

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 29 1975
DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Loretto Heights Academy

AND/OR COMMON

Loretto Heights College

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3001 South Federal Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

VICINITY OF

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lay Board of Trustees, Loretto Heights College

STREET & NUMBER

3001 South Federal Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Denver County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

F3 Loretto Heights College

DATE

12-7-73

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

1342 ATAC

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Heights main building's original appearance has not changed appreciably from descriptions in Loretto in the Rockies, published in 1943 and written by Sr. M. Celestine Casey, S.L., A.M. and Sr. M. Edmond Fern, S.L., A.M., Ph.D. Space is utilized rather differently, however, though still for classrooms and administrative offices.

Loretto in the Rockies, quoting the May 20, 1890, Denver Republican: "There are three entrances -- one at each end of the building opening into a corridor that extends the entire length of the building, 220 feet. The third entrance is the main one and opens into a tower, 30 feet square. Set in a grotto over the arch at the main entrance is a statue of heroic size of the Virgin Mary.

Inside the arch and before the main doors of the entrance are reached is a vestibule with marble floors. The broad steps to the various entrances are all of red stone; that, in fact, being the material used in the whole building. In outward appearances it is made of red Colorado sandstone in the rough, dressed and carved thus making a combination at once beautiful and attractive.

The two wings of the building are each 52 x 100 feet in size; and the measurements of the width of the central portion is 65 feet. The tower from the ground to the top of the cross is 165 feet. There are also three floors and an attic story aside from the basement floor.

Commencing with the basement, the various floors will be divided about as follows; one wing of the basement will be used for a calistenic hall, the balance of the floor being used for the Sisters' dining rooms, private dining rooms, toilet rooms, kitchen, serving rooms, stores, pantries, and bathrooms.

On the first floor is the main hall running the entire length of the building, and laid with tile. From this will open the waiting and reception rooms.

On the second floor will be large and small music rooms, the Sisters' Dormitory, infirmary, community room, toilet rooms, dormitory and dressing rooms for the students.

On the third floor are to be study rooms, children's infirmary, girls' dormitories, and clothes closets, private bedrooms, oratory room in the tower, and locker rooms.

On the attic floor are to be private bedrooms, the Sisters' dormitories, and an exhibition or lecture hall taking up the whole right wing, 52 x 100 feet in size.

In the tower and just above the attic floor is space reserved for a chime of bells. If the chimes are put in at the completion of the building it will be the first in the West.

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Above the belfry tower and 100 feet from the ground is an observatory which is shown in the cut by a railing between the heavy square stone pillars. In this, it is proposed to put a telescope.

The building will contain many other rooms. There will be 86 principal rooms in the building. The interior finish is to be of hard wood. Extending from wing to wing in the rear of the building and on every floor is a broad veranda connecting by stairways with the veranda beneath it, and so onto the ground. This will be found of greatest convenience and help in case of fire.

The architecture is of Romanesque style. F. E. Edbrooke and Company are the architects, and they estimate the cost at \$175,000 (was actually \$190,527). The building will be heated with steam, and lighted by electricity from a private plant."

"This news story is for the most part correct. However, one acquainted with the building would question the statement: 'There are also three floors and an attic story aside from the basement.' A reporter of some fifty-two years ago might have thought that the fifth floor, because of its dormer windows, was an attic floor. An attic, as the term is now understood, would not contain, as the reporter described this floor, "private bedrooms, sisters' dormitories, and an exhibition or lecture hall, taking up the whole right wing, 52 x 100 feet in size".

"From the time that the sisters and students had taken up their residence in the academy building, the large room used in '42 as the college library, served until 1912 as the chapel. During the first years it was sufficiently large, but when the enrollment of students increased and also the number of sisters in the community, it was necessary to consider the erection of a separate chapel building. No little thought was given to this matter, the most important building project since the erection of the school. After much deliberation, it was finally decided to construct a building, the upper floor of which would be the chapel and the lower, the auditorium.

"The Board of Trustees of Loretto Heights met on August 16, 1909, and authorized the drawing up of plans for the chapel and auditorium. About three months later, November 10, at a special meeting of this board, Mr. F. E. Edbrooke, the architect, submitted plans and specifications; these were carefully considered by the various members and accepted. Four months later, March 10, 1910, the contract between the Des Jardins-Bundy Building and Manufacturing Company and the Loretto Literary and Benevolent Institution of Colorado for the erection of the chapel and auditorium was submitted to the board. The sisters who were the trustees of the board agreed to the contract and directed the president and secretary to sign the document authorizing the erection of a building costing about \$40,000.

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* * * *

"Successive superiors at the Heights have contributed to the beauty of the chapel of Our Lady of Loretto. Mother Clarasine Walsh had the chapel beautifully frescoed and the sanctuary redecorated. Mother Mary Linus, who succeeded Mother Clarasine as superior, installed the magnificent pipe organ. Mother Eustachia, the next superior, in the fall of 1926 ordered seventeen more stained glass windows from the same firm in Munich from which the original six windows had been purchased. The nine windows on the left of the worshiper as one faces the main altar depict Our Lady in some of the eventful scenes of her life such as the annunciation, the visitation, the birth of Our Lord, the flight into Egypt, the presentation in the temple, and the finding of Jesus in the temple. Other windows represent Our Lord in his private and public life: On the right, or epistle side, scenes are depicted from the sorrowful and glorious life of Our Lord. The last two windows show the crowning joys of the Blessed Virgin, her assumption and coronation. Mother Consuelo Baumer was responsible for the life-like crucifix which now stands in the sanctuary.

Others who had windows donated in their honor or to their memory were Right Reverend J. P. Machebeuf, Mother Praxedes Carty, Mother Pancratia Bonfils, the deceased Sisters of the Loretto Heights community by Daniels and Fishers, Knights of Columbus, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Enneking, Mr. Robert E. Morrison, Mrs. T. W. Engles, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Keefe, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Mullen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. McPhee, William and Martha Elder, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. O'Fallon, the College '24, '25, '26, the Academy '26, and the Alumnae of Loretto Heights.

The Rose Window of the Mater Dolorosa in the organ loft and the first six of the beautiful stained glass windows were set in place in June, 1911. They and the other seventeen windows later placed were the work of the world renowned firm of "MYER" of Munich. The gorgeous colors of these windows are perfect, the tints rich and harmonious, the blending of light and shades exquisite, and the beauty and dignity in the figures are such that one never grows tired of admiring them. The Stations of the Cross from the same firm are artistic and devotional.

On either side of the main altar are statues of full-length angels, graceful in design and delicate in coloring each of them supporting a sanctuary lamp. One of these statues was donated by the academy students in honor of the centenary celebration of the Loretto Society in 1912; the other was given by the alumnae of the school. During Mother Clarasine's superiorship, a holy water font held by a kneeling angel was donated by Sister William Joseph in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garcia."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

F. E. Edbrooke

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Founded by the Sisters of Loretto under the direction of Mother Pan-
cratia Bonfils -- whose family name is inseparable from Colorado's his-
 tory -- Loretto Heights College's main building was originally Loretto
 Heights Academy, a Catholic girls boarding school that was to become
 the prestigious Catholic women's college. The grounds -- highest in the
 Denver area -- overlooked General Custer's drill fields in the sparsely
 inhabited Platte River valley. They still cover 143 acres and command
 the city's most magnificent view of the Rocky Mountains.

The main building of the Heights is significant because of its
 architecture, its site, its history which began in Colorado's early
 days of statehood, and its future as a progressive and independent co-
 educational institution of higher education.

The impressively 84-year-old Romanesque-style structure is built of
 red sandstone hauled from quarries in Manitou, Colorado. The entire
 265-foot-long main floor is laid with one-inch hexagonal tiles of gold,
 orange, red, green, black and grey forming snowflake designs on a white
 background; and its walls are wainscoted in oak. The chapel wing --
 finished in 1911 -- is an architectural gem that has been enhanced over
 the years as described in Item 7.

Summary:

Loretto Heights is the most prestigious Women's College in the State.
 It is the only such academy supported by a religious affiliation. It
 has formed the academic background for most of Denver's most accom-
 plished women.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Denver Republican, May 20, 1890, full page description of the administration building as well as a cut of the architect's drawing.

The Colorado Catholic, July 11, 1891, gives a description of the size and type of architecture.

Convent Echoes, published newspaper of students of St. Mary's Academy, Denver, January 1890, gives a description of the building quoted from

the Denver Times. (con

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM OK with
10-6-75

UTM REFERENCES

670

A 13 49716910 431901000

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frances J. Kelly, Vice President Administration Operations

ORGANIZATION

Loretto Heights College

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3001 South Federal Boulevard

TELEPHONE

303-936-8441

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

SIGNATURE

Cynthia Emrick

TITLE

Acting Preservation Officer

DATE *4-11-75*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *9/18/75*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE *SEP 16 1975*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Sunday Rocky Mountain News, December 31, 1911, Full page of pictures and print headed "A School for Your Girls, Loretto Heights Academy, Denver"

C. Casey and E. Fern, Loretto in the Rockies, a history of Loretto Heights from 1889-1943, Denver, 1943.

Document from the United States Post Office Department designating that a special post office be established at Loretto, September 28, 1896. Loretto Heights College Archives.

In observance of Colorado's "Rush to the Rockies" Centennial celebration, Loretto Heights College held a week-long academic convocation. Articles appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, January 30 and January 31, 1959, giving history of the college--highpoints only.

Rocky Mountain News, May 31, 1942 featured pictures and articles about the golden jubilee of Loretto Heights.