

56-2470

NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: St. John's Seminary
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 222 E. Mitchell Street
City or town: San Antonio State: Texas County: Bexar
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
( [x] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:

[ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 4/10/18
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [x] entered in the National Register
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action: 5/23/2018

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
3	0	objects
7	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** EDUCATION: School, Seminary; RELIGION: Church school, Seminary

**Current Functions:** VACANT: Not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Brick, Cast stone, Ceramic Tile

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 9 through 16)

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** A

**Areas of Significance:** Education, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1920-1952

**Significant Dates:** 1920, 1935, 1947

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** Frederick B. Gaenslen; Julian & White

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 17 through 23)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 24)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (*Part 1 approved April 27, 2017*)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Catholic Archives San Antonio

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 5.09 acres

**Coordinates:** (See continuation sheet 25)

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

**Verbal Boundary Description:** (See continuation sheet 25)

**Boundary Justification:** (See continuation sheets 25).

### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Jennifer F. Hembree and JulieAnn Murphy  
Organization: MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC  
Street & number: 991 W. Hedding Street, Suite 106  
City or Town: San Jose State: CA Zip Code: 95126  
Email: jhembree@mac-ha.com  
Telephone: 408-490-2069  
Date: July 19, 2017

### Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets 26-29)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 30-39)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 40-73)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

**Photograph Log**

St. John's Seminary  
222 E. Mitchell Street  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas  
Photographed by Jennifer Hembree, January 2017

Photo 1  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, west elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, main entry  
Camera facing east

Photo 3  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, south elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 4  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, east elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 6  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, window detail, west elevation  
Camera facing east

Photo 7  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, limestone detail, west elevation  
Camera facing east

Photo 8  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior first floor  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 9  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior stair  
Camera facing east

Photo 10  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior second story  
Camera facing north

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 11  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior pilaster molding detail  
Camera facing north

Photo 12  
Margil Hall, northwest elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 13  
Margil Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 14  
Margil Hall, north elevation, main entry  
Camera facing south

Photo 15  
Margil Hall, northeast elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 16  
Margil Hall, southeast elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 17  
Margil Hall, south elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 18  
Margil Hall, west elevation  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 19  
Margil Hall, loggia  
Camera facing east

Photo 20  
Margil Hall, second story exterior north elevation detail  
Camera facing south

Photo 21  
Margil Hall, second story window exterior detail  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 22  
Margil Hall, interior first floor corridor  
Camera facing east

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 23  
Margil Hall, interior second floor corridor and stair  
Camera facing west

Photo 24  
St. Mary's Hall, west elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 25  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 26  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation  
Camera facing north

Photo 27  
St. Mary's Hall, east elevation  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 28  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing south

Photo 29  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 30  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation, window detail  
Camera facing south

Photo 31  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation loggia  
Camera facing west

Photo 32  
St. Mary's Hall, auditorium, first floor  
Camera facing west

Photo 33  
St. Mary's Hall, first floor  
Camera facing north

Photo 34  
St. Mary's Hall, stairs  
Camera facing north

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 35

St. Mary's Hall (left) and Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (right)  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 36

Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (left), flag pole (right)  
Camera facing south

Photo 37

St. John's Seminary site, Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (left), Mission Concepcion (right)  
Camera facing southeast

Photo 38

St. John's Seminary site, paved lot (left), Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (right)  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 39

St. John's Seminary site  
Camera facing northeast

Photo 40

Garden concrete foundations  
Camera facing east

Photo 41

Description Garden concrete foundations  
Camera facing north

Photo 42

Statue/grotto  
Camera facing southwest

Photo 43

Statue/grotto  
Camera facing northwest

Photo 44

Brick Piers/Iron Gate and Fencing, entrance from Mission Road  
Camera facing west

Photo 45

St. John's Seminary site, from Mitchell Street  
Camera facing southwest



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

## Description

Saint John's Seminary at 222 E. Mitchell Street in San Antonio consists of three contributing buildings that served as the Archdiocese of San Antonio's educational centerpiece during the period 1920-1952. Constructed on the undeveloped land adjacent to the eighteenth-century Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña (Mission Concepción), the buildings are the culmination of efforts by the Catholic Church to establish not only a diocesan seminary in the region, but ultimately, a Major Seminary within the archdiocese in the post-Mission era. The diocesan leadership selected an eclectic Beaux Arts style marked by a variety of references to historic architecture of Mediterranean for the initial three-story Main Seminary Building (Drossaerts Hall) (1920). The building faces west towards Mission Road, and is situated south of Mitchell Street and north of the Mission Concepción. The Main Seminary Building is of red brick with white cast stone detailing and has hipped roofs of red clay barrel tile. The emphasized arched window details, the use of contrasting building materials, and its cavernous entryway further evidence Romanesque influences. As St. John's Seminary enrollment grew and necessitated expansion, building campaigns continued to reference the Romanesque. Margil Hall (1935), a two-story dormitory, also features red brick with stone detailing and hipped, clay tile roofs. Additionally, a one-story loggia extends on either side of the main entry and features arched openings delineated by columns that hold stone entablatures. Like the Main Seminary Building, Magill Hall features contrasting building materials. The third building, St. Mary's Hall (1947), a two-story dual-functioning auditorium/dormitory with classrooms also features similar architectural elements seen in the earlier buildings. These include red brick clad construction with cast stone details and a loggia along the primary elevation, albeit modern proclivities are also evident such as steel casement windows (rather than wood windows). These three historic seminary buildings are largely intact and retain the seven aspects of integrity, including location, design, materials, workmanship, and to a lesser extent, setting. Together, they provide a cohesivity, displaying both a style and quality of design discernably different from the resources constructed in the post-1952 period, which in stark contrast, are generally utilitarian in design and in nature, lack the same high level of architectural detailing, and detract from the classical-inspired campus. In conjunction with the property's contributing objects, structures and contributing site (consisting of the extant elements of the seminary's formal Garden, as well as the Brick Piers and Iron Gates/Fencing installed at the vehicular entry drives, the circular driveway's Flag Pole, and a Statue/Grotto), St. John's Seminary retains the feeling and association of an important Beaux Arts religious educational institution in San Antonio, reflecting its significance as the initial Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

---

Saint John's is located at 222 E. Mitchell Street in San Antonio. The nomination area is bounded by Mission Road to the west, Mitchell Road to the north, and later site additions including an abandoned sports field and non-contributing buildings to the east. To the south is the eighteenth-century Mission Concepción (Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña) as well as additional non-contributing buildings.<sup>1</sup> When the Seminary opened in 1920, much of the grounds were considered a veritable jungle. It had been estimated that at least five years would be required to clear them of the mesquite, hackberry, pecan trees and Johnson grass.<sup>2</sup> The extensive efforts of students at the time helped clear the land, conduct grading and leveling for the laying of the gravel for the driveways, plant grass and new trees, build fencing and establish certain features, including a Garden, evidence of which remains today. Historic images indicate that the area bounded at the west or primary elevation of the Main Seminary Building and to the south side of the main driveway off Mission Road was purposefully established as the seminary's formal garden and lawn. Although the non-contributing Paved Lot has been installed towards the far west end of the lawn (in ca. 1966), the Garden's long, rectangular granite planter foundations surrounding a pentagonal fountain with diamond shaped planters at the ends remains. Several heritage trees help define the lawn and the Garden within it. In contrast, the area

---

<sup>1</sup> Mission Concepción is part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which is administered by the National Park Service, and also a recently designated UNESCO World Heritage SITE, San Antonio Missions.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. Matthew J. Gilbert. *Breaking Ground: A History of the Beginning of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio*. An unfinished work published posthumously by St. John's and Assumption Seminary Alumni Association, 1956. p. 70.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

on the north side of the main drive (and west of St. Mary's Hall west or primary elevation) has been regraded and gone through several iterations and recreational uses over time. In ca. 1950, aerial images indicate it was, at least during the latter portion of the historic period, used as two practice basketball courts. The hoops were subsequently removed. It appears to have later served as an informal secondary location for playing ball. Heritage and significant trees bound this flexible area along the street sides, as well as along the main drive. Other historic site elements that remain today include the brick piers and iron gates installed at the Mission Street entrance, a Grotto at the northeast end of the Main Seminary Building and the flag pole at the center of the circular drive in front of the Main Seminary Building.

### **Inventory of Resources (all contributing)**

**Main Seminary Building (Drossaerts Hall) (1920)** (*Photo #1-11, 35-40; Historic Images 1, 4-6*): Initial plans for what would be the new Saint John's seminary building consisted of a Spanish style building intended to harmonize with the adjacent Mission. However, the diocesan leadership reversed their thinking and instead selected a more contemporary design of the period. Thus, the three-story Main Seminary Building reflects the classical revival style. It is a three-story plus basement building that faces west towards Mission Road. The building is of red brick with white cast stone detailing and hipped roofs of red clay barrel tile. The red brick is laid in running bond and the brickwork at the basement and first floor levels of the building arms have projecting brick courses alternating with a recessed course.

The I-plan building has a center section and two wings extending east-west. The main entrance is centered in the recessed section of the building. The recessed section is seven bays wide and three bays deep. A central concrete stair leads to a brick portico with an arched cast stone entryway flanked by two cast stone pilasters and is the focal point of the main elevation. The portico sides have arched cast stone openings similar to the main entrance. The portico roof is flat with a cast stone parapet detail above a cast stone cornice with an entablature that reads "St. John's Seminary." The main entrance has paired paneled wood doors with a glazing upper portion below an arched transom. The center bay of the second story, immediately above the portico, has a projecting overhang above full-length windows that lead to a balcony. The brickwork above the second story windows has two lengths of soldier brick below a cast stone detail course that reads "I Will Take of Them to be Priests and Levites Saith the Lord." A single height of soldier brickwork tops the cast stone detail and meets a cast stone course below the third story windows. The cast stone course is repeated above the third story windows. The center bay focal point is carried up to a front gable roof section with cast stone cartouches and topped with a cross. The center section windows are historic wooden one-over-one double-hung windows. The fenestration is repeated at each story.

The arms flank the center section, mirror each other, and have more ornate detailing than the center section. The raised basement is topped with a cast stone water-table. Alternating recessed brick work at the basement level is repeated at the first story level. The first story windows are topped by fanned brick detail with limestone keystones. A delineating cast stone course runs the width of the building. The second story arm windows feature cast stone rounded arched hoods supported by colonettes. These are six-over-one hung wood windows; some have been updated with stained glass (the stained glass is not original). The third story windows are similar to those in the center section and are between cast stone courses that extend the width of the building. Each arm corner has cast stone cartouches with religious motifs flanking the third story windows. The roof is supported by a cornice with large sheet metal dentils.

The north and south elevations are identical to one another. A concrete stair leads to a central bay entrance with recessed brick course detail on each side of the door capped by decorative cast stone brackets below a cast stone pediment. The fenestration and detailing including that of the roof of the main elevation is repeated on the north and south elevations.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

As previously indicated, the building is of red brick with white cast stone detailing, with the exception of the center portion of the east (rear) elevation, which was altered after the period of significance; first in 1956 when the original east side exterior galleries were initially enclosed at the first and second stories between the north and south arms of the building, and then again during the building's use by the Patrician Movement when the current exterior wall and associated windows replaced the 1956 components. The first- and second-story windows here are aluminum frame sash windows. The third story windows are arched aluminum sash windows and have a white colored arch detail above to mimic the rounded cast stone arch window details on the second story arm sections of the building. Egress vestibules with concrete stairs and ramp were also constructed at the first floor by the Patrician Movement. These alterations are easily discernible due to their construction, which has the appearance of stucco that has been painted a red color with white trim.

The remainder of the east elevation however, maintains the historic red brick with white cast stone details. Each arm of the east elevation features a historic metal fire escape egress stair extending down from a man-door at the center bay of the third floor, to the second story and wrapping around to the south and north elevations, respectively. The first story of the north and south arms of the east elevation extend further east and are topped with a hipped-roof featuring the same red clay barrel tile as the rest of the building. The south arm has an additional one-story non-historic shed eastern extension clad in the same stucco as the center portion of the east elevation. The basement level is accessible at the northern arm; this level has wood garage doors on each end with a man-door centered between them. Three wood sash windows with cast stone lentils are featured above at first floor.

### **Interior**

The main entrance provides access to the building's first floor. The first floor's main space has been outfitted with interior partial-height walls to create separated sleeping areas. A communal bathroom with tile stall showers, urinals, bathroom stalls, and a bank of sinks is to the southwest of the first-floor's main area.

Two concrete staircases at the northeast and northwest of the building's first floor main space lead to the second level. Similarly updated to the first floor, the central area of the second floor has partial-height partitions and non-historic cabinets. A communal bathroom with tile stall showers, urinals, bathroom stalls, and a bank of sinks is to the southwest of the second-floor's central area. The two staircases continue to the third floor, where the partial-height partitions and communal bathroom areas are repeated as on the first and second floors. The second and third floors have full height plaster ceilings and structural columns that are, in some cases, pronounced as pilasters. Some of the pilasters on the second floor retain decorative capitals and crown molding.

As originally designed, Drossaerts Hall provided housing, dining, educational and religious facilities under a single roof for students and faculty of the Seminary. During the period of significance, as Margil Hall and ultimately St. Mary's Hall were built, the building's function changed to mainly educational (Margil Hall was constructed to serve as the dormitory). Interior alterations were made after the period of significance in 1956 when Drossaerts was converted back to a dormitory, in this case, the dormitory function being its sole purpose. At that time, many of the interior partitions were removed to provide enlarged sleeping spaces, and communal restrooms were installed. In 1991, the interior was remodeled again by the Patrician Movement, which installed the partial height partitions seen today.

Despite the changes, the building the interior does continue to reflect historic character through its historic vertical circulation (two stairs), full height ceilings, wood window trim and sills, as well as heavy wood beams prevalent in some areas of the second floor. Overall, Drossaerts Hall retains a high degree of integrity, except for its setting, due to construction of non-contributing buildings directly east and south.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

**Margil Hall (1935)** (*Photo #s 12-23; Historic Image 2*): Margil Hall, also designed by Frederick B. Gaenslen, was the second building constructed on the campus, situated to the southeast of Drossaerts Hall and intended to serve solely as a dormitory. The two-story building features a rectangular footprint, oriented east-west, with the primary elevation facing north. Like Drossaerts Hall, it is of red brick with cream colored cast stone detailing and a hipped red clay tile roof supported by a heavy bracketed cornice.

The exterior walls are constructed of brick laid in running bond. The primary elevation has a central, one-story pavilion with three arched bays on either side of the main entrance archway. Each arched opening has three lengths of header brick crown detail. The openings are delineated by columns that hold cast stone springers of foliage and spears. Each arched opening extends to a cast stone capped ledge. The brickwork below the cast stone ledges is repeated under each archway and comprised of a row of header bricks surrounding six stretcher rows with a central cast stone diamond and square details at each corner.

The building is set back from a concrete sidewalk and several mature trees line the short walkway to the main entrance. Three concrete steps lead to the central section of the loggia and the building's main entrance. The arched brick opening is flanked by brick pilasters with cast stone bases and capitals. The stone detail is continued around the brick archway with a cast stone spandrel and keystone. An inscription above the arch reads, "Ven Antonio Margil Hall." The cast stone is continued to a cornice below a short parapet. The entry doors are a pair of wood panel double doors with a tripartite upper below an arched tripartite transom, with the arched brickwork on the loggia repeated above the main entry.

The central loggia section ends three bays short of each end of the building. A cast stone water-line delineates the first floor below the east and west end windows. The east and west ends of the main elevation have a set of rectangular flat arched, six-over-one wood windows with a splayed brick lentil and cast stone keystone. A single arched, six-over one wood window flanks the central windows. A row of header bricks above the arched windows supports a delineating cast stone detail at the second story.

The second story windows are rectangular flat arched wood, six-over-one with cast stone sills. The brick detail seen below the arched loggia openings is repeated below the second story windows at the east and west ends. The central windows at the second story are six-over one rectangular wood windows, but do not have any limestone detailing. A cast stone delimitation course tops the second story windows and sits below the heavy bracketed metal cornice. The center bay is further emphasized by three wood frame man-doors with rectangular transoms directly above the main entry at the second level that provide balcony access. A cast stone banding with the words '*Teach me goodness and discipline and knowledge*' is located at the second floor above the main entry. A centered gable parapet with brick and cast stone detailing extends beyond the roofline at the east and west ends.

The west elevation has a central man-door above the cast stone waterline continued from the main elevation. A set of central concrete stairs and a concrete ramp at the southwest corner of the building leads to the non-historic man-door at first floor. This secondary entry is a later alteration based on the limited historic images available, which show that this was originally a window opening. The associated accessible concrete ramp and metal pipe railings likely date to the Patrician Movement's use of the site (1970s-1990s). A single rectangular, six-over-one wood window is to the north of the man-door. A series of three six-over-one wood windows is centered above the western entrance at the second story. The same brick detail on the primary elevation is repeated below the western elevation windows. The second story cast stone delineation continues from the primary elevation. Diamond details above the cast stone delineation top each second story window. The bracketed cornice continues from the primary elevation. A metal fire escape stair is attached below the central second story window and continues toward the primary elevation.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

The south elevation is void of the brick and cast stone recess work seen on the other elevations. There are varying-sized rectangular, six-over-one wood windows. Though different in size, all windows feature cast stone sills and appear to be original though several panes have been broken. The second story cast stone delineation continues from the east and west elevations, as does the cornice. The cornice brackets do not continue to the south elevation.

The east elevation largely mirrors the west elevation. The cast stone waterline from the primary elevation wraps around to the east elevation. A cement double staircase leads to a non-historic central man-door at first floor; like that at the west, this secondary egress is a later alteration. Two rectangular, six-over-one wood windows flank the doorway. Three rectangular, six-over-one windows on the second story are similar to those on the west elevation and have the same brick and limestone detail seen on the primary and west elevations. The bracketed cornice continues from the primary elevation and the limestone diamond detail on the west elevation is also repeated above the second story windows. A metal fire escape stair is attached below the central second story window and continues toward the primary elevation.

### Interior

The main entrance leads to a central corridor and stair. The central stairwell has terrazzo steps and landing. Metal pickets are featured with wood handrail. The ceilings appear to be original plaster ceilings. The main and second floors have double-loaded corridors. Walls are plaster with wood base, with the exception of later interior partitions. On both the first and second floors, partitions demising rooms on either side of the corridors have been removed or reconfigured to accommodate new uses, in particular when the Patrician Movement occupied the site. The interior however appears to maintain an overall historic layout consisting of double-loaded corridors that run east-west on each floor with a central stair located on the south side. This is evidenced by the extant terrazzo flooring and base in the corridors. Floor coverings have generally been removed from many of the rooms, leaving bare concrete elsewhere. The first-floor rooms have non-historic wood wall paneling and trim. The second-story corridor has fire egress doors at each end.

Despite the alterations, Margil Hall retains the seven aspects of integrity, including location, design, materials, workmanship, and, to a lesser extent setting (due to non-contributing buildings located to the north, south, east and west). With its stone trim and loggia, the building continues to evoke the feeling and association of the Italian Renaissance style, in this instance evidencing a regionalized Romanesque, through the use of multi-hued shades of red (darker and lighter) brick with the red-tile roof.<sup>3</sup>

**St. Mary's Hall (1947)** (*Photo #s 24-35, 45; Historic Images 3, 4, 6*): Local firm, Julian & White, designed St. Mary's Hall. The building was constructed in 1947 to provide an auditorium, with a dual-function as dormitory and several smaller additional classrooms. The building was considered a stop-gap measure while the Seminary looked for a new location elsewhere in the city needed to accommodate the lack of space due to increasing enrollment.

St. Mary's Hall is a two-story, T-shaped brick building with a hipped, clay tile roof. It sits to the north of Drossaerts Hall and is oriented east-west. The building is faced in red brick with stretcher bond and pale cream cast stone detailing. The south, or primary elevation, features a brick loggia with a flat roof and concrete floor. Seven brick piers delineate the openings. A concrete path leads to a set of concrete steps at the southeast corner of the building. An open exterior brick staircase, added later when the building was used by the Patrician Movement, leads to the second story on the immediate west. Its later addition is evidenced by the cast stone sill on the second story having been cut and the bricks removed to covert a former window opening to an entry door with glass block sidelights. A brick half arch extends from the east wall of the south elevation on the underside of the exterior stair. The concrete path continues

---

<sup>3</sup> Jay C. Henry. *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945*. (University of Texas Press: Austin, 1993), 106.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

below the half arch to a set of wood double doors with glass panels and a rectangular three transom window with wood surround above at the southeast corner of the building.

The south elevation is seven bays long with rectangular, metal casement windows with double-stacked awning windows above and a single hopper below; these are original to the building. The awning windows extend above the loggia roof. There is a man-door on the southeast corner at the second bay. A non-historic wood access ramp to the loggia is centered on the south elevation. The 'T' of the south elevation projects southward and is two stories with three rectangular, double metal casement windows with a single awning above and a single hopper below on the first floor. A cast stone quarter round window sill extends the width of the first story windows. Identical casement windows, including the rounded cast stone window sill, are immediately below the cast stone cornice at the second story.

At the west end of the 'T', no windows are featured; instead, a projecting bay culminates with a cross. A cast stone water line aligns with the concrete floor of the loggia to the south and continues around the building. A semicircular brick planter with a cast stone cap at ground level was intended to hold a statue (nonextant). The statue base is centered under a cast stone arch detail with a header brick background and surround. The south and east ends of the west elevation project from the exterior and are capped with a cast stone detail extending to the roofline.

The north elevation repeats the fenestration of the south elevation. A brick staircase with concrete steps leads to a man-door at the second bay at the northwest corner. The same metal casement windows with double-stacked awning windows above and a single hopper below on the south elevation are repeated on the west elevation. The cast stone water line is continued the length of the north elevation, including at the stairs. There is a second man-door at the northeast corner, facing west below a metal casement window at the second story. The 'T' of the north elevation projects northward and is two stories. A metal casement window with three awning windows and one hopper window begins at the cornice level and meets a second metal casement window with one awning window and one hopper to the first-floor level. There is a series of three metal casement windows with a one awning and one hopper below the cornice on the southwest corner of the building with a cast stone quarter round window sill extending the width of the windows. A series of three metal casement windows repeat at the first floor with a cast stone rounded window sill extending the width of the windows.

The banks of first floor windows on the northeast and southeast corners of the east elevation are made up of four casement windows without awning or hoppers, as seen on the northeast corner of the north elevation. The central banks of windows on the first story and all the windows on the second story are four bays wide with a one awning window and one hopper window. As throughout the building, each bank of windows has a cast stone rounded window sill that runs the width of the windows. There are modern, aluminum HVAC exchanges running from the first and second story windows at the southeast corner of the east elevation.

### **Interior**

The interior layout reflects the historic configuration. The first floor, for example, retains the large auditorium/dormitory space. The main entrance door on the loggia's east end leads to a corridor with the auditorium to the west and several rooms to the east. The auditorium space has a raised platform or stage with a proscenium at the west end. A set of stairs flank the proscenium, with the south set leading to the platform and the north set leading to the basement. A short corridor running north/south separates the auditorium from the classrooms and the communal restroom delineated in the east portion of the first floor. Interior transom windows are featured along the corridor at one of the rooms; at the west side are historic display cases (their plate glass is missing). Interior stairs on the north side featuring historic terrazzo leads to the second level. The stair retains its original wooden handrail. There is a non-historic stairwell enclosure with contemporary glass block at the second level.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

The second-floor plan consists of a north-south corridor with four rooms off the corridor at the east and south end. The second-floor configuration was altered for changing uses, including new interior partitions on the east side. In the corridor, an elongated closet was built-out, a stairwell partition was constructed, and the former projector opening at the west side was infilled. Ceilings appear to be original plaster ceilings. Walls are plaster with wood base, although the later interior partitions are drywall. The floor covering is generally, asphalt tiles or bare concrete.

### Contributing Objects, Structures and Site

**Garden (ca. 1931)** (*Photo #s 39-41; Historic Images 5, 6*): In 1931, the Seminary's Father Geehan initiated his long-range program of beautification of the campus. Specifically, he designed and engineered the Garden located at the front or west side of the Main Seminary Building. Evidence of the Garden remains, including its long, rectangular granite planter foundations surrounding a pentagonal fountain with diamond shaped planters at the ends. The central large footprint is bound by granite stones, hexagonal in shape and contains a cast stone fountain with statue of two individuals under an umbrella (which appears to be a more recent addition). The Garden is bound by narrow rectangular planters featuring occasional small circular concrete footprints. Although the water has been drained from the lily pond system and the Garden is thus overgrown, it is clearly discernible as per historic images and is a contributing site.

**Brick Piers/Iron Gate and Fencing (ca. 1924)** (*Photo #s 44*): According to Gilbert's early history of the Saint John's, the seminary was given a wrought iron gate and nine feet of associated fencing from San Fernando Cathedral and that such was installed at the Mitchell Street entrance.<sup>4</sup> Whether the extant gate is that original is unknown. However, the red brick piers on either side of the gate are believed to be original. They feature stone caps, as described by Gilbert. The Mission Road vehicular drive entry also features brick piers with stone caps. Flanking these two piers is an associated low brick wall bounded by an additional brick pier. These secondary brick piers have brick corbeling rather than stone caps, although the low red brick wall is capped with stone. The Brick Piers/Iron Gate and associated Fencing is believed to be original or been installed during the period of significance; it is a contributing structure. (The campus is otherwise secured by modern wire fencing. Original fencing beyond that at the entrances, as described by Gilbert, was made of limbs of cut hackberry trees, or in some cases, prior cedar fencing, with wire stretched between the posts. This appears to be gone, for the most part. It is difficult to ascertain if the few wood posts extant along the east of the nominated bounds, adjacent to the Mission Concepción property, are original, or not.)

**Flag Pole (1923)**<sup>5</sup> (*Photo # 35-36; Historic Image 6*): According to Gilbert's early history of Saint John's, the flag pole was erected in 1923 in order to show to the community that the Seminary had a "spark of patriotism." Gilbert indicates the 65-foot pole was crafted by the Alamo Iron Works. It is situated in the center of the seminary's circular drive and having been installed during the period of significance, is a contributing object.

**Statue/Grotto (1936)** (*Photo #s 38*): A small statue, or more specifically, a grotto made of stones, believed to be granite, is situated to the northwest of the Main Seminary Building. The statue is angled northwesterly. It features a limestone entablature on both two sides. The side facing northwest reads '*Deus Caritas*' and '*Mother of Sorrows Have Pity on the Souls in Purgatory,*' with a coat of arms depicting what appears to be a dog, above. On the opposite side of the statuary is a limestone entablature depicting an individual, likely Jesus of Nazareth, and three additional figures,

---

<sup>4</sup> Rev. Matthew J. Gilbert. *Breaking Ground: A History of the Beginning of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio*. An unfinished work published posthumously by St. John's and Assumption Seminary Alumni Association, 1956. P. 63.

<sup>5</sup> Rev. Matthew J. Gilbert. *Breaking Ground: A History of the Beginning of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio*. An unfinished work published posthumously by St. John's and Assumption Seminary Alumni Association, 1956. P. 60.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

likely Mary, Mary Magdalene and a male disciple. This statue is considered the student's 'grotto to Our Lady'<sup>6</sup> and having been installed by the students during the period of significance, is a contributing object.

**Alterations/ Integrity**

St. John's Seminary displays a high degree of integrity despite the presence of that non-contributing buildings and structures have been constructed on the grounds, these have generally been confined to the south and east areas of the campus. The Seminary remains situated adjacent to Mission Concepción and retains its expansive lawn and grass areas west of Drossaerts Hall and St. Mary's Hall, featuring, for example, the historic Garden and former lily ponds designed by Father Geehan, as well as the vehicular entries' brick piers and iron gates/fencing. It thus retains integrity of location and setting. The Seminary also retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The intact duo of Drossaerts Hall and Margil Hall have changed little at the exterior and remain excellent examples of a regionally-expressed Italian Renaissance style, continuing to feature red brick facades, red clay tile roofs, white cast stone detailing, and main entry pavilion and loggia, for example. Additionally, St. Mary's Hall, the later contributing building continues the design and workmanship seen in the earlier buildings, albeit with a slightly more contemporary appearance, through the use of red facebrick, cast stone detailing, and a loggia. Alterations include the replacement of some egress and entry doors with doors of modern materials. Additionally, modern fire egress routes have been added to both the Main Seminary Building and Margil Hall. Interior alterations to the contributing buildings are largely at the surface level and were responses to the changing needs over time. Together, the contributing buildings and other contributing components provide a cohesivity and St. John's Seminary retains the feeling and association of an important religious educational institution in San Antonio, reflecting its significance as the initial Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

---

<sup>6</sup> *Priest Forever: History of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas, 1915-1965* (San Antonio: St. John's and Assumption Seminaries Alumni Association, 1966), p. 42.



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

## Statement of Significance

From 1920 until 1952, Saint John's Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, served as the Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, offering a full system of eleven years of preparation for priesthood for boys. The district is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Education as the culmination of efforts by the Catholic Church to establish Major Seminary in the region (an educational facility of particular importance in the post-mission era), which illustrates the broad impact of the religious institution on the history of the local area. Constructed on the undeveloped land adjacent to the Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, Saint John's is also locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture, in particular for the Main Seminary Building and Margil Hall, as excellent examples of Beaux Arts design with various Mediterranean influences. Additionally, St. Mary's Hall serves as a good example of early modern church architecture with traditional influences in San Antonio. Because the property is nominated in the areas of Education and Architecture, it meets National Register Criterion Consideration A for religious institutions. The period of significance extends from 1920, the date of construction of the initial and Main Seminary Building (Drossaerts Hall) on the E. Mitchell Street site, until 1952 when the Archdiocese re-located its Major Seminary from Saint John's to what became known as Assumption Seminary on the west side of San Antonio.<sup>7</sup>

## San Antonio – Education and Religion

The Spanish mission system, a vital part of the Spanish conquest during the 15<sup>th</sup> through early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and designed to extend, hold and Christianize the frontier was an institution comprised of a church and residence for missionaries and guests, as well as a granary, workshops and dwellings for the Native American populace, and typically also included soldiers' quarters. The main objective of the missions by the Spanish crown was a means in which to extend its borders and consolidate its colonial territories, although the focus of the missionaries was conversion of the local population to the Catholic faith, while also often teaching the populace in agriculture, husbandry, trades, Spanish language and sometimes reading and writing, thus serving essentially as training schools.<sup>8</sup> This system was exemplified in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century by the chain of missions established in the 1730s along the San Antonio River.<sup>9</sup> The 1740s were a flourishing period for the five San Antonio missions, but waned in the latter half of the century. When in 1874, the Diocese of San Antonio was created, theoretically, the Spanish crown's missionary era came to an end (although the missions had long been secularized, that is, the mission property had been transferred to private hands).<sup>10</sup> Mission Concepción, for example, was partially secularized in 1794 when some of the property was divided amongst the converted local populace. Additional real estate holdings of Concepción were sold in 1824. Albeit, in 1841, the Congress of the Republic of Texas confirmed the title of ownership of Concepción --with surrounding land not to exceed 15-acres-- to the Catholic Church.<sup>11</sup>

The establishment of the new Diocese in San Antonio and the end of the city's mission era also meant the end of local dependence upon distant lands (that is, Spain) for the supply of priests.<sup>12</sup> This need became especially evident and of concern to the first three bishops of the new Diocese, who held office between the years 1874 and 1911. During their oversight of the Diocese, San Antonio experienced an economic boom and a resulting population boom. The Mexican government's domination in the city ended and railroad connections arrived. As such, extensive immigration, from

---

<sup>7</sup> In the April 2017 review of the federal tax credit application (Part 1) for this property, NPS staff concurred with this nomination's stated boundary and period of significance.

<sup>8</sup> Marion A. Habig, O.F.M. *The Alamo Chain of Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. (Franciscan Herald Press: Chicago, 2004), pp. 17-19.

<sup>9</sup> Mission San Francisco de la Espada National Register Nomination, listed 23 February 1972.

<sup>10</sup> *Priests Forever*, p. 13.

<sup>11</sup> Marion A. Habig, O.F.M. *The Alamo Chain of Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. (Franciscan Herald Press: Chicago, 2004), pp.141-48.

<sup>12</sup> *Priests Forever*, p. 13.

## St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Europe and other parts of the United States, followed by migrations from Mexico beginning in 1910 (due to the Mexican Revolution) occurred. The population's diversity both culturally and ethnically expanded extensively; from 1890 to 1920, San Antonio would be the state's largest city.<sup>13</sup> Concerned with the spiritual needs of the growing population, the associated need for a growing number of priests to revitalize the Catholic Church during Texas independence and eventual statehood, and the complexities of such a diverse existing population, all three bishops studied the feasibility of establishing a local seminary, that is, a seminary which would train future priests from within the local population for the vocation.

Religious institutional education had long held a presence in San Antonio from its beginning, as the site of five Spanish missions. In the post-mission era, although secular education was available, private religious institutions were far more prevalent.<sup>14</sup> After statehood, the city's first two free public schools were established in 1853, followed by the first school for African Americans in 1871, and the first high school (for whites only) in 1879.<sup>15</sup> During this time, however, numerous religious school opened, including:

- Ursuline Academy (for girls) est. by the Order of Saint Ursula nuns in 1851;
- St. Mary's Institute (for boys) est. by the Marianists Brothers in 1852 (later becoming a University);
- West Texas School for Boys (now Texas Military School) est. by the Episcopal Church in 1893;
- Our Lady of the Lake University (for girls) est. by the Sisters of Divine Providence in 1895.<sup>16</sup>

The bulk of these institutions provided parochial education for San Antonians as they developed into adulthood, and in limited cases, such as at St. Mary's or Our Lady of the Lake, provided for their adult secular vocations beyond. This period also saw limited -but not always enduring- seminary institutions as well.

### San Antonio's First Seminaries

The first seminary in the Diocese was established as St. Joseph's College in the town of Victoria in 1876. After a closure, the college was reopened and expanded in 1880 to include a diocesan seminary and provided the first native clergy for the Diocese. But, the seminary closed permanently upon the death of its founder in 1902.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, in the town of Sequin, the Jesuits established Guadalupe College in 1878. However, this school, too, only lasted a couple of years, upon which the students transferred to St. Joseph's (before its subsequent closure).

The first permanent seminary in San Antonio was that of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, which opened in 1903. Referred to as the St. Anthony Philosophical and Theological Seminary (as well as St. Anthony's Apostolic School), and today known as the Oblate School of Theology, the initial goal of this seminary was to educate young men to serve as Oblate missionaries in Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Mexico and the Philippines. The Oblates temporarily educated men studying for the diocesan priesthood until Saint John's subsequently opened.

---

<sup>13</sup> O'Neill, Perez, Lance, Larcade. "San Antonio Historic Survey, 1972." (San Antonio, Tex.: San Antonio Community Renewal Program), n.p.

<sup>14</sup> Cecilia Steinfeldt. *San Antonio Was: Seen Through a Magic Lantern: Views from the Slide Collection of Albert Steves, Sr.* (San Antonio Museum Association, 1978), p. 144.

<sup>15</sup> <http://libguides.utsa.edu/content.php?pid=205758&sid=5538418>.

<sup>16</sup> For an extensive list of over 10 religious schools established during the time period, see: <http://www.ourkidsmagazine.com/san-antonios-education-history-is-rich/>

<sup>17</sup> Mary Dian Langford, CDP. *Shepherds in the Image of Christ*. p. xx.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

### **Saint John's: A Diocesan Seminary**

San Antonio Diocese Bishop John W. Shaw (1863-1934) was consecrated in 1911. The shortage of priests amongst his Diocese was evident to him. With the Diocese extending some 90,000 square miles, and only 80 priests (both diocesan and other) within its midst in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was roughly one priest for every 1,000 square miles.<sup>18</sup> Letters of his included such statements as "...we shall not rest satisfied until we have in in our midst a learned and pious priesthood to preach...in every town, village and hamlet [of the Diocese]; and "It is our intention to take young men of our own diocese for the ministry. God speed the day when the Diocese of San Antonio will be able to supply its own priests."<sup>19</sup>

Shaw endeavored to establish the diocesan seminary as quickly as he could with the limited resources the diocese already held. And, thus in 1915 Saint John's opened its doors in what been constructed in 1885 as the diocese's residence for the Bishop. (Shaw chose not to reside there.) Shaw named the school in honor of his patron saint; seventeen scholars made up the first class. Saint John's Seminary quickly outgrew its original facility in the episcopal residence at 230 Dwyer Street (since razed) and in 1918, the seminary moved to three rented buildings on the corner of Rigsby Avenue and Adele Street, a property which had previously been used as the Garden Academy boarding school. One of these buildings, 1201 Rigsby, still stands.<sup>20</sup> After finishing their high school curriculum and two years of philosophy classes, Saint John's students would transfer to a Major Seminary elsewhere, such as Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D.C., Benedictine Seminary in Indiana, the Vincentian seminary in St. Louis, or North American College in Rome.

Major Seminaries provided the required full extent of theological studies needed for priesthood. The intent of Shaw ensuring that philosophy courses were at least partially included at Saint John's however was the hope of Saint John's eventually becoming a Major Seminary so students would not have to transfer elsewhere to complete their training.<sup>21</sup> Although Shaw was later installed in New Orleans as Archbishop, his successor, Arthur J. Drossaerts (1862-1940) became known as "the builder-bishop" and would soon realize Shaw's dreams of establishing both a new permanent home for Saint John's, as well as for establishing it as a Major Seminary for the diocese.<sup>22</sup> (During Drossaerts' twenty-two years of leadership, sixty parishes were constructed, along with fifty schools and the diocese was as a result, elevated to an archdiocese.)

### **A Permanent Home and "Major Seminary a Reality"<sup>23</sup>**

Within two years of Drossaerts being ordained bishop, he initiated and completed the construction (through funding drives with the local clergy and laity) of the new permanent home for Saint John's. Church property adjacent to the Mission Concepción was selected as the site. Frederick B. Gaenslen, architect (see below) and Leo M. J. Dielmann (1881-1969), contractor, provided the design and construction services for the new seminary building. The seminary building, named Drossaerts Hall, was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1920, with over 80 priests in attendance, a number of whom acknowledged "the fruition of long cherished hopes...the dream of each [bishop] in San Antonio...a

---

<sup>18</sup> Vanderholt, p. 11.

<sup>19</sup> Rev. Matthew J. Gilbert. *Breaking Ground: A History of the Beginning of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio*. An unfinished work published posthumously by St. John's and Assumption Seminary Alumni Association, 1956. P. 4. Also, Vanderholt, p. 12.

<sup>20</sup> See: Mary Diane Langford, CDP. *Shepherds in the Image of Christ*. (iUniverse LLC: Bloomington, IN, 2014), photo page 8; see also Bexar County Property Records.

<sup>21</sup> Langford, pp. 4-5.

<sup>22</sup> Langford, 10.

<sup>23</sup> Gilbert, 35.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

St. John's we can call our own...for the education of a native clergy...so that priests in later years...go forth from this seminary."<sup>24</sup>

As the sole seminary building, Drossaerts Hall would thus provide staff and students housing, dining, educational and religious facilities under a single roof. For the next eight years, Saint John's students could receive four years of high school instruction, followed by four years of college instruction and two years of philosophy course in Drossaerts. This sufficiently prepared them to then transfer to a Major Seminary for a subsequent four years of theology needed for ordination. The leadership of the now San Antonio Archdiocese realized however, that as having a new stature as Archdiocese, a Major Seminary within its boundaries would soon become increasingly important. By coincidence, in 1928-29, the Major Seminaries that usually received Saint John's transfers (including those in Indiana and St. Louis, for example) were full and would not accept students outside [their diocese]. Archbishop Shaw's original dream thus became a reality at Saint John's. The staff for providing four years of theology instruction, inclusive of a new theology department was established. In 1928, Saint John's reached the full status of a Theological Seminary - a Major Seminary.

Having become a Major Seminary, it was only a matter of time before enrollment outgrew Drossaerts Hall. In eight years, the student body increased almost two-fold -- from 47 enrolled students in 1920 to 83 students in 1934. In 1935, the Venerable Antonio Margil Hall (also designed by architect, F. B. Gaenslen) was completed and dedicated in order to serve as the new dormitory.

Enrollment continued to expand. By the end of the 1930s, the seminarian population could no longer live on campus, even though Margil Hall had been erected for the express purpose. Some of the students were housed instead at a nearby orphanage, in fact, and other houses in the neighborhood were also used for both students and faculty.<sup>25</sup> The inadequacy of the Mitchell Street campus's two purpose-built buildings had been brought to light by the increased enrollment (over 100 students in 1943) through a combination of population growth in San Antonio during the subsequent wartime boom of the 1940s, along with an increase in other Texas dioceses also sending their major seminarians to Saint John's. In 1950, 170 students were enrolled; in 1951 the number reached 187.<sup>26</sup> With the campus overwhelmed, the new bishop, Robert E. Lucey (1891-1977) began looking for a property that could accommodate new facilities for the major seminary portion of the school, with the intent that the Saint John's campus would be maintained -- but revert back to serve as a minor seminary only. Post-war construction costs unfortunately curtailed any such move, for the time-being. As "a stop-gap measure," however, a third building -- St. Mary's Hall (1947) - was constructed on Saint John's, providing an auditorium (and hence, dual-purposes dormitory space) and several classrooms. Use of the three contributing buildings by both the major and minor seminarian students continued -- as did Lucey's search for a new seminary site, until he found one in 1952.<sup>27</sup>

### **A New Era: Move of the Major Seminary to Assumption Seminary**

[In 1952] "Saint John's Seminary had been in existence for thirty-seven years, having been established in 1915."<sup>28</sup> According to Reverend James Vanderholt, "It was possibly the only seminary system in the United States where a student could complete all twelve years of study at the same address. Students could do their entire high school, college, and theology studies there in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. The school had served the diocese

---

<sup>24</sup> Gilbert, pp. 45-6 quoting a Southern Messenger article.

<sup>25</sup> Vanderholt, 25.

<sup>26</sup> Priests Forever, 57.

<sup>27</sup> Langford, 36-7.

<sup>28</sup> Rev. James Vanderholt. *Called to Serve...History of St. John's and Assumption Seminaries, San Antonio, Texas, 1915-1990*, (St. John's and Assumption Seminaries Alumni Association: San Antonio, TX, 1990), 27.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

exceedingly well and turned out great pastors in those years. But the increased enrollment, as well as new educational demands suggested that more space was needed, preferably at a different location. The archdiocese arranged to purchase the land on West Woodland, from which Trinity University [a Presbyterian-affiliated institution] had moved."<sup>29</sup> With 38-acres of land, four permanent existing buildings, five Quonset huts and four frame buildings available, the Trinity site could well provide for the relocation of the Major Seminary, and its' expansion -- immediately. The Archdiocese designated the site 'Seminary of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary' (or simply Assumption Seminary) and forthwith constructed a swimming pool, handball court, a residence hall, four classroom buildings and a dining/kitchen building between 1954 and 1956 on the new Assumption Seminary campus.

### **Saint John's Final Years**

In the fall of 1952, therefore, the doors of two seminaries opened in San Antonio: Saint John's Minor Seminary and Assumption Seminary – the new Major Seminary. Having reverted to a minor seminary, Saint John's maintained the four years of high school curriculum for students, with the subsequent four years of college education, as well as the philosophic and theology studies all taught instead at Assumption by 1955, essentially thence aligning with the current American tradition of education. Saint John's thenceforward served as a boarding school for high school boys interested in spiritual development and wanting a solid foundation in the potential of a priesthood vocation, although it did not oblige them to continue the pursuit upon receipt of their high school diploma. As noted by Langford, in the post-War era, minor seminaries were often no longer commonly connected with the facilities for their major seminaries and began issuing their own high school diplomas.<sup>30</sup>

As part of this shift in diploma-driven education, rather than strictly priestly education, in 1956, Saint John's did construct a new classroom building, a study hall/library and the dining hall/kitchen at the Mitchell Street site. Yet, despite this and the subsequent construction of the chapel (paid for through contributions of alumni) in 1962, Saint John's saw swift changes. Other dioceses, for example, had opened their own high school seminaries at this same time (Corpus Christi Minor Seminary in 1960; and in Dallas, the Cistercian Preparatory School in 1962), thereby increasing competition for students. Additionally, the profound changes in church and society as the 1960s evolved reduced the number of interested candidates in exploring the priesthood vocation.<sup>31</sup> At Saint John's, it was decided in 1968 that the minor seminary students would enroll instead at one of the local Catholic high schools - Central Catholic – for their basic high school education and extra-curricular activities; only their spiritual classes and their residence would be held at the seminary. Then, in 1969, the Archbishop and an appointed committee abruptly determined that Saint John's would close at the end of the school year. All future interested parties would be referred to Corpus Christi Minor Seminary and all existing students would relocate to Assumption.<sup>32</sup> In 1975, the 11-acre campus, inclusive of all buildings was conveyed from the Archbishop of San Antonio to the Patrician Movement, which ran a residential drug treatment and rehabilitation center at the site until 2011.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

Frederick B. Gaenslen (1869-1941) was a prominent local architect of San Antonio's Catholic community and had a distinguished career designing houses and churches, and other church buildings throughout south Texas. He attended St. Mary's College in San Antonio and Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he studied architecture. Gaenslen's NR-listed churches have been recognized for their outstanding scale, craftsmanship, ornamentation and command of the Romanesque, with regional influences. The brick All Saints Catholic Church in Houston, for example,

---

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. 27.

<sup>30</sup> Langford, 85.

<sup>31</sup> <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbo01>

<sup>32</sup> Vanderholt, pp. 53-55.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

features a nave flanked by towers with stone trim. St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero is similar in that it, too, of brick, has a nave flanked by towers ornamented with stone trim. The Administration Building, although not a church, is noted for its horizontal sections typical of an Italian palazzo, as well as its heavily ornamented primary elevation. His work includes:

- the chapel on the campus of Incarnate Word in San Antonio (1907);
- Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio (1907);
- Saint Anthony Catholic School in San Antonio (1909);
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Brownsville (1913; RTHL 2001);
- All Saints Catholic Church in Houston (1926, NR 1983);
- St. Michael's Catholic Church in Cuero (1931; NR 1988); and
- University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building in San Antonio (1922; NR 2010).<sup>33</sup>

According to author Jay C. Henry in his compendium, *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945*, the Beaux Arts-trained Gaenslen was "one of the consistent interpreters of the Romanesque as an ecclesiastical alternative to Gothic in Texas." Henry describes Gaenslen's early work as "a brickbuilder's idiom of round-headed windows and arcaded corbel tables," as is evident in aspects of the design of his 1920 Drossaerts Hall. As is the case with the Administration Building, Drossaerts features the palazzo style horizontal sections consisting of a clearly demarcated basement, piano noble, shaft and attic story, each revealed by the fenestration pattern, with segmental arched openings at main floor, round arched openings above (at the projecting arms) and the basement and attic stories having flat arched openings. Romanesque-like corbelling is reflected through use of the white cast stone rounded arched hoods between colonettes, white cast stone cartouches depicting religious motifs and phrasing, as well as the heavy bracketed stone cornice capping the attic story. In this instance, too, Gaenslen includes a projecting portico for the main entry.

Henry continues in his compendium, that "by 1930, [Gaenslen's] command of the Romanesque had become more learned, with stone trim and a convincing reproduction of the Lombard style," a refinement evident in Gaenslen's 1935 Margil Hall, through in this instance, the use of a loggia at the building's first floor. Henry refers to the Gaenslen's style as a regionalized Romanesque, and in the case of Margil Hall, such is seen through use of a multi-hued bricks (both darker and lighter shades of red) in conjunction with red roof tiles.<sup>34</sup> Gaenslen's Saint John's buildings serve as a duo-unit that together show not only the development of the architect's style over time, but together provide an excellent local example of Italian Renaissance style with regional influences.

Julian & White (c.1945-1965) was a prolific local architecture firm specializing in liturgical architecture, particularly for the Catholic Church. The firm was comprised of Alvin J. Julian (1913-1999) and Donald Noble White (1915-2002). Julian & White's practice was flourishing during a time of great growth in the San Antonio area. The city's population had grown from the 36<sup>th</sup> most populous city in the country in 1940 to the 17<sup>th</sup> most populous by 1960.<sup>35</sup> As a result of growing communities, new parishes were established and existing parish properties were expanded to meet the growing needs. Under the leadership of archbishop Robert E. Lucey (1941-1969), the diocese added 400 building projects during this period, including the expansion of St. John's Seminary.

---

<sup>33</sup> *University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building National Register Nomination*, 2010.

<sup>34</sup> Jay C. Henry. *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945*. (University of Texas Press: Austin, 1993), 105-6.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.biggestuscities.com/city/san-antonio-texas>

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Their work includes:

- St. Augustine Church remodel, Laredo, 1945-1953 (National Register District)
- Little Flower Catholic School (Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Therese of the Infant Jesus), San Antonio, 1947
- St. Edward's University, Doyle Hall, Austin, 1957
- Incarnate Word College, Student Center, San Antonio, 1958
- St. Benedict's Church, San Antonio, 1959
- Immaculate Conception Seminary Chapel at Oblate Seminary, San Antonio, 1960
- Mount Sacred Heart Convent, San Antonio, 1961

Julian & White's work on St. John's Seminary campus is an early example of their partnership and one of the earliest examples of their work in San Antonio. After World War II modern concepts of space and form began to appear in church design. Similar to other Julian and White projects, St. Mary's features a modernist interpretation of traditional church architecture and appears to be an early use of this design treatment. On St. John's campus, the architects referenced the Romanesque style reflected in earlier campus buildings. The design of St. Mary's pays homage to the earlier style through its design, material and features.

St. Mary's features a red brick façade, red tile roof, loggia and cast stone accents indicative of the Romanesque style. The use of steel casement windows, large openings, the flat roof entry at the porch and minimal use of detailing reflect principles in modern architecture. St. Mary's Hall serves as a good example of early modern church architecture with traditional influences in San Antonio.

Though the firm of Julian and White appears to have dissolved in the late 1960's, both Alvin Julian and Don White continued to work on projects for the Catholic Church and appear to have largely dedicated their careers to church, school, and campus architecture in the San Antonio region.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

## **Bibliography**

*The EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package 1938, 1950, 1966, 1973, 1982, 1990, 1995, 2005*

*Bexar County Property Records*

*Catholic Archives San Antonio*

Gilbert, Rev. Matthew J. *Breaking Ground: A History of the Beginning of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio*. An unfinished work published posthumously by St. John's and Assumption Seminary Alumni Association, 1956.

Habig, O.F.M., Marion A. *The Alamo Chain of Missions: A History of San Antonio's Five Old Missions*. Franciscan Herald Press: Chicago, 2004.

Henry, Jay C. *Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945*. University of Texas Press: Austin, 1993.

Langford, CDP, Mary Diane. *Shepherds in the Image of Christ*. iUniverse LLC: Bloomington, IN, 2014.

Mission San Francisco de la Espada National Register Nomination, listed 23 February 1972.

O'Neill, Perez, Lance, Larcade. "San Antonio Historic Survey, 1972." San Antonio, Tex.: San Antonio Community Renewal Program.

*Priest Forever: History of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas, 1915-1965*. San Antonio: St. John's and Assumption Seminaries Alumni Association, 1966.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of San Antonio, 1950, 1971.

Steinfeldt, Cecilia. *San Antonio Was: Seen Through a Magic Lantern: Views from the Slide Collection of Albert Steves, Sr.* San Antonio Museum Association, 1978.

Vanderholt, Rev. James. *Called to Serve...History of St. John's and Assumption Seminaries, San Antonio, Texas, 1915-1990 (St. John's and Assumption Seminaries Alumni Association: San Antonio, TX) 1990*.

## **Web Sites**

<http://libguides.utsa.edu/content.php?pid=205758&sid=5538418>.

<http://www.ost.edu/OblateSite/OST/about-ost.htm>

<http://stmarys-sa.org/index-2.html>

<https://www.cathdal.org/DioceseofDallasHistory.pdf>

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/article>

<https://www.biggestuscities.com/city/san-antonio-texas>



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

## **Section 10: Geographical Data**

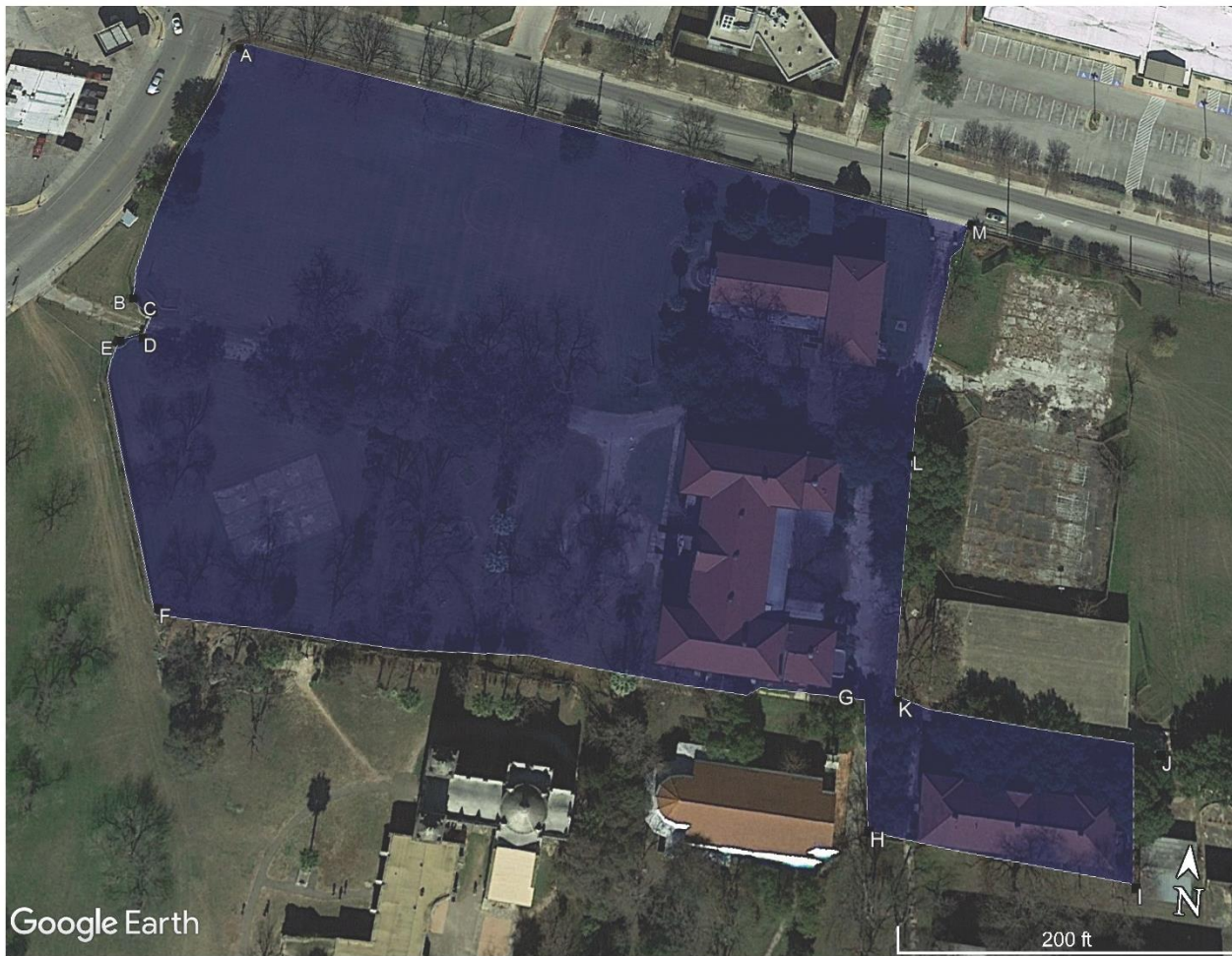
### **Verbal Boundary Description:**

Saint John's nomination area is a 5.09-acre site located at 222 East Mitchell Street in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The nomination area is part of 10.11 parcel located on NCB 3975 BLK 1 LOT 1-4,6-10,17- 21,29, N IRR PT 4 OF A29, A-31A, P-100 & ADJ 16' STRIP. The nomination area is bounded by Mission Road to the west and follows the legally recorded western boundary. Mitchell Road bounds the nomination area to the north and follows the legally recorded northern boundary up to the east side of the Mitchell Road entrance. The east boundary is delineated from the portion of the campus outside of the nomination area by the east edge of the Mitchell Road driveway to the south end of Droassert's Hall and the existing south property boundary. Here, the east edge of the boundary extends farther eastward along the north end of the footpath in front of Margil Hall and continues to the east end of Margil Hall for the width of the building. The boundary returns westward on the south elevation of the building where the existing stair and ramp end and continues for the length of the building until the west side of the footpath that is on the west side of Margil Hall's elevation. The boundary returns northward and meets the existing south boundary of the nomination area. The remainder of south boundary is defined by the legally recorded southern boundary and is visible due to an existing fence separating St. John's Seminary from the neighboring eighteenth-century Mission Concepción and additional noncontributing structures to the southeast.

### **Boundary Justification:**

The physical boundary of the nominated property has been drawn to include all contributing resources that were built and used during the period of significance (1920-1952) and in which integrity has not been compromised. The boundary thus includes the Main Seminary Building and two dormitories, Margil Hall and St. Mary's Hall. These historic nominated resources embody the Italian Renaissance style (evidencing regional influences) and display both a style and quality of design discernably different from the resources constructed in the post-1952 period, which in stark contrast, are generally utilitarian in design and in nature, lack the same high level of architectural detailing, and detract from the Romanesque-inspired campus. Moreover, the later buildings and ancillary structures are excluded because they date to when St. John's reverted to a minor seminary and hence, fall outside the period of significance identified. Components that were built after the end of the period of significance are thus, non-contributing and wherever feasible, are excluded from the nominated boundary.

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas



Google Earth, accessed September 2017

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas



St. John's Seminary Boundary Coordinates:

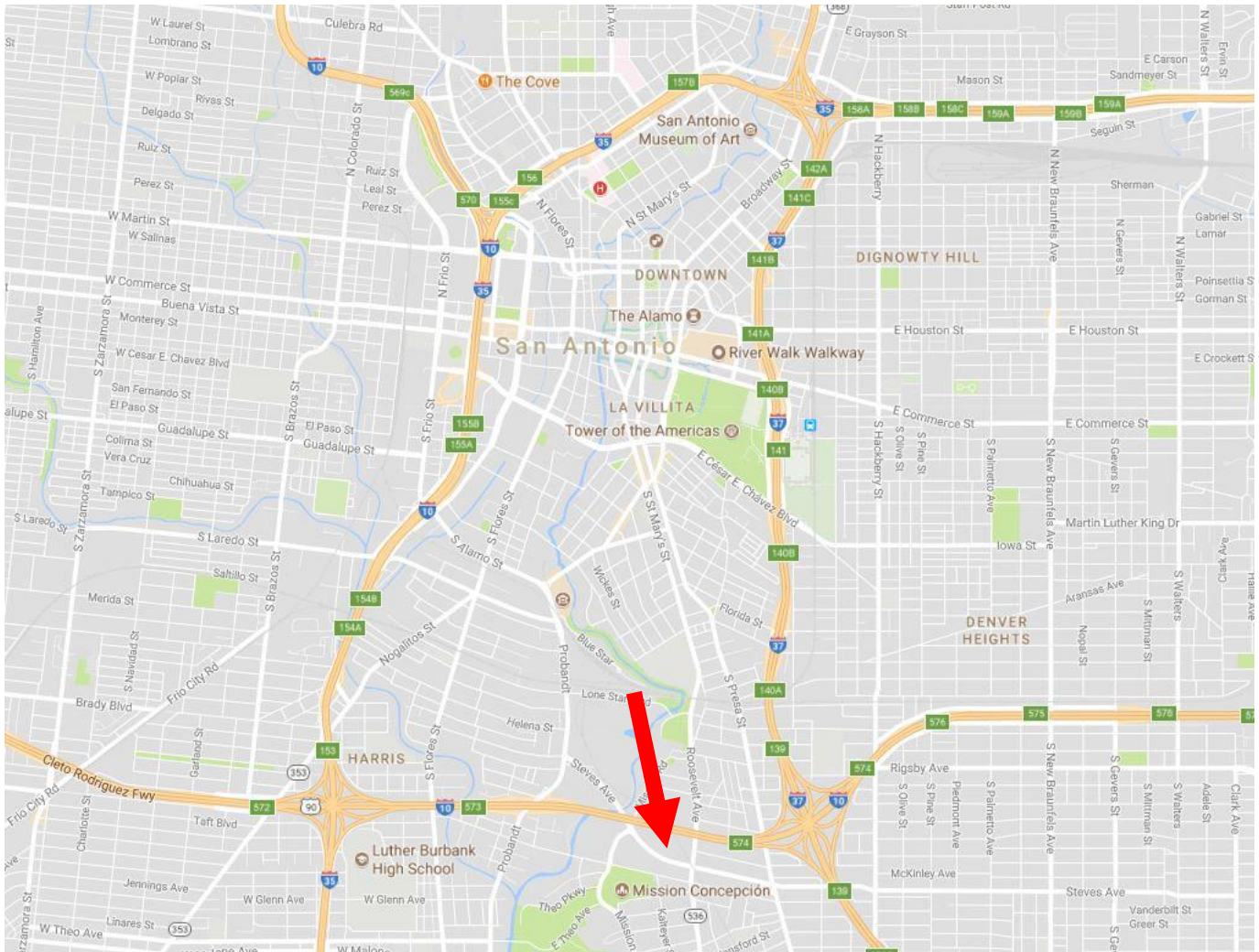
- A: 29.392496°, -98.491934°
- B: 29.391719°, -98.492058°
- C: 29.391898°, -98.492009°
- D: 29.391845°, -98.492020°
- E: 29.391836°, -98.492066°
- F: 29.391334°, -98.491877°
- G: 29.391260°, -98.490489°
- H: 29.391046°, -98.490447°
- I: 29.390987°, -98.489945°
- J: 29.391208°, -98.489885°
- K: 29.391266°, -98.490395°
- L: 29.391716°, -98.490370°
- M: 29.392199°, -98.490241°

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

Bexar County, Texas

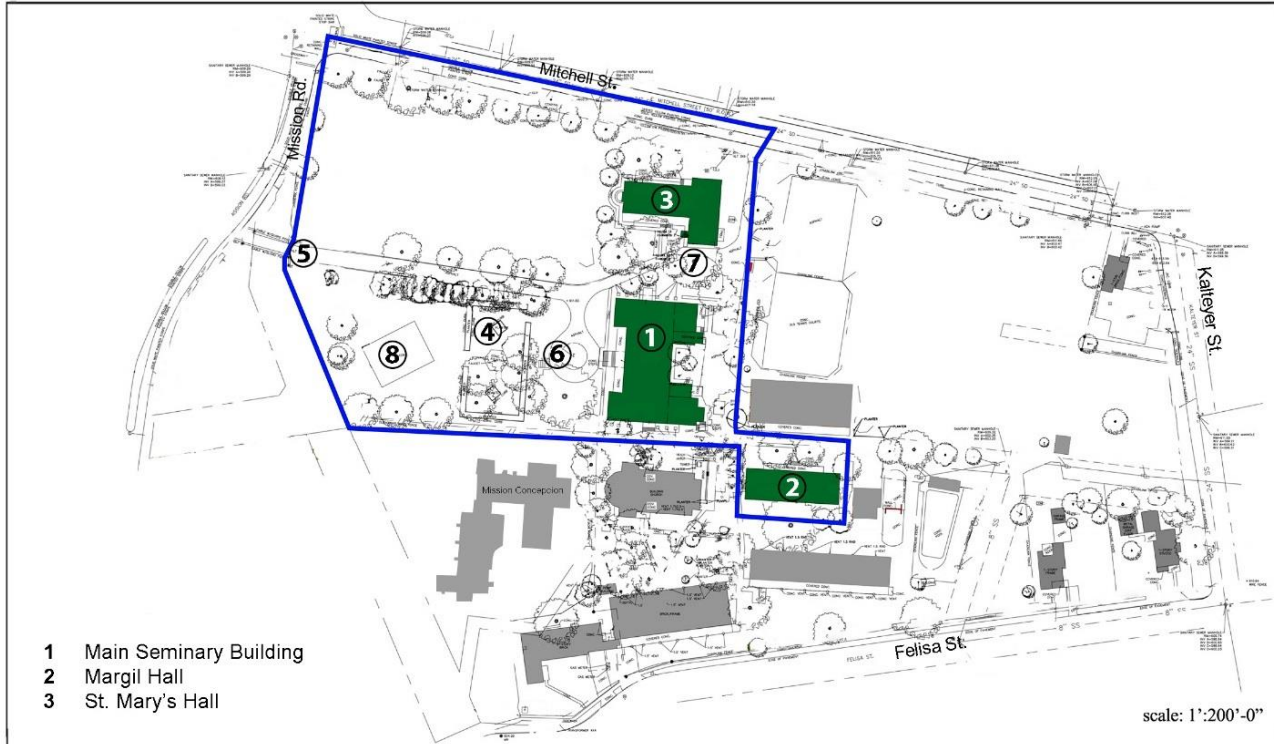


Location Map – Nominated property in relation to downtown San Antonio



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

Site plan and inventory map



National Register Nomination  
 St. John's Seminary  
 222 E. Mitchell Street, San Antonio TX

Inventory Map



MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC



ID	Name	Year of Construction	Property Type
1	Main Seminary Building (Drossaerts Hall)*	1920	Building
2	Margil Hall*	1935	Building
3	St. Mary's Hall*	1947	Building
4	Garden*	ca. 1931	Site
5	Brick Posts/Iron Gate and Fencing*	ca. 1924	Object
6	Flag Pole*	1923	Object
7	Statue/Grotto*	1936	Object
8	Paved Lot (not counted in inventory)	ca. 1966	

\*Contributing Components

St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

**Historic image of Main Seminary Building/Drossaerts Hall, west elevation, ca. 1920**

Source: Catholic Archives San Antonio



**Historic image of Margil Hall, north elevation, ca. 1935**

Source: Catholic Archives San Antonio



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

**Historic image of St. Mary's Hall, west elevation, ca. 1947**

Source: Catholic Archives San Antonio



**Historic image of St. Mary's Hall, west elevation (left) and Main Seminary, northwest elevation (right), no date**

Source: Catholic Archives of San Antonio



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

**Historic image of Garden under construction (Main Seminary Building in background), ca. 1931**

Source: Catholic Archives San Antonio



**Historic aerial of St. John's Seminary, ca. 1950**

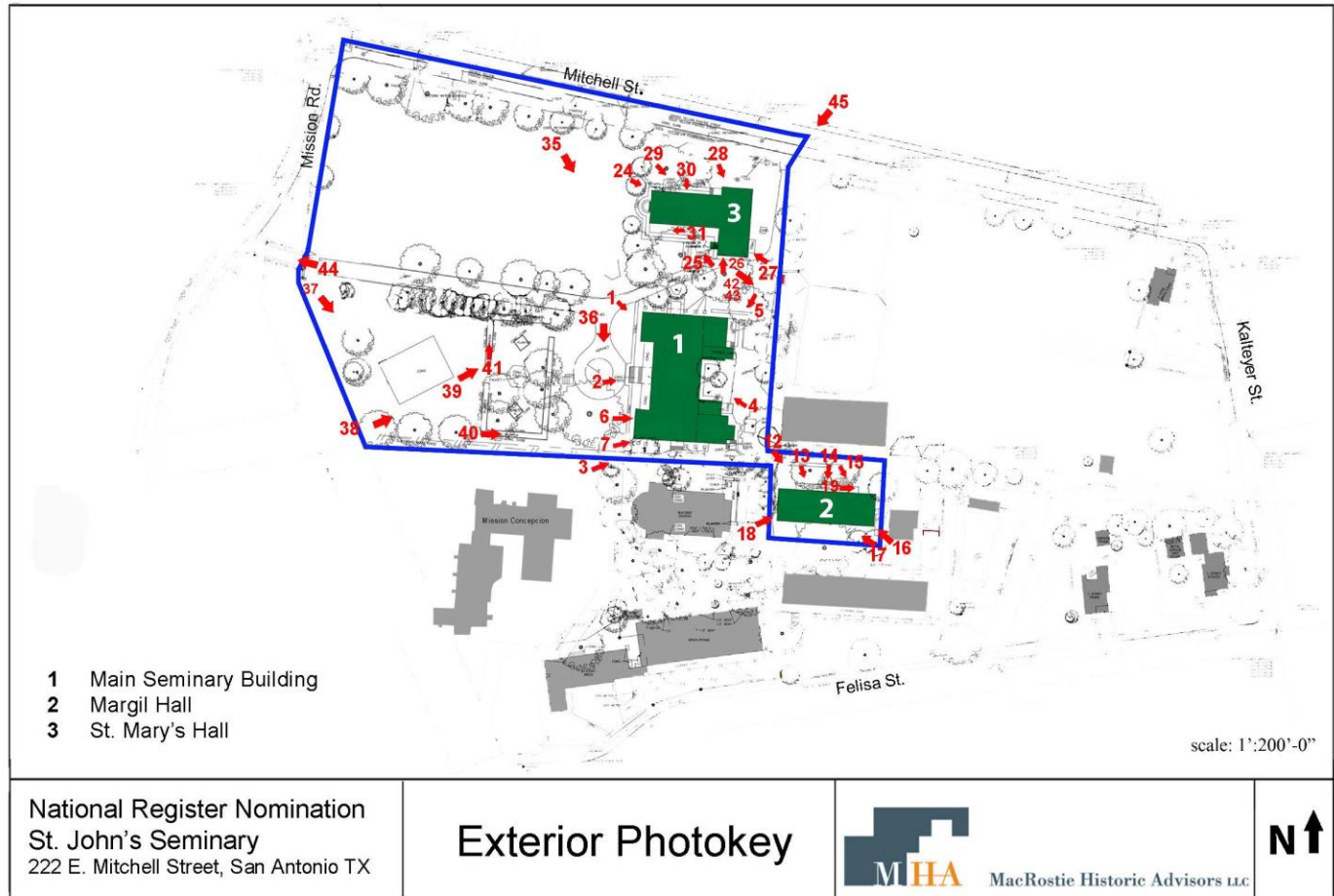
Source: Catholic Archives San Antonio





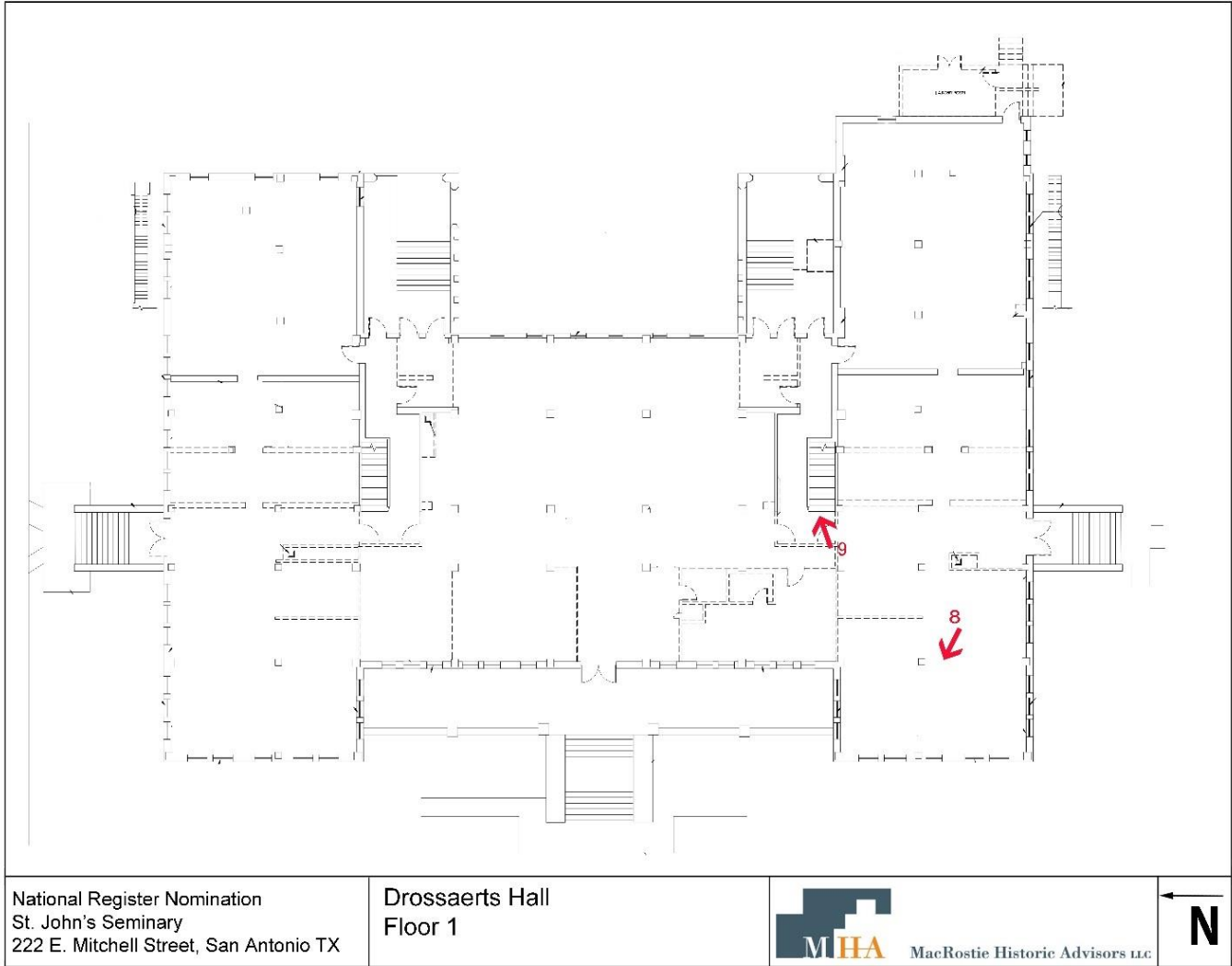
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

Exterior Photo Key



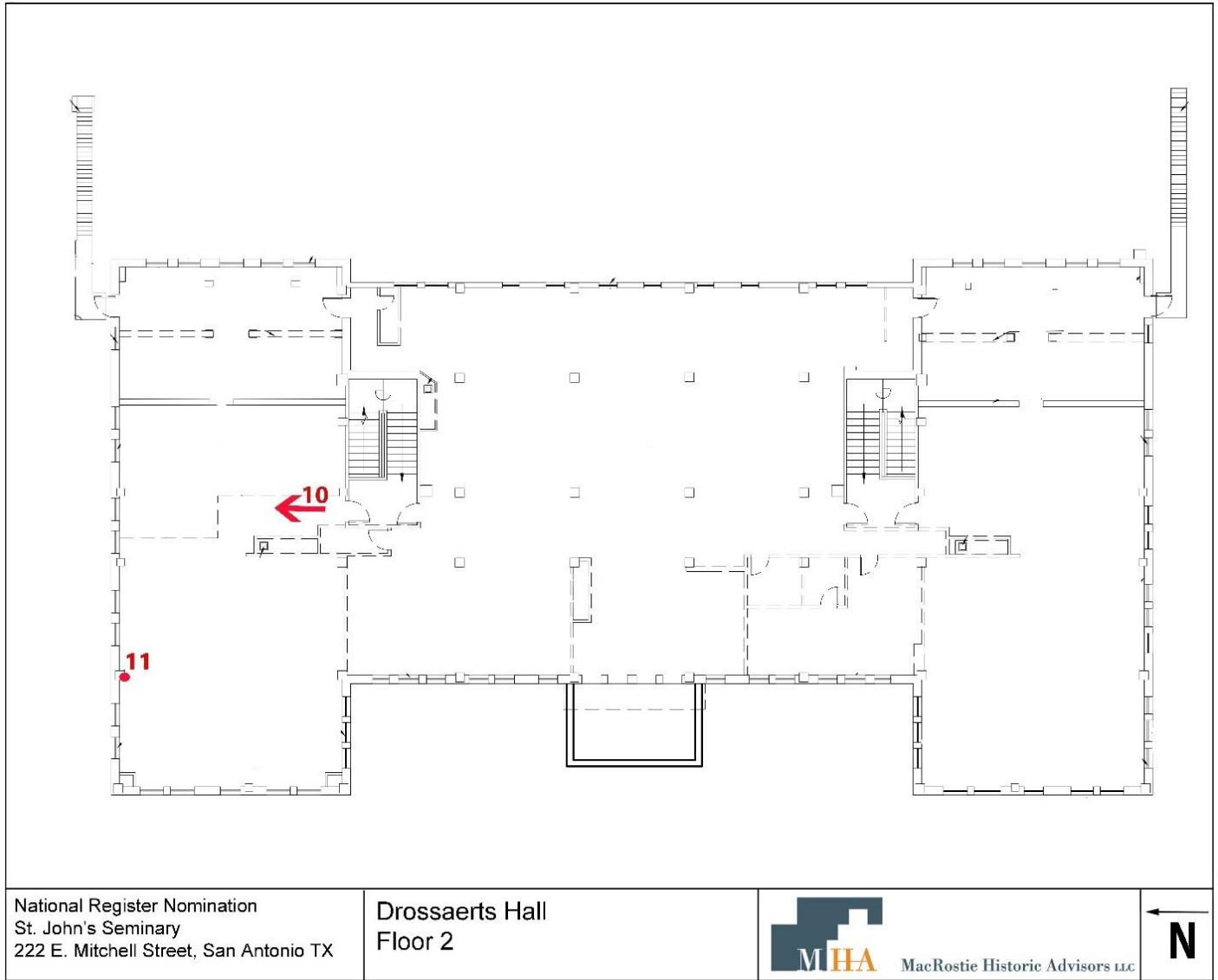
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

**Drossaerts Hall (Main Seminary) Photokey, Floor 1**



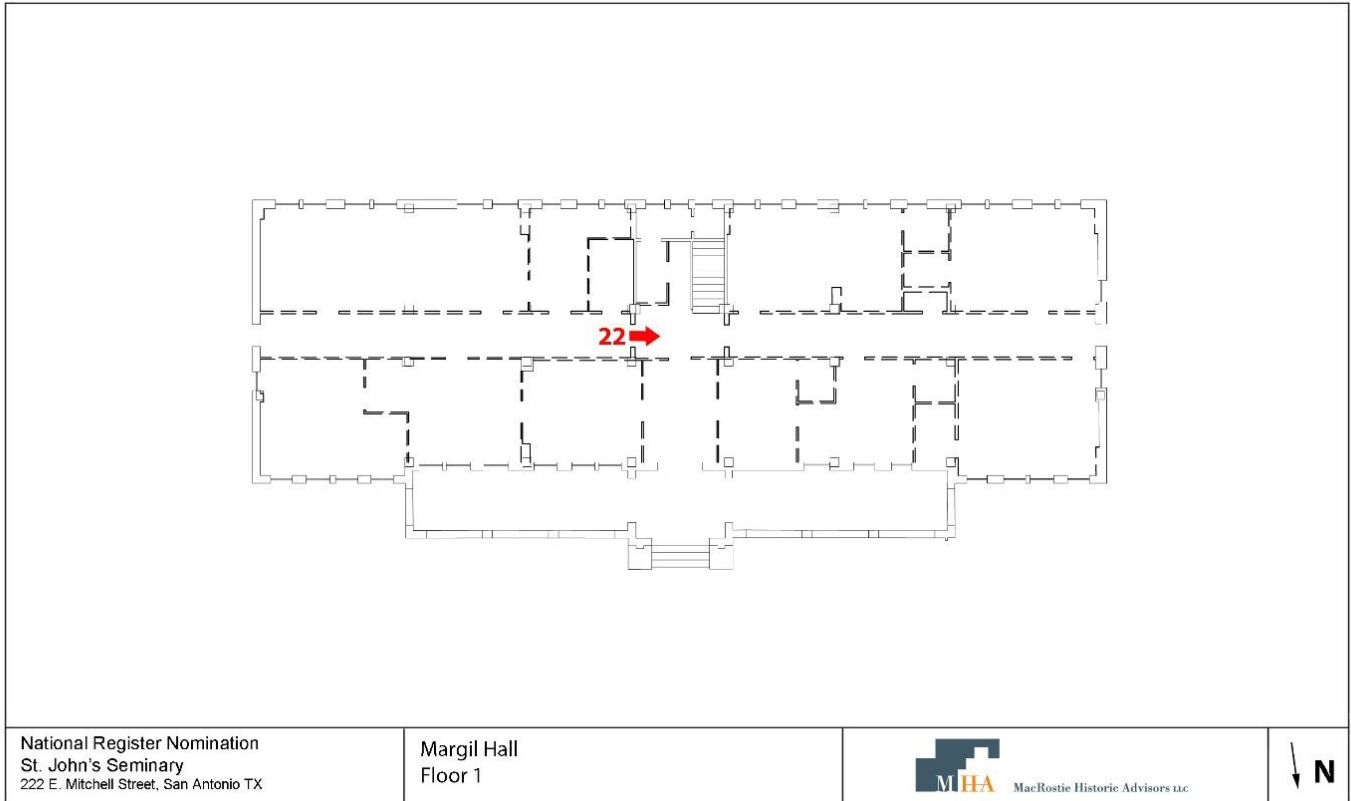
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

**Drossaerts Hall (Main Seminary) Photokey, Floor 2**



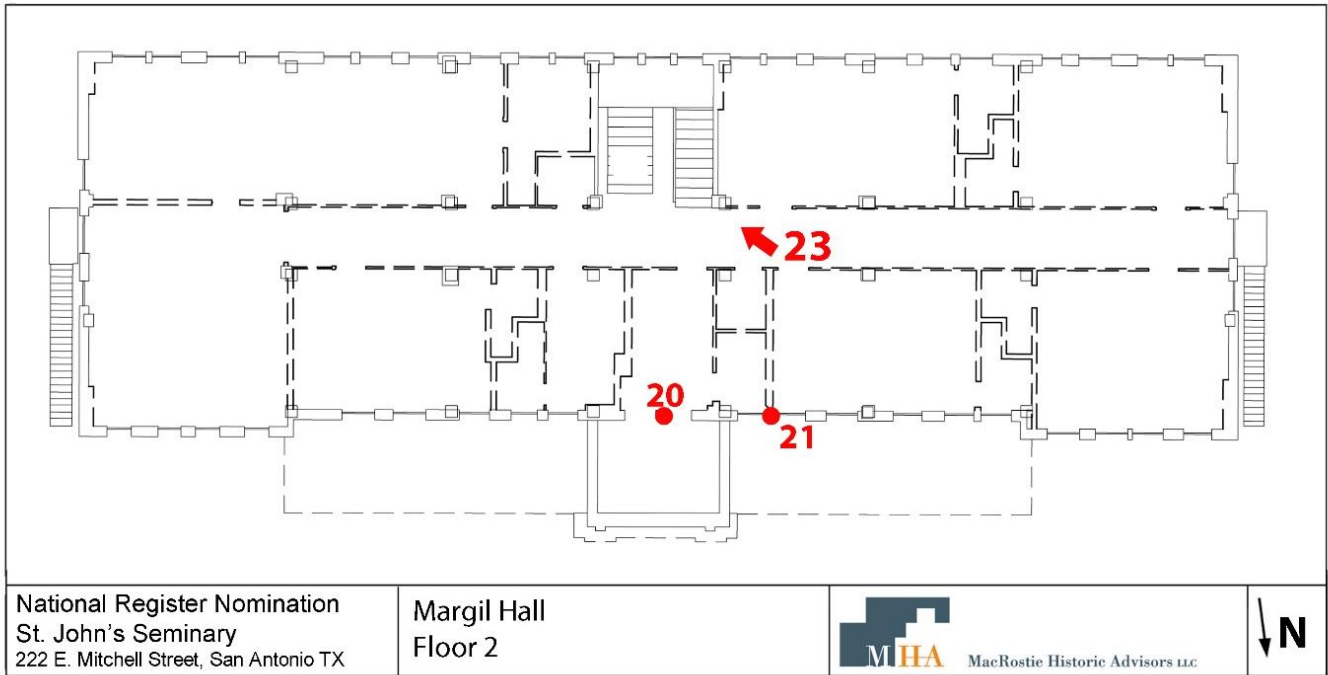
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

**Margil Hall Phootkey, Floor 1**



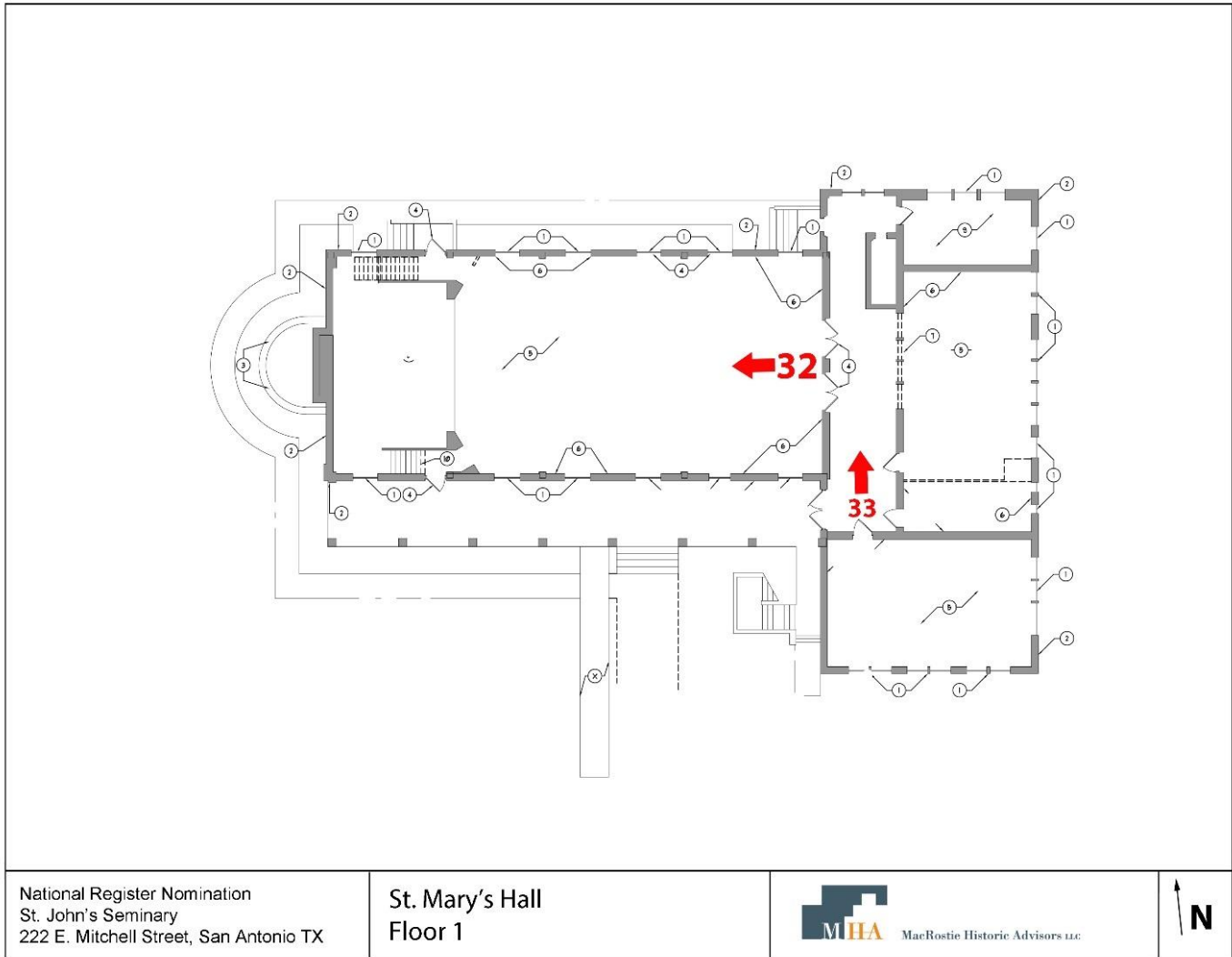
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

**Margil Hall Photokey, Floor 2**



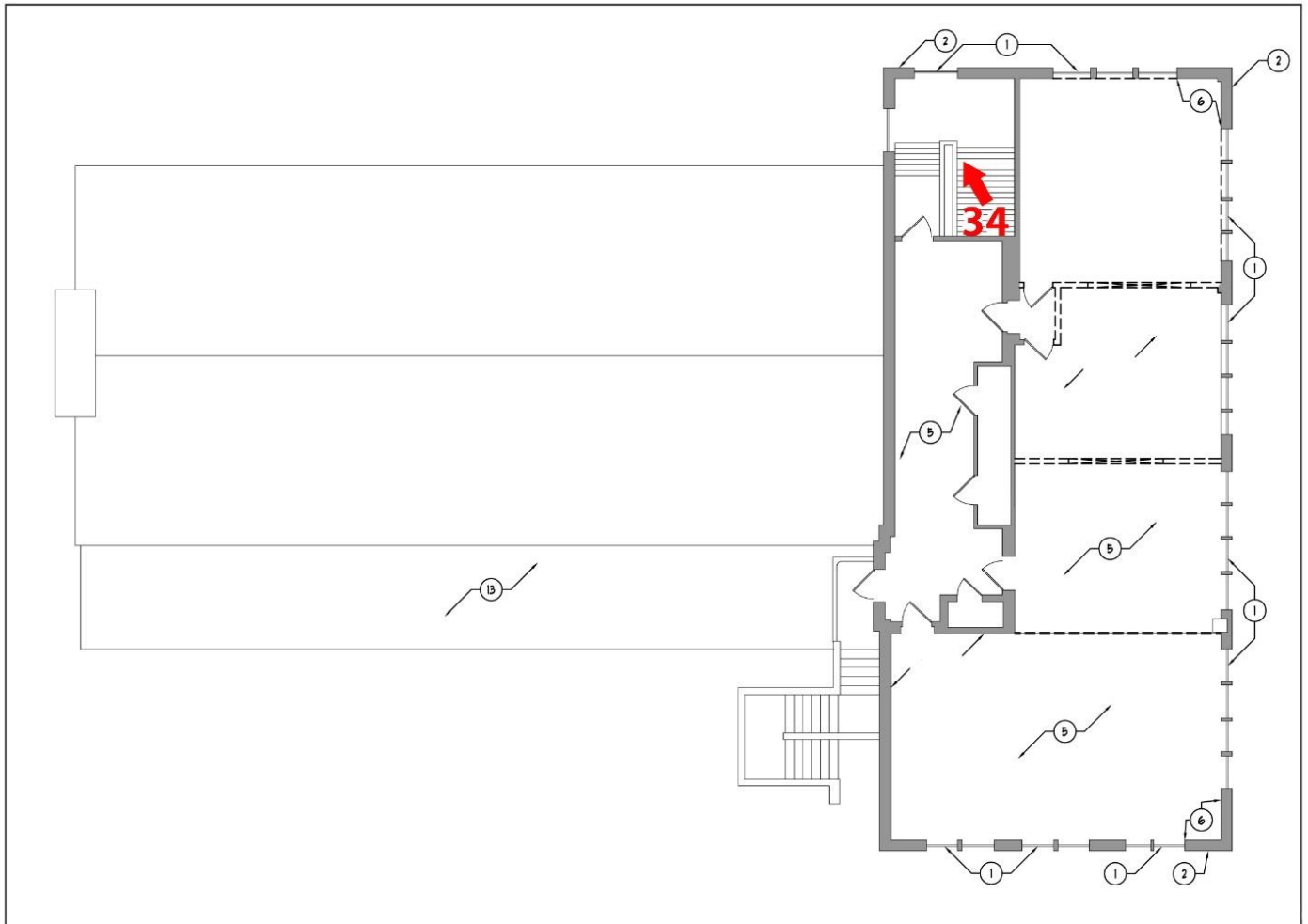
St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

St. Mary's Hall Photokey, Floor 1



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

St. Mary's Hall Photokey, Floor 2



National Register Nomination  
St. John's Seminary  
222 E. Mitchell Street, San Antonio TX

St. Mary's Hall  
Floor 2



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 1  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, west elevation  
Camera facing southeast





St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 2  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, main entry  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 3

Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, south elevation, Camera facing northwest



Photo 4

Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, east elevation, Camera facing northwest



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 5  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 6  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, window detail, west elevation  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 7  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, limestone detail, west elevation  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 8  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior first floor  
Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 9  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior stair  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 10  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior second story  
Camera facing north





St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 11  
Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall, interior pilaster molding detail, Camera facing north



Photo 12  
Margil Hall, northwest elevation, Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 13  
Margil Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 14  
Margil Hall, north elevation, main entry  
Camera facing south



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 15  
Margil Hall, northeast elevation  
Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 16  
Margil Hall, southeast elevation  
Camera facing northwest



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 17  
Margil Hall, south elevation, Camera facing northwest



Photo 18  
Margil Hall, west elevation, Camera facing northeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 19  
Margil Hall, loggia, Camera facing east



Photo 20  
Margil Hall, second story exterior north elevation detail, Camera facing south



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 21  
Margil Hall, second story window exterior detail  
Camera facing southeast





St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 22  
Margil Hall, interior first floor corridor  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 23  
Margil Hall, interior second floor corridor and stair, Camera facing west



Photo 24  
St. Mary's Hall, west elevation, Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 25  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation, Camera facing northwest



Photo 26  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation, Camera facing north



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 27  
St. Mary's Hall, east elevation  
Camera facing northwest



Photo 28  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation, Camera facing south



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 29  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation  
Camera facing southeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 30  
St. Mary's Hall, north elevation, window detail  
Camera facing south



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 31  
St. Mary's Hall, south elevation loggia, Camera facing west



Photo 32  
St. Mary's Hall, auditorium, first floor, Camera facing west



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 33  
St. Mary's Hall, first floor  
Camera facing north





St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 34  
St. Mary's Hall, stairs  
Camera facing north



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 35

St. Mary's Hall (left) and Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (right), Camera facing southeast



Photo 36

Main Seminary/Drossaerts Hall (left), flag pole (right), Camera facing south



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 37

St. John's Seminary site, Main Seminary/Droessarts Hall (left), Mission Concepcion (right)  
Camera facing southeast



Photo 38

St. John's Seminary site, paved lot (left), Main Seminary/Droessarts Hall (right), Camera facing northeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 39  
St. John's Seminary site  
Camera facing northeast



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 40  
Garden concrete foundations  
Camera facing east



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 41  
Description Garden concrete foundations  
Camera facing north



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 42  
Statue/grotto  
Camera facing southwest



St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 43  
Statue/grotto  
Camera facing northwest





St. John's Seminary, Bexar County, Texas

---

Photo 44  
Brick Piers/Iron Gate and Fencing, entrance from Mission Road, Camera facing west



Photo 45  
St. John's Seminary site, from Mitchell Street, Camera facing southwest



-end-









R I D A E





5  
5

5







ENDOK







B13









VEN. ANTONIO MARGIL HALL













A photograph of a brick building's exterior. The building features a decorative stone inscription on a ledge. The inscription is arranged in two lines: the top line reads "TEACH ME" and the bottom line reads "GOODNESS AND DISCIPLINE AND KNOWLEDGE". The brickwork is a mix of red and brown tones, with some decorative diamond-shaped stones interspersed. There are three windows visible above the inscription, each with a decorative stone surround. The sky is overcast and grey.

TEACH ME  
GOODNESS AND DISCIPLINE AND KNOWLEDGE













ST. MARY'S HALL







EAST YARD

SE 78

































UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DONOR: THE STATE OF ARKANSAS







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: St. John's Seminary

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Bexar

Date Received: 4/11/2018      Date of Pending List: 5/3/2018      Date of 16th Day: 5/18/2018      Date of 45th Day: 5/29/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002470

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      5/23/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The St. John's Seminary is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. The cohesive red-brick campus served as the Archdiocese of San Antonio's education centerpiece from 1920 to 1952, providing comprehensive training and dormitory space for local students entering the priesthood. The Seminary's buildings represent a rich collection of architect designed Beaux Arts, Mediterranean Revival and Renaissance Revival styled forms. Given the Catholic church's prominence within the region, the creation and operation of a Major Seminary within the San Antonio diocese reflected a significant local achievement.

Recommendation/ Criteria      Accept NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer      Paul Lusignan      Discipline      Historian

Telephone      (202)354-2229      Date      5/23/2018

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*



TO: Paul Lusignan  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

DATE: April 9, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for <i>St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.</i>
	Resubmitted nomination
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk
	Resubmitted form
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do ) (do not ) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

