

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: Immaculata High School and Convent

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 16661 Greenlawn Avenue and 8200 Marygrove Drive

City or town: Detroit State: MI County: Wayne County

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	Deputy SHPO	July 5, 2023
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Michigan SHPO</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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:) _____

James Gabbert
Signature of the Keeper

8-1-2023
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church school
RELIGION/church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick; Stone; Other: Membrane

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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

The Immaculata High School and Convent complex is located at 16661 Greenlawn Avenue and 8200 Mary Grove Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The school is situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of Greenlawn Avenue and Marygrove Drive. The former Marygrove College and associated buildings are to the west on the same superblock. The high school building faces east toward Greenlawn Avenue. It is surrounded by mature trees at the south of the site, multiple concrete walkways to the building's two main entrances, a large open lawn to the east, and a service drive with parking directly to the north and west. Currently none of the sidewalks are accessible as a fence runs along the edge of the property. The building is vacant but largely unaltered since its construction and comprises 66,180 square feet. The high school is designed in a vernacular Modern style with Art Deco influences and is clad in sand-colored brick with some stone detailing throughout. The high school is in good condition and is largely intact from its original construction, retains many of its character-defining features and materials. The Convent is situated to the west of the high school, along Mary Grove Street, and faces south toward Marygrove Drive. The building is separated from the high school site by a concrete driveway that runs north-south and leads to a small parking lot on the north side of the Convent. The building abuts the former Marygrove College campus on its west side. The Convent site has minimal landscaping that consists of lawn panels on the south and east side, two mature, deciduous trees along the street, and some small evergreen shrubs and flowers throughout the site. The building is three stories and clad in the same sand-colored brick as the high school. Three-story pilasters define the primary entrance on the south façade and a projecting bay on the east façade, near the southeast corner of the building, contains a secondary entrance. The northernmost bay on the east façade contains another secondary entrance, which is designed in a manner similar to the projecting bay but that does not project from the building plane. Like the high school, the Convent is designed in a restrained, vernacular Modern style that displays some Art Deco influences. The Immaculata High School and Convent complex possesses historic integrity and continues to convey its educational and architectural significance.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Immaculata High School and Convent complex is located at 16661 Greenlawn Avenue and 8200 Marygrove Drive, Detroit, Wayne County Michigan, in the northwest part of the city. The complex is situated on the northwest corner of Greenlawn Avenue and Marygrove Drive. The school complex is located in a primarily residential neighborhood and houses line Greenlawn

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Avenue and Marygrove Drive opposite the school. The school sits at the southeast corner of a superblock bounded by West McNichols Road on the north, Greenlawn Avenue on the west, Marygrove Drive on the south, and Wyoming Avenue on the east. The superblock is oriented with its long sides running east-west, which is perpendicular to the north-south orientation of the regular city blocks that surround the superblock. To the west of the complex, on the same superblock but on separate parcels, are the former Marygrove College, and multiple apartment buildings including the Theresa Maxis Apartments, the McGivney-Bethune Apartments, and the COTS Peggy's Place emergency shelter building. Directly north of the high school is a new surface parking lot and a former athletic field. To the east and south are lawn panels with new sidewalks leading to the two primary entrances of the school, one centered on the wing of the building facing Greenlawn Avenue, and one at the knuckle of the building facing the intersection of Marygrove Drive and Greenlawn Avenue. The present lawn and sidewalks replicate their original counterparts but were replaced in the early 2020s during rehabilitation of the former high school building. A fence currently runs along the street blocking access to the concrete walkways. The topography the superblock and broader neighborhood is predominantly flat and there are a significant number of mature trees on the property. Prior to the construction of Immaculata High School and its Convent, this corner of the superblock parcel was a wooded area. The northeastern corner was largely an open field but contained a set of ten tennis courts near the edge of the woods, about where the current parking lot is located.

Immaculata High School

Exterior

Constructed in a vernacular Modern style with Art Deco influences, Immaculata High School is a three story, L-shaped building generally composed of two wings that are architecturally and programmatically connected by a "knuckle" located at the corner of the building. The larger three-story wing running north-south along Greenlawn Avenue houses all of the classrooms, laboratories, library, and chapel as well as a primary entrance to the building. The smaller two-story wing running east-west along Marygrove Drive houses the gym and cafeteria. The three-story corner knuckle spans between the two wings, and acts as the primary entrance to the gym, an entrance to the classroom wing, and houses offices on the first floor, bathrooms, and storage rooms on the second floor, and a classroom on the third floor. The facades of the building have a consistent character on all sides, with each wing exhibiting varying masonry and stone details.

In February 1941 the *Detroit Evening Times* reported that construction had begun on the high school building. The newspaper carried a drawing of the building, which depicted the building much as it looks at present, and described the exterior as "designed in a restrained moder architecture." The exterior of the building, according to the article, was marked by "dignity and strong lines," and the variegated, sand-colored brick, together with stone details, gave the building "an atmosphere of strength and also warmth."¹

¹ ""Work Started on Immaculata Girls' School," *Detroit Sunday Times*, February 22, 1941.

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Immaculata High School is constructed with clean brick clad elevations featuring stone accents at the entrances, roofline, and pilaster caps. The building has a flat roof with minimal mechanical equipment on top. The classroom wing is the longer of the two building wings and runs north to south. Centered on the east façade of the classroom wing, which faces Greenlawn Avenue, is one of the building entrances. The entrance is located half a story above grade level and can be accessed by a flight of concrete steps. The entrance consists of one set of double doors with an additional single door on either side and is recessed from the primary façade and set in an arched stone surround. At the parapet centered above this building entrance is a stone cross. Directly to the north and south of the entrance bay is a narrow bay with brick pilasters on either side followed by four wider bays. Each of the narrow bays contain one window at each of the three floors while a typical wider bay contains four windows divided by wide mullions at each floor. The bays are divided by brick pilasters. The bays terminate at the roof with a simple stone coping with a stone dentil detail carved below. Each bay consists of four windows separated by wide mullions at each floor. At either end of the façade are two more narrow bays which enclose interior stairwells. These narrow stairwell bays contain exterior metal doors on the first floor and two-story high vertical glass block transoms above.

The classroom wing and gym wing run perpendicularly and intersect at the "knuckle" of the building. The knuckle is chamfered at the corner allowing for a building entrance to face the intersection of Greenlawn Avenue and Marygrove Drive. Like the entrance found on the east façade of the classroom wing, this entrance is set a half story above grade and is accessed by concrete steps. The entrance consists of three glazed doors which are covered by a Modern style metal canopy. Above the canopy is a rectangular glass block transom inset in stone. Above the main entrance, the third story is recessed from the entrance but still proud of the building and consists of three windows divided by wide stone mullions which extend up to the parapet. The parapet is stone constructed in a ziggurat style.

Interior

When constructed in 1941, Immaculata High School was described in the *Detroit Sunday Times* as containing "classrooms, study and lecture halls, fully equipped laboratories, music studios, a modern commercial department, a completely equipped home economics department," and "a community service wing... for social gatherings and other parent-student-teacher meetings."²

As the opening date of the new school drew nearer, the *Detroit News* offered further details about the interior arrangement of the building. The newspaper reported:

the first floor will house laboratories for work in chemistry, physics, biology, home economics and commercial work, as well as a cafeteria, gymnasium, shower rooms and student lounge. On the second floor will be the chapel, library, general offices, principal's office, junior and senior assembly and class rooms,

² "Work Started on Immaculata Girls' School," *Detroit Sunday Times*, February 22, 1941.

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auditorium and chaplain's apartment. The third floor will be devoted exclusively to home rooms for the ninth and tenth grades.³

The interior of Immaculata High School is highly intact and retains many aspects of its form and layout, spatial relationships, character-defining features, and many historical materials, finishes, and fixtures, though some modifications have been made over time. The wing running east-west contains the cafeteria and gymnasium. Terrazzo floors are found throughout the building, particularly in the corridors, foyers, science laboratories and stairwells. Most of the spaces contain non-historic applied ceiling materials but some spaces, including the foyers, are finished with decorative plaster ceilings in an Art-Deco-inspired style.

Interior functions were largely separated into the distinct wings of the building. The north-south wing contained classrooms and the east-west wing contained the cafeteria and gymnasium.

Primary access to the second floor is made by the primary stairs in the "knuckle" and at the center of the classroom wing. The lower, roughly third, of the walls of the stair volume are covered in square, orange glazed tiles that are capped by narrow, rectangular, horizontally oriented black glazed tile. The stairs are divided roughly into thirds by two sets of railings composed of metal rectangular posts with a wood hand rail atop a metal base.

The "knuckle" stairs open to a large foyer. The foyer is octagonal in shape and contains a stepped, plaster ceiling and a decorative terrazzo floor. The majority of the foyer floor is tan terrazzo tile that is "ringed" in green near the outer edge that abuts the adjacent halls and doorways. The "ring" follows the octagonal contours of the foyer. A second, smaller green and black octagonal "ring" encloses a green sunburst. The center of the sunburst is a ring rather than a solid form. Within the sunburst ring is a smaller gray and black ring. Triple doors with glass transoms lead to the gymnasium. The main classroom hallway is separated from the foyer by glass and wood doors surmounted by a transom of similar design. A smaller foyer, similar in design and form to the large foyer in the southeast corner of the building, is located at the top of the stairs centered in the classroom wing.

Secondary stairs are located at the northeast corner of octagonal foyer, before the classroom hallway; the west end of the east-west, gymnasium wing; and in the northwest corner of the north-south classroom wing.

Classroom Wing

The north-south oriented classroom wing, which faces east toward Greenlawn Street, was the primary instructional wing of the school. Each floor is arranged as a double-loaded corridor with instructional spaces on both sides of the hallway. The hallway floors are covered in terrazzo tile. In addition to instructional spaces, the classroom wing also held science and art rooms, the library, and the chapel.

³ "New School Opens Sept. 8," *Detroit News*, August 29, 1941.

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The first floor contained classrooms along each side of the hallway as well as the art room and laboratories. Metal built-in and temporary lockers are located throughout the hallway. Classroom doors are of wood with six-lite windows. Classrooms on this floor included the art room and laboratories. Classrooms retain historical light fixtures, wood trim, and other finishes. Some rooms retain free-standing and built-in cabinetry. Floors are typically of terrazzo tile similar to the hallway, while other materials are found throughout relative to historical function.

The second floor of the classroom wing is the most elaborately detailed floor of the wing. The classroom wing contained classrooms, the library, and the chapel. Stepped arches are located on either side of the central stairs and hallways extend past each arch. Like the first floor, metal built-in and temporary lockers are located throughout the hallway. Classroom doors are of wood with six-lite windows. The library was located opposite the primary classroom wing stairs in the center of the building. Built in shelves are located at the north end of the library space and free-standing bookshelves are on the eastern half of the room. Windows are located in a projecting bay on the west wall. The chapel was located in the northwest corner of the classroom wing. The chapel is two stories tall with a barrel-vaulted plaster ceiling. The chapel is oriented north-south, with the chancel and altar at the north end of the volume. The chancel is raised one step, and the altar two steps above the chancel. The barrel-vaulted ceiling continues past the chancel but narrows as it continues through the apse. The apse is formed by a projecting bay projects at the north wall of the chapel. The bay contains two narrow lancet windows at approximately the mid-point of the bay. Windows are located on the west side of the chapel. The windows appear rectangular from the exterior, but wood trim on the upper windows provide a lancet appearance within the chapel. The chapel doors are wood and contain stained glass lites.

The third floor of the classroom wing contained additional classrooms and the main administrative offices. Primary access to the third floor made by the stairs at the north and south ends of the classroom wing. Neither of the primary stairs at the “knuckle” or the center of the classroom wing extend to the third floor, and the foyers present on the second floor are not replicated at the third floor. The area above the “knuckle” foyer is instructional space.

Gymnasium and Cafeteria Wing

The north-south wing, which faces south toward Marygrove Drive, contained the cafeteria, gymnasium, music room, and other minor rooms and offices.

The first floor contained the cafeteria, locker rooms, and small administrative offices. The offices are simple rectangular rooms with plaster walls, nonhistorical carpeting, and no architectural detail. The cafeteria occupied the northern two-thirds of the first-floor volume. The cafeteria is largely open, except for structural columns in the center of the space, which is also at the one-third point of the larger (cafeteria and offices) volume. The western wall contains a mural that spans the width of the cafeteria. The southern one-third, which is separated from the cafeteria by a wall contained the small offices.

The combination gymnasium and auditorium is oriented east to west. The floor is wood and the walls are covered in variegated tan brick set in common bond. A stage is located at the west end

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of volume. The proscenium is constructed of the same variegated tan brick as used in the walls. It is marked by four courses of vertically oriented brick set in soldier course at the outermost, followed by a rowlock course, a header course, and a soldier course. Between this outermost decorative section and the stage is a section of brick set in monk bond. The proscenium wall then steps back two wythes to a final column of brick set in monk bond. There is a utilitarian spectator mezzanine composed of concrete steps at the east end of the gymnasium accessed via the third floor.

Immaculata Convent

Exterior

The former Immaculata Convent is located directly west of the Immaculata High School at 8200 Marygrove Drive. The convent, like the high school building, was designed in a vernacular Modern style with Art Deco influences.⁴ The three-story building is oriented on a north-south axis and has a rectangular footprint. The flat roof is hidden behind a low parapet. It is clad in a sand-colored brick similar to that of the adjacent high school. Decoration is minimal and achieved through stone window sills and parapet coping and by horizontal brick bands on the façade and secondary entry bays on each elevation. The primary entry is located on the south elevation (façade). Secondary entrances are present on the east and north elevations. A one-story screen porch extends from the rectangular footprint on the north elevation. Each building entrance is situated in a protruding bay featuring decorative brick work and stone parapet caps. The primary building entrance on the south elevation features simple stone steps with stone half walls and is covered by an aluminum canopy. The east elevation entrances are both slightly recessed from the plane of the elevation and are covered by shallow, flat stone canopies.

The windows on the building are aluminum double-hung units and were installed c. 2022, replacing the historic double hung windows. The windows tend to be in groupings of one, two, or five and are separated by narrow bands of brick with some linear brick detailing between the windows. The window grouping share single stone sills. The roof has a white, membrane roofing.

Interior

The interior of the Immaculata Convent was not accessible for evaluation during the nomination process due to its current use as a YWCA Metropolitan Detroit emergency domestic violence shelter so it cannot be determined the current how intact the interior of the building is. Historically, the floor plans were organized in a double loaded corridor organization with the first floor dedicated for common uses and the second and third floors used for sleeping quarters. The first floor contained rooms such as a parlor, reception, study room, community room, and

⁴ Historical reports of the construction of the convent are few and limited in information.

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dining area. The upper floors contained individual rooms with community laundry and restrooms.⁵

Integrity

The buildings of Immaculata High School and Convent are in excellent physical condition with very minimal alterations since its original construction. The windows and exterior doors have been replaced with non-historic units and many of the ceilings in the classroom spaces have been covered with non-historic acoustic ceiling tiles. Much of these alterations, including the window replacement, was completed by Detroit Public Schools in 2003 at which time the building was used by Bates Academy, a gifted and talented school for kindergarten through eighth grade.⁶ Immaculata High School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship due to its significant amount of original building fabric and the lack of alterations. Further, the building retains integrity of feeling and association for its connection to Catholic girl's high school education in Detroit and the fact that the building is an excellent local example of the work of prominent architectural firm D.A. Bohlen & Son. D.A. Bohlen & Son were regionally renowned for their work designing schools and colleges having designed the major buildings on the Marygrove College campus, numerous buildings at Saint-Mary-of-the-Wood College in Indiana, as well as several buildings on the Sisters of IHM's campus in Monroe, Michigan.

Convent is in excellent physical condition on the interior and is highly intact except for the recently installed replacement windows. The interior was not evaluated for integrity due to inaccessibility.

⁵ "Immaculata Faculty Building," Architectural Survey, Harold A. Meininger, Inc., IHM Archives, Oct 28, 1983.

⁶ "Advertisement to Bid Detroit Public Schools," *Michigan Chronicle*, August 27, 2003.

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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.)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1941-1965

Significant Dates

1941
1949

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

D.A. Bohlen & Son

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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.)

Immaculata High School and Convent is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education at the local level of significance. The school and convent were an important part of the broad Catholic educational system that developed in Detroit in the mid-twentieth century. The construction of the school in the early 1940s came after a period of tremendous growth in the city and was anticipated as an important part of the overall Catholic educational system in Detroit during and after World War II. The growth of the city, generally, from the turn of the twentieth century through the next decades resulted in significant growth in the Catholic population in Detroit. In addition to many churches, a large number of Catholic institutional buildings were also constructed, including a robust educational system. Many schools were operated by individual parishes, and some were operated by a particular Catholic religious institution. Immaculata High School and Convent was established by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (commonly, IHM Sisters), which has its headquarters in Monroe, Michigan, to the south of Detroit, and which also operated the adjacent Marygrove College. The IHM Sisters operated (and continue to do so) a number of schools throughout the city of Detroit and around the country. The Immaculata High School and Convent is an important illustration of this aspect of education in Detroit in the mid-twentieth century and Catholic education more specifically. The school and convent complex is particularly important for its role in the education of Catholic girls and women and served as a centralized place of education for families who sought a Catholic high school education for their daughters. Immaculata High School and Convent is also significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. Designed by the Indianapolis, Indiana, firm of D. A. Bohlen & Son, the complex is an important illustration of architectural trends in the city of Detroit in the mid-twentieth century. Described as “restrained modern architecture” at the time it was constructed, the high school, and the convent that followed shortly thereafter, the school and convent demonstrate the influence of the Modern Movement during an important period of transition from the classically designed schools of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to the largely International Style vocabulary of educational buildings designed after World War II. The school also embodies general educational policies and practices in its arrangement of spaces and functions. Immaculata High School meets Criteria Consideration A as it derives its primary significance from its historical and architectural importance. The period of significance begins in 1941 when the high school was completed and ends in 1965 when the Catholic population in Detroit began to decline and the demand for specialized women’s education began to wane.

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

Introduction

Founded in 1701 the city of Detroit was originally a French settlement occupied by French fur traders and colonists who farmed the land near the banks of the Detroit River. Before European settlers arrived, southeast Michigan was settled by Paleo-Indian people at least eleven thousand years ago. Mound building tribes also lived in the area with evidence of mounds being found at Fort Wayne and in what is now the Delray neighborhood in Detroit.⁷ In the seventeenth century Huron, Odawa, and Potawatomi occupied the area but later fled in the face of raiding parties of Iroquois.⁸ The city that would become known as Detroit was founded in 1701 by a French trader by the name of Antoine Laumet de la Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac, who built a fort on the banks of the river.⁹ During the French and Indian War (1756-1763) Fort Detroit was expanded and reinforced due to repeated attacks on the fort by the British. Ultimately, the French surrendered Fort Detroit to the British in 1763 when the Treaty of Paris formally transferred both Fort Detroit and all French lands east of the Mississippi to the British.

Throughout the eighteenth century the population fluctuated with two thousand people and three hundred buildings counted in 1760; 1,367 people counted in 1773; and 2,191 inhabitants by 1782.¹⁰ Eventually, in 1783, the territory of Michigan became a part of the United States on September 3rd of that year.

Fur trading was one of the earliest commodities traded in Detroit but, as beaver and fox became scarce due to overhunting, heavy manufacturing began to proliferate as these industries took advantage of Detroit's strategic location on the Detroit River. Early manufacturing industries included railroad car manufacturing, tobacco and cigar production, stove manufacturing, foundries, and, by the early 1900s, automobile manufacturing.

The Archdiocese of Detroit and the History of Catholicism in Detroit

Being that Detroit was founded by French Catholic settlers, the history of Detroit is intertwined with the history of Catholicism in the area. From its founding in 1701 the city of Detroit was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the archdiocese in Quebec until well into the 1790s. French settlers in the area also proselytized to the local Native Americans and there was a

⁷ Paul Sewick, "The Mound Builders," Detroit Urbanism, December 21, 2015, accessed April 25, 2019, <http://detroiturbanism.blogspot.com/2015/12/the-mound-builders.html>.

⁸ Guillaume Teasdale, "Old Friends and New Foes: French Settlers and Indians in the Detroit River Border Region," *Michigan Historical Review* 38, No. 2 (Fall 2012): 39.

⁹ Teasdale, "Old Friends and New Foes," 39.

¹⁰ Clarence Monroe Burton, *City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922* (Detroit, MI: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1922) 1:203.

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“sizable minority” of Native American Catholics in the Michigan territory, living mostly in northern Michigan and in Wisconsin.¹¹

The St. Anne’s parish was founded the same year as the city and is “generally recognized as the oldest Catholic congregation in Michigan.”¹² In fact, St. Anne’s was the nascent city’s first permanent building and “St. Anne’s remained the only religious congregation in the community for 115 years, until the First Protestant Society was organized. The town had developed on a foundation as unmistakably Catholic as New England towns were Protestant.”¹³ The first formalized Catholic school is likely the one founded in 1760 at Ste. Anne’s when a French born schoolmaster was recruited to begin instruction at the church.¹⁴

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Detroit was formed on March 8, 1833, with Frederick Rese as the first bishop.¹⁵ This first diocese encompassed not only Michigan but Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Dakotas.¹⁶ In the early years of Bishop Rese’s tenure there were eleven priests serving the diocese.¹⁷ When Michigan was granted statehood in 1837 the boundaries of the diocese were “redrawn to coincide with the state’s borders.”¹⁸

There was a large influx of Irish immigrants to Michigan beginning in the 1830s while Polish immigrants began arriving in large numbers in the 1850s.¹⁹ Irish immigrants may have been attracted to Detroit as it was founded by Catholics had a long history of Catholicism.²⁰ Catholic Germans first arrived in the 1820s and they attended a special monthly German language mass held at St. Anne.²¹ Italian immigrants began arriving in Detroit in 1855, settling on the east side of the city.²² Both the Irish immigrants and many of the southern European immigrants were

¹¹ Leslie Tentler Woodcock. *Seasons of Grace: A History of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit* (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1990), 13.

¹² Kristine M. Kidorf, Todd Walsh, “Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church Complex,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, National Park Service, 2019.

¹³ JoEllen McNergney Vinyard, *For Faith and Fortune: The Education of Catholic Immigrants in Detroit, 1805-1925*, (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 4.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 13.

¹⁶ “History,” Archdiocese of Detroit, <https://www.aod.org/history-of-the-archdiocese>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ “Boomtown Detroit 1820-1860,” Detroit Historical Society, <https://detroithistorical.org/learn/timeline-detroit/boomtown-detroit-1820-1860>

²⁰ Bill Loomis, “Irish Helped form Detroit for centuries,” *Detroit News*, March 14, 2015.

²¹ Evelyn Phillips Mantz, “History - Arrival of the Germans,” Old St. Mary’s Church, <http://oldstmarysdetroit.com/history-of-old-st-marys/history-table-of-content/history-arrival-of-the-germans/>

²² “Boomtown Detroit 1820-1860,” Detroit Historical Society, <https://detroithistorical.org/learn/timeline-detroit/boomtown-detroit-1820-1860>

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Catholic and they brought their faith and religious customs to Detroit when they settled in the city. In 1870 the population of Detroit was just over seventy-nine thousand and nearly half of the population had been born in another country.²³ As of 1900 nearly twelve percent of the population of Detroit did not speak English.²⁴ Between 1900 and 1920 Detroit had the country's third highest rate of inbound immigration with only New York and Chicago seeing more.²⁵

Frederick Rese resigned in 1837 and his successor, Peter Paul Lefevre was appointed Coadjutor Bishop in 1841. Scholar Leslie Woodcock Tentler notes that, although Lefevre inherited a missionary see with a heavy debt burden incurred by Rese, "heavy Catholic immigration into Michigan after the mid-1840s gave Lefevre a base of support for institution building that his predecessor never had."²⁶ Lefevre oversaw tremendous growth in the diocese—there were eighteen priests upon his arrival and eighty-eight in the diocese by the time died.²⁷ Lefevre died in 1869 and was succeeded by Bishop Caspar Borgess. Under Borgess's leadership the number of priests increased to 132 by his retirement in 1887.²⁸ It was during Bishop Borgess's episcopate that Catholic secondary education was popularized within the diocese, with some early high schools opening in the mid- to late-1800s.

History of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The origins of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary begin with Father Louis Florent Gillet, a missionary priest, and Theresa Maxis Duchemin, a professed Sister from Baltimore. Born in modern-day Belgium, Louis Florent Gillet trained at a Redemptorist novitiate and was ordained in 1838 in Liege before leaving for New York in 1843.²⁹ Redemptorists have a long tradition, dating to the foundation of the Redemptorist congregation in 1732 by St. Alphonsus Liguori, of serving the poorest and most vulnerable.³⁰ It was likely this zeal for service and missionary work that propelled Gillet to the United States. Upon arriving in New York, Gillet and his fellow Redemptorist missionaries initially traveled to Baltimore, where the 5th Provincial Council of American Bishops was in session.³¹ At the Provincial Council, Bishop Peter Paul Lefevre, Coadjutor-Administrator of the Diocese of Detroit, had successfully

²³ "Industrial Detroit 1860-1900," Detroit Historical Society, <https://detroithistorical.org/learn/timeline-detroit/industrial-detroit-1860-1900>

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Kidorf, Walsh, "Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church Complex."

²⁶ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 17.

²⁷ Fr. Francis X. Canfield, *Development of the Catholic Church in the Great Lakes Region*, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 17.

²⁸ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 34.

²⁹ Sr. M. Rosalita Kelly, *No Greater Service: The History of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, 1845-1945* (Franciscan Institute Publicans, 1949), 23.

³⁰ "Who are the Redemptorists," The Redemptorists, accessed 12/22/21, <https://redemptorists.net/redemptorists/who-are-the-redemptorists/>.

³¹ Sisters of IHM. "Gift of Fire," accessed 12/22/21, <http://www.sistersofihm.org/what-we-do/publications-library/book-excerpts/detail-gift.html?id=40fc94e1-8076-4d73-8dec-42c8139859ce&pageTitle=IHM%20Book%20Excerpts:%20Redemptorist>.

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petitioned the Redemptorist Provincial Council for additional missionary support in Detroit.³² The Redemptorists left Baltimore and returned to New York City, where they remained for a short time, before moving to Albany, New York.³³

While in Baltimore, Father Gillet met Sister Theresa Maxis. Theresa Maxis Duchemin—born Marie Almaide Maxis Duchemin³⁴—was a biracial woman of Haitian descent who was raised by a prominent family in Baltimore.³⁵ Highly educated, with fluency in French and English, Theresa became a founding member of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, “the first congregation of women religious of color in the world,”³⁶ at the age of nineteen.

The Oblates were based in Baltimore, and when Father Gillet met Theresa Maxis, he spoke to her of his desire to set up a religious community in Monroe, Michigan, to educate the children of the local French-Canadian settlers. After he arrived in Michigan in 1843 and preached his first mission in Grosse Pointe,³⁷ Father Gillet had moved south to Monroe where he traveled extensively across lower Michigan to serve the needs of the growing Catholic community.³⁸ Stretched thin with work, Father Gillet invited Sister Theresa Maxis to Michigan to help him establish a new a school that would become the foundation for a new community of teaching sisters. Sister Theresa Maxis left the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1845 and settled in Monroe, Michigan. On November 10, 1845, Father Gillet and Theresa Maxis founded a new community of women religious which they called the Sisters of Providence—the name was changed to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary two years later.³⁹ The community in Monroe was unrelated to the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore as it was a separate and distinct community of women religious.

Sister Theresa Maxis asked her Oblate Sister from Baltimore, Sister Ann Shaaff, to join her and she did so, arriving in Monroe on October 14, 1845.⁴⁰ Theresa Renauld, known to Father Gillet from his missionary work in Grosse Pointe, joined a month later. These three women constituted the foundational members of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The women immediately set upon the preparations needed to open their first school.

³² Sisters of IHM. “Gift of Fire.”

³³ Sisters of IHM. “Gift of Fire.”

³⁴ Theresa Maxis had/used several names, see page 40 of *No Greater Service*.

³⁵ Patricia Montemurri, *Images of America: Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Michigan* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2020), 11.

³⁶ “Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin,” Sisters of IHM, accessed 12/22/21, <http://www.sistersofihm.org/who-we-are/ihm-history/theresa-maxis.html>.

³⁷ At this time Grosse Pointe was one large area, however, it is now comprised of five separate municipalities: Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Grosse Pointe Shores. Today, these five cities are often colloquially referred to as “the Grosse Pointes.”

³⁸ Kelly, *No Greater Service*, 25, 29, 32.

³⁹ Montemurri, 11.

⁴⁰ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood: A Feminist History of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary* (Monroe, MI: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1997), 43.

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Although Theresa Maxis and Ann Shaaff both passed for white in Michigan, the fact that two of the three founding Sisters were women of color was long hidden by the Diocese of Detroit and by the IHMs themselves.⁴¹ In fact, Mother Superior Domitilla Donohue (who led the IHMs from 1918 to 1930) denied that Theresa Maxis, the woman of color from the Oblates, was the same Theresa Maxis that founded IHM. Mother Domitilla feared her efforts to create an exemplary college would suffer if this information was released.⁴²

Theresa Maxis was forced out of the IHM congregation after a dispute with Bishop Lefevere in 1859 and this was likely predicated, in part, on her race.⁴³ Due to these disputes Theresa Maxis was deposed as General Superior of the IHM congregation and was sent to Pennsylvania to set up a new community of women religious. This community become known as the Pennsylvania branch of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but it would be separate and distinct from the Monroe branch. The Pennsylvania branch founded Villa Maria College in 1914 in Immaculata, Pennsylvania. It was later renamed Immaculate College in 1929 and is now known as Immaculata University.

The Sisters were prolific in both founding and staffing schools that adhered to their primary mission of providing a Catholic-centered education for women. In addition to founding Immaculata High School, the Sisters of IHM were also responsible for owning and operating multiple other schools in Michigan including St. Mary Academy in Monroe, Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe, Marygrove College in Detroit, Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, and Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Illinois.⁴⁴ The Sisters of IHM not only owned and operated the above schools but also were responsible for staffing a significant number of parochial schools. The Sisters of IHM were responsible for staffing nearly 110 schools between 1855 and 1970, the majority of which were within the Archdiocese of Detroit. After 1970, with the passage of Proposal C in the November 1970 Michigan elections which prohibited the use of public funds for private or parochial schools, many Catholic schools in Michigan closed and many more staffed their schools via a school board rather than through the IHMs. Following this shift in hiring processes and the closure of a significant number of Catholic schools in Michigan, the IHMs were no longer responsible for staffing the monumental number of schools they once did.⁴⁵ Despite this change, the IHMs continued to teach in many Catholic schools by applying for open positions and continued their legacy of providing Catholic-centered education at the schools which they themselves owned and operated. The Sisters of IHM continue this mission today by continuing to sponsor Marian High School and co-sponsoring Detroit Cristo Rey High School with the Basilian Fathers.⁴⁶

⁴¹ Stanbridge, 6-9.

⁴² Stanbridge, 9.

⁴³ Eugene J. Halus, Jr., Brad Franco, "The Challenge of Transitioning the Mission: The Graying of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Propagation of Mission," Conference Presentation at The Impact of Catholic Education in America, University of Portland, 2013.

⁴⁴ Jennifer Meacham, personal communication, December 14, 2021.

⁴⁵ Sister Mary Jo Maher, personal communication, undated.

⁴⁶ "Sponsored Institutions," IHM Sisters, <https://ihmsisters.org/who-we-are/our-ministries/sponsored-institutions/>

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Catholic Education in Detroit

Catholic schools existed in Detroit as early as 1760 when Ste. Anne de Detroit Parish operated a school until 1791. This school was taught by a lay teacher and was likely quite rudimentary in its teachings. There are no records of Catholic schools in Detroit between 1791 and 1804, but in the early nineteenth century there were many efforts to open Catholic schools, including all-girls schools. As early as 1808 Father Gabriel Richard petitioned the Territorial Legislature for an academy for boys but had founded an academy specifically for girls. This academy, located in Detroit, consisted of thirty young girls all taught by Elizabeth Williams, a laywoman who had worked with Richard previously in other educational endeavors.⁴⁷

The first school established during Bishop Rese's episcopate was an academy for girls opened by the Colletine Poor Clares. This academy operated from 1833 to 1839 when the Poor Clares sisters left the diocese.⁴⁸ Bishop Lefevre succeeded Bishop Rese and brought five teaching orders into the Diocese between 1844 and 1852 including the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in 1845.⁴⁹ As the Sisters of IHM were in their early years there was a lack of teaching Sisters in the Diocese of Detroit at this time and despite having approximately forty parochial schools in the Diocese in 1869, half of the schools were taught by lay teachers.⁵⁰

One of Lefevre's primary objectives was to secure public funding for Catholic schools in Detroit. Unfortunately, this did not come to pass during his tenure as Bishop. Lefevre desired to provide a parochial education to all Catholic Detroiters, even those who could not afford school tuition, yet this objective could not come to fruition without an injection of public monies.⁵¹ In March 1853, the municipal elections included the issue of public funds for Catholic schools. The regular Democratic ticket was in favor of providing public monies to Catholic schools while the independent coalition of Democrats and Whigs argued that this would divert money away from Detroit's newly established public school system.⁵² The measure failed to pass and talk of public money for Catholic schools did not gain strong political traction again for many years. The lack of funding coupled with the shortage of teaching sisters and the scattered nature of rural Catholics made it difficult to establish a parochial school at every parish.

It was not until the episcopate of Bishop Borgess from 1870 to 1887 that Catholic education in Detroit began to flourish. Borgess' efforts alongside the work of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary led to a fair number of Catholic schools opening.⁵³ During this time it became commonplace for a Catholic parish to have its own school – often staffed by teaching

⁴⁷ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 84-85.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 85-86.

⁴⁹ Ibid, 86.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 86.

⁵¹ Ibid, 88.

⁵² Ibid, 88.

⁵³ Robert Delaney, "Catholic schools have long, rich history," Detroit Catholic, August 22, 2012, <https://www.detroitcatholic.com/news/catholic-schools-have-long-rich-history>

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Sisters. By 1887 more than eighty percent of the teachers at Detroit's parochial schools were members of religious orders with the Sisters of IHM accounting for almost half the total.⁵⁴

The overwhelming majority of Catholic schools in Detroit prior to the 1890s were elementary schools. While Detroit's first public high school opened in 1863, it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that it became commonplace for instruction to be provided past the eighth grade at Catholic schools. Early Catholic secondary schooling tended to be focused on girls as Bishop Borgess forbade boys over the age of twelve to have female instructors. Since most schools at this time were taught by sisters and it was uneconomical often to hire male lay teachers, many Catholic boys had to seek out Catholic boarding schools or transfer to public schools to seek out secondary education.⁵⁵ It was not until the Diocese of Detroit ceased to enforce the rule that secondary education became commonplace for both Catholic girls and boys.

Two of the early Catholic secondary schools in the Detroit area were St. Mary's Academy in Monroe opened in 1846 as well as Jesuit's Detroit College which opened in 1877. Many secondary schools opened through the 1890s and into the early 1900s and by 1920 most larger parishes offered secondary school. By 1918 there were 102 parochial schools located within the Diocese of Detroit.⁵⁶ In addition, private secondary schools unaffiliated with parishes began to open. These included St. Joseph's Academy for girls in Adrian opened in 1896 by the Dominican Sisters, Nazareth Academy for girls in Kalamazoo opened by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1897, and St. Joseph's Commercial College in Detroit opened by the Christian Brothers in 1889.⁵⁷ These early Catholic high schools were small in comparison to the public high schools open at that time. St. Vincent de Paul High School in Detroit, staffed by IHM Sisters, graduated only 334 students between 1893 and 1927 and graduated classes of under twenty-five students each year in the 1910s and 1920s.⁵⁸ Mirroring the patterns in public secondary schools at the time, the vast majority of parochial secondary schools at the turn of the twentieth century were for girls. The Sisters of IHM taught at many of these newly formed secondary schools. By 1917 the Sisters taught at nine different parish high schools.⁵⁹ The Sisters of IHM brought with them rigorous academic standards which were a departure from the emphasis on homemaking and decorative arts that many other all-girls schools centered on at the time.

As the Catholic population in Detroit soared, more Catholic high schools were constructed. It was also during this population boom, in 1937, that Detroit was elevated to an Archdiocese. Catholic school enrollments doubled between 1918 and 1940 which led to a shortage of teaching sisters and, subsequently, overcrowding at many Catholic schools within the Archdiocese.⁶⁰ Not all Catholic children attended parochial schools though. Public school records are not broken down by religion, but it is known that parish priests would grant permission for lower income families to send their sons to public high school as they often could not afford the tuition of

⁵⁴ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 91.

⁵⁵ *Ibid*, 95.

⁵⁶ *Ibid*, 443.

⁵⁷ *Ibid*, 249.

⁵⁸ Vinyard, *For Faith and Fortune*, 206.

⁵⁹ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 251.

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, 444.

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parochial secondary schools.⁶¹ For instance, in the 1910s, it is estimated twenty or more children from the Holy Trinity parish, associated with the Most Holy Trinity School, attended public school rather than the parish school.⁶² This was a small number compared to the total enrollment of Most Holy Trinity School which at one point was responsible for nearly one thousand students in years Kindergarten through twelfth grade.⁶³

Most of the parochial secondary schools in the 1920s and 1930s were associated with parishes and it was less common for there to be central high schools. The parish high schools of the 1920s tended to be small and often were co-educational, although typically the girls far outnumbered the boys which was due likely a holdover from the pattern of having more girls in the lower grades, as mentioned above.⁶⁴ The fact that more girls were enrolled in parish high schools was also affected by the need, by many families, for the wages earned by their high-school-aged male children.⁶⁵ By 1922 there were thirteen IHM-staffed high schools in Detroit, up from eight in 1915.⁶⁶ The influx of Catholics into the City of Detroit in the 1920s led to opening central high schools to relieve some of the pressure on the existing parish high schools. A central high school for girls was opened in 1927 and one was open for boys just a year later in 1928. The practice of central high schools, parochial schools unassociated with a parish, became increasingly popular as enrollment in parochial schools continued to soar within Detroit. In 1941, when Immaculata High School was under construction, there were over nineteen thousand students enrolled in parochial high schools of the Archdiocese.⁶⁷ Many parents knew the benefits of sending their daughters to high school as most graduating seniors were able to find employment shortly after graduation. Most commonly, girls who graduated from parochial high schools were able to find jobs teaching – as laywomen or as sisters. There were many open teaching positions in the early- to mid- 1900s due to a shortage of teachers in the Detroit public school system.⁶⁸

Detroit's population grew tremendously through the first half of the twentieth century and many families who settled in the city were Catholic. This created an urgent need for more Catholic schools that in turn led to the opening of central high schools, unassociated with parishes, to alleviate the demand on existing high schools. Further, demand was higher for all-girls secondary schools as many boys did not continue to secondary school instead choosing to pursue work. By the 1940s when Immaculata High School was conceived parents were aware of the opportunities secondary school would open for their daughters, specifically the opportunity to carry on to college or to seek out employment, commonly as a teacher. While the Sisters of IHM have constructed and operated multiple high schools, Immaculata High School was founded in the "boom days" of Catholic education in Detroit which is unique from the schools detailed below.

⁶¹ Vinyard, *For Faith and Fortune*, 208.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ "Featuring Most Holy Trinity School - Detroit," IHM Sisters, <https://3brpez319xs4230o5z2pih5j-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/MostHolyTrinity.pdf>

⁶⁴ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 452.

⁶⁵ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 95.

⁶⁶ Vinyard, *For Faith and Fortune*, 207.

⁶⁷ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 453.

⁶⁸ Vinyard, *For Faith and Fortune*, 208.

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Schools Owned and Operated by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

While the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were responsible for staffing over one hundred Catholic high schools since 1846, the Sisters only founded and owned five high schools – one of which being Immaculata High School.⁶⁹ The other schools founded by the Sisters include St. Mary Academy in Monroe, Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe, Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, and Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Illinois. The only of these schools still in operation today is Marian High School.

St. Mary Academy in Monroe, Michigan was first founded in 1846 and originally advertised as a Young Ladies Academy. It seems the academy admitted girls of all ages and likely offered secondary education from its inception. The school was not open to boys although after great demand from interested parents, Father Gillet admitted boys under the age of twelve for a brief time.⁷⁰ The school, like the congregation, grew quickly and by 1900 St. Mary's Academy enrolled over three hundred students.⁷¹ The rapid of the student population required a larger building. In 1881, the school moved to a new building constructed on the banks of the Raisin River. Shortly after in 1904 the Sisters of IHM constructed an even larger facility, St. Mary Academy II. This building was intended to house both St. Mary Academy and St. Mary College as the school had begun offering higher education coursework. St. Mary College moved to Detroit in 1925 and became Marygrove College. St. Mary Academy II suffered from a fire in 1929 requiring the construction of a new building, St. Mary Academy III, in 1932 on the site of the current Sisters of IHM Motherhouse in Monroe.⁷² The school continued to flourish in this new building and offered curriculum for first through twelfth grades. The school reached a peak high school enrollment in the late 1960s with over 750 students.⁷³

St. Mary Academy merged with the Archdiocese of Detroit's Monroe Catholic Central in 1986 as both schools experienced financial hardship. Monroe Catholic Central was an all-boys Catholic high school in Monroe operated by the Brothers of Holy Cross, an order of the Congregation of Holy Cross in South Bend, Indiana. Monroe Catholic Central opened in 1944 and reached peak enrollment in 1969 with 530 students.⁷⁴ Following the merger the school was renamed St. Mary Catholic Central high school and still operates today as a co-educational college preparatory high school in Monroe.

Hall of the Divine Child, also founded in Monroe, opened in 1918. The building was constructed in a Tudor-Gothic style by Detroit-based architect Harry J. Rill.⁷⁵ The school building was built

⁶⁹ Jennifer Meacham, personal communication, December 14, 2021.

⁷⁰ Kelly, *No Greater Service*, 69.

⁷¹ "History and Tradition," St. Mary Catholic Central High School, <http://www.smccmonroe.com/s/1450/interior.aspx?sid=1450&gid=1&pgid=322>

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Tom Adamich, "Local history: Norman Towers once was a boarding school," *Monroe News*, <https://www.monroenews.com/story/lifestyle/nature->

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on Elm Avenue in Monroe, near the Sisters of IHM Motherhouse. The school was predominately an all-boys school although until 1932 it also hosted girls in grades one through six from St. Mary Academy due to a shortage of space in the St. Mary Academy II building.⁷⁶ Originally the school only offered primary school for grades one through eight but in 1932 also began offering high school courses. Demand for primary school exceeded the demand for secondary education and with more classroom space required for the lower grades, high school coursework was discontinued in 1941.⁷⁷ In similar fashion to many other Catholic schools at the time, Hall of the Divine Child suffered from low enrollment and increased operational costs in the late 1960s and 1970s. The school closed its doors in 1980. The building was converted to a senior living complex and is known today as Norman Towers.

Marian High School is the only IHM owned and operated school still in operation today. The all-girls high school was opened in 1959 in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. In the late 1950s there were five Catholic elementary schools in Bloomfield Hills but no Catholic high school.⁷⁸ The 1950s was the beginning of Detroit's population decline as families followed jobs and the ploy of cheap housing to the suburbs.⁷⁹ The exodus to the suburbs was also due to white families, many Catholic, seeking new predominately white neighborhoods and leaving behind their Detroit neighborhoods which had become predominately Black following the Great Migration. This movement of families, many of which were Catholic, to the suburbs such as Bloomfield Hills created a dire need for more Catholic schools in the suburbs. Parents from the Holy Name Parish, located in the nearby City of Birmingham, formed a committee to explore the possibility of a girls' high school in the area. This committee approached the Sisters of IHM to sponsor the school and the Sisters agreed.⁸⁰ Groundbreaking for the school, constructed at the intersection of Lahser and Lincoln, was in August 1959 and the school opened in September. The prospect of this new all-girls Catholic high school was a big draw for families considering moving to the Bloomfield Hills area. Multiple real estate ads mentioned Marian High School as a reason to move to the area, including an advertisement for the large Nottingham Forest subdivision in Beverly Hills.⁸¹ An all-boys Catholic school was constructed at the same time, known as Brother Rice High School. Brother Rice was founded by the Congregation of Christian Brothers and was constructed next to Marian High School so that the two schools share a campus. Marian High School was built for one thousand students but opened with only one year at a time – initially with 132 freshman girls and nine teaching IHM Sisters. Marian High School, similar to

wildlife/2020/12/21/local-history-norman-towers-once-was-boarding-school/115203352/

⁷⁶ "Featuring Hall of the Divine Child, Monroe," IHM, <https://ihmsisters.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HDC.pdf>

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ "Marian High School (1959-present)," IHM Sisters, <https://ihmsisters.org/who-we-are/our-ministries/marian-high-school-1959-present/>

⁷⁹ Patricia Montemurri, *Detroit Gesu Catholic Church and School*, (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2017), 8.

⁸⁰ "Marian High School (1959-present)," IHM Sisters, <https://ihmsisters.org/who-we-are/our-ministries/marian-high-school-1959-present/>

⁸¹ "This Forest Is a Real Thing," *Detroit Free Press*, August 5, 1960.

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Immaculata High School, is a college preparatory school and since its first graduating class over ninety percent of graduates continue on to college.⁸² As of the 2017-2018 school year, 470 students attended the high school.

The Sisters of IHM founded the Immaculate Heart of Mary High School in Westchester, Illinois in 1960 just one year after the opening of Marian High School. The Sisters were invited to build the all-girls high school by the superintendent of schools for the Chicago Archdiocese.⁸³ The groundbreaking occurred in August 1960 and the school opened in September 1960 although the building was not completed until March 1962. While the building was constructed, classes were held at St. Joseph High, an adjacent all-boys Catholic high school. The school was constructed for 1,200 students although when it opened in 1960 it opened to just 314 freshman girls – similar to Marian High School, one grade was added to the school each year after it opened. Enrollment at the school peaked in the 1960s with over 1,400 students and forty-two teaching Sisters. The school faced similar problems to many other Catholic secondary schools in the 1970s, including Immaculata High School, and suffered from declining enrollment and increasing operational costs. The school officially closed in June 2005 as the student population was at just 238 students. Upon closing, existing students were given the opportunity to continue their high school education at St. Joseph High School which would be transitioning to a co-educational model.⁸⁴

These schools, along with Immaculata High School, make up the five high schools founded and constructed by the Sisters of IHM. These schools are a mere fraction of the parochial school that the IHM's taught at though. The academic rigor and dedication to girl's and women's education that the Sisters were revered for aided the Detroit Archdiocese as well as the Chicago Archdiocese in a time of parochial school teaching shortages and huge population growth in the Catholic community. These schools are representative examples of Catholic secondary schools in multiple periods of Catholic education history – St. Mary Academy and Hall of the Divine Child being opened in the early days of Catholic secondary education, and Marian High School and Immaculate Heart of Mary High School being constructed years later as families were leaving dense urban cores for suburbs and as the Catholic population began dwindling in large cities such as Detroit and Chicago. Immaculata High School, as detailed below, was constructed in 1942, after the early beginnings of Catholic secondary education in the Detroit area but before the population decline in the city and the movement of many white Catholics to the suburbs. Immaculata High School was the only high school established and operated by the IHM Sisters within the City of Detroit. It was also the only IHM-associated high school built during peak population growth in the city, particularly during a significant influx of Catholics into the city.

⁸² "Marian High School (1959-present)," IHM Sisters, <https://ihmsisters.org/who-we-are/our-ministries/marian-high-school-1959-present/>

⁸³ "Featuring Immaculate Heart of Mary High School - Westchester, Ill." IHM Sisters, <https://ihmsisters.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/IHMWestchester.pdf>

⁸⁴ U.S. Congressman Danny Davis, "Closing of Immaculate Heart of Mary High School," House of Representatives, February 1, 2005, <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/public-statement/78682/closing-of-immaculate-heart-of-mary-high-school>

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History of Immaculata High School

As Detroit's Catholic population increased, the need for additional Catholic schools continued apace. The Immaculata High School was constructed, according to Sr. Janet Ryan, a member of the IHM Leadership Council and Vice Chair of the Marygrove Board of Trustees, "out of a deep concern by Cardinal Edward Mooney that Northwest Detroit did not have a Catholic all-girls high school."⁸⁵ The Sisters of IHM already had a strong presence in northwest Detroit and staffed a significant number of large parochial elementary schools as well as Marygrove College.⁸⁶ Not only was there not an IHM staffed all-girls high school in northwest Detroit, but there was not an all-girls Catholic high school in the area at all. A Catholic secondary education was important to Catholic parents as it was viewed as a sheltered and morally upright environment, suitable for their adolescent female children.⁸⁷ Moreover, a secondary Catholic education was also viewed as a place to learn skills to equip a young woman for her role as household manager and mother. In the years before World War I, many girls' high schools in Detroit had a reputation for genteel instruction, focusing on painting, music, and decorative arts but high schools staffed by the Sisters of IHM increasingly had a reputation for academic rigor in the years following World War I and the sisters were anxious to cultivate that reputation.⁸⁸ In fact, this focus on rigorous academics as a primary pillar of the Sisters' sense of mission was well established by the early twentieth century as "the ambitious scope of the order's secondary schools suggests that the Sisters now envisioned for women an intellectual influence that extended far beyond the family."⁸⁹

Springing from these reasons, there was thus great demand on the part of both the Diocese and the local Catholic parents for a Catholic high school for girls and the Sister of IHM were keen to help fill the void in the education landscape. Thus, the decision was made to construct the new high school at the corner of Greenlawn Avenue and Marygrove Drive, on land adjacent to Marygrove College which had been constructed on over sixty wooded acres in a purposeful attempt to allow room for new buildings such as this. Another factor in the building location was that it would be in easy commuting distance from the many IHM staffed elementary schools in the area – including the Gesu School, St. Cecilia's, St. Gregory's, St. Francis de Sales, Epiphany, Christ the King, and Presentation.⁹⁰

The vernacular Modern style school was designed by D.A. Bohlen & Son with builder W. E. Wood Company of Detroit. Sister Raymo and Mother Hankerd were the primary contacts for the architect, August Bohlen, as the design for the school developed. Mother Ruth Hankerd was the

⁸⁵ David J. Fike, "Message from President David J. Fike." *Tower Times*, Fall 2009.

⁸⁶ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood: A Feminist History of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997), 322.

⁸⁷ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 250.

⁸⁸ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 251-252.

⁸⁹ Tentler Woodcock, *Seasons of Grace*, 252.

⁹⁰ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 321-22.

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IHM general superior from 1930 to 1942 while Sister Miriam Raymo was the congregational treasurer from 1924 to 1948.⁹¹

As the design progressed, letters to Bohlen were predominately from Sister Raymo who communicated Mother Hankerd's thoughts on the design. Many programming and spatial arrangement decisions were made by Mother Hankerd, including the placement of the chapel and the library as well as separating the gymnasium from the rest of the classrooms so as for it to be available to the public without having to open up the rest of the school.⁹² Regarding the design Sister Raymo wrote that the gymnasium should have a stage, "so that Gymnasium could be used for an Auditorium and for a large Chapel service." These multifunction spaces may have been utilized given the budget was an issue in the early communications between the Sisters and August Bohlen. In fact, in their initial correspondence to Bohlen the Sisters of IHM expressed the budget for the project was strictly limited to \$350,000 and following the project's initial design and early cost estimate there was an exercise in cost reduction. One such letter states, "I have told Rev. Mother from the very beginning of our talks about the new school that the maximum we could possibly finance at this time would be \$350,000, and I am still convinced it is the outside price. You know we have only just completed the Chapel...so I must be careful not to plunge too deep and then have my regrets later."⁹³ Accordingly, Bohlen completed an updated drawing set in January 1941 which removed most of the stone from the exterior facades, made the roof flat rather than a pitched slate roof as originally designed, and removed much of the ornamental plasterwork on the interior of the building.⁹⁴ These two changes allowed the project to conform to the Sisters budget. The initial cost estimate from W.E. Wood and Company was \$410,000 but decreased to \$350,000 following these changes.

Groundbreaking for the school was in early February 1941 with Sister Miriam pouring the first batch of concrete in the footings on February 19, 1941.⁹⁵ The design for the school was finalized by the Sisters of IHM in April and the cornerstone was laid on May 11, 1941.⁹⁶ Construction carried on and the building was dedicated on October 13, 1941.⁹⁷ The dedication included a pontifical high mass officiated by Cardinal Edward Mooney as well as a procession in which

⁹¹ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 234.

⁹² Reverend Sister Miriam to August Bohlen, August 12, 1940, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

⁹³ Reverend Sister Miriam to August Bohlen, January 1, 1940, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

⁹⁴ August Bohlen to Reverend Sister Miriam, January 25, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan; Reverend Sister Miriam to Oliver Golden, January 20, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

⁹⁵ W.E. Wood Company to August Bohlen, February 19, 1941

⁹⁶ Reverend Sister Miriam to August Bohlen, April 19, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan and Reverend Sister Miriam to August Bohlen, May 2, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan

⁹⁷ "New Immaculata High School Dedicated in Catholic Rites," *Detroit Free Press*, October 14, 1941; "High School Built for Catholic Girls," *Detroit Free Press*, February 23, 1941.

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Mooney along with one hundred priests sprinkled holy water on the building.⁹⁸ Reverend Monsignor John J. Hunt gave a sermon at the dedication which he concluded by speaking to the Sisters of IHM's success in constructing educational facilities stating, "the log cabin of your beginnings is overshadowed by the majestic sweep of your Motherhouse, the proud spires of Marygrove College, the dignity of St. Mary Academy and the Hall of the Divine Child, and now today by this other beautiful gem – Immaculata High School."⁹⁹

Immaculata as a Catholic Girl's High School: 1942-1983

Upon completion the building housed study and lecture halls, fully equipped laboratories, music studios, a library containing nine thousand volumes, a modern commercial department (bookkeeping, typing, business economics, etc.), a fully equipped home economics department, a community service wing which was available for social gatherings and school conferences, and a chapel. The grounds were landscaped and directly to the north of the building were five tennis courts for use by the students which are no longer extant. The school was staffed by IHM Sisters and taught a Catholic-focused education. The IHM Sisters who taught at Immaculata originally lived in a house across the street at 16770 Greenlawn Avenue which was used as a convent. In 1949 a new convent was constructed next to Immaculata High School, termed the Immaculata Convent. The convent was also designed by August Bohlen and constructed by the W.E. Wood and Company. The convent is a three-story orange brick building with a flat roof directly west of Immaculata High School and housed approximately thirty Sisters at a time.¹⁰⁰ Frequent socials and teas were hosted at Immaculata High School for the Sisters residing in the convent and often the school choral groups or orchestra would provide entertainment.¹⁰¹

From its inception, the school was intended as a college preparatory high school with a diverse curriculum. Immaculata High School offered a variety of courses in English, Music, Art, Foreign Language, Religious Education, Mathematics, Science, Business Education, as well as Physical Education.¹⁰² The curriculum was shaped by the requirements of the state department of education as well as the Archdiocesan board of education and the North Central Association, to which Immaculata High School belonged. Classes often incorporated relevant current event topics. During World War II, when Immaculata was newly opened, home economics classes focused on war savings and thrifty living. Students even participated in a "Scrap Day" to collect scrap metals and sold war stamps and bonds.¹⁰³ Immaculata High School also taught some subjects that were may have been considered radical at the time. In the early 1970s Sandra Wilcox, a lay teacher and self-identified socialist-feminist, taught a course on sex education at

⁹⁸ "New Immaculata High School Dedicated in Catholic Rites," *Detroit Free Press*, October 14, 1941

⁹⁹ Reverend Monsignor Hunt, Sermon Delivered at the Dedication of Immaculata High School, October 13, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹⁰⁰ "Shower for Nuns Slated Monday," *Detroit Free Press*, December 12, 1952.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Sister Mary Agnes Ryan, Faculty Handbook Immaculata High School, 1970, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹⁰³ The Home Economics Class at Work on the Home Front, Student Paper, Undated, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

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Immaculata.¹⁰⁴ The school also offered extracurricular clubs in a wide variety of subject areas such as the Art Club, the United Nations Club, and the Health Careers Hub.¹⁰⁵

While the school offered a variety of courses and extracurriculars the focus was on a strong, college preparatory academic curriculum and the school offered few courses in the home arts curriculum.¹⁰⁶ The school espoused the rigorous academic standards that the IHM's had become most known for. Upon delivering the dedication sermon in October of 1941, Reverend Monsignor Hunt said, "In too many schools today the student is allowed to take what education he wishes and to reject what education he wishes...The result is a sort of cafeteria which too often leads to mental indigestion."¹⁰⁷ The solution, Reverend Hunt goes on to explain, is to receive a "true education" rooted in Christianity.¹⁰⁸ While the contents of the Immaculata High School Student Guide made clear the students were to be modest and proper and uphold the ideals of the IHM, it was also made clear that beyond being rewarded for their feminine traits, young women should be recognized for their academic achievements and make no effort to hide their own intelligence.¹⁰⁹ About fifty-one percent of the first graduating class of Immaculata went on to attend college or professional training. This number increased to a high of ninety-five percent in 1968.¹¹⁰ Most of those who went on to college attended either University of Detroit or Marygrove College, both Catholic colleges located in Detroit, with slightly more attending University of Detroit.¹¹¹

When Immaculata High School opened in 1942 there were six hundred students.¹¹² Attendance peaked in the 1960s with more than one thousand students but, with the decline of the Catholic population of Detroit in the ensuing decades, Immaculata High School suffered from a decreasing number of students and, subsequently, dire financial crises. The school, the curriculum, and its student body were all rapidly changing as Detroit and the Catholic church also went through a radical change. In 1966 the IHM congregation elected new leadership and significantly revised its constitutions to reflect contemporary needs. In 1967 Detroit experienced a racially motivated urban rebellion which shaped the city in perpetuity, and in 1969 Archbishop John Dearden embarked in a decentralization of Archdiocesan offices and services in Detroit.¹¹³ Immaculata High School changed significantly at this time. The school placed an emphasis on

¹⁰⁴ Sandra Wilcox, "Immaculate Reflections," *Radical Teacher*, No. 6 (December 1977).

¹⁰⁵ Sister Mary Agnes Ryan, Faculty Handbook Immaculata High School, 1970, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹⁰⁶ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 332.

¹⁰⁷ "New Immaculata High School Dedicated in Catholic Rites," *Detroit Free Press*, October 14, 1941.

¹⁰⁸ Reverend Monsignor Hunt, Sermon Delivered at the Dedication of Immaculata High School, October 13, 1941, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid, 333.

¹¹⁰ Ibid, 341.

¹¹¹ Ibid, 341.

¹¹² "600 Students Expected at New High School," *Michigan Catholic*, August 28, 1941.

¹¹³ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 343.

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social action and student groups participated in protests. Further, courses introduced new content such as a course on Asian studies and the introduction of African-American literature to the English department. As the curriculum and spirit of the school became arguably more progressive to reflect the sociocultural changes occurring in the world around, the student body was also undergoing a great change.

By the late 1970s enrollment hovered around six hundred young women and the student demographics had dramatically shifted. The student population had long been predominately girls from White, middle-class families of Catholic upbringing but following the 1967 Rebellion in Detroit many White families left the city for the suburbs. During the 1970s, the student population shifted and by the late 1970s the student population was over ninety percent Black, from less affluent families, and only half of the students were from Catholic families.¹¹⁴ This racial change reflected the change in the surrounding neighborhood as well. By 1971, the neighborhood was seventy-five percent Black. The decline in enrollment may have also been due to prejudice, racism, and fear of the changing demographics in the neighborhoods as the principal of a nearby Catholic feeder school for Immaculata stated that “the area in which [Immaculata] is located is a factor which turns many girls away. Many girls are impressed with what the school offers but hesitate to go out of fear.”¹¹⁵ Conversely, the increase of Black students at Immaculata was often attributed to families seeking schools which offered a more rigorous academic curriculum than was available at Detroit Public Schools at the time.¹¹⁶

By 1979 Immaculata operated in a financial deficit. Despite increasing student tuition to \$930, the 1979-1980 school budget projected a deficit of over \$100,000.¹¹⁷ The Sisters of IHM recognized a need for a dramatic restructuring of the school if it were to survive.¹¹⁸ The financial outlook of the school became increasingly dimmer in the early 1980s and an Immaculata High School Task Force was formed to determine ways in which to restructure the school. The task force proposed offering seventh and eighth grade courses in addition to the high school curriculum to increase attendance.¹¹⁹ The student population continued to decline, and by the second semester of the 1980-1981 school year enrollment decreased to 275 students.¹²⁰ Besides the decline of the Catholic population in Detroit, there was also speculation that nearby co-ed schools St. Mary of Redford and Benedictine High School were drawing potential students.¹²¹ Similarly, Mercy High School, an all-girls college preparatory high school in Farmington Hills,

¹¹⁴ Sandra Wilcox, “Immaculate Reflections.”

¹¹⁵ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 348-49.

¹¹⁶ Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 278; Barry Kosmin and Seymour P. Lachman, *One Nation Under God* (New York, NY: Random House, 1993).

¹¹⁷ Draft Meeting Agenda for SSIHM Corporation Board Meeting, July 31, 1979, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ernestine Stephens to Immaculata High School Task Force, March 11, 1981, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁰ Pamela Kobasic to Immaculata High School faculty, December 18, 1980, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²¹ “All-girls school to close in June,” *Detroit Free Press*, Jan 30, 1983.

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attracted potential White students. In the early 1970s Mercy High School began bus service from the neighborhood surrounding Immaculata High School to their school in Farmington Hills,¹²² about fourteen miles to the northwest of Immaculata High School. In December 1980 Immaculata High School Principal Sister Pamela Kobasic made a series of staffing adjustments including reducing some faculty to part-time and reducing the salaries of the remaining full-time faculty by ten percent.¹²³ Shortly after implementing these decisions, Sister Kobasic resigned as principal on January 31, 1981.¹²⁴ Her departure resulted in some significant change in administrative staff, which may have further complicated operational future of the school.

Despite the implementation of salary reductions, the financial outlook of the school remained dire as the 1982-1983 school year approached. Due to budget and time constraints the task force was not able to incorporate seventh and eighth grade coursework and instead the administration leased a portion of the school to the William McCray School of Theatrical Arts for supplemental income. This decision was considered controversial by the nearby Marygrove College, also owned and operated by the Sisters of IHM, as the college considered the William McCray School to be competitive with the performance arts course offerings available at Marygrove College.¹²⁵ A meeting of the IHM Corporation Board was held regarding the potential lease arrangement and as a result the William McCray School temporarily cancelled some of their course offerings so as not to impede on those offered at Marygrove College. Further, it was agreed the lease would be limited to a one-year term. Once the lease was executed, the William McCray School operated in classrooms within Immaculata High School and offered theatrical arts courses on weekday afternoons and on Saturdays. The lease was executed for \$1,000 per month.¹²⁶

Even with the additional income from the lease agreement the school was unable to become financially viable. In January 1983 it was announced to the public that the school would close at the end of the school year.¹²⁷ The school officially closed in June 1983, which ended the building's forty-one-year legacy of the school as a place of Catholic girl's high school education.

Immaculata Convent

Planning for the convent began in the late 1940s. A building fund was established and various fundraising events held to both support the construction of the building and furnish it once completed. The convent was designed by D.A. Bohlen & Son and opened in late 1949 or early

¹²² Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, *Building Sisterhood*, 349.

¹²³ Pamela Kobasic to Immaculata High School faculty, December 18, 1980, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁴ Ernestine Stephens to Immaculata High School Task Force, March 11, 1981, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁵ John E. Shay, Jr. to Sister Ann Murie, May 18, 1982, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁶ Lease Agreement between Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary/Immaculata High School and William McCray School, August 4, 1982, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁷ "All-girls school to close in June," *Detroit Free Press*, Jan 30, 1983.

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1950. After the high school closed, and the building was no longer used as a convent, it appears to have been used by several commercial entities. At an unknown date, the building was acquired by a nonprofit organization and is used for residences again.

Building History after Immaculata High School: 1983-Present

Following the closure of Immaculata High School after the 1982-1983 school year the Sisters of IHM began studying various ways to repurpose the school and the surrounding grounds. The Sisters had the school appraised in 1983 and the building as well as land was valued at \$600,000.¹²⁸ The adjacent convent building was also appraised and valued at \$146,000.¹²⁹ While investigating potential purchasers for the school the building was used for a variety of purposes. Immaculata High School was rented to CareerWorks, Inc., a company which teaches basic job search skills, in the mid-1980s.¹³⁰ While CareerWorks occupied the building it was used as one of three Ford-UAW retraining centers in Metro Detroit.¹³¹ The Ford-UAW retraining program was established in 1982 and provided educational and counseling resources to auto workers to increase job security and assist with job seeking.¹³² While not a job placement program, the program was intended to provide the resources and motivation for former auto-workers to seek out employment. The other Ford-UAW retraining centers were Kennedy Junior High School in Fraser and Lapham School in Dearborn.¹³³ In 1987 the Sisters of IHM had the building re-appraised at which time it was appraised at \$925,000.¹³⁴ Following this re-appraisal the Sisters of IHM began serious discussions about selling the school, for which there seemed to be multiple potential buyers by then. By 1988 the Sisters were considering multiple offers including an offer from the current tenant, CareerWorks, Inc., to purchase the school building and the land to the north of the building, an offer from Detroit Public Schools to place a specialized high school in the school, and the potential interest in the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in constructing low-income senior housing on the land to the north of the school building, at the corner of Greenlawn Avenue and W. McNichols.¹³⁵ It was at this time that it was decided the former convent would be sold separately from the former Immaculata High School building.

¹²⁸ Sister Amata Miller to James N. Candler, Jr., March 20, 1987, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹²⁹ Harold A. Meininger, Inc. Realtors, Immaculata High School Appraisal, November 30, 1983, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹³⁰ "11 vie for 8 seats on County Board of Commissioners," *Detroit Free Press*, October 30, 1987.

¹³¹ "Ford, UAW work to retrain out-of-work of auto industry," *Detroit Free Press*, June 14, 1984.

¹³² Steven Deutsch, "Successful worker training programs help ease impact of technology," <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1987/11/art3full.pdf>

¹³³ "Ford, UAW work to retrain out-of-work of auto industry," *Detroit Free Press*, June 14, 1984.

¹³⁴ James N. Candler, Jr. to Sister Amata Miller, March 20, 1987, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹³⁵ Sister Amata Miller to Members of the IHM Corporation Board, April 15, 1988, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

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After discussion between the Sisters and the IHM Corporation Board it was agreed the school would not be sold to CareerWorks, Inc. but would continue to be rented to them.¹³⁶ In 1992, Bates Academy, a Pre-K through Eighth grade gifted and talented school within Detroit Public Schools, took over occupancy of the building.¹³⁷ Detroit Public Schools likely rented the school these first years of occupancy as the deed of sale between the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Detroit Public Schools for the Immaculata High School building is dated 2002.¹³⁸ It was after Detroit Public Schools took ownership of the building that some of the exterior modifications, including window replacement, took place. In 2009, Detroit Public Schools sold the high school building to Marygrove College.¹³⁹ In 2018, The Marygrove Conservancy was formed, a nonprofit organization and partnership between the IHM Sisters, Marygrove College, and Kresge Foundation to manage and operate the Marygrove College campus as well as the former Immaculata High School building. The building is currently owned by The Marygrove Conservancy and is known as The School at Marygrove Elementary.

Architect

Both the Immaculata High School and Convent buildings were designed by the Indianapolis, Indiana, firm of D.A. Bohlen & Son. August C. Bohlen was the principal architect of Immaculata High School and the third generation of the Bohlen family to run the firm. The restrained, vernacular Modern architecture and Art Deco inspired decorative brick and stonework as well as decorative plasterwork on the interior are a departure from much of D.A. Bohlen & Son's earlier work. The majority of the firm's earlier work, including work completed for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for St. Mary Academy, the Monroe Motherhouse, and Marygrove College, was built in a Gothic or Tudor Revival style. The vernacular Modern style exhibited on Immaculata High School and Convent is a testament to the firm's ability to embrace changing architectural styles and fashions.

A native of Hanover, Germany Diedrich A. Bohlen founded his architecture firm in 1853 in Indianapolis as "D.A. Bohlen, Architect." Bohlen designed a large number of prominent civic buildings in Indiana including Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the Morris Butler House, and Roberts Park Methodist Church, all located in Indianapolis. When Diedrich Bohlen's son Oscar joined the firm in 1884 the firm name was changed to D.A. Bohlen & Son. After Diedrich died in 1890, Oscar took the helm of the firm. Oscar Bohlen served as the principal architect of the original buildings at Marygrove College, and he also designed several buildings on the campus of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College near Terra Haute, Indiana. In 1909 Oscar's son August Bohlen joined the firm. Oscar was active in the firm's management into the 1930s. August's son Robert Bohlen would later join the firm in 1946. August Bohlen was the principal

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ "Panel favors moving Bates, Robeson schools," *Detroit Free Press*, April 22, 1992.

¹³⁸ Deed, Liber 37377 Page 939-40, Wayne County Register of Deeds.

¹³⁹ Deed, Book 47935 Page 1447-49, Wayne County Register of Deeds.

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architect for Immaculata High School with initial correspondence regarding the project dating as early as January 1940.¹⁴⁰

The IHM Sisters had a long history of utilizing the Bohlen firm long before Immaculata High School was conceived and designed. The IHM Sisters had hired the firm to design the Saint Mary Academy in Monroe between 1834 and 1839 and, later, they would again commission the firm to design the Marygrove College campus, located west of the Immaculata High School, in 1925.¹⁴¹ The firm went through several name changes including a change to Bohlen and Burns sometime after April 1961 and, later, Bohlen, Burns and Associates in 1967. A final, subsequent name change occurred in 1971 when the name Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson and Associates, Inc. was adopted.

Conclusion

Immaculata High School operated as an all-girls Catholic high school from 1941 until its closure in 1982. Immaculata Convent provided housing for the IHM Sisters who taught at the school. The school was opened at a time when central high schools and private schools unaffiliated with parishes, were gaining popularity and embodies the importance Catholic families placed on religious education, especially for girls. The high school complex also illustrates the incredible demand for a Catholic girl's education in Detroit in the mid-twentieth century. Not only is Immaculata High School a highly intact example of an all-girls Catholic high school, it is the only all-girls high school constructed by the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary located within the City of Detroit, and thereby reflects an important aspect of the contribution of the IHM Sisters to the development of Catholic education in Detroit. The school and associated convent is a testament to the IHM Sisters dedication to providing a rigorous academic curriculum to Catholic girls in Detroit. The school is thus significant for its role in Catholic girl's secondary education in Detroit in the peak years of Catholic population and demand for parochial schooling in the city.

¹⁴⁰ Reverend Sister Miriam to August Bohlen, January 1, 1940, IHM Archives, Monroe, Michigan.

¹⁴¹ "St. Mary Academy/Monroe Academy (Immaculata Heart of Mary)," SAH Archipedia, <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/MI-01-MR9>

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Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

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-

Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 7.103

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.414455 Longitude: -83.151713
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Beginning at the NE corner of Parcel 16007927.002L (8200 Marygrove) and proceeding E approximately 400 feet through Parcel 16007985-6 (16661 Greenlawn), then proceeding S approximately 400 feet, then proceeding W approximately 400 feet, then proceeding N to the point of beginning. The boundary encompasses the parcels that contain the former Immaculata High School and Convent buildings and adjacent ground. The boundary excludes the c. 2022 constructed parking lot to the north of the high school and the open fields to the north of the parking lot.

*Parcel numbers date to 2023 and are derived from the City of Detroit Parcel Viewer, <https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/city-detroit-parcel-viewer>.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the Immaculata High School and Convent buildings and adjacent grounds. The boundary does not include the portions high school parcel that contain a large field formerly used by Marygrove College, a small portion of which once held five tennis courts used by Immaculata High School. The tennis courts are no longer extant. The boundary also excludes a c. 2022 parking lot that replaced a section of trees that likely dated to the period of significance and would have been an important part of the landscape.

Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lillian Candela & Cassandra Talley
organization: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
street & number: 1420 Broadway Street
city or town: Detroit state: MI zip code: 48226
e-mail Lillian.Candela@thekraemeredge.com
telephone: (313) 965-3399
date: 2021

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.
- **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 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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: Immaculata High School
City or Vicinity: Detroit
County: Wayne State: Michigan
Photographer: See Below
Date Photographed: See Below

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: See Below

Immaculata High School and Convent

Wayne County, MI

Name of Property

County and State

Photograph 0001 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0001

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of east elevation of classroom wing, looking southwest.

Photograph 0002 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0002

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of east and south elevations, looking northwest.

Photograph 0003 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0003

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of west elevation of classroom wing, looking east.

Photograph 0004 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0004

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of north elevation of gymnasium wing, looking southeast.

Photograph 0005 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0005

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of north elevation of classroom wing, looking south.

Photograph 0006 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0006

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of north elevation of gymnasium wing, looking south.

Photograph 0007 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0007

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of stairwell at 'knuckle' of the building, looking down from second floor toward exterior doors.

Photograph 0008 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0008

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of second floor foyer, looking northwest.

Photograph 0009 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0009

Date Photographed: March 25, 2021

Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC

View of typical classroom corridor, first floor, looking north.

Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

Photograph 0010 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0010
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of chapel, second floor, looking north.

Photograph 0011 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0011
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of classroom corridor, First Floor, looking north.

Photograph 0012 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0012
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of cafeteria, First Floor, looking southwest.

Photograph 0013 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0013
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of gymnasium, Second Floor, looking southeast.

Photograph 0014 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of auditorium stage, Second Floor, looking northwest.

Photograph 0015 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of library, Second Floor, looking north.

Photograph 0016 of 0014: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of second floor lobby, Second Floor, looking north.

Photograph 0017 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of classroom in “knuckle” of building, Third Floor, looking south.

Photograph 0018 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of typical laboratory classroom, First Floor, looking north.

Immaculata High School and Convent
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI
County and State

Photograph 0019 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of administrative office, Third Floor, looking northwest.

Photograph 0020 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of typical classroom, Third Floor, looking north.

Photograph 0021 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of typical classroom, Third Floor, looking north.

Photograph 0022 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of Immaculata Convent, looking northeast.

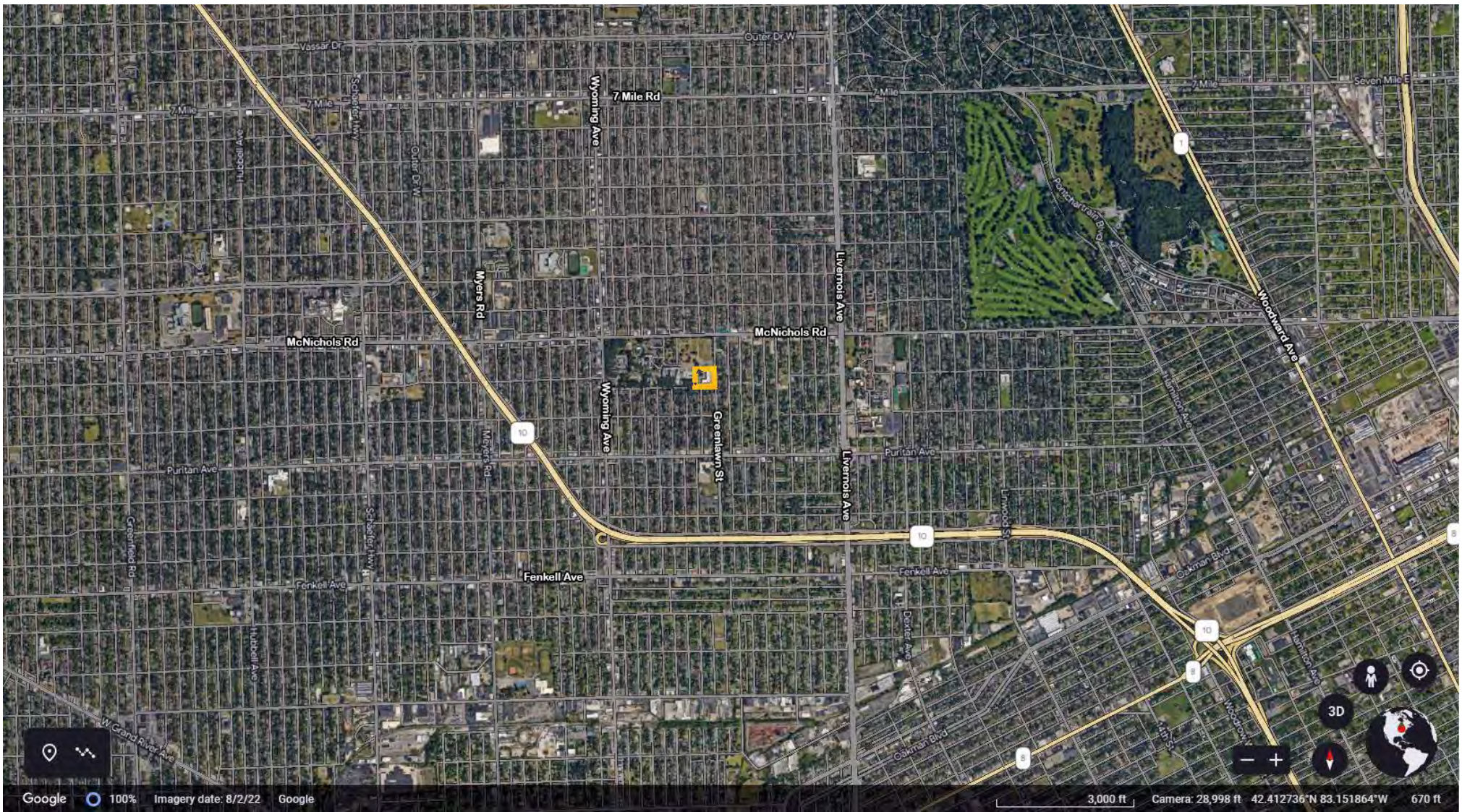
Photograph 0023 of 0023: MI_Wayne County_Immaculata High School_0014
Date Photographed: March 25, 2021
Photographer: Kraemer Design Group, LLC
View of Immaculata Convent, looking northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



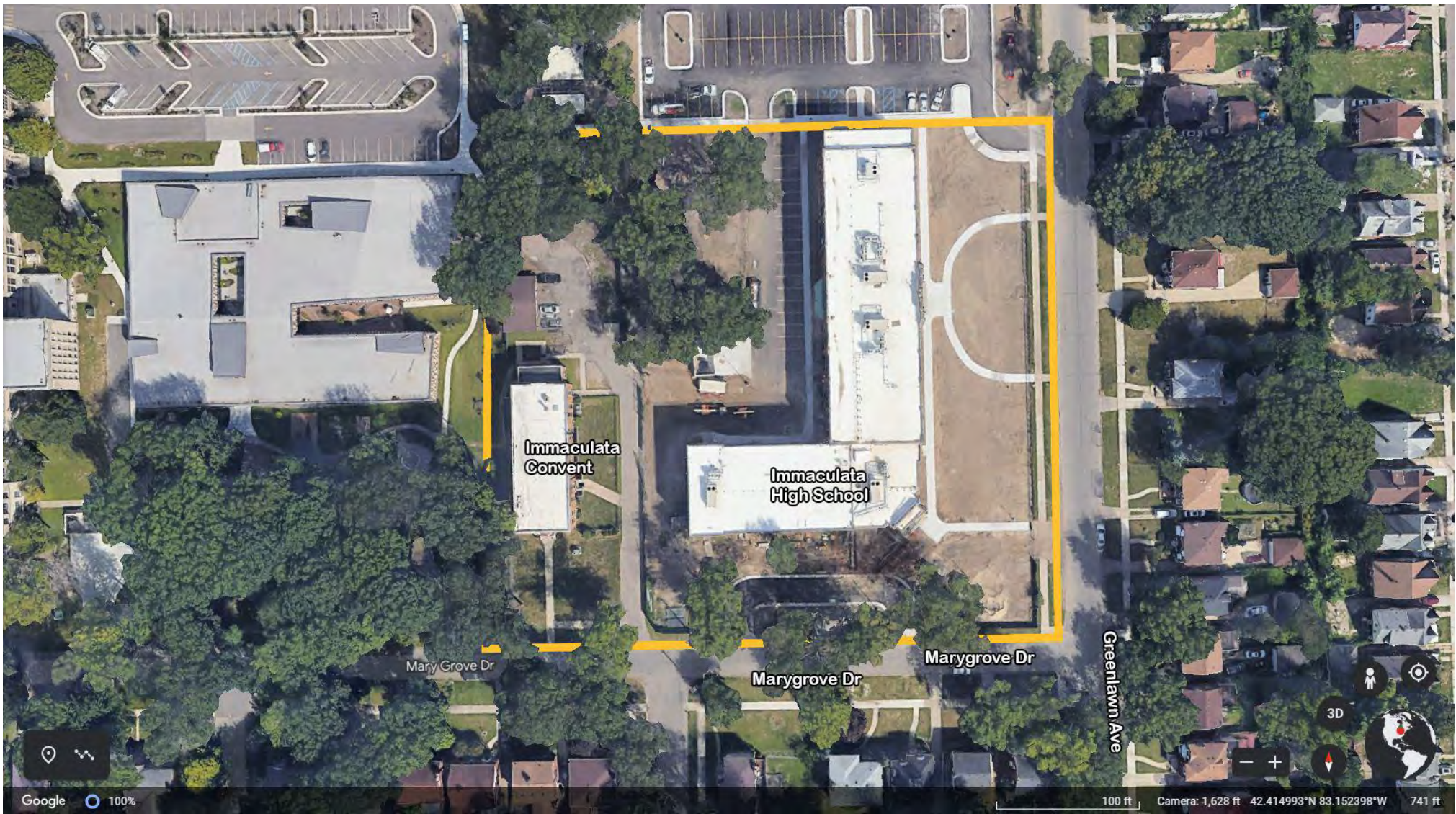
Immaculata High School and Convent

16661 Greenlawn Avenue and 8200 Marygrove Drive, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Lat.: 42.414455 Long: -83.151713

 Property Boundary

Map Source: Google Earth (web version)



Immaculata High School and Convent

16661 Greenlawn Avenue and 8200 Marygrove Drive, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Lat.: 42.414455 Long: -83.151713

 Property Boundary

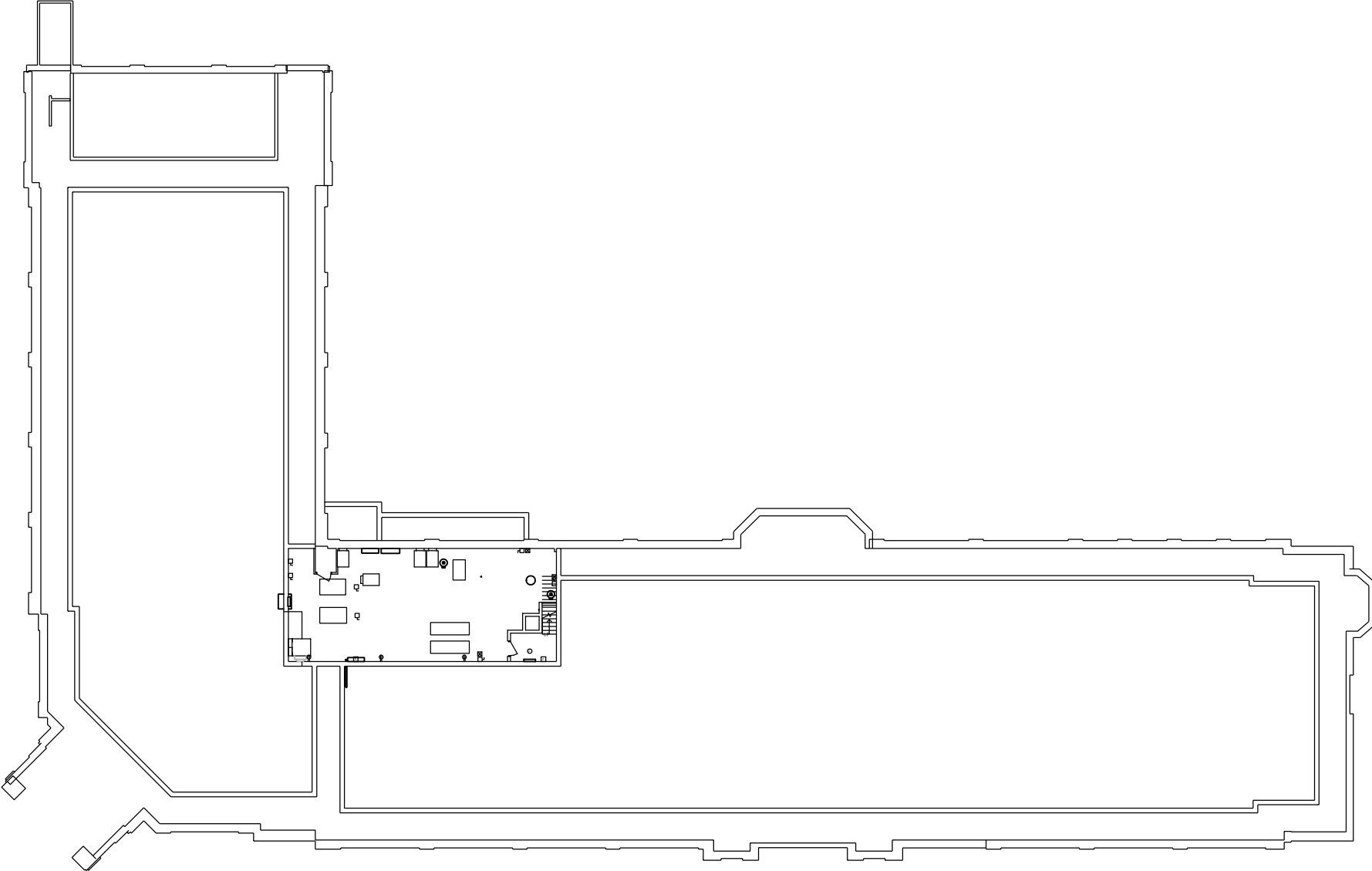
Map Source: Google Earth (web version)

Immaculata High School
Photo Key



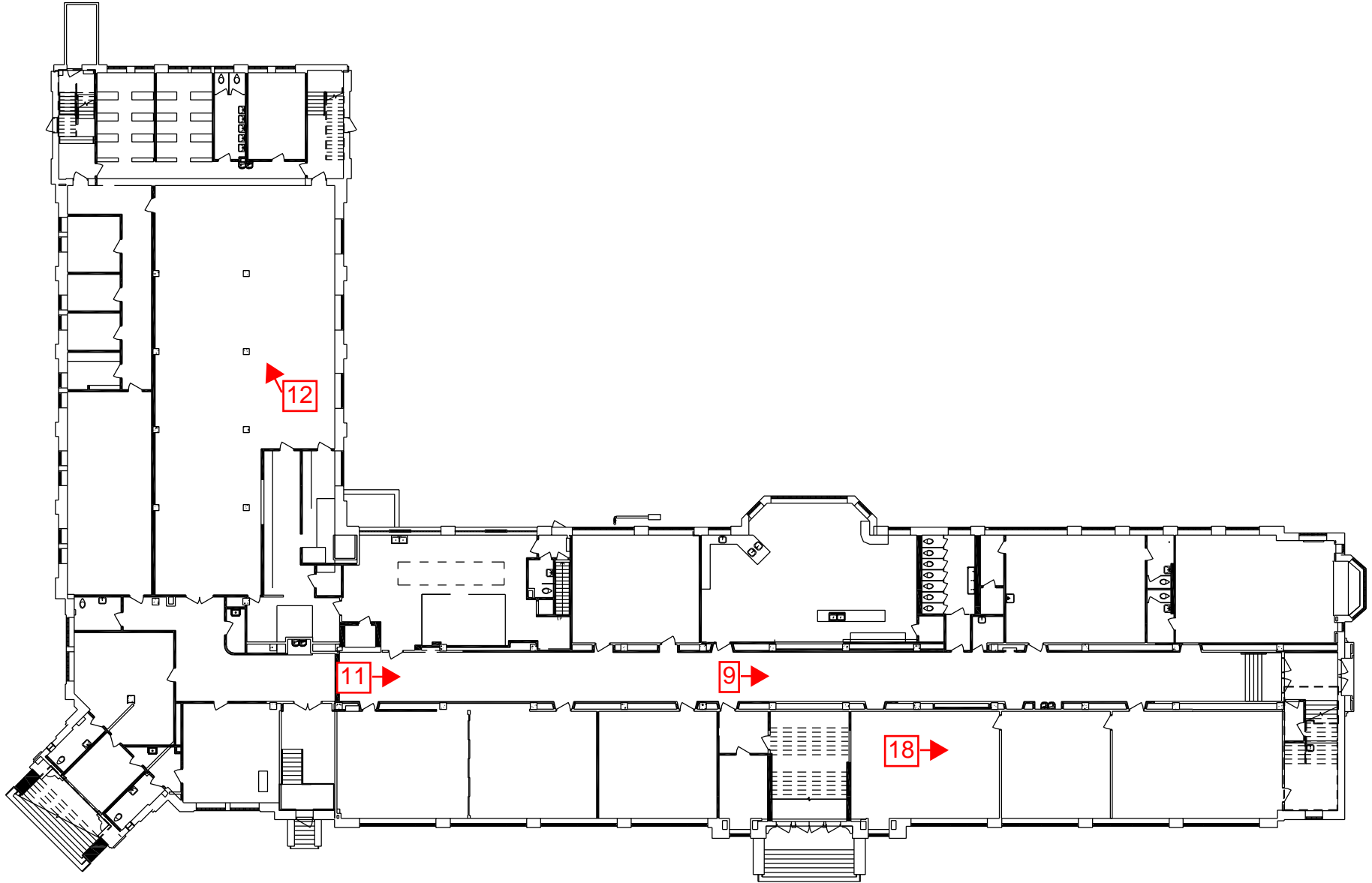
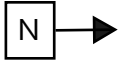
Basement Floor Plan

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



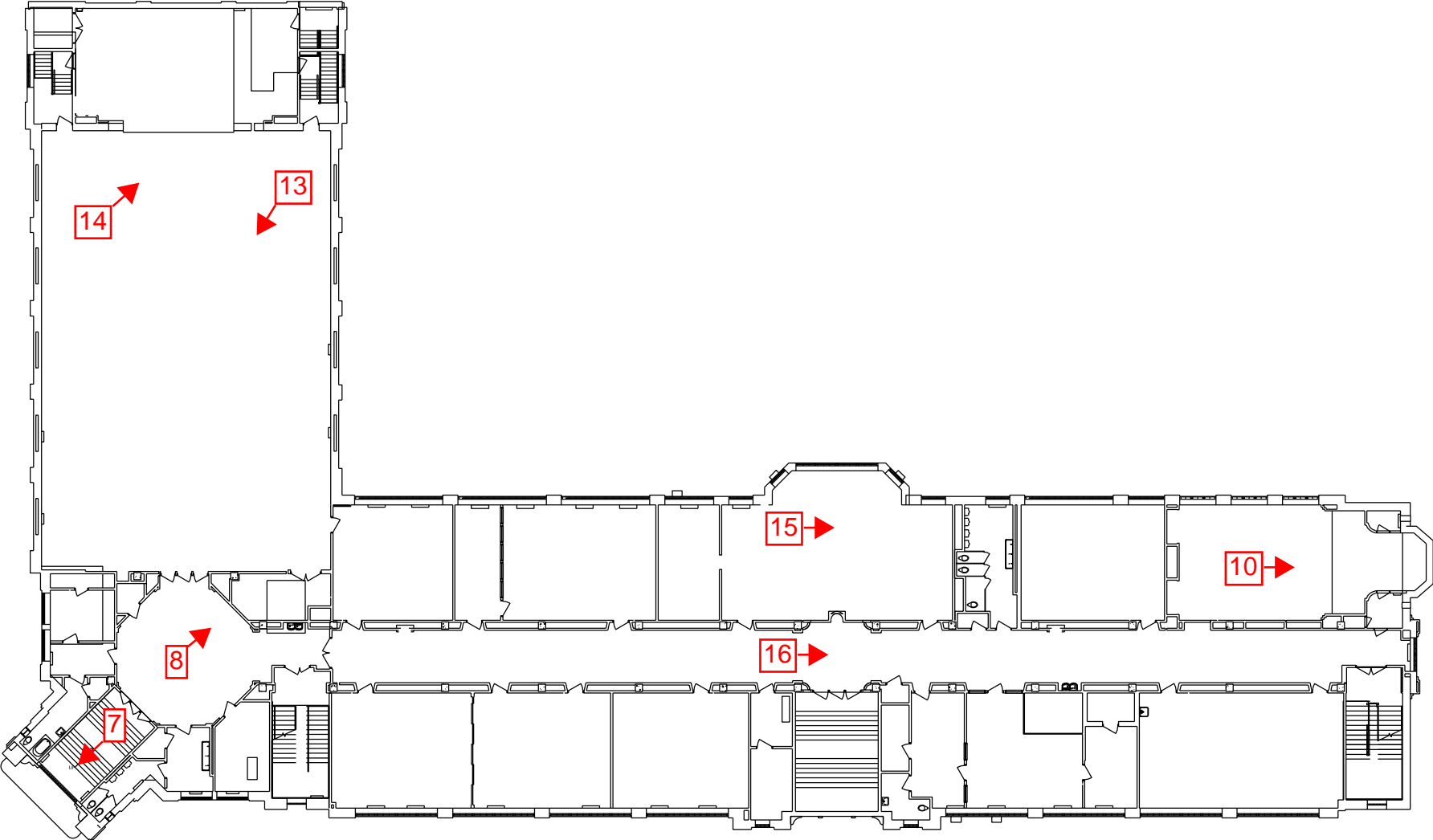
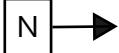
First Floor Plan

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



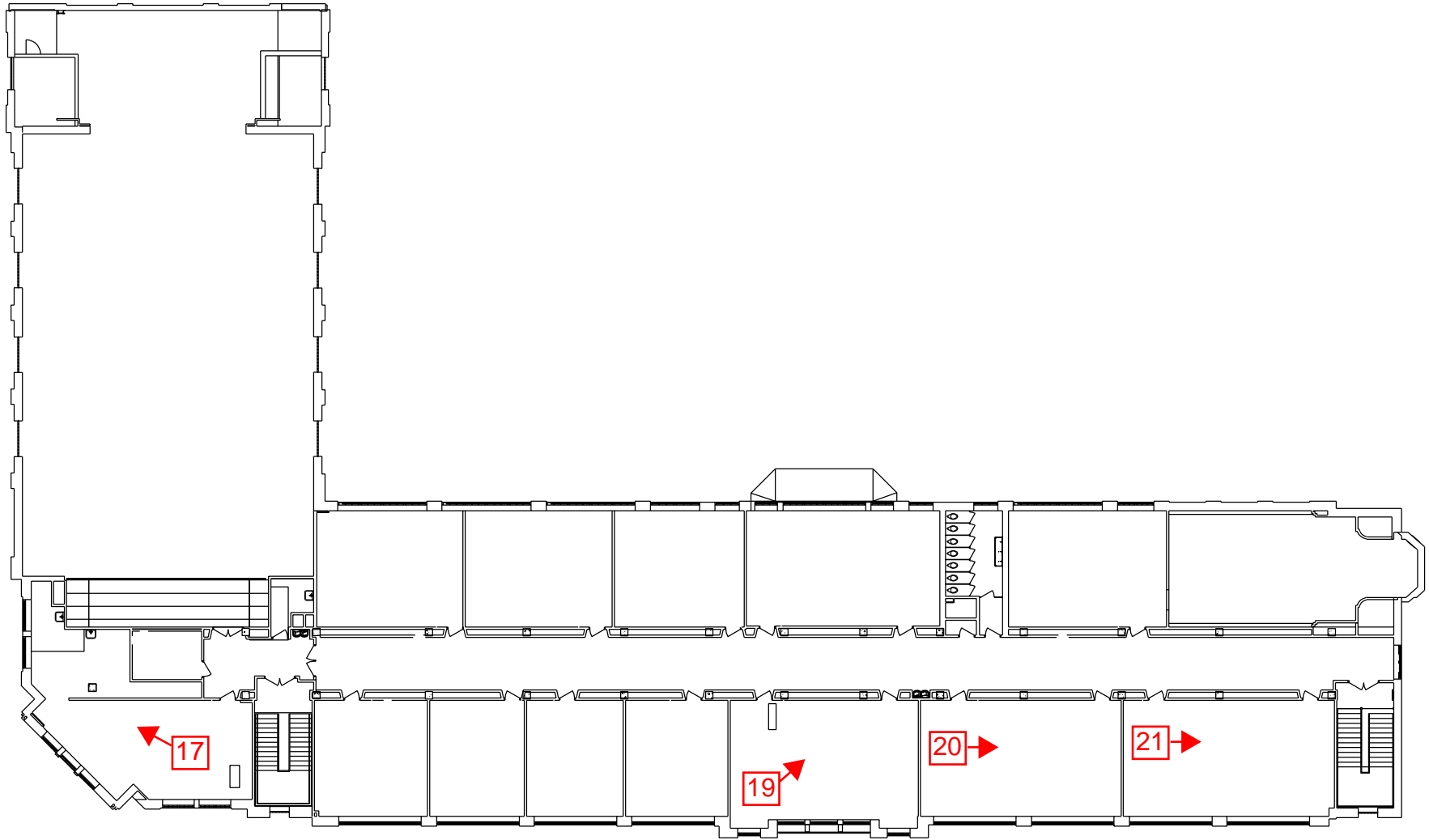
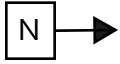
Second Floor Plan

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



Third Floor Plan

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"









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In the Librarian We borrow Return books

















National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

QUENTIN L. MESSER, JR.
PRESIDENT

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed file contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **Immaculata High School, 16661 Greenlawn Avenue, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan**. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is a X New Submission Resubmission Additional Documentation Removal.

- 1 Signed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- 2 Locational maps (incl. with nomination file)
- 6 Sketch map(s) / figures(s) / exhibits(s) (incl. with nomination file)
- 1 Pieces of correspondence (incl. with correspondence file)
- 21 Digital photographs
- Other (incl. with nomination file): _____

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed.
- X This property has been approved under 36 CFR 67.
- The enclosed owner objections constitute a majority of property owners.
- This nomination has been funded by the following NPS grant:
- Other:

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 331-8917 or walsht@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Martha MacFarlane-Faes
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/23/2022 Date of Pending List: 12/9/2022 Date of 16th Day: 12/27/2022 Date of 45th Day: 1/9/2023 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

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

Accept Return Reject 12/29/2022 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The nomination for the Immaculata High School in Detroit, Wayne County, is being returned for substantive revision. The property appears to be an eligible property, but eligibility under Criterion C as the work of a master is not justified.

The nomination is submitted under Criterion C as the work of a master designer, D. A. Bohlen & Sons. As noted in Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, "a property is not eligible as the work of a master...simply because it is designed by a prominent architect." First, one must establish that the designer is a "master." Has there been scholarship that critically examines the career of the designer? Has the designer been acknowledged by peers or organizations for the quality of work? Has the designer had works profiled in important publications?

If the designed is established or recognized as a master, then the property must be looked at within the context of the designer's career. "A property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea of theme in his or her craft" (Bulletin 15, p. 20). Where does the building fall on the arc of the firm's career? Does it reflect any particular theme (or change to a theme) in their designs?

This property was submitted as the work of a master designer, but there is scant attention paid to important aspects of design, especially in light of the "value engineering" noted on page 25 where aspects of the original design were altered to save money. While certainly of the Modern Movement, what features make this Moderne? Is it limited to the entry? Otherwise, the building exhibits a strong sense of verticality in many of the decorative design elements – not typical for Moderne buildings.

It is apparent that the convent building, immediately west of the school building, had a strong association with the school and its operation. The Sisters lived I the convent and worked in the school. What justification is there for leaving the building out of the nomination other than ownership (which should not be a consideration)?

Recommendation/
Criteria

Return

Reviewer Jim Gabbert

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275

Date _____

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

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Immaculata High School, Wayne County, Michigan

Reference Number: 100008529

Reason for Return

The nomination for the Immaculata High School in Detroit, Wayne County, is being returned for substantive revision. The property appears to be an eligible property, but eligibility under Criterion C as the work of a master is not justified.

The nomination is submitted under Criterion C as the work of a master designer, D. A. Bohlen & Sons. As noted in Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, “a property is not eligible as the work of a master... simply because it is designed by a prominent architect.” First, one must establish that the designer is a “master.” Has there been scholarship that critically examines the career of the designer? Has the designer been acknowledged by peers or organizations for the quality of work? Has the designer had works profiled in important publications?

If the designed is established or recognized as a master, then the property must be looked at within the context of the designer’s career. “A property must express a particular phase in the development of the master’s career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea of theme in his or her craft” (Bulletin 15, p. 20). Where does the building fall on the arc of the firm’s career? Does it reflect any particular theme (or change to a theme) in their designs?

This property was submitted as the work of a master designer, but there is scant attention paid to important aspects of design, especially in light of the “value engineering” noted on page 25 where aspects of the original design were altered to save money. While certainly of the Modern Movement, what features make this Moderne? Is it limited to the entry? Otherwise, the building exhibits a strong sense of verticality in many of the decorative design elements – not typical for Moderne buildings.

It is apparent that the convent building, immediately west of the school building, had a strong association with the school and its operation. The Sisters lived in the convent and worked in the school. What justification is there for leaving the

building out of the nomination other than ownership (which should not be a consideration)?

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at james_gabbert@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Gabbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
12/29/2022



STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

QUENTIN L. MESSER, JR.
PRESIDENT

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed file contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Immaculata High School and Convent, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan**. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is a New Submission Resubmission Additional Documentation Removal.

- 1 Signed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- 2 Locational maps (incl. with nomination file)
- 4 Sketch map(s) / figures(s) / exhibits(s) (incl. with nomination file)
- 1 Pieces of correspondence (incl. with correspondence file)
- 23 Digital photographs
- Other: _____

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed.
- This property has been approved under 36 CFR 67.
- The enclosed owner objections constitute a majority of property owners.
- This nomination has been funded by the following NPS grant:
- Other: _____

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 331-8917 or walsht@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,


Martha MacFarlane-Eaes
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/13/2023 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 8/28/2023 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

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

Accept Return Reject 8/1/2023 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

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

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