NPS Form 10-900

56 3378

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property			
Historic Name: St. Scholastica	a Priory and Cemetery		
Other Names/Site Number: N			
Name of related multiple prop	erty listing: N/A		
2. Location			
Street & Number: 20264 Terra			
City or town: Covington		County: St. Tammany	y
Not for Publication:	Vicinity:	Ū.	
3. State/Federal Agency	Certification		
As the designated authority up that this information in reconstruction registering properties in the professional requirements set not meet the National Register I recommend that this propert in national istate information Applicable National Register (	uest for determination of e e National Register of Hist forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In r Criteria. y be considered significan local	eligibility meets the docume oric Places and meets the n my opinion, the property	entation standards procedural and M meets  does
Luti P. Son			12/7/2018
Signature of certifying offic	ial/Title: Kristin Sanders, Stat	e Historic Preservation Officer	Date
Louisiana Department of Cu	Iture, Recreation, and Te	ourism	
State or Federal agency/bur	eau or Tribal Governme	nt	
In my opinion, the property	meets 🗌 does not meet	the National Register crite	ria.
Signature of commenting of	fficial:		Date
Title:	State or Fee	deral agency/bureau or T	ribal Government

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

1.31.2019

**Date of Action** 

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Х	Private
	Public – Local
	Public – State
	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

	Building(s)	
Х	District	
	Site	
	Structure	
	object	

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
3	0	Buildings
1	0	Sites
		Structures
1		Objects
4	0	Total

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

#### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): RELIGION/religious facility; RELIGION/church school; FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): VACANT/NOT IN USE

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA

County and State

#### 7. Description

# **Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style/Modernistic; LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Neoclassical Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.) *Priory:* foundation: concrete walls: concrete, brick roof: steel other: aluminum, glass, stucco

Cottage and Pool House: foundation: unknown walls: wood roof: asphalt shingle other: glass

# **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

# Summary Paragraph

St. Scholastica Priory, located north of the City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, is a rural, 16acre site comprising 4 contributing resources: 1) a 35,300-square-foot priory constructed in 1964-65 as a new motherhouse for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica in Louisiana; 2) a 4,800-square-foot wood-frame cottage originally constructed c. 1900, expanded c. 1940s, and adapted for the sisters' educational mission in 1960; 3) a small, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century wood-frame pool house associated with the cottage; and 4) a cemetery established by the Benedictines in 1965. These 4 resources are situated in a woodland clearing off LA HWY 1081/Stafford Road characterized by groves of mature trees, lawns, and gravel access roads. The priory is an expansive, 1-story Mid-Century Modern building consisting of a central section and two U-shaped wings constructed of brick-faced concrete and steel and containing a chapel, kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms, offices, 63 bedrooms for nuns and novices, and interior courtyards. It has been vacant since 1988, and asbestos abatement performed c. 1990s necessitated the removal of some interior finishes. The cottage and pool house served in recent years as a private residence and are also currently vacant. The cemetery consists of approximately 50 grave markers dating from the 1890s through the 1990s. Because of its overall high degree of integrity, St. Scholastica Priory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Narrative Description

#### Overview of the Site

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica, who arrived in the Covington, Louisiana, from New Orleans in 1878, had resided on the downtown campus of their girls' school, St. Scholastica Academy (SSA), since its founding in 1903. (Figure 1) This convent, which occupied the same building as SSA's classrooms, served the sisters

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

well until the 1950s, when increasing numbers of novices (i.e., prospective members of the order) and a growing student body necessitated the search for a new home that could accommodate the sisters' changing needs.<sup>1</sup> In 1958, they purchased a 103-acre property approximately 3 miles north of the city known at the time as the Flying "A" Ranch ("A" for "Alexander," the preceding owners). In addition to farmland and uncleared woodland, their purchase included a 1-story center-hall cottage residence constructed c. 1900 (expanded c. 1940s) and a small, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century pool house constructed by the property's original owners, the Schnyders. The sisters converted the cottage into Goretti Hall, a residence hall for 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade SSA students, and, in 1964, they broke ground on a new, modern priory.<sup>2</sup> (Figures 2-4) The priory, which served as the sisters' new motherhouse, opened in 1965 and, in the same year, a small cemetery was established in a secluded nearby clearing.

Over time, the size of the property was reduced from its 103 acres to approximately 16 acres, but the setting nevertheless retains a distinctly pastoral feel. The buildings are set back about 1,000 feet into the woods off LA HWY 1081/Stafford Road, and numerous mature trees, including pines and live oaks, provide shade and privacy. A gravel access road from the highway splits into 2 paths terminating at the front and rear entrances to the priory building, which is bordered by lawn. The priory is the northernmost building on the site and is oriented to face west. The residential buildings sit roughly 325 feet southwest of the priory, and the cemetery is 200 feet to its south.

#### **Priory**

Completed in 1965, the 35,300-square-foot priory was designed by architect Robert Husmann of Austin, Texas, as a spacious yet modestly detailed building reflecting the humble needs of the Benedictine sisters. Construction consists of concrete-block walls faced on the exterior with warm orange-colored brick, open-web steel roof trusses, and a concrete slab foundation. Its largely flat roof, low-slung horizontal emphasis, lack of exterior ornamentation, distinctive form dictated by function, and simple, utilitarian materials and finishes are consistent with the overarching design tenets of Mid-Century Modernism. It has been vacant since the priory's closure in 1988.

The priory is largely 1 story in height and composed of 3 sections: a central rectangular wing housing all communal functions and 2 residential U-shaped wings to the north and south, which connect to the central building by front and rear hyphens with narrow courtyards in between. The central wing contains a large kitchen and dining room, various meeting rooms, a central interior courtyard, and a chapel, which has a double-height interior topped with a subtly hipped vault roof that is marked on the exterior by a large galvanized-metal cross. This height difference provides a central focal point when the building is viewed from the exterior and signals the primary importance of the chapel within the priory's building program. A flat-roofed, brick- and stucco-clad porte-cochere marks the central front entrance, which opens into the chapel lobby. The residential wings are organized around double-loaded corridors and each form a U around courtyards that connect to the north and south lawns of the surrounding property. The north wing contains small dormitories for the novices, and the south wing contains somewhat more spacious living quarters for the sisters, with 2 solaria at the southern terminus points of the U.

At the rear of the building (east elevation) are two small semi-detached structures: a 1-story, flat-roofed mechanical room clad in orange brick and a grade-level porch with a metal awning.

# Exterior (photos 1-7)

The priory exterior is highly symmetrical in appearance, with regularly spaced openings and uniform orangebrick wall cladding across all elevations. Openings extend from floor to roof line and consist of simple, aluminum-frame plate-glass windows and doors. Projecting brick window and door surrounds subtly reinforce

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Priory" and "convent" are synonyms that are used interchangeably in this nomination. Since St. Scholastica Priory served as the residence of the Benedictine sisters' prioress, the term "motherhouse" also applies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> St. Scholastica Academy, *The Dove Yearbook, 1962*; and "Archbishop to Officiate at Two Ceremonies Today," *The Times-Picayune,* June 6, 1964.

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

the regular rhythm of the exterior. The front entrance is an aluminum-frame storefront system consisting of a pair of central plate-glass doors with fixed plate-glass windows at either side and a fixed transom above. The upper windows of the central chapel space are fitted with rose-tinted glass. Throughout the priory, the exterior opening dimensions and locations are intact; however, due to vandalism, most of the glazing and frames are damaged. Nevertheless, the exterior possesses an overall high degree of integrity.

#### Interior (photos 8-17)

The priory interior was designed to be modest and functional, and this intent remains readable today. The floor plan is intact, including all corridors, sleeping rooms, interior courtyards, communal areas such as the chapel and dining room, and the character-defining spatial relationships between public and private areas. Original flooring materials include terrazzo, asbestos tile, and quarry tile. All asbestos tile has been removed, but quarry tile is extant in the kitchen and terrazzo is extant in the chapel lobby, chapel corridor off the lobby, and in the dining room. Typical wall and ceiling coverings were painted gypsum board and acoustical tile. The majority of these finishes were removed as part of the aforementioned asbestos abatement, and the underlying CMU walls and metal ceiling deck are exposed. The chapel interior retains its wall and ceiling coverings, low altar platform, and curved altar wall; the painted-wood altar screen and pews have been removed. Most interior doors are missing, but the original arrangement of openings and painted-metal casings with distinctive recessed profiles remain (e.g., photo 9).

#### Cottage and Pool House (photos 20-27)

The 1-story center-hall cottage was constructed c. 1900 by dairy farmer Joseph Schnyder and expanded and remodeled c. 1940s. Today, the cottage retains a high degree of integrity from its period of association with the Benedictine sisters (1960-1968).

Both the original cottage and c. 1940s additions exhibit elements of the Classical Revival styles (Neoclassical and Colonial Revival). The cottage is wood-frame construction clad in wood weatherboard siding with a side-gable roof and three gable-roof dormers. The primary, west-facing façade features a full-width front porch with 6 Corinthian columns, a prominent central front entrance, and full-length, 1-light triple-hung wood sash windows secured by louvered shutters. The front entrance consists of a pane-over-panel wood door flanked by diamond-pane leaded-glass sidelights and transom above. The windows on the sides of the original cottage are 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows.

The c. 1940s remodel and expansion include the addition of two wings, one to the south of the cottage and one to the north, which connect at the rear of the cottage. Both are wood-frame construction clad in wood weatherboard siding. The south wing runs perpendicular to the cottage façade and is 2 stories in height but sits roughly in line with the central roof ridge of the cottage. It has a front-gable roof with central chimney and 8/8 double-hung wood sash windows. The north wing, which runs parallel to the cottage façade, is a long and narrow 1-story building that terminates in a 2-story side-gable squarish mass housing a 1<sup>st</sup>-floor garage and apartment upstairs. The 1-story section is 1 room deep with an integrated front porch and 3-light wood casement windows on its west elevation and several multi-light wood sash windows and doors on its east-facing rear elevation. Windows in the 2-story section are 6/6 double-hung wood sashes, and the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor garage has wood double doors. An exterior wood stair and deck were added to its north and west elevations c. 2000s.

On the interior, the original cottage layout consists of a wide central hall with intact wood paneling and two large rooms to either side. Wood flooring, tall painted-wood baseboards, and paneled-wood doors are extant throughout. Ceilings in the rooms are dropped but the original ceilings are extant and partially visible above. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the c. 1940s south wing addition consists primarily of a spacious den with a large brick fireplace, quarry-tile floors, tongue-and-groove wood ceilings, and wood wall paneling. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor houses two bedrooms separated by a central stair hall. The c. 1940s north wing addition contains a kitchen and mudroom with quarry-tile floors, plaster-board walls and ceilings, and paneled-wood doors. In the c. 1940s garage addition at the north end of the north wing, the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor garage is a utilitarian space with exposed-joist or plaster-board ceilings, plasterboard walls, and concrete floors. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor 1-bedroom apartment is simply

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

finished with plaster-board walls and ceilings, rolled linoleum over vinyl tile or carpet floors, paneled-wood doors, and minimal painted-wood trim.

The pool house, located approximately 70 feet southeast of the cottage, is a small, wood-frame outbuilding dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is clad in wood weatherboard siding and features a shallow-pitched cross-gable roof with extended eaves. It was historically affiliated with an in-ground pool on the south end of the building that was filled in c. 1990s for safety purposes. The building is in heavily deteriorated condition and currently inaccessible.

# Cemetery (photos 18-19)

In 1965, the Benedictine sisters established a cemetery on the property. Known as "Mary, Queen of Peace Cemetery," according to a plaque on the grounds, "this cemetery of the Benedictine sisters of St. Scholastica Priory contains the graves of the deceased members of the community which served the church in St. Tammany and neighboring parishes from 1870 to 1996. The remains of the 67 sisters originally buried at St. Joseph Abbey were transferred to the common grave in 1965. Also buried here are some of the benefactors and friends of the community."<sup>3</sup> The names of the 67 sisters relocated to this burial ground are listed on a separate pair of plaques mounted on a granite marker. In addition, there are approximately 50 granite grave markers arranged in rows with dates ranging from the 1890s through the 1990s.

# Assessment of Integrity

*Location and Setting:* St. Scholastica Priory possesses integrity of location and setting. The historic resources remain in their original locations. Although the size of the property has been reduced from 103 acres to approximately 16 acres, the historic rural setting remains intact by virtue of its mature trees and deep setback from the highway.

*Design, Materials, and Workmanship:* The priory possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to communicate the building's identity as a spacious yet modest Mid-Century Modern building designed to serve as a motherhouse for a growing religious order. Although some interior finishes were removed due to asbestos content and many windows are damaged, the vast majority of historic fabric is extant, particularly on the exterior. The floor plan, including its distinctive shape, is also intact. The cottage is largely unchanged since 1960, when the sisters adapted it as a residence hall for SSA students. The cemetery remains a small, secluded burial ground with modest grave markers consistent with its original intent.

*Feeling and Association:* The property's integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship together create integrity of feeling. The property remains a quiet, rural retreat with ample room for the Benedictine sisters to grow and to pursue their mission as educators in St. Tammany Parish. A former resident of the priory or a former SSA student would undoubtedly recognize the property if she were to visit today.

# 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

X	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the		
		broad patterns of our history.		
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
	С	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		
		construction of represents the work of a master, of possesses flight attistic values, of		

<sup>3</sup> The plaque is dated November 1996.

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

	represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history	

# **Criteria Considerations:**

	Α	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes		
	В	Removed from its original location		
	С	A birthplace or grave		
Х	D	A cemetery		
	Е	A reconstructed building, object, or structure		
	F	A commemorative property		
	G	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years		

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): religion, education

Period of Significance: 1960-1968

Significant Dates: 1960, 1964-65

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Husmann, Robert (architect)

**Period of Significance (justification)**: The period of significance begins in 1960, when the sisters began adapting the property to serve their mission, and ends in 1968, the 50-year cut-off.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**: Criteria consideration D does come into play as part of the property is a cemetery. However, the cemetery is significant under Criterion A as described below.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

St. Scholastica Priory is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of religion and education as the primary historic site associated with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica in St. Tammany Parish, where they served for a century as leaders in parochial education. The priory property, which consists of the priory building, cottage, pool house, and cemetery, embodies the culmination of the sisters' presence in the parish, when they were at peak growth as a religious order and at their most active as educators in the community. The period of significance begins in 1960, when the sisters began adapting the property to serve their mission, and ends in 1968, the 50-year cut-off.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Overview of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

\*\* This section draws heavily from St. Scholastica Academy's centennial publication, St. Scholastica Academy: A Century of Sisterhood, 1903-2003. Quoted material and additional sources are specifically cited.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica, a religious order rooted in the Catholic faith, trace their origins and legacy as educators to St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, who founded the Benedictine order in Montecassino, Italy, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The men and women entering Benedictine monasteries and priories lived by St. Benedict's rule of *ora et labora*, which involved a moderate regimen of prayer, sacred readings, and manual labor. During the Middle Ages, the Benedictine houses also served as centers of learning in an era when illiteracy was commonplace across the social hierarchy; members were taught to read and write so that they could study the Bible and copy sacred texts, which filled their celebrated libraries.

At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Benedictines made their way to England and, by the 800s, to Bavaria (present-day Germany). Among those who traveled to Bavaria was St. Walburga, who became the abbess of the region's first Benedictine convent. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, nearly a millennium later, the German Benedictines of St. Walburga's convent expanded into the New World to aid the millions of German immigrants who arrived in the United States between the 1840s and 1880s. The first three sisters to travel to the United States arrived in 1852 at the behest of a Father Wimmer in Elk County, Pennsylvania, who requested their assistance in educating the local German population. After a few years, these sisters decided to settle in America permanently and, in 1856, established a convent in Erie, Pennsylvania. From there, the Benedictines ventured further into the continent, and convents sprang up throughout the United States, including in Covington, Kentucky (St. Walburg's Convent, 1859), Chicago, Illinois (Convent of St. Scholastica, 1861), and St. Joseph, Minnesota (St. Benedict's, 1863), among many others.<sup>4</sup> A 1914 compendium of female religious communities in the United States remarked that "very significant is the fact that this immense country with scarcely any past is already dotted with convents like that over which St. Scholastica ruled in Italy fourteen centuries ago."<sup>5</sup>

The Benedictine sisters first arrived in Louisiana in 1870, when a group from St. Walburg's in Kentucky came to the aid of the German-speaking Holy Trinity Parish in the Faubourg Marigny section of New Orleans. In 1873, more sisters arrived from St. Walburg's in response to a similar request from St. Boniface Parish in the city's Seventh Ward. In 1874, some of these sisters relocated to the Carrollton section upriver to teach in the German-speaking Mater Dolorosa parish. In the mid-1870s, the sisters at Holy Trinity decided to form an independent motherhouse in New Orleans known as St. Benedict Convent, and constructed a 2-story, wood-frame house at 2824 Dauphine Street adjacent to the parish church and school. This structure, which remains standing today, became the first Benedictine motherhouse in Louisiana and the Gulf South. Thus, by 1880, a decade after their arrival, the Benedictine sisters had established a permanent home in Louisiana and were affiliated with three schools, a number that would grow substantially in the decades that followed.

#### The Benedictine Sisters in St. Tammany Parish

# The Benedictines in St. Tammany Parish, 1877-1957

The Benedictine sisters first arrived in St. Tammany Parish, located north of New Orleans on the north shore (or "Northshore") of Lake Pontchartrain, in 1877, when two sisters from St. Benedict Convent visited Covington for health reasons. Incorporated in 1816 and soon thereafter established as the seat of St. Tammany Parish, Covington was one of several small Northshore towns known in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for their restorative climate. It was believed that the area's waters, in particular the natural springs at Abita Springs, and the fresh air of the parish's pine woods could cure the ills of city life, most notably the fatal yellow fever outbreaks that regularly plagued New Orleans. Besides health tourism, the economy of 19<sup>th</sup>-century St. Tammany Parish was primarily agricultural, and a lumber boom began in the 1880s when the railroad first arrived in the area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Catholic Church in the United States of America, Volume II: The Religious Communities of Women (New York: The Catholic Editing Company, 1914), 8-31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Catholic Church in the United States of America, 8.

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

Upon their initial visit, the sisters discovered that Covington lacked a priest to serve the spiritual needs of Catholic visitors and residents. Upon their petition, Father Bernadine Dolwick arrived from the Benedictine St. Vincent Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, in 1878 and was assigned to St. Peter's Parish. Soon thereafter, four sisters from New Orleans arrived to establish a small convent at St. Peter's and assist Father Bernadine with the administration of a parish school, thus commencing their long legacy of education in St. Tammany. However, in these early days St. Peter's struggled to keep the school afloat due to lack of funds and, in 1882, when Father Bernadine died of yellow fever, the school closed and the sisters returned to New Orleans. In 1890, the new pastor of St. Peter's, Father Joseph Koergel, asked the sisters to return to Covington to reopen the school. Meanwhile, the motherhouse on Dauphine Street was proving inadequate for its growing membership, and the sisters began considering other locations. Attracted by Covington's healthful climate, availability of space, and flourishing Catholic community desirous of their religious instruction, they decided to relocate to the Northshore. In 1893, at the urging of the St. Peter's congregation, they purchased a large parcel in downtown Covington with plans to erect a new motherhouse and establish a girls' academy.

In 1902, construction began on a large, 3-story, wood-frame school building, which contained a convent, school classrooms and administrative offices, and a chapel. Designed by noted New Orleans architect Thomas Sully, the centrally located building became a landmark in downtown Covington. In May 1903, after a decade of planning, the New Orleans sisters and their novices finally crossed the lake and settled into their new home, and soon thereafter St. Scholastica Academy (SSA) opened its doors.

In its early years, SSA served daytime students as well as boarders from areas with no Catholic schools, and offered primary, grammar, and secondary sections, each comprising four years of course work. The sisters served as the academy's teachers and administrators, including the role of principal. SSA's educational mission was to produce well-rounded, Christian women:

The aim of our institution is to develop true Christian women who will grace society by their accomplishments and honor it by their virtue. The plan of instruction is practical, solid, and refined, embracing all that is comprehended in the term education,...and gives [the student] the knowledge and love of the strong Christian principles which develop in a woman both her greatest powers and her tenderest charms.<sup>6</sup>

Thus the curriculum included not only instruction in Catholic doctrine and church history, but also instruction in etiquette and the humanities, with optional courses in sewing, housekeeping, and a commercial course that taught English grammar, shorthand, and arithmetic, among other skills.

The school was a welcome addition to St. Tammany Parish and an immediate success. In its first year, SSA hosted 17 boarders and 60 day students. In 1914, a national publication observed that

the school is constantly growing and bids fair to rank soon as the leading school of the South. The ideal healthful location is a great inducement to parents to place their daughters in this boarding-school, where they will develop their physical powers in proportion to their moral and intellectual. The large spacious grounds and shady nooks surrounding the institution are fine resorts for out-door exercise.<sup>7</sup>

In 1921, SSA's growth and increasingly prestigious reputation necessitated the construction of an addition to the east wing of the 1903 building; according to its centennial publication, by the 1920s SSA was "well established as a premiere institution of education not only on the Northshore, but also in the Archdiocese of New Orleans."<sup>8</sup> The school campus continued to expand over the next decades in response to a growing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> As quoted in St. Scholastica Academy, *St. Scholastica Academy: A Century of Sisterhood, 1903-2003* (Covington, LA: St. Scholastica Academy, 2003), 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Catholic Church in the United States of America, 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> St. Scholastica Academy, 23.

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

student body and an evolving curriculum. The sisters erected a gymnasium in 1934, 2 new residence halls in the early 1950s, and Wisdom Hall, a new state-of-the-art classroom facility, in 1957. In its coverage of these 1950s expansion efforts, the SSA newspaper stated that "these women [the sisters] have nursed a small boarding school into one of the most highly accredited academies in the South."<sup>9</sup>

As SSA grew, so were the Benedictine sisters increasing in number and expanding their educational mission throughout St. Tammany Parish. In 1914, there were 45 Benedictine sisters and novices associated with the Covington motherhouse, a greater number than ever before associated with the Louisiana houses.<sup>10</sup> While SSA served as their home base and most prominent institution, the sisters also served as teachers and/or administrators at several parochial schools throughout the Northshore. They had been involved with St. Peter's School in Covington since 1878 and continued to teach there well into 1980s. In 1916, they took over teaching responsibilities at Our Lady of the Lake School in Mandeville. In 1933, they did the same at St. Catherine's School in Madisonville and, in 1951, at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Slidell. In the mid-1960s, they helped found St. Margaret Mary School in Slidell. By the time St. Scholastica Priory opened in the 1960s, the Benedictines, through their tireless dedication, had impacted generations of St. Tammany Parish youth and had cemented their role as educational leaders within the community.

# St. Scholastica Priory, 1958-1988

The Covington motherhouse reached its peak in the late 1950s with 100 members, and yet it was still housed at the 1903 school building, which it had shared with SSA students for over 50 years. If they were to continue their mission within the parish and allow SSA to continue expanding, the sisters required a new home. That the sisters were compelled to move their motherhouse to a significantly larger facility was a testament to their success. In 1959, the *St. Tammany Farmer* reported on the sisters' purchase of a 103-acre former farm property on Stafford Road north of Covington, quoting then-prioress Mother Patricia Gavin, OSB: "It has become evident that because of the number of boarding students at St. Scholastica and the growth of community members, expansion room is necessary."<sup>11</sup> They debated relocating the entire SSA campus to the motherhouse only. Thus the school remained downtown, and in the mid-1960s, the 1903 building was torn down and replaced with new, modern facilities.<sup>12</sup> In 1967, the school officially joined the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which financed the construction.

In 1960, the cottage residence on the Stafford Road property was converted for SSA use to ease the burden on the downtown campus. Known as Goretti Hall, the cottage became a residence hall and classrooms for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students. According to the school's centennial publication, "the new location provided ample recreational outlets including horseback riding, fishing and boating" for students.<sup>13</sup> In 1965, the new, 35,300square-foot priory building was completed at an estimated cost of \$550,000.<sup>14</sup> A cemetery was established on the property the same year.

Shortly after the sisters moved into their new motherhouse, they were confronted by the proclamations of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council ("Vatican II"), which was convened in 1962-65 to address relations between the Catholic Church and the modern world. Vatican II resulted in fundamental shifts within the Catholic faith that would forever impact the meaning of sisterhood worldwide. The Church wished to demonstrate that it was an active participant in the modern world and that the teachings of its Gospels were relevant to the social issues of the day.<sup>15</sup> For the first time in the religion's history, mass was delivered in vernacular languages rather than in Latin, priests were permitted to face their congregations, and dialogue with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> St. Scholastica Academy, 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The Catholic Church in the United States of America, 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> St. Tammany Farmer as quoted in A Century of Sisterhood, 40.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB, in an interview with the author, July 16, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> St. Scholastica Academy, 41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "Archbishop to Officiate at Two Ceremonies Today," The Times-Picayune, June 6, 1964.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> John Pope, "50 years ago, Vatican II changed the Catholic Church – and the world," *Washington Post*, 2012.

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

other religions was encouraged. Nuns were no longer required to wear habits nor reside in convents. These shifts coincided with major social movements in the United States such as civil rights and protests against the Vietnam War, as well as increasingly liberal sexual norms and ideas about women in the workforce. Nuns and priests, including the Benedictines, began venturing beyond the walls of their houses to engage with these causes, speaking out and sometimes risking arrest in the fight for human dignity and equality.

Although many nuns chose to remain with the Church following Vatican II, religious orders struggled to attract new members. Since the 1960s, the population of nuns in the United States has decreased by 75 percent.<sup>16</sup> St. Scholastica Priory was not immune to this decline, although the effects were gradual. In the 1970s, the priory's membership remained high, as shown in a photograph dated 1970, although the population was aging, with fewer and fewer younger sisters to care for them. (Figure 5) Following the completion of the new modern SSA campus, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students left Goretti Hall, and the cottage was converted into a spiritual retreat center. By the late 1970s, retreat guests were staying in empty rooms at the priory. In 1979, the sisters retired from their involvement at SSA, which was taken over by lay staff under the aegis of the Archdiocese.

In 1988, after careful consideration, St. Scholastica Priory officially closed due to declining membership. In one of several articles about the closing, New Orleans's *Times-Picayune* wrote:

For 118 years, the Benedictine sisters of St. Scholastica have been a part of Louisiana—from the pioneer days when they taught German Catholic immigrant children, to their spiritual and religious community work of recent times....The Covington monastery reached its peak in the late 1950s and early 1960s....But, because of the deaths of elderly nuns and the loss of younger members who have left, the number began to dwindle and never has recovered.<sup>17</sup>

# Other Properties Associated with the Benedictine Sisters in St. Tammany Parish

Although the Benedictine sisters were affiliated with several schools in St. Tammany Parish between 1878 and 1968 (the fifty-year cut-off), St. Scholastica Priory is the primary historic site associated with the sisters as well as the only remaining intact historic site communicating their significance within the community. All other known affiliated sites are discussed below.<sup>18</sup>

- St. Peter's Catholic School, 130 E. Temperance Street, Covington, Louisiana. St. Peter's Catholic School (pre-kindergarten–7<sup>th</sup> grade) is located just north of St. Scholastica Academy (see below) in downtown Covington. The Benedictine sisters' affiliation with St. Peter's began in 1878, when they first arrived from New Orleans to help establish the school under Father Bernadine Dolwick. The sisters continued their teaching duties, and later served as administrators, until the late 1980s. A new campus was constructed in 1956. The main building from this period, a 1-story modern classroom facility, remains in operation today, but the greater campus was gradually replaced with newer construction and therefore is not recognizable from the period of its association with the Benedictine Sisters.
- St. Scholastica Academy, 122 S. Massachusetts Street, Covington, Louisiana. St. Scholastica Academy is an all-girls Catholic high school (grades 8-12) established by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica in 1903. As described above, the original 1903 school and convent building was demolished in the mid-1960s and replaced with a new campus comprised of several low-rise, modern buildings. A handful of these buildings—a trio of structures known as the S. Massachusetts Buildings (1968), the cafeteria (1968), and the administration building (1968)—are extant, although one of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Catholic Answers Magazine, "Where have all the sisters gone?" December 2006, https://www.catholic.com/magazine/printedition/where-have-all-the-sisters-gone; and Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB, in correspondence with the author, July 2018. <sup>17</sup> "Nuns facing relocation with faith," *Times-Picayune,* June 18, 1988.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> This information is based on the schools' and parishes' present-day websites, newspaper articles, Google Street View and Google Earth maps; site visits; various correspondence and interviews with Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB in Summer 2018; and Sister Philippine Swett, OSB, "Origin and Development of Catholic Education in St. Tammany Parish" (dissertation, Catholic University of America, 1952).

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

three S. Massachusetts buildings was being demolished as of Summer 2018. Wisdom Hall (1957) is also extant. However, the current campus is dominated by newer buildings dating primarily to the 1990s and 2000s that serve as the most visible, primary face of the school from the public rights-of-way. Due to the number and high visibility of the new buildings, the property is no longer recognizable from the period of its association with the Benedictine Sisters.

- Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic School, 316 Lafitte Street, Mandeville, Louisiana. The Benedictine sisters assumed teaching and administrative responsibilities at this parochial school from 1916 until 1960. The campus was largely rebuilt in 1962, after the sisters' tenure ended, and was further updated in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, no buildings remain from the period of association with the Benedictine Sisters.
- *St. Catherine's School,* 306 St. Mary Street, Madisonville, Louisiana. The Benedictine sisters took over teaching responsibilities at St. Catherine's School in 1933 and continued their involvement into the early 1960s. In 1965, the parish was renamed St. Anselm's Parish and a new church and rectory were constructed. Sources indicate that the school ceased operations at this time, and today there is no evidence of a school on the property. In 2009, a new church was built on the site near the existing church. Today, no buildings remain from the period of association with the Benedictine Sisters.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School, 345 Westchester Boulevard, Slidell, Louisiana. The Benedictine sisters assumed teaching and administrative duties at this parochial school from 1951 until 1966. A new parish campus was constructed in 1960 and consisted of a church, rectory, convent, school buildings, and cafeteria. The campus was largely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, but the 1960 convent is extant. This small, 2-story brick-clad structure provided living quarters and a small chapel for the sisters teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes and at St. Margaret Mary Catholic School (see below), serving as a minor branch house affiliated with the Covington motherhouse (St. Scholastica Priory). This convent is not directly comparable to St. Scholastica Priory due to the buildings' vast difference in size and function.
- St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, 1050-A Robert Boulevard, Slidell, Louisiana. The Benedictine sisters participated in the founding of this parochial elementary school in the mid-1960s and served as teachers and principal. The campus appears to have been rebuilt in the 1980s-90s, with no outward signs of any earlier buildings remaining, and is therefore unrecognizable from the period of its association with the Benedictine Sisters.

Another Benedictine convent in St. Tammany Parish, St. Gertrude's in Ramsey, north of Covington, was affiliated with a separate branch of the Benedictine order. Whereas the sisters of St. Scholastica Priory were of German descent, those in Ramsey came from a significantly smaller and younger branch of French Benedictines who arrived in St. Tammany Parish in 1906 to assist at St. Joseph College and Seminary, which had been recently established north of Covington by Benedictine monks.<sup>19</sup> The small band of sisters who arrived for this purpose eventually set up a small convent, a school for children from the surrounding rural community, and a chapel, and resided there until the 1980s, when the convent closed. While these French Benedictines contributed to the educational and religious history of the area, they did not have nearly the same influence or presence in St. Tammany Parish as the German Benedictines. St. Gertrude's Chapel has been converted into an events venue and underwent substantial modifications in the 1990s. Their convent appears to be extant as a private residence but only faintly resembles its historic appearance due to renovation and the removal of wings.

# Historical Background of the Cottage and Pool House

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The Catholic Church in the United States of America, 31-32.

St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

When the Benedictine sisters acquired the St. Scholastica Priory property in 1958, it had been functioning as a farm for more than 50 years. In 1898, the United States government granted German Swiss immigrant Joseph Schnyder a 163-acre homestead north of Covington, Louisiana. With his adult son, Joseph Schnyder Jr., with whom he had emigrated from Switzerland in 1890, he established a dairy farm on the property known as Rockwood Farm.<sup>20</sup> The Schnyders, along with Schnyder Jr.'s new wife, Laura, constructed a "Colonial" house on the property (the c. 1900 cottage), along with barns, various outbuildings, poultry yards, and a sugar house. In addition to their dairy plant, which was deemed "one of the most progressive...and the finest equipped" in the state, the Schnyders raised prize-winning chickens, processed cane sugar, and cultivated pecan and orange groves.<sup>21</sup> Rockwood Farm remained in operation until 1928. On May 13 of that year, Joseph Schnyder Jr., a recent widower with no children, placed a bittersweet advertisement in the *Times-Picayune*:

For Sale.—100 acres of high land on gravel highway to Bogue Falaya river. Colonial ten-room house, outbuildings, three-room house and cellar, two large barns. 10 acres of orange trees, 8 bearing pecan trees; other fruit trees, poultry yards, etc. Three miles from Covington. On account of death must sacrifice this beautiful place. Rockwood Farm, Covington, LA.<sup>22</sup>

Just a few days after the notice was published, Schnyder was injured in a car accident in New Orleans, and on May 24 he succumbed to his injuries.<sup>23</sup> The property, which had not sold, was bequeathed to his brother, Albert Schnyder, who sold it a few years later for \$5,000. Louis Paysse of New Orleans owned the property from 1931 until 1937. Between 1937 and 1945, it changed hands several more times. In 1946, the Alexander family purchased it and remained the owners until 1958, when it was sold to the Benedictine sisters. The Alexanders, who renamed the property the Flying "A" Ranch, appear to have resided on the property, which continued to function as a farm according to property records. The Alexanders are likely responsible for the north and south wing additions to the cottage. The construction date of the pool house remains unconfirmed but appears to date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century based on its construction method and materials.

# **Conclusion**

For over 100 years, the Benedictine sisters educated and provided spiritual guidance to generations of St. Tammany Parish residents at the many schools with which they were affiliated. At an auction of the priory's contents in 1988, Mary Jane Anzel, who volunteered to help with the sale, told *The Times-Picayune,* "I wanted to have a part in this place, she said. 'I wouldn't be the person I am now if it hadn't been for these nuns."<sup>24</sup> More than any other site in St. Tammany Parish, St. Scholastica Priory symbolizes the culmination of this long-lasting and influential role within the community and thus merits listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>22</sup> "For Sale – Rockwood Farm," *The Times-Picayune,* May 13, 1928.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> This information is based on chain of title documents located at the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court, Covington, Louisiana.
<sup>21</sup> "For Sale – Rockwood Farm," *The Times-Picayune,* May 13, 1928; "The Health Exhibit Train," *St. Tammany Farmer,* February 18, 1911; and "Jos Schnyder Sugar House Burned to Ground," *St. Tammany Farmer,* March 7, 1914.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> "Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index," Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections, New Orleans Public Library.
<sup>24</sup> "Memories go on the block at convent near Covington," *The Times-Picayune*, October 3, 1988.

# St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State



**Figure 1.** This 1920s postcard depicts the original St. Scholastica Academy building constructed in downtown Covington, Louisiana, in 1903 (Thomas Sully, architect). The Benedictine sisters' convent occupied the right side of the building, and school activities occupied the left side. (Courtesy of Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB)

# St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State



**Figure 2.** The cottage on the former Flying "A" Ranch after its conversion into Goretti Hall for St. Scholastica Academy's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students. (St. Scholastica Academy, *The Dove Yearbook,* 1962)

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

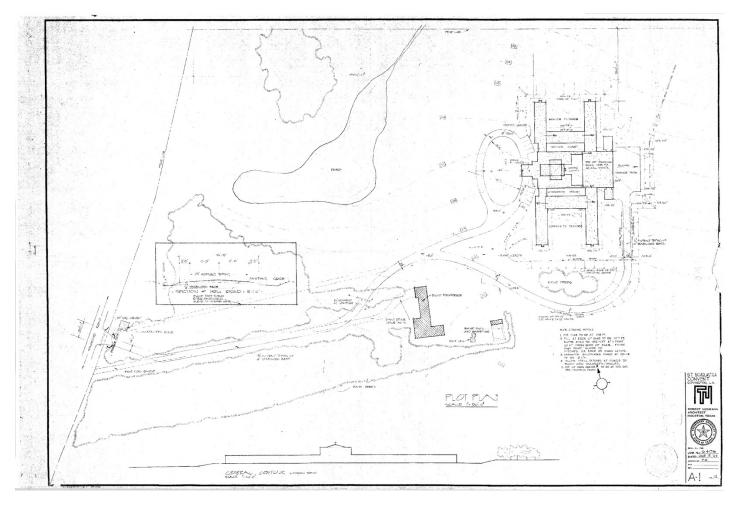


Figure 3. The Benedictine sisters break ground on their new priory, June 18, 1964. (*Clarion Herald*)

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA

County and State



**Figure 4.** The plot plan for the new St. Scholastica Priory site shows the priory building (top right), the cottage (center, "exist. residence"), the pool house ("exist. pool and bath house") adjacent to the cottage, and various site elements, including access roads and landscaping features. Robert Husmann Architect. Drawing dated June 15, 1964.

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State



**Figure 5.** The Benedictine sisters at St. Scholastica Priory, 1970. Although the order's membership began to decline following Vatican II in the mid-1960s, St. Scholastica Priory and its sisters remained active in the St. Tammany Parish community for another two decades. (Courtesy of Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB)

# Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above

# 9. Major Bibliographical Resources

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Archbishop to Officiate at Two Ceremonies Today." The Times-Picayune, June 6, 1964.

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

*Catholic Answers Magazine*. "Where have all the sisters gone?" December 2006, <u>https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/where-have-all-the-sisters-gone</u>.

- The Catholic Church in the United States of America, Volume II: The Religious Communities of Women. New York: The Catholic Editing Company, 1914.
- "For Sale Rockwood Farm." *The Times-Picayune*, May 13, 1928.
- "The Health Exhibit Train." St. Tammany Farmer, February 18, 1911.
- "Jos Schnyder Sugar House Burned to Ground." St. Tammany Farmer, March 7, 1914.
- "Louisiana Biography & Obituary Index." Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections, New Orleans Public Library.
- "Memories go on the block at convent near Covington." The Times-Picayune, October 3, 1988.
- "Nuns facing relocation with faith." The Times-Picayune, June 18, 1988.

Pope, John. "50 years ago, Vatican II changed the Catholic Church - and the world." Washington Post, 2012.

Robert Husmann Architect. "St. Scholastica Convent." Architectural drawings, June 15, 1964.

- St. Scholastica Academy: A Century of Sisterhood, 1903-2003. Covington, LA: St. Scholastica Academy, 2003.
- St. Scholastica Academy. The Dove Yearbook, 1962.
- St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court records, Covington, Louisiana.
- Sister Jeanne d'Arc Kernion, OSB, in interview and correspondence with the author, July 2018.

Site visits conducted by the author, July and August 2018.

Swett, Sister Philippine, OSB. "Origin and Development of Catholic Education in St. Tammany Parish." Dissertation, Catholic University of America, 1952.

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

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- \_\_\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_\_ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_\_ University

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA

County and State

Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 16 acres

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:	
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)	
1. Latitude: 30.529495°	Longitude: -90.066943°
2. Latitude: 30.529341°	Longitude: -90.067034°
3. Latitude: 30.529240°	Longitude: -90.065037°
4. Latitude: 30.528329°	Longitude: -90.064970°
5. Latitude: 30.528339°	Longitude: -90.063845°
6. Latitude: 30.528995°	Longitude: -90.063776°
7. Latitude: 30.528978°	Longitude: -90.063432°
8. Latitude: 30.528329°	Longitude: -90.063431°
9. Latitude: 30.528329°	Longitude: -90.061841°
10 . Latitude: 30.530349°	Longitude: -90.061613°
11 . Latitude: 30.530734°	Longitude: -90.064195°
12. Latitude: 30.530644°	Longitude: -90.064394°
13. Latitude: 30.529403°	Longitude: -90.064999°

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see attached boundary map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries are approximated based on the attached survey map dated November 3, 2015. The boundaries include the priory, cottage, cemetery, access road from Stafford Road, and surrounding grounds for a total acreage of roughly 16 acres.

# **11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Gabrielle Begue organization: MacRostie Historic Advisors street & number: 1139 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. city or town: New Orleans state: LA e-mail: gbegue@mac-ha.com telephone: (504) 655-9707 date: 10/8/2018

zip code: 70113

# Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

# Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

# Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Scholastica Priory City or Vicinity: Covington County: St. Tammany Parish State: LA Name of Photographer: Rick Fifield/Gabrielle Begue Date of Photographs: July-August 2018

1 of 27: General view of the porte-cochere on the west side of the priory; camera facing east

2 of 27: General view of the priory and surrounding setting; camera facing east

3 of 27: General view of the priory and surrounding setting showing the north or novice wing; camera facing southeast

4 of 27: General view of the east leg of the south or community wing exterior showing the sun porch; camera facing north

5 of 27: General view of the south or community wing exterior and south courtyard; camera facing north

6 of 27: General view of a typical window system shown in the south or community wing; camera facing east

7 of 27: General view of the porte-cochere on the west side of the central wing; camera facing north

8 of 27: General view of the chapel with hipped-roof ceiling; camera facing east

9 of 27: Detail view of an intact typical door trim with a simple "J' corner bead set proud of the metal door frame; camera facing west

10 of 27: Detail view of terrazzo flooring shown in the vestibule outside the chapel; camera facing down

11 of 27: General view of the left chapel corridor; camera facing east

12 of 27: General view of the grand dining room; camera facing north

13 of 27: General view of the central courtyard looking toward the grand dining room; camera facing east

14 of 27: General view of the south or community wing east-leg corridor; camera facing south

15 of 27: General view of a typical south or community wing bedroom; camera facing northeast

Name of Property

St. Tammany Parish, LA County and State

16 of 27: General view of the south or community wing east-leg sunroom; camera facing west

17 of 27: General view of a typical north or novice wing bedroom showing alignment of the doors and windows across the corridor; camera facing west

18 of 27: General view of the cemetery; camera facing south

19 of 27: General view of the cemetery; camera facing west

20 of 27: General view of the original cottage facade; camera facing east

21 of 27: General view of the original cottage and 2-story south wing; camera facing north

22 of 27: General view of the 2-story mass at the end of the 1-story north wing; camera facing southeast

23 of 27: General view of the cottage and surrounding setting; camera facing southeast

24 of 27: General view of the central hall of the original cottage; camera facing west

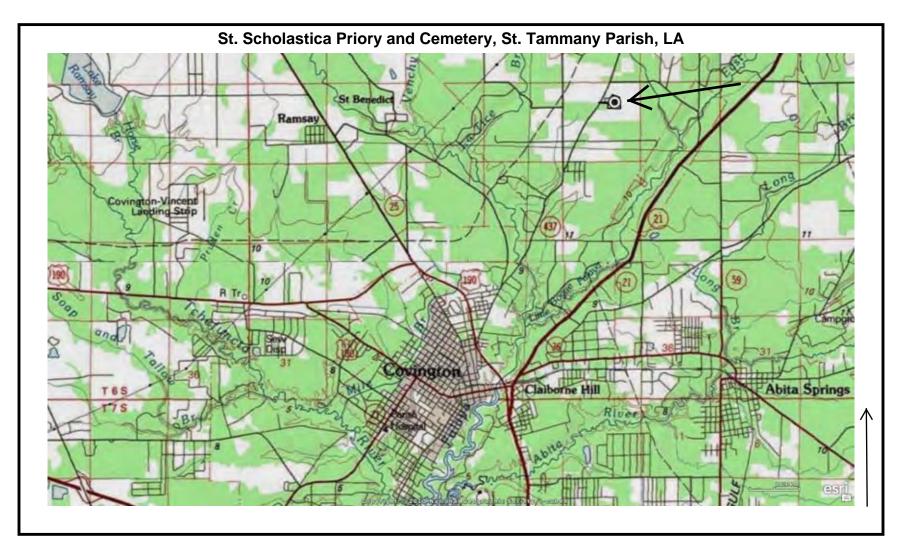
25 of 27: General view of the transition between original cottage and south wing addition; camera facing northwest

26 of 27: General view of the 1<sup>st</sup>-floor kitchen in the north wing addition to the cottage; camera facing north

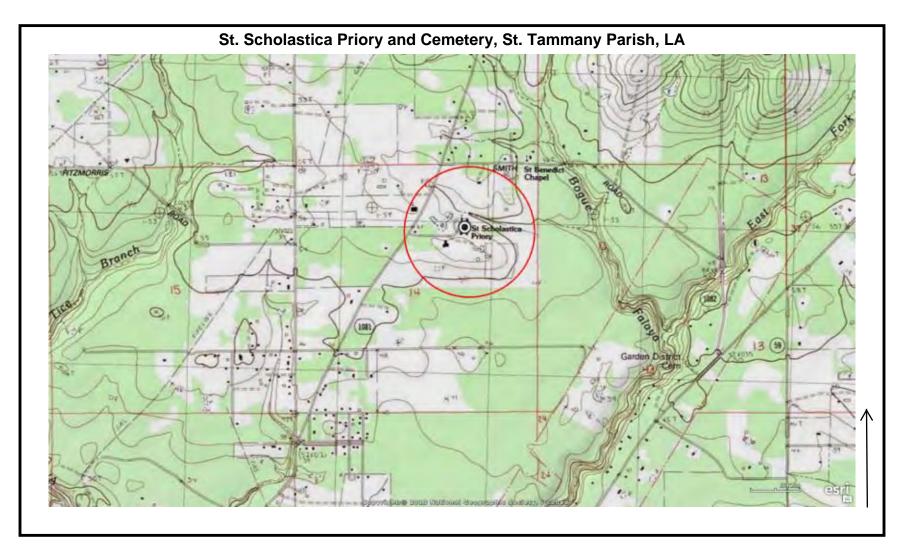
27 of 27: General view of the pool house; camera facing southeast

**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.



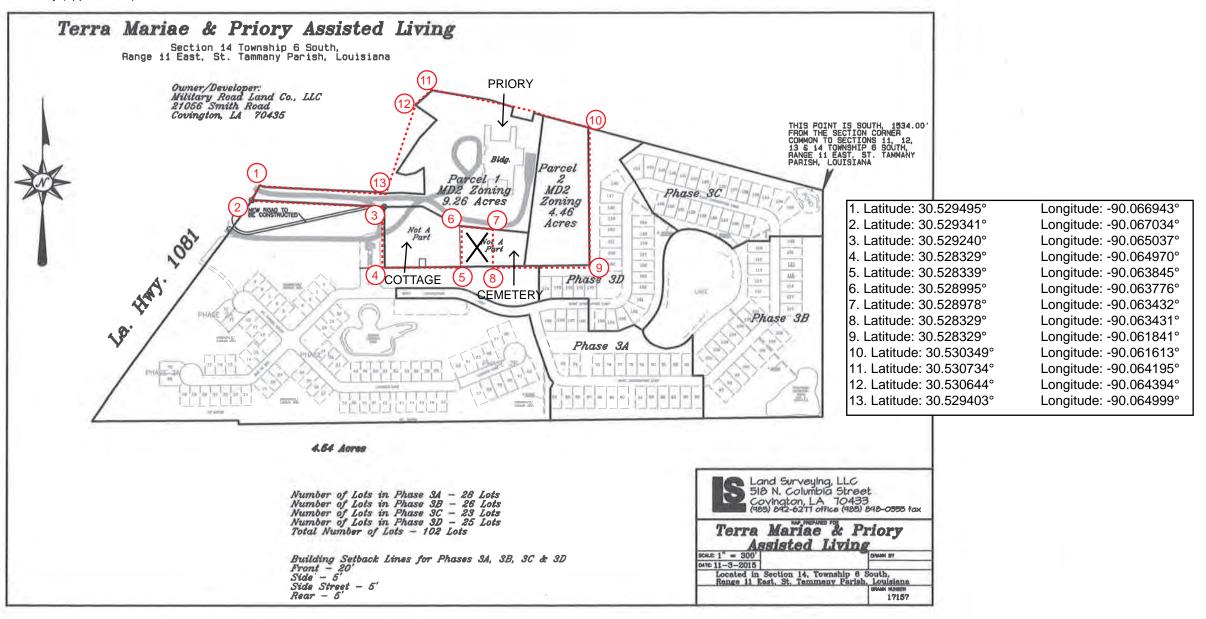
Latitude: 30.529525 Longitude: -90.063541

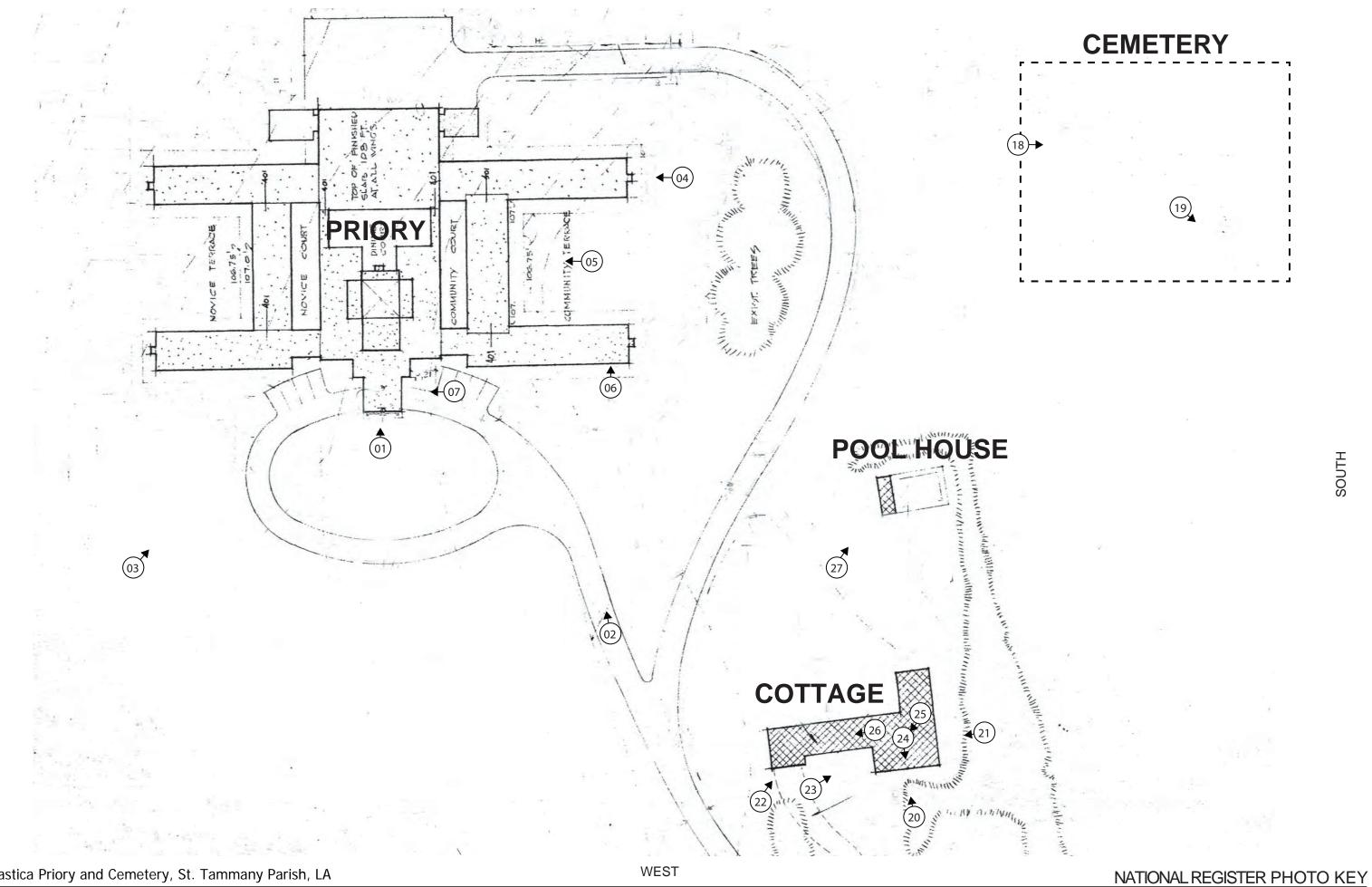


Latitude: 30.529525 Longitude: -90.063541

#### St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery, St. Tammany Parish, LA - Boundary Map

Boundary (approximate) =

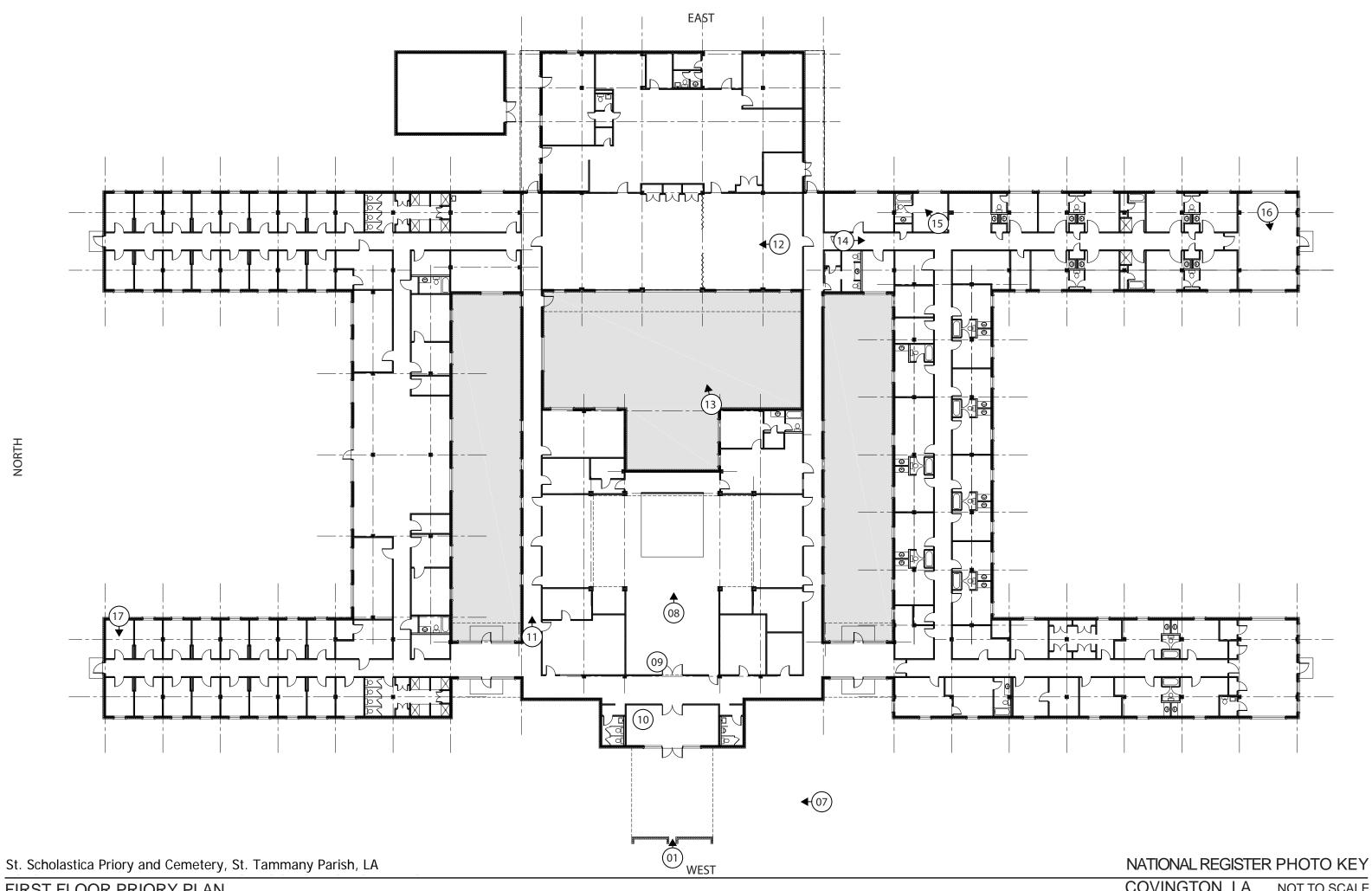




EAST

COVINGTON, LA NOT TO SCALE

SOUTH



# COVINGTON, LA NOT TO SCALE













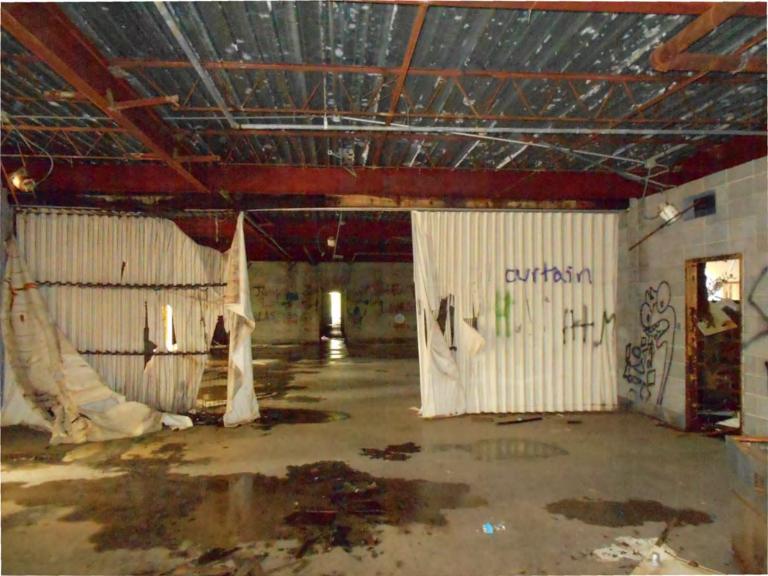










































## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination					
Property Name:	St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery					
Multiple Name:						
State & County:	LOUISIANA, St. Tammany					
Date Rece 12/17/20						
Reference number:	SG100003378					
Nominator:	SHPO					
Reason For Review			na nanan a na anang na anananan ang na manyar ang ang na ang na ang na ang nang na ang na ang na ang na ang na			
Арреа	l	X PDIL	Text/Data Issue			
SHPO Request		Landscape	Photo			
Waiver		National	Map/Boundary			
Resubmission		Mobile Resource	Period			
Other		TCP	Less than 50 years			
		CLG				
XAccept	Return	Reject <b>1/31</b> /	2019 Date			
Abstract/Summary Comments:	y The mother house of the Benedictine Sisters, constructed just before the radical decline in membership. A modernist building in a rural setting, it is associated with the importance of Catholic schools in the area, both as perpetuators of culture and of education.					
Recommendation/ Accept / A Criteria						
Reviewer Jim Gabbert		Discipline	Historian			
Telephone (202)354-2275		Date				
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached commo	ents : No see attached SL	R : No			

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

.



ST. TAMMANY PARISH PATRICIA P. BRISTER PARISH PRESIDENT

RECEIVED

ARCHAEOLOG

November 5, 2018

State Review Committee State Historic Preservation Office Post Office Box 44247 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Subject: Letter of Support for St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

To Whom It May Concern,

As President of St. Tammany Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support for the St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery nomination into The National Register of Historic Places. The St. Scholastica Priory was a part of the Second Daughter-House, Benedictine Sisters, that originated in Covington, Kentucky and moved to New Orleans, Louisiana in 1873. From there, the sisters moved to the St. Scholastica Priory in Covington, Louisiana in 1877. The priory had long been a place of beauty and serenity with tall pines and lots of flowering trees and shrubs. It is certainly a part of St. Tammany's history and remains in the memories of many of our St. Tammany families.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery into the National Register of Historic Places. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

atucia P. Brite

Patricia P. Brister Parish President St. Tammany Parish Government

PPB/lo



State of Louisiana Office of the Lieutenant Governor Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism Office of Cultural Development Division of Historic Preservation RICHARD H. HARTLEY DEPUTY SECRETARY

KRISTIN P. SANDERS ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: December 13, 2018

BILLY NUNGESSER

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- TO: Mr. James Gabbert National Park Service Mail Stop 7228 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240
- FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
- RE: St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery, St. Tammany Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the National Register Documentation for the St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any questions, please contact Nicole Hobson-Morris at <a href="mailto:nmorris@crt.la.gov">mmorris@crt.la.gov</a>.

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

Х	CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
Х	CD with electronic images (tiff format)
X	Physical Transmission Letter
X	Physical Signature Page, with original signature
	_ Other:

Comments:

	Please ensure that this nomination receive	es substantive review		
Х	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67			
	The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do	do not		
	constitute a majority of property owners (	Publicly owned property		

constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property) Other: