

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 12 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAR 23 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Saint, John's Abbey and University

AND/OR COMMON

Saint John's Abbey and University

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

70 U.S. 52

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Collegeville VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Stearns

CODE

145 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Order of Saint Benedict, Inc. ✓

STREET & NUMBER

Saint John's Abbey and University

CITY, TOWN

Collegeville VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Stearns County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saint Cloud

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1971/1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society -- Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Saint John's Abbey and University comprises the community of Collegeville, a substantial complex of educational and religious buildings located approximately five miles west of Saint Joseph, Minnesota. Throughout its history Saint John's has been primarily a self-contained and self-sufficient community, whose progress has been marked with vitality in architectural/educational/and religious expression, yet retaining a strong reverence for its history.

Since its founding in 1856 and beginning of a major building program in the 1860s, Saint John's has grown from a small nucleus (the Old Church and Quadrangle) constructed on a wooded rise of land on the shore of Lake Sagatagan, to an expansive community of more than fifty buildings and facilities. The district described in this nomination is composed of seventeen buildings, each of which are vital elements in the interpretation of the historical development of Saint John's Abbey and University.

These buildings are described in chronological order:

The Old Church and Quadrangle was constructed over a period of years, and until the construction of the new Abbey church, served as the principal building/focal point on the Saint John's campus. Construction was undertaken using local labor and under the supervision of Father Gregory Steil, OSB and Rt. Rev. Alexius Edelbrock, OSB. Materials for the construction were produced locally. The building is located in the center of the district.

The Quadrangle with south and west wings was constructed in sections between 1868 and 1913. The old south wing was built in 1868 as a two-storey structure. It was remodeled in 1894, 1928, and in 1975-76. It is now a three-storey building with a tile roof serving multiple purposes. Its foundation and walls constitute the oldest existing structure on campus. The monastic church anchors the northern end of the quadrangle and was constructed between 1879 and 1882 in the Romanesque style. It has two towers originally reaching to a height of 150 feet. (The spires were removed in the 1950s when the new church was constructed.) The church has the shape of a Latin Cross and is 144 feet long and 64 feet wide. The three other sections of the quadrangle measure three-hundred and seventy-five feet in length and are fifty-five feet wide. There are three main floors in addition to a full ground floor and mansard roofed attic. The west wing or St. Luke's Hall as it is now known, was added in 1912 and 1913. It occupies an area of six-thousand, one-hundred and eleven square feet. It contains three floors and a full basement. It has an asbestos/tar hipped roof. All the buildings in this complex are of brick.

The Butcher Shop is one of the oldest buildings on the campus. It was constructed in 1878 as a facility for processing meat to supply the Community. The principal designer was Father Gregory Steil, OSB; local labor was used for the construction.

(see continuation sheet - page 1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1866 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT (see individual building descriptions)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1856 a small group of Benedictine monks traveled west from Saint Vincent's Abbey, located near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to serve the educational and religious needs of the German Catholic immigrants settling at that time in Minnesota Territory. Led by Prior Demetrius di Marogna, they journeyed up the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Cloud, settled briefly there, changed sites several times and finally in 1866 made a permanent foundation on the shores of Lake Sagatagan, twelve miles west of St. Cloud.

The Territorial Legislature in 1857 granted a charter for the establishment of Saint John's Seminary, which early became known as Saint John's College. Twelve years later the school was authorized by the State of Minnesota to grant academic degrees, and in 1883 the legal title was changed to Saint John's University.

Since its foundation, Saint John's has grown steadily as a religious community and school. Today it is an abbey with over three hundred monks engaged in education, parish work, and in mission activity extending from the Caribbean Islands to Japan. At Collegeville it conducts a preparatory school and a university with a college of arts and sciences, a school of divinity, and graduate programs in theology.

Saint John's Abbey and University has received both state and national acclaim as a leading religious and educational institution. It is notably progressive, yet maintains a deep respect for its history -- both spiritual and tangible.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet - page 7

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 26

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 16 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	B	C	D
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE
EASTING	NORTHING	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

UTM References

E.G. 15 / 391260 / 5047860	G.A. 15 / 391000 / 5048180
H.H. 15 / 391000 / 5048100	H.B. 15 / 391200 / 5048340
	A.G. 15 / 391260 / 5048340
	B.D. 15 / 391360 / 5048240
	C.E. 15 / 391460 / 5048180
	D.F. 15 / 391460 / 5047960

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Father Vincent G. Tegeder, OSB/Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

St. John's Abbey and University/Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

15 March 1978

STREET & NUMBER

St. John's Abbey and University/Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-363-3166

CITY OR TOWN

Collegetown/Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6/6/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles R. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3.23.79

ATTEST

Lucy B. Franklin
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.21.79

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Saint John's Abbey and University

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This building occupies about 3,464 sq. feet. It is built in an "L" shape and contains one floor with a full basement and attic. The inner sections are so arranged that stock could be slaughtered and meat processed within the building. In 1941 the space was renovated so that a complete pasturization and modern refrigeration plant could be developed. The basement was used for the production of wine. A series of brick vaults are still visible. The Butcher Shop is located in the extreme western edge of the district.

The Smoke House is one of the oldest on campus. It was constructed in 1878. It is a one-storey structure about fifteen feet square. The bricks used were made of native clay baked in kilns which were located on the grounds at that time. It has a chimney at the peak of the roof which served as a draught for the smoking of meats. The east wall also has two openings, one a door, which were used for the entrance of the meat to be treated. It is located immediately adjacent to the Butcher Shop on the western edge of the district.

Wimmer Hall was constructed in 1901 according to designs by Minneapolis architect Charles R. Aldrich; the building contractor was J. Heimann of Saint Cloud. It is located in the south-central portion of the district.

This is a three-storey building measuring 52 by 88 feet. The foundation is of field-stone and the exterior walls are of Menomonie pressed brick. The total cost of construction was \$20,000. Originally the first floor served as the location of the campus library; the second floor housed an attractive museum; and the third floor contained twelve music rooms and a spacious photographic studio. At present this building is very useful for office, classroom and studio space.

The Gymnasium was executed in a variant on the Medieval Revival mode of architectural design in 1901-02. The architect was Charles R. Aldrich of Minneapolis (also designer of the Armory Building at the University of Minnesota, another Medieval Revival building) and constructed by J. Heimann of Saint Cloud. It is located in the west-center of the district.

This building originally measured 120 by 93 feet. The height from the ground to the top of the 16 foot flagstaff was 67 feet. This structure was divided into two halls; the smaller was 30 feet wide, 60 feet long and 22 feet high, while the larger was 60 by 80 feet on the ground and 22 feet high with an elevated track running around the entire hall at an elevation of 9 feet. The two large halls were separated by a brick wall which was so constructed that it could be removed without detriment to the original structure. There was a large basement, 20 by 90 feet, which could accommodate a number of bowling alleys. The exterior featured a crenellated roofline and a turreted front entrance.

(see continuation sheet - page 2)

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This gymnasium has had a fascinating history. In the summer of 1937 it was physically rolled one hundred and fifty feet to the west and widened by twenty-five feet. Another thirty-two feet was added in 1949. After the final renovation, two regulation-size basketball courts were available and approximately 1500 people could be seated for an indoor athletic event.

When a new recreation center was built in 1972, basement spaces in the old gymnasium were converted to student housing, which have proved to be comfortable and desirable places. This building still gets heavy use for recreation and intramural athletic contests. The cost of the first construction in 1901 was \$15,000 without the equipment.

The Blacksmith-Carpenter Shop Building is a two-storey brick building. When constructed in 1903-04, it had ample room for the following shops: blacksmith facilities, woodworking area, paint room, and bookbindery. It served many useful purposes in providing for the maintenance needs of the institution and continues to do so. In 1939 a fire ravaged the interior, but the structure (outer-walls) was not affected, and the inner sections were rebuilt. At present the first-floor is occupied by the carpenter shop which was expanded when the blacksmith operation was discontinued. This building is located in the southwest corner of the district.

Defined by a stone wall and spacious lawn, the Saint Francis Residence (Frank House) was originally designed to serve as a convent/housing for the nuns who managed the kitchen and food service for the complex. The building was erected in 1904 by local labor according to designs by Father Raphael Knapp, OSB. The irregular shape of the building and the presence of a tower hints at a Medieval design influence. It is located on the south-central edge of the district.

As originally constructed this building contained three stories and a basement. In 1914 a brick addition of two stories provided space for a private chapel. In its complete form it occupies about 8,208 feet. Extensive renovation in the recent period has transformed this complex into housing arrangements for over fifty students.

The Infirmiry or Gregory House was constructed by local labor in 1907-08 according to designs by Father Gregory Steil, OSB. It is located in the south-central portion of the district.

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This building is a three-floor structure with a full basement. The original measurements were 40 by 60 feet. It is built of Menomonie sand-mould brick with Kasota stone trimmings. In its first arrangement it featured a solid wall which extended from the basement to the roof and divided the building into two sections, the rear one being used for contagious diseases. At that time forty patients could be accommodated. In the 1930s a substantial addition on the west side provided for a large sun-porch on each floor. A chapel was also built on the first floor with an extension appearing on the north side. Later in the 1970s a new health center was established on campus, and renovations were undertaken to transform this building into spaces for student housing. This re-arrangement has proved very satisfactory.

Engel Hall was constructed in 1910-11 by local labor in accordance with designs by Father Raphael Knapp, OSB., to serve as the science building for the campus. It is located in the north-central section of the district.

The original structure measured 60 by 100 feet and was four stories high including a full basement. In the 1940s an addition on the north side provided facilities for a foundry. Recently a protected outside fire-exit stairway accessible to all floors was attached to the northeastern section of the building. This structure was the first on campus to feature a reinforced concrete construction arrangement. When built, it provided ample space for classrooms, offices, and laboratories for the physical and biological sciences. On the top floor there was also a drawing room, an art studio, and a large lecture hall, seating 120, for illustrated lectures.

In the 1920s a radio station with two transmitters was installed on the first floor. The call was WFBJ, and it was one of the pioneer stations in the Upper Midwest. There was also a meteorological station fitted up in a turret on the top of the building. St. John's has maintained a weather station since 1893. For many years weather forecasts were received daily from the Weather Bureau in Minneapolis and were distributed from here throughout the western part of the state. (St. John's University Catalog (1925-26), p.10).

With the construction of a new Science Center in 1966-67 this building was renamed Engel Hall, was renovated, and now serves very usefully as a general academic building.

The Laundry Building was constructed in 1912 as a result of plans and labor by the Saint John's Community. It is utilitarian in appearance and makes no use of architectural ornamentation. The Laundry is located in the southwest corner of the district.

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This building is a two-storey rectangular brick structure. It is approximately eighty feet long and forty feet wide. The exterior walls feature many large windows. A loading platform is attached to the wall on the south side. The interior is made up of three large rooms which now house the electrical and paint shops of the institution.

The Old Garage and Fire Station was constructed in 1919 as a result of local planning and labor. It is located in the southwestern portion of the district.

This two-storey brick building is L-shaped. The east section is thirty-four feet long and eighteen feet wide, while the south section measures thirty-seven feet in length and eighteen feet in width. A portion of this building originally served as a garage and storage for a set of fire-trucks. Now all the space is utilized for a plumbing shop.

St. Benet's Hall, a brick-faced steel and concrete structure, is executed on a variant of the Spanish and Romanesque modes of architectural design. It was designed in 1921 by Pittsburgh architect John T. Comes; the building contractor was Gauger-Korsmo Construction Company of Saint Paul. It is linked to and located immediately north of the Quadrangle.

This building is a five-storey fire-proof structure, 142 by 48 feet, with a complete basement. At the time of its completion in 1922 its cost was \$150,000. In the original arrangement the basement and first floor contained such recreational facilities as bowling alleys, three lounges, and two handball courts. The second floor featured two study halls and a classroom. The third and fourth floors were divided into spaces for fifty-eight furnished rooms with east and west exposures. On the top or fifth floor there was an eighty-bed dormitory area. Over the years this building has been renovated and completely converted into private rooms. At present it houses more than two-hundred students.

St. Joseph Hall was constructed in 1923-24 as a result of local plans and labor. It is a two storey brick building with a garage addition. Little architectural decoration is employed with the exception of segmentally arched windows and a hipped roof accentuated by nineteen dormers. The building contains 5,128 square feet of space and presently functions as a residence hall. It is located on the northwestern edge of the district.

(see continuation sheet - page5)

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The Auditorium-Music Hall was executed in a mingling of Spanish and Romanesque design modes. It was constructed according to designs by the Saint Paul architectural firm of O'Meara and Hills, and constructed by Paul J. Pappenfus of Saint Cloud. It is located in the northcentral portion of the district.

This building and all its equipment and furnishings at the time of its completion in 1928 cost \$230,000. It is a three-storey brick structure. Six hundred and fifty people can be accommodated in the main hall. It also contains a balcony in the theater section which has seating arrangements for about one hundred people. A movie projection booth is also located there. This section has a fine oaken-beamed ceiling with recessed panels. The lighting arrangements are exceptional. A master illumination control system permits some outstanding lighting arrangements.

Some other features are: stained-glass windows in the auditorium which are very decorative and artistic portraits of outstanding dramatists and artists; terrazzo flooring in the foyer and aisles of the theater section; and music practice, choral and band rooms in a nearby portion of this building.

The Power House, located in the southwestern section of the district, exemplifies the Art Deco/W.P.A. influence on architectural design of industrial-type buildings of the World War II era. The architects were Toltz, King, and Day of Minneapolis.

This two-storey brick building measures 64 by 100 feet. The front facade contains some large and striking windows. The towering chimney rises 165 feet above ground. It has a twenty-foot subterranean support of 138 yards of concrete footing and five tons of reinforced steel. The bricks used number about 155,000, of which 35,000 are face bricks, requisitioned from all parts of Minnesota. The interior features two 250 K.V.A. steam-turbined engines powered by three, steel-lined, 225 h.p., Keeler boilers, each capable of holding 200 lbs pressure. A hand-operated ten-ton crane is in the engine room to mount and adjust the turbines and generators. A coal-fed gravity system fuels the boilers. A Crane system of filtration and water-softening is also part of this complex.

The construction of this building revolutionized life on campus. It made it possible to change from the use of direct current to alternating current.

This project was also most memorable in the annals of the monastic community since the members contributed their services in the actual construction of this building. As it arose in the summer of 1945 in a time of labor shortage as World War II came to a close, the monks manned cement-mixers, took care of the steel reinforcements, and hauled the bricks and aided the masons. Their work proved to be a very important contribution. (see continuation sheet - page 6)

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The New Monastic Wing was constructed in 1955 according to designs of architect Marcel Breuer of New York. It is executed in a Modern/International style, and serves a residential function. It is linked to the east facade of the Quadrangle and joins the south (rear) of the new Abbey church.

This wing is a three-storey building, 288 feet long and 60 feet wide. It is a reinforced concrete structure with many (55) glass windows on the south side which permit the entrance of much sunlight into each room during the winter season. The architect has been very successful in developing an overhang or balcony arrangement for each room on the south side which keeps the sun's rays from entering the rooms during the summer season. There is also a complete basement with utility rooms and meeting and recreational areas available. This building can house fifty people in private rooms and provides study, recreational and dormitory accommodations for ninety other people. The exterior walls are of reinforced concrete with openings for large glass windows and a lower section of split-granite blocks.

The Abbey and University Church of Saint John the Baptist was constructed on the eastern edge of the district in 1959-61. The architect was Marcel Breuer of New York; the building contractor was the McGough Company of Saint Paul. It is presently the focal point of the Saint John's Campus, towering high above the surrounding countryside, and approached by a winding road. The design of the building itself is strongly modernistic, being executed in a mode termed "Brutalism".

The church is built like a "concrete tent", covering one of the largest areas in the state without the use of pillars. The nave measures 165 feet by 208 feet. It can accommodate 2000 people. The walls are constructed of reinforced concrete, poured in corrugated folds to provide increased strength. The exterior walls are faced with 18,000 blocks of granite. The facade is composed of 520 stained-glass sections mounted in four-foot hexagonal frames to form a north window-wall. A concrete banner, 112 feet high and ninety feet wide, houses five free-swinging bells and displays a cross of native oak. The basement or crypt of the church contains two large chapels and many smaller ones for private services. Some impressive features of this edifice are: the north stained glass window-wall wherein the artist has depicted man lifting his heart to God; a cantilevered free-standing balcony capable of seating hundreds; and cloister gardens on each side of the church visible from the interior. The cost of the building was \$2,500,000.

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Barry, Colman J., OSB, Worship and Work: Saint John's Abbey and University
1856-1956, Collegeville, Minn. 1956.

Hoffmann, Alexius, OSB, "History of Saint John's Abbey, University, and
Missions 1856-1931", Manuscript in Abbey Archives, Collegeville, Vol. 3.

Saint John's University Record, Vol. 14 (1901), Vol. 16 (1903), Vol. 17 (1904),
Vol. 18 (1905), Vol. 27 (1914), Vol. 32 (1919), Vol. 39 (1926), Vol. 35 (1922),
Vol. 40 (1927), Vol. 50 (1937), Vol. 58 (1945), Vol. 52 (1939), Vol. 26 (1913),
Vol. 34 (1921).

Scriptorium, Spring 1946, Spring 1942.

Stoddard, Whitney S., Adventure in Architecture, Longmans, Green & Co., New York,
1958

The Record, (Alumni Supplement) Vol. 2, Dec. 4, 1941.

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In addition, the majority of the buildings which comprise the campus of Saint John's Abbey and University illustrate a strong emphasis on architectural design, often originating from within the St. John's community itself. The construction of the earlier buildings, including the expansive quadrangle complex, indicates a significant degree of familiarity with architectural styles, and engineering and construction technology, on the part of not only the designers (Fr. Gregory Steil OSB, Rt. Rev. Alexius Edelbrick OSB, and Fr. Raphael Knapp OSB) but of the members of the community who provided actual labor. Although the primary styles used in the earlier buildings were the Romanesque and the French Second Empire, evidence of Italianate and Queen Anne influences are to be found.

During the decades of the 1920s and 1930s, the demands for space necessitated further construction. The buildings erected during these years differed from those of the earlier period in terms of style and source of design. Whereas the earlier buildings had been designed and erected by the community itself, the later buildings were designed and erected by architects and contractors from firms specializing in the building trade. The majority of these later buildings were larger in scale and possessed a hint of Spanish/Italian design influence. They were, however, executed in brick to complement the existing buildings.

The community's pride in the architectural quality of the Saint John's Campus led it in 1955 and 1959 to commission the nationally recognized architect, Marcel Breuer, to design a new Monastic Wing and Abbey Church. Although these structures were of reinforced concrete in a modernistic style, they successfully established a link between the old complex and the new university buildings. Further, the design of the Abbey Church is significant in its use of reinforced concrete to span space and for the monumental banner (112 feet high and 90 feet wide, housing five bells). The Abbey Church has received national recognition as an architectural masterpiece.

The conglomerate of buildings in the Abbey and University District exemplifies a consistent awareness of architectural design as an integral ingredient in the life of this educational/religious community. Although growth patterns are readily discernable, a strong sense of preservation of the old is also apparent. The Saint John's Abbey and University district significantly illustrates the more-than-a-century of history of this important institution.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of the "Green" to the north of the Abbey Church, thence due southerly to the shore of Sagatagan Lake, thence southwesterly to the existing boat dock, thence due westerly to the Saint John's Cemetery road, thence northerly along this road to the southeastern corner of the Saint Francis Residence, thence due westerly to the centerpoint of the east facade of the Old Laundry Building, thence southerly to the southeastern corner of the Old Laundry Building, thence due westerly to the dirt road immediately west of the Power Plant, thence due northerly to the southeast corner of the Old Butcher Shop, thence northerly to the intersection with an imaginary line drawn due westerly from the southwest corner of the Old Gymnasium, thence easterly along this imaginary line to the southwest corner of the Old Gymnasium, thence northerly to the northwest corner of the Old Gymnasium thence easterly to the northeast corner of the Old Gymnasium, thence due northerly to the northwest corner of the Saint Joseph Residence, thence easterly to the northeast corner of the Saint Joseph Residence, thence due southerly to the extension of an imaginary line which is the extension of the north facade of the Music Hall-Auditorium, thence along this line to the point of beginning.

Handwritten:
Engel Hall
2/21/79

ST JOHN'S CAMPUS

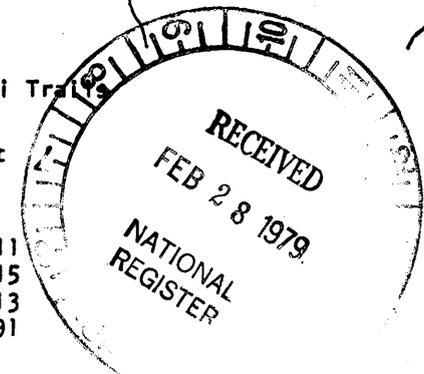
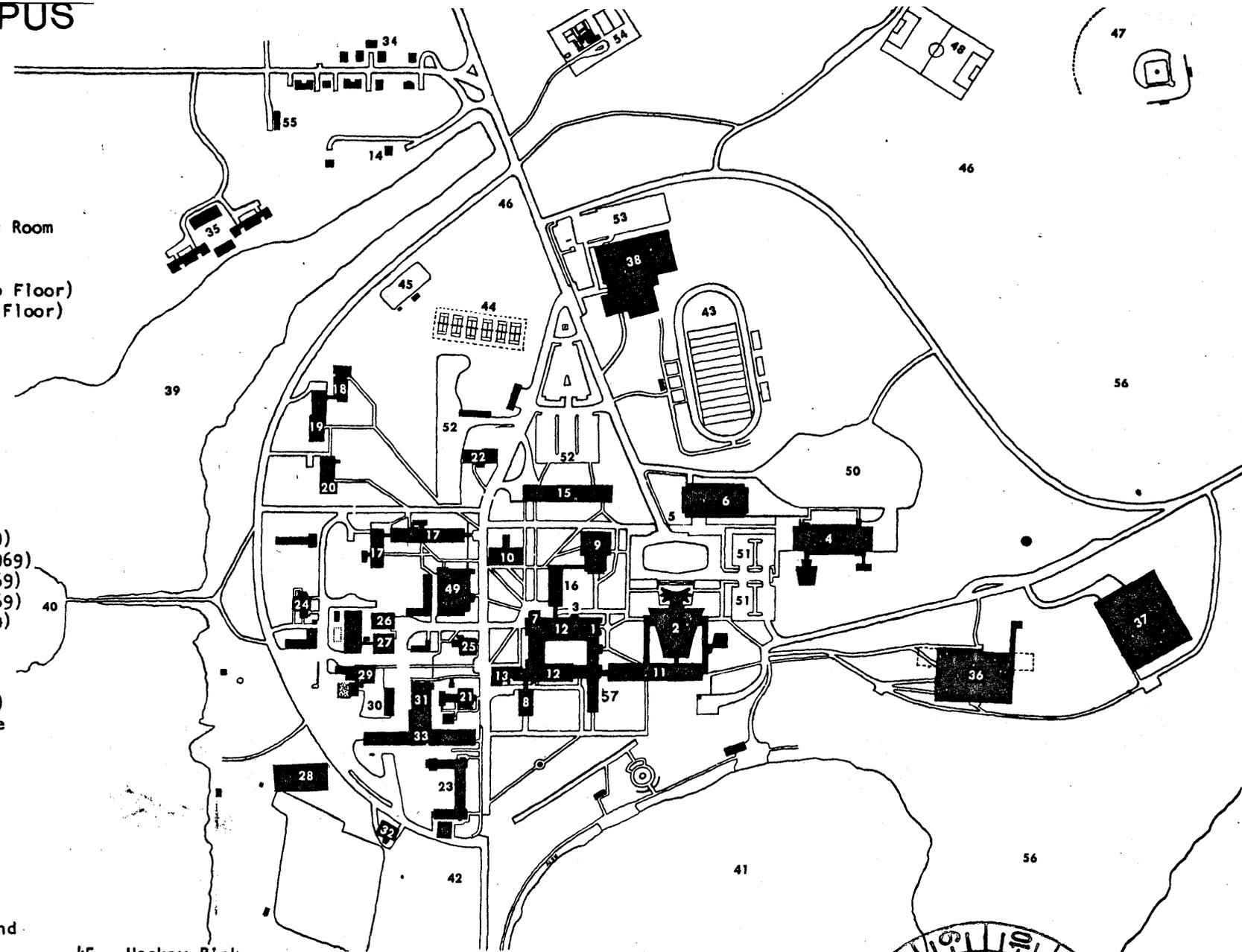
index

1. Information Center (1879)
2. Church* (1961)
3. College Bookstore
4. Science Center* (1968)
5. Hill Monastic Manuscript Library (HMML)
6. Library* (1967)
7. Food Service/Student Dining Room (Ground Floor)
8. Wimmer Hall (1901)
KSJR-FM Radio Studio (Top Floor)
U.S. Post Office (Ground Floor)
9. Auditorium (1928)
0. Engel Hall (1909)
1. Monastery* (1956)
2. University Administrative Offices Quadrangle (1880)
3. St. Luke's Hall
4. Edelbrock Residence
5. St. Mary Residence (1949)
Snack Bar (Basement)
6. St. Benet Residence (1922)
7. St. Thomas Residence* (1959)
8. St. Boniface Residence* (1969)
9. St. Patrick Residence* (1969)
0. St. Bernard Residence* (1969)
1. St. Francis Residence (1904)
2. St. Joseph Residence
23. St. Cloud Diocesan Seminary (1950)
24. Seidenbush Apartment (1972)
25. St. Gregory House Residence
26. Fire Station
27. Carpenter Shop
28. Garage
29. Power Plant
30. Electrical/Paint Shops
31. Print Shop
32. Garden House
33. Liturgical Press (1964)
34. Flyntown
35. Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research* (1967)
36. Preparatory School
Administration/Classrooms
37. Preparatory School Dorms
38. Warner Palaestra Gym (1973)
39. Lake Watab
40. Watab Picnic Grounds
41. Lake Sagatagan
42. Seminary Softball Field
43. Football Stadium and Track
44. Tennis Courts

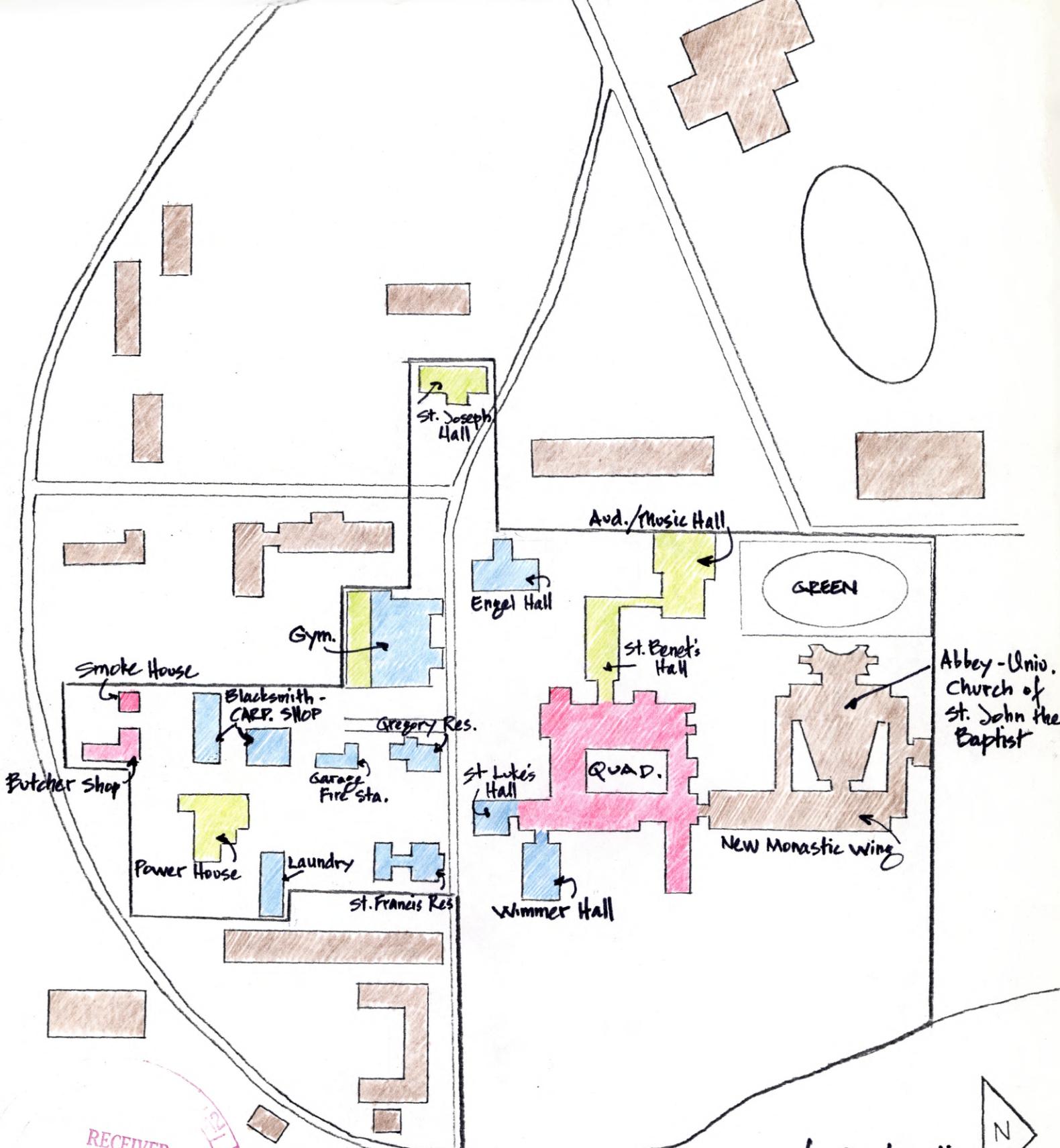
45. Hockey Rink
46. Intramural Fields
47. Baseball Field
48. Soccer Field
49. Old Gymnasium (1903)
50. Visitor and Student Parking
51. Faculty Parking
52. Student Parking
53. Warner Palaestra Parking
54. Sewage Treatment Plant
55. Collegeville Credit Union

56. Hiking, Cross Country Ski Trails
 57. Health Center
- * Marcel Breuer, architect

St. John's University 363-2011
 Prep School 363-3315
 Liturgical Press 363-2213
 SJU Events Coordinator 363-3391



MAR 23 1979



Abbey - Univ.
Church of
St. John the
Baptist

Dates of Construction

- Pre-1900
- 1900 - 1920
- 1921 - 1950
- After 1950



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St. John's Abbey & University
Historic District

sketch map - no scale