

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **SEP 30 1985**

date entered

**OCT 31 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic College of St. Catherine: Derham Hall and Our Lady of Victory Chapel

and/or common College of St. Catherine: Derham Hall and Our Lady of Victory Chapel

**2. Location**

street & number 2004 Randolph Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town St. Paul

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Ramsey

code 123

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The College of St. Catherine

street & number 2004 Randolph Avenue

city, town St. Paul

N/A vicinity of

state MN 55105

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ramsey County Courthouse

street & number 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard

city, town St. Paul

state MN 55102

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul  
and Ramsey County

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ramsey County Historical Society, 75 W. 5th St., #323

city, town St. Paul

state MN 55102

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The College of St. Catherine is located on a campus of more than 100 acres, bounded on the north by Randolph Avenue, on the east by Fairview Avenue, and on the west by Cleveland Avenue in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet's administration building, Bethany Convent, Chapel, "1890" building and Provincial House are located on the east part of the campus. Derham Hall and the Chapel are located on the westernmost part of the campus, and both face west toward a small lake, known as "the Dewdrop," an expansive lawn and Cleveland Avenue. The Chapel is directly south of Derham Hall and the two are connected by an elevated pedestrian bridge.

Derham Hall is a four story, red brick structure with a symmetrical facade. The building has a projecting, gabled roof central portion with a colossal, pedimented portico with four-volute stone Ionic columns. The pediment is topped by a cross. Within the pediment is a lunette window. The entrance within the portico is topped by a lintel with the words "Derham Hall" inscribed in it. At the apex of the gable is a cross. Within the gable end at the attic level of the facade is a lunette window with three keystones (it has been filled in with a wood panel). Above the limestone foundation, the brickwork on the first floor of the building is laid in bands, with radiating brickwork above the rectangular windows. Above the first floor the brickwork at the corners of the building is laid to resemble quoins, topped by paired brackets. The rectangular windows on the upper floors are topped by alternating brickwork and stone keystones and voussoirs. Stone belt courses divide the first and second, and second and third floors. The building has a classical cornice with modillions and dentils. On the north side of the building is a one story, flat roof entrance porch with columns, a classical cornice and a simple balustrade.

When Derham Hall High School moved to 540 Warwick Street in 1963, the dining room and kitchen facilities once located in this building were moved to St. Joseph Hall. Derham Hall now houses the administrative offices of the college and has some living quarters on the upper floors. The first floor of the interior retains much of its original character as well as some of its original furnishings. It has a number of ornamental plasterwork classical motifs such as scroll brackets and moldings, coffered ceilings and stained glass windows. The cast and wrought iron stairways with wood hand rails are also original to the building. The fourth floor of Derham Hall originally housed the chapel and (see continuation sheet)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

The College of St. Catherine:

Continuation sheet Derham Hall and Chapel

Item number 7

Page 1

7. Description -- continued

has been remodelled. A part of it is now used as an oratory. The basement houses a print shop and post office. The exterior of the building is intact and the building is in good condition. The only alterations have been the installation of a new glass entrance and new windows, and the construction of a brick and stone enclosed pedestrian bridge with a tile roof that connects the building to the Chapel, via the south side wall of Derham Hall. This bridge was built at the time the chapel was constructed.

The Chapel features a Romanesque Revival design. It is a random ashlar, light colored stone gabled roof structure with side aisles and a 116' square, hipped roof, dark brown brick bell tower attached to the north side wall. This tower or campanile also serves as a side entrance to the building. The building has very short transept arms and the one on the north side serves as a side entrance to the nave. Thin strips of brick and tile separate the pieces of stone on the exterior and the paired round arched windows on the sides of the building, at the ground and clerestory levels, are set within large brick arched surrounds. The building has a red clay tile roof. Its entrance porch was copied from that of St. Trophime at Arles, built in 1150, and like St. Trophime it follows the pattern of the Roman triumphal arch, but with deeply recessed jams and columns behind which are sculpted saints. The entablature also has a sculpted row of figures, the tympanum has carved figures of Mary and Jesus and the panel of the gable above the arch has carving depicting the Apostles. Above the entrance is a large rose window. The entrance leads into a vestibule. The interior of the church is faced in tile\*and was designed to seat 750. It has a vaulted ceiling, with a row of stout columns with capitals with medieval-inspired capitals dividing the main sanctuary from the side aisles. There is a small choir loft on the second floor, behind the sanctuary. With the exception of minor changes made to the altar area, the building is intact and in good condition.

\* Interior tile was designed by Ernest Batchelder

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

College of St. Catherine: Derham Hall & Our Lady of Victory Chapel

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Continuation sheet    Resource Count    Item number    7    Page    2

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The College of St. Catherine: Derham Hall and Our Lady of Victory Chapel nomination contains two contributing buildings.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
Derham Hall: 1903-04 Chapel: 1923	Derham Hall: John H. Wheeler Chapel: Herbert A. Sullwold

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Derham Hall, built in 1903-04, and Our Lady of Victory Chapel, built in 1923, are historically and architecturally significant as the central core buildings at the College of St. Catherine -- the oldest Catholic liberal arts college for women in Minnesota and the only liberal arts college for women in the Twin Cities (Other Catholic colleges for women in the state are the College of St. Theresa in Winona, the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, and the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth). Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the College of St. Catherine has a long tradition of academic excellence among Catholic liberal arts colleges throughout the country. Both buildings in the nomination are intact, representative examples of collegiate architecture of the eras when they were constructed, Derham Hall featuring a symmetrical, classically-inspired design, and the Chapel featuring a rendition of the Romanesque Revival style.

The order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet was founded in France in 1650, and has a long tradition of commitment to education, fine arts, health care, and social services. The first four sisters arrived in St. Paul in 1851, three years after Minnesota became a territory, and soon their order became a major force in the history of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, and played a very important role in establishing many of St. Paul's Catholic educational institutions and the oldest hospital in the State -- St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, founded in 1853. Among the schools the order founded in St. Paul (their provincial headquarters) were St. Joseph's Academy (established in 1863; closed in 1971 and now listed on the National Register), St. Agatha's Convent and Conservatory of Music and Art (established in 1884; closed in 1962), and, of course, Derham Hall and the College of St. Catherine -- perhaps the order's most ambitious undertaking. The Sisters of St. Joseph also founded numerous schools, orphanages, hospitals and social service agencies elsewhere in Minnesota.

The architect of Derham Hall, John H. Wheeler (1871-1958), was related to a number of the most important leaders in the Catholic Church in St. Paul in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and designed many buildings for Catholic institutions  
(see continuation sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name St. Paul West

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A 

1	5	4	8	5	4	8	0	4	9	7	4	5	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the College of St. Catherine:Derham Hall & Our Lady of Victory Chapel nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled, "College of St. Catherine: Derham Hall & Our Lady of Victory Chapel, 1985" and drawn at a scale of 200 feet to the inch.

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

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

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Murphy

organization Ramsey County Historical Society

date May, 1984

street & number 75 W. 5th St., #323

telephone 612-222-0701

city or town St. Paul

state MN 55102

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

9/25/85

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

10/31/85

for  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The College of St. Catherine:

Continuation sheet Derham Hall and Chapel

Item number 8

Page 1

B. Significance -- continued

in Minnesota. Wheeler was a cousin of Archbishop John Ireland, and Ireland's sister, Sister Seraphine Ireland (nee Ellen Ireland), who was the leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Province of St. Paul from 1881 to 1921. Wheeler also was a nephew of Sister Celestine Howard (nee Ellen Howard), who became the supervisor of all the parochial schools in the Province in 1879. Wheeler attended the College of St. Thomas for two years, and spent fourteen years working for various Twin Cities architects, including seven years with Clarence H. Johnston, Sr.. Wheeler opened his own office in St. Paul in 1902. One of his first projects on his own and the first commission he received from the Sisters of St. Joseph was to design Derham Hall, constructed in 1903-1904. He later designed four other buildings at the College of St. Catherine: the Power House and Laundry (ca. 1906); Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium (1912-1914), Whitby Hall (1912-1914), and Cecilian Hall (1921), as well as the St. Joseph Provincial House and Chapel (1926) and St. Joseph's Novitiate (1910-11), adjacent to the College. Wheeler designed eighteen to twenty buildings for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in the State, including the Academy of Holy Angles and St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis (Main Building --1915-1918, and Nurses' Home, ca. 1928), and St. Gabriel's Convent and School in Fulda, Minnesota (1908), and St. Agnes Convent in Ghent, Minnesota (1914). Wheeler's career seems to have ended with the Depression, though he lived until 1958. Comparatively little is known of Herbert A. Sullwold, the architect of the Chapel. He practiced in St. Paul in the 1920's and designed several houses and commercial buildings.

Derham Hall was the first building to be erected at the College, and was originally the home of a Catholic girls' boarding school which became the College of St. Catherine. Derham Hall opened in December, 1904, as a Catholic girls' boarding school. The school had been in existence previously as the boarding school of St. Josephs' Academy founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1851, and located at Marshall & Western beginning in 1863. When Derham Hall opened, St. Joseph's Academy became a day school. The school was named for Hugh Derham, an Irish-born farmer from Rosemount who contributed \$20,000 for the construction of the building. The High School continued to operate in the building until it moved to its present site at 540 Warwick Street in 1963.

(see continuation sheet)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

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The College of St. Catherine:

Continuation sheet Derham Hall and Chapel Item number 8

Page 2

B. Significance -- continued

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Caronelet began teaching college courses at the school in 1905, at the request of Archbishop John Ireland who named St. Catherine of Alexandria as the patron saint of the institution. Archbishop Ireland was one of the few members of the Catholic hierarchy in the United States of his day to promote higher education for women. By the turn of the century, enough of the Sisters of St. Joseph had attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago that the school opened with a thoroughly qualified staff. Ireland's sister, Mother Seraphine Ireland was among those who arrived by carriage for the first celebration of mass at the new college. The college's first class of three graduated in 1911, and in 1913 the school was officially incorporated as the College of St. Catherine. In 1917 the college was accredited by the Association of American Universities and in 1937 a chapter of Phi Beta Kapp was established at the college -- the first at any Catholic women's college in the country and the third such chapter in the State. Though many of the professors at the College were members of the order, the school administration frequently brought in members of the University of Minnesota faculty and other scholars. Today many of the members of the faculty are lay persons.

As the only building at the campus Derham Hall housed the students and the sisters, as well as classrooms, a dining hall and other facilities. The college chapel was housed on the fourth floor and the college library on the first floor until Our Lady of Victory Chapel was completed. It was dedicated on October 7, 1924 and was intended to be the most impressive structure on the campus. Its design was patterned after the French Romanesque style, and its main entrance incorporates details inspired from the church of St. Trophime at Arles in southern France. The library was located in the basement of the chapel until a new library was built in 1958-60; today the basement houses the Alumni Center. Daily Mass was held in the Chapel, and all Catholic undergraduate students were expected to attend Sunday services and the monthly First Friday Holy Hour.

Today the College of St. Catherine has approximately 2,400 students, of whom approximately half live on campus. Though the campus now includes numerous modern buildings, Derham Hall and the Chapel continue to be at the center of campus activities.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
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The College of St. Catherine:

Continuation sheet Derham Hall and Chapel Item number 9

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of St. Paul Building Permits Division. Permits #966 and 6791 (for the chapel).

Hugh Derham. Obituary in Acta Et Dicta, vol. 3, no. 2, (July, 1914), p. 361 (died 12/13/1912).

Jarchow, Merrill E. Private Liberal Arts Colleges in Minnesota: Their History and Contributions. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1973.

Johnston, Patricia Condon. "Reflected Glory: The Story of Ellen Ireland." Minnesota History, vol. 48, no. 1 (Spring, 1982), pp. 13-23.

Klauder, Charles Z. and Herbert C. Wise. College Architecture in America. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929 (includes interior and exterior photographs and a first floor of the St. Catherine's Chapel.)

Reardon, James Michael. The Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Paul. St. Paul: North Central Publishing Company, 1952.

Sampson, Sister Ann Thomasine. "A Guide to Places of C.S.J. Historic Interest in Minnesota and North Dakota." Unpublished manuscript, 1983.

Sampson, Sister Ann Thomasine. "The Ireland Connection." Unpublished manuscript, 1983.