

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Christie School
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1908
COMMON NAME: Christie School
ORIGINAL USE: School; orphanage; dormitory
ADDRESS: Pacific Highway S.
OWNER: Sisters of the Holy Names
PRESENT USE: School
ARCH./BLDR.: Breiung, Alfred
T/R/S: 2S 1E 14
TAX LOT: 200

STYLE: American
Renaissance
RESOURCE TYPE:
Building
THEME: Religion;
Education; 20th C.
Architecture
ADDITION:
Walling/Bullock
DLC's
BLOCK:
LOT:
QUAD: Lake Oswego
LOT SIZE:
ZONE:

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Rectangular
NO. OF STORIES: Three and one half
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete
BASEMENT: Yes
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Hip w/block modillions

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Masonry
STRUCTURAL FRAME: Unknown
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Double-hung sash; some in pairs
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Brick
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Entrance:

OTHER: Hipped dormers; quoined corners; projecting entrance in south elevation w/ round-headed door openings and concrete walls

CONDITION: Good. Window deteriorated attic level.

EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Three floor porch removed from e. elevation and replaced w/ cast stone entrance

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Mature coniferous trees across main elevation

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: Small wood outbuilding w/ gable roof, composition shingles, tongue-and-groove siding, rake boards

SETTING:

NOTES:

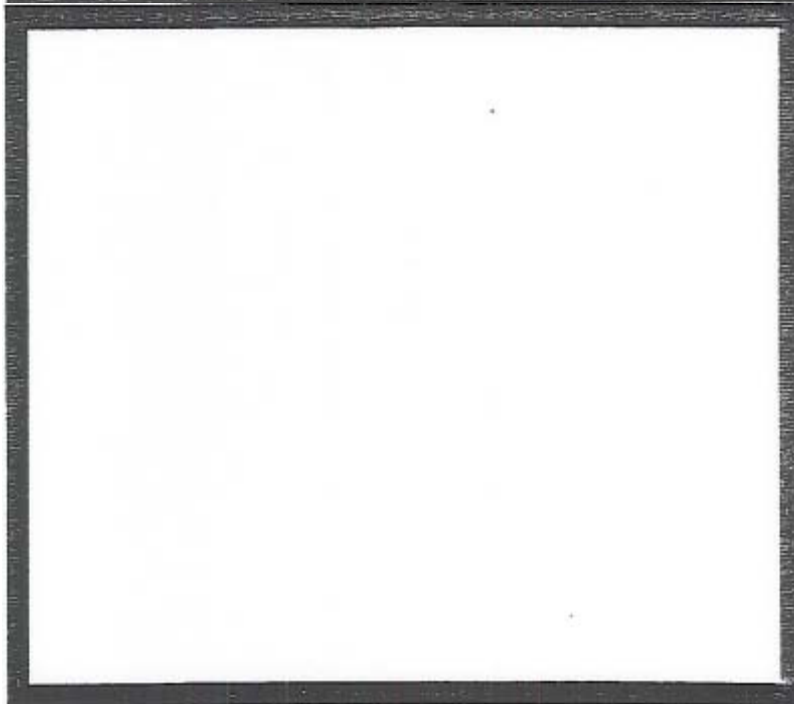
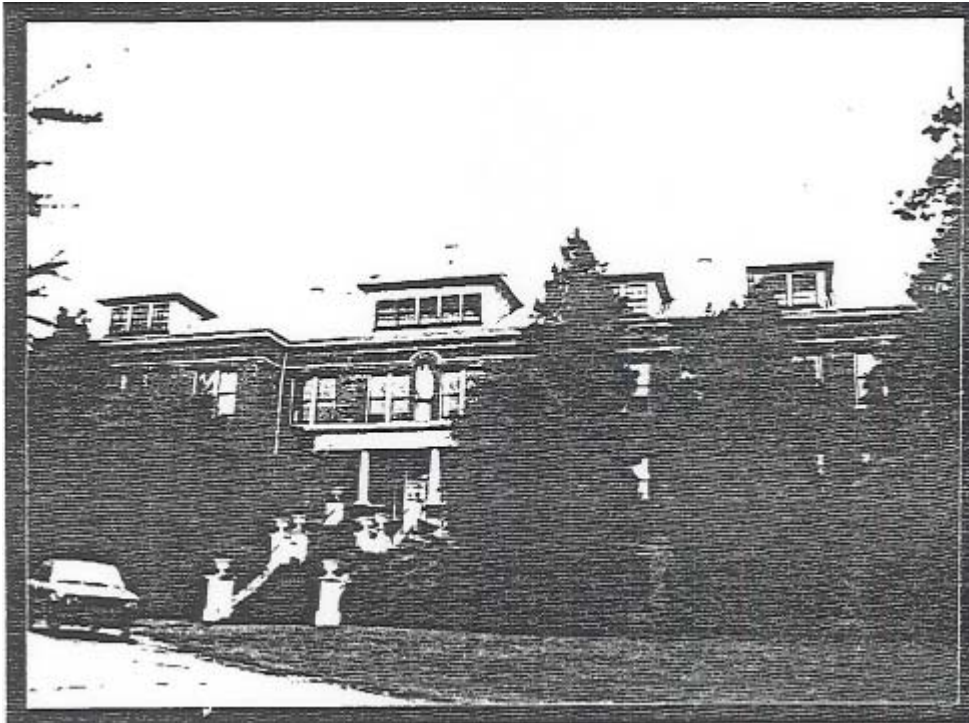
RECORDER(S):
SHPO #: 387

Koler/Morrison

DATE: January 1989
FIELD #:

CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RES OURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS PACIFIC HIGHWAY - MARYLHURST, CHRISTIE SCHOOL
TAXMAP/LOT 2S 1E 14/200
SHPO# _____ ROLL/FRAME# _____



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Address: Marylhurst Center For Continuing Education, Christie School and Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Historic Name: St. Mary's College, Christie School

History of Marylhurst

In 1859, the order of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary order, which was founded in Montreal, Canada in 1843, sent twelve sisters as missionaries to Portland. They established a school, St. Mary's Academy, and a home for orphans. Portland Plaza today occupies the site of the orphanage and a rock wall built in 1865 marks the site of the school. The orphanage was eventually separated from the school and moved to St. Paul, Oregon.

Following a diphtheria epidemic in 1907 in St. Paul the Archbishop, Alexander A. Christie, decided to move the orphanage, and purchased land closer to Portland's medical facilities. The site overlooks the Willamette River and is part of the original George Walling and Jesse Bullock donation land claims and the Jarisch farm. Christie christened the wooded site "Villa Marie."

On this site, Archbishop Christie had plans to establish a new orphanage. The sisters wished to establish a Provincial House to serve as headquarters for the Oregon Province of Sisters of the Holy Names. The Provincial House building would serve both as an administrative center and as a convent for young religious students and elderly or ill Sisters to reside.

The Christie School was constructed in 1908, followed soon after by the Provincial House in 1911. In addition, the Holy Names Normal School, a program focused on teacher training, opened at Villa Marie in 1912 as a state approved co-institution with St. Mary's College in Portland. Classes were held in the Provincial House building. In 1919 the name was changed to Marylhurst Normal School, a two-year course open to religious or lay women.

The land around the new facility was used as a subsistence farm. Some of the barns still exist to the north of the main campus, as well as an apple orchard and other fruit trees planted by horticulturist Albert Walling when his family owned the land. The Walling's house, which was converted into a residence for the Sisters in 1929 and named "Rosecliffe," has since been demolished.

In 1913 the tract name Villa Marie was changed to Marylhurst, derived from a German word meaning "Mary's wood." Marylhurst became the name referring to the entire campus although the Provincial House was known as "Convent of the Holy Names, Oswego, Oregon" between 1911, when it was established and 1940 when Marylhurst was given the status of a U. S. postoffice.

In 1929 an administration building was added and a campus was created separate from the Christie School for St. Mary's College, which had moved from St. Mary's Academy (high school) in downtown Portland. At that time there was one classroom building and one residence hall. The following year St. Mary's College changed its name to Marylhurst College.

In 1950 the Marylhurst Normal School, by then called Marylhurst Teachers College, had become a department of Marylhurst College. Marylhurst emerged as the first Oregon institution to offer a State approved dual program in elementary and secondary education.

In 1954 Christie School began to serve emotionally deprived girls of grade school age; however, in 1963, the Holy Names Community decided to relinquish control of the Christie School. On April 28, 1966, Christie School Board of Directors was legally incorporated as the governing body of the agency. Today the school serves over 80 children.

In the early 1970s the college faced closure due to rising costs and the spread of community colleges. Reorganization in 1973 produced the Marylhurst Center for Continuing Education, a school focused on religious studies, early childhood education, art and music, and adult education.

CamDus buildings

Josef Jacobberger was the primary architect for Marylhurst. Jacobberger was born in Alsace Lorraine in 1845. Brought to the U. S. as a child, he lived much of his childhood in the midwest, taking his college degree at Creighton University in Nebraska. In 1912 the architect settled in Portland where he carried on his work the rest of his life. In association with architect Alfred H. Smith for a number of years, Jacobberger designed St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Clements School of Nursing, the Chapel of All Saints Catholic Church and several buildings on the Marylhurst Campus.

Construction and development occurred mainly from the late 1930s through the 1960s. A 1927 Sanborne Fire Insurance map reveals only three buildings on the Marylhurst Campus: The Christie Orphanage, the laundry/central

heating building, and the Provincial ell-shaped building which included administration, dormitory and chapel areas. Other architects for campus buildings included: Smith, Stanton, Zeller, Church, Newberry, Roehr, Franks, Norman, and McGoodwin and Hinchliff.

Buildings of architectural or historical significance on the Marylhurst campus appear below in order by date of construction:

Christie School (1908)

The American Renaissance style Christie School was built in 1908. It was designed by Alfred Breitung, a Seattle architect. He designed extensive verandas on the north and south ends of the \$75,000 building with winding stairways for fire escapes. Superintendent and general contractor for the project was D. F. Campbell Sr. of St. Mary's Cathedral parish. The four-story red brick building was noted at the time of construction for its excellent ventilation, lighting and sewer system promoting sanitation. Today, the original structure is used as the agency's administration building. There are also three residential treatment facilities (Wilson, Clark and Babson cottages), classrooms and recreational facilities, including a swimming pool.

Convent Laundry Building (1908/12)

The date of construction for this building is uncertain; some sources indicate it was 1908; others 1912. It was reportedly constructed to house workers building the Christie School. It also served as the Convent's laundry for many years. It is currently being used as an art studio and ceramics lab. The bricks in this building come from the old Oswego foundry. The building remains in its original state.

Convent of the Holy Names -- Provincial Building (1911/57)

The Convent of the Holy Names, an Italian Villa, was built by Portland contractor Edward Killfeather for \$75,000. The central portion of the building and the south wing were built in 1911. The east and north wings were completed in 1957. This building serves as government headquarters for the Oregon Province of Sisters of the Holy Name. The brick in this structure may be from the old Oswego foundry. On the rear elevation massive Tuscan columns and plain pilasters flank a glazed and paneled door with multi-light transom.

Administration Building (1929)

This was the first structure to be built specifically just for Marylhurst College. The noted Portland architectural firm of Jacobberger & Smith designed this Romanesque style building. It was constructed in 1929 to serve as the main classroom building of the Catholic women's college. At one time, there was a glass-covered swimming pool on the rear elevation of the building.

Aquinas Hall (1930)

Designed by Jacobberger and Smith in the Mediterranean style, this building was originally intended to house a chaplain, but was never used as such as there was a shortage of student housing so it was changed to dormitory space. The chaplain moved into a suite in the administration building. The two-story structure was built in 1930.

Cemetery and Altar (1937)

The site of the cemetery, situated at the eastern end of the farm, was chosen by Archbishop Christie in 1911. Two rows of tall cedars line the path of the hedge surrounded cemetery. Several of the original 12 Sisters who were sent from Montreal, Canada to establish the orphanage are buried here. There are some 200 marking graves of the nuns buried here. The Mediterranean style altar was built in 1937.

Education Hall (Normal School) (1937)

The Education Hall at Marylhurst College is one of several buildings designed by Josef Jacobberger and built in 1937. It's original purpose was to house the elementary and secondary education departments. An exception to the Mediterranean style which Jacobberger had used almost exclusively on the Marylhurst campus, this building was exemplifies the Modern American Renaissance style.

Flavia Hall (1937)

Architects Jacobberger and Smith designed this building in 1937. Originally used for a dormitory, it was later changed to an office building. Flavia Hall was designed in the Mediterranean style like several other buildings on the campus, including St. Catherine's dormitory, Aquinas Hall, and the cemetery altar.

Main Entrance (1937)

The main entrance to the property is particularly interesting. The Mediterranean style structure, built in 1937, has served as a bus shelter for many years. It was one of the original stops on the Greyhound Bus route serving the west side between Oregon City and Portland. The structure at one time had windows but they were removed in the 1950s after repeated vandalism.

St. Catherine's (St. Rose) Dormitory (1937)

St. Catherine's Dormitory was built in 1937 in the Mediterranean style and was originally named St. Rose's Residence Hall. The building has recently been remodeled to house the Music Department. The name was changed to eliminate confusion with Villa St. Rose, a home for delinquent girls in Portland.

St. Anne ChaDel (1967-68)

The St. Anne Chapel at Marylhurst College was built in 1967-68. The building was a gift of Miss Julianna Roller, a retired Portland teacher and long time resident of Marylhurst. Roller, who graduated from the St. Mary's College in 1908, combined her lifetime savings with those of her mother to donate the funds for this 10,000 square foot chapel. The architects were McGoodwin and Hinchliff.

Shoen Library (1967-68)

The Shoen Library at Marylhurst College was built in 1967-68, a gift of the Sammy Shoen family. The architectural firm of McGoodwin & Hinchliff designed the modern three-story building with overhanging levels. A large central skylight extends to the first floor and adds a great deal of illumination to the upper two stories. A large mall in front of the building connects the library to the administration building on one side and St. Anne's Chapel on the other.

Conclusion

The Marylhurst complex of buildings are now located on three separate parcels, however, the buildings share a common history and to some degree common physical characteristics. Many of the buildings are significant for their architectural qualities. All of the historic buildings are significant for their association with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who have made a major contribution to the state of Oregon by their continued efforts in the area of education.

8/89

Updated: 5/90

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