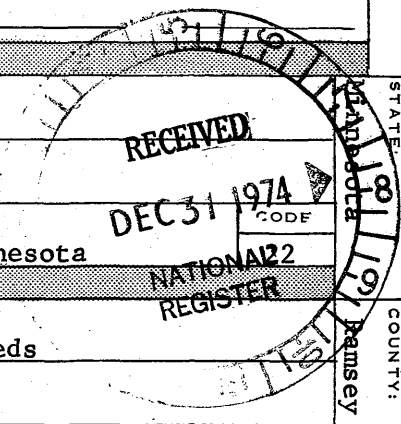
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ramsey County Courthouse/Register of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: 15 West Kellogg Boulevard	
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul	STATE: Minnesota
	CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Historic Sites Survey/"Historic St. Paul Buildings"	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972/1964	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society/City of St. Paul, Planning Department	
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling/421 Wabasha Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Saint Paul/Saint Paul	STATE: Minnesota
	CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MINNESOTA	1975	JUN 5 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Joseph's Academy is an educational complex of buildings constructed around an open square and located on the northeast corner of Western and Marshall Avenues in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The older section of buildings date from 1863 to 1884, generally face Marshall Avenue to the south, while newer additions, built in the 1930's face along the east, north, and west sides of the complex. The one exception to this is the old convent wing, built in 1871, which also faces Western Avenue along the western edge. Public entry is gained by two entrances at the end buildings along the southern side of the complex. The buildings are all interconnected, including the power plant, located within the interior square, but a large opening on the north side prevents the complex from completing an entirely enclosed space.

The original building is the three and one half story, rough ashlar, yellow limestone structure, located at the southwest corner. The architectural style is Italianate but very stark with regards to any ornamentation. Fenestration is equally spaced on all three levels across the building facade with simple lintels and sills. The construction is stone bearing wall. The first addition, the old convent wing built in 1871 to the north and west of the original building, is more primitive in appearance with very little architectural detailing. It too is limestone bearing wall with much the same window detailing.

The second addition, built in 1877 and which is now the four story, thrust center section of the south facade, is the most architecturally appealing of any portion in the complex. It is also Italianate in design with a single unbroken cornice line at the roof, but which sports a higher level of architectural detailing than its two flanking corner sections. Fenestration is grouped in sets of two, five sets symmetrically spaced across the facade, which is broken by a wooden two story, highly detailed, Victorian bay. All windows have flattened arched, carved key stone caps except for the fourth story windows which are somewhat wider and rounded at the top. The building is also limestone bearing wall.

1888 The old stone south facade was completed by the third section, added to the east in 1884. It is nearly identical to the original section so as to restore a symmetrical appearance along this side of the complex. A slight visual deviation can be seen between the two end sections, as an unsimilar masonry technique was chosen for the new section, but they appear identical in other respects.

The 1930's saw the completion of the complex with the addition of the east, north, and west wings. These structures housed additional classrooms, a new auditorium/gymnasium, a chapel and a new library. These buildings are very utilitarian in appearance being faced with common red brick. They are reinforced concrete in construction.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1851, 1863 to present

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saint Joseph's Academy is the oldest known Catholic school building in the state of Minnesota. Its yellow limestone exterior has been a Saint Paul architectural as well as educational landmark since its construction in 1863 when the school first opened. Its history underscores its age, as it opened not as a day school but as a boarding school due to its then distant location on Saint Anthony Hill, far from the city's population center. It remains a symbol of one religious group's early attempt to educate its young on the Minnesota frontier.

Built between 1860 and 1863 as the third Saint Paul school of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Saint Joseph's Academy was superceeded first by a log school situated at the city's waterfront and located in the city's first church, the Chapel of Saint Paul. This served as their school until 1852, when the Sisters had a brick structure, one of the first in the city, constructed as their first permanent educational facility. The Sisters established their first "Academy" in this building and it soon outgrew its inadequate facilities. In 1860 the Sisters purchased the old Catholic cemetery on Saint Anthony Hill for the construction of the present building, which opened its doors on July 31, 1863.

The original structure, a three and one half story, yellow limestone building, functioned as a convent novitiate as well as a boarding school, and is now the southwest corner building in the present complex. Although quite unadorned, architecturally, as were the later additions, the building is still a very early example of Italianate design in Minnesota. A stone addition to house expanding convent functions was added to the west in 1871 and further classroom and dormitory space was added by the construction of the large four story stone building to the east in 1877.

The Academy gradually evolved into a day school during the 1880's. By 1884 over half the students commuted to the school, facilitated by the city's new street car system and the intensive residential land development, surrounding the school. The stone wing to the east of the 1877 addition is representative of this growth period.

Through the next forty years, Saint Joseph's Academy went through a number of functional changes, adding a kindergarten at the turn of the century and then dropping its entire elementary curriculum in the 1920's due to increased secondary school demands for additional space. The brick additions to the rear were added soon after this period.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Saint Paul Buildings, St. Paul City Planning Board, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1964, p.47

On Good Ground: The Story of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul, Sister Helen Angela Hurley, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1951

The Academy for a Century: A History of Saint Joseph's Academy, Sister Elizabeth Marie, C.S.J., The North Central Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		44 ° 56 ' 57 "	93 ° 06 ' 55 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approx. 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
15/490920
4977080
HL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Thomas J. Lutz - Historic Sites Survey and Planning

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 19 December 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

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 Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley
Title State Historic Preservation Officer
Date December 23, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Montrose
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/5/75

ATTEST:
W. Montrose
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 4 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Ramsey	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 5 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

In 1905 its excellent schooling was one of the major stimuli for the establishment in Saint Paul of the College of Saint Catherine, now one of the finer Catholic women's colleges in the state.

Saint Joseph's Academy had for over a century served the religious and educational needs of the Catholic community in Saint Paul and had contributed to the educational quality of the city. However, with reduced enrollment in recent past years, the Academy was forced to close in 1972. It now serves as a multi-use building providing space for a number of community based, public service oriented, social agencies. Its future is uncertain.

