

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DEC 14 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Georgetown Academy for Young Ladies

other names/site number Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School

2. Location

street & number 1524 35th Street N.W.

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Washington,

☐ vicinity N/A

state District of Columbia code D.C. county N/A code 001 zip code 20007

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
14	3 buildings
1	sites
	structures
	objects
15	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Carol B. Thompson*
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D.C.Date *12/14/90*

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)Signature of the Keeper *Patrick Anders*Date of Action *3/29/91*

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Church related residence

EDUCATION/ School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Church related residence

EDUCATION/ School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Early Classical Revival

/ Federal

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

20th CENTURY REVIVAL/ Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick, wood

roof metal, slate, asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School is located in the Historic District of Georgetown (N.R. 1967) in the northwest section of Washington D.C. Georgetown is also protected by the "Old Georgetown Act" of Congress, enacted in 1950 (P.L. 800, 64 Stat. 903). The historic site covers 22.43 acres of land and includes 17 buildings of which the following 14 considered to be contributing:

# 1. Infirmary	1618
# 2. Chapel of the Sacred Heart	1821
# 3. Dormitory	1829
# 4. Labor House	pre 1843
# 5. Monastery Annex	1836
# 6. West Academy Building	1838
# 7. Monastery East Wing	1832
# 8. Monastery South Wing	1857
# 9. Main Academy Building	1872
# 10. Senior Lodge	1891
# 11. Fennessy Hall	1923
# 12. Gymnasium	1932
# 13. "Cabin"	late 18th&20th cent.
# 14. Carpenter Shop	19th cent.

The 3 noncontributing buildings are as follows:

# 15. Tractor shed	c.1975
# 16. St. Bernard Library (barn of 1895)	1957
# 17. St. Joseph's Hall	1957

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

FEB 25 1991

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Religion

Education

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1819 - 1932

Significant Dates

1819

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Neale, Leonard

Cloriviere, Joseph Picot de

Architect/Builder

Petit, Richard

Starkweather, Norris

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

A. INTRODUCTION.

The Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School was founded in 1799 to provide for both the Catholic education of young ladies in America and the establishment of a community where religious women could lead a secluded, contemplative life. Georgetown Visitation represents the following criteria and is significant for its association with:

- A. Historic events
- B. Historic persons
- C. Distinctive characteristics of architecture

The history of the Visitation **areas of significance** can be categorized in the following order: religion, education, architecture, and social history.

It was a **significant historic event** when the first Visitation Convent among the earliest Catholic school for girls in the United States was established at Georgetown Visitation. [**1]. Shortly after inception of the academy for young ladies was begun, women of the Georgetown convent opened a benevolent school to teach, feed, and clothe poor and orphaned children in Georgetown. In 1816 the Georgetown convent received the first American charter of the Order of the Visitation. Since then many other Visitation Houses have been established in the United States.

The historically **significant persons** related to the Visitation convent and girl's school are Leonard Neale and Joseph Picot de Cloriviere. John Carroll, the first bishop and archbishop for the United States and founder of Georgetown University was the recognized organizer and leader of the Catholic Church in America and it was he who encouraged the establishment of the Georgetown convent. Leonard Neale, who succeeded Carroll as archbishop, was the first spiritual guide for the women of the

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References**Interviews**

- 1/26/89 At the National Institute of Health, Master Plan Office-Juanita Mildenberg and Dave Eply, Received information regarding Judith Robinson's research of Traceries on the Bethesda and other Visitation Convents.
- 11/6/89 At the Georgetown Visitation-Mother deSales McNabb, Sister Mada Anne Gell, archivist, and Robert H. Grose, manager. Received two books and other information on the Georgetown Visitation and toured the property.
- 12/7/89 At the Georgetown Visitation-Sister Mada Anne. Toured property and received answers to previously submitted questions.
- 2/19/90 At the Georgetown Visitation- Mother deSales McNabb and Sister Mada Anne Gell, archivist. Reviewed interim report.

☒ See continuation sheet**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 # DC 211
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☒ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:
See Continuation Sheet**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property 22.4**UTM References**

A	1 8	3 2 0 5 5 0	4 3 0 8 8 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 8	3 2 0 2 8 0	4 3 0 8 5 2 0

B	1 8	3 2 0 5 5 0	4 3 0 8 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 8	3 2 0 2 8 0	4 3 0 8 8 2 0

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies Square 1292; Lot 202.

☐ See continuation sheet**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the property now defined as lot 202 has been historically associated with Georgetown Visitation. It was redefined when the northern part of the open land along Reservoir Road was sold and assigned to a new lot number.

☐ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robin Allen, researcher, Russell V. Keune, AIA(US/ICOMOS), Charles Szoradi, AIA

organization Charles Szoradi, AIA Architect date 10 April 1990

street & number 128 G Street, SW telephone (202) 488-1557

city or town Washington, state D.C. zip code 20024

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B. SITE

The Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School is located in the Georgetown Historic District as defined by the N.R. 1967. The 22.4 acre property is bordered by 35th Street to the east; P Street and Georgetown University to the south; Georgetown University, again, to the west; and a row of recently built town houses along Reservoir Road to the north. The Reservoir Road town houses were built on a land which the Visitation sold to a developer in 1978. Despite the loss of the northern most land the property retains a campus like ambiance.

Overall site description:

The topography and landscaping of the Georgetown Visitation varies. The highest part of the property is its northwest area while the lowest part is around the southeast corner at the intersection of 35th and P street. The difference in elevation is about forty (40) feet. The property is among the largest privately owned open spaces in this part of the city. The western half of the property is on a hill rising northward and characterized by grassy slopes and scattered trees with pathway winding through the area. The eastern part of the property along 35th Street is flat but also rising northward. This eastern part is where most of the buildings are located. The northeast quarter is occupied by the athletic fields while the southeast corner is occupied by the convent and the school historic buildings.

The main entrance to the institution, 1524 35th Street at the corner of Volta Place is marked by a gate in the brick wall just north of the main academy building. A large 110 car parking area is located through this gate on the north side. The only other entrance, 1500 35th Street at the corner of P Street, is at the south wing of the monastery and used infrequently. The old original entrances to the chapel and the main academy building on 35th Street are now closed, but the convent plans to reopen it.

Detailed description of the site:

In the far southwest corner is a cemetery with uniform stone grave markers and two elaborate wrought-iron gates facing eastward. The south side gate has the Latin words "Mors Janua Vitae" while the north side gate has the English words "I am the Resurrection and the Life" above the entrance. This "New cemetery" was opened in 1887 and presently has 150 graves marked with engraved round topped stones. One grave marker at the center is a cross shaped stone. The last marker indicates a 1987

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burial. The cemetery is still used by the Visitation sisters. The original so called "Garden cemetery" is in the enclosed monastery garden. It has 78 graves from 1841 to 1887. A stone wall ten to twelve feet high runs along the southern boundary of the property from the monastery garden to the west end of the property separating it from Georgetown University and P Street. On the north side, the Visitation property side, of the wall is St. Joseph's Walk with the Stations of the Cross starting at monastery garden wall at the east and leading to the cemetery at the west. A broad hill defines the north-west region of the property and offers a commanding southward view of Georgetown, downtown Washington, the Potomac River and beyond. Four tennis courts are located on top of the hill. A small one story brick building known as the "cabin" (# 13), is north of the tennis courts. In 1807 Thomas Jefferson sent some pecan kernels to the original owner of the Visitation property, John Threlkeld [* * 1]. One of the tree which grew from those seeds still stand today, near the tennis courts. A large athletic field and lawn lay west of the tennis courts.

East of the tennis courts, down an incline are the noncontributing St. Joseph Hall (#17) a classroom building and the St. Bernard Library (# 16). The gymnasium (# 12) is located further down the hill from the library to the southeast. The athletic fields are in the far northeast corner of the property bordered by the Reservoir Road town houses and 35th Street. The west side of the playing fields slope upward and provides a natural viewing area for the games. The parking lot is south of the athletic fields. Lalor House, (#4) one of the historic buildings, is located along 35th Street, between the playing fields and a 100 car parking lot. A nine foot brick wall runs along 35th Street from the southeast corner of Lalor House the length of the parking lot to the northeast corner of the main academy building's small gate house.

The majority of the historic buildings are located in the southeast corner of the property, bordered to the east by 35th Street (formerly Fayette) and south by P Streets (formerly Third Street). These historic buildings are in an approx. 330 ft. by 330 ft. area (2.5 acres) enclosing a court open to the west and partially to the south. The court is divided into two gardens by an east-west iron fence and by the remains of an old greenhouse. The northern part of the garden belongs to the school and is called the "quadrangle". The southern part of the garden belongs to the monastery. The quadrangle is enclosed on its east side by the main academy building, (# 9) and on its north side by the west academy building, (# 6) the dormitory (# 3) and the infirmary (# 1). The free standing Fennessy Hall (# 11) encloses the west side of the quadrangle. The access to the monastery garden is restricted to anyone but the Visitation sisters. It is enclosed by the chapel (# 2) and the east and south wings of

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the monastery (# 7 and # 8). A brick wall, about eight foot high continues the enclosure along the south side and a seven foot brick wall at the west side. The garden cemetery with its iron crosses is located in the southwest corner of the garden. Pathways are cut through the mostly grassy garden which has two large southern magnolias, a large beech tree, and a large oak tree. Westward of the monastery garden wall and Fennessy Hall are three smaller buildings: the single-story senior lodge (#10), the three-story carpentry shop (# 14) and a 3 car garage (# 15). The garage is a noncontributing building.

In the vicinity of the Visitation property there are some prominent Georgetown buildings. They include Georgetown University's Healy Building, a massive stone structure built in 1879; Holy Trinity Parish Church, in 1794 the original building was the first church for public Catholic worship in Washington D.C., the new church, on 36th Street between N and O Streets, was built in 1851 in the Greco-Roman Revival style; and the Volta Bureau, a temple-front building from 1893 which houses the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf..

C. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

(by Charles H. LeeDecker Senior Archaeologist of Louis Berger & Assoc. Inc.)

The archaeological significance of the property may be evaluated by a consideration of its natural setting and its pattern of historical development. Aside from the historic structures directly associated with the school, archaeological remains within the property include the foundations of structures associated with the eighteenth-century Burleith estate and various historic residential properties that existed on lots acquired by the school during the nineteenth century. In addition, there is a possibility that the property contains material from prehistoric occupation or use.

The 23-acre property occupies an upland setting overlooking the Potomac River, approximately one mile below the Fall Line. Although the property lies more than 1000 feet from the Potomac, it is watered by a number of springs and a stream hat provided sufficient water to maintain a fish pond during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The northwest portion of the property encompasses a hilltop that affords a panoramic vista of the surrounding area. Although there have been no reported findings of prehistoric artifacts on the property, its natural setting would have been attractive for prehistoric populations, and it would possibly have been used for hunting camps.

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After its founding in 1799, the school expanded rapidly during the nineteenth century, incorporating several blocks in the section of Georgetown known as the Threlkeld Addition. The first buildings occupied by the school rented from John Threlkeld, were located at the corner of Third (P) and Fayette (35th) Streets. In addition to the dwelling houses, the property rented from Threlkeld contained a detached kitchen, a terraced ornamental garden, and numerous fruit trees.

The northwest corner of the property, now occupied by a playing field and tennis courts, is believed to contain archaeological remains dating from the eighteenth century. During construction of the first tennis courts in 1939, foundations were exposed that are believed to be the remains of a house owned by John Threlkeld, built circa 1716 and which burned shortly after the Revolution. A small one-story brick structure, located immediately to the north of the tennis courts, is known as the "slave cabin." The cabin has stood on the property since acquisition of the parcel in 1820, but it does not appear to have been built to house slaves. A brick walkway leads from the cabin toward the tennis court, and it is likely that the structure was a kitchen or other type of outbuilding associated with the Burleith estate.

The surviving historic structures on the property are concentrated in the southeast sector of the property, along the 35th and P Street frontages. It is believed that other parts of the property contain the remains of structures dating from the early nineteenth century and possibly from the late eighteenth century. A map of the property made by Father Cloriviere in 1820 showed the location of a number of structures that are no longer extant, including a kitchen, two woodsheds, a stable, outdoor privies, and servant quarters. Many of the lots acquired by the school in the early nineteenth century contained houses and other improvements that were demolished as the school expanded. Subsurface remains associated with these properties would include building foundations, cellars, wells, privies, etc. Archaeological remains of this sort have occasionally been exposed when new graves are dug in the new cemetery in the southwest corner of the property. Similar archaeological features and deposits would be expected in house lots that faced streets that formerly ran through the school grounds.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES: Interview with Sister Mada Anne Gell Archivist of the Visitation, January 4, 1990.
Eleanore C. Sullivan, Georgetown Visitation Since 1799
Baltimore MD.: French-Bray Printing Company, 1975

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• INFIRMARY (former Benevolent School) #1

The building is located at the west end of the row of buildings situated in the extension of Volta Place. The dormitory building is attached to the east side of the infirmary. The west end of this Early Republic / Federal style red brick building was built in 1819 to house the Benevolent School. It is known to be the oldest building of the Visitation. The builders were possibly Mr. Wharton and Mr. Joseph. [**2] The designer is not known. The building was enlarged to its present size in 1860 by Mr. Whalen and Mr. Dyer [**3] to be used as an infirmary. It is about 55 feet long, 20 feet wide and three stores high with six slightly irregular bays on its north elevation. The irregularity is revealed by the uneven vertical arrangement of windows. The brick walls were laid in common bond. From the exterior the two parts appear as one building. On the interior, the two buildings are distinguished by a slight change in floor level and an open transitional space between the old and new construction. Windows are wood double-hung with wooden sills. The first floor windows have exposed, painted wood lintels. Some original window openings have been bricked closed, while one, at the eastern end of the north facade, appears to have been widened to accommodate a twin set of windows. The south elevation also has four irregular bays. The roof is side gabled and covered with asphalt shingles. The original exterior chimney remains visible at the western end.

• CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART #2

The building is located on 35th Street abutted at the north by the main academy building and the south by the monastery east wing. This Early Republic / Early Classic Revival design has touches of Gothic Revival white stucco brick at its front elevation. The Chapel was designed by Father Joseph Picot de Cloriviere, the spiritual leader of the Visitation sisters, and it was consecrated in 1821[**4]. The builder of the chapel was Joseph Brooks. [**5]. The present appearance dates from 1857 when the height of the chapel was increased and the bell tower was enclosed. The chapel is now 36 feet wide, 46 feet deep, approx. 36 feet high and has three equal bays on its east elevation facing 35th Street. This front facade is organized as a classic temple front with a relatively shallow pediment and four prominent Ionic pilasters equally spaced. They sit on bases clad with metal and painted white as the rest of the elevation. The double entrance door is located in the central bay. Above

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the door is a small lancet window. Because the chapel is no longer open to the public, the door facing 35th Street is closed. Access to the chapel is gained from either the main academy building or the east wing of the monastery. The front is decorated and protected by a handsome three foot high wrought iron fence[**6].

On the exterior between the door and the window is a carved tablet with the gold-leaved biblical inscription, *Vovete et Reddite Domino Deo Vestro, Psalm, LXXV Verse 12*, which translates, "Make Vows to the Lord, Your God, and Fulfill Them". In each of the two side bays is a tall, two story high lancet window of leaded, painted glass. The sill line of these windows coincide with the base line of the pilasters. The tops of these windows are level with the top of the identically arched center window. Above each of these nave windows, at the level of the 1857 floor addition are three small lancet windows heavily grilled in a diamond pattern. These windows serve to light the attic level between the new and old roof. All of the windows on the front facade are trimmed simply with plaster and have the symbol of the Sacred Heart at the point of the arches.

The rear facade of the chapel faces westward and is covered by two stories of exterior porches that run across the chapel's rear facade connecting porches of the monastery with those of the academy buildings. The rear walls are white painted brick at the first and second level with much less details than the front walls. The third level gable end wall is covered with vertical metal siding. Projecting from the center of the facade is a three story, three sided apse that encloses the chapel's altar. There are three leaded painted glass lancet windows at the rear, similar than those at the front. Two located on the apse and one on the facade to the north of the apse. Higher up at the center wall of the apse there is a small ocular window. The rear facade is made asymmetrical by the monastery east wing which abuts the apse on the south side. At the rear of the chapel the crypt is at grade level. The chapel is a front gabled building facing eastward.

The present roof structure dates from 1857 when the original 1921 wooden roof structure was enclosed. The existing roof is front gabled and covered with standing seam sheet metal. An iron cross stands on the peak of the roof towards the front of the chapel. One story below the metal roof, enclosed by it, is the chapel's original wooden shingled roof. Situated at the south of the chapel, rising through the roof of the monastery east wing, is a square shaped c. 12 ft. tall bell tower topped with a c. 14 ft tall spire. The belfry is made of wood and has been covered with brick patterned

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stamped metal. The entire belfry is painted white and is ornamented with Gothic shaped louvered openings on all four sides and a cornice with small railing at the base of the spire. The three bells in the tower are now controlled by electricity. The four sided spire is covered with slate, and topped by a cross.

The interior of the chapel is a space about 32 feet high flanked by one gallery overlooking from the academy building's second-story level and another from the monastery third-story level. The chancel is located in the west end with the altar in a three sided bay. The southern nave wall of the chapel is open below the monastery gallery to connect the chapel with the choir where the Visitation sisters conduct their daily prayers. The screen of four slender Gothic arches separating the chapel from the choir, indicated in the 1969 HABS report, [**6. p. 402] are no more in place. The choir is described under the monastery building east wing. (# 7) The gallery around the north, east and south sides of the chapel is supported on slender Tuscan columns. There is one small curved stair just north of the chancel are lead up to the gallery. The chapel walls are painted light grey with gilded details. The ceiling is plastered and painted in geometric designs with the same colors as the walls. The floor is oak parquet with white marble at the chancel area. The doors have four raised vertical panels. Tall painted glass lancet windows flank the altarpiece. Central to the altarpiece is a portrait of Jesus at Bethany, by Constance Blanchard. Above the painting is an ocular painted glass window. Both are framed by a pointed arch atop two Corinthian columns. The dominant feature of the chapel is the altar which is raised up one step and made of white and beige marble. Simple wood pews run the length of chapel and form an aisle at the center.

Below the chapel is the brick vaulted crypt. There is one central tomb where the remains of Father Leonard Neale were re-interred after a renovation of the crypt in 1968. Father Cloriviere, 33 nuns and Father Robert Plunkett, first president of Georgetown College, are also buried in the crypt. The walls of the crypt are the exposed original brick but the floor is covered with highly polished peach colored marble installed in 1968[**6].

• DORMITORY #3

The building is located along the extension of Volta Place facing north abutting the infirmary building at its west and the main academy building at its east side. This Early Republic / Federal style red brick building was constructed in 1829 by Belt and Mahorney. [**7] Its designer is not known. The building is about 75 feet long,

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34 feet wide, four stories high at the north side and five stories high at south. It has eight bays on its north elevation. The brick walls are constructed in a common bond. The dormitory windows closely follow the size and details of the infirmary windows though the arrangement of the bays and floor levels differs considerably between the two buildings. Windows in the dormitory are spaced evenly across the north and south facades. The first floor windows are casement replacement aluminum clad type. The second, third and fourth floor windows are double-hung replacement aluminum-clad type. Most of the original openings still exist, only a few windows have been closed off. While the front, northern facade of the dormitory is flat plane, the five story rear facade is traversed by wooden porches at the first and second stories. These porches taking advantage of the southern exposure and the garden called quadrangle below. The south facing windows are casement type replacement windows. The roof of the dormitory is side gabled and covered with standing seam metal. The first floor space, underground at the north side and open on the south is occupied by the kitchen part of the cafeteria. The second floor is occupied by classrooms, the third and fourth floor by offices and the fifth floor by dormitories.

- LALOR HOUSE (former St. Joseph's Benevolent School) # 4

The building is situated about 240 ft. north of the main academy building along 35th street between the athletic field and the parking area. This Early Republic / Federal style pale red brick building was constructed around the first half of the 19th century. Its designer and builder is unknown. It is a free-standing 60 ft long by 40 ft wide five bay structure. Lalor House has one story along 35th Street, and two stories at the rear. In 1862 when 35th Street was raised the building lost its first story along 35th Street [**8] The brick is laid in common bond. The 35th Street front entrance occupies the central bay flanked by two tall double hung wood windows on each side. The windows have a wood cornice and are protected with simple iron bars. The shutters were removed when the iron bars were installed, only the hinges remained in place. The front entrance has a paneled double door with a glazed transom above, and it is decorated with a bracketed wood cornice and white painted wood trim. Another entrance is located at the rear, facing west. At the rear of the building wide open wooden porches run the full length of the building at both floors. The rear windows are double-hung replacement aluminum clad with cast stone sills and are trimmed with white painted wood. The roof is a side gabled structure with a six sided steeple at the center. The steeple has six small dormers. The roof cover is standing seam sheet metal.

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• MONASTERY ANNEX (former Meat House) # 5

The building's eastern side abuts the west-end of the monastery south wing and the other three sides are free standing. This Early Republic / Federal style white painted brick building was constructed as a meat house in 1836 by Mahorney. [**9] Its designer is not known. It is about 30 feet long, 18 feet wide, two-stories high and has two bays on its north and south elevation. The brick walls are laid in a common bond. On the north and south facades on each floor there are two double-hung Georgian type wood windows with wooden sills. Some of the shutters are missing. The entrance is on the right side of the western facade under a single story porch roof supported by wood posts which runs the length of the west facade. Above the entrance at the second floor level is a double-hung window. The south wall facing P street is unpainted and appears to be a later addition. The building is front-gabled with a roof cover of standing seam sheet metal. A red brick chimney is located at the north-east corner.

• WEST ACADEMY BUILDING # 6

The building faces north and abuts the dormitory's east end and the main academy's west end. This Early Republic / Federal style red brick building was constructed in 1838. The design is attributed to architect Pettit; the construction was done by Mr. Mahorney [**10]. The building is about 85 ft. long and 34 ft. wide, four-stories high on the north side and five stories high at south side. Its north elevation has three bays. This building visually is a continuation of the dormitory building but it is somewhat longer. The brick is laid in common bond. The floors of the dormitory and the west academy building are not level with one another as is evidenced by the uneven window alignment along the north facade. At the second floor (which is the grade level at the north side) the west academy building is about five feet higher than the dormitory building. Windows on each floor of the two buildings, however, are similar in size and style. Instead of being equally spaced across the facade as in the dormitory, windows of the west academy building are grouped into sets of three with some irregularity. There are two brick chimneys spaced at either end of the west academy building's central bay. In the first floor playroom there are several "signature windows" where young ladies of the academy would scratch their names with their diamond rings when they became engaged. Signatures date back to the 1800's. The five story rear facade is traversed by open wooden porches at the first and second stories in the same way as the dormitory building. The south elevation windows are wood casement type. These south facing porches looking down to the

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quadrangle garden. The west academy roof is a side gabled roof continuous with the dormitory roof. Both are covered with standing seam metal. The first floor space, underground at the north side and open on the south, is occupied by the cafeteria and the kitchen. The second floor is occupied by classrooms, the third and fourth floor by office, and the fifth floor by dormitories.

- MONASTERY - EAST WING # 7 and MONASTREY-SOUTH WING # 8

The east wing is on 35th Street just north of the P Street intersection and faces eastward. The south wing is located at the northwest corner of 35th Street and P Street intersection and along P Street, facing southward. They are both Early Republic / Federal style red brick buildings. The three story plus basement east wing of the monastery was built in 1832 by Ignatius Boarman of Baltimore [**11]. It was enlarged by a fourth floor in 1857 at the same time that the four story monastery's south wing was constructed. Mr. Pettit was the architect and Mr. Evans, or Watchman, State and Long, were the builders for all of this construction [**12]. Although the east and south wings of the monastery are separate buildings, the east facades of each wing are adjoining and flush so that they appear to be the facade of one building. The different design of the brick lintels gives a clue to recognizing the two buildings. The older part of the lintels are formed with a 60 degree angle while the newer parts are formed with a 45 degree angle. The dimensions of the east wing and the south wing are the same, about 110 feet long and 45 feet wide. The brick walls are laid in common bond. The front facade of the east wing facing 35th street has eleven bays and no door. It is continued by the east front facade of the south wing which has seven bays with a P Street entrance in the slightly wider third bay. Windows on the east facade of both wings are evenly spaced across the facade. The windows are old white painted wood casements with pale green double hung exterior wood shutters, limestone sills and brick lintels. The second floor windows are taller than the other floors. The basement windows are hooper type, hinged at the bottom. The windows above the entrance in the central bay of the south wing, facing 35th Street, are widened by additional tall narrow windows on each side of the standard double-hung window. The south wing wood trimmed entry-way on 35th Street is slightly recessed and has a simple Federal-style triangular pediment. The monastery's south wing has a longer facade that faces P Street to the south. This P Street south facade, has 15 bays. Like on its east elevation, the windows are evenly spaced in each bay on all four floors. These P Street windows and shutters are the same type as are found on 35th Street. On the 35th and P Street corner of the south monastery building between the first and second floors there is a stone marker

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indicating the original engraved names of Fayette and 3rd Streets, (now 35th and P Streets, respectively). The roof ridges which run parallel with 35th and P Streets are cross gabled at the intersection. The roof covering is standing seam sheet metal. Along the 35th Street facade a handsome three foot high wrought iron fence can be found between the sidewalk and the building.

The rear facades of both wings encloses two sides of the monastery garden. The rear brick walls are painted white. The windows are evenly spaced across each facade and interspersed occasionally with a door. The east wing rear, west facing facade on the first, third and fourth floors has wood casement windows with storm sash and on the second floor has wood double hung windows also with storm sash. The south wing rear, north facing facade on the first and second floor has double hung wood windows and on the third and fourth floor casement windows with storm sash. Many of the rear facade windows and all the storm windows are new. Wide porches with white railings run the length of both wings on the second, third and fourth floors. The wooden porch columns, slightly different for each wing, do not correspond with the bays of the wall behind. On the ground level of each wing, the porch columns are made of brick. At the east wing the porch bay to the far north on the fourth floor is enclosed. It has a row of windows across each of its three sides and a door opening onto the porch. Also the east wing porch has a stair which connects the fourth and third floor and one that connects the second floor to the garden. The south wing has a stair connecting the far west part of the fourth and third floor. The south building cornerstone engraved "ERECTED 1857" can be found at the northwest corner.

The chapel choir and antechoir are in the east wing at the northwest end of the second floor. The choir is where the Visitation sisters and novices meet several times a day to pray. It is a long rectangular room open to the chapel at its north end. Windows are located along the room's west side. On the south wall two doors to the antechoir frame a speakers podium and row of wooden seats. Two double rows of simply carved hardwood stalls face each other on the east and west sides of the choir and form an aisle between them. The stalls are designed with compartments beneath the seats where the sisters store their prayer books. The antechoir, a simple square shaped room, is a space south of the choir where the Visitandines gather before receding into the choir. The northeast side of the second floor is occupied by offices which are separated from the choir and antechoir by a hallway.

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• MAIN ACADEMY BUILDING #9

The building is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of 35th Street and Volta Place. It abuts the west academy building at its west end and the chapel at its south end. This Late Victorian / Italianate style red brick building with a few Second Empire features was constructed in 1872. The designer was architect Norris Starkweather [**13]. The building is about 118 feet long along 35th Street and 85 feet long along its north elevation. It is four stories high including the mansard level and there are three bays on each of the building's two public facades, the east and the north. Dominant features of the building are the red brick contrasting with the white painted metal and wood trim work and the gray slated large mansard roof. Moulded bricks were extensively used. Heavy brick quoins decorate the corners and the division of each bay. The bricks are laid in a common bond with very thin joints. At the floor of the mansard level there is white painted sheet metal cornice supported by sheet metal brackets.

The east facade portrays the dominant architectural features of the building. A belt course separates the first and second stories. The center bay of the three bays is projected slightly into the street, prominently quoined, dominated by the ornate entrance (presently not used but planned to be reopened) and by the increased height and curved mansard roof. An arched white painted sheet metal awning projects from the building over the entrance and is supported by white painted sheet metal brackets which appear to be resting on decorated brick pilasters. A carved wooden cross sits on the crest of the awning. The arched double doorway is recessed into the building. Tall brick hooded double hung wood windows are located on each side of the entrance. Above the entrance in the central bay there are three tall brick hooded two story high windows of the odeon. This strong vertical element is reminiscent of a large Palladian window. The mansard roof of the center bay is very prominent. Four richly ornate white painted arched mansard windows are sitting on the heavily bracketed sheet metal cornice. These windows are crowned by an arched cornice and by an ocular window above. The increased height slate covered, curved mansard roof is ornamented at the top by a white painted ballustered platform that is about 6 ft by 12 ft.

The east facades of the two outer bays appear to be similar. On each side of the first floor they have four equally spaced, tall, brick hooded, double hung wood windows. Each side of the second floor and third floor have three windows on each floor that are vertically combined, in a similar fashion to the center bay. This strong combined

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window element is reminiscent of a large Palladian window and it is placed at the far part of each of the outer bays. One vertical pair, also brick hooded window, placed near to the center. The second and third story windows of the south and center bay are the windows of the two story high odeon, while the north bay two story high windows are separated by the floor structure and have classrooms behind. Due to the clever design the unity of the facade is not compromised and one has to look carefully to recognize the floor separation behind. At the mansard level each of the outer bays has two pairs of white painted sheet metal ornamented, hooded double hung dormer windows. At the top of the mansard roof there is an approx. two feet high white painted railing along the east facade abutting the elevated center bay roof.

The north facade has three asymmetrical bays and it is less detailed. The center bay is quoined and has a makeshift temporary entrance on the first floor and three double hung windows on the each floor above. The second and third floor windows of the center bay are tall and narrow and are placed close together. At the mansard floor level three ornate white painted arched mansard windows sit on the heavily bracketed white painted metal cornice. These windows are crowned by an ocular window at the center of the bay. The mansard roof of the center bay is also articulated by an increased height slate covered roof similar to the east facade, but here the vertical corners of the roof are not curved. The elevated roof has a white painted metal cornice at the top. The north facade east side bay has four tall equally spaced double hung windows on each floor while the west side has only three on each floor. The first and second floor window heads have segmented arches while the the third an mansard windows are fully arched.

The west facade of the building faces the student quadrangle. The cornerstone engraved "ERECTED 1873" can be found at the southwest corner. The exterior porches found on the back sides of the monastery buildings, chapel, west academy building, dormitory and infirmary also cross the back of the main academy building, on the first and second floors. The tall two story high arched windows of the odeon decorate this wall. The mansard level and its windows are similar to the north elevation.

Inside the main academy building there is a large entry hall with a grand wooden staircase. Reception rooms and offices are located off this hall. Part of the second and third floor is occupied by the double height assembly hall, called odeon.. The rest of the building is comprised of classrooms.

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• SENIOR LODGE (formerly Wash House) # 10

This free standing building is located across the driveway westward of Fennessy Hall. The lodge, a late 19th Century / Colonial revival red brick building, was constructed as a wash house in 1895 by Tennant and McCartney [39]. Its designer is not known. This wash house was converted into a lodge around 1955. The conversion did not significantly altered the exterior appearance of the building. It has two parts. The northern part is about 50 ft long and 38 ft wide, while the southern part which is set back 20 ft westward is about 20 ft long and 30 ft wide. The north part has three bays with an entrance at its center facing eastward toward Fennessy Hall. This entrance is flanked on both sides by twin double-hung wood windows with wood shutters and wood sill. The gable end elevation of the north part also has three bays. Here the center bay double hung window is flanked by two brick chimneys projecting out from the wall surface. Inside of the building there is a large exposed roof structure and a brick wall. The smaller south side part of the building also faces eastward has three bays with a door at the center and double hung wood windows on each sides.

• FENNESSY HALL # 11

This free standing building is located at the west end of the student quadrangle just south of the infirmary building. This 20th Century / Craftsman style red brick building was constructed in 1923. The building was designed by Sisters Stanislaus and Benedicta and constructed primarily by Mr. Joseph Lowe, the Visitation superintendent [**14]. This building is about 56 ft long along the quadrangle and about 36 ft deep. It has an exposed basement and three story on the front of its east side which is facing the quadrangle and has three stories on its west side. The third story is within an attic level under the hipped roof.

The front elevation facing the west end of the academy quadrangle has five irregular bays. A covered porch runs across the first floor which connects at 90 degrees with the row of porches along the rear of the infirmary, the dormitory and the west academy building. The columns supporting the first floor porch are stone, and the posts supporting the roof of the porch are white painted wood of Doric-style. A double flight of stairs connects the Fennessy Hall porch with the quadrangle. In front, at the base of the stairs is a stone-shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The building's entrance is just off center on the first floor. It is flanked on both sides

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by a group of four double hung windows. On the south end there is a door and a single window. On the north end there is a large arched window. The second story is symmetrical and has at its center, under the white cornice of the building, a recessed engraved stone indicating the building's name and construction date. The stone marker is flanked by one double window on each side, and two single windows near to the corner of the building at each sides. At the attic level a large dormer with seven windows occupies the place. All windows are wood double-hung and have wood sills. Trim on the building is painted white. Similar but smaller dormer windows are located on each of the other three sides of the roof. The hipped roof as well as the porch is covered with standing seam metal. A large projecting stone chimney and an iron fire escape stair dominates the rear elevation at the west.

- GYMNASIUM # 12

The building is located on the hill about 100 feet north of the infirmary building. This 20th Century / Colonial Revival dark red building was designed by Temple Hoyne Buell Architect with Joseph A. Parks Associate Architect and constructed in 1934 by the Lipscomb Company [**15]. The one story rectangular side gabled structure is flanked with a lower end gabled cross wing at each end is approximately 125 feet long, 70 feet wide and the center athletic hall is about 25 feet high. The brick is laid in a common bond with light colored tooled joints. Five large arched windows are placed evenly across the east and west sides of the athletic hall. Four entrances facing east and west are located symmetrically at the gable end walls of the cross wings. Three of the doors are flanked by vertically shaped windows. The south cross wing's south facade has six double-hung windows. The north cross wing's north facade has seven double hung windows. Lockers rooms, offices and storage rooms are located in the cross wings while the athletic hall serves as a basketball court. The roof is covered with slate.

- "CABIN" # 1

The small cabin is located on the northwest section of the Visitation property north the tennis courts. The original of this Colonial / Postmedieval English style red brick cabin could dated from the late 18th century [**16]. This 13 feet 6 inch by 23 feet long side gabled one-story brick building has doors on the north and south sides. The south side door is flanked by double hung wood replacement windows. Some of the openings have been altered and have steel lintels with thin cut brick. The door lintels inside are chamfered wood. The roof structure is composed of exposed dark

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stained hand hewn full sized 7 in. by 7 in. joists, rough full sized 3 in. by 4 in. rafters and 10 in. wide plank roof sheathing, with unknown origin. The roof is covered of asphalt shingles. The floor is made of brick in basket weave pattern. At the east end there is a brick fireplace of current origin. It is doubled as an outdoor grille and lined with pale firebrick. The interior walls are white washed brick. This small cabin appears to be altered several times. It is used occasionally for school functions. A brick walkway leads from the cabin toward the tennis courts.

• CARPENTRY SHOP # 14

This building is located along the north south driveway west of the monastery cloistered garden. It is about 90 feet south of the lodge building. This maintenance building or sometimes called carpentry shop could have been built around the early part of the 20th century but the stone and brick exposed foundation walls of the first floor may have been built in the 19th century. The building is about 46 ft long and 28 ft wide. The east elevation is a three bay, three-story structure while the west elevation is an irregular six bay two story. The upper two stories are made of wood frames covered with wood clapboard siding. The whole building is painted white. On the north half of the east facade there are two small windows placed at eye level set apart on either side of a door. On the south half of the east facade is a garage door with a window to the left. The east elevation second and third floors are alike with clapboard siding being punctured by three window openings on each floor. The tall double-hung windows are horizontally and vertically aligned, centered and evenly spaced across the east facade. The west elevation ground floor has four windows, one double door and three single doors irregularly placed. The second floor has three windows and a double door. The double doors are placed above each other and presumedly used for loading. The roof is side-gabled, metal with standing seams with a brick chimney at each end.

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E. BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS (Non-Contributing)

- TRACTOR SHED # 15

Directly behind the maintenance building, to the west, is a single-story brick garage built around 1957. It is about 36 ft long and 24 ft wide. The north facade consist three garage doors. The roof structure is made of side gabled exposed wood trusses and covered with asphalt shingles.

- St. BERNARD LIBRARY (former Brick Barn) # 16

The library is located near to the center of the property just south of Saint Joseph Hall. Originally it was a brick barn built in 1895, which was converted into library in 1957. The architectural firm for the renovation was Locraft Associates. Skinker & Garrett was the builder [**17]. The library is a five bay, two-story brick building, 75 feet by 38 feet with a side-gabled roof. The eaves on both sides consist of brick dentils. The entire east and west elevations were redesigned and replaced. The placement of a large two-story bow window on the east elevation destroyed the historic integrity of the building. The three large vents which sat on the ridge of the barn roof were removed in the renovation. New entrances were added in the central bay of the north and south facades, replacing old barn windows. The old wooden windows and sills were replaced with aluminum frames and sash with limestone sills. The window heads are segmented brick arches. The brick walls were sandblasted and repointed. The roof covering is slate. The interior of the barn was gutted during the conversion. The original barn building has been so greatly altered that it has lost its historic value. The library was made to look as if constructed at the same time as the St. Joseph Hall to its north. The covered walkway which connects the two buildings reinforces the unified look.

- SAINT JOSEPH'S HALL # 17

This classroom building is located just the north of the library. It was built in 1957 in conjunction with the library renovation, by the same architect and builder. St. Joseph's Hall is a Colonial Revival, two-story brick, building with a perpendicular wing to each end. The east facade of the main building is three bays wide. Two

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large bays flank a dominant central bay. The central bay rises slightly above the roof-line and is capped by a shallow curved pediment. On the first floor of this bay is an entrance roughly ten feet tall. The Neoclassical entrance is topped with a broken pediment. All windows in the building are aluminum double-hung with limestone sills. The window lintels are made of brick. The south wing south elevation, facing the library and connected to it by the brick covered walkway, has nine bays, unevenly divided across the facade. The entrance is on the first floor in the central bay. The east and west facades of both wings are two bays wide and have two windows on both floors evenly spaced and lined-up. The brick is laid in common bond with grape vine joints. The main part of the building is side-gabled, the wings are hipped and the roof cover is slate.

F. CONCLUSION

Construction of buildings at the Georgetown Visitation was begun in 1819 with the Benevolent School and still continues today. Over the 170 year course of the Visitation's construction history the need for land and buildings has been ever increasing. Expansion and development of this religious and educational institution has occurred like the growth of a tree, governed by conditions of time and site. Today most of the buildings are in fair condition, although, the monastery windows need repair, and the main gate needs modification. Because expansion has gone on for so long there are examples of architecture from nearly every stage of the Visitation's growth especially the Early Republic / Federal style, the Early Classic Revival style and the Late Victorian / Italianate style. These buildings reflect not only the development of the convent and school, but also the development of Georgetown. Even though the original convent and school has been substantially altered in the process of expansion, alterations since the mid 20th century have mostly been conducted within the buildings so that the buildings' exterior appearances have not been compromised but have retained a high degree of their historic character and integrity.

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REFERENCE NOTES
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- [**1] Letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Threlkeld, Washington, March 26, 1807. Georgetown Visitation archive.
- [**2] Sister Mada Anne Gell archivist, Georgetown Visitation Building Data Jan. 10, 1990. p.1.
- [**3] Ibid., p.1.
- [**4] Eleanore C. Sullivan, Georgetown Visitation Since 1799 Baltimore MD.: French-Bray Printing Company, 1975, p. 71.
- [**5] Sister Mada Anne Gell, p.1.
- [**6] Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Selections, number 6. Issued by The Commission of Fine Arts. "Georgetown Architecture - Northwest" Georgetown Visitation Convent", Prepared by Walter G. Peter, Jr. AIA Architect, March 18, 1969. p. 400-404 (p. 17 - 21.)
- [**7] Sister Mada Anne Gell, p.1.
- [**8] Rev. Laurence J. Kelly, S.J. History of Holy Trinity Parish Washington, D.C. Baltimore MD. The John D. Lucas Printing Co. 1945. p. 81.
- [**9] Sister Mada Anne Gell, p. 1.
- [**10] Ibid., p.1.
- [**11] Ibid., p.1.
- [**12] Ibid., p.1.
- [**13] Historic American Building Survey, HABS. N° DC- 211, Georgetown Visitation Convent. Prepared by Walter G. Peter, Jr. AIA Architect March 19. 1969. p. 1. and p. 9-12.
- [**14] Sullivan, p. 142.
- [**15] Ibid., p. 143.
- [**16] HABS, N° DC- 211, p. 13., 14.
- [**17] Sullivan, p. 142.

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Georgetown convent. He directed the founding of the institution. Father Cloriviere, the convent's next spiritual guide after Neale, improved the status of the school in its early days. These men were instrumental in the establishment and continuance of the Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School.

The diverse *architecture* of the Georgetown Visitation Convent and Preparatory School reflects 19th century historical styles common to Georgetown. Most of Georgetown Visitation's historic buildings are clustered in the southeast corner of the 22.4 acre property along 35th Street between P Street and Volta Place. Along 35th Street, most visible to the public are three buildings which easily identify the Georgetown Visitation. At the corner of P Street is the 1857 Early Republic/ Federal style monastery building. North of the monastery is the chapel, an Early Republic/Early Classic Revival design built in 1821. The chapel until 1832 served both the sisters and the people of Georgetown as the Church of the Sacred Heart. The largest and most obvious building on the site is the main academy building just north of the chapel at the intersection of 35th Street and Volta Street. This grand Late Victorian/Italianate building is the dominant architectural feature of the school. Other significant buildings in the historic cluster include the west academy building, dormitory and infirmary, all brick Postmedieval English/ Southern Colonial designs. which forms a continuous facade along the northern side of the cluster, at former Volta Place. A portion of the infirmary dates from 1819 and is the oldest existing structure constructed for the purposes of the Georgetown Visitation; that portion was the original benevolent school building. These and other contributing buildings give the Georgetown Visitation its unique historic architectural significance.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXT

1. HISTORIC PERSONS AND EVENTS

• John Carroll and Catholicism in Georgetown

During the latter decades of the 18th century Georgetown was the site for the founding of several Catholic institutions. In 1783, with the signing of the peace treaty between the United States and Britain, Catholics in America were guaranteed the right of religious tolerance. Previously they had been unable to vote or hold

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office, even in the Catholic chartered colony of Maryland. Exercising their new freedoms, Catholic officials, led by Father John Carroll (1741-1815), decided in 1786 to create an institution for higher education. Four years later land was purchased in Georgetown and the college opened in 1791. In 1795, now Bishop for America, Carroll formed the Parish of Holy Trinity to serve the Catholic community of Georgetown.

Not only interested in establishing Catholic institutions for men, John Carroll also hoped to encourage religious women in the United States. [**2] Writing to several colleagues in Europe Carroll asked if there were any sisters who would like to come and settle down in America. Because there was no place for their training in the United States, since the time of colonization affluent Catholic families had been sending their daughters to be educated in Europe. In 1790 the first group of religious women, Carmelite sisters from Antwerp, arrived in the United States and set up a monastery in Port Tobacco, Maryland. In addition to the introduction of religious women, Carroll also hoped to institute Catholic female education in America. [**3] He was disappointed to find that the Carmelites were not interested in modifying their rules to include the instruction of young girls. The second group of religious women come to America were known as the Poor Clare Sisters for the austerity imposed by their order. They left France in 1793 fleeing persecution following the French revolution. In 1798 they were attracted to Georgetown by the college's third president, a Frenchman, Father William DuBoug. To support themselves the Poor Clares opened and attempted to establish a school for girls. [**4] The next year they moved into a house on what is now the corner of 35th and P Streets, site of the present Visitation Convent and Preparatory School.

• Leonard Neale, the "Three Pious Ladies" and the founding of the convent and girl's school in Georgetown. (1799)

Crucial to the survival of the girls' school started in Georgetown by the Poor Clares was the meeting of three women and later, their relationship to Father Leonard Neale (1747-1817). Miss Alice Lalor, Mrs. Mary McDermott, and Mrs. Maria Sharpe had a common desire to enter the religious life. These "Three Pious Ladies" made the acquaintance of Father Neale who was serving in Philadelphia as pastor of St. Mary's Church. He became their spiritual director.

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At the end of 1798 Bishop Carroll called Father Neale, who was soon to be approved as bishop coadjutor, to Georgetown to succeed Father DuBourg as president of the college. Neale arrived early in 1799 and shortly thereafter sent for the "Three Pious Ladies" to join him in Georgetown. He arranged for them to live near to the college in the house of the Poor Clares. Not yet affiliated with any specific religious order, the "Three Pious Ladies" structured their lives around devotion to God and education. The school begun by the Poor Clares was not succeeding. It seems prospective students were dissuaded by the rigorous life of the Poor Clares who did not wear shoes, sleep on beds or eat meat. [**5] What's more, though of noble birth and highly educated, the Poor Clares spoke little English. The "Three Pious Ladies", Lalor, McDermott and Sharpe were anxious to begin teaching. They started out by working in cooperation with the Poor Clares, the two groups initially sharing the facilities of the Poor Clares' house on 35th and P Streets. In 1800 Father Neale purchased the house on 35th Street next door to the Poor Clares' house. The "Pious Ladies" lived in this house but continued to share the school and chapel facilities of the Poor Clares' house.

The Poor Clares were never fully committed to living and teaching in Georgetown, they had only come there to escape religious persecution in Europe. In 1804 with the death of the Superior the remaining two women decided to return to France. Father Neale purchased the Poor Clares' house for the use of the "Pious Ladies" in running their school and convent. Since 1801 new members had slowly been joining the community of the "Pious Ladies" so that by 1808 there were ten women leading a religious life and teaching school. In 1808 Neale turned over to the women of the Georgetown convent all the previously acquired property "with a view of securing the aforesaid Community a suitable and sufficiently extensive plat of ground to perfect its establishment and to carry into effect the aforesaid system and plan of education...." [**6] The establishment of the Georgetown convent and school, then called the Georgetown Academy for Young Ladies, was secure and complete. This was a welcome event for many Catholics in America, for as Leonard Neale wrote in a letter of 1817, "The total want of such schools, as were calculated to impart to the female youth of this country, both the accomplishments suited to their respective stations in life, and also Christian principles and sound piety, has long been viewed by pious parents, with great anxiety and perplexity of mind." [**7]

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Washington, D.C.Section number 8 Page 5• Social responsiveness to the community: founding of the Benevolent School

Although the dates of origin are unclear, not long after establishing the Georgetown Academy for Young Ladies the women of the Georgetown convent began also a free school for poor and orphaned children. [**8] The two schools were entirely separate. While the Georgetown Academy for Young Ladies was a boarding school for girls from affluent families all over the country, the original function of the benevolent school was to feed, clothe and provide warmth and shelter for underprivileged children in the neighborhood. Boys and girls could come to the benevolent school during the day and receive a basic education and training in manual and domestic work skills. In a letter of 1818 to a Visitation monastery in England women of the Georgetown Visitation wrote, "(the orphans) are clothed by our own manufactory, maintained and educated sufficient for their station." [**9] They wrote to Visitation sisters in Paris saying that the orphans were "educated sufficient for honest industry." [**10] The school grew and was eventually developed into a full time parochial day school offering a standard elementary education. In 1843 sisters of the convent purchased a new building for the benevolent school which was by then called Saint Joseph's Benevolent School. The Visitation school of Saint Joseph's continued to serve the community of Georgetown until it was absorbed by Holy Trinity Parochial School in 1918.

• Establishment of the first Order of the Visitation in America for the convent in Georgetown. [1816]

The women of the Georgetown convent now had their own buildings and property for their school and convent but they were still unaffiliated with any proper religious order. With Neale as their spiritual leader they had been practicing their devotion to God based on the Rule of Saint Ignatius which Neale had adapted for their circumstances. [**11] Throughout the day there were specific times for meditation, prayer, services and other religious activities. For the women of the convent this was not enough. They, along with Carroll and Neale, desired a stricter religious organization. In 1802 Bishop Carroll wrote to a Jesuit colleague, Father Paccanari, who was the founder of the Society of the Faith of Jesus. Carroll explained that he knew of several women "...all ready and filled with great desire of embracing the rule of the Society of the Faith of Jesus...." [**12] Neither this attempt, nor another made with a Jesuit priest in Ireland resulted in any assistance. Carroll proposed options

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that the Georgetown women join the Carmelite Order in Port Tobacco, or a group of Ursuline nuns a wealthy Baltimore woman volunteered to bring over from Ireland, or a new order being formed based on the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. The women in Georgetown were unsatisfied with all these suggestions for they had already established a routine in their devotion to God, teaching and service to the community. They sought an order which would embrace their attitudes towards these activities. [**13]

Leonard Neale's brother, Father Francis Neale who was pastor of Holy Trinity Church received the Poor Clares' Library. Among the books was a copy of the Rule of the Order of the Visitation. Leonard Neale obtained this book and translating the Rule from French began to instruct the women of its ways. [**14] The Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary was founded in France in 1610 by Saint Jane de Chantal and Saint Francis de Sales. The order was envisioned as one where sisters would work among the sick and poor of the community. It was expected that Visitation sisters would practice enclosure, but that did not prohibit many of the Visitation Houses from running boarding schools. The Order of the Visitation seemed perfectly suited to the women of the Georgetown convent.

Unfortunately it was many years before the women were able to gain formal acceptance into their chosen order. During the Reign of Terror in France most religious organizations were forcibly dissolved and with many of their members deported or in hiding had difficulty reforming. The Napoleonic Wars following the upheaval of the French Revolution went on for nearly 25 years making communication between Europe and America difficult. To make religious matters even more difficult to conduct, in 1809 Napoleon brought Pope Pious VII to France and held him captive at Fontainebleau until 1814. Bishop Neale received offers from two European Visitation houses to send sisters with books and ornaments for a church to introduce the American women into the order but the wars and other complications prevented those sisters from coming.

In 1816, at Archbishop Carroll's suggestion, the women took simple vows. After a novitiate of fifteen years Alice Lalor became Mother Teresa Josephine Lalor and Maria McDermott became Sister Mary Frances McDermott. John Carroll died in 1815 and Leonard Neale succeeded him as archbishop. In writing to Pope Pious VII, recently reinstated in the Vatican, Neale communicated his new position and also requested papal approval of the Order of the Visitation for the women under his supervision in Georgetown. The response was prompt and on July 14, 1816

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permission to join the Order of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary was granted.[** 15] Six months later the first group of sisters took their solemn vows.

In 1817, very soon after the first group of women became sisters of the Visitation, Leonard Neale died. His death marked the end of the first significant period for the Georgetown Visitation. From 1799-1817 Neale was instrumental in getting the convent and two schools established in Georgetown, he brought the women together and provided them with buildings and land for the institution they wanted to run. He was also the one who secured for the women of the Georgetown convent the Order of the Visitation. For that Leonard Neale is considered the founder of the Georgetown Visitation.

• Joseph Picot de Cloriviere Improves the School's Stature 1819-1826

The second significant period for the Georgetown Visitation involved a restructuring and improvement of the school. This period was initiated by the work of Father Joseph Picot de Cloriviere (1768-1826). He was formerly called Josef Pierre Picot de Limoelan. A French nobleman and Royalist who came to America in 1802 after the failure of a plot he was involved in to assassinate Napoleon. Cloriviere entered the priesthood in Baltimore, in 1812, when he was 44 years old. Archbishop Neale before his death in 1817 invited Father Cloriviere to become the chaplain at the Convent of the Visitation in Georgetown. Cloriviere accepted the position and immediately set to work at strengthening the school's academic curriculum. Previously all energy devoted to the convent and school had revolved around assuring that it would come into existence. Now that the Visitation had a firmly established position in Georgetown, Cloriviere saw that it was time to increase and improve that position. Little attention had been given to the organization of the school. In 1820 it seems that there were only 16 paying students enrolled. For the school to survive, something had to be done to attract more students. In the early days, because there were so few of them, most of the sisters taught school, regardless of their aptitude. One of Cloriviere's first actions was to provide for the specific training of selected sisters as teachers. He was aided in this task by the recently arrived Sister Mary Austin Barber, a former New England school teacher. Cloriviere developed a well balanced curriculum, influenced by the French academic system, which expanded the school's offering of courses. These measures were proof that education was to be taken seriously at the Georgetown Visitation. By 1826, the year

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Cloriviere died, there were at least 48 students enrolled in the Visitation academy.
[**16]

To go along with his internal improvements, Cloriviere also attended to the condition of the Visitation buildings. In 1820 he designed the chapel which is still used today. Consecrated on November 1, 1821, the chapel was initially opened to the public, serving the convent, school and neighborhood alike. In 1824 Cloriviere undertook another building project which was the construction of the "new" academy building (demolished in 1872). It was necessary for Cloriviere to contribute some of his own money to finance the operation, but he saw it as an important step for the development of the school. For his significant contribution to the growth of the school Father Cloriviere is considered a second founder of the Georgetown Visitation. [**17]

• Developments After 1826

The school continued to gain credibility after Cloriviere's death in 1826. President John Quincy Adams honored the Georgetown Visitation by delivering the 1828 commencement address and awarding scholastic prizes. In the same year Congress granted a Charter for the Visitation. At that time over 100 girls attended the Academy of the Visitation. [**18] Andrew Jackson was the second president to visit the girls' school. It is reported that one day in June of 1829 he stopped by and invited the sisters and students to visit him at the White House. Only the students could except the invitation. The pageantry of their excursion was documented in the *Richmond Enquirer*, "...the young ladies tastefully and uniformly dressed formed in line and, with their matrons heading the column and bringing up the rear, marched to the President's House..." [**19] Another president to visit the academy and award merit prizes at graduation was John Tyler, in 1841. Two years later President Tyler sent his daughter Pearl to the Visitation academy. Presidents Polk in 1845 and President Buchanan in 1860 presided over commencement ceremonies. [**20] President Zachary Taylor and President Ulysses Grant also visited the academy.

The academy was not the only institution of the Georgetown Visitation to prosper after 1826. The convent was enjoying success and popularity as well. The ranks of the convent in Georgetown had swelled to roughly 53 sisters by 1830. [**21] The convent's Superior at that time, Mother Madeline Augustin, was interested in

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establishing branches of the Order of the Visitation in other parts of America. At the request of Bishop Portier of Mobile, Alabama, Mother Madeline herself led five sisters to that city in 1832 to found a Visitation Academy for girls [**22]. The founding of the Mobile academy was not an easy task, but the Visitandines were undaunted. Following the example of Mobile, Georgetown Visitation established five more convents and schools before the Civil War: Kaskaskia, Illinois, 1833; Baltimore, 1837; Frederick, Maryland, 1846; downtown Washington at de Sales Street and Cantonsville, Maryland, both in 1852. Seven other autonomous Visitation Houses were established by the Georgetown House [**23]. There are at least 15 Houses of Visitation in America today [**24].

During the Civil War archbishop Kenrick hoped to prevent the war from disrupting the normal pattern of life at the Visitation. Tempering his advice by giving the Mother Superior "discretionary power during the crisis", he said in a letter of April, 1861, "I do not think that you should offer your buildings for the quarters of the troops....It cannot be expected that you will supply them with provisions..." He goes on to warn the sisters not to let the nation's conflict enter into convent affairs, "I dislike your keeping your doors open till a late hour to gather news. The less you hear the better....Be cautious not to take sides in the politics which divide the country, but pray for peace..." [**25] Troops were garrisoned at neighboring Georgetown College and later the colleges facilities were requested for greatly needed hospital space. The Visitation escaped this infringement less by the urgings of Archbishop Kenrick than by the authority of General Scott, Chief of Staff for the Army. Scott's daughter had entered the Convent of the Visitation and shortly thereafter, died. Because she is buried in the sisters' cemetery Scott felt it would be a desecration to have troops quartered there. [**26]

The years between 1918 and 1975 saw many changes in the educational programs offered by the Georgetown Visitation. 1918 was the year that the benevolent school of St. Joseph's ended its 99 year tradition at the Visitation and moved to join the parochial school of Holy Trinity, also in Georgetown. As if in compensation for the closure of St. Joseph's, another academic institution was opened at the Visitation in 1918, a two-year junior college. In 1928 the seventh and eighth grades of the academy were discontinued. Concentration was focused on the high school and junior college. In the 1960's enrollment in the junior college declined forcing its closure in 1964. The high school, however, which stopped taking boarders in 1975, has continued to thrive. In the late 20th century there has been a decrease in the

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religious community. Sisters of the Visitation have taken on lay women and men as teachers who "have brought a high level of professional competence as well as a beautiful spirit of loyalty to Georgetown Visitation." [**27]

In spite of the changes in religious attitudes brought about by 20th century society, women in the convent of the Georgetown Visitation, under the guidance of their superior, Mother de Sales Mc Nabb, are still able to lead the private and quiet way of life envisioned by the "Three Pious Ladies" at the end of the 18th century. The Visitation school, however, under the direction of Sister Mary Berchmans Hannan President and Mr. Daniel Kerns Headmaster, has kept pace with the demands of contemporary society. The school's academic and athletic curriculum meets needs of high school students today without compromising the Visitation's nearly 200 year old tradition of education. Sister Mada Anne Gell archivist of the Visitation and one of the school's teachers, ensures the continuance of that tradition through her research and protection of the past.

2. HISTORY OF THE BUILDINGS

Henry Threlkeld and later his son, John Threlkeld owned much of the land and a considerable number of houses in the northwest section of Georgetown. Most of the Visitation land came from the Threlkeld's plantation, Burleith which was settled before the 1751 founding of Georgetown.

- Corner Threlkeld House and Threlkeld/Jones House (1798-1857) Demolished.

The two houses which once stood on Fayette Street at the corner of Third Streets were the first buildings to be associated with what eventually became the Georgetown Visitation. (The Streets were renamed around 1895 and now called 35th and P Streets respectively.) In 1798 three sisters of the Order of Saint Clare, known as the Poor Clares, rented the house on the corner of Fayette and Third Streets from John Threlkeld. (from here on called, the *corner Threlkeld house*.) The Poor Clares soon opened a school called the Georgetown Academy for Young Ladies. The following year, 1799, Leonard Neale gathered the "Three Pious Ladies" in Georgetown. In 1800 the Poor Clares purchased this house. In the same year Leonard Neale purchased the house just north of the corner Threlkeld house for the "Pious Ladies" to live in. This house was purchased from Anthony Jones who had bought it from John Threlkeld

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in 1797 (from here on called, the *Threlkeld/Jones house*.) In 1808 Neale deeded the house and other property he had acquired to the "Pious Ladies". [**2]

- Priest's House (1806-1872) Demolished.

This house stood on Fayette Street just north of the chapel which was not then built. When Leonard Neale retired as president of Georgetown College in 1806 he moved into this house on the academy grounds. [**29] The house was demolished in 1872 for the construction of the main academy building.

- First Academy Building (c. 1819-1923) Demolished.

Very little is known about the first academy building, except that it may have stood on the present site of Fennessy Hall which was located on the east side of 36th Street, or Lingan Street as it was then called. 36th Street has since been closed off between P Street and Reservoir Road. [**30] Most likely the building was purchased by the women of the Georgetown convent and school, or by Leonard Neale and not constructed for the purpose of housing the Georgetown Academy.

- The Benevolent School Building /present Infirmary Building (1819) #1

This the oldest building still standing which was constructed specifically for the purposes of the Georgetown Visitation on the southwest corner of former Volta Place and former Lingan Street intersection. Both Streets are now closed. It was built in 1819 to house the benevolent school which sisters of the Visitation operated for poor children in the neighborhood. [**31] In 1843 the benevolent school was relocated to the St. Joseph's Benevolent school (presently known as Lalor House building.) From 1843-1861 the building was probably used for the little girls' boarding student class area. It was enlarged to its present size in 1860 and was used as the school's infirmary which it still used for today.

- Chapel of the Sacred Heart (1821) #2

The chapel is on 35th Street, about half-way between P Street and Volta Place. It was designed by Father Cloriviere and consecrated in 1821. [**32] Originally the chapel was two stories high. Adjacent to the south side of the chapel is the bell tower which was constructed shortly after the chapel. Initially the front and rear facades of the

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tower were visible from base to steeple-top. In 1857 a third story was added to the chapel when the east wing of the monastery was extended to enclose all but the belfry and steeple of the tower. In the early years the chapel was open to the public. Citizens of Georgetown entered the chapel, then called the Church of the Sacred Heart, through its door on 35th Street. The sisters attended services in a choir which opened into the chapel at the north end of the east wing of the monastery buildings. In that time the sisters were concealed behind a wooden screen which divided the chapel from the choir.

- "New" Academy Building (1824-1872) Demolished.

This building was located on the southwest corner of Fayette and Fourth Streets (presently called 35th and Volta place.) It was designed by Father Cloriviere in 1824 to meet the need for more classroom space. [**33] Libby and Marden were the builders. [**34] The "new" academy building, so called because it was constructed after the first academy building. It was used until 1872 when it was demolished to make way for a larger and more elaborate academy building, called the main academy building.

- Dormitory (1828) #3

The dormitory was built in 1828 to the east of the benevolent school by Belt and Mahorney. [**35] It was built on former Forth Street, later renamed Volta Place, which later became the Visitation grounds. Originally this brick building was free standing but is now flanked by the infirmary and the west academy building. Because there are no longer any boarders at the school this building is no longer used as a dormitory but contains classrooms and teachers' offices.

- Monastery, East Wing (1832) #7

The monastery east wing, located on Fayette Street (presently 35th Street) was built in 1832 between the chapel and the "corner" Threlkeld house (corner of Fayette and Third) as a three story structure enclosing within its walls the bell tower. The Threlkeld/Jones house which stood north of the "corner" Threlkeld house, was probably demolished at 1832 for the monastery construction. Ignatius Boarman was responsible for that building project. Prior to construction of this monastery, sisters of the Visitation lived in either one of the two Threlkeld houses which were not particularly suited to secluded convent life. In 1857 a fourth story was added to the

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monastery east wing, by the architect Richard Pettit and builder Evans. [**36] At this time the chapel was also raised and a south wing of the monastery was built to replace the corner Threlkeld house. The front facade of the east wing on Fayette Street was unified with the new fourth floor of the east wing and with the eastern part of the new south wing. The east and south wings of the monastery are separated from the school buildings and used exclusively by the sisters of the Visitation, for their religious activities, official business and private lives. Entrance to the monastery by the public is not permitted by the Canon Law of the Catholic church.

- Meat House / present Monastery Annex (1836) #5

This small building is located at the west end of the monastery south wing on P Street. It was built in 1836's and originally was constructed for a meat house. It was built by Mr. Mahorney in 1836[**37] Later it was used for mentally ill sisters and called *crazy house*. Presently it is not in use.

- West Academy Building (1838) #6

By 1838 the academy needed more space. The solution was to build another classroom building east of the dormitory and west of the "new" academy building on Fourth Street, later renamed Volta Place. Architect Richard Pettit was retained again to design it and Mr Mahorney to build it.[**38] It was constructed in 1824. The "new" academy building was demolished in 1872 and replaced by the main academy building. This west academy building, is still standing, now facing the driveway since Volta Place was cut off at 35th Street,

- Saint Joseph's Benevolent School / present Lalor House (pre 1843) #4

The building was purchased by the Visitation sisters in 1843 from Adam Robb and Robert Duvall [**39] to become the new home for the benevolent school, and it was named St. Joseph's Benevolent School. It was a two story building on all sides at that time but by 1860 35th Street had been raised so that only the upper story opens to the street side.[**40] The benevolent school remained in the building for seventy four years until 1918 when Holy Trinity opened its parish school and there was no further need for such an institution. At that time the building was renamed for Lalor House in memory of Alice Lalor one of the "Three Pious Ladies". The building has since served as a college dormitory, office space and storage area. Recently in need of

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extra space for their convent, the sisters of Saint Joseph's leased and renovated Lalor House. Six or seven of those sisters now live there.

- Monastery, South Wing (1857) #8

The monastery south wing was built in 1857 on Third and Fayette Streets (presently called P and 35th Street.) On 35th Street the north side of this building abuts the south end of the monastery east wing. The corner Threlkeld house was demolished for the 1857 construction of the monastery south wing. This building, designed by architect Richard Pettit, and built by Evans [**41], satisfied the Visitation sisters' need for more living space. It is still used for that purpose today. Entrance to the monastery by the public is not permitted by the Canon Law of the Catholic church.

- Main Academy Building (1872) #9

This building was built in 1872 at Fayette Street and Volta Place intersection southwest corner. (presently 35th Street and Volta Place.) The main academy building sits on the former sites of the priest's house and the 1824 "new" academy building which were both demolished for its construction in 1872. Norris Starkweather was the architect. [**42] This building greatly enlarged the schools capabilities by creating more classroom and office spaces as well an auditorium, called odeon. It also gave the school a dominant architectural identity that is still valid today. For security reasons the entrance on 35th Street is now closed, but planned to be reopened. The present entrance is on the building's north facade.

- Wash-House / present Senior Lodge (1891) #10

This building stands west of Fennessy Hall along the southwest corner of former Langan Street, (later called 36th Street) and former Volta Place intersection. It was constructed in 1891 by Tennant and McCartney [**43] to serve as a laundry for the convent and boarding school. In 1955 the interior of this building was renovated for use as a senior recreation center, called the senior lodge. That is the function of this building today.

- Fennessy Hall (1923) #11

It is located south of the infirmary and at the west end of the academy quadrangle. It is thought that this building stands on the former site of the first academy building.

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In 1921 Mr. J. H. Fennessy donated money to the Visitation toward the construction of an infirmary in honor of his wife May Seep Fennessy. The proposed building was designed by Sisters Stanislaus and Benedicta and constructed in 1923, primarily by Mr. Joseph Lowe, the Visitation superintendent. The building, however, was inefficient and never used as an infirmary. [**44] During the years of the junior college (1918-1964) Fennessy Hall was used as a dormitory. Today it is used for classrooms and offices.

- Gymnasium (1934) #12

The gymnasium is situated at the extension line of 36th Street just north of the former Volta Place intersection. Designed by Temple Hoyne Buell Architect and Joseph A. Parks Associate Architect. Constructed in 1934 by the Lipscomb Company [**45]. This building is the result of an eleven-year fund raising effort by the Visitation Alumnae Association. Initial plans included a swimming pool and a larger site but were trimmed back due to the stock market crash.

- "Cabin" (late 18th century) #13

The cabin located on the northwest section of the Visitation property just north of the tennis courts is considered to have been a part of the Threlkeld plantation, Burleith. [**46] The building dating from the late 18th century was probably an over-seer's cottage or a kitchen for the plantation house is not a slave's cabin as it is sometimes called. . The numerous repairs and alterations were done on the building over the past century have not adhered to the building's original design. The fireplace addition is relatively new. For the most part it is a 20th century structure which refers back to an earlier time. Now it is unoccupied and occasionally used for school functions.

C. CONCLUSION.

Georgetown Visitation is a significant historic place because of the historic events that took place on its grounds, the historic people associated with and because of the diversity of the distinctive architecture it represents. The activities that took place at Visitation significantly influenced American religion, education, architecture and social history. Even though the institution has expanded and has undergone substantial alterations, its architecture has not been compromised but has retained a degree of historic character and integrity.

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REFERENCE NOTES
(section 8)

- [**1] According to Sister Mada Anne Gell archivist of Georgetown Visitation, HABS p. 382 is incorrectly credits Visitation as "the first Chatolic school for girls in the United States." This credit should go to the Ursuline Academy in New Orleans in 1727.
- [**2] Eleanore C. Sullivan, Georgetown Visitation Since 1799, Baltimore: French-Bray Printing Company, 1975, p. 47.
- [**3] Ibid., p. 48.
- [**4] Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Selections, number 6. Issued by The Commission of Fine Arts. "Georgetown Architecture - Northwest" Georgetown Visitation Convent", Prepared by Walter G. Peter, Jr. AIA Architect, March 18. 1969. p. 383.
- [**5] Debra Richter, "The History of Georgetown Visitation", The Georgetowneer, October 29-November 11, 1982, p. 26.
- [**6] Sullivan, p. 51.
- [**7] "Copy of the Letter from the Most Reverend Archbishop Neale to Annecy, concerning the origin and establishment of the Monastery of Georgetown, District of Columbia", March 6, 1817, Georgetown Visitation Archive, p. 1.
- [**8] Sullivan, p. 63.
- [**9] Ibid., p. 63. [**10] Ibid., p. 90. [**11] Ibid., p. 50.
- [**12] Ibid., p. 52. [**13] Ibid., p. 51. [**14] Ibid.
- [**15] Ibid., p. 53. [**16] Ibid., p. 73. [**17] Ibid.
- [**18] Georgetown Visitation and Rumph, Charles, photographer, The Spirit and the Place, Portrait of Georgetown visitation. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown Visitation. 1988, p. 18.
- [**19] Sullivan, p. 80.
- [**20] Ibid., p. 101. [**21] Ibid., p. 82. [**22] Ibid.
- [**23] Ibid., p. 86.
- [**24] Sister Mada Anne Gell archivist, List of existing Visitation Houses in America, December, 7, 1989. p. 1
- [**25] Sullivan, p. 103.
- [**26] Ibid., p. 104.

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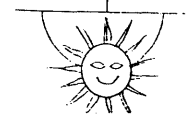
- [**27] Georgetown Visitation, The Spirit and the Place, p. 34.
- [**28] Sullivan, p. 49.
- [**29] Ibid., p. 51. [**30] Ibid., p. 71. [**31] Ibid., p. 89.,90.
- [**32] Ibid., p. 71. [**33] Ibid., p. 72.

- [**34] Sister Mada Anne Gell archivist, Georgetown Visitation Building Data, Jan. 10, 1990. p. 1.
- [**35] Ibid. [**36] Ibid. [**37] Ibid.
- [**38] Ibid.

- [**39] Sullivan, p. 99.
- [**40] Rev. Laurence J. Kelly, S.J. History of Holy Trinity Parish Washington, D.C. Baltimore MD.:The John D. Lucas Printing Co. 1945. p. 81.
- [**41] Sister Mada Anne Gell, building data, p. 1.
- [**42] Historic American Building Survey, HABS N° DC- 211, Georgetown Visitation Convent. Prepared by Walter G. Peter, Jr. AIA Architect March 19. 1969. p. 1. and p. 9-12.
- [**43] Sister Mada Anne Gell, building data, p. 1.
- [**44] Sullivan, p. 142.
- [**45] Ibid., 143.
- [**46] HABS number 6, p. 386 and p. 411- 414. (p.28-31.)

Subdivision
Lot: 202
Square: 1292

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LEGEND

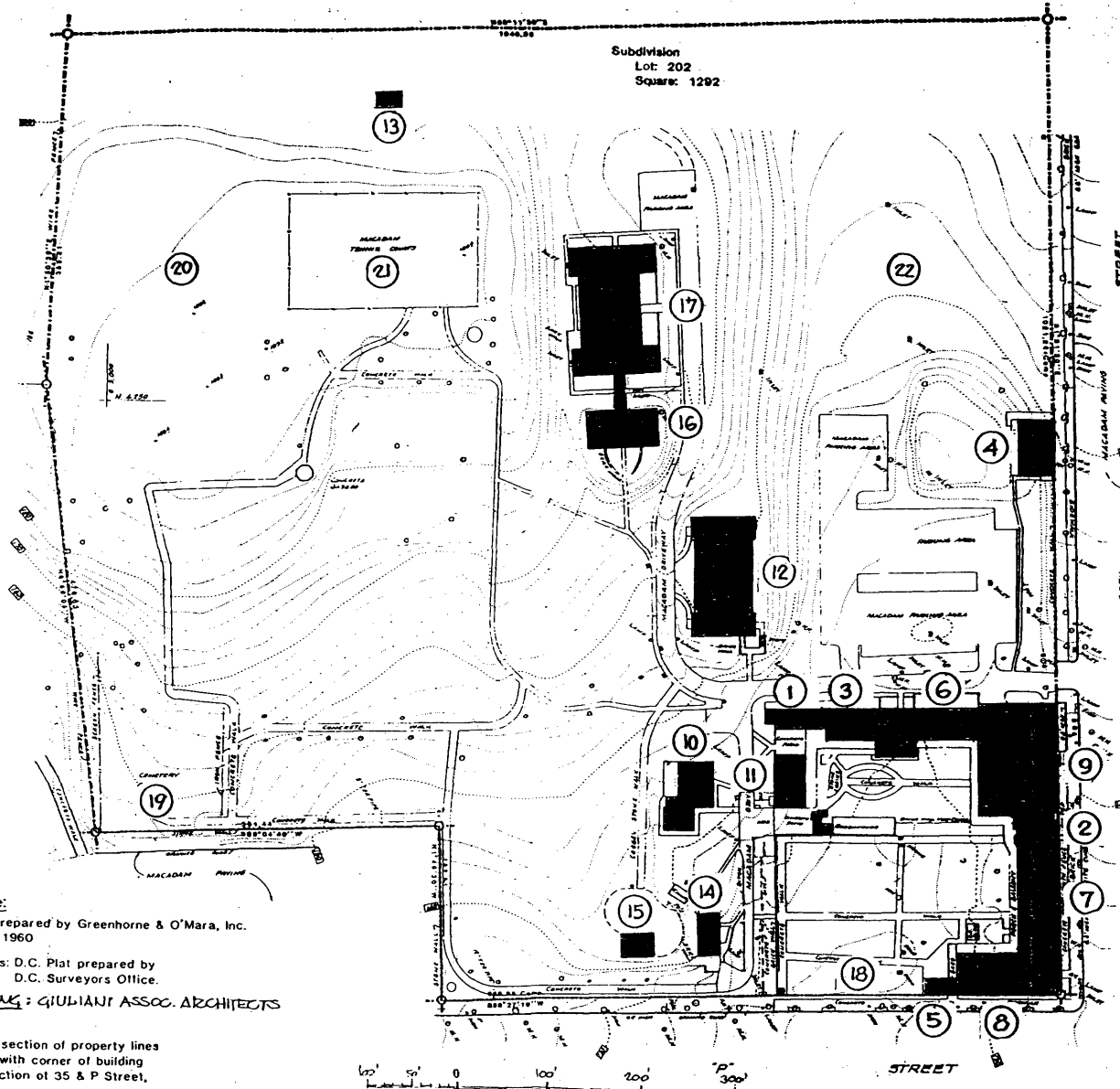
- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 Infirmary | 1819 |
| 2 Chapel | 1821 |
| 3 Dormitory | 1829 |
| 4 Lalor House | pre 1843 |
| 5 Monastery Annex | 1836 |
| 6 West Academy | 1838 |
| 7 Monastery East | 1832 |
| 8 Monastery South | 1857 |
| 9 Main Academy | 1872 |
| 10 Senior Lodge | 1891 |
| 11 Fennessy Hall | 1923 |
| 12 Gymnasium | 1932 |
| 13 Cabin | late 18th&20th century |
| 14 Carpentry Shop | late 19th&20th century |
| 15 Tractor shed | 1960 |
| 16 St. Bernard Library (former barn of 1895) | 1957 |
| 17 St. Joseph Hall | 1957 |
| 18 Garden Cemetery | 1841 |
| 19 New Cemetery | 1887 |
| 20 West Athletic Field | 20th cent. |
| 21 Tennis Courts (4) | 20th cent. |
| 22 East Athletic Field | 20th cent. |

Data Source:
Site Survey: Prepared by Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
Dated January 1960
Metes & Bounds: D.C. Plat prepared by
D.C. Surveyors Office.

BASE DRAW: GIULIANI ASSOC. ARCHITECTS

Assumption:
Southeast intersection of property lines
is coincidental with corner of building
nearest intersection of 35 & P Street,
Northwest.

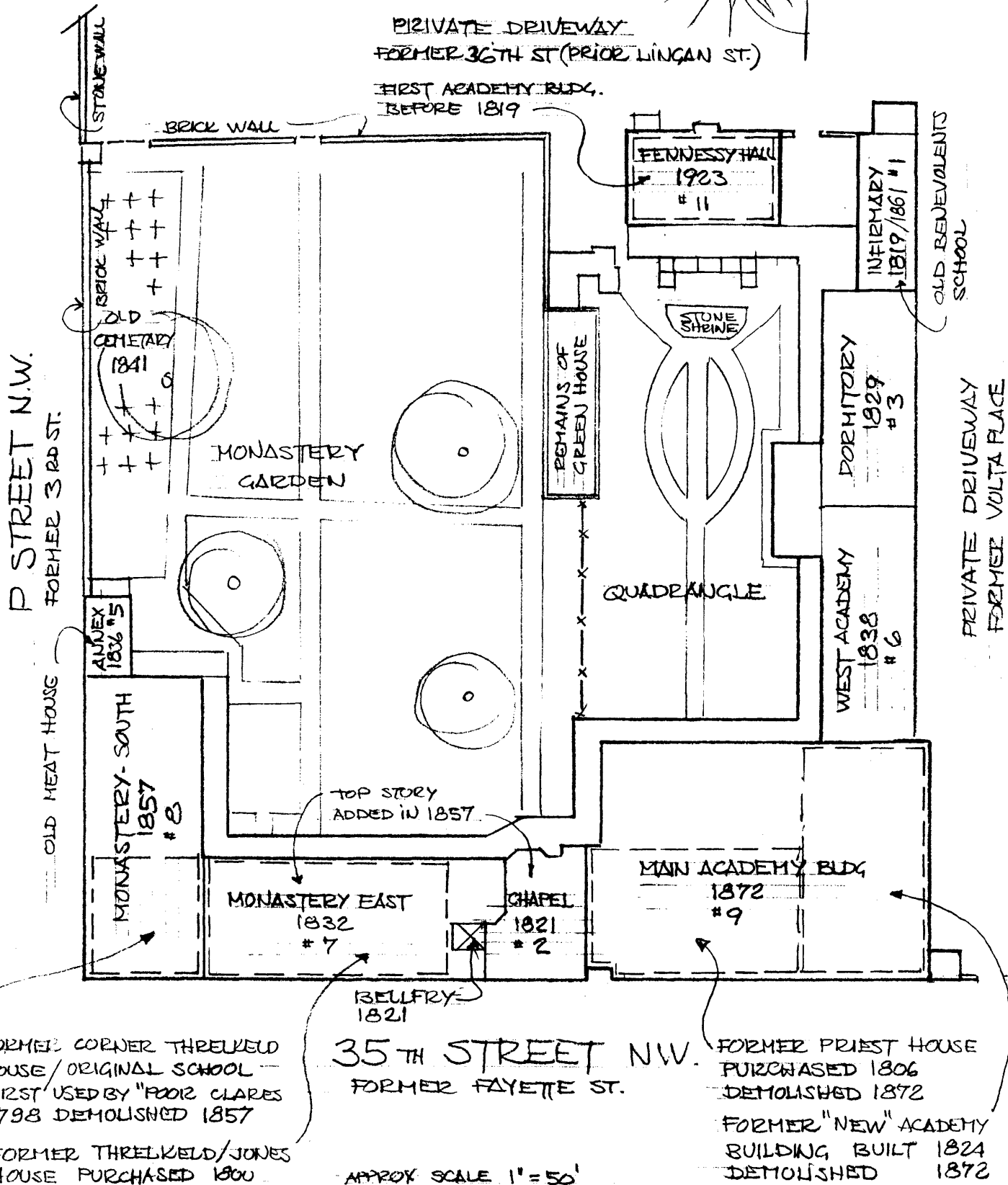
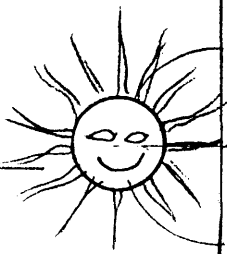
BUILDING DATA: CHARLES SZORADI AIA



**Georgetown Visitation
Site Plan**
April 10, 1990

NOTE: THIS DWG IS BASED ON
GIULIANI ASSOCIATES SITE PLAN

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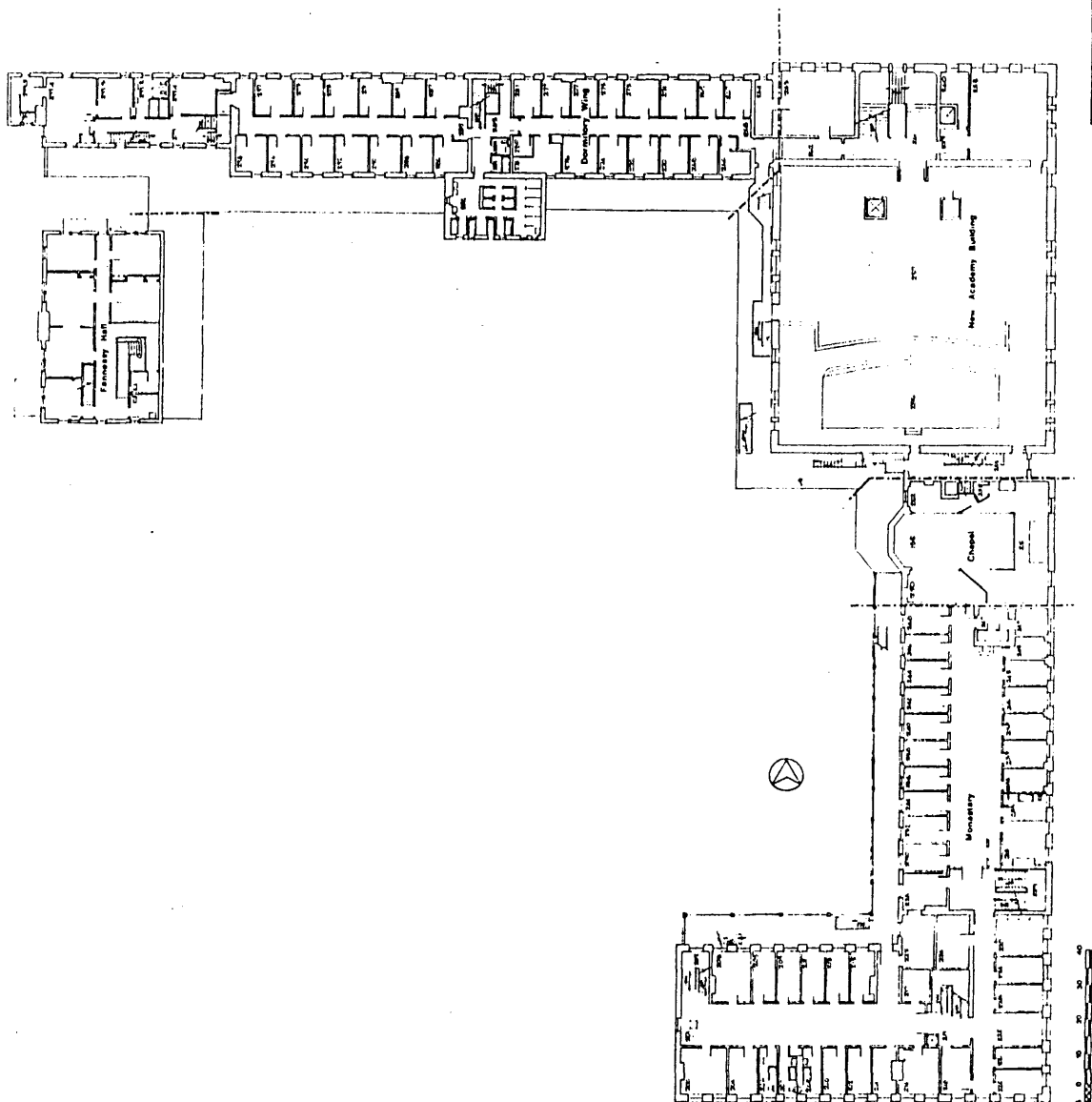


GEORGETOWN VISITATION CONVENT AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

1524 35 TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON DC.

BUILDINGS OF THE HISTORIC CORE

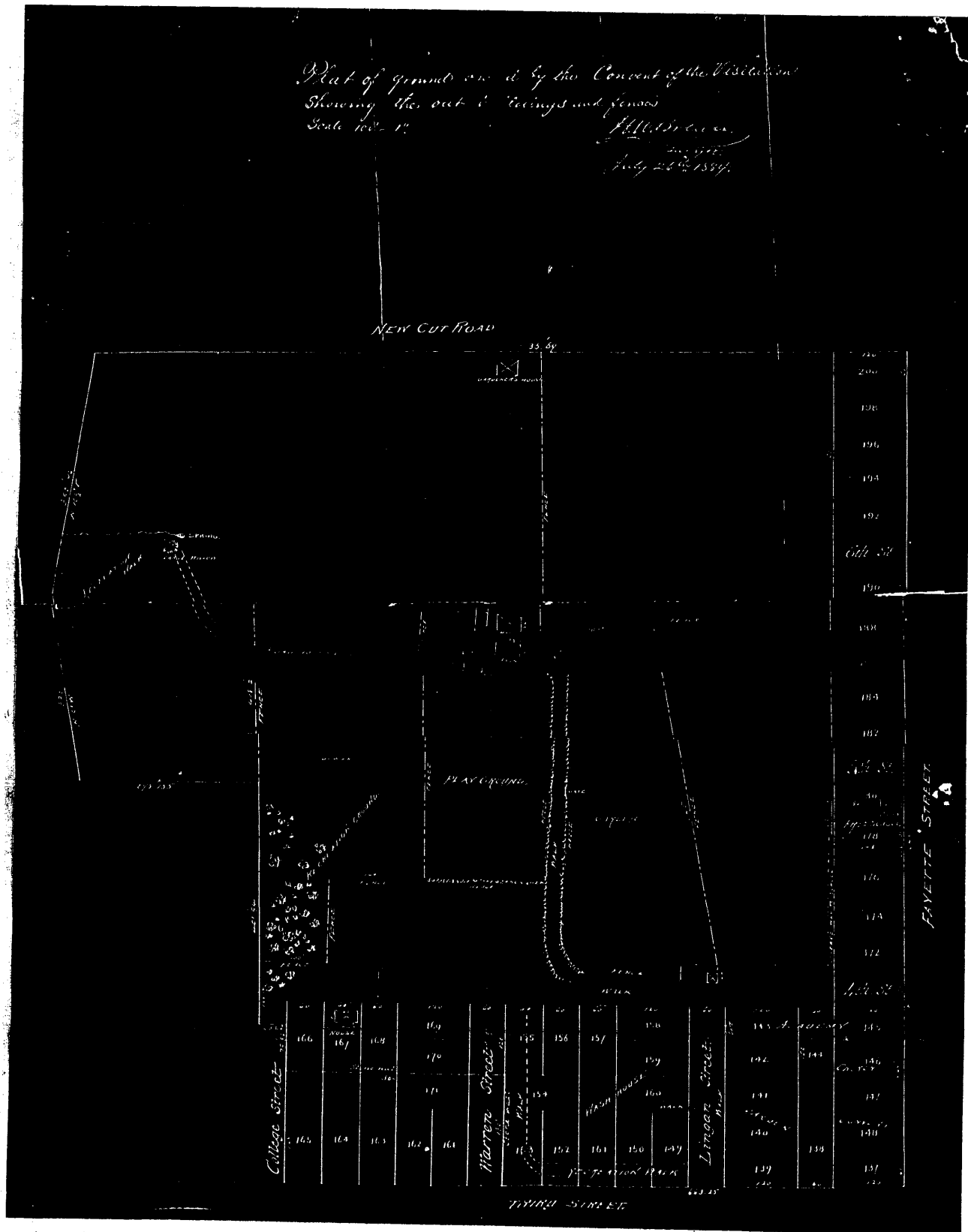
CHARLES SZORADIA ARCHITECT 3/5/1990



Date Issued Scale Drawn Project No.	Second Floor Plan	GEORGETOWN VISITATION SCHOOL 35 and P Streets, N.W. - Washington, D.C. Grubbard Associates Architects and Planners 1000 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036	3
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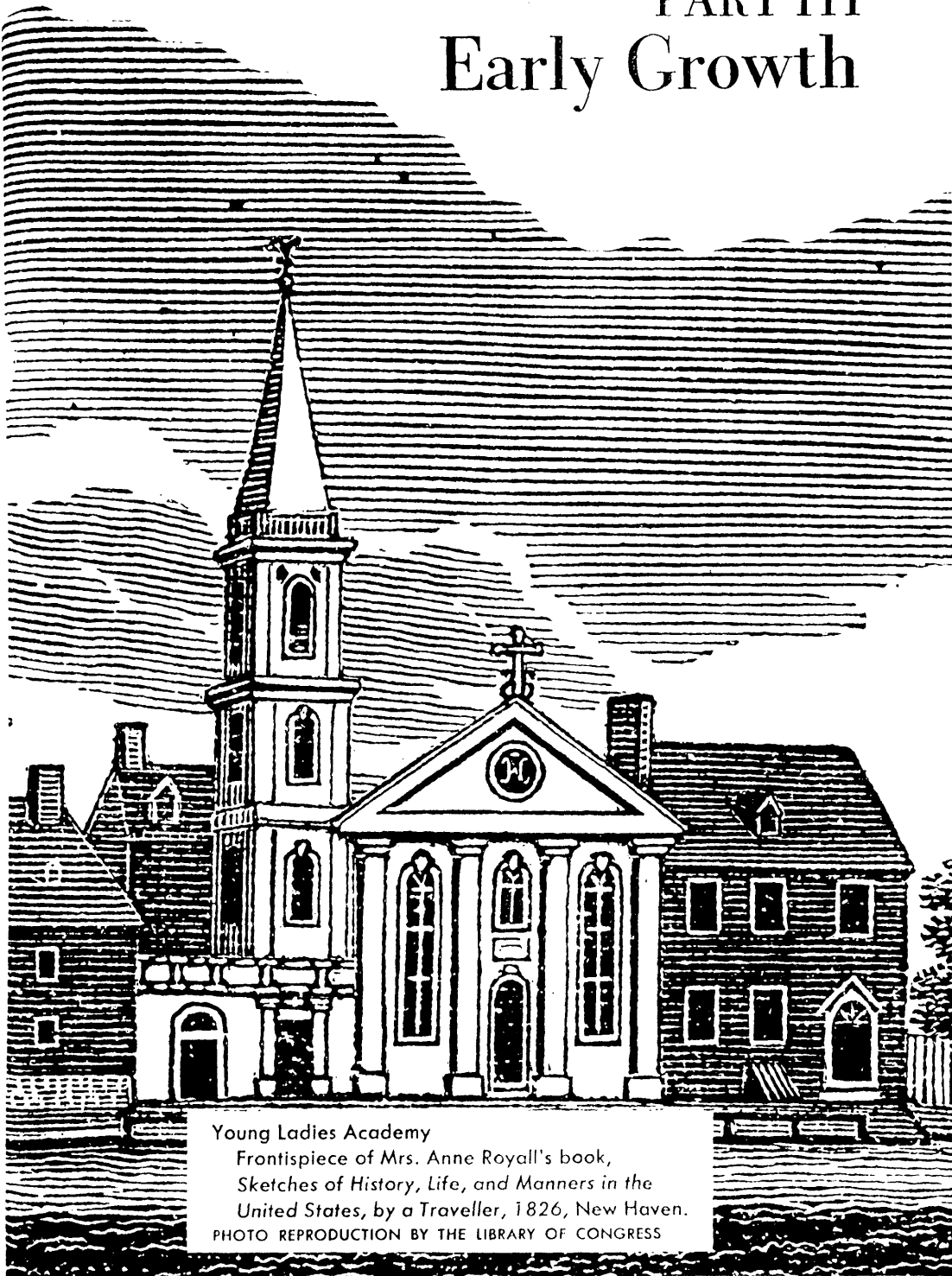
Plot of ground owned by the Convent of the Visitation
 Showing the out buildings and fences
 Scale 100' = 1"

H. H. Brown
 July 24th 1889



DEC 14

PART III Early Growth



Young Ladies Academy
Frontispiece of Mrs. Anne Royall's book,
*Sketches of History, Life, and Manners in the
United States, by a Traveller, 1826*, New Haven.
PHOTO REPRODUCTION BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

DEC 14

LA HERMANDA.

A Set of Favorite Spanish Waltzes.

Respectfully dedicated by Permission —

To the young Ladies of the Visitation

VISITATION OF GEORGETOWN, D.C.

and performed originally by the

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE.



COMPOSED BY

PEDRO A. DANA.

PUBLISHED BY HILBUS & HITZ.
MUSIC DEPOT.
Washington City D.C.

THE VIEW OF THE VISITATION OF GEORGETOWN ALONG FAYETTE STREET (35TH STREET)
PRIOR TO 1857

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Washington, D.C.

Sir

Washington Mar. 26 07.

I thank you for the kind offer of the trees mentioned in your letter of yesterday. The Peach Apricot which you saw at Haysburn's, was lost on the road: but I received with it from ~~that~~ the same time a supply of the stones of the same fruit, which are planted at Monticello, and from which I hope to raise some trees, tho' as yet I do not know their success. Should these fail I will avail myself of your kind offer the next fall or spring. The two peach trees you propose ^{will be} ~~are~~ very acceptable. ^{at the same time} I am endeavoring to make a collection of the choicest kinds of peaches for Monticello. presuming you are attached to the culture of trees, I take the liberty of sending you some Pecan nuts, which being of the last years growth received from New Orleans, will probably grow. They are a very fine nut, and succeed well in this climate. They require rich land. Between the two lobes of the ~~nut~~ kernel there is a thin pellicle, acuminous and a little bitter, which it is necessary to take out before eating the nut. Accept my salutations & assurances of respect.

Mr. Threlkeld

Th. Jefferson

REC 14 1899

RULES ^{FOR THE} YOUNG LADIES OF GEORGETOWN CONVENT.

....

1. Implicit obedience, respectful and polite deportment must be observed towards the Sisters, and lady-like conduct in their intercourse with one another.
2. All books brought to the Academy must be given to the Directress for inspection and approval. Violation of this rule will be followed by expulsion.
3. No notes letters or messages are to be sent out or received without the knowledge of the Directress. Any one failing in this rule will also incur the penalty of expulsion.
4. The young ladies are not allowed to keep pocket money; it must be deposited with the Directress.
5. They are forbidden to give or lend any article in their possession without permission.
6. Regular order and strict silence are to be observed when assembled in ranks for any purpose.
7. In class hours strict silence must be observed throughout the house; in the refectory, also, silence until permission is given to speak. Silence is required in the study hall, all the upper parts of the house, dormitories, passages adjoining, music and sleeping rooms, water-closets, and the passage leading to the Church, where they are not to be except when going to the parlor and class-rooms or passing to and from the chapel.
8. It is positively forbidden to carry eatables to any part of the house above the lower story.
9. No jewelry is to be worn with the exception of watch, plain ear-rings and pin. Everything else must be given to the Directress.
10. Those who have private rooms are not allowed to remain in them during the general recreations—that is, at noon, four o'clock and at night. At other times they have the privilege of being there when duty does not call them elsewhere, provided they conform to the rule of silence. A violation of this will subject the offender to the loss of her room.
11. Neatness and cleanliness are strictly required with regard to their person and everything connected with them, their rooms, desks in the study hall, places in the dormitory, etc.
12. The uniform for the season is the dress to be worn.
13. Those who remain out over the specified time will lose their ticket for conduct and forfeit the privilege of the next visit when the occasion presents itself.
14. At the close of school—quarter to twelve—all go directly to the study hall with their books, not stopping for any purpose.
15. In the hours of recreation all are required to be in the play-room, the garden or on the porches, unless permission be obtained to go elsewhere, and they are never allowed to walk with their arms around one another.
16. There is a general permission to go to the wardrobe at four o'clock; and to the infirmary, for those who need anything, at nine and twelve o'clock. At other times permission must be obtained to visit either place.
17. Those who have permission not to rise at the first bell must do so promptly at the prayer bell, and repair to the study hall at the second bell, where they will remain in silence until the end of Mass.
18. Those who practise during Mass must go directly to their number in the music-passage, and remain there until the breakfast bell.
19. All are to go to the farm when the Sisters think proper to spend the recreation there, and remain until the signal is given for returning.
20. It is required of all that one letter weekly should be written to parents. Should any necessity arise requiring a second, Wednesday, in writing-class, is the time for it. For this a special permission must be obtained.
21. The young ladies of the First and Senior Classes are allowed to study in their rooms. When not there they must be in the study hall.

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D. CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS.

The 14 contributing buildings located within the Georgetown Visitation property collectively reinforce the architectural and cultural significance of the entire resource. Representing a range of styles, materials, and craftsmanship, the contributing buildings establish an eclectic and unusual enclave. The various architectural treatments reflect the historical purpose and orientation of the Georgetown Visitation and, to varying degrees, convey notable interpretations of contemporary trends. Further, the 14 contributing buildings suggest the gradual evolution of an institution and, today, represents a remarkably intact and well-preserved property.

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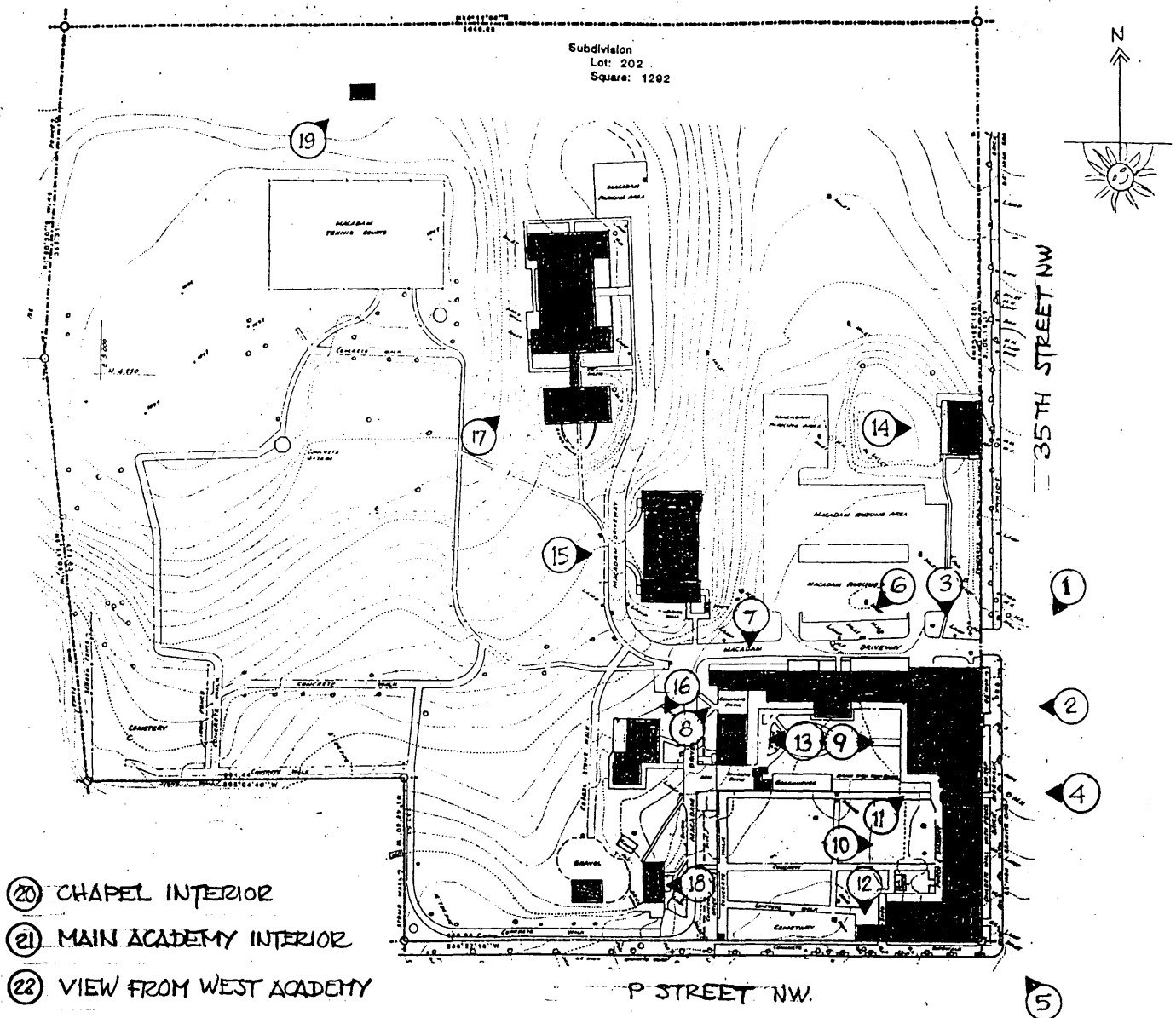


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