

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 8 1982  
DATE ENTERED MAR 17 1982

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Benedictine College North Campus Historic Complex

AND/OR COMMON  
N/A

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2nd  
Second and Division Streets N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE Atchison N/A VICINITY OF No. 2., Jim Jeffries  
KANSAS CODE 20 COUNTY Atchison CODE 005

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Multiple Ownership  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
N/A VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Register of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER  
Atchison County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Atchison Kansas 66002

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Kansas Historic Sites Survey  
DATE  
1969  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Kansas State Historical Society  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Topeka Kansas 66612

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benedictine College North Campus Historic Complex includes the Old Priory/Lemke Hall, Bishop Fink Hall, Freshman Hall, and St. Benedict's Parish Church. These structures form an irregular U-shaped complex in the southwest corner of the north campus of Benedictine College (formerly St. Benedict's College) in Atchison.

Old Priory/Lemke Hall consists of the original two-and-a-half story college building and a three story ell added to the southeast (with a one story addition to the south gable end.) The front of the Old Priory is symmetrical. There are four window bays on either side of the entrance which is accentuated by a one story pedimented porch at ground level and an arched window with side lights on the second floor. The porch is supported on square brick columns. The front steps are brick.

The entire structure has a stone foundation, brick walls, and an intersecting gable roof covered with standing-seam metal roofing. On the west end of the Old Priory, the masonry wall forms a parapet above the roof level. There are four frame dormer windows on both north and south sides.

Both the Old Priory and Lemke Hall are approximately thirty feet wide and eighty feet long. The cornice, gutter, and roofing of the intersecting gable roofs are continuous. There is a simple cornice return on the gable ends of Lemke Hall. Because Lemke Hall is farther down on the sloping site, it is a full story taller than the Old Priory. Both ground floor and basement walls are made of stone.

Each section of the structure has a regular grid of fenestration. Windows are double-hung, six-over-six. Most window openings have flat brick arches and stone sills. The third story openings in the gable ends of Lemke Hall have round arches. There is also a circular vent in the peak. There is a tall chimney stack on the east wall and an attached three story metal fire escape. The one story addition to Lemke Hall has a shallow shed roof and semi-arched openings.

## BISHOP FINK HALL

Bishop Fink Hall is a three-and-a-half story brick building with a stone basement. The structure is 56 feet wide and 144 feet long; there are three main wall sections. On each side of the gable roof there are three dormers, each with triple arched windows. A central chimney is located below the ridge on the east. Bishop Fink Hall is joined to Lemke Hall at the northwest through a two story rectangular brick structure.

There is a regular grid pattern of arched openings in the two long walls of the hall except for the basement which has flat stone lintels. Window arches of the upper three stories are emphasized by stone keystones; below the windows are raised brick panels. There is a cut stone belt course between the basement and first floor and a corbeled brick course between the first and second floors. The ornamental metal cornice at the top of the east and west walls contains a built-in gutter.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859; 1861-62; 1866-1906; 1878-1883; 1892-1893 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Francis Himpler; Alfred Meyer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benedictine College North Campus Historic Complex is an ensemble of buildings which together reflect distinctive stages in the history and growth of St. Benedict's College and Monastery, the architectural tastes of its owners and builders, and the history of Kansas from the early territorial settlement to the late nineteenth century.

Father Augustine Wirth, O.S.B. and four other brothers came to Doniphan, Kansas Territory from St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Besides a small frame cabin in Doniphan, the order had claimed by preemption two quarters of land near Bendena for a farm. "These claims and the Catholic settlers in the area were referred to as St. Benedict's Colony. .." After Doniphan lost the government land office, however, it became apparent that Atchison was more likely to develop as the leading city in northeast Kansas. In 1859 when the Benedictines received a donation from King Ludwig I of Bavaria to further their missionary activities, they planned a move to Atchison.

Atchison was a growing river town in frontier Kansas when the first Catholic services were held in a frame church (30' x 60') on Christmas Day, 1858. The church was built on land at the corner of Second and Division Streets given to Father Wirth, by B. F. Stringfellow. Second Street above Atchison to Division was "but a cowpath flanked on the sides by deep ravines and hazelbush. But here, near the top of this big hill, seemed to be the ideal location for Atchison's first Catholic church." The church was a mile away from Atchison's main street.

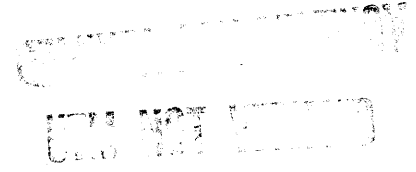
Stringfellow had platted the north Atchison addition in 1857. By donating a plot of ground 250' X 140' for the purpose of erecting a Catholic church and school, he hoped to encourage other development in the area. His partner, Colonel Abell, later donated the rest of the block to the Benedictines.

## OLD PRIORY/LEMKE HALL

The cornerstone for a brick College and Priory building east of the church was laid May 29, 1859. As the Atchison Champion reported later, "Work on St. Benedict's College, under the direction of Rev. Father Augustine, was prosecuted lively during the season of 1859." About the first of September, the little monastic community abandoned Doniphan and moved into the nearly completed building in Atchison.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)



# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres (approximately)

UTM REFERENCES

Quadrangle name: Atchison East

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24

A 

1	5	3	83	6	8	4	3	8	2	2	4	5
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

B 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

C 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

D 

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie Wortman, Historic Preservation Specialist, Historic Preservation Dept.  
Dale Nimz, Program Assistant; Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Ks. State Historical Society DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth TELEPHONE 913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE Kansas 66612

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE Jan. 27, 1982

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

William H. Braun

DATE 3.17.82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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St. Benedict's College  
Atchison, Kansas 66002

Reverend Ignatius J. Strecker (owner of St. Benedict's Parish Church only)  
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas  
2220 Central Avenue  
Post Office Box 2326  
Kansas City, KS. 66103

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Although the south gable end has regular rows of single arched windows surmounted by a pair of arched windows in the peak, the north gable has a file of single windows with sidelights centered below a pair of windows and surmounted by a small wheel window. There are double doors to the basement in the north wall.

To make the building as fireproof as possible, the hall reportedly was built with stone interior stairs and an iron roof structure.

FRESHMAN HALL

Freshman Hall, which was built to serve as a monastery for the Fathers and Brothers of St. Benedict's Abbey, is a three-and-a-half story brick building with a massive stone foundation and slate roof. It is 58 feet wide and 204 feet long. The Hall is located to the north of St. Benedict's Church--attaching to the church's apse end. Freshman Hall is asymmetrical in massing and elevation, displaying romanesque design characteristics.

There is a square tower at the northeast end of the building and a shorter helm-roofed tower at the southwest end. At each end of the west facade a gabled bay projects from the main block. A one story round-arched porch with a gable roof is centered in the west facade.

There are dormers featuring pairs of arched windows on both sides of the building. On each side of the square tower, at the level of the observation platform, are open arcades. There are also two banks of metal-framed skylight windows in the northwest corner of the roof.

The round arch is the most important decorative element in the exterior appearance of Freshman Hall. Not only is it used for all window openings, usually paired, but it also appears in decorative bands of blind arcading which emphasize the ground floor windows of the west facade, the string course between the first and second floors, and the cornices of the projecting bays. This detailing is also noticeable at the top of the two towers.

Two large stained glass wheel windows located at the second floor level of the southwest tower and bay are also notable features.

ST. BENEDICT'S PARISH CHURCH

St. Benedict's Parish Church is a brick basilica on a stone foundation with twin helm-roofed towers approximately 150 feet tall rising above the south facade.

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The church is 54 feet wide and 162 feet long. Its romanesque revival detailing is characterized by semi-circular arches. The main brick facade is paneled into three sections, each with an entrance door. The transepts do not project beyond the main body of the church.

There is a rear exit from the sacristy in the north corner and a basement entrance centered in the east side of the church. The arcade of an one story walkway from the church apse to Freshman Hall has been filled with brick leaving only semi-circular windows at the top. The walkway has a low gable roof covered with slate shingles.

Besides the stone foundation and water table, stone is also used as trim for the brick structure.

Other ornamental features include several stained-glass windows. A large circular window with a floral motif is located above the main entrance. Similar windows are found in the transepts' gable ends. Five smaller round-arched windows ornament the walls of the apse.

Inside St. Benedict's Church a series of groined arches over the nave bear on ten cast iron columns. The nave is fifty-five feet tall. The vaults are decorated with stencils and there are several murals on the clerestory walls. A painting of the Crucifixion is located above the crossing of nave and transept. The sanctuary housing the altar and pulpit is also colorfully and elaborately decorated.

ALTERATIONS

Only minor alterations have been carried out on the buildings of the Benedictine College Historic Complex.

The most extensive record of changes concerns St. Benedict's Church. On the exterior of the exposed stone foundation and water table have been parged and painted white. The openings of the connecting arcade to the north have been filled with brick. Clear glass storm windows have been added on three sides to protect the stained-glass windows. The asphalt shingles now covering the church roof are not original.

The interior of the church was refurbished around 1937. A second remodeling occurred between 1949 and 1955. Windows were replaced and the interior repainted. Some murals were replaced by liturgical symbols. New flooring, new pews and confessionals were installed. An air conditioning system was also added. In

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In 1966 new concrete floors with vinyl tiling were put down. The vestibule was redecorated and paneled. Gas furnaces were installed. Since then another altar has been added in the sanctuary.

Despite its age the Old Priory/Lemke Hall has been modified very little. The present entrance porch to the Old Priory is not original. Old photographs show a smaller version with a flat roof and ornamental cornice supported on paired round posts. A second story wooden porch on the south end of Lemke Hall was removed in the 1930's; this was probably built at the same time as the brick addition which supported it. The top of the chimney stack on the east wall of Lemke Hall has been rebuilt and simplified. Cement stucco has been applied to the stone basement walls of both sections of the building.

Bishop Fink Hall has not been noticeably modified. Several chimneys in both of the earliest buildings have been taken down, probably soon after a central steam heating system was installed in 1883. Water closets were installed in 1905.

Freshman Hall suffered one change soon after it was completed. The Abbey Student reported in November, 1926, that not long after the building was finished in 1893,

"Either the ground settled or the building sank as a result of the library's weight; for a crack twelve feet in length developed in the north end of the east wall of the building. Others contend that the crack resulted from blasts discharged in the stone quarry northeast of the monastery." Apparently, the defect did not become more serious.

A newspaper account in 1893 mentioned that a shipment of galvanized tin shingles for roofing the monastery had arrived. If these were used, they have since been replaced by slate roofing. From old photos it is apparent that the top of the tall chimney above the northeast part of the building has also been simplified.

When the monks removed to a new monastery in 1929, the interior of the hall was remodeled to provide rooms for 150 students. In 1945 the hall was again modernized to provide more living rooms. A number of temporary partitions still remain in the building.



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Because Catholic parishes had not yet been organized in the territory, the Benedictines depended for financial assistance on St. Vincent's Abbey and German missionary societies. The fact that they planned to establish a school for the training of priests who would spread the faith westward proved the best magnet for funds.

In the early years the institution "offered everything from grade school to theology." When the school first opened on October 12, 1859, there were only three students, but by the end of the term, there were thirteen more.

For two years the hall (Old Priory) served as both college and monastery. In 1861 an ell of about the same size as the original building was added. Now known as Lemke Hall, the addition was to be used mainly for school purposes. It was inexpensive, having cost only \$16,000, because construction took place during a season of drought. Money and especially provisions of food which had been donated by easterners for the relief of Kansas farmers were allocated by the Benedictines to all who helped erect the new school building.

In November, 1862, the Atchison Champion described St. Benedict's newest facility. "The basement is divided into a kitchen and cellar, each 30' X 40', and a cook room 30' square. The first story has a spacious dining room, 22' X 48', four class rooms, each 16' X 22', one 22' X 48' and a hall. The second story contains two class rooms, (16' X 22', 22 X 48') an examination room (16' X 30"), a parlor (18' X 20'), and five smaller rooms. (The third story is divided into a hall (30' X 50'), two dormitories (20' X 30'), (22' X 30') and five small rooms. The buildings are in every respect most substantially built, and though plain, everything about them is neat and in good order."

A day school was opened at St. Benedict's in 1862. Two years later there were 44 boarders and 62 day students. Enrollment fluctuated, however, in relation to the prosperity of Atchison and the surrounding area. Although the day students provided needed income, "the most important task of the college, as the monks saw it, was training badly needed priests for the western settlements."

**ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH**

Because of the booming overland wagon trade, 1865 was a notably profitable year for the town of Atchison. The prospects of even further growth encouraged Rev. Father Wirth to plan a new church on a grand scale to replace the early frame building. A cornerstone was laid August 26, 1866, but a year then elapsed before workmen began laying brick for the walls. Fundraising for the building proved more difficult than expected because the westward extension of railroads had abruptly ended Atchison's prominence as a freight transfer point.

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St. Benedict's College was closed in 1867-68 while the college building was used as the parish chapel. Construction of the church was further delayed by a change in architects and plans. W. Angelo Powell, who had originally designed a quasi-Gothic structure, was replaced by Francis Himpler who had come to Atchison in 1867 with an impressive European background as a church architect. Himpler prepared plans for a church (162' X 60') designed along "moderately severe romanesque lines, reminiscent of Rhenish churches."

Francis George Himpler was a native of Germany and had attended the Royal Academy of Arts from 1854 to 1858. After extensive travels in Europe, he became an established designer of churches. He then emigrated to the United States. Himpler did not remain long in Atchison, but returned to New Jersey and New York City where he worked as a specialist in church architecture the rest of his life. He was particularly successful in acoustical engineering.

Building "St. Benedict's Cathedral" proved to be an almost overwhelming financial burden for the monastery. Because it was apparent in 1866 that the parish could not pay for such a grand design, Father Wirth decided that the monastery would own the church, and it would be used by the parish. To assume the unprecedented fund-raising and financial responsibility, St. Benedict's College was incorporated in June, 1868.

In mid-summer the Brown-Bier Construction Company was hired to get the church under roof. As payment for the contract, the company required a mortgage at 12% interest. Even though the church was open by fall, there was only a rough plank floor; the door and window openings were simply boarded over.

Now the monastery labored under a debt of over \$44,000 and for several years faced heavy interest payments in a deflated economy. Nevertheless, by 1872 the facade was completed and the twin towers were raised to the height of the clerestory. A stained-glass rose window was installed; the interior ceiling was vaulted, plastered, and then decorated. A marble altar was donated at this time by the W. F. Dolan family.

When the building was described by the Atchison Champion February 20, 1879, it approached the splendor originally envisioned in 1867. At this time, "St. Benedict's Cathedral" had a floor of cut stone and fine frescoes adorned many of its parts. By 1880 construction of the church had cost \$75,000.

Major improvements were made in 1891 when the east tower was built and bells (\$3300) were installed. A new pipe organ (\$3500) made by the Lancashire-Marshall Organ Company of Moline, Illinois was added in 1896. Jacques B. Mueller of Luxembourg painted twenty-one mural pictures and several frescoes

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in the church during 1906. His work cost \$3600. Theodore Brasch added pictures of the crucifixion and murals in 1922. St. Benedict's church was formally consecrated Thanksgiving Day, 1906.

Enrollment in the college reached a new peak in 1873-74. There were 66 boarders and 43 day students. But the financial panic of 1873 and the crop destruction caused by grasshoppers in 1874 cut attendance in half. In 1875 there were only 31 boarders and 20 day students. The prior of St. Benedict's concluded in that year, that "the affairs of this priory are in such a condition that there is no prospect of redeeming the debts."

Events in 1876 were more hopeful. First of all, the monastery had grown enough to be elevated to the status of an abbey. With the aid of individual benefactors, the debt was refinanced at 6% so that yearly interest payments became more manageable. Abbot Innocent Wolf also decided that the parish should assume the ownership of St. Benedict's Church. Thereafter, the parishioners became more active in financing improvements to the "cathedral."

Refinancing the church debt and turning the church over to the parish freed St. Benedict's College to grow as an educational institution. The Atchison Champion noted early in 1879, "during the year just closing the college has been exceedingly prosperous, and has had a large attendance of students."

**BISHOP FINK HALL**

To keep up with this growth, the first section of Bishop Fink Hall (44' X 56') was built in the fall of 1878 as a classroom and refectory building. It has three floors, a basement, and a garret. A kitchen was originally located in the basement. There were two dining halls and a telegraph office on the first floor, four classrooms on the second floor, a dormitory and study hall on the third floor. The new building was connected to the earlier structures by a corridor. Another feature which was noted in the college catalog, was the system of three levels of dry closets in the southeast corner of the building. These sanitary conveniences were "cleverly ventilated." The building cost \$9,000.

By 1882 the college had more than one hundred boarding students so an additional section (92 feet long) was added to the Hall in 1883. To keep the cost down, as much work as possible was done by the Benedictine brothers and the students. Still the addition cost nearly \$20,000. To reduce the hazard of fire, steam heat was installed in all the college buildings. This innovation cost \$4,000. For the same reason, the new building also had stone stairs and an iron roof structure.

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"As the first section had made possible separate facilities for ecclesiastical and general students, the addition (of 1883) provided for separation of the senior (older students) and the juniors in each division." The basement of the addition provided badly needed recreational facilities. The large open room was named Society Hall and was used as a theater, skating rink and gymnasium.

FRESHMAN HALL (Old Monastery)

The last major building project of the nineteenth century at St. Benedict's College began in 1891 when the Benedictines voted to build a new monastery, "and because practically no other site was available, to build north of the church." This development was also in keeping with an informal quadrangle plan. It met the need for less cramped faculty quarters and allowed the college to expand. The Abbott wanted a monastery "for the exclusive use of the Fathers and Brothers."

Although Alfred Meier, who had practiced in Atchison since 1874, was designated the architect of the new monastery. Father Boniface Berheyen, O.S.B., "a man well versed in architecture," supervised the plans for the new building. These plans were reportedly based on those of an historic European abbey. When the new Monastery was completed in August 1893, it was the largest building in Atchison.

The brick building (204' X 58') has three stories, an attic and a basement. "A tower, 143 feet in height, rises above the northeastern corner of the building, and serves the purpose of an observatory." There was a chapel annex at the south end and a skylight studio on the fourth floor. A covered arcade connected the monastery with the west part of the quadrangle.

Adam Dilgert laid the foundation for \$10,300. Martin Hughes and Sons had the contract to make and lay the brick for the building. Hixon and Company of Atchison provided the lumber. The Benedictine Brothers, aided by hired labor, did the carpenter work.

Construction cost about \$75,000 increasing the St. Benedict's College debt to \$95,000. But "for the first time since the creation of the Abbey the entire community could live within the cloister. Half the first floor was isolated from the cloister and devoted to parlors and guest rooms. In the south end of the building was an adequate sacristy for the church, and above the sacristy was a small chapel for the community." In 1894 the hall was the home of 35 priests and 14 clerics. One year after the monastery was finished, the college had 175 boarding students and the policy of admitting any students was ended.

Since its beginning, the leaders of St. Benedict's College had worked

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to create a self-sustaining school for priests. Until 1885 the school maintained three distinct curriculums: a six-year classical program, a three-year commercial program, and a preparatory program. "Secondary only to training priests was preparing young men for 'public civil life.'" As the institution developed, these different functions were modified so that St. Benedict's College in its middle period (1885-1915) was primarily a traditional academy. After 1888 the enrollment fluctuated between 140 and 170 students until 1907, when there were more than 200 students enrolled.

ST. BENEDICT'S COLLEGE

The Atchison Daily Globe stated on July 16, 1894, that "the older buildings are temporary, and will eventually be torn down, and a grand court formed, entirely surrounded by massive and substantial structures." Fortunately for historic preservation, this attitude did not prevail. Instead a new monastery was built in 1929 on a site near the river bluffs.

Although the change was not immediately expressed in building, "between 1915 and 1927 St. Benedict's abandoned the traditional academy, greatly enlarged the curriculum, and became an accredited liberal arts college." Another major step took place in 1931. St. Benedict's College and Monastery had been a single corporation since 1868, but after the large debt incurred building the new abbey, the monastic community was chartered as a separate corporation.

In 1971 St. Benedict's College merged with Mount St. Scholastica ( a woman's college in the south part of Atchison) to form the largest private college in Kansas, Benedictine College. In 1979 the college called itself "the largest private institution of liberal arts and sciences in Kansas." Students at Benedictine College numbered over 1,000. Although thirty-one states and ten foreign countries were represented, students from Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska accounted for eighty-five percent of the school's enrollment. Benedictine College is primarily a residential college.

St. Benedict's demonstrates the importance of missionary activities by religious groups such as the Order of St. Benedict, and also indicates the character of one type of home-soil educational opportunity available to Kansans in the first years after settlement.

In 1980 Bishop Fink Hall housed the departments of economics and business administration, faculty offices, classrooms, a music studio, and the student health center. Freshman Hall and the Old Priory/Lemke Hall building were both used for student housing.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO FUTURE AMENDMENT.

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(November, 1926).

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The nominated property occupies an L-shaped area of approximately 2.5 acres beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection between Second and Division Streets in Atchison, Kansas, proceeding east .10 mile, then north .15 mile, then west .05 mile, then north .05 mile then west to Second Street. That is, the nominated property does not include a parking lot located at the northeast corner of this area.