

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

City of Winnipeg
Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
Researcher: M. Peterson
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This building embodies the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

(a) This facility moved from downtown Winnipeg to the Crescentwood neighbourhood in the early 1900s, becoming an important institution in the area and highlighting the evolution of church-run independent education in the City;

(b) This facility, beginning in 1903, has been one of Western Canada's distinguished independent schools associated with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for many decades;

(c) The original school and its 1909 addition are excellent examples of the Second Empire style, designed by noted local architects Samuel Hooper (1902) and the St. Boniface partnership of Sénécal and Hudon (1909);

(d) This solid brick structure with stone foundation and accenting utilized common construction and design methods of the period;

(e) Sitting on a busy intersection on a large treed lot, the school is an integral part of an important district streetscape; and

(f) The building's façades have not been severely altered.

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
ORIGINAL (1902) AND 1909 ADDITION

By the late 1890s, St. Mary's Academy, located on Notre Dame Avenue East (Plate 1), was suffering from overcrowding. The independent Catholic English language girls' school had been founded in 1869 and had been operated by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary of Montreal since 1874. Early in the 20th century, the Sisters chose the site for their new building far away from the expanding downtown – its warehouses, factories, hotels and office buildings (Plate 2) – in the new residential neighbourhood of Crescentwood.

The entire area south of the Assiniboine River, which included what is now known as Crescentwood, was annexed to the City of Winnipeg in the early 1880s.[1] It would be decades, however, before major development occurred in the Crescentwood/Fort Rouge area (originally known as St. Boniface West) and therefore many years before the City extended services to the area such as street cars, fire and police protection and sewers.

Most important for the district was a permanent bridge. Local developer Arthur Wellington Ross built a private bridge at the foot of Osborne Street which opened on September 23, 1882 and quickly purchased by the City of Winnipeg. The City, as part of its annexation agreement with the Fort Rouge citizenry, promised a new bridge at Maryland Street, which was finally opened in 1895 (Plate 3).

The earliest fine home of the area was barrister John Henry Munson's house, 475 Wellington Crescent, built in 1888 and named "Crescentwood." It was, for many years, the showpiece of the suburb, being enlarged on several occasions before and after its occupation by the James A. Richardson family after Munson's death in 1918 (Plate 4).[2] So central and well-known was this

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1 R.R. Rostecki, Crescentwood: A History (Winnipeg, MB: Crescentwood Home Owners Association, 1993), p. 17.

2 Ibid., pp. 44-46. Upon the death of Mrs. James A. Richardson in 1973, the family donated the house and the land to the City of Winnipeg. The buildings were demolished in 1976, the land became Munson Park.

house that when the real estate development firm C.H. Enderton Company purchased a large parcel of land in the area, representatives asked Munson's permission to use the name of his house, Crescentwood, for their new residential subdivision.[3]

St. Mary's Academy purchased a 6-hectare site at the corner of Wellington Crescent and Academy Road,[4] just west of the Maryland Street Bridge. The cornerstone of the new building was blessed by Archbishop Langevin on Sunday, August 31, 1902 and the school opened in its new, modern facility on September 6, 1903 (Plate 5).[5]

STYLE

The original school and the 1909 addition to the west are a fine example of a Second Empire style building that became popular in Canada by 1870. The style had its beginnings in France in the early 1850s in that country's "Second Empire" (that of Napoleon III).[6] In eastern Canada, especially southern Ontario, this style first came to prominence in public buildings (for example Government House in Toronto, built in 1868). From government buildings the style was applied to commercial structures and finally into house designs. This style, however, failed to become as prominent in Winnipeg and further west because of the short duration of its general use and that the end of its popularity coincided with the beginning of Winnipeg's initial building phase in the early 1880s. Winnipeg's second Legislative Building, completed in 1884 (Plate 6), was an excellent example of the style but there are only a few Winnipeg examples remaining.

The most prominent detail of a Second Empire building is the mansard or double roof. While visually appealing, this roof-type also was more practical than traditional patterns because it allowed more living space on the upper level. Other features usually found on such structures

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3 Crescentwood, Winnipeg's Finest Community (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Historical Society, n.d.), n.p.

4 Rudnyckyj, J.B., Mosaic of Winnipeg Street Names (Winnipeg, MB: University of Manitoba, Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences, 1974), p. 1. The City named it Academy Road after the institution in 1913.

5 Manitoba Free Press, August 30, 1902, p. 17.

6 V. and L. McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 242.

are dormer windows on the steep slope, moulded cornices with decorative brackets below and a generous use of Italianate details. One or two storey bay windows were also often added and iron cresting was another ornamental feature. Porches were usually added, making the structures asymmetrical. Rusticated stone was often used as cladding at grade.

CONSTRUCTION

This facility has an extensive construction history (see Appendix I for more construction data and Appendix III for information on the modern additions).

The original building was U-shaped, facing east towards Wellington Crescent and the Assiniboine River. It was four storeys on a raised stone foundation, the walls were of solid brick and the building measured 42.7 metres wide.[7] The south arm of the "U" was the chapel building and was only two storeys high; the north arm was four storeys high and ran 34.8 metres along what would become Academy Road.[8] The cost of construction was $75,000.[9]

In 1909, a large, 20.1 x 36.6 metre addition was completed to the west end of the north arm of the "U" (Plates 7 and 8). Cost of construction was $80,000 and the building originally included full-width wooden porches on all floor of its west end (Plate 9), which were removed by the early 1960s when new construction began.

DESIGN

The main façades of the original U-shaped building face east towards Wellington Crescent, north towards Academy Road and south onto the school grounds (Plate 10).

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7 City of Winnipeg Assessment Record, Roll No. 405401-12-1 (PC 96). Below as AR.

8 City of Winnipeg Building Permit (below as BP), #430/1902.

9 Loc. cit.

The four storey solid brick structure rests on a raised stone foundation, clad in Ontario rockface ashlar.[10] The front (east) façade features an ornate curved central entrance set within a carved stone portico with squared smooth-cut and rough-cut stone pillars, a carved stone panel with the words "ST MARYS ACADEMY" and a deck with wood balustrade (Plate 11). Rising above this entrance is a projecting section of the main building that ends with a richly detailed fourth floor with statue, arched windows, attached brick pilasters and detailed pediment. A metal clad cupola with cross finishes this section (Plate 12).

The remainder of this elevation includes windows on all levels in rectilinear openings with radiating brick heads, continuous rough-cut stone sills (2nd and 3rd floors) and an overhanging cornice leading to the double sloped mansard roof with pedimented dormers set in the steep slope (Plate 13). The other main feature of this elevation is the angled corner turret with pyramidal roof on the northeast corner. The south side of the original building is plainly designed with a raised, centrally-placed entrance in arched opening; the attached two-storey chapel building features a hipped roof and both rectilinear and arched window openings (Plate 14). The remainder of the brick chapel building features modest brickwork, windows in arched and rectilinear openings and a one-storey section along its north side (Plate 15).

The north elevation of the 1902 structure continues the materials and design of the front façade and features a large entrance and window in arched openings topped by a shallow balcony with wood balustrade (Plate 16). The rear of the original building features windows on all floors, similar roof/fourth floor design and large brick chimneys (Plate 15).

The 1909 addition was built on the west end of the original structure, extending the north arm of the "U". It is similar in height, style, design and materials to the original and includes a round turret in its northeast corner (Plate 17). The roof dormers on the north slope are separated by brick chimneys. The addition's south façade is similarly designed (Plate 18).

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10 AR.

INTERIOR

The original interior of the school included classroom space as well as dormitories for students and living space for the Sisters. Technological advances have affected the interior, an elevator was added in the 1902 building in 1950.

Over time, much of this space has been converted into new uses as curriculum changed (Plate 19), the residential space was abandoned (Plate 20) and mechanical systems were upgraded.

There are, however, many original spaces and details, especially in the original building, that make the interior of the facility unique (Plates 21-25).

INTEGRITY

The building stands on its original site, a large, well-treed acreage, appears to be in good structural condition for its age and has not suffered major exterior alteration.

STREETSCAPE

The building, located on its large corner property, is part of the historic streetscape of two important thoroughfares, Wellington Crescent, one of the City's most well-known streets and Academy Road, which was named after the institution in 1913.[11]

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

This complex features the work of a number of architects and contractors beginning with the original design by noted local architect and stonemason Samuel Hooper (1851-1911) – Plate 26. Hooper was born and educated in England, moved to Ontario in 1869 and Winnipeg in 1881 (see

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[11] Rudnyckyj, J.B., Mosaic of Winnipeg Street Names (Winnipeg, MB: University of Manitoba, Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences, 1974), p. 1.

Appendix II for biographical information). He has been given 20 points by the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee. Edward Cass built the 1902 structure.

The 1909 addition was based on plans drawn by St. Boniface partnership Sénécal (Joseph-Azarie) and Hudon (J.A.). Sénécal was born in Lower Canada (present-day Quebec) in 1841, training as a carpenter in his early 20s (his father's trade). He worked as a contractor and was a self-taught architect when he moved to Baie-Saint-Paul (present-day St. Eustache) in 1877.[12] By 1880 he was operating a general store in St. François Xavier but by 1891 he moved to St. Boniface to take up the building profession full time. His practice expanded rapidly and he was much sought after, especially by Francophone religious institutions in Manitoba and further west. Churches, convents and religious schools all across the West were designed and/or built by Sénécal from the 1890s to World War I.

In Winnipeg, it was Sénécal who designed the 1892 addition to St. Mary's Academy on Notre Dame Avenue East (demolished). He built much of the St. Boniface Hospital, Avenue Taché (1893, 1905 and 1914), Misericordia Hospital, 99 Cornish Avenue (1900 and 1907), St. Boniface Normal School, 210 Rue Masson (1902), St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale (1908), Asile Ritchot, 3514 Pembina Highway (1912) and St. Joseph's Academy (convent and girls' school), 321 Avenue de la Cathédrale (1912).[13]

For the 1909 addition to St. Mary's Academy, Sénécal partnered with J.A. Hudon for the design work and J.C. Smith for the construction.[14]

PERSON/INSTITUTION

St. Mary's Academy was founded in Winnipeg in 1869 by the Grey Nuns, the group that had arrived in St. Boniface from Quebec in 1844. The Academy was created on the request of

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12 "Sénécal, Joseph-Azarie," in Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. XIV (1911-1920), online; and Manitoba Free Press, March 21, 1917, p. 4.

13 Loc. cit.

14 BP #151/1909.

Archbishop Taché who sought to provide a school for the English-speaking Catholics on the west side of the Red River in what would become Winnipeg. The first school was located in a rented house near the corner of Portage and Main until a permanent structure was built and opened on Notre Dame Avenue East in 1881. In the interim, the institution had been taken over by another Quebec congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary from Montreal in 1874.

The new school on Wellington Crescent was opened in 1903 with 27 sisters, 148 borders (with dormitories on the fourth floor) and 48 day students. The boarding school function of the school closed at the end of the school year in 1960 and the elementary and College classes were phased out to reduce overcrowding, creating the present-day junior and senior high school institution for day students. In the 1990s, the operation of the school was transferred out of the hands of the Sisters, the last remaining of whom moved out of the building in 1999.[15]

EVENT

There is no known important historical event connected with this building.

CONTEXT

St. Mary's Academy has been an important educational institution long before Winnipeg became an incorporated city. It founding and expansion in the 19th century speak to the development of Winnipeg as a population centre and its maturation and the need for modern education facilities in a time when that responsibility was filled by church groups.

The institution's move into a newly organized residential district underlines their desire to remove the students from the growing bustle of the City's downtown with its warehouses and factories to a more pastoral setting. In this new home, St. Mary's Academy has flourished for over 100 years.

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15 St. Mary's Academy website, http://www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/about_sma/history (no date).

LANDMARK

The Academy has been a well-known institution in Winnipeg for over a century and combined with its original building's commanding corner location, St. Mary's Academy would be recognizable to many Winnipeggers.

Historical Buildings & Resources Committee
THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

APPENDIX I

CITY OF WINNIPEG - Preliminary Report

Building Address: 550 Wellington Crescent

Building Name: St. Mary's Academy

Original Use: education

Current Use: education

Roll No. (Old): 405401 (7820)

RSN: 145747

Municipality: 12 Ward: 1

Property or Occupancy Code: 96

Legal Description: 44/45 St. Boniface, Plan 26374, Lot 10

Location: Southwest corner Academy Road

Date of Construction: 1902 & 1909 Storeys: 4

Heritage Status: NOMINATED LIST

Construction Type: brick and stone and stone foundation

Building Permits (Plans available: **[CS]** City Storage; **[M]** Microfilm):

SEE NEXT PAGE

Information:

- old building walls- B- 24" stone; 1st- 17" brick; 2nd & 3rd- 13" brick; 4th- mansard roof

- 1902 building ceilings- B- 9.5'; 1st- 14'; 2nd- 12'; 3rd- 11'; 4th- 10'. 2 sets of oak stairs B to 4th & 1 set 1st to 2nd only

- Ontario rockface ashlar to 6', balance clay brick

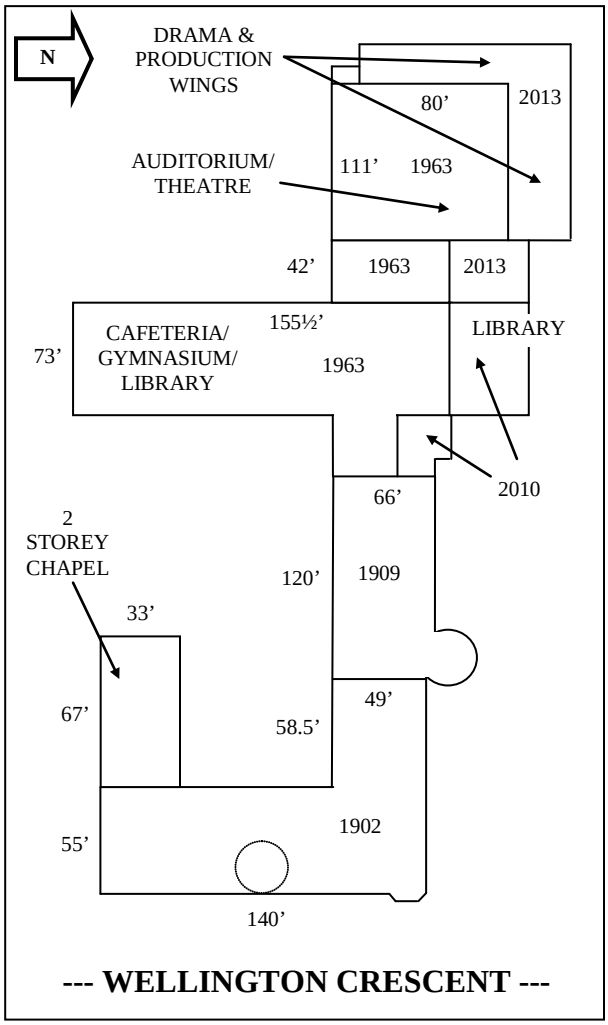
- 1944 inspection: Chapel wing walls badly cracked

- 1948 inspection: 1902 portion and chapel in better condition than 1909 portion

- Chapel building walls- B- 24" stone; 1st- 17" brick; 2nd- 13" brick 1958- sloping fir floor and stepped seats in auditorium

- 1909 building walls- B- 24" stone; 1st- 16" brick; 2nd & 3rd- 12" brick; 4th- mansard roof. Ceilings: B- 14.5'; 1st- 11'; 2nd- 14'; 3rd- 11'; 4th- 10'. One set oak stairs from B to 4th

- 1958- south ½ 1909 wing = 22 music rooms, north ½ 3 class-rooms & book store



Building Permits (Plans available: **[CS]** City Storage; **[MF]** Microfilm; **[M]** Microfiche):

YEAR	NO.	PLANS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1902	430		$75,000	Original (140’ x 114’)
1909	151	**CS**	$80,000	Addition (120’ x 66’)
1937	262		$3,000	Concrete piles
1938	546		$300	Repairs to shed
1939	3459		$3,500	Concrete piles
1950	899		$5,000	Elevator shaft in 1902 wing
1962	140		$15,000	Alterations – fire walls and doors added to existing staircases in 1902 & 1909 buildings
1963	4277		$57,000	Alterations – partitioning in basement, rewiring, new fluorescent lighting
1963	4582	**MF856**	Unknown	Addition
1963	5625		Unknown	Addition
1975	4895		$39,500	Interior alterations – conversion of old classroom space
1981	5011		$10,000	Repair mezzanine fire
1981	5245		$25,000	Lobby addition
1989	6528	**M**	$80,000	Interior alterations to portion of main floor in original building
1993	4962	**M**	$80,000	Interior alterations to 2nd floor office in 1909 wing
1995	4514	**M**	$172,693	Three storey addition (elevator)
1998	4135		$60,000	Interior alterations
2000	138164		$3,500	Interior alterations
2000	157403		$150,000	Two storey addition
2000	158478		$63,500	Interior alterations
2001	148499	**CS**	$2,340,000	Interior alterations
2002	240004		$50,000	Interior alterations
2003	314462	**CS**	$45,000	Interior alterations to kitchen
2005	131595	**CS**	$13,000	Storage building
2009	150937	**CS**	$1,320,000	Addition
2009	157797		$1,320,000	Addition – foundation
2010	107128		$990,000	Addition – structural framing
2012	113060	**CS**	$2,020,000	Addition
2012	115041		N/A	Foundation

APPENDIX II

Samuel Hooper

One of Manitoba's most prolific and well-known architects, Samuel Hooper, was born in Hatherleigh, County Devon, England, in 1851. After attending school, he became an apprentice architect for his uncle. In 1869 the Hooper family immigrated to Canada, settling in London, Ontario. After nine years, the entire family returned to their native England but the 27-year-old Samuel came back to Canada the next year, choosing Emerson, Manitoba, as his new home. The lure of opportunities in the big city prompted his move in 1881 to Winnipeg.

Together with Winnipegger David Ede he set up the Hooper Marble and Granite Company a successful statue and monument manufacturer. Hooper remained as president of the company for many years (Ede left in 1883), while his son, John S. Hooper, managed the business. Works designed and carved by the firm included the decorative Tyndall stone ornaments on the Merchants' Bank (1903), since demolished; a bust of Queen Victoria for the 1898 Jubilee Fountain in Assiniboine Park; and a commemorative monument of the Hon. John Norquay in St. John's Cemetery. Probably the most famous work was a monument to the fallen soldiers of the 1885 Riel Rebellion. This piece was originally placed in front of City Hall but later moved.[1]

In 1893, Hooper became an architect in the public works department of the provincial government. Together with this employment and the presidency of the granite company, he began a private architectural practice in ca.1905 with Albert Lee Houkes (Hooper and Houkes). This partnership dissolved shortly after and Samuel then formed his most successful partnership – that of Hooper and Walker (Charles H.). Hooper's final partnership was with his son, Samuel Lawrence Hooper (Hooper and Hooper). S.L. Hooper was born in Winnipeg in 1888. After his father's death, Samuel L. became president of the granite company and formed the architectural firm of Hooper and Davis (William T.).[2] He died during the influenza epidemic in January 1919.[3]

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1 Manitoba Free Press, October 20, 1911; and Winnipeg Tribune, June 10, 1967.

2 Henderson's Directory.

3 Manitoba Free Press, January 9, 1919, pp. 5 and 12.

In 1904 the provincial government created the office of provincial architect to oversee the design of numerous public buildings being planned in the province. Samuel Hooper was appointed to this position and held it until his death of bronchitis and asthma in England in 1911.

A list of work completed by Hooper and his various partnerships includes:[4]

Samuel Hooper-

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, new front façade, 353 St. Mary Avenue (1896)
Grain Exchange Building II, 156 Princess Street (1898) – Grade II
Isbister School, 310 Vaughan Street (1898) – Grade II
Provincial Deaf and Dumb Institute, Portage Avenue (1900) – demolished
Western Building (Schmidt Foundry), 90 Albert Street (1901) – Grade III
Provincial Gaol, 444 York Avenue (1901)
M. McMannus House, Edmonton Street (1902)
Icelandic Lutheran Church, Sargent Avenue (1902)
Thomas Scott Memorial Orange Hall, 216 Princess Street (1902)
St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent (1902)
Holman Meat Company Abattoir, Logan Avenue (1903) – demolished
St. Mary's Roman Catholic School, St. Mary Avenue (1902-1903) – demolished
Carnegie Library, 380 William Avenue (1903-1905) – Grade II
Knox Presbyterian Church, Selkirk, MB (1904)
Avoca Apartments, 329 Sargent Avenue (1905) – demolished

Hooper and Walker-

Winnipeg General Hospital, Bannatyne Avenue, veranda addition (1905)
R.C. McDonald House, 26 Amherst (now Avonherst) Street (1905)[5]
Marshall-Wells Warehouse, 136 Market Avenue (1905-1906) – Grade III
Icelandic Good Templars Lodge, 635 McGee Street (1906)
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Portage Avenue (1906) – demolished
Sherwin-Williams Warehouse, Catharine Avenue (1906)
Central Police Station, Rupert Avenue (1906) – demolished
St. Jude's Church, Wellington Avenue (1906) – demolished

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4 Building list compiled from the following sources. Photo Archives at Manitoba Archives; Manitoba Free Press, November 14, 1903; Winnipeg Telegram September 12, 1906, p. 55; Manitoba Free Press, September 12, 1906; Construction, III (December 1909), p. 68; F.H. Schofield, The Story of Manitoba, (Winnipeg, MB: 1913), pp. 601-2; D. Spector, Apartment House Architecture in Winnipeg to 1915 (Winnipeg, MB: 1980), p. 52; and HBC and author's files.

5 R.R. Rostecki, Crescentwood. A History (Winnipeg, MB: Crescentwood Home Owners Association, 1993), p. 113. Considered to be the first house built in the new subdivision of Crescentwood.

Hooper and Walker (continued)-

Adelaide Block, 107 Osborne Street (1906)
Black Warehouse addition, 80 Lombard Avenue (1907)
Carnegie Library addition, 380 William Avenue (1908) – Grade II
Hon. Robert Rogers House, 197 Roslyn Road (1908) – demolished

Provincial Architect's Department-

Provincial Land Titles Building, 433 Broadway (1903-1904)
Neepawa Land Titles Office, 329 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB (1905)
Manitoba Agricultural College (1905-1907), 139 Tuxedo Avenue
Provincial Normal School, 442 William Avenue (1906) – Grade II
Provincial Telephone Building (Freed Building), 474 Hargrave Street (1907-1909)
Brandon Court House, 1104 Princess Avenue, Brandon, MB (1908-1911)
Minnedosa Court House, Minnedosa, MB (1909)
St. John's Telephone Exchange, 405 Burrows Avenue (1910)
Provincial Law Courts Building (with V.W. Horwood), 411 Broadway (1911-1916)
University of Manitoba, Administration Building (1911-1913)
University of Manitoba, Taché Hall Men's Residence (1911-1913)

Hooper and Hooper-

McClary Building, 185 Bannatyne Avenue, addition (1909) – Grade III
St. Vital Municipal Hall, St. Mary's Road (1911) – demolished
Assiniboia Municipal Hall, 3180 Portage Avenue (1911)
Cycel Court Apartments, 195 Furby Street (1911)
Stores, 837-847½ Main Street (1911)
Winnipeg Garage Company Garage, 253 Edmonton Street (1912)
Panama Court Apartments, 785 Dorchester Avenue (1912)
Pasadena Apartments, 220 Hugo Street North (1912) – Grade III
Canada Paint Company Warehouse, Sutherland Ave., southwest corner May Street (1912)
Carman Apartments, 423 Burrows Avenue (1913)

Hooper and Davis-

Midtown Building, 267 Edmonton Street (1912) – demolished
Garrick Hotel addition, 287 Garry Street (1913)
H. Hirsch House, Manitoba Avenue (1913)
Rivera Court, 161 Cathedral Avenue (1914)
Maple Leaf Apartments, 915 Corydon Avenue (1914)
St. George's Hall Building, 1575 Alexander Avenue (1914)
Stores, 161-169 Lilac Street (1914)
Public Press Building addition, 275 Sherbrook Street (1914)
Empress Hotel, Winnipeg Beach

APPENDIX III





550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

1963 ADDITIONS

These buildings embody the following heritage values as described in the *Historical Resources By-law*, 55/2014 (consolidated update July 13, 2016):

(a) These additions, built in the 1960s, are a result of this independent education institution's evolution and expansion in the mid-20th century;

(b) It is part of a complex that has, since 1903, been an important contributor to the education of girls in Western Canada;

(c) The 1960s additions are examples of the International Style, designed by noted local architectural firm Libling, Michener and Associates;

(d) Utilizing reinforced concrete, these additions utilized common construction and design methods of the period;

(e) Sitting on a busy intersection on a large treed lot, the school is an integral part of an important district streetscape; and

(f) The building's façades have not been severely altered.

In the late 1950s, St. Mary's Academy, like many other Winnipeg schools, both independent and public, witnessed a period of growing in enrolment. This was combined with a major evolution of the education system and the fact that, at St. Mary's, the facilities were incapable of providing space for modern programming. In the early 1960s, large additions were completed on the west end of the 1909 building (after the rear balconies were removed). A new main entrance was built, as well as a large cafeteria (ground floor), gymnasium (second floor) and library (third floor) and auditorium/theatre further west (Plate 27).

STYLE

The St. Mary's Academy additions feature design elements associated with the International Style. The style dates to the early 1930s, although its widespread popularity throughout Europe and North America did not occur until after 1950. Seen as a reaction to the historically based styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it strove to reinterpret architecture using modern construction materials and technologies, especially steel framing and reinforced concrete. Architects could design buildings without the need for load-bearing exterior walls – the walls could be designed and built as mere "curtains" covering the steel/concrete structural system and could be constructed almost entirely of glass if desired. Through its use of hard, angular edges, severely plain surfaces, large areas of glass and square or rectangular modules, the style stressed material and proportionality over ornamentation.[1] The use of glass and steel gave the style a "lightness" of appearance.[2]

Winnipeg in the 1950s featured a number of young, well-trained Modernist architects, a population and economic boom, ready capital and a lack of modern office and institutional space. Over the next two decades, some of the country's finest Modernist buildings were designed and completed in the city to meet the demand for space and these 1963 additions would be considered a modest example of the style.

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1 Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, 1991), pp. 34-35; and L. Maitland, et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1992), p. 178.

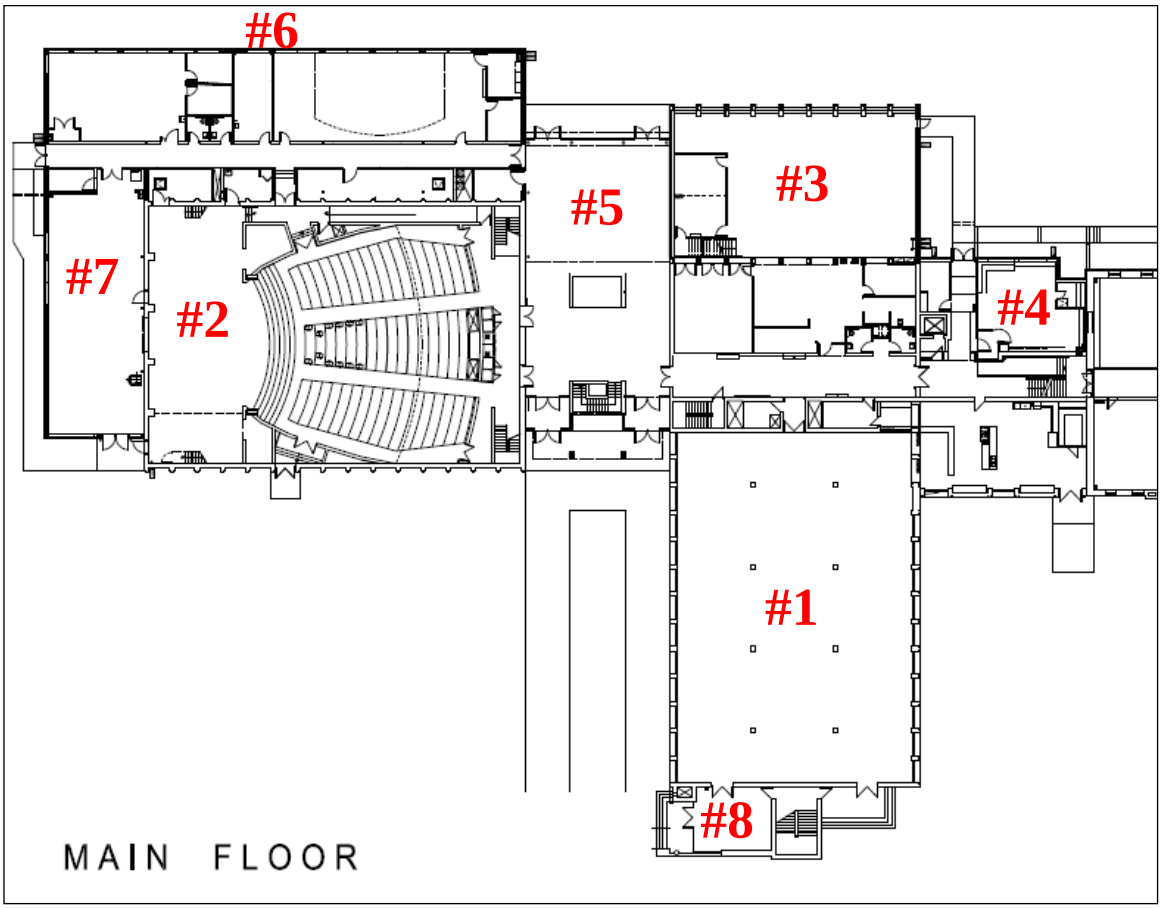
2 J. Thorsteinson, Brutalist Architecture in Winnipeg (Winnipeg, MB: Winnipeg Architecture Foundation, 2012), p. 9.

The 2013 addition is also designed with elements of the Modernist Style.

CONSTRUCTION

The 1963 additions were built of reinforced concrete with brick exterior cladding. Additions on the north side of the 1960s space and remodelling/repurposing of some interior spaces were completed in 2010 and a new atrium and one-storey Drama/Music and Production wings were completed on the north and west sides of the 1963 auditorium building in 2013 (see Illustration 1).

ILLUSTRATION 1
MAIN FLOOR – WESTERN ADDITIONS



Main Floor plans, courtesy of St. Mary's Academy. Spaces: #1- 1963 cafeteria/gymnasium/ library; #2- 1963 theatre; #3- 2010 Durocher Library; #4- 2010 retail space; #5- 2013 atrium; #6- 2013 drama and music wing; #7- 2013 Production wing (sets, etc.); and #8- ca.2002 Sister Rita Maureen Gym Foyer.

DESIGN

The addition running south (cafeteria/gymnasium/library) features a west façade divided into bays by plain pilasters (Plate 28). Large windows in arched openings are found in the ground floor bays, the second floor is windowless and paired windows in rectilinear openings on the top floor. The floors are separated by wide bands of concrete. The flat roof includes a steeply sloped metal-clad section. The south end is windowless and includes a two-storey foyer at its south end that was completed ca.2002 (Plate 29).[3] The east façade copies the design of the west elevation and a small connecting building at its north end continues the concrete bands with arched openings on the ground floor and rectilinear openings on the upper two floors (Plate 30).

The two-storey main entrance for the 1963 structures is located in section at the north end of the west façade and again includes the wide concrete bands (Plate 31).

The theatre/auditorium section to the west was designed much simpler: three storeys, windowless, with brick pilasters on the north and south elevations and flat, metal-clad roof similar to the other section (Plates 32). The one storey addition runs the entire lengths of the north and west façades (Plates 33 and 34).

The 2010 library addition is two storeys in height, its front (north) façade features large windows separated by thin brick elements (Plate 35). The new north side atrium is completed entirely in glass (Plate 36).

INTERIOR

The additions offer classroom space and other amenities needed for the growing school and today the building is a mixture of original layouts and finishes and renovated space (Plates 37-42).

[3] Information from St. Mary's Academy.

INTEGRITY

The additions stand on their original site, appears to be in good structural condition for their age and additions and alterations have been sensitively carried out.

STREETSCAPE

These additions are part of a large complex located on well-treed property at the corner of two important regional thoroughfares.

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTORS

Well-known local firm Libling, Michener and Associates were the designers of the 1963 additions and have received 20 points from the Historical Buildings and Resources Committee. G.A. Baert Construction Ltd. were the general contractors.[4]

Gerald (Gerry) Libling (1930-2008) and Mel P. Michener (1930-) formed Libling and Michener in 1955. The Winnipeg-born classmates had both graduated from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture in 1952 and after graduation, Libling worked in Ottawa and Montreal and Michener in Toronto before they both returned to their hometown and formed their partnership.[5]

Early work included a concentration on home and apartment block design and the firm won several national awards for their work in this field, including:

- Executive House Apartments, 390 Wellington Crescent (1957) – Massey Award Silver Medal (1961);
- Heritage Park Residential Development, Transcona (1962) – Metropolitan Canadian Builder Award (1964);
- Village West Housing, Westwood – Canadian Housing Design Awards (1964 and 1967); and
- Southwood Village Townhouses, Fort Garry – Canadian Housing Design Award (1969).

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4 Winnipeg Free Press, July 24, 1963, p. 5.

5 Winnipeg Architectural Foundation website, http://www.winnipegarchitecture.ca, 2013-2014.

Michener served as the President of the Manitoba Association of Architects in 1967 followed the next year by Libling. In 1973, Libling left the partnership to join developers Galcon Development Construction Limited and the Imperial Group and he passed away in 2008. Michener stayed on and led the renamed LM Architectural Group for many years. The firm continues to practice today.

Below is a partial list of major works by the two firms.[6]

Libling Michener and LM Architectural Group:

Executive House Apartments, 390 Wellington Crescent (1957) – Massey Award winner (first Winnipeg architectural firm to win the award)
City of Winnipeg Hydro Substation No. 21, 132 Edmonton Street (1959) – Massey Award winner
Manitoba Health Commission Building, 599 Empress Street (1959)
Hudson Building, 414 Graham Avenue (1959)
Edinburgh House, 99 Wellington Crescent (1960)
Chapel of St. Louis le Roi (1961) – Massey Award winner
St. John Brebeuf Church & School, 1707 John Brebeuf Place (1963)
Parkade Building, 238 Portage Avenue (1963)
St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, addition (1963)
Education Building, 71 Curry Place, University of Manitoba (1964)
International Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue (1964)
Public Safety Building, 151 Princess Street (1965)
St. Paul's High School, 2200 Grant Avenue (1965) – Massey Gold Medal winner
Manitoba Teachers' Society Building, 191 Harcourt Street (1968)
Y.W.C.A. Building (Catherine Booth Bible College), 447 Webb Place (1968)
Manitoba Institute for Applied Arts (Red River College), 2055 Notre Dame Avenue (1968)
Victoria General Hospital, 2340 Pembina Highway (1968)
Beacon Hill Lodge, 190 Fort Street (1970)
Place Louis Riel Apartments, 190 Smith Street (1970)
Boeing Plant, 99 Murray Park Road (1971)
One Eighty-Five Apartments, 185 Smith Street (1971)
Lakeview Square Complex, Carlton & Hargrave streets/York & St. Mary avenues (1971-1974)
Day Nursery Centre, 336 Flora Avenue (1972)
Imperial Broadway Tower, 363 Broadway (1975)
Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue (1975 in association with Number Ten Architectural Group)

[6] Compiled from loc. cit.; author's files; and City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings and Resources Committee data.

Libling Michener and LM Architectural Group (continued):

York Centre, 175 Hargrave Street (1976)
I.C.G. Building, 444 St. Mary Avenue (1976 in association with Number Ten Architectural Group)
Royal Trust Centre, 330 St. Mary Avenue (1979 in association with Number Ten Architectural Group)
Parkade, 330 Smith Street (1980 in association with Number Ten Architectural Group)
University of Manitoba Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, University of Manitoba, 99 Curry Place (1999)
Arthur V. Mauro Student Residence, University of Manitoba, 120 Dafoe Road (2003)
Winnipeg Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street (2005)
Southwood Golf and Country Club, 80 Rue des Ruines du Monastère (2011)

PERSON/INSTITUTION

St. Mary's Academy has been an important educational institution since the late 1860s, when it was operated by the Grey Nuns, to today, now run by St. Mary's Academy Foundation Incorporated.

EVENT

There is no known important historical event connected with this building.

CONTEXT

These additions are part of the evolution and expansion of St. Mary's Academy as its curriculum has changed and required new and larger spaces for its students.

LANDMARK

The Academy has been a well-known institution in Winnipeg for over a century and combined with its original building's commanding corner location, St. Mary's Academy would be recognizable to many Winnipeggers.

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

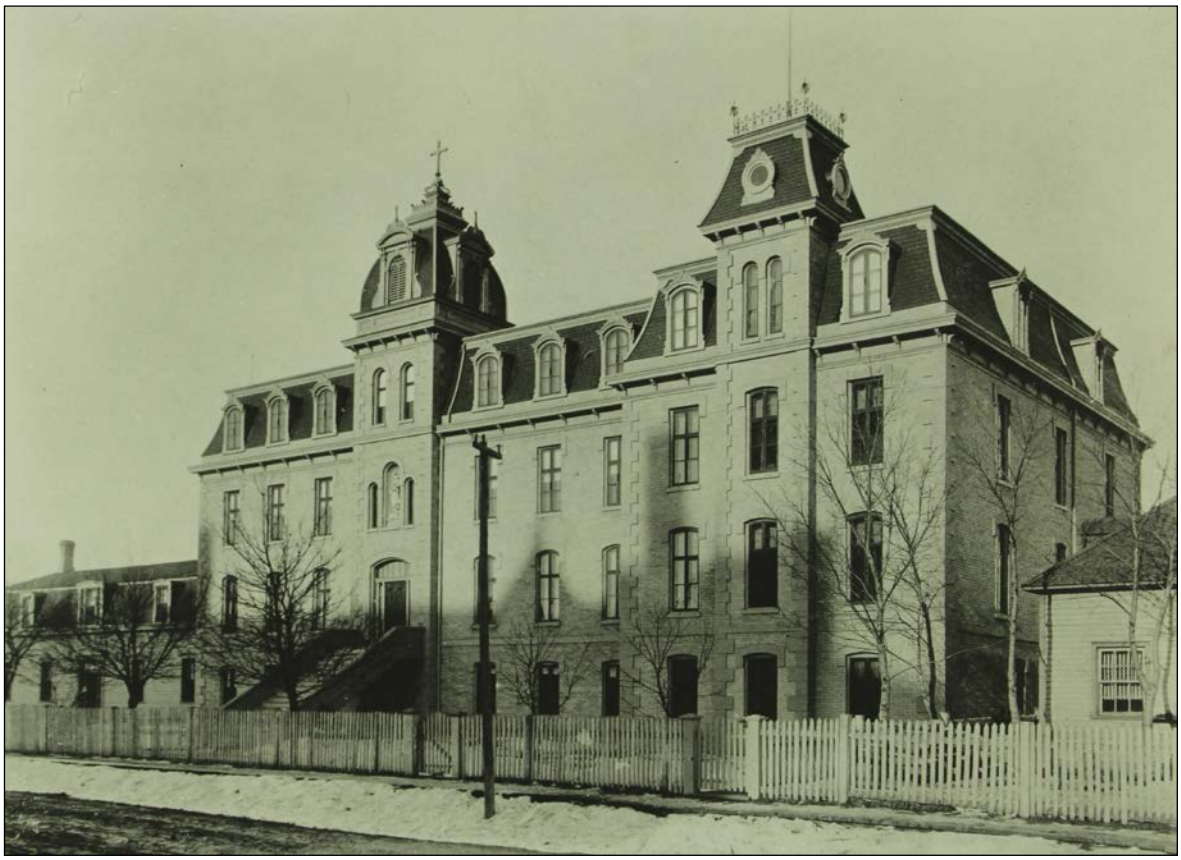


Plate 1 – St. Mary's Academy, 161 Notre Dame Avenue East, no date. The original building was completed in 1881; the projecting addition on the right was completed in 1892. This complex was located on the north side of the street just west of Victoria Street (now Westbrook Street). (Archives of Manitoba, "St. Mary's Academy (2) – 1", N5076.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

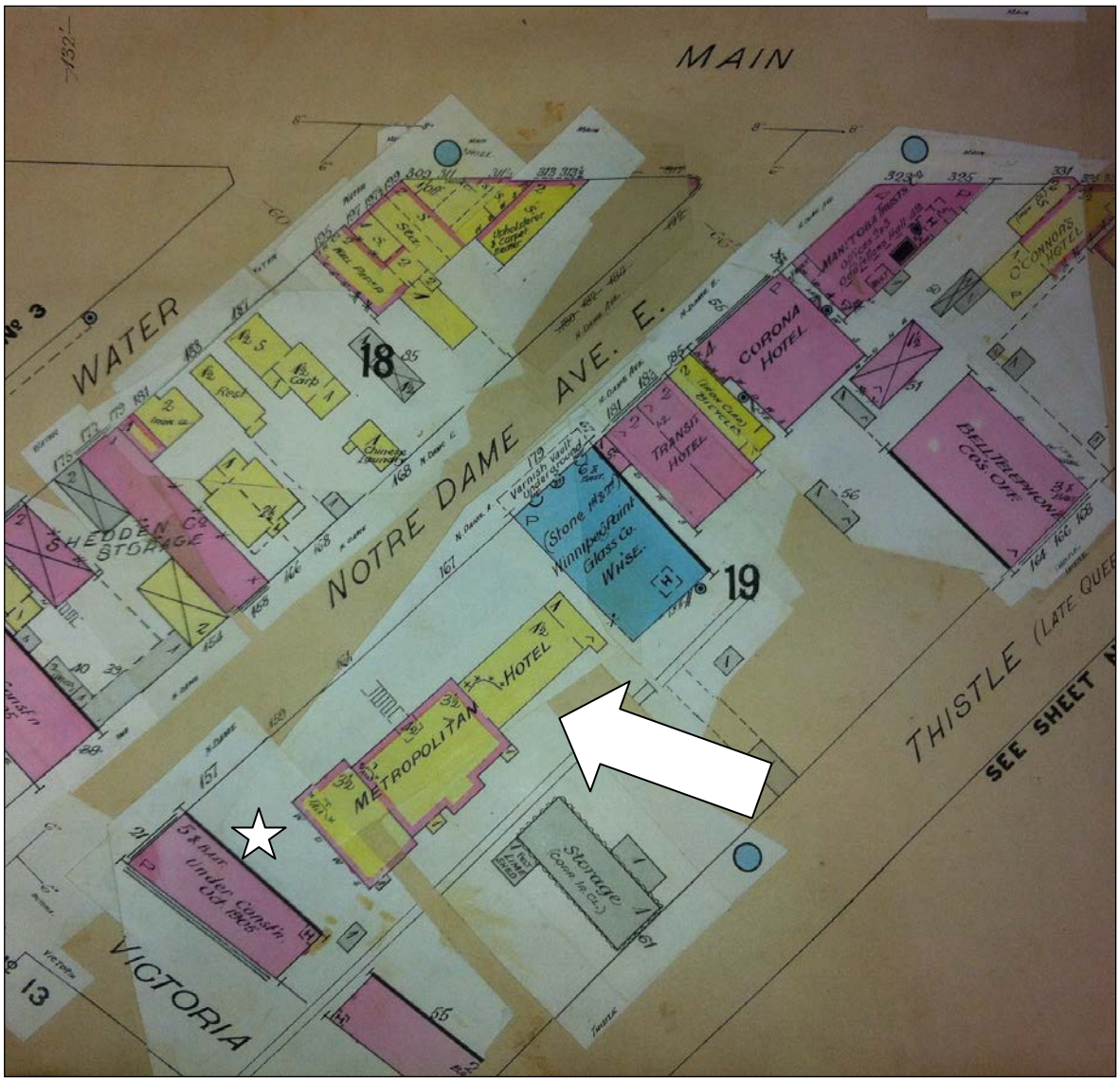


Plate 2 – Notre Dame Avenue East, ca.1905. The former St. Mary's Academy is now the Metropolitan Hotel (arrow). The Scott-Bathgate Building (star), 149 Notre Dame Avenue East (now Pioneer Avenue) is "under construction." It still stands at this corner today. (C.E. Goad's Fire Atlas, Vol. I, Sheet 4, 1905.)

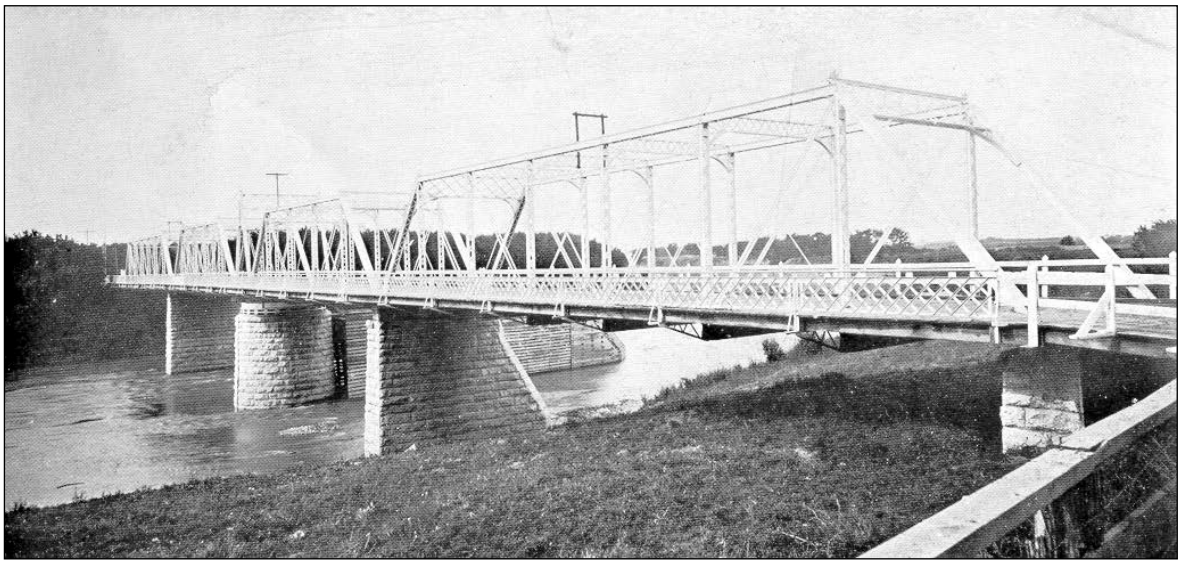


Plate 3 – First Maryland Street Bridge, opened 1895, with the heavy bush that would become Crescentwood in the background, ca.1905. (M. Peterson Collection.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

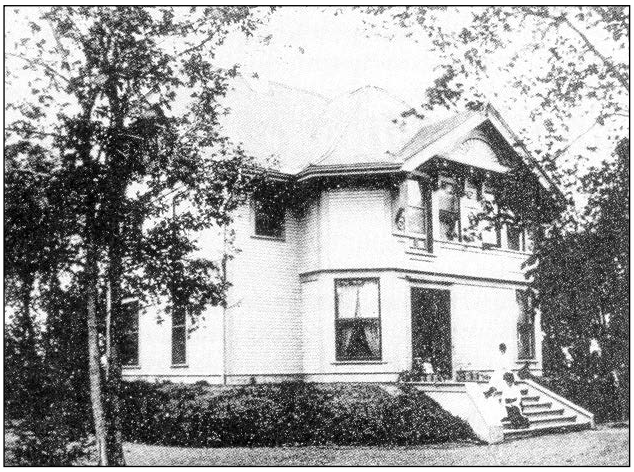






Plate 4 – J.H. Munson House, "Crescentwood," 475 Wellington Crescent, built 1888, demolished 1976. Top: Original house as it looked in 1891. Middle: House in 1919 after sale to Richardson family. Bottom: House in the 1950s after numerous renovations and additions. (All pictures reproduced from R.R. Rostecki, Crescentwood: A History (Winnipeg: 1993), pp. 44-45. [Top: Courtesy of the Museum of Man and Nature; Middle and Bottom: Courtesy of Kathleen Richardson].)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 5 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, pre-1909. (Winnipeg Public Library, Rob McInnis Collection, WP1492.)



Plate 6 – Manitoba's second Legislative Building (foreground), built 1884 with the third and present Legislative Building being built in the background, May 1917. (Archives of Manitoba, Foote Collection.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

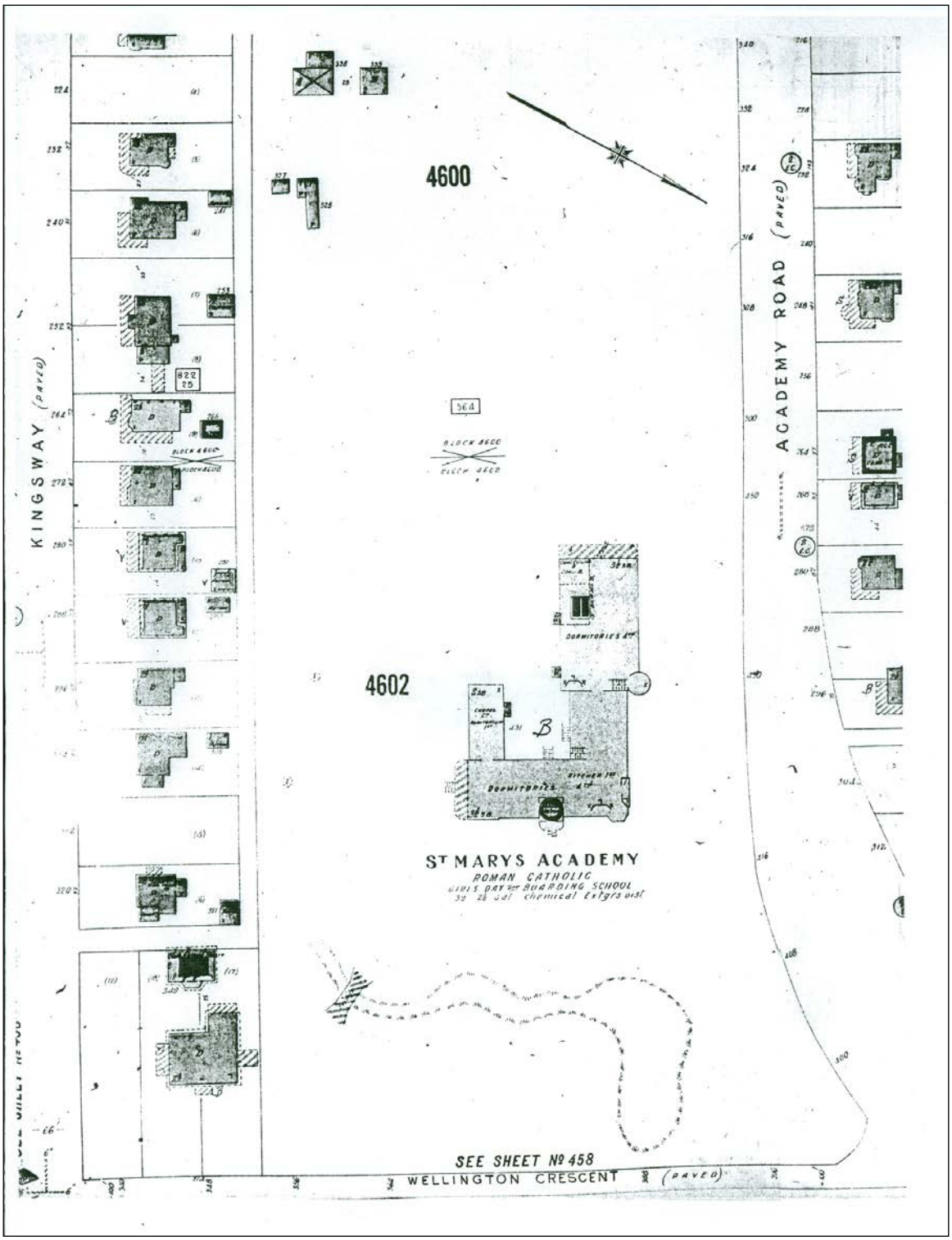


Plate 7 – St. Mary's Academy site, 1917, with the original building and chapel and 1909 addition. (City of Winnipeg Fire Atlas, Vol. IV, Sheet 460, May 1917.)

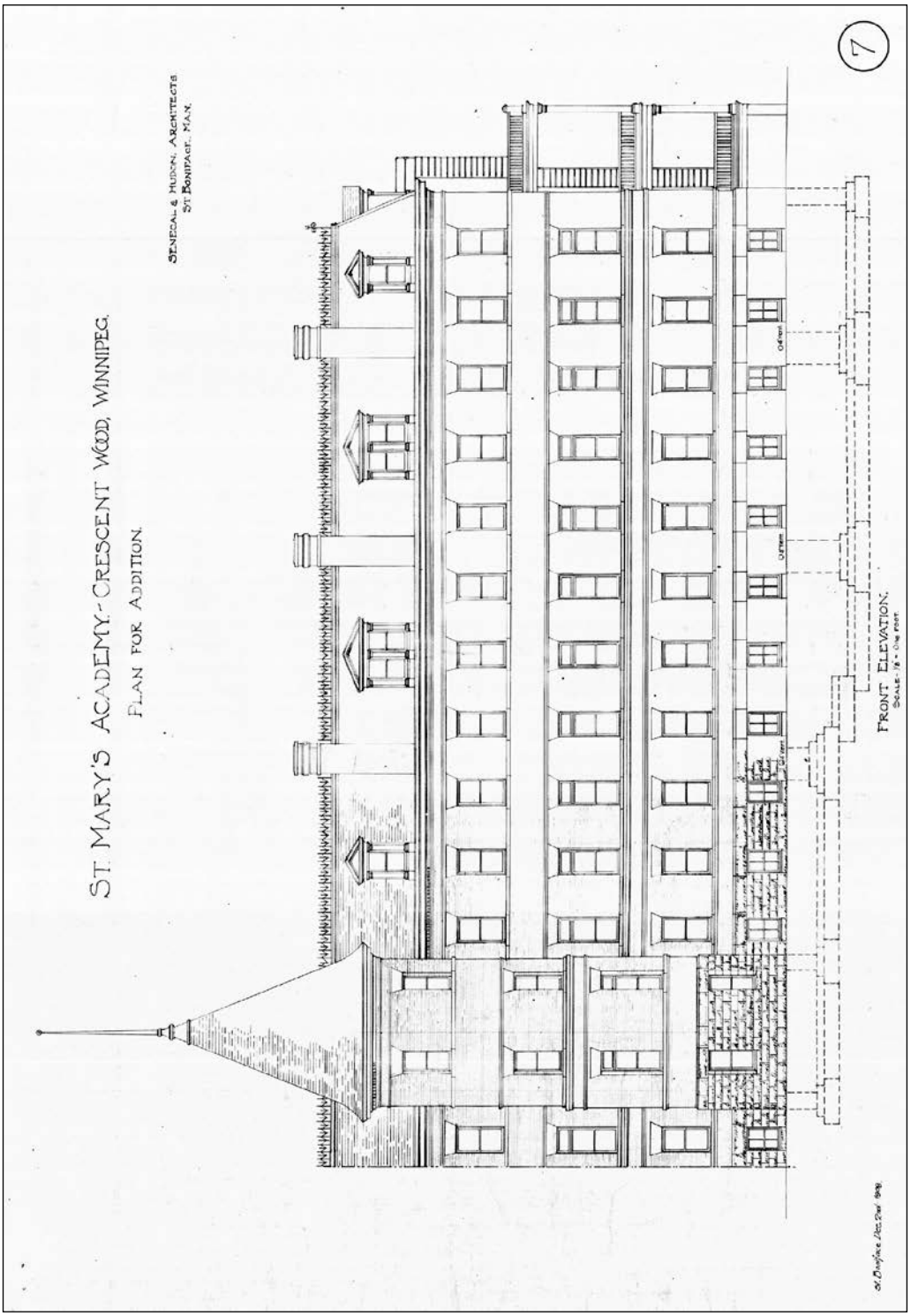


Plate 8 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, architect's drawing, "Front Elevation," 1909. (City of Winnipeg, Plan No. 151/1909.)



Plate 9 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, architect's drawing, "End Elevation," 1909. (City of Winnipeg, Plan No. 151/1909.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 10 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, after construction of the 1909 addition (arrow). (Winnipeg Public Library, Rob McInnis Collection, WP1114.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 11 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, main (east) entrance of the original school, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 12 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, central portion of main (east) façade of the original school, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Plate 13 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, portion of roof (4th floor) of main (east) façade of the original school, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)



Plate 14 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, south end of the original school building, chapel building on the left, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 15 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, rear (west) façade of the original school building and the north and west façades of the two-storey chapel building, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 16 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, east end of north façade of original school building, 2016. (M. Peterson, 2016.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 17 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, north and west façades of the 1909 addition, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 18 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, south façade of the 1909 addition, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 19 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, the left, undated picture, shows the original hallway of individual piano rehearsal rooms in the basement of the 1909 section. (Courtesy of St. Mary's Academy). The right picture shows the same hallway, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 20 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, unaltered nun's bedroom, 4th floor, 1902 section, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 21 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, wood parquet flooring at the 2nd floor connection between the 1902 and 1909 buildings, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 22 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, chapel on 2nd floor of 1902 building, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 23 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, original 2nd floor parlour in 1902 building (now meeting room), 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 24 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 2nd floor sitting area in 1902 building, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 25 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 2nd floor hallway in 1909 building, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

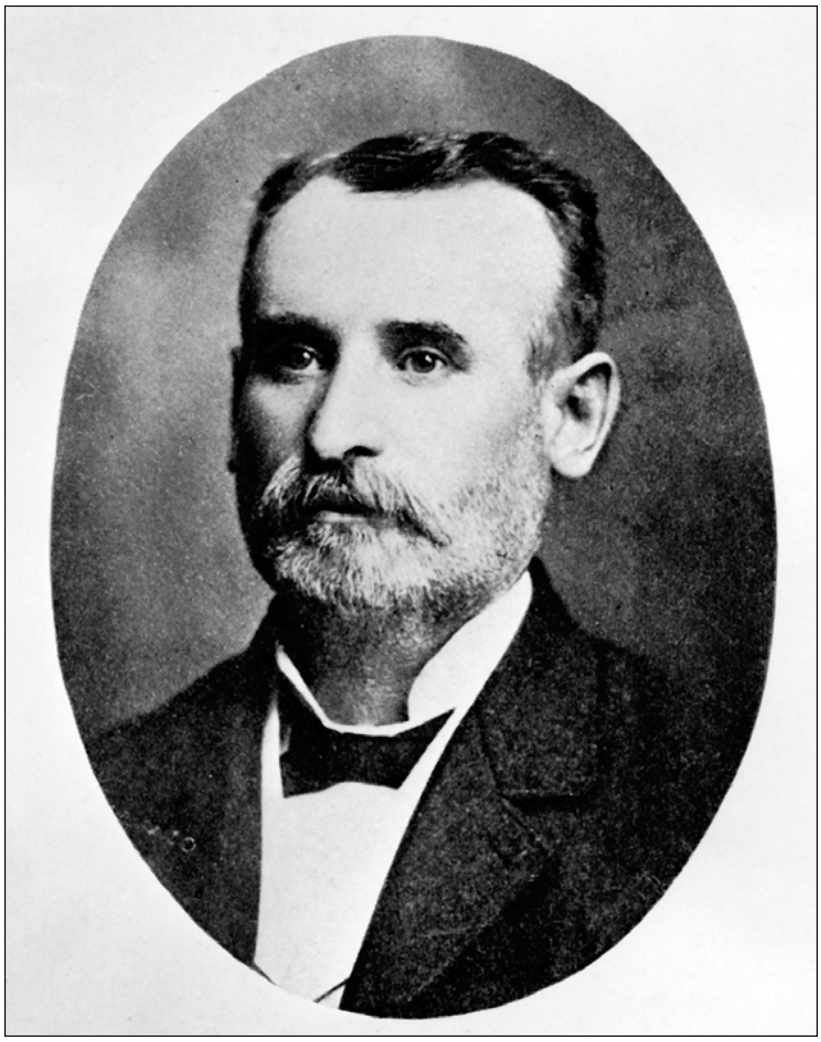


Plate 26 – Samuel Hooper, ca.1902. (Reproduced from Representative Men of Manitoba, 1902 [Winnipeg, MB: Tribune Publishing Company, 1902].)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

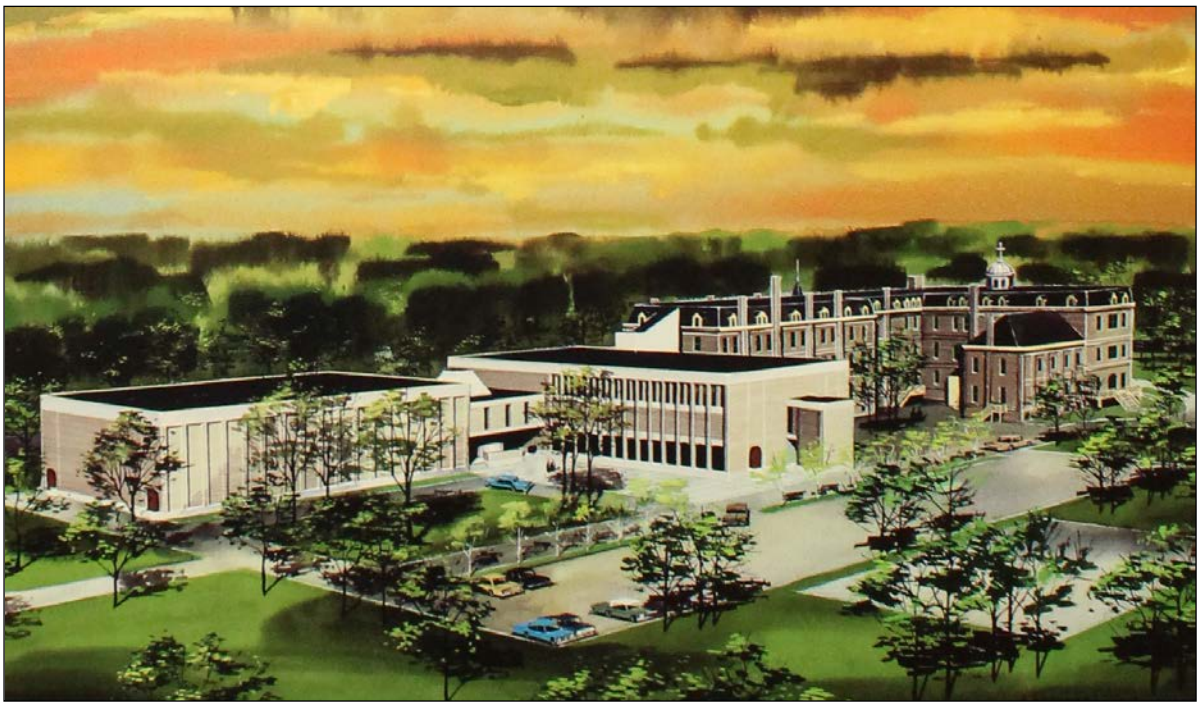


Plate 27 – Architect's rendering of the 1960s addition. (Courtesy of St. Mary's Academy.)



Plate 28 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 cafeteria/gymnasium/ library addition, west and south façades, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 29 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 cafeteria/gymnasium/ library addition, south façade, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 30 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 cafeteria/gymnasium/ library addition, east façade and north end connecting building (arrow), 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 31 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 "Alumnae Hall" entrance, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 32 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 auditorium/theatre, south façade, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 33 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 auditorium/theatre, west end with newer portion and original section behind, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 34 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 1963-1964 auditorium/theatre, north façade including one-storey 2013 addition in foreground, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 35 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 2010 library, front (north) and east façades, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 36 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 2013 atrium, front (north) façade, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 37 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 3rd floor hallway, 1963-1964 section, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 38 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, cafeteria with waffle slab ceiling, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

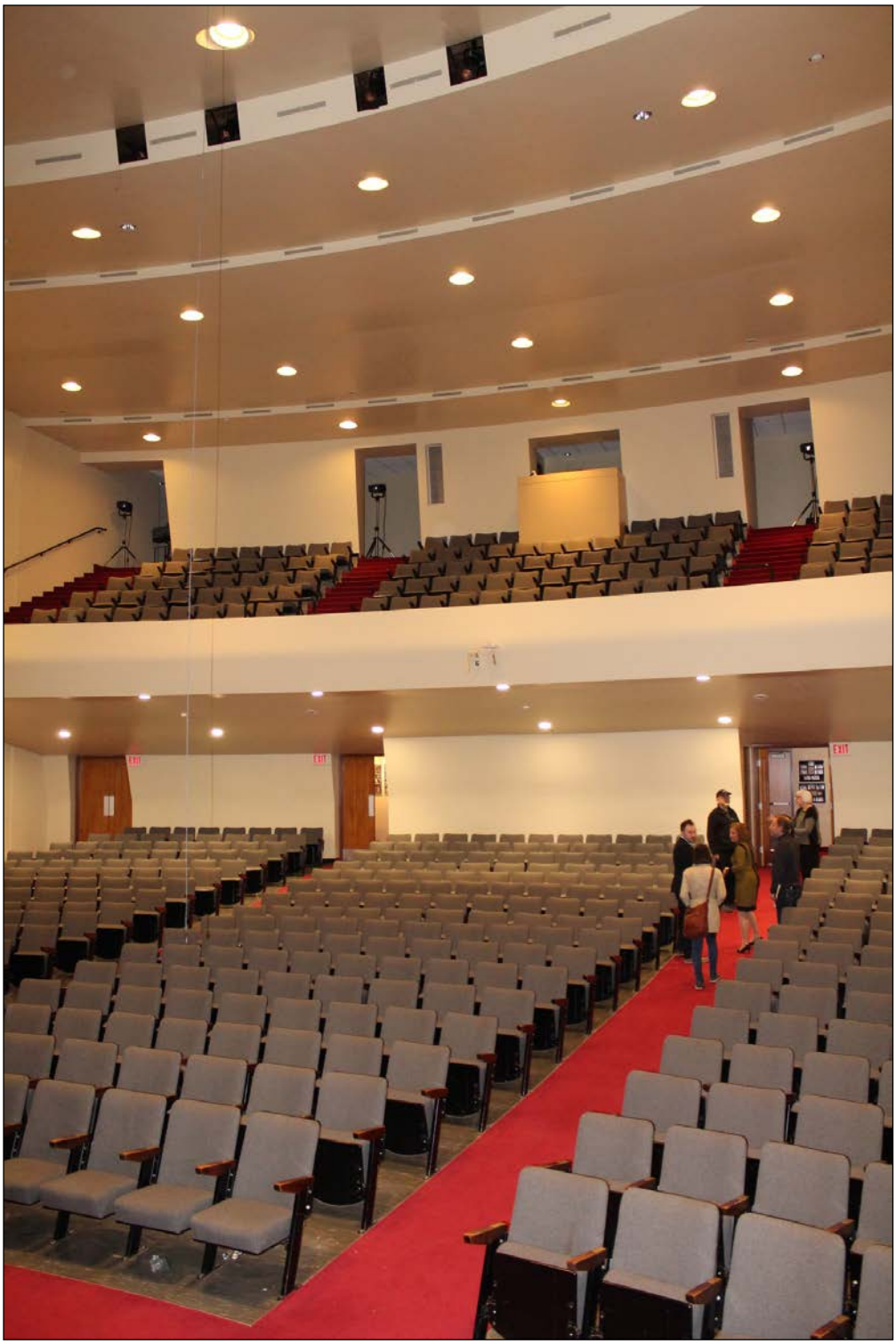


Plate 39 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, theatre, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)

550 WELLINGTON CRESCENT – ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Plate 40 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, 2013 atrium, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 41 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, Durocher Library, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)



Plate 42 – St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, music room, 2013 wing, 2017. (M. Peterson, 2017.)