FHR-8-300 (11-78)

F-6-41

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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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: St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House

and/or common: St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House

2. Location

street & number: 5052 De Paul Street — n/a not for publication

city, town: Emmitsburg — n/a vicinity of — congressional district: Sixth

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Frederick — code: 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: De Paul Street Partnership, c/o Nelson Zahler

street & number: 8116 Overlook Drive

city, town: Frederick — n/a vicinity of — state: Maryland 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Frederick County Courthouse

street & number: West Patrick Street

city, town: Frederick — state: Maryland 21701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory — has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date: 1984 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

F-6-41

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date n/a
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: educational. religious

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House is a late nineteenth century school complex that consists of two attached brick buildings related historically: a circa 1890 school building, the larger of the two, and a circa 1860 house that was used as a convent. The school building is a two and a half story rectangular structure, nine bays by five bays, on a high stone foundation with a gable roof (E-W axis) with centered cross-gable on the north and south elevations. The convent is two stories plus mansard with an el projecting from the back. The cornice is modillioned and the facade windows and entranceway have hoods. The interior of the school is simple with four and six panel doors, plain woodwork, and narrow board wainscoting. The interior of the convent has archititrave woodwork, six panel doors, original staircase with turned balusters and newel, etched glass, and decorative plaster work in the ceilings of the principal rooms. The buildings are surrounded by parking area and a playground that do not contribute to the significance.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House is located on the south side of DePaul Street in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The site is comprised of two attached masonry buildings.

The Sisters' House is a three story rectangular masonry building with two story masonry L addition to the south of the building. The Sisters' House is seven bays wide and two bays deep. The L addition is four bays wide and two bays deep. Both buildings are constructed of brick laid in common bond. The front facade (north elevation) of the Sisters' House is constructed of a finished brick (though not a face brick) which appears originally to have been painted red with mortar joints painted in white. This painted decoration has almost completely disappeared.

The Sisters' House is covered by a standing seam tin mansard roof with bracketed boxed wood cornice. The rear L addition is covered by a shallow gable tin roof. Located in each bay on the third level of the Sisters' House is a hip roofed dormer square 4/4 double hung window. Located in each bay across the front facade of the building on the first and second levels is a tall double hung 6/6 window with decorative hood molding supported by two small brackets. Applied wood molding in a delicate leaflike pattern extends over the window between the two brackets. The main entrance is located in the third bay from the east side of the building. A large wood entrablature supported by a scrolled bracket on each side is located on either side of the main entrance. Applied wood molding in a delicate leaflike pattern identical to that over the windows extends between the brackets over the door.

A five light transom is located over the main entrance. The original twin doors which lead in to the foyer have been replaced with modern storm doors. A decorative tile floor is located in the foyer. The interior main entrance doors are narrow twin panelled doors with decorative copper wheel cut glass windows in floral designs. The windows do not match indicating that one must be a replacement. A large three light transom with sidelights with matching copper wheel cut glass in a geometric design surround the doors.

The rear L addition is devoid of any decoration. Double hung 6/6 windows with jack arches are located in each bay except for a narrow bay on the east and west sides of the building which are occupied by a narrow one over one window. White wash on the south wall of the L addition outlines an original stairway which led to the second floor of the building to a doorway (now a window) on the south wall of the building. A small one bay wide vertical board shed roof addition covers the rear entrance to the Sisters' House.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Sisters' House was constructed as a dormitory for the teaching sisters and retained that use throughout the life of the building with minor changes. The main decorative features of the building are located on the first level of the building at the front entrance in the main hall and the front rooms on either side of the hall. Each room is entered through a decorative vertical six panel door with three light transom and surround. Circular plaster medallions are centered in each room. Also on the ceiling is a plaster border with square medallions in each corner and small cornice. High wood baseboards and decorative wood surrounds are located throughout the rooms. Plywood paneling has been applied to the south wall of the west room on the first level. A decorative plaster ceiling medallion is also located in the center hall where a modestly ornate open stair with turned newel post and bannisters rises to the third level.

A kitchen with built in paneled cabinets and dining area are located in the remainder of the first level in the rear addition. A narrow L shaped hall leads to the St. Euphemia's School building.

The second level of the Sisters' House is divided into three rooms and a bath in the main block and multiple dormitory style rooms on the second level of the rear addition. The partitionong of the rear rooms is recent (c. 1960) and local tradition indicates that the area was once open and used as classroom area for black students.

The third level of the Sisters' House is also believed to have been used for school room space. The rooms are small with paneled window areas and built in paneled floor to ceiling closets.

The entire building is constructed on a low random stone foundation with decorative cast iron window wells.

A full basement with dirt floor is reached through the stairs, one in the Sisters' House and one in the kitchen of the L addition.

The St. Euphemia's school building is a monumental brick building connected on the east side to the Sisters' House which rises 3½ stories. The building is constructed of uniform common brick laid in common bond with finished brick jack arches located over each opening. The building is constructed on a coursed field stone foundation. Eight small 6/6 windows extend across the foundation on the front facade and continue on the sides and in the rear at regular intervals. The building is characrerized by the tall narrow double hung four over four windows with two light transoms located in each bay except the entrance bays on second and and third levels. The building is nine bays wide and five bays deep.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Located in each gable at the top of the building is an arched 4/4 window. On the north and west side buildings are located two main entrances, each reached by sweeping granite steps with cast iron railings. Both entrance doors are twin two panel doors with two, two-light transoms recessed into a panelled entrance. Although missing now, earlier photographs indicate that the lower transom windows were once covered with paneled shutters.

The building is covered by a standing seam tin roof with boxed wood cornice with return and dentiled wood frieze.

A small single corbelled chimney rises from the center of the east gable. A second identical chimney once rose from the west gable but was removed after 1949.

The interior of the building is primarily characterized by the main hallways on the first level, the classrooms and the large transom of 18 lights located over the entrance to the main stairs.

Relatively few changes have been made to the building since it was first constructed in 1890 except in 1977 when it is known that the first floor lavatories were updated, the accoustical ceilings installed in the classrooms and the partitioning on the second floor was changed. Plywood paneling was installed in the southwest classroom on the first level and linoleum covered the original wood floors.

However the building can still be described accurately by its original description as appeared in the Emmitsburg Chronicle on January 31, 1890, the day of its grand opening:

"It stands 8 feet back from the street line with a frontage of 71 feet 6 inches, running back on the lot 48 feet 6 inches. The first floor is 4 feet 6 inches above the street level, and 9 granite steps make the assent easy to both entrances, one on the street and the other on the side next to the Cemetery of St. Joseph's Church. The stone work of the foundation extends to the first floor, and the balance of the building is of brick with granite trimmings, window sills, etc. The height is 36 feet from the ground to the window sills, etc. The height is 36 feet from the ground to the square, while the total height from the ground to the top of the roof is 51 feet.

The front and back are alike with the exception of the entrance, two windows in the latter taking the place of the front door. The walls are divided into three parts, the middle section, 21 feet 6 inches, projecting 21 inches and is finished with a gable centre at the roof.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Interior

The basement has nine foot ceiling, with cemented floor and walls, and is used for the girls play room. The first floor has fifteen foot ceilings, and is divided into four class rooms, 18 X 25 feet, by two eight foot corridors running the entire length of the building from east to west and from north to south. The class rooms are wainscoated to the height of the window sills, and above the wainscoating large slate tiles are placed in the wall for blackboards. These are on all four sides of each room. Each class room is entered by a small corridor containing hoods for hats and wraps. Two of the class rooms are for the boys and two for the girls, the boys' entrance being on the street and the girls' entrance on the west side. There is a large vestibule at each entrance. The second floor is finished for a distribution hall, with movable partition at one end, forming a class room for the colored children. When this partition is removed a hall the entire size of the building is formed, with 14 foot ceilings. The building is covered with a steel roof and terra cotta pipes which empty into a large sewer carry off all the water. Light and ventilation are furnished by 72 large windows, 23 in the front, 25 in the back, with 12 on the west end and 7 on the east end. Each window is furnished with a large transom hung on hinges at the bottom, opening inwards from the top, thereby furnishing ventilation without draught. The entire building is heated by steam, for which purpose a large double steam furnace is situated in the basement, and so arranged that in mild weather only one boiler need be used, while in colder weather both will be needed. The steamheating apparatus was put in by Messrs. R. D. Armor & Son of Gettysburg.

The plans and drawings were made under the direction of the Reverend Alexius Mandine, by Mr. Bennet Tyson, of the firm of Tyson and Lansinger, carpenters and builders, who built the structure. The mason work was done by Messrs, Lingg & Sons, and Mr. John D. Seabold did the plastering, and M. E. Adelsberger & Son the roofing, spouting, etc. With the exception of the steam heating and plumbing, the entire work from that of the architect to the completion of the building was done by resident mechanics.

8. Significance

F-6-41

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	X education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c. 1890 **Builder/~~Architect~~** Tyson and Lansinger, builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A and C
Applicable Exceptions: A
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House is significant in the history of Emmitsburg. St. Euphemia's School was established in the late 1870s and moved to this building upon its completion in 1890. It functioned as the only Catholic school in Emmitsburg and the surrounding area of northern Frederick County until mid the present century when the school was desolved and the building became a part of St. Joseph's High School. The school and the accompanying convent, which is an earlier structure, are landmarks in the townscape. The school building is significant as an intact example of a typical turn of the century rural western Maryland school of which few examples remain with as high a degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship of the period.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

St. Euphemia's School in Emmitsburg, Maryland was first established in September, 1878 by Father Henry White, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church from 1878 to 1893. The children were taught by the Sisters of Charity obtained from St. Joseph's Central House in 1878 and led by Mother Euphemia Bleckensop from whom it is believed the school derived its name. Classes were first held in St. Vincent's Hall which was a two story brick structure built c. 1853 on the northwest corner of Green Street (now Depaul Street).

On September 22, 1879, the Board of County School Commissioners of Frederick County sold lot number 138 in Emmitsburg known as the public school lot to the Sisters of Charity. Excepted from the deed was, "all the stone, brick, wood and other building material now in the old building standing upon said lot of ground reserving the right to remove such material within six month." (Frederick County Land Records Liber TG 10, Folio.. 531). The old building was a public school building constructed c. 1839 when the property was conveyed to the Trustees of the Primary School District No. 41. (Liber HS 8, Folio 171). According to the History of Emmitsburg, a second school building was constructed on this location c. 1878 which stood on the site until the existing St. Euphemia'a School Building was built in 1889-1890. Also on the site was a residence which became known as the Sisters' House after it was first occupied as living quarters for the teaching sisters in 1878. Physical evidence in the east part of the existing Sisters' House indicates that at least part of another building was incorporated in the new building. A building owned by L. Lilly is located near the current location on the 1873 Titus atlas of the county. A second building shown on the same map and owned by David and Mary Jane Agnew appears to have been demolished in the following reference from April 25, 1890 in the Emmitsburg Chronicle, "The old Agnew house on Green Street (now DePaul Street) now owned by the Sisters of Charity has been torn down and a new three story building will be erected on the site. The sisters will also have a mansard roof put on the house adjoining the new building."

Local tradition indicates that the idea of building a new school building began in 1881 when one of the founding sisters of the school, Mother Euphemia Bleckensop celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a sister. According to the tradition, a sister of some means was disappointed in not being asked to contribute to that occasion and instead contributed to the fund that made possible the building of the school. (Information included in the St. Euphemia's School file at the St. Joseph's Provincial House.)

A mention on April 6, 1889 of the Emmitsburg Chronicle announced the beginning of the construction of the school building. "Workmen have commenced on the foundation for the new building to be erected for St. Eumphema's School on Green Street," and on June 15, 1889, "The old school house on the corner of

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Green Street and Gettysburg Street used by St. Euphemia's School has been torn down and a good part of the material will be used in the erection of the handsome new school building." On October 18, 1889, "The new School house for St. Euphemia's School on Green Street is becoming rapidly pushed forward to completion. This is one of the finest buildings in town and is in striking contrast with the public school building."

Indeed it was striking. The school building towered above all but the Church steeples and hotel on the square corner in the town. The day the building was opened for inspection, as the January 31, 1890 Emmitsburg Chronicle reported, "hundreds of people turned out as to a great show and all were highly pleased with the structure."

St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House are particularly important to Emmitsburg and this region because they are examples of popular architectural styles of the period interpreted by local builders and tradesmen. According to the same January 31, 1809 issue of the Chronicle, "The plans and drawings were made under the direction of Rev. Alexius Mandine by Mr. Bennet Tyson, of the firm of Tyson and Lansinger, carpenters and builders who built the structure. The mason work was done by Messrs. Lingg & Sons, and Mr. John D. Seabold did the plastering and M. E. Adelsberger & Son the roofing and spouting, etc. With the exception of the steamheating (which was installed by Messrs. R. D. Armon & Son of Gettysburg), the entire work from that of the architect to the completion of the building was done by resident mechanics."

To date, little is known about the firm of Tyson and Lansinger except that they dominated the building trade in Emmistsburg and were responsible, according to Williams, History of Frederick County, Md.(p. 498) for "putting up" the tower on the nearby St. Joseph's Church which was originally constructed in 1869. The firm of Tyson and Lansinger is listed in both the 1887 and 1895 Frederick City and Frederick County Directories, in 1887 as carpenters and in 1895 as builders. Both men, Bennet J. Tyson (Jan. 4, 1832 - Nov. 28, 1913) and Francis W. Lansinger (1833-1911) lived and died in Emmitsburg and are both burried next door to the school in the St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Henry and Michael Lingg were listed in the 1895 directory as stone and brick masons. John D. Seabold was listed in the 1887 directory as a bricklayer and plasterer and just a plasterer in 1895. Finally, N. (M?) E. Addlesperger & Son were listed in the 1887 directory as a merchant in stoves and tin.

The St. Euphemia's School was officially incorporated on May 8, 1881 "for the religious and secular education of youth." On September 1, 1890, the first day of school in the new building, a total of 166 children, 99 boys and 67 girls were enrolled. Of particular importance was the following entry from the

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

the Emmitsburg Chronicle, September 5, 1890, "The colored children were received September 1. Their names enrolled and then they were dismissed at noon, because the apartments for their use are not yet finished. But next Monday, they will be accommodated in the separate school rooms set apart for them."

According to the History of Emmitsburg, a school for colored children was established in connection with St. Euphemia's as early as 1886. These classes were held in the Sisters' House. When the new school building was constructed, the second floor of the building was specifically set aside for these children as indicated in the Emmitsburg Chronicle description of the building. "The second floor is finished for a distribution hall, with a movable partition at one end forming a class room for the colored children." (January 31, 1890)

The St. Euphemia's School was one of a very few places in Frederick County during this period where a formal education was provided for black children. Whether this was controversial in the community is not known however, a Maryland Senate Bill No. 396 was enacted on March 8, 1912 and repealed in 1918 requiring the Frederick County Commissioners, "to pay annually to the Sisters of Charity of St. Euphemia's a sum of money from the money received for school purposes for educating colored children not exceeding $250." An undated memoriandum in the St. Euphemia's School collection of the St. Joseph's Provincial House indicated that $150 was paid to the school by the county commissioners from 1920 to c. 1940.

At its height in 1950, 220 children were taught by six sisters in the buildings. Although a public school and other school buildings were constructed in Emmitsburg during the twentieth century, none ever matched the stately grandeur or tradition of St. Euphemia's.

In 1957, the primary school closed and the building was used as part of St. Joseph's High School until August, 1982. In 1984, the building was sold to the DePaul Street Partnership for conversion to apartments. The St. Euphemia's School and Sisters' House is a landmark in the Emmitsburg community both for its architectural importance and social and educational value to the community.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frederick County Land Records
Sister Eleanor Casey, Bladensburg, MD
The Emmitsburg Chronicle 1880-1892, available at the Emmitsburg Public Library
William, T. J. C. History of Frederick County, Maryland.
Regional Publishing Co.. Baltimore, MD 1906
Helmons, R. History of Emmitsburg, Maryland. Citizens Press, Frederick, MD 1906

9. Major Bibliographical References

F-6-41

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Emmitsburg, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	300 660	4390 420
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the attached map and include only the town lot upon which the buildings stand.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cherilyn Widell, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization date

street & number 115 East Third Street telephone 301-663-6820

city or town Frederick state Maryland 21701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 8-8-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

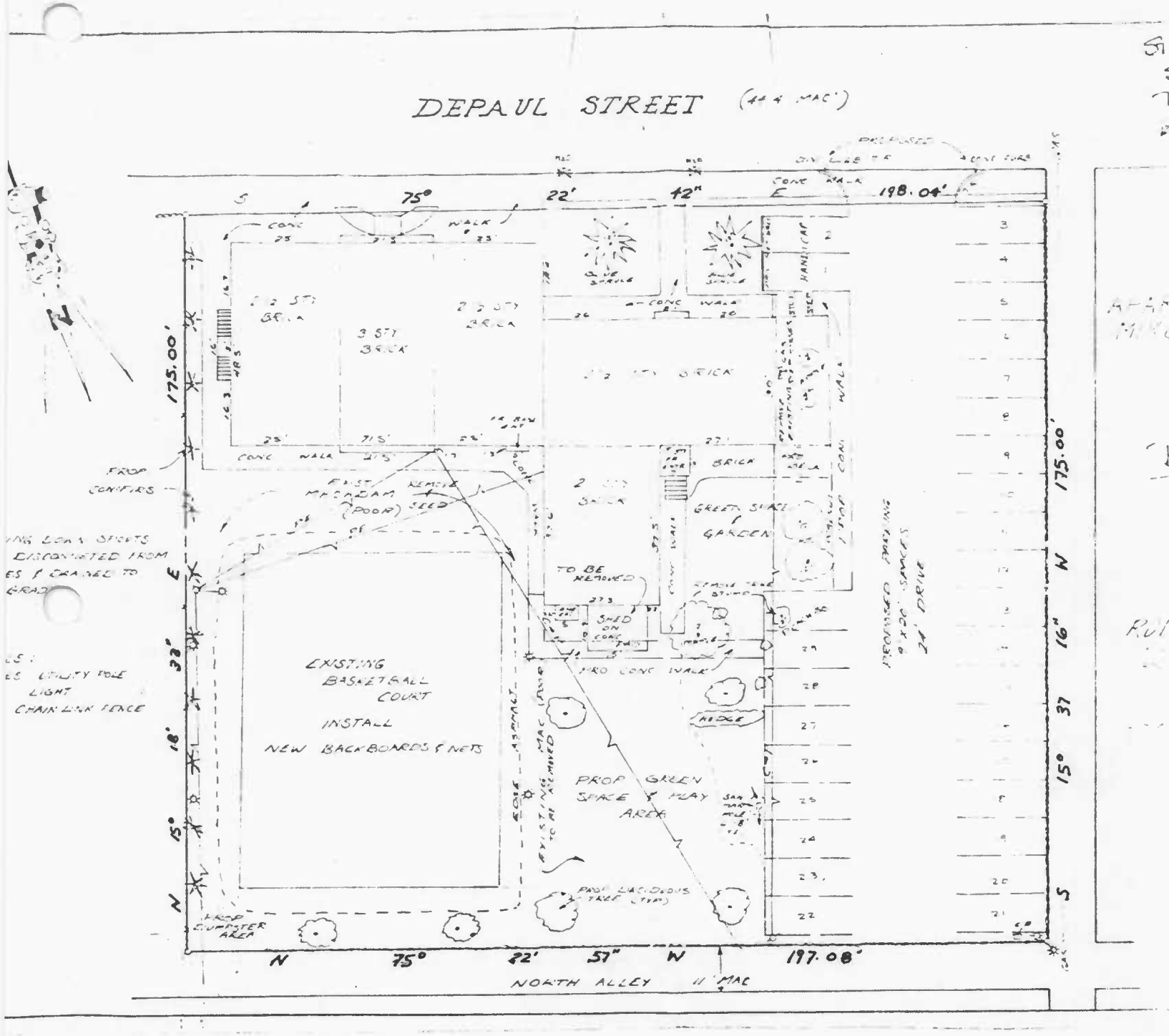
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

boundary map



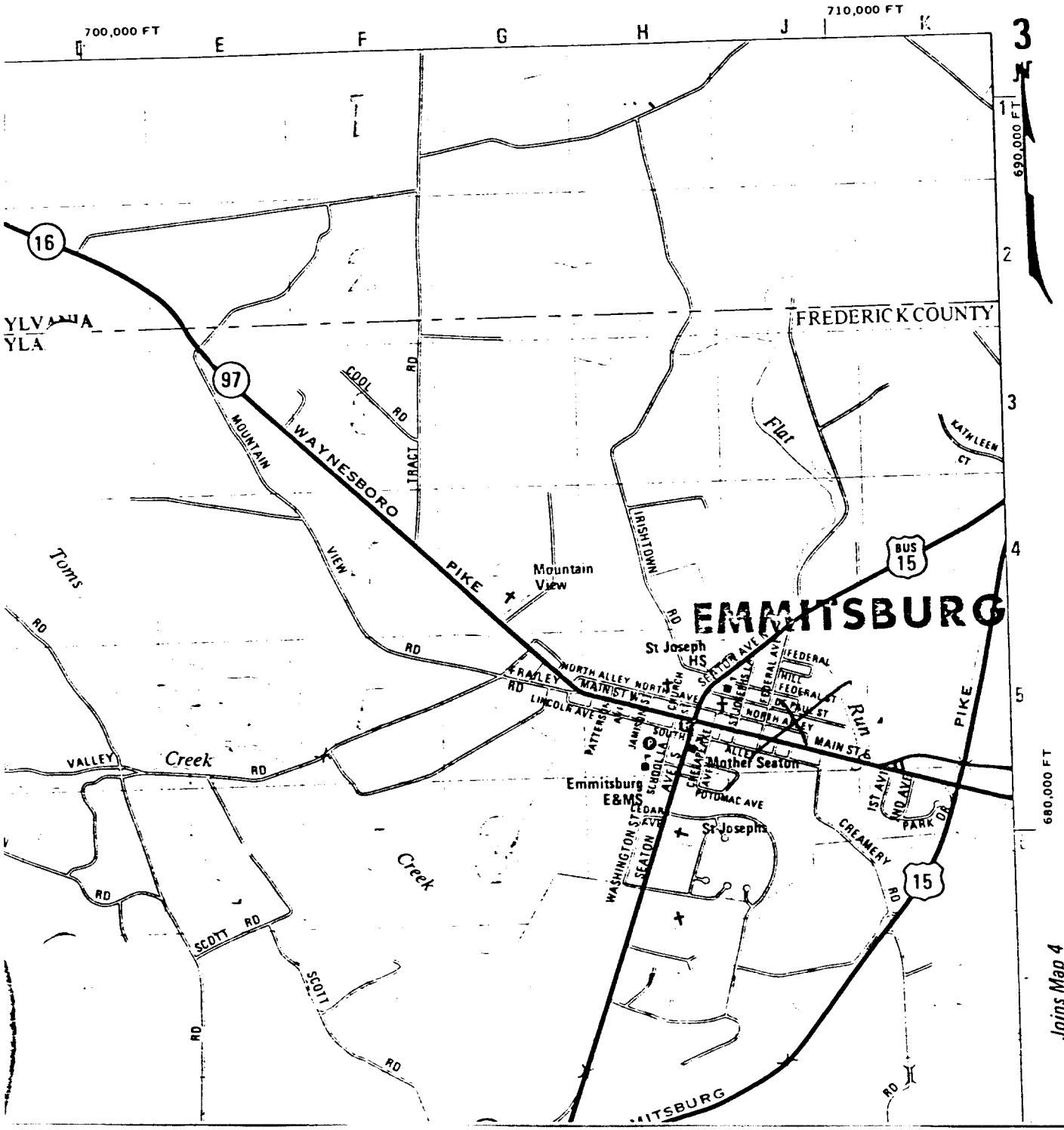
F-6-41

St. Euphemia's School and

Sisters' House

Frederick County

St. Euphemia's School and
Sisters' House
Frederick County
F-6-41

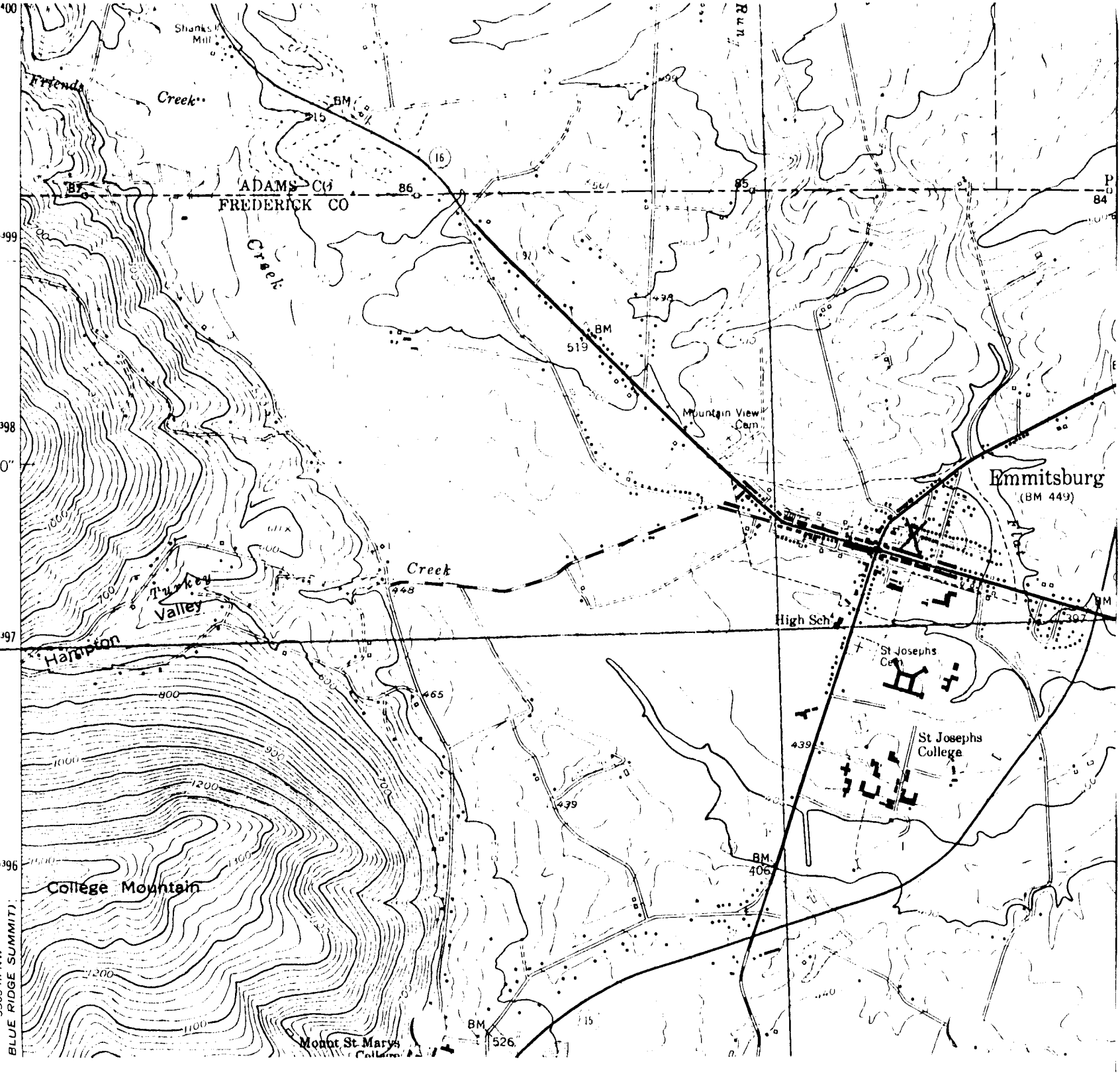


F-6-41

St. Euphemia's
School and
Sister's House

Frederick Co.
Maryland

18/300660/4397420



St Euphemia's School and Sister's House
DePaul St, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT - Annapolis, Md
North Elevation - Sisters House, St Euphemia School
2/18

F-6-41

ST Euphemia's School AND Sister's House
DePaul ST, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT - Annapolis, Md
South east elevation
3/18
F-6-41

ST Euphemia's School AND Sisters House
De Paul St, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT - Annapolis, Md
NE Elevation, Sisters House
4/13
F-6-41

ST Euphemias School AND Sister's House
Depaul St, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT
SW Elevation
5/18

F-6-41

ST. Euphemias School AND Sister's House
De Paul St, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT
MAIN ENTRANCE, ST. Euphemia's School

6/18

F-6-41

ST Euphemias School AND Sisters House
De Paul ST, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT
MAIN ENTRANCE, SISTER'S HOUSE
13/18
F-6-41

ST Euphemias School AND Sister's House
Depaul St, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT
Sisters House, 2ND + 3RD level
WINDOW DETAIL
14/18

F-6-41

ST. Euphemia's School AND Sister's House,
DePaul ST, Emmitsburg, Md
C. Widell
3/84
MHT
Interior, Main Hall, Sister's House
16/18
F-6-41