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Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTOR¥ - NOMINATION FORM

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St. Mary's Seminary is located on 6.5 acres of the 23 acre Seton Hill Historic District. The school property is bounded on the north by the south side of Druid Hill Avenue, on the east by the west side of Paca Street, on the south by the north side of the property on the north side of Franklin Street, on the southwest by the north side of the property on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue and on the northwest by the east side of St. Mary's Street. The front facade faces east.

A large brick institutional structure in the 2nd Empire Style, St. Mary's Seminary building exemplifies the Frenchinspired Victorian public architecture of the 1870's. 2nd Empire Revival was almost the official style, being used by A. B. Mullet and William A. Potter, Architects of the United States Treasury in the early 1870's; practiced by men such as Henry Hobson Richardson in his early works, Ware and Van Brunt, and George B. Post, etc., and contemporaneous with such French architects as Lefeul and Labrouste.

Built on a story-high, rough base of gneiss rock, the large expanses of brick are offset by a water table, belt courses, window sills, and lintels of Indiana limestone. first story windows are set within recessed arches and almost all windows have low brick arches and Indiana limestone cap There is a wood, bracketed cornice, and there is a characteristic mansard roof with 'fish scale' slate roofing. Probably the roof had dormer windows at time of construction. The decoration of the building is relatively simple and, in keeping with then influential inspiration of John Ruskin, is primarily constructional, such as the recessed brick-indented + pattern on the second belt course, etc. The main entrance is most interesting and represents current 1876 fashion; note especially the short stubby, corbeled columns, first used in this country by Frank Furness at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia in 1872, and made popular in Viollet-Le-Duc's Entretiens, translated into English by Henry Van Brunt in 1876.

A huge-appearing building, 155 feet long on the Paca Street facade, four stories, front center section, St. Mary's Seminary derives its forcefulness from its massiveness and its shadow.

St. Mary's Seminary was designed by E. F. Baldwin, a Baltimore architect, and built by John Stack, also from Baltimore.

	SIGNIFICANCE			
	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Seminary is the oldest and one of the most historically significant Roman Catholic Seminaries in the United States, "...the Mother House of the [Catholic] Church in the United States." (J. C. Walsh, "St. Mary's Baltimore," Catholic World (June 1929), 276.) The genesis of St. Mary's occurred during the tumult of the French Revolution when Rev. Andre Emery, Director General of the Society of St. Sulpice, founded in Paris in 1642 to educate men for the priesthood, conceived the idea of establishing a Sulpician seminary in the United States. In 1791, with the aid of the Archbishop of Baltimore, John Carroll (1735-1815) whose See encompassed all of the United States, four French Sulpicians left Paris, came to Baltimore, and founded St. Mary's Seminary. These Sulpicians, Fathers David, Garnier, Flaget and Tessier, under the supervision of the Very Reverend Francis C. Nagot (President of St. Mary's Seminary from 1790 to 1810) found themselves in a country with a population of over 48,000 Catholics and only twenty-five priests. Because of the derth of clergy, the Sulpicians became involved in parochial and missionary work as well as education. As an example, Father Garnier left the Seminary to become the priest in the Baltimore parish of St. Patrick; Father Flaget also left the Seminary and went to the Mississippi River Valley as a missionary. Other priests who had come to St. Mary's to teach joined the extracurricular services to American Catholics. Dubourg, who came to St. Mary's in 1795, became Bishop of New Orleans, but before arriving in Louisiana he founded St. Louis University and built the cathedral in St. Louis. Father Maréchal, part of the Seminary staff in 1792, also left St. Mary's to join the hierarchy of the Church as Archbishop of Baltimore in Thus the Seminary's Sulpician Fathers made significant contributions to the establishment of the Catholic Church in the United States.

The Sulpicians also contributed to the foundation of parochial education beginning within the seminary itself. The seminarians, the Sulpicians discovered soon after the opening of St. Mary's Seminary, lacked adequate academic preparation for the priesthood. To remedy the lack of higher education

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

/ NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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St. Mary's Seminary

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

1969

Maryland Historical Trust 94 College Avenue (P. O. Box 1704) Annapolis, Maryland 21404 Code: 24

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

among the seminarians, and to occupy the Sulpicians who found too few seminary students to occupy all of their time, the Sulpicians founded St. Mary's College in 1799 as a part of St. Mary's Seminary. The lack of institutions of higher learning in America was so great that in 1803 St. Mary's College devoted itself to secular education for Catholics and Protestants alike, abandoning their initial policy of instructing only seminarians. The graduates of St. Mary's College include John Lee Carroll, great-grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and Governor of Maryland (1876-1880); John H. B. Latrobe, author and lawyer for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; Oden Bowie, Governor of Maryland (1868-1872); Benjamin H. Latrobe, engineer for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; Jerome Bonaparte, nephew of Napoleon; a Governor of Maine, Edward Kavanaugh; and a Governor of Louisiana, Andrew Bienvue Roman. The most illustrious graduate of both St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Seminary was James Cardinal Gibbons (1834-1921), an outstanding leader in the Catholic Church and a prominent American, friend of Presidents Johnson, Cleveland, Taft and Theodore Roosevelt.

With the rise of the number of Catholic institutions of higher learning in the nineteenth century, the need for St. Mary's College evaporated, and the college ceased to exist after 1852.

During the early years of St. Mary's Seminary the Sulpicians, in addition to their missionary and educational activities, concerned themselves with the needs of the community of Baltimore. St. Mary's Chapel, built on the Seminary grounds on Paca Street in 1808, served not only the Sulpicians and Seminarians, but also the large number of French-speaking Roman Catholics in Baltimore. These people, both blacks and whites,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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St. Mary's Seminary

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

had come to various cities in the United States, including Baltimore, after 1793 as refugees fleeing from the revolution in San Domingo led by Toussaint L'Ouverture. By July 26, 1793, fifty-three ship loads of refugees had arrived in Baltimore. The Sulpicians of St. Mary's, who were largely native Frenchmen, responded to the needs of this French-speaking group by providing French language services in St. Mary's Chapel.

Among the immigrants from San Domingo were approximately five-hundred blacks to whom the Sulpicians of St. Mary's gave special attention. From 1796 to 1827 Father Tessier of the Seminary devoted himself to the needs of black Catholics. Another Sulpician, Father Joubert, founded a school for black children in 1827 with the help of two black women, immigrants from San Domingo, Elizabeth Lang and Marie Magdalene Balas. These women, cognizant of the lack of schooling for blacks, founded, with the aid of Father Joubert, the order of the Oblate Sisters of Providence comprised of Negro Nuns dedicated to the education of black children in 1828.

The Sulpicians' continued interest in black education is evident in their sponsorship of St. Joseph's Seminary, founded in 1888 on the Seminary grounds, for the training of blacks for the priesthood. Three graduates of St. Joseph's Seminary were ordained as priests: John Dorsey, Joseph Plantvigne and Charles Randolph Uncles. Father Uncles (1859-1933) was the first black priest in the United States. He was ordained on December 22, 1891, in the Baltimore Cathedral by James Cardinal Gibbons.

St. Mary's Seminary, which began in the One-Mile Tavern in 1791, commenced construction of its Paca Street building with the laying of the cornerstone on May 31, 1876. Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley of Baltimore (1814-1877)—a nephew of the Catholic Saint Mother Seton and a cousin, through his mother, of the Hyde Park Roosevelts of New York—performed the ceremony. On February 11, 1878 the completed building, which cost \$100,000, was blessed and formally opened. The Paca Street building housed all the activities of the Seminary until the new buildings on Roland and Belvedere Avenues were completed in 1929.

The importance of St. Mary's Seminary in the history of

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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St. Mary's Seminary

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

the American Catholic Church is attested to by its role in early missionary work, higher education, in education for blacks, and in the other institutions the Sulpicians sponsored like the Abbottstown Preparatory College in Abbottstown, Pennsylvania, St. Joseph's Convent or the Mother House of the American Sisters of Charity in Emmittsburg, Maryland, Mount St. Mary's College also in Emmittsburg, as well as a Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D. C., which became a part of Catholic University. A St. Mary's Seminary student, Stephen Baldwin, was the first priest ordained in the United States. St. Mary's graduates along with Sulpicians from St. Mary's played such a significant role in American Catholicism that when the Roland and Belvedere Avenues buildings were dedicated half of the heirachy of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States attended the ceremony.

Ephram Francis Baldwin (1837-1916), of the firm of Baldwin and Pennington, was the architect of St. Mary's Seminary. A Roman Catholic, Baldwin specialized in ecclesiastical architecture as well as designing Baltimore and Ohio railroad stations (Mount Clare, Baltimore), Baltimore City College, the Circuit Court of Appeals in Annapolis and the restoration of the Maryland State House (1903).

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Form 10-300a (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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St. Mary's Seminary

#9. REFERENCES continued

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Form 10-301 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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