

37N 2E 11

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Larrabee House [preferred]

WH 183

AND/OR COMMON

Lairmont Manor, Mt. St. Mary's Novitiate

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

405 Fieldstone Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

\_\_VICINITY OF  
CODE

53

#2 - Hon. Lloyd Meeds

COUNTY

Whatcom

CODE

073

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lairmont Manor Trusteeship

STREET & NUMBER

405 Fieldstone Road

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

STATE

Washington

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Whatcom County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

STATE

Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Larrabee House is a formidable mansion of more than 25 rooms built in 1915 on what was then a secluded hill south of Bellingham, Washington. The site is a generous landscaped yard with a stand of fir trees behind it and a formal garden including hedges and a goldfish pond.

Measuring about 50 by 70 feet, the house is two and one half stories plus a full basement. Constructed on a concrete foundation the walls are structural clay tile faced with stucco and trimmed in brick and terra cotta.

The architectural style is slightly more imposing than graceful. It has a baronial grandeur achieved through the extravagant use of space and materials rather than consistent design artistry, although there are many fine eclectic details showing considerable craftsmanship.

On the exterior the building is an arrangement of rectangular attachments to a simple rectangular plan structure with a truncated hip roof. The roof, almost Mansard in effect, is surrounded and mostly obscured from view by a three foot brick parapet that continues flush with the wall above the cornice. This parapet includes a wide band of decorative terra cotta panels with low relief designs. There are several small 'Pala-dian' dormers, some without actual sidelights and one wide dormer with a shed roof.

A porte-cochere at one end constitutes the only formal entrance. Its roof is a balcony with a balustrade equivalent in height to the parapet above.

Attached around the corner from this entrance on the wall in front is a glassed-in rectangular porch of the same height and projection. Next to the porch is a two story octagonal bay window with five facets exposed continuing up to the roof introducing the only deviation along its parapet. This provides natural light and additional space for the main interior stairwell. Further down the wall is a massive external chimney, which is the last in this series of three projections where each is taller than the one to its left, while simultaneously it is shallower and narrower as well. Finally, before the corner, there are the tall windows of the living room.

The south end wall faces the formal garden. There are two one-story rectangular window bays, one for the living room, crowned by a crenelated parapet, and another for the dining room.

The interior of Larrabee House is most impressive. Upon entering from the porte-cochere through French doors there is an airy vestibule with a ceramic tile floor. Opposite the French doors in a segmental arched opening is a pair of massive glass and ironwork doors, reportedly imported from Belgium. These open into an entrance hall with a coat-room to one side. The hall widens at the main stairwell to the full width of the living-room, but here it is under a wide balcony. The living room itself is cavernous. The ceilings are 20 feet high with a grid of numerous girders and beams boxed in oak and painted with decorative motifs to match carving in the woodwork below. The walls are paneled in oak to a height of 14 feet. Each succeeding row of panels decreases in height from the bottom toward the top of the wall. The floors, balustrades, and sup-

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porting columns are oak as well. Above the paneling and on the ceiling between the beams and girders, the surface is plaster. The fireplace was formerly faced with a marble slab, now replaced with concrete.

At the far end of the room, next to the window bay facing the garden, there is a raised oak platform curving gently forward. Here there was originally a parlor grand Steinway piano.

In addition to several single bedrooms, there are two complete suites of two and three bedrooms, including private hallways, baths, and balconies. There are walk-in clothes closets and linen closets each with over a dozen built-in drawers.

The spacious kitchen has a utility room, with a refrigerator wall, a pantry, and a breakfast nook. In the basement, the laundry room is equivalent to a commercial facility. Some of the original machines remain.

Also in the basement is a game room, entirely paneled in oak. One panel opens out providing a built-in cue rack.

All of the plumbing is brass and lead. The rooms were all furnished with telephone intercoms (since removed), patented 1904. There is a built-in vacuum cleaner system, and the original underground sprinkler system still functions.

Behind the house there is a one and a half story concrete three car garage surfaced in stucco and brick with detailing to match the residence. There were servant's quarters above and workshops in the basement. Gasoline pumps were located in the yard outside.

Larrabee House has received many minor alterations, although it remains basically as built. Cheap carpeting and linoleum cover most of the floors. Bookshelves have been installed in the dining room at the expense of the original woodwork and decorative mural panels. Several bedrooms have been plumbed, and most of their woodwork painted. Some walls have been stippled.

A flat roofed brick annex 50 by 70 feet was built to the rear of the house in 1950, and the garage was converted to apartments. The annex is a box-like dormitory structure connected only by a 12 foot hallway. It is well hidden from the front of the house. Although the dormitory is a substantial intrusion, it does not significantly diminish the magnificence of Larrabee House.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1915 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Carl Gould, Seattle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Larrabee House was designed by Carl Gould of the architectural firm Bebb & Gould for Charles X and Francis Payne Larrabee. Late in 1914, before construction began, C. X. Larrabee died. In accordance with his wishes, Mrs. Larrabee completed the house as her own residence the following year.

Charles Xavier Larrabee was a man of tremendous wealth and power whose investments included controlling interests in numerous enterprises from mining, railroads, ranching, and real estate to bulb floriculture. Larrabee was born November 19, 1843, in Portville, New York. At the age of six his family moved to Wisconsin where his father operated a general store. He attended business college at Poughkeepsie, New York before teaching school at the age of 19. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Larrabee paid his entire savings to a mercenary who enlisted in his place so that he might remain behind to support his widowed mother.

In 1875 he left Wisconsin for Montana where, in return for a half interest, he sank the famous Anaconda mine shaft 40 feet. His most significant achievement in mining was the discovery and development of the Mountain View copper mine at Butte City.

After 12 years in Montana, he liquidated most of his assets and moved to Portland, Oregon, retaining his extensive Montana ranch for the breeding of cattle and Morgan horses. Shrewd investments in real estate development in Portland and in Fairhaven, Washington, now a part of Bellingham, expanded his fortune. In 1890, Larrabee located permanently on Bellingham Bay where he is credited with a substantial contribution to the growth of that city. He was one of the builders, and later the president of the Fairhaven and Southern Railroad.

He founded the Citizens' Bank of Bellingham, developed the Roslyn-Cascade Coal Company, and invested in early industrial salmon fishing.

On August 3, 1892, Mr. Larrabee married Miss Francis Payne of St. Louis, Missouri, whose father was a "prosperous agriculturist and stockman". Born in St. Charles, Missouri, she attended the Mary Institute, St. Louis, before earning a degree in music at the New England Conservatory in Boston. She continued her musical education in Germany where she studied the piano.

Mrs. Larrabee was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames. She was also an active parishoner of St. James Presbyterian Church, Bellingham. Shortly after her husband passed away in 1915, Francis Payne Larrabee donated the first

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acreage ever acquired by the then recently empowered Washington State Park Commission, property now included in Larrabee State Park.

At the time of C. X. Larrabee's death, their four children ranged in age from 12 to 20 years. When the new residence was completed, all of the children lived at home with their mother. She was assisted in running the household by a cook, a housemaid, and a man who had previously served the family for many years. In addition, there were two gardeners and a chauffeur not living on the grounds. Among their earliest family cars was a prestigious Locomobile.

Mrs. Larrabee remained in the house until her own death in 1941.

Carl Gould was a highly respected Seattle architect. His important works include numerous residences in the Seattle area, of which nearly all are still standing. He was one of the founders of the Department of Architecture at the University of Washington and chairman when the department was first organized, and he served as president of the Seattle Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Bebb and Gould acted as supervising architects during construction of the present State Capitol Buildings in Olympia, and the firm is credited with the award-winning design of the Art Deco Style Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park.

Larrabee House is significant as the intended residence of a man whose wealth and investment activity exerted a powerful force in the development of Bellingham and several other Pacific Northwest communities. It is architecturally significant as a major residential commission of a well-known Seattle firm. Their design is a classic example of an architectural response to the tastes of tremendously wealthy self-made businessmen whose fortunes were acquired during the westward expansion of rail transportation. This style derives its elegance from conspicuous generosity in the use of space, craftsmanship and expensive materials with relatively minor emphasis on academic subtleties. The house demonstrates the growing vogue of built-in convenience features including not only cabinetry but numerous mechanical and electrical gadgets as well. The sprinkler system, central vacuum cleaning system, intercom, refrigerator wall, and gasoline pumps were all quite early examples of a uniquely American innovation in residential architecture.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Whatcom County, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Seattle, 1926.

Interviews: Mrs. M. L. Bourque  
Mr. Carl Gould Jr.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,3,6	2,5,0	5,3,9,5	3,3,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joel Douglas

ORGANIZATION

Lairmont Manor Trusteeship

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

405 Fieldstone Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bellingham

STATE

Washington

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Charles H. Johnson*

TITLE

Director - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

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AND/OR COMMON

Lairmont Manor, Mt. St. Mary's Novitiate

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Bellingham

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Whatcom

STATE

Washington

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. - Bellingham South Quad.

SCALE

1:24000

DATE

1954

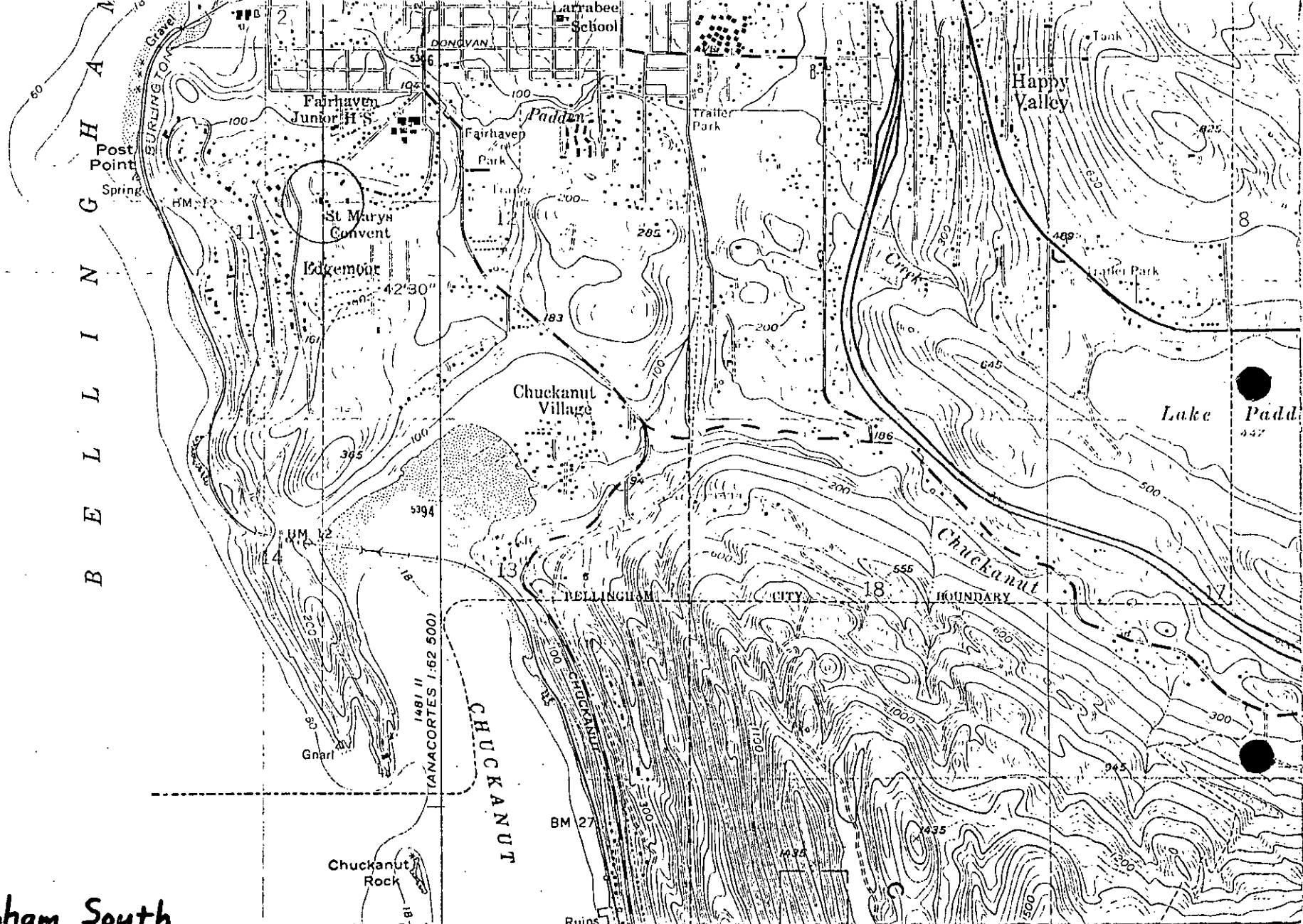
**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

395 330

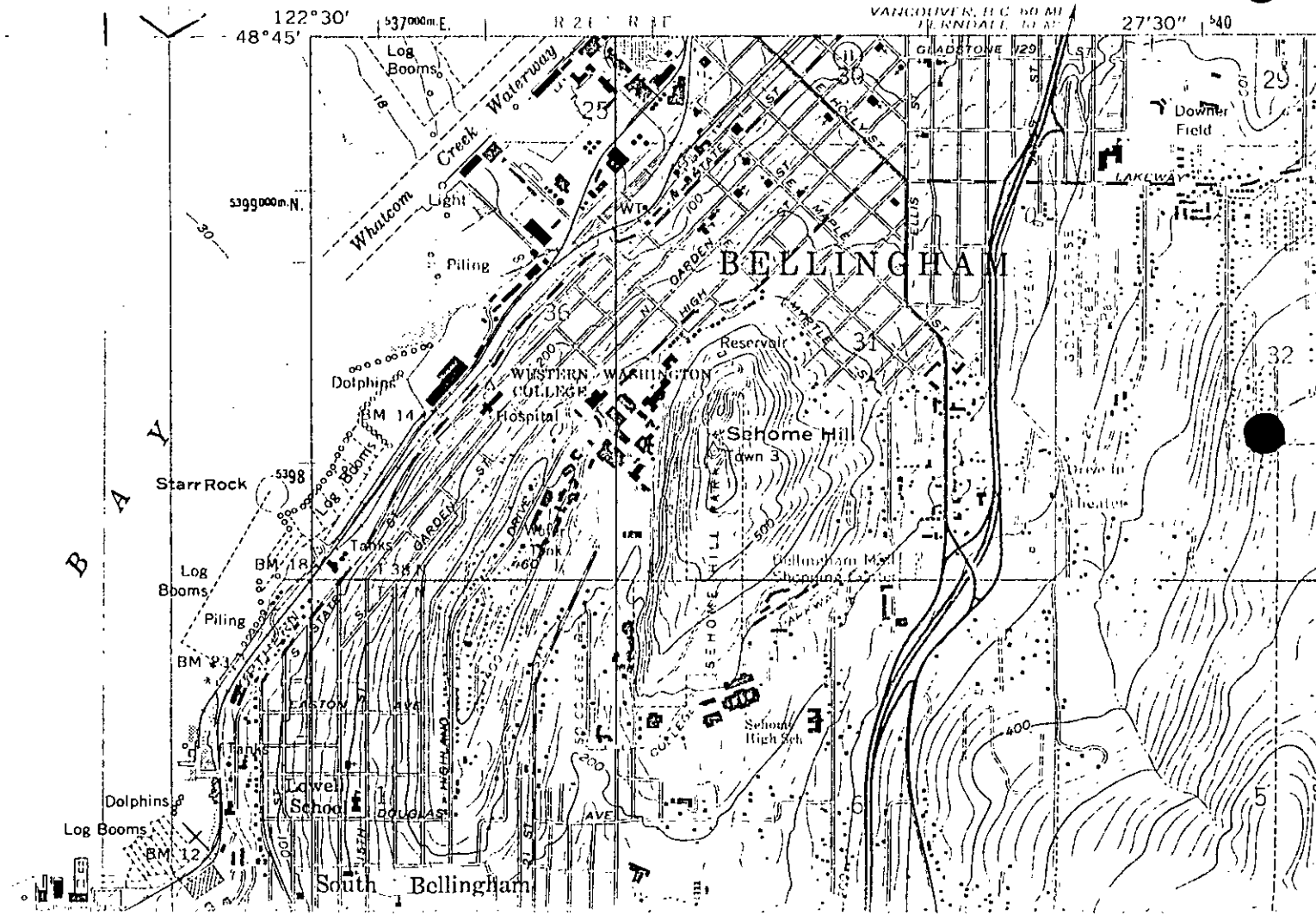
B  
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Bellingham South  
 7.5 min  
 1954

536 250

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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COUNTY

Whatcom

STATE

Washington

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Jacob E. Thomas

DATE OF PHOTO

January, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

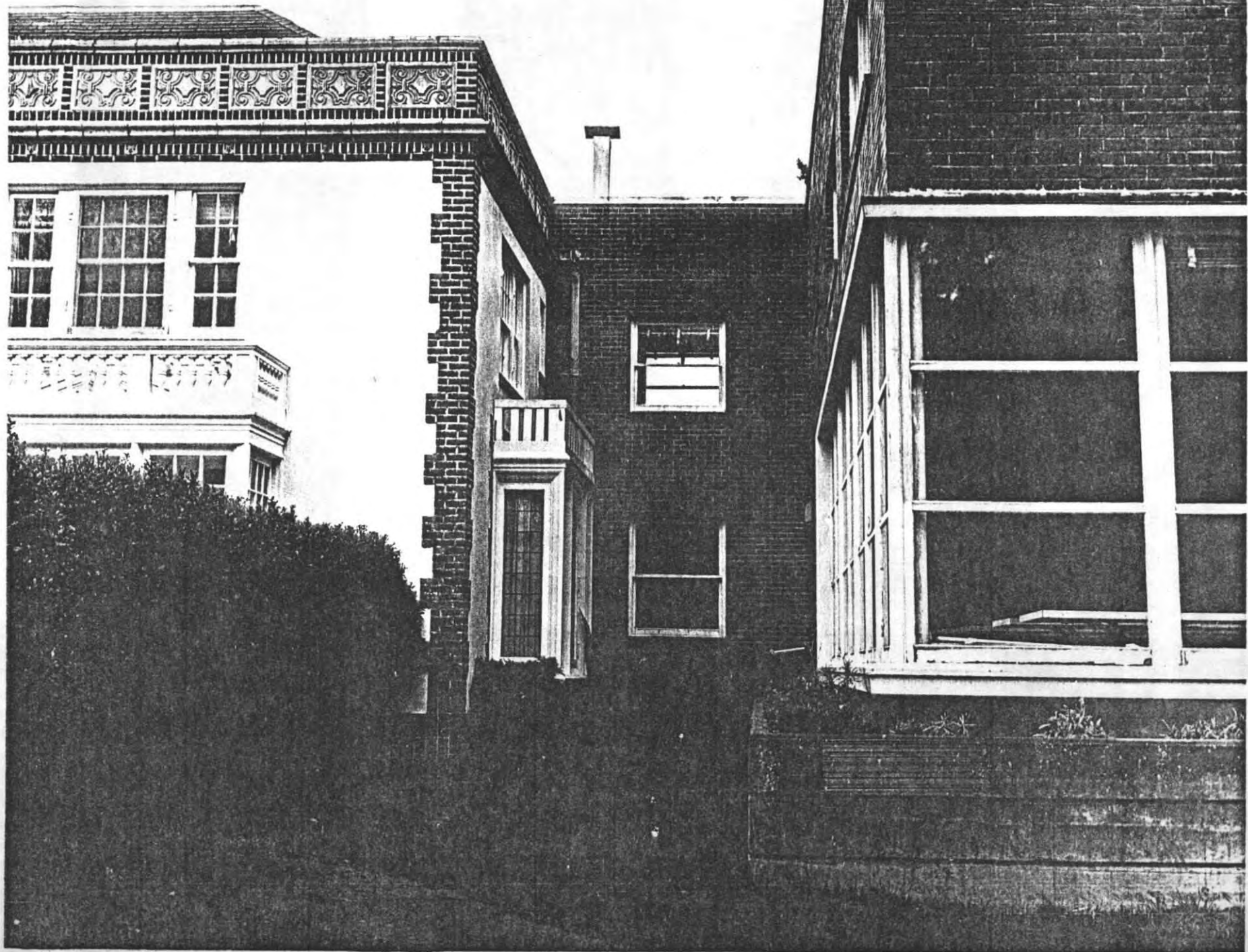
Washington State Parks and Recreation

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Detail of connection between the house and dormitory annex,  
view from the south



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PHOTO NO.

Three car garage-view from the southwest.



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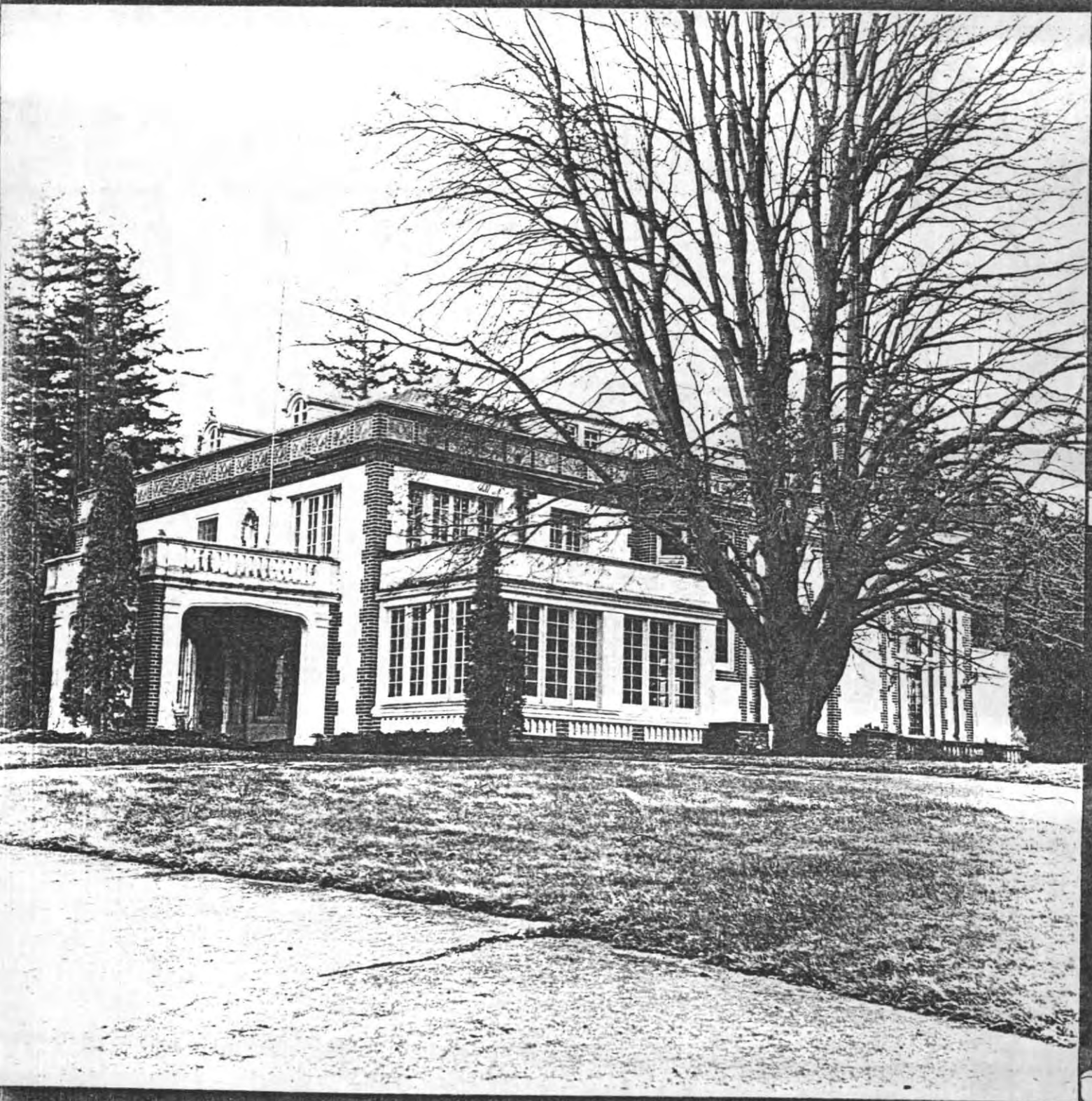
Washington State Parks and Recreation

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

View from the northwest



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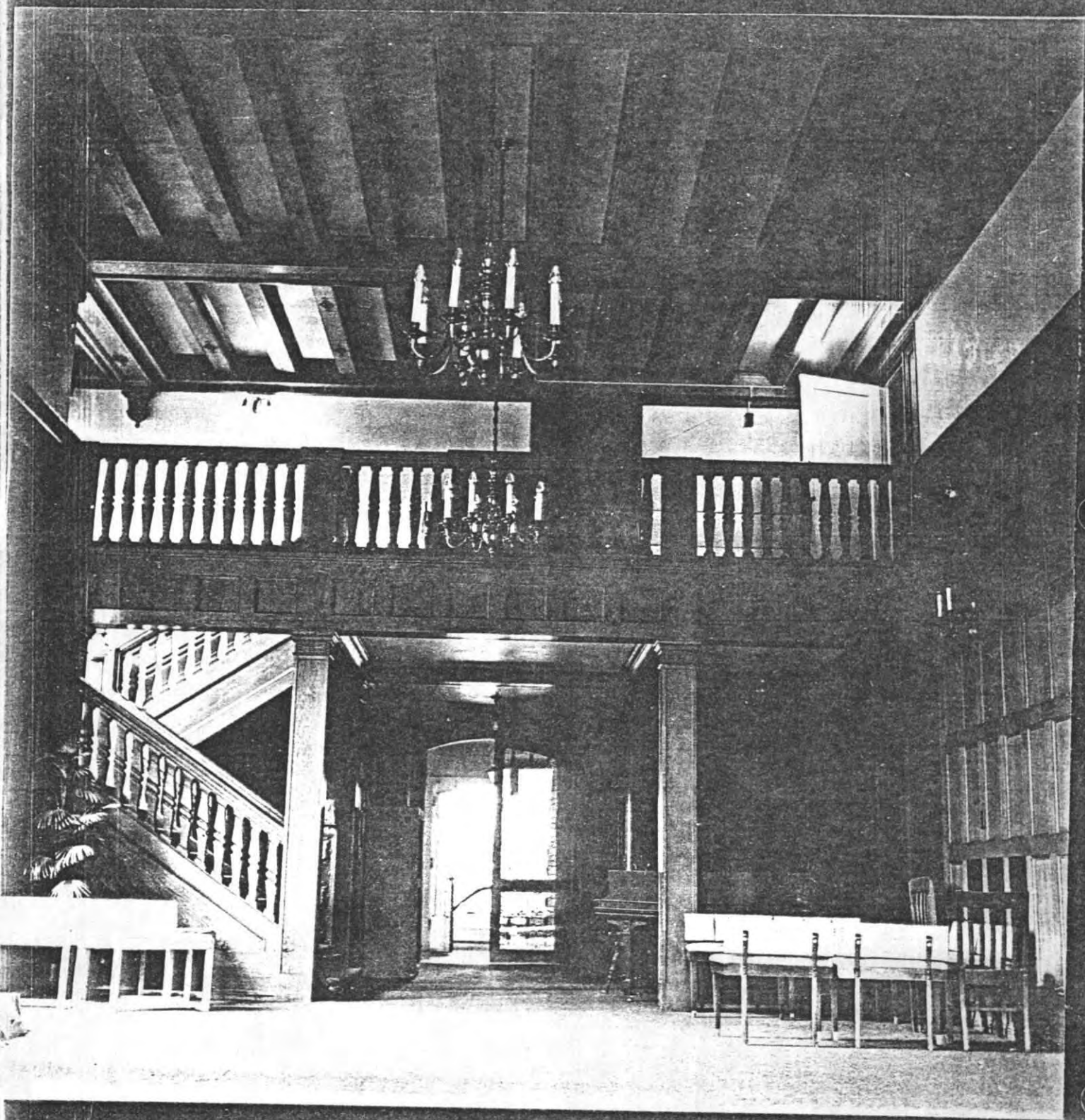
Washington State Parks and Recreation

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

Livingroom interior



Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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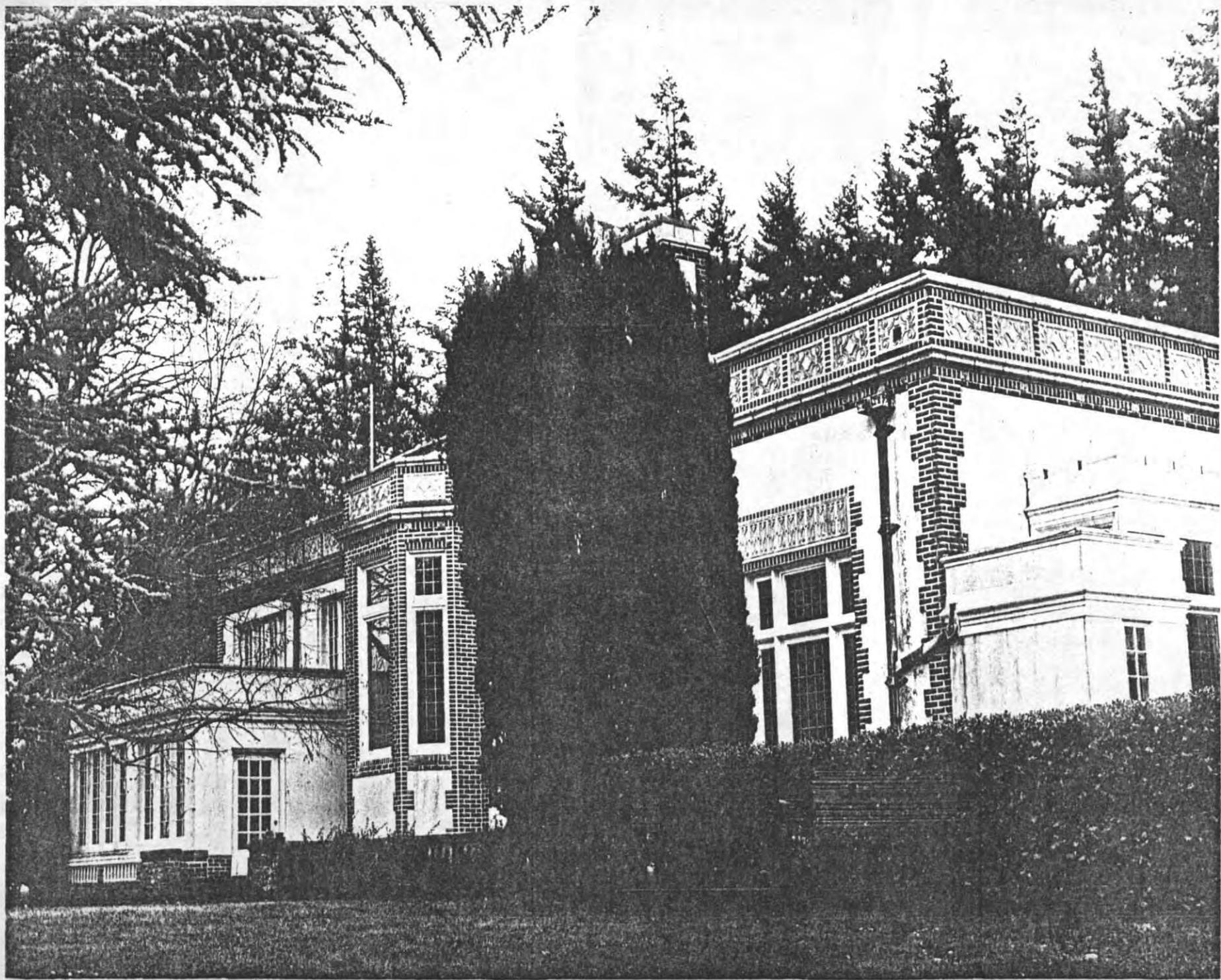
Washington State Parks and Recreation

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

View from the southwest



## Memorable Events Happen Here!



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Since 1912*



Lairmont Manor is perfect for any unforgettable event you could imagine! Our private formal garden is a favorite place with our guests.

**Lairmont  
Manor**



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# The ANCESTRY SCRAP BOOK HISTORY And CUSTODIANS Of LAIRMONT MANOR

By TYRONE TILLSON  
Edited by J. DOUGLAS

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October, 1998

Revised 2002

## THE END OF AN ERA

EDWARD CONNELLY, AMONG THE LAST OF THE SOUTH BELLINGHAM PIONEERS DIED AT THE HOME OF HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. HARRY OSIER AT TWENTY-FOURTH AND DONOVAN STREETS (1705 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET), OF OLD AGE YESTERDAY MORNING. HE WAS 92 YEARS OLD, CONSCIOUS TO THE LAST AND KNEW FOR A WEEK THAT THE END WAS AT HAND. SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 23, WHILE TALKING WITH FRIENDS AT THE HOUSE HE WAS SEIZED BY A FIT OF COUGHING AND WHEN THE FAMILY WANTED TO SEND FOR A DOCTOR HE OBJECTED, SAYING:

"IT IS NO USE, MY TIME IS RUN, THIS IS THE LAST."

WHEN HIS DAUGHTER ASKED WHAT HE MEANT HE REPLIED: "NEVER MIND, YOU WILL SEE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS."

GOES TO HOSPITAL

AFTER MUCH PERSUASION HE WAS INDUCED TO GO TO ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL ON TUESDAY. HE REMAINED BUT A DAY AND A HALF. TELLING THE SISTERS THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR HIM HE ORDERED A CARRIAGE, WALKED TO IT HIMSELF, STOPPED IN SOUTH BELLINGHAM TO TELL ONE OF HIS FRIENDS THAT HE HAD NOT MUCH LONGER TO REMAIN ON EARTH AND WENT ON OUT TO THE HOME OF HIS DAUGHTER. HE WISH WAS TO DIE AT HOME AND BE BURIED FROM THE HOUSE.

MR. CONNELLY WAS KNOWN TO EVERYBODY IN SOUTH BELLINGHAM AND TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CITY. HE WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS WONDERFUL VITALITY. HE HAD SCARCE A GRAY HAIR IN HIS HEAD AND HIS WHISKERS RETAINED THEIR BRIGHT COLOR UP TO DEATH. HE WAS NEVER BEFORE KNOWN TO HAVE EVEN A COLD. HIS HUMOROUS CHEERFUL BOUYANT DISPOSITION WAS NEVER HIDDEN AT ANY TIME. THESE CHARACTERISTICS, SO WELL SUSTAINED, BROUGHT HIM LOCAL FAME.

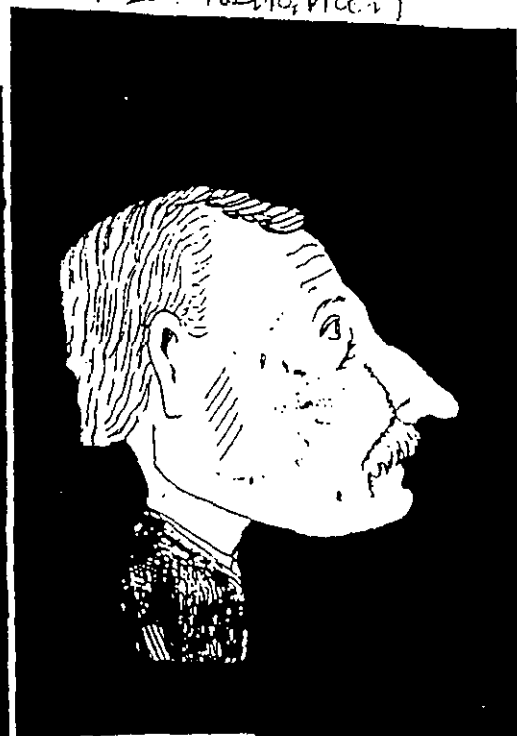
BORN IN IRELAND

EDWARD CONNELLY WAS BORN IN THE COUNTY OF GALWAY, IRELAND. HE CAME TO AMERICA IN 1862 AND SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA, LATER

SENDING FOR HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN. THE FAMILY LIVED THERE MORE THAN TEN YEARS. FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER HE LEFT THE OLD STATE IN 1874 AND CAME TO PUGET SOUND, MAKING HIS HOME FIRST IN RENTON. AFTER A SHORT TIME HE SENT FOR HIS FAMILY AND IN OCTOBER, 1877, WITH HIS WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN, TWO WERE BORN IN PENNSYLVANIA, HE CAME TO BELLINGHAM. GOING TO HAPPY VALLEY HE PURCHASED 160 ACRES FROM MICHAEL PADDEN, WHO DISCOVERED AND GAVE HIS NAME TO PADDEN LAKE. IN 1885 HE PRE-EMPTED A CLAIM NEAR THE LAKE AND LATER HOMESTEADED 160 ACRES ON EAST FAIRHAVEN. THIS TRACT WAS INVOLVED IN A CONTEST IN 1891, BUT THE CASE WAS WON BY MR. CONNELLY. LONG AGO HIS PROPERTY WENT TO HIS CHILDREN.

HE WILL BE BURIED FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART IN SOUTH BELLINGHAM, BUT THE DATE OF HIS FUNERAL WILL NOT BE SET UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF HIS SON AND DAUGHTER FROM SPOKANE. HE IS SURVIVED BY MRS. HARRY OSIER, OF THIS CITY, AND MRS. S.A. HOYT, OF SPOKANE, AND HIS SON, PATRICK E. CONNELLY. STOKES & WICKMAN ARE DIRECTING THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

REVEILLE, 1910



Sisters of Saint Joseph of Newark  
Mount Saint Mary's Novitiate  
and  
Provincial House



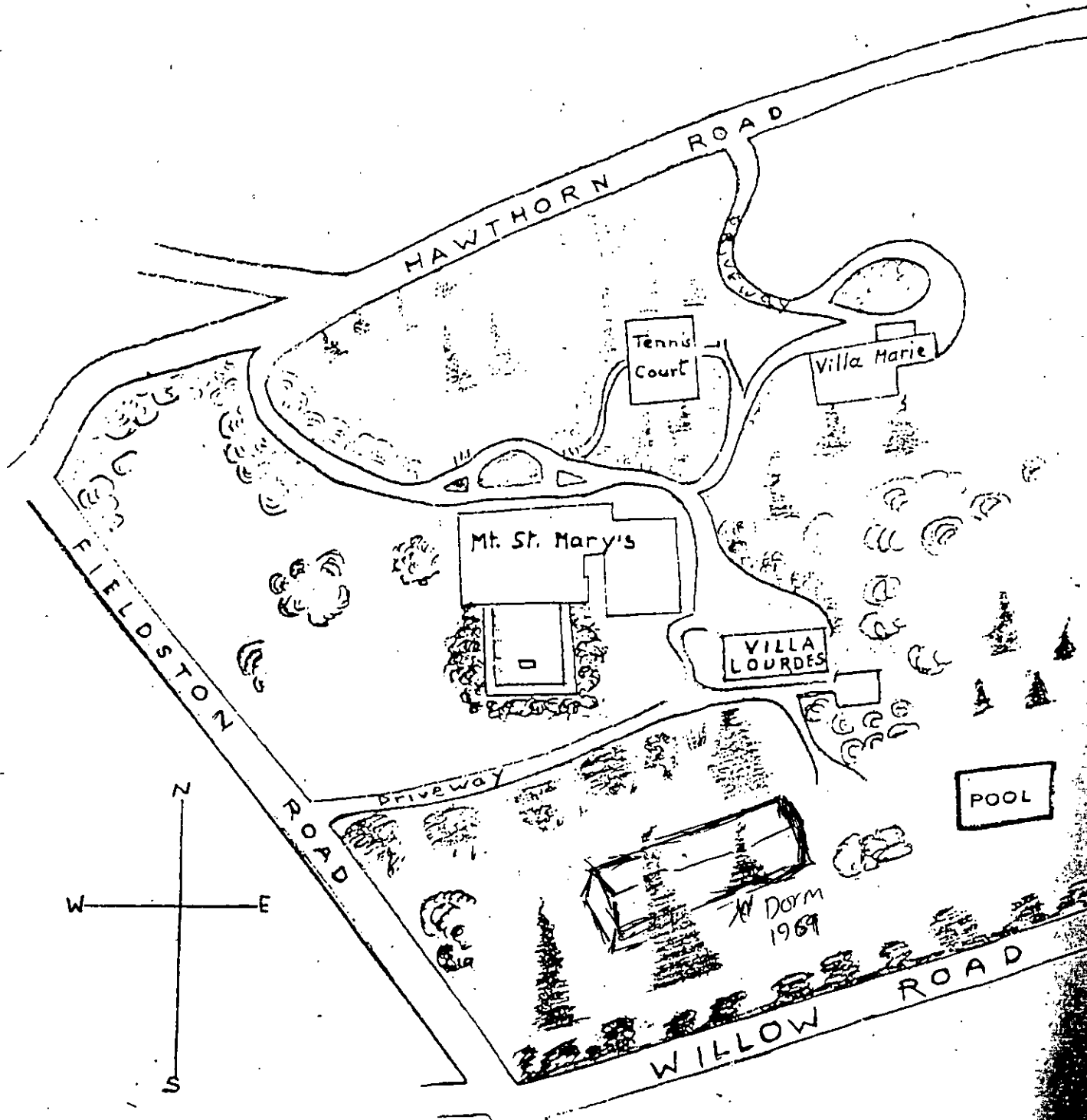
South Bellingham, Washington

## THE SISTERS PURCHASE THE LARRABEE MANSION

TWO YEARS PRIOR TO ED CONNELLY'S PASSING THE SISTERS HAD FOUNDED A SCHOOL OF NURSING AT THE HOSPITAL WHICH CONTINUED TO GRADUATE WOMEN FROM ITS CLASSES FOR THE NEXT 55 YEARS. DURING THIS TIME SAINT JOSEPH HOSPITAL BUILT FOUR ADDITIONS ONTO THE ORIGINAL STATE (ELK) STREET BUILDING WHICH PROVIDED MORE ROOMS FOR PATIENTS, THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND THE NOVITIATE (A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN WHO WISH TO BECOME SISTERS), BUT WITH THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN BELLINGHAM'S POPULATION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT MORE ROOM MUST BE MADE AT THE HOSPITAL AND SO THE NOVITIATE OPTED TO RESETTLE ONTO AN OFF CAMPUS LOCATION WHEN THE LARRABEE HOME WAS OFFERED FOR SALE.

THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP FROM THE LARRABEE ESTATE TO THE SISTERS OF PEACE, A USUALLY NEWSWORTHY EVENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, WAS COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED BY THE NEWS MEDIA DUE TO THE FACT THAT JUST FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL PAPERS THE JAPANESE HAD BOMBED PEARL HARBOR AND DRAWN THE UNITED STATES INTO THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

TWO MONTHS AFTER THE PURCHASE OF THE ESTATE AND AFTER CERTAIN ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDINGS HAD BEEN MADE TO BETTER SUIT THE NEEDS OF THE SISTERS, THE OLD LARRABEE HOME OPENED AS MOUNT SAINT MARY'S PROVINCIAL HOUSE AND NOVITIATE AND ON THE FIRST DAY HOUSED ONLY FIVE SISTERS AND NOVITIATES. THE DATE WAS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 1942. WHEN THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD TO THE PRESENT OWNERS IN 1967 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY RESIDENTS.



## MOUNT SAINT MARY'S

LIFE AT SAINT MARY'S CONSISTED OF RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC CLASSES, RETREATS AND GENERAL DOMESTIC WORK. THE SISTERS TAUGHT RELIGIOUS CLASSES IN NEIGHBORHOOD PARISHES AND CONTINUED THEIR OWN ACADEMIC PURSUITS THROUGH AFFILIATIONS WITH SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WESTERN WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA. THE VISITING PROFESSORS WERE BOTH SISTERS AND SECULAR INSTRUCTORS. REVEREND HUBERT POSPICAL SERVED AS THE FIRST CHAPLAIN AT THE CONVENT AFTER A TOUR OF DUTY IN THE COMBAT ZONE DURING THE KOREAN WAR AND RESIDED IN THE REMODELED CARRIAGE HOUSE WHICH HAD BEEN RENAMED BY THE SISTERS, "VILLA LOURDES" (SEE MAP).

AMONG THE SISTERS AT MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WERE THE POSTULANTS, THE NOVICES AND THE PROFESSED SISTERS. THE POSTULANTS WORE A SIMPLE BLACK DRESS AND VEIL AND WERE IN THE FIRST STAGES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE. AFTER SIX MONTHS THE POSTULANTS, SHOULD THEY FEEL THEY HAVE THE CALLING, WOULD ADVANCE TO NOVICES AND MAKE ANOTHER COMMITMENT FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS. NOVICES WORE A SIMPLE WHITE VEIL. THE FINAL STEP FOR A NOVICE WAS TO BECOME A PROFESSED SISTER, FIRST BY TAKING VOWS FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS AND AFTER THIS PERIOD OF TIME TAKING VOWS WHICH WOULD COMMIT HER TO A LIFE IN THE CHURCH.

BESIDES SERVING AS A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NOVITIATES WISHING TO BECOME SISTERS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WAS ALSO THE PROVINCIALATE (HEADQUARTERS) OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF PEACE AND SAW SUCH RAPID GROWTH THAT IN 1950 A BRICK ADDITION WAS BUILT ONTO THE

✓

FORMER LARRABEE MANSION. THIS NEW STRUCTURE HOUSED TWO SMALL CLASSROOMS, AN INTIMATE DININGROOM FOR THE CHAPLAIN AND VISITORS WHO MADE BRIEF STOP OVERS, AND A LARGE DININGROOM FOR GENERAL USE BY THE SISTERS. THE REST OF THE STRUCTURE WAS USED FOR SLEEPING QUARTERS. THESE ACCOMODATIONS WERE COMPLIMENTED A FEW YEARS LATER BY THE PURCHASE OF THE ROBERG'S THREE ACRE RESIDENCE AND GROUNDS LOCATED JUST NORTHEAST OF MOUNT SAINT MARY'S. A DRIVEWAY WAS BUILT TO CONNECT MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WITH THE NEW PROPERTY. THE ROBERG HOUSE WAS RENAMED "VILLA MARIE" AND SERVED TO PROVIDE YET MORE SLEEPING QUARTERS AND CLASSROOMS FOR THE SISTERS AND THEIR GUESTS.

MADONNA HALL - (411)

THE FINAL MAJOR ADDITION TO MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WAS WHAT WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS MADONNA HALL. THIS 146 FOOT LONG BUILDING HAD ORIGINALLY SERVED AS NAVY BARRACKS #74 ON WHIDBEY ISLAND'S NAVAL AIR STATION UNTIL IT WAS PURCHASED BY THE SISTERS IN 1961. IN THAT YEAR THE SISTERS HAD THE OLD BARRACKS BARGED IN TWO SECTIONS OVER THE SIXTY MILES BETWEEN WHIDBEY ISLAND AND BELLINGHAM WHERE IT WAS GIVEN A SLOW POLICE ESCORT UP THE HILL TO MOUNT SAINT MARY'S.

THE POURING OF THE FOUNDATION, PAINTING INSIDE AND OUT, SIDING THE BUILDING, TILING THE FLOORS, INSTALLING THE LABORATORY, THE LIBRARY AND SLEEPING QUARTERS TOOK NEARLY NINE MONTHS EVEN WITH THE HELP OF THE RELATIVES OF POSTULANTS AND NOVICES AND THIRTY TWO OTHER MEN FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE.

A PICTORIAL ESSAY

OF MOUNT SAINT MARY'S

~~(PHOTOGRAPHS BORROWED~~

~~FROM THE SISTERS FOR USE IN THE BOOK)~~

Comments on photographs  
written by Sr. Johanna Vogelsang

# Unwanted billboards kept from marring park's beauty

**HISTORY:** Larrabee heiress treats columnist to dinner in return for favor.

The other day, I received a couple of fliers from the Lairmont Foundation, an organization that runs Lairmont Manor, formerly the mansion of the Larrabee family, in Edgemore.

In reading the fliers, I found a number of historical references that prompted me to write about Edgemore in the wild and woolly days before it was given that name.

The southern part of the tract of land overlooking Chuckanut Bay was where Whatcom County kept its black powder, caps and fuses for blasting stumps during the Fairhaven boom days.

Toward the center of the tract stood the community slaughterhouse, where cattle, sheep and hogs were slaughtered for nearby logging camps and Fairhaven butcher shops.



**George Hunsby**

Bay was covered with low shrubs, wild currant bushes, philadelphus and a few seedling conifers. I never would have believed I would live to see a beautiful residential section up there.

There was not much opportunity to watch the Larrabee mansion being built since the family employed a watchman to patrol the boundaries of the site. And no longer could we young fellows hunt up there.

I roamed the tract to shoot rats that infested old buildings.

There were no trees there then. The hillside sloping down to Bellingham

But many years after the mansion had been used as a home for the Larrabee family, when only Frances and her daughter, Mary, lived there all alone, my wife and I received a special invitation to dine with them.

The invitation came as a result of a favor I did for the Larrabee women.

The Larrabee family had given the land that is now Fairhaven Park and rose garden to the city of Bellingham. She wanted the land developed into a place of beauty and was alert to any attempts to harm it.

But desecration came when the highway entering Fairhaven from the south was moved from 14th Street to 12th Street, and a 14th Street bridge was abandoned.

The paved approach on the south end of the bridge was barricaded, leaving an unused strip of pavement. The state allowed an enterprising auto-painting company to erect a monstrous advertisement at the abandoned strip of pavement. The garish sign detracted from the

## ▼ Event

**COLUMNIST HONORED:** Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1585, 625 N. State St., will host a "George Hunsby Appreciation Day" social hour with cake, coffee and no-host cocktails at noon April 18. Relatives and friends of Hunsby are welcome. For more information, call the VFW post at 734-5520.

beauty of Fairhaven Park and the rose garden.

Passing motorists saw only the services depicted on that nasty sign, saddening Frances Larrabee. It also made her quite angry.

About that time, I was president of South Bellingham Community Improvement Club. We were sort of a thorn in the side of the Bellingham City Council.

Roy Peterson, the Larrabees' real

estate agent, one day asked me to do something about removing the cursed sign. I did just that with help from one of my henchmen on the council.

Within two weeks the sign was gone.

Invited to dinner, my wife and I got the same treatment from the Larrabees as had Queen Marie of Romania and Princess Alexandria of Egypt when Lairmont was titled the Larrabee Mansion and Edgemore was an unfamiliar name.

Until World War II, I spent many years working with Mary Larrabee for the Whatcom County Humane Society. After she moved to Pasadena, Calif., we corresponded regularly until her death years ago.

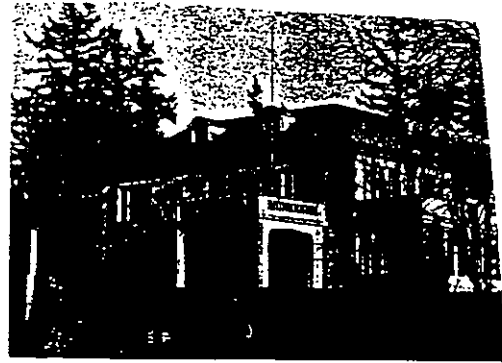
The Larrabee family was kind and surely left its mark on Fairhaven.

Bellingham resident George Hunsby, 94, has a lifetime of stories to tell about Whatcom County history. His column appears Tuesdays.

# LAIRMONT MANOR

405 FIELDSTONE ROAD  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98225

September 3, 1992



Ms. Virginia Ellingson  
2816 Holm Road East  
Tacoma, WA 98424

Dear Ms. Ellingson:

We understand that you visited Lairmont Manor recently. We appreciate your visit and welcome any in the future. We hope to have suitable guest accommodations soon.

Any photos of your family are always appreciated, as we can use them in our on site museum which will be in place soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joel S. Douglas

C.X. Larrabee  
1114 Woodburn Road  
Durham, NC 27705

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Any photos of your family are always appreciated, as we can use them in our on site museum which will be in place soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joel S. Douglas



May 2, 1984

ST. MARY PROVINCIALATE

1663 Killarney Way — P.O. Box 248  
Bellevue, Washington 98009  
(206) 454-9380

✓  
Lairmont  
History  
1cy June

Lairmont Manor Trusteeship  
Lairmont Foundation  
405 Fieldston Road  
Bellingham, WA

Dear Sirs,

It was a happy and nostalgic experience to enjoy brunch in our old "refectory" and to once again walk around the halls and rooms of our prior Novitiate. Thank you for making the facility available to us for our Centenary Year Bellingham celebration.

I would like to make some comment with regard to the content of your "A Brief History" leaflet, so that at the time of a future printing you would consider some minor corrections or clarifications:

Fireplace: The Sisters did not "tear out" the fireplace facing. When that room was used as a chapel, the fireplace was covered, but not altered. It is our understanding that vandals, after our sale of the property, are known to have stolen the original tiles(?) from the facing.

Purpose: The facilities were never used as a "care center for clergy." The property was purchased for and used as a Provincialate (headquarters) of the Western Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace ("Newark" at that time) and as a Postulancy and Novitiate for the education of candidates of the Congregation.

Picture: The photo identified as "The Provincial House" was actually the original carriage house, converted to housing for a resident chaplain and additional living space. The Provincial offices were located in the main manor house.

"Long Hse" There were army "barracks", set up in the late '50s to provide additional classrooms and housing.

Again, thank you for the use of your facilities for our Centenary brunch.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Gilmore, CSJP  
Provincial

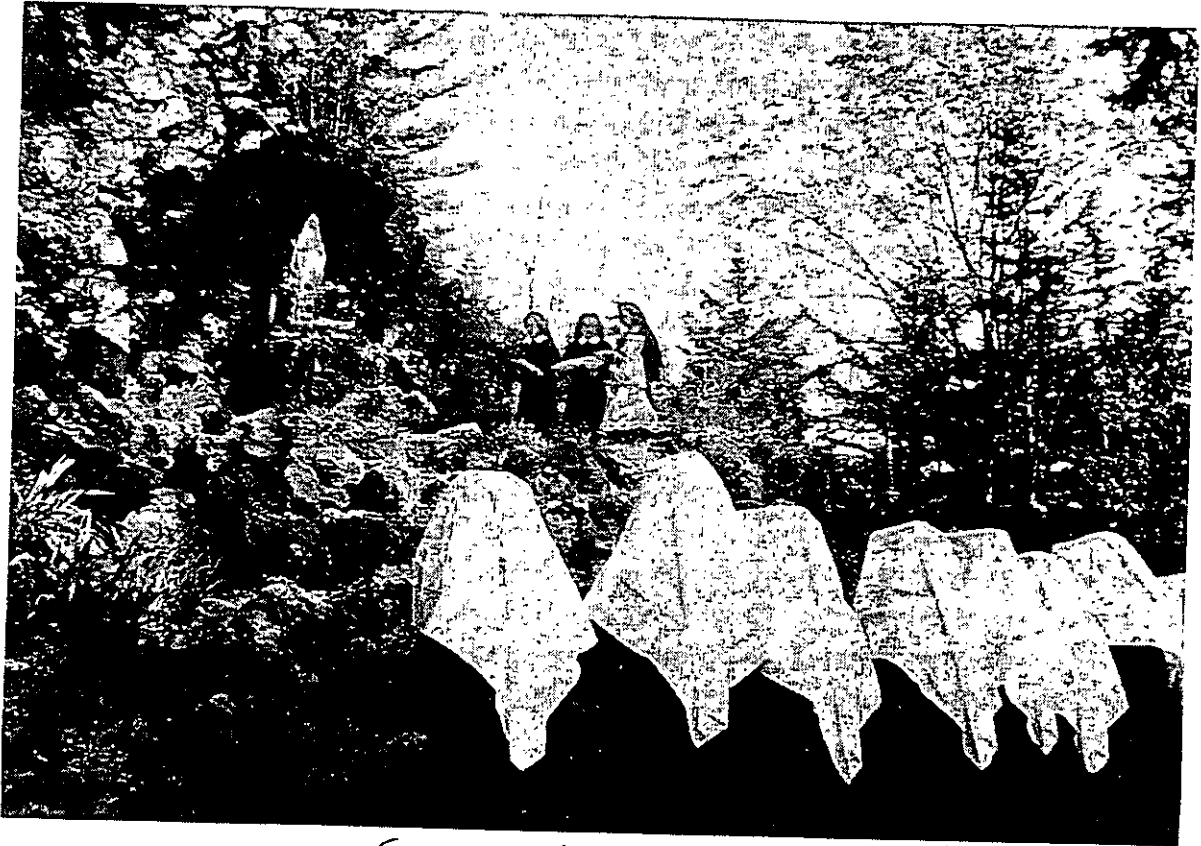
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*Reflective Prose*



*Grass & Blossom*



*Cheerias 1 photo*

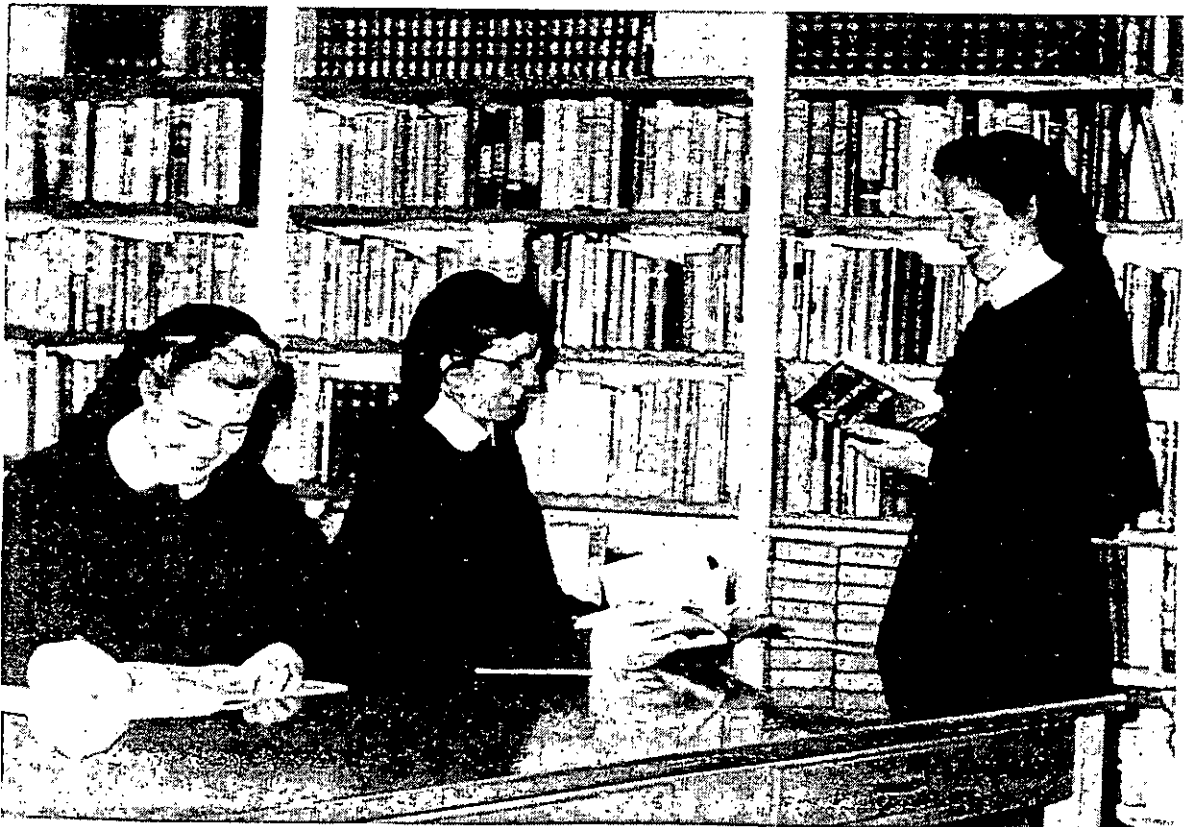
*at Grotto*



*Beach mo*

1954

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Flower  
Dorothy  
Library  
Research

1955  
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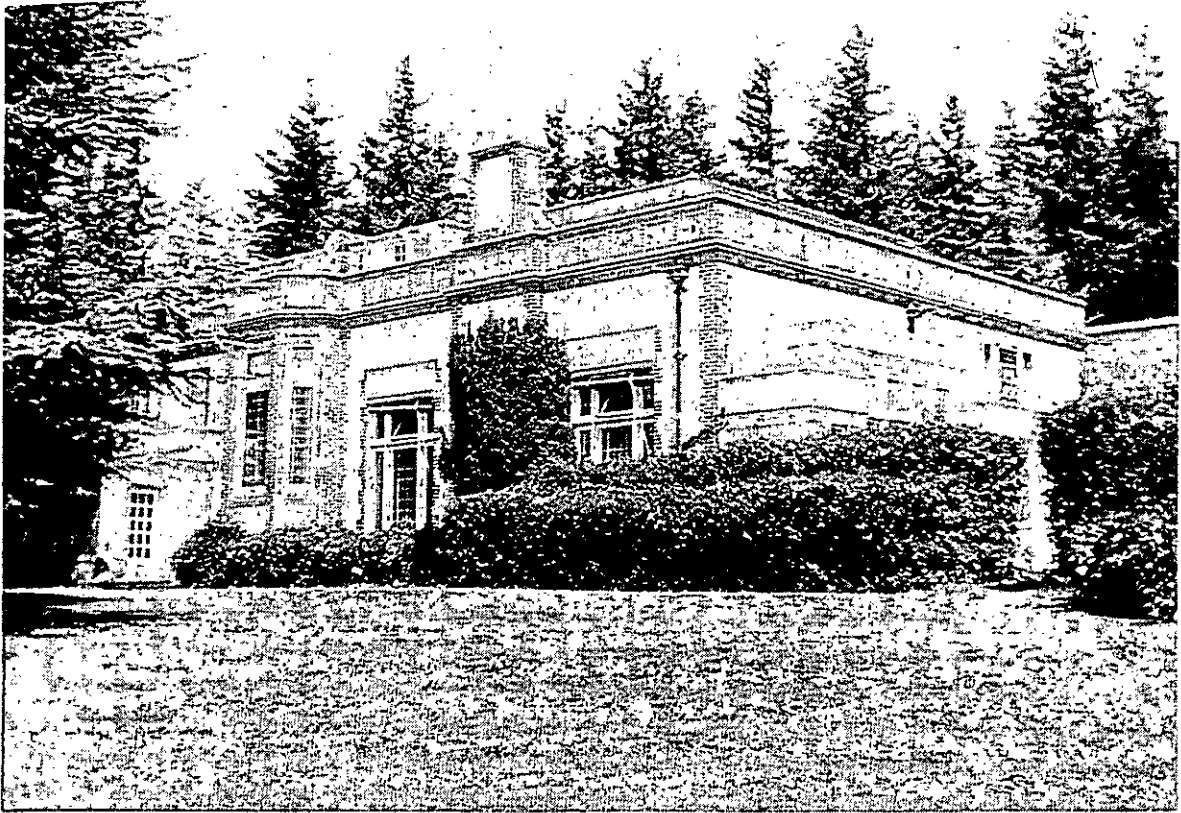


SHOW



Back  
fry

✓



1958



1958

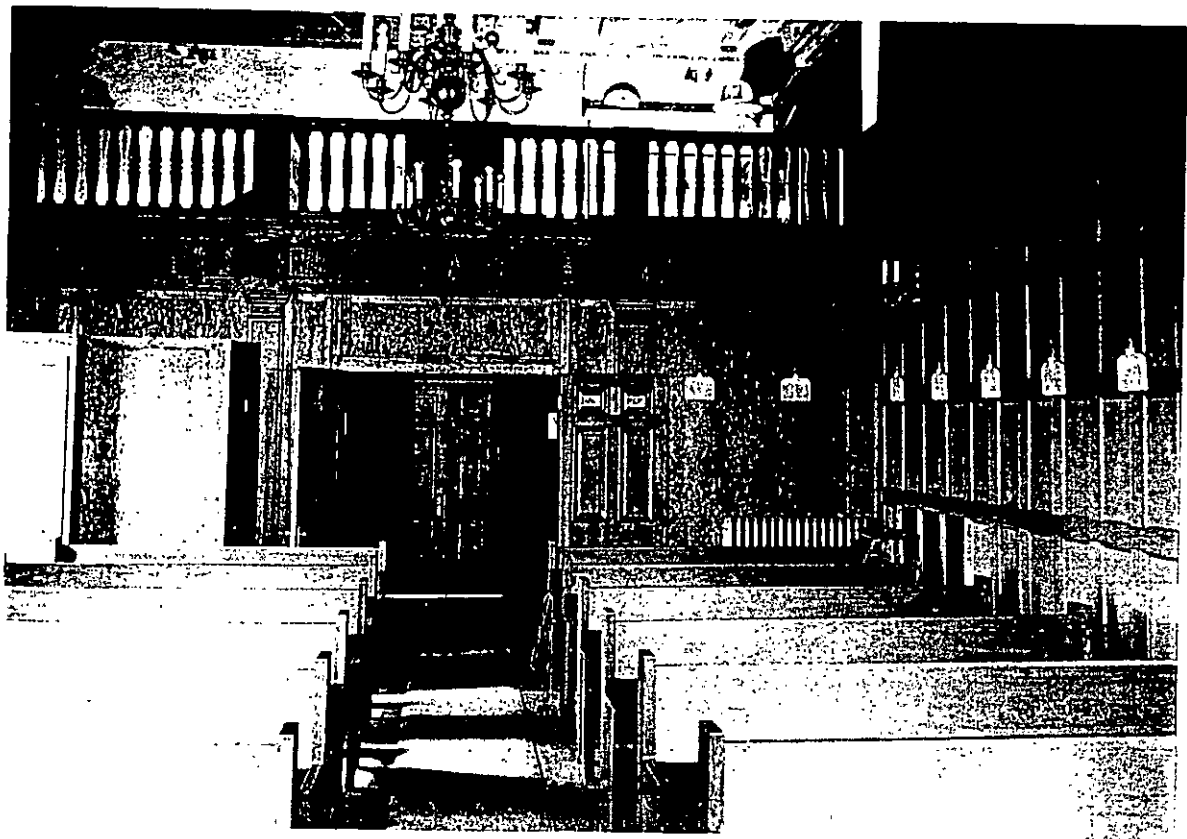


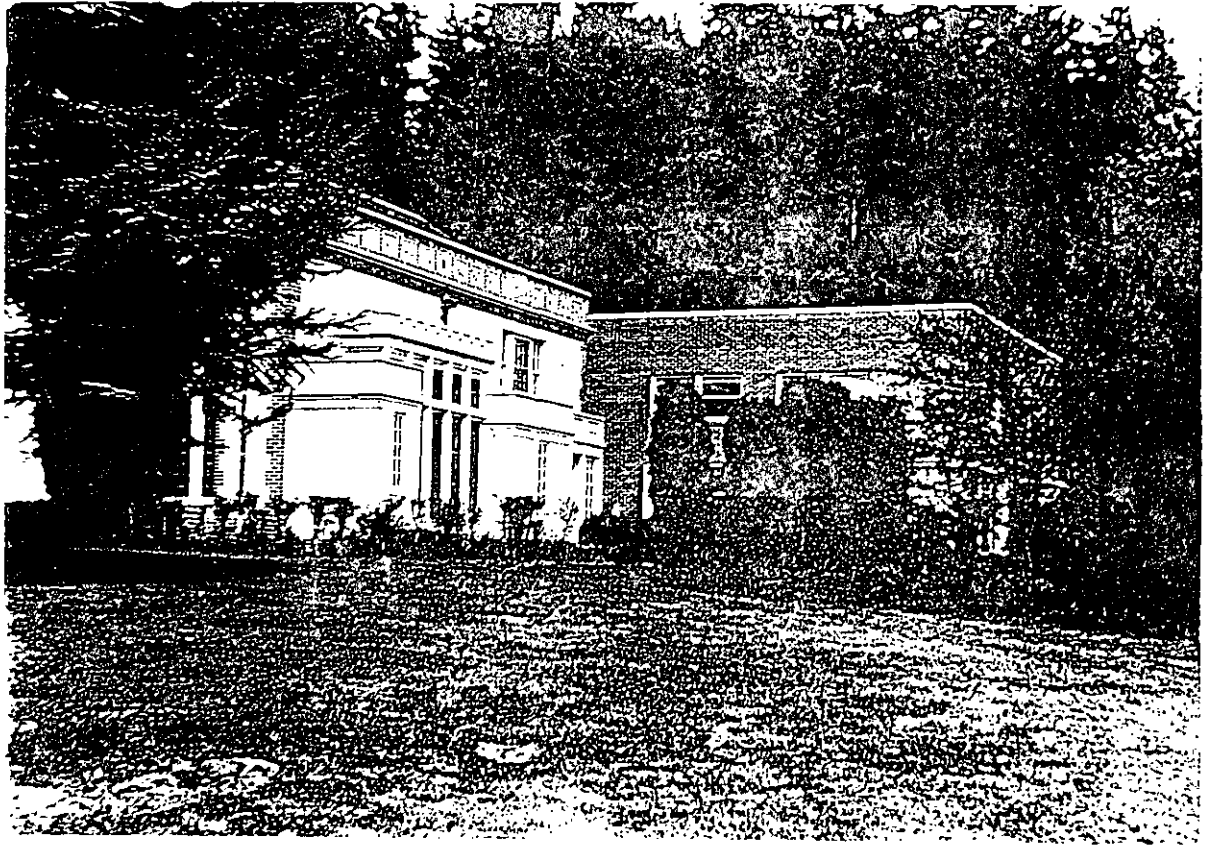
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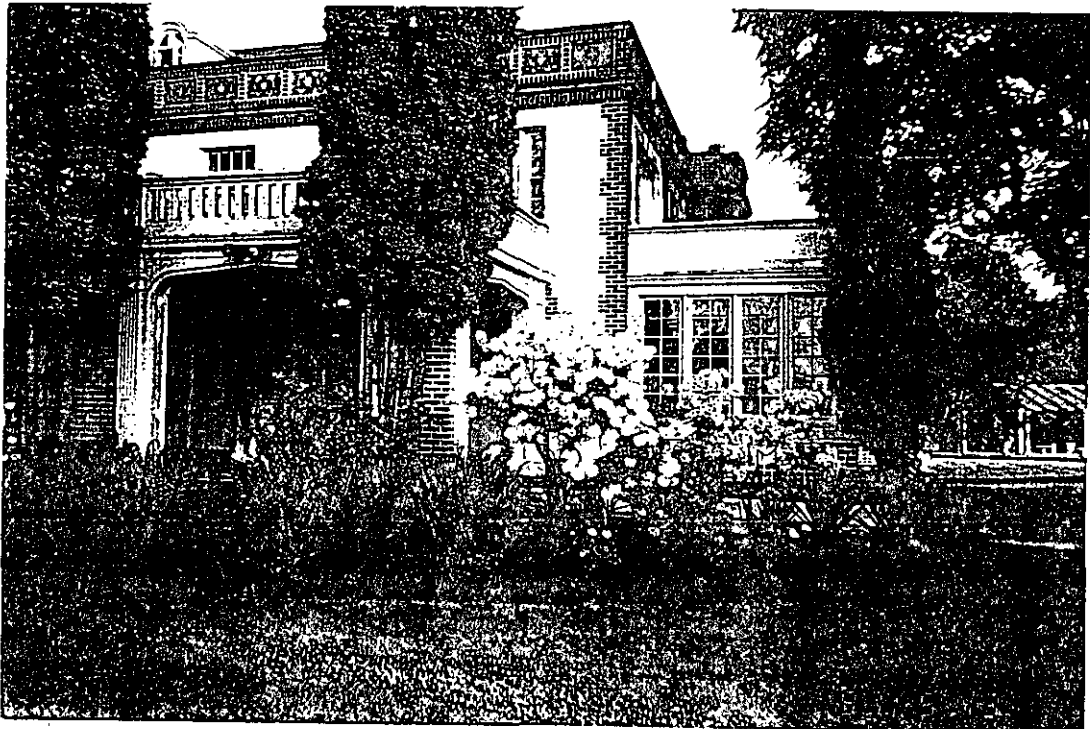
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1955



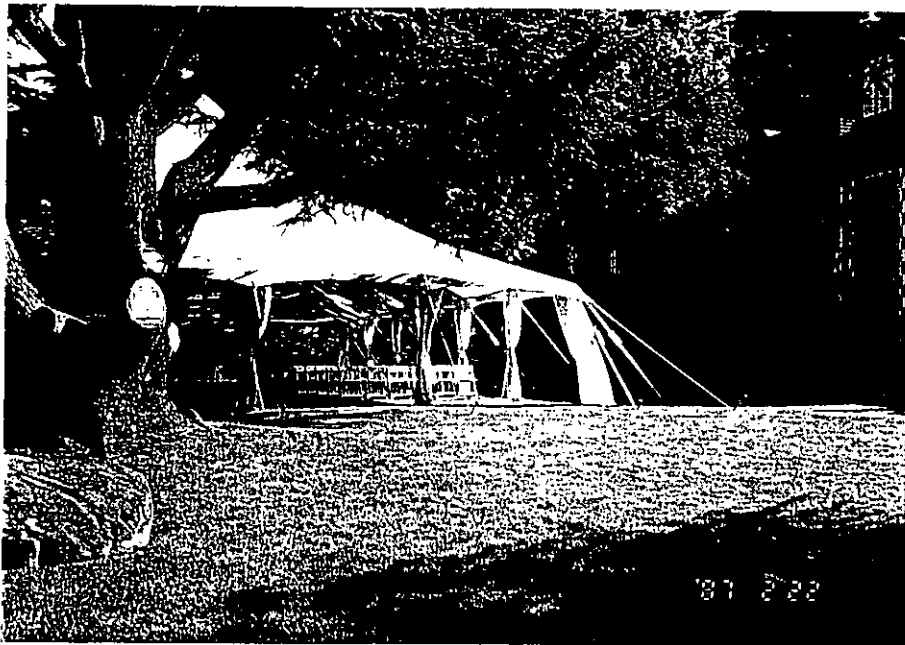
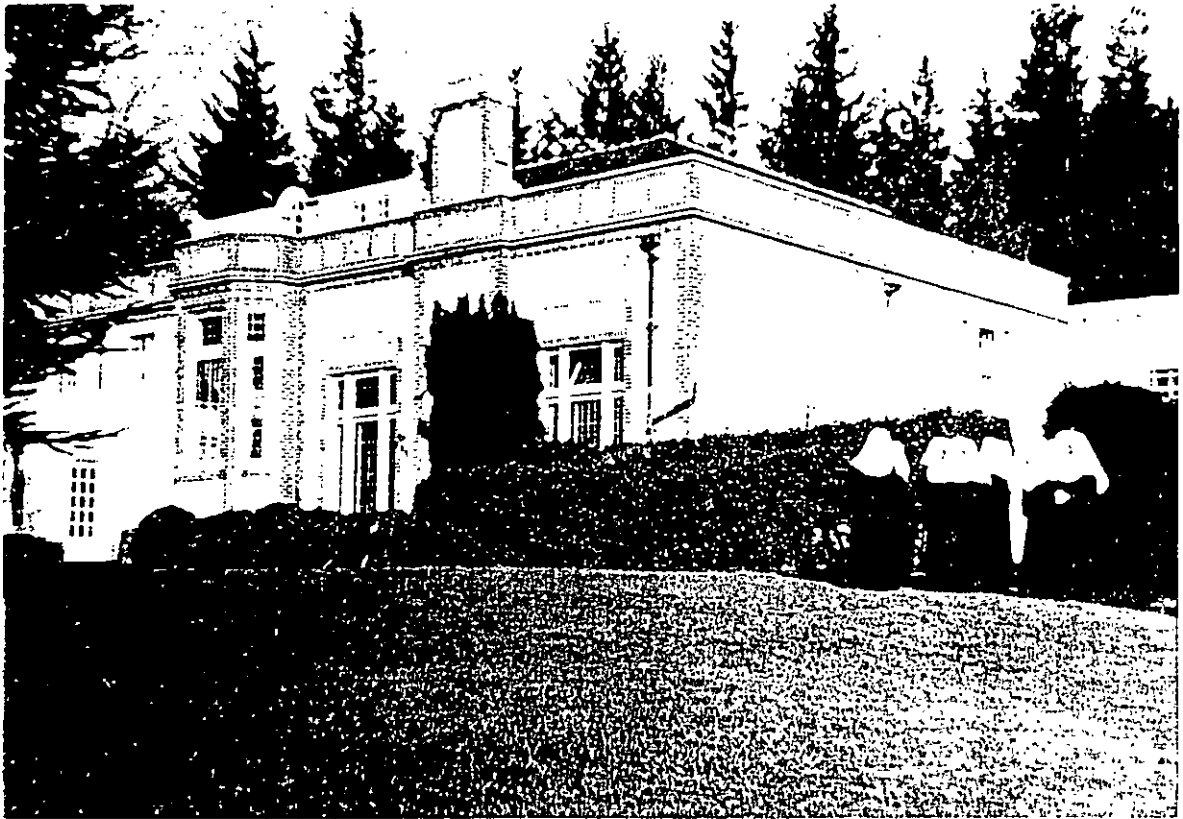
1998



1959



1957



Sept 15  
2001

01 222

## The Master's Call



As free as mountain air  
    Careering with a zest,  
Or the lark that flies  
    Through crystal skies—  
The soul within my breast.

For every link that bound  
    That soul to earth is broken;  
O'er the bounding deep  
    On, on I sweep;  
For Christ my Lord hath spoken.

In sweetly winning tone  
    To my heart of hearts He spake:  
"Go forth for Me  
    O'er land and sea,  
And labor for My sake.

"From ruin snatch those souls  
    For whom in love I died;  
Then evermore  
    When life is o'er  
With Me in bliss abide."

*Rev. John D. Walsh, S. J.*

Today the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark for administrative purposes, have grouped their houses into three Provinces. The Western Province, of which this booklet treats, is known in the Congregation as, "Our Lady's Province."

The Sisters in each of the Provinces are engaged in the traditional works of active communities. The Sisters of St. Joseph conduct Kindergartens, Elementary and Secondary Schools; Hospitals and Schools for Nursing, Institutes for the Blind, Homes for Working Girls, Orphanages and Catechetical Centres.

They offer opportunities for those who are particularly fitted for special types of work to find expression for their abilities, while serving God as a Sister of St. Joseph.





Mount St. Mary's Chapel Where Our Novices Pray

In cloistered seclusion from the world, her mind and heart become formed in Christ and her days are spent in prayer, study, and in the performance of domestic duties.

### Vocations

YOUNG LADIES, under thirty, desiring to consecrate their lives to God and to devote themselves to teaching, nursing, catechetical work, or caring for the Orphans and the Blind are invited to communicate with

Mother Provincial  
 ML Saint Mary's Novitiate  
 Hawthorn Road  
 South Bellingham, Washington



Sacristy technique is part of novitiate training.



Postulants sharing the all-important duties of washing up.

In all her humble, household tasks, each Sister simply asks  
 To labor gladly for Our Lord, His content her true reward.

## The Seed on Good Ground



Shepherding Christ's lambs at one of our Catechetical Centers.

A priest-friend in writing to us on the occasion of the golden jubilee of our magazine referred to Saint Joseph's as a tree that had sprung from a tiny seed planted in Jersey City fifty years before. It is truly an honor thus to be compared to the early Church and its expansion.

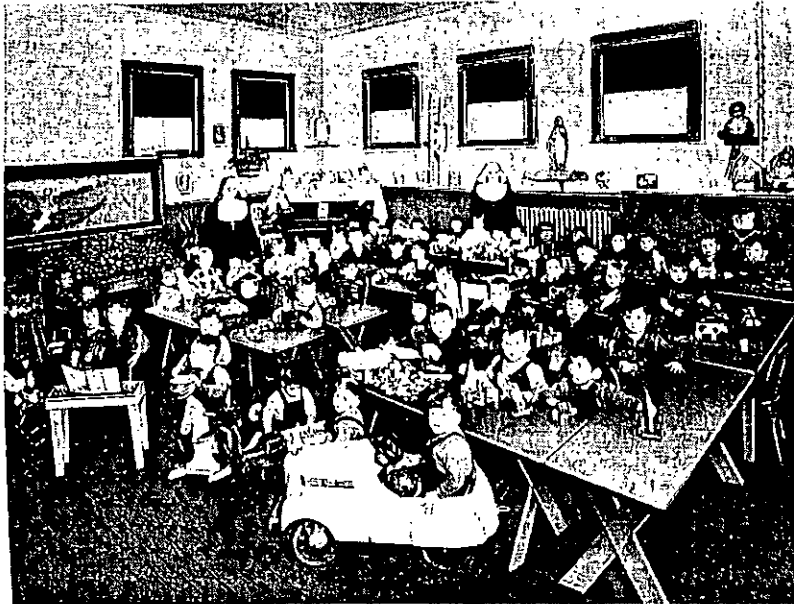
Father's figure of speech was significant in more ways than one. It described the obscurity from which our Congregation, known today as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark, the numerous institutions in our care, and the magazine itself, all took their beginnings and became a living, growing organization. Spiritually speaking, they are all identified with the Pious Union of Prayer, the fountain-head of strength and grace that unified the hearts of all who entered its ranks.

In his good wishes Father amplified his metaphor, and hoped that many more birds would find a haven of rest and peace in the branches of our tree. These symbolic words were and are expressive of our own aspirations. Whether the birds stand for boys and girls in need of what our Sisters can offer them, or Catholic Americans who would enjoy the benefits of enrollment in our Pious Union of Prayer, or young ladies yearning to consecrate their lives to St. Joseph's diversified apostolate—there is room and welcome and work for all.



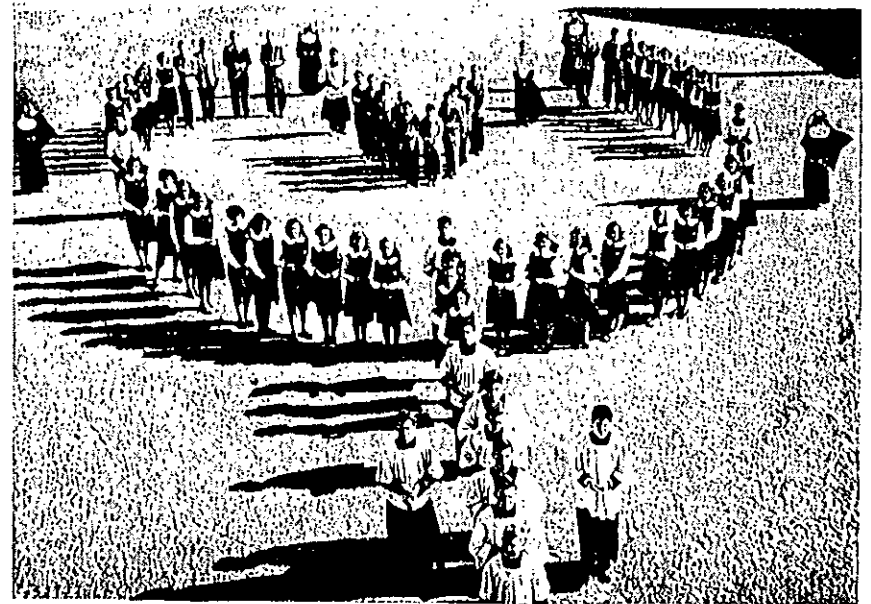
Nursing the sick poor was one of the earliest labors of love for Mother Evangelista and her spiritual daughters.

Angel of mercy, the nursing nun, bringing health to a stricken one; Caring for the babe so small seeing Christ in each and all.



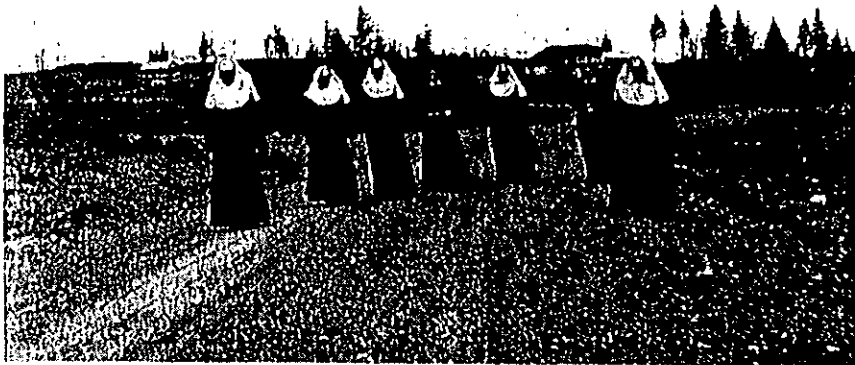
Where the foundation of spiritual and temporal success is laid—with the very young.

Sister doesn't mind the noise, of gleeful little girls and boys; Having fun with dolls and things--what happiness each hour brings.



Animated Rosary at one of our secondary schools.

The month of Mary's Rosary is celebrated fittingly In procession and in prayer to ensure her loving care.



"Cloister Cove" is a secluded, private beach near home



"Lourdes" in the making

For further information write to  
any of the following:

MOTHER PROVINCIAL  
MT. ST. MARY'S NOVITIATE  
HAWTHORN ROAD  
S. BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

MOTHER PROVINCIAL  
ST. MICHAEL'S NOVITIATE  
HUDSON TERRACE,  
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

MOTHER PROVINCIAL  
SACRED HEART NOVITIATE  
REARSBY, LEICESTERSHIRE  
ENGLAND

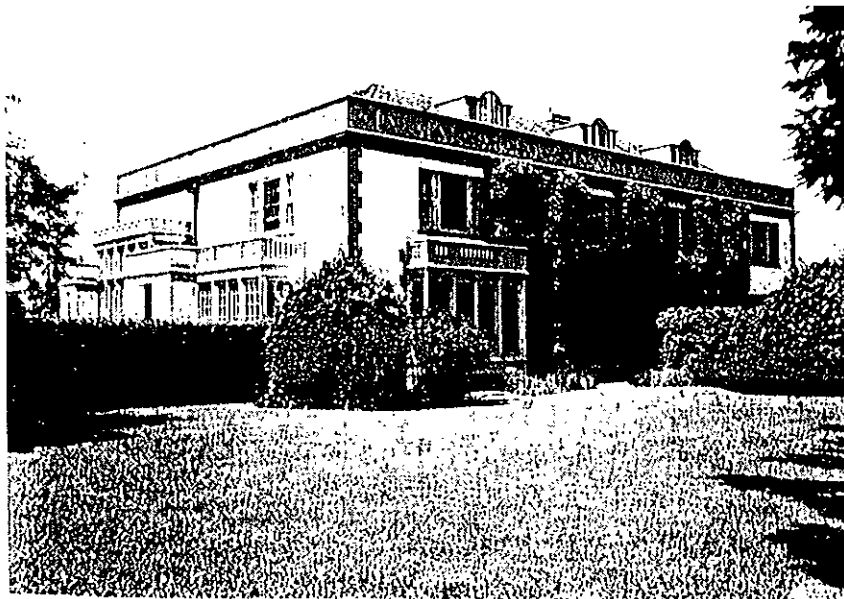
SISTER SUPERIOR  
MT. ST. JOSEPH'S  
CABRA, CO. DOWN,  
IRELAND

*"Master, where dwellest Thou?  
Come and see.  
They came and saw where He abode,  
And stayed with Him that day."  
-St. John, Ch. I, 38,39.*

It is for the purpose of directing young, generous women into one portion of the vineyard of the Church, that the Sisters of St. Joseph have prepared this brief survey of their Novitiate at Mount St. Mary's, South Bellingham, Washington, together with illustrations and explanations of activities proper to their institute.

Great is our hope that these glimpses of the various ways in which our Community is privileged to share with Christ in spreading His Kingdom upon earth may help generous souls to recognize the honor, obligation, responsibility and joy of the Religious Life.

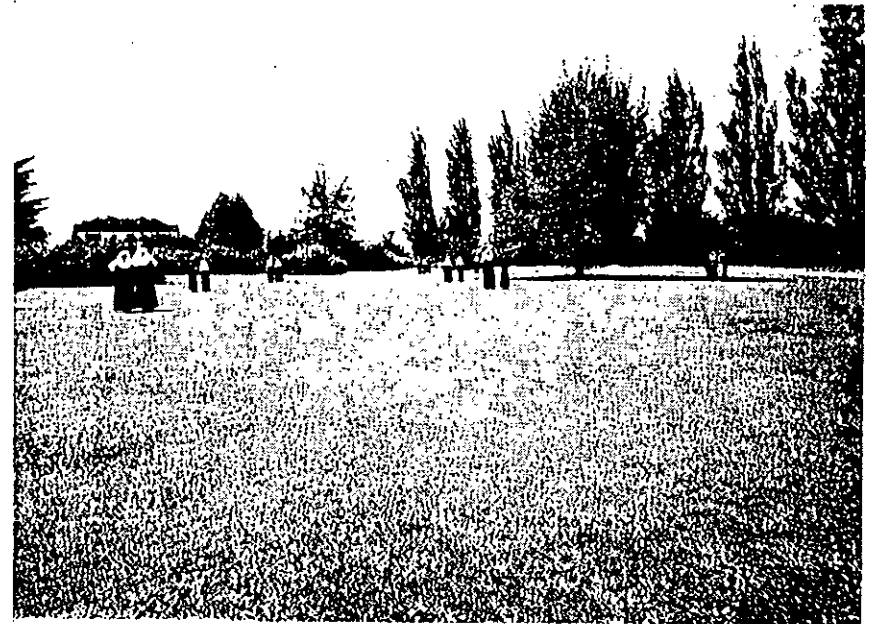
Happy the soul to whom the Holy Ghost vouchsafes a call to live a life directly and entirely in the service of our Divine Lord. To work with Him, and for Him and like Him—"Going about doing good."



Mount St. Mary's--Western View



The Approach to Mount St. Mary's



A View of the Lawn and Trees

Many pleasant walks and healthful sports occur on this secluded exquisitely green lawn.

# Our Times In The Nation

## Federal Aid To Education Gets New Twist

By Sister M. Melanie, C.S.J. BELLINGHAM---Federal aid to private education got a new twist last week. And at least one government self-help plan for an economically under-privileged area succeeded.

On the Bellingham campus of Seattle University's College of Sister Formation, Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark novices soaked their worn paint-brushes and prepared to re-sume fall quarter studies in the naval barracks they had spent nine months rehabilitating into the laboratory, library, classroom and sleeping quarters demanded by an increase of vocations and by the Sister Formation Program of Studies.

Now christened Madonna Hall, the structure was labeled simply "74" when it was submerged in military anonymity on Whidby Island. To be moved by barge the sixty miles to Bellingham, the 146-foot barracks suffered a splitting into four sections.

After eight months of waiting for the proper barracks traveling permit, high tide and wind conditions, "Old 74" appeared and was given a police escort to the novitiate, complete with traffic blockade and the doffed cap of a traffic light which had to be temporarily downed to permit passage of the raffish-looking remnants of a navy issue.

Quartered, peeling like a week-old sunburn from long exposure to salt-wind and water, the derelict was an

apologetic example of federal aid.

The Sisters, novices and postulants who had concentrated on the "ora" for bigger quarters now buckled down to the "labora" of converting the gift from the sea.

"Old 74" proved to be a money-eating, paint-swallowing and lumber-hungry piece of succor. They learned how to pour cement foundations. A truckload of cedar siding from British Columbia brought fathers and friends of the novices to nail it on, to knock down partitions and to lay flooring.

The Sisters learned how to tile floors, paint, varnish, and drive a tractor to smooth out the surrounding slope. They landscaped it with shrubbery donated by parents.

Last month, nine postulants reached out remarkably calloused, tanned and grubby-looking hands to receive the religious habit of novices. They had plied the trade of their patron saint successfully and must have smiled when they answered Bishop Thomas E. Gill, auxiliary bishop of Seattle, that they wanted to live "... a life of labor and love ... like St. Joseph."

This week, the only remnant of a derelict naval barracks was a tile mosaic "74" lovingly made by the novices and hung in the entrance, and Madonna Hall was officially opened for its new duties of serving in the Sister Formation Program.

### Sisters Acquire Roberg Residence Next to Novitiate

Purchase of the Ralph Roberg home, 120 Hawthorne Rd., was announced Monday by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark, Mount St. Mary's Novitiate.

The home, adjacent to the present Mount St. Mary's novitiate, 220 Hawthorne Rd., was purchased for \$50,000, excise tax records filed with the County Treasurer's office Monday indicated.

Mother Theodore Marie, the Provincial of the Western Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark, said the residence on the Roberg property would be used to provide housing facilities for the over-crowded St. Mary's novitiate.

In the autumn of 1955 plans were announced for removal of the administrative staff of the provincial home to Bellevue and subsequent removal of the novitiate to that community. However, it was explained Monday, the home still is being used for the novitiate, or schooling of nuns, function at present.

*Bellingham*

*Herald*  
*2/4/57*

# Federal Aid To Education Gets Face Lifting By St. Joseph Sisters

By SISTER M. MELANIE, C.S.J.

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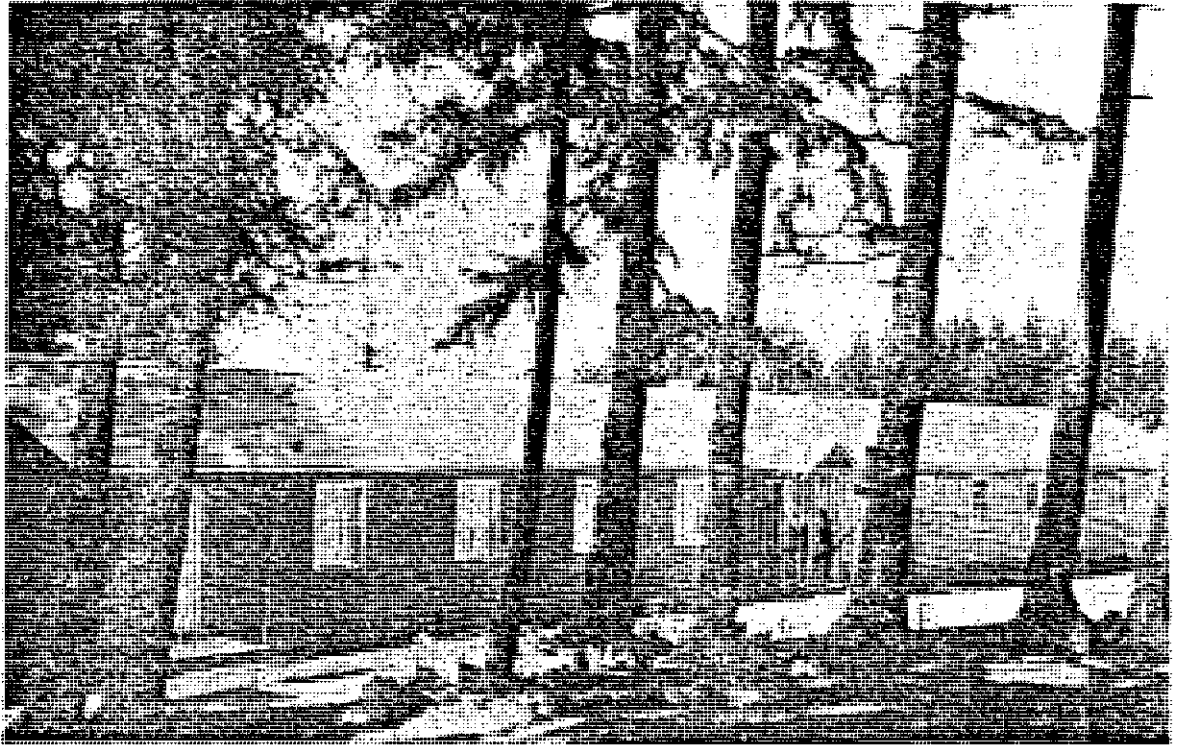
## 'OLD 74' APPEARED

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The Sisters learned how to lay floors, paint, varnish, and



MADONNA HALL, once a peeling, ramshackle navy barracks, is seen after its recent renovation into school facilities for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark on their Bellingham campus of the College of Sister Formation. Moved by barge from Whidbey Island, the barracks required nine

months of painting, varnishing, tiling and landscaping the novices at Mt. St. Mary Novitiate. Fathers and friends of the novices helped in the more intricate aspects of renovating.

## LIKE ST. JOSEPH

drive a tractor to smooth out the surrounding slope. They landscaped it with shrubbery donated by parents.

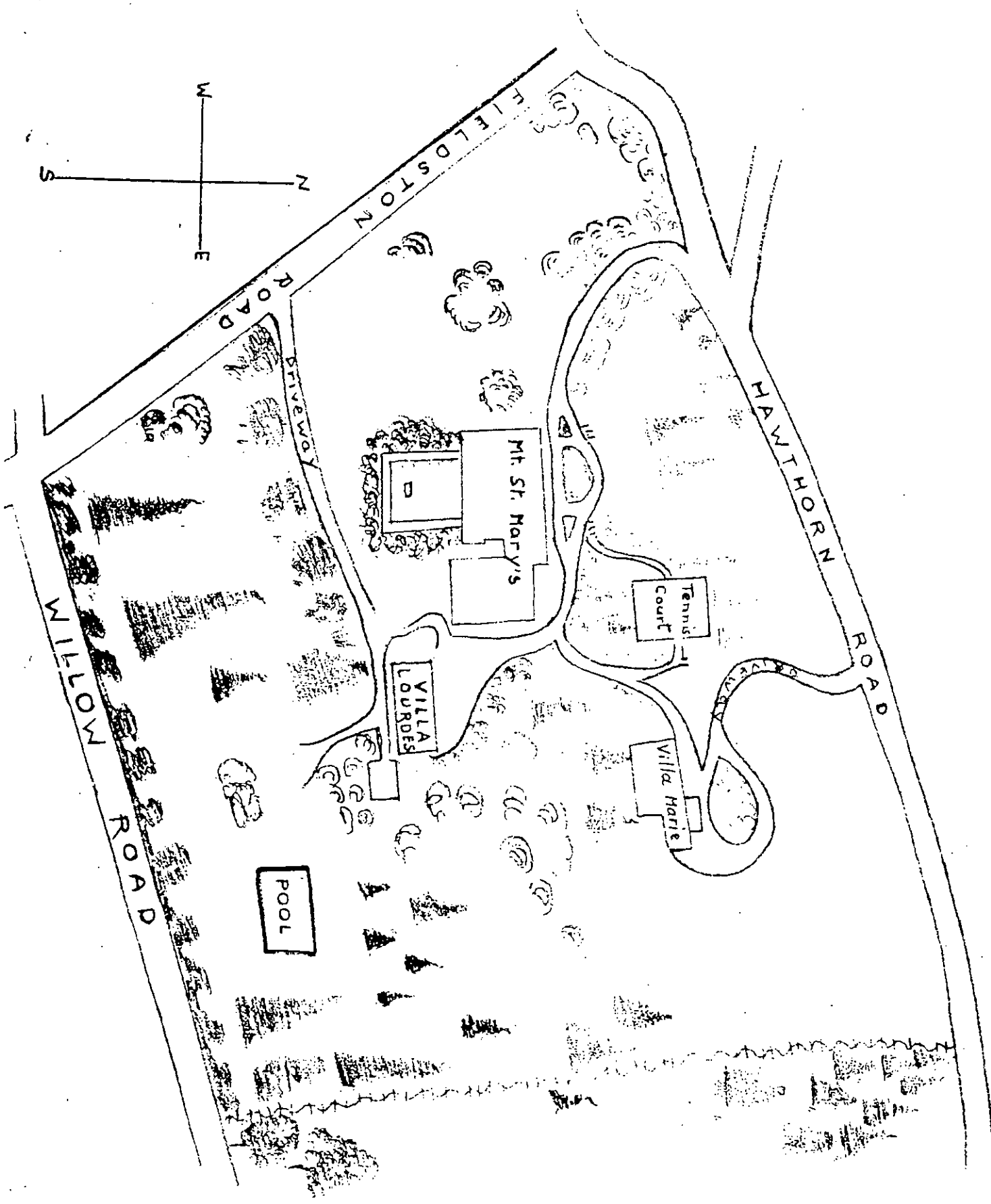
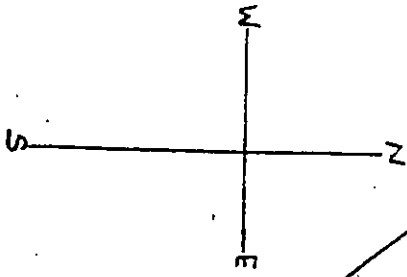
Men of the Archdiocese who contributed time and labor to help the novices were: M. E. Abbott, George Bartlett, H. R. Crawford, John Duchscherer, Ted Gerhard, Pat Hosey, William H. Lampert, Albert Lemieux, Wilfred Lemieux, Ray Malone, Roy Marti, Jr., Paul C. Meyer, Jr., James O'Connor, Griff Parry, James Parry, Steve Sanders, Harry Staw.

Those from outside Seattle included James K. Egan, Edmonds; Don Haase, Chehalis; Mark A. Logan, Renton; Paul C. Meyer, Mercer Island; George Waham, Kirkland; Rev. Brendan Gallagher, pastor of Immaculate Heart Church, Sedro Woolley; Victor Bourson, Arnold Donovan, Lawrence Lazzari, all of Sedro Woolley; Roy Benner, Charles Day, Wilfred Dunnigan, Jerry Jenkins, Howard Josh and George Miller, all of Bellingham.



Months of painting, varnishing, tiling and landscaping the novices at Mt. St. Mary Novitiate. Fathers and friends of the novices helped in the more intricate aspects of renovating.

"OLD 74" was once the only designation of the navy barracks converted by St. Joseph of Newark novices into classrooms. Sister M. Bernita, novice, daughter of Mr. and James K. Egan of Holy Paish, Edmonds, and Sister Alysius, C.S.J., mistress of novices, display the mosaic calling Madonna Hall's history of service for God country. The mosaic was made by Sister M. Margie, novice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Staw of St. Andrew Parish, Seattle.





Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace

Saint Mary's P.O. Box 1763 1663 Killarney Way  
Bellevue, WA 98004 206-451-1833

LM  
Hst 76  
✓

February 21, 1993

Mr. Joel S. Douglas  
Lairmont Manor  
405 Fieldstone Road  
Bellingham, WA. 98225

Dear Mr. Douglas,

Your letter requesting information about Mt. St. Marys was referred to me since I am our Community Archivist. Also, I spent six years as director there. I will be very happy to be of assistance but would like a few more specifics as to what kind of information you would like. I am not sure what you have in mind re "individual stories" and "scrapbook" information. To make a suitable and understandable story these materials would have to be carefully selected by someone who is familiar with the life of the Sisters. In regard to Roy Benner, what kind of information would you like other than that he was the gardner there. We do have contact with him and will try to get whatever information you would like.

Probably the best thing to do would be to give me a call to discuss your ideas with me. If you are interested in doing this my numbers are,- (206) 451-1833 (daytime)  
(206) 454-7138 (evenings)

Sincerely,

*Sr. Johanna Vogelsang*  
Sr. Johanna Vogelsang, CSJP

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF ST. MARYS

Originally the Novitiate (training school for young women who wished to become Sisters) was located in a section of St. Joseph's Hospital on State Street. Soon this space became too small to accommodate the number of girls wishing to train. A new location had to be found.

Dec. 12, 1941 the Larrabee property was purchased.

After some alterations and additions made by C.A. Standen, Contractor the convent, to be known as St. Mary's Provincial House and Novitiate was opened on Feb. 11, 1942. It became a training school for young women wishing to become Sisters and the location of the Administrative Team of our Western Province.

The population of St. Mary's moved from about six in the beginning to approximately fifty by the time we sold the property.

The training in Religious Life consisted in classes, retreats, domestic work, teaching Religion classes in neighboring parishes, as well as continuing their general academic training through high-school and college courses.

Over the years they had academic affiliation with Seattle University Western Washington College of Education and the Catholic University of America. Classes were given by visiting professors, -Sisters and seculars.

Your present Reception Room was remodelled into a chapel, - named Holy Trinity Chapel.

In 1949 the hillside east of the house was made into a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The larger garage was transformed into a dwelling for the Chaplain. It was named "Villa Lourdes".

The first chaplain was Rev. Hubert Pospichal, M.M. who had just returned from Korea and needing a quiet, restful place to recuperate from sad experiences in the war in the Far East.

In 1950 the brick addition was built. It was used for sleeping quarters a large dining room, a pantry, a small dining room for the Chaplain and visitors and two small classrooms.

In 1956 we purchased the Roherg residence and the joining three acres. The residence was used for extra sleeping quarter, classrooms and for guests. It was named "Villa Marie".

In 1959 the swimming pool was built with the help of family and friends. In 1960 the Bath Houses were added.

In 1960 the Navy Barracks, Building #74, was purchased from U.S. Naval Air Station, Seaplane Base, on Whidbey Island. I was delivered in three sections and caused some consternation for the neighbors until they understood what it was going to be used for. (See enclosed article)

✓

During this time the old wooden building of St. Joseph's Hospital was being dismantled. Valuable properties such as tables, chairs, sinks and other furniture were obtained for the barracks. After completion the barracks was named "Madonna Hall".

Roy Benner

When we purchased the property Mr.- Benner, Roy's father was the gardner and engineer and he remained with us until his retirement. His replacement was too old to carry on so Mr. Benner's son, Roy, took on the job. He was an excellent gardner and engineer and when we moved to Bellevue he came with us and stayed with us until he retired. He died several years ago.

In 1960 there was an additional purchase of property made. It was known as "Halley Plat" but I have no further information on it.

Re the cost of St. Mary's as far as I can tell from our records we paid \$32,500.00 for it.

✓

Some extra "Items of Interest"

Aug. 4, 1961 ... Mayor Westford and his family gave us a Salmon Bake. He came in the afternoon and built a special fire-place, got green alder wood and smoked and baked three large salmon. The Hospital Sisters were also invited.

Nov. 8 .. Nearly 200 visitors arrived for General Visiting Day.

Nov. 21st ... Mayor Westford arranged for a local bagpipe band to come and give a concert. About 25 men in tartan kilts came with their families. The Bagpipers' comment was, - we were the most appreciative audience they had ever had.

The name "Lairmont" is a derivative of Larrabee and Mt. St. Mary's.

Note re questions you may have about the pictures of the Sisters,--

Postulants are girls in the first stages of religious life, - first six months. They wore a simple black dress and veil.

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Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace

1663 Killarney Way P.O. Box 248 Bellevue, WA 98009  
206-451-1770

*LLH History 11/21*  
*ask*  
*6/21/00*  
*Queen*

July 26, 1990

Joel Douglas  
Lairmont Foundation  
Lairmont Manor  
405 Fieldstone Road  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Mr. Douglas:

Thank you for your note of July 17, 1990. As per your inquiry, I feel somewhat awkward. I am Sister Kathleen Pruitt. I was born in Bellingham, went to Bellingham High School and spent my novitiate training years at what is now Lairmont Manor. My aunt, Mary Mura, and her son Steven Mura and his family, and Jack McDonald are my only remaining relatives in Bellingham.

Over the years I have done a number of different ministries. I have worked with youth and adult drug abusers; I have worked with Operation Nightwatch, providing assistance to poor and homeless on First Avenue in Seattle; I served for a number of years as counselor and chaplain at the Monroe Reformatory; I worked with others to bring health care programs to migrant workers in the Yakima Valley. Recently I have been involved with programs and projects related to El Salvador and Nicaragua. In early 1990 I worked with a number of others to organize a shipment of 12 tons of medical and food supplies to aid the people of El Salvador. I was a member of the Northwest Nicaragua Election Watch, a group of people from the Northwest present in Nicaragua during the recent elections. During the summer months I co-direct Wilderness Retreats, a retreat program which draws people from around the country to enjoy solitude, renewal and spiritual growth in the beauty of the Canadian Okanagan Mountains. We are hoping to expand the Wilderness Retreat Program into a Peace Reflection Center in the near future. I am chairperson of Pax Christi USA and vice-president of Pax Christi International. Pax Christi is the international Catholic Peace Movement. I taught grade and high school for a number of years and in addition to a degree in Education I hold a Masters in Social Work.

I am currently a member of the four person administrative team for the Western Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, headquartered in Bellevue. Our Religious Community, through its health care corporation, owns and operates St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham where our sisters do many beneficial works as does a member of our community who works as pastoral associate at Assumption Church.

(continued)

page two  
Joel Douglas  
Lairmont Foundation

While I return to Bellingham periodically and consider myself a native daughter of that lovely city, I have not actually ministered there. I have given a number of presentations to a variety of groups in the city over the years. And as I mentioned above, our sisters do minister at St. Joseph Hospital and at Assumption Church. In fact, St. Joseph Hospital was our very first mission in the Pacific Northwest. It opened for service in 1891. We will be celebrating the centennial of the hospital, and of our province in Bellingham in January, 1991.

I hope this helps answer your questions. If you would like additional information regarding either myself or the work of our community in Bellingham I would be happy to talk with you. Let us continue to pray with one another for peace in our world -- a peace born of true and lasting justice for all people.

Shalom!



Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP  
Director, Office of Mission and Outreach  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

KP:nn



Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace

Saint Mary's P.O. Box 1763 1663 Killarney Way  
Bellevue, WA 98008 206-451-1833

Sent ✓  
with  
\$50.00 L.M.  
to Sister

April 14, 1992

Dear Mr. Douglas,

Enclosed is a copy of the historical outline you requested.

I was away from here for a few weeks so did not received your communication until my return.

I do not have an extra copy of the booklet but if I do find one I will send it on. I would be willing to send you this one to keep until you can get the information you want from it. However, since it is my only copy I do need it back. Let me know if you would like me to send it.

Thank you for the room passes. I'm not sure if I will be free to use them before the expiration date but will keep it in mind.

Sincerely,

*LM History* Hanna Hogelson

August Helgren  
Builder of Lairmont  
Born June 17, 1862, Dalsland, Sweden  
Died October 11, 1922, Fairhaven, WA

Karin (Carrie) Isakson, born July 25, 1873  
Ovanaker, Sweden.  
Died September 19, 1957, Lynden, WA

August and Karin married August 25, 1891  
by L.C. Foss, Evangelical Luthern Minister  
of Fairhaven, Washington.

Dear Sister

I have photocopied  
the Books  
it.

Thank you  
Jore

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