

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 St. Mary's College

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side Hillsborough Street at St. Mary's Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Raleigh

4th

STATE

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

CODE

Wake

183

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of St. Mary's College, c/o Mr. B. W. Conrad, Business Manager

STREET & NUMBER

900 Hillsborough Street

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

VICINITY OF

North Carolina 27611

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wake County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Close to the center of Raleigh, the capital city of North Carolina, lies a campus of stately oak trees, dear to the hearts of three generations of girlhood as 'The Grove'; and there in the heart of the Grove gleam the great white pillars of St. Mary's, symbolizing in their massive stateliness all the charm and dignity of the Old South." This sentimental description of St. Mary's written in the 1920s aptly conveys the sense of tradition reflected in the conservative nineteenth and twentieth century buildings of the twenty-three-acre wooded campus.

St. Mary's, founded in 1842, is the third oldest school for women in North Carolina and the oldest functioning school in Raleigh. The campus is a well-known landmark in the city. Twenty-five buildings occupy the site. Four are antebellum buildings, one dates from the 1880s, six from the early twentieth century, while fourteen have been constructed since the 1930s. Although there are several relatively new (1940-1977) buildings to the rear of the campus, the integrity of the campus itself, the view from Hillsborough Street, and the wooded oasis quality remain intact.

Entered through the main gate off Hillsborough Street, a heart-shaped drive leads through the spacious, shaded front lawn to the powerful portico of Smedes Hall. In the foreground a wide flagstone patio unites the three earliest buildings of St. Mary's: Smedes, East Rock, and West Rock. Smedes, a 4-story Greek Revival and Neo-Classical Revival brick building, towers over the adjacent twin stone buildings. The three form a balanced composition, with brick hyphens connecting the Rocks to Smedes. The remaining buildings are scattered informally throughout the Grove, but most of the pre-1930 buildings are clustered around Smedes and the Rocks. The frame, Carpenter Gothic Chapel, (NR) stands northwest of West Rock.

Until the late 1880s St. Mary's was located in a sparsely populated area of Raleigh, although it is only a few blocks west of the state Capitol. Large suburban estates, such as the Cameron, Tucker, and Boylan plantations, neighbored the school. It was not until the streetcar line was extended down Hillsborough Street in the first decade of this century that St. Mary's woodland environs were subdivided into neighborhoods. Also, the boundaries of the campus were not significantly disturbed, and they have remained unchanged since 1897 when the property was sold to the North Carolina Diocese. A main Raleigh axial street, Hillsborough Street was the most fashionable residential section of Raleigh during the turn of the century era. Unfortunately, the steady encroachment of traffic and commercial development has led to the demolition of nearly all of the street's showplaces. The St. Mary's campus is one of the few surviving reminders of Hillsborough Street's past elegance.

It has been the practice of the school to maintain and to renovate the old buildings and to build when necessary. With the exception of Clement Hall, a 1909 dining room and gymnasium, no permanent structures have been demolished. Wood frame kitchens, recitation halls, dorms, and servants' quarters have disappeared from the grounds, but in most cases these buildings were intended to be temporary. The early masonry buildings have undergone minor exterior change, though interiors have been modernized.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY--NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

St. Mary's campus underwent little change from the 1850s until the early 1900s. An 1888 Sanborn Insurance map of the campus depicts four buildings: Smedes Hall, East and West Rocks, and the Chapel. By 1896 there were three new buildings, the Language-Arts Building, a frame infirmary, and a frame kitchen. By 1900 a period of expansion began. Pittman Memorial Auditorium was built between 1906 and 1907, and transepts were added to the Chapel in 1905. In 1907 the Clement Fund, a gift left by a former teacher, was expended for the erection of new buildings. A monumental Neo-Classical Revival portico was added to Smedes, and wings were added to this building to increase the dormitory space. Clement Hall was constructed north of Smedes. These buildings were designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by Charles E. Hartge, a prominent Raleigh architect who planned several institutional buildings at the nearby N. C. Agriculture and Mechanics College, now North Carolina State University, the Gothic Revival style Church of the Good Shepherd, and Wakelon School in Zebulon.

Recent buildings at St. Mary's are mainly pseudo-colonial in style, in accordance with the conservative and functional trend of recent institutional architecture. However, the appearances of the new buildings, as well as their scale and materials, blend with the earlier buildings.

St. Mary's offers a diverse sample of architectural styles, from the severity of the Greek Revival to the romaniticism of the Gothic Revival, as well as the more monumental classicizing examples of the turn of the century. Many of the buildings are locally designated historic sites, and the campus, with its ancient oak and holly trees, is one of the most pleasant green oases of the city.

Footnote

¹"St. Mary's In the Grove," p. 2, 1920, no publisher.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Inventory List Coded to the Campus Map (enclosed)

1. Smedes Hall. 1835-1839. A Raleigh Historic Site. Smedes Hall, originally known as Main, is the third oldest building on the St. Mary's campus; it was built by William S. Drummond. The centerpiece of the school, Smedes Hall is a large brick, Greek Revival and Neo-Classical Revival building three-and-one-half stories tall. It presents five bays on its main (south) facade and rests on a high basement. A double door entrance with transom and sidelights occupies the center bay of the north and south facades. Tripartite windows with stone lintels appear in the center bays on the second and third floors, while the remaining bays are filled with twelve over twelve sash windows, except on the third floor, where eight over eight sash windows appear. A mousetooth brick course serves as the transition to a widely overhanging cornice.

In the early twentieth century a monumental three-story portico replaced the original one-story pedimented porch of the main entrance. The replacement was designed by Charles E. Hartge, a prominent architect in Raleigh during the early 1900s. The portico is supported by eight paired Tuscan columns which extend across the three center bays. A shaped gable dormer was added to the hipped roof during the remodeling to update the appearance and to add a note of Neo-Classical Revival grandeur to the austere Greek Revival facade. A Bonotee cross surmounts the peak of the gable, indicating the religious affiliation of the school.

Despite the many interior renovations, elements of the original plan and trim remain. Flat paneled doors with broad flat moldings, and box locks are found in the main parlor. Mantels of late Federal-early Greek Revival character may also be original. Some door and window frames repeat the molding of the doors. The first floor is divided by a wide central hall with a stair to the rear leading to the dormitory above and to offices in the basement. The parlor is east of the hall, and extends the width of the rectangular building. West of the hall are small parlors and offices.

Smedes Hall was renamed in honor of St. Mary's first president, Reverend Aldert Smedes. It has been the focus of the school since 1842, housing faculty, students, the post office, dining room, and classrooms. Smedes Hall now serves as a dormitory and office building, and the parlor is still the main reception room of the school.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

1. a,b. East and West Wings. 1909. East and West Wings were joined to Smedes Hall in 1909. They are three-and-one-half story brick buildings, rectangular in shape, and topped by hipped roofs. Each wing is five bays wide with center bay pavilions. The bays are articulated by band rusticated piers with egg and dart masonry caps. The one-over-one sash windows are accented by stone sills and lintels. Second story windows are surmounted by blind arches, and the projecting center bays contain a three part window. The roof line is enlivened by small, ornate gable dormers. A large dormer lit by a Palladianesque window is centered above the center bay. These wings were designed by Charles E. Hartge. While clearly early twentieth century in appearance, these Neo-Classical Revival buildings blend well with the scale, materials, and proportions of Smedes Hall. East and West Wings are dormitories, and while interior improvements have been made, much of the original fabric remains.
- 2., 3. East Rock and West Rock. 1833-34, 1834-35. Raleigh Historic Sites. The first two buildings of St. Mary's College were built when the institute was an Episcopal school for boys. Known as East Rock and West Rock, the mirror-image two-story rectangular buildings were constructed of remnant stone discarded during the construction of the second State Capitol. East and West Rocks are five bays wide and three bays deep. The granite walls are laid in random ashlar and are topped by hipped roofs. Six-over-six sash windows fill the bays. Brick interior end chimneys divide the three bays of the east and west elevations. The east elevation of West Rock and the west elevation of East Rock are fronted by projecting, pedimented brick entrances. East and West Rocks are connected to Smedes Hall by curved, one-story brick passages called "covered ways" which were built in the late nineteenth century. The interiors of East and West Rocks have been thoroughly renovated. The school chapel was located on the first floor of East Rock until 1857. East Rock is now an office building and West is a dormitory.
4. St. Mary's Chapel. 1855. National Register, Raleigh Historic Site. St. Mary's Chapel is a simple, one-story board and batten Gothic Revival building. It is a delightful contribution to the architectural diversity of the campus. It is said that Richard Upjohn designed the Chapel, but it is probably that the plan was copied from one of his patternbooks. Upjohn designed Christ Church (1848-1852) in Raleigh. Originally the building was rectangular in shape, but in 1905 transepts were added to the east and west sides, giving the chapel its present cruciform plan. A steep gable roof clad in imbricated slate covers the building. The south (main) gable end contains a segmental arched portal flanked by narrow lancet windows. Above the entrance is a gable hood supported by curved brackets
- originally
the side
design
with*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

and ornamented with an openwork trefoil in the peak of the hood. A cartwheel rose window is centered above the door. The peak of the gable end is pierced by a louvered quatrefoil.

The nave to the crossing is four bays long. Lancet windows filled with stained glass fill the bays. The east transept contains a door leading to West wing, while the west transept is dominated by a large lancet window flanked by two smaller ones filled with stained glass. The rear gable end is pierced by a pointed arched stained glass window which illuminates the altar inside the Chapel. Later board and batten additions have been constructed on the north end.

The interior features a Latin cross plan. The pews form center aisles in the nave and in the crossings. The walls are plaster above a flat paneled wainscot, and are unadorned. The ceiling is finished in wood sheathing, and rises in two stages to the ridge beam. The bays of the roof are divided by simple rafters which meet at the ridge beam. At the crossing each opening is framed by an arched brace which forms a pointed arch at the peak of the ceiling. The raised chancel contains the altar and an ornately carved reredros.

5. Chaplain's House. 1971. Two story brick veneered colonial style residence located west of the Chapel.
6. President's House. 1970. The President's house, barely perceptible behind the ancient holly and magnolia trees of the Grove, is a two-story brick veneered colonial style residence. The house features a handsome pedimented entrance.
6. a. Gazebo. To the rear of this house is a late nineteenth century Italian gazebo which was given to the school in the 1960s by a Raleigh family. Six ornate stuccoed Corinthian columns set on high square bases support a delicate frieze enriched with relief swags and flowers. A decorative wrought iron dome crowned by a gold finial caps the gazebo. A small circular bench is contained within the columns and is supported by the column pedestals and masonry braces. Reliefs of classical motifs appear on the bases and shaft rings of the columns, accentuating the capricious appearance of the structure. The original owner of the gazebo, the late Mrs. Ashby Baker, bought the gazebo during an Italian vacation around the turn of the century.
7. 1903 Dormitory. 1902-1903. This one-story brick building, now used as a residence hall, was the St. Mary's infirmary until the 1970s. The low, irregularly shaped building is topped by a broad hipped roof and is fronted by a full-length porch which lessens the severity of the austere facade. The 1903 dormitory is four bays wide and four deep. Two over

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

two sash windows with stone sills and lintels fill the openings.

8. 9. Gynmasium and Pool Building. 1972-1973. Large, two-story brick veneered colonial style building which replaced Clement Hall, 1909, (demolished). The gymnasium building complements the other modern buildings which are traditional colonial in appearance.
10. Holt Dormitory. 1928. Holt Dormitory is a three story rectangular brick veneered building. The Neo-Colonial style dormitory has a gable roof and is seven bays wide and three deep. The main entrance is contained in the center bay, and is capped by a segmental pediment. The interior of Holt was completely renovated in the early 1970s.
11. Music Building. 1937. Aside from the Chapel, the Music Building is the only wood frame building on campus. It is a one-story board-and-batten L-shaped structure with colonial detail. The gable roof extends to serve as a long porch which shelters the entrances to individual practice rooms.
12. Penick Dormitory. 1957. Penick is a three-story brick veneered building six bays long. The pedimented entrance and brick quoins which frame the corners of the building are colonial style decorative elements which enliven the otherwise severe design of the structure.
13. Cruickshank Dormitory. 1966. The largest residence hall of the St. Mary's campus is a three-story brick veneered structure composed of a central pavilion flanked by five bay wings. The building's scale, material, and colonial styling are typical of the recent buildings.
14. Cheshire Hall. 1953. Cheshire Hall is a two-story brick veneered rectangular building containing science laboratories and classrooms. A projecting pedimented bay serves as the entrance pavilion. The entrance and brick quoins are decorative features on an otherwise regularized facade.
15. Language-Arts Building. 1887. The Lanugage-Arts Building is a two story Late Gothic Revival building constructed of brick laid in common bond. The rectangular building is four bays wide and two deep. The building is dominated by large sash windows with vertical muntins which form pointed arches in the top sash. Both levels of windows are sheltered by slate covered awnings supported by massive angle brackets. Gables break the steep hipped roofline on the second story center bays. The roof and awnings are clad in imbricated slate. The Language-Arts Building is connected to East Rock by a covered passage which terminates in a gable with stick-style braces and struts which resemble a hammer-beam truss

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

system. This fanciful gable originally served as a porch connecting the Language-Arts Building with a one story wood frame music hall (demolished).

Many of the original doors of the building are intact. The first floor of the Language-Arts Building is occupied by the foreign language department while the art department has a studio and classroom on the spacious, well-lit second floor. The building has been recently sandblasted.

16. Pittman Auditorium. 1906-1907. Pittman Auditorium is a two-story brick Neo-Classical Revival building. The plan resembles a lorrain cross, the main auditorium area is convex in shape to increase the interior space. The main facade is three bays wide with a central pedimented portico supported by massive rusticated brick piers and two composite Ionic columns. The double door entrance is contained beneath the portico. The exterior is enlivened with rusticated corners, a deep modillion cornice, heavy cornices, capping the windows, and the complex roofline created by a deck on hipped roof crowned by a squat cupola. The exterior's rhythmic contours and shadow casting ornaments add visual interest and animation to the building.

The auditorium is entered through the lobby on the south end which contains two staircases. The auditorium is skirted by an elliptical gallery which is supported by slender cast iron Corinthian columns. A handsome skylight filled with stained glass illuminates the room. The stage is situated on the north end of the building and small dressing rooms lie beyond. The Pittman Auditorium has been renovated recently; the exterior was sandblasted. Charles Hartge may have designed the auditorium.

17. Dining Hall/Student Union. 1972-73. Completed in 1973, the Student Union building is one of the colonial styled structures which characterize contemporary architecture on the St. Mary's campus. The two story brick veneered building contains a cafeteria, student book store, post office, student offices, and a spacious living room.

18. Infirmary. c. 1904. Located on the southeastern most corner of the campus, the infirmary building was originally the residence of the Bishop of the North Carolina Diocese. Charles W. Barrett, a prominent Raleigh architect, furnished the plan of the Bishop's house. In the 1960s it served as a faculty house, and within the past five years it has been the school infirmary. This two-story brick house is dominated by a full height pedimented portico supported by paired Tuscan columns. The house is roughly rectangular in plan and is capped by a steep hipped roof which flares out over the second floor to create a deep overhang. A one

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

story brick wing, the Bishop's library is attached to the east end of the house. One story porches shelter the west and south sides. A variety of window shapes and sizes appear on this eclectic turn-of-the-century house.

19. Athletic Field.
20. Sarah Graham Kenan Library. 1965. The Kenan library, a two-story concrete and steel frame structure, is the only contemporary building of modern design on the St. Mary's campus. The rectangular library is clad in brick veneer and pre-cast concrete panels. The top floor, containing a reception room and classrooms, serves as the main level. The entrance is contained in a glass wall which extends across the facade. The flat roof of the lower level forms a terrace sheltered by the widely overhanging top roof structure, creating a peristyle around the main level. The library is contained in the lower level.
21. Day Students' House. 1920. A small one-and-one-half-story brick and frame cottage which serves as the headquarters of the day students.
22. Ragland Classroom Building. 1971. Ragland Building is a massive, four-story rectangular brick veneered classroom building with a modicum of colonial style trim. The second story is distinguished from the upper stories by a wide belt course. The second story is the main level, as the building is located on a sloping site.
23. Student Laundry. 1957. One-story brick veneered utility building.
24. Heating plant. 1944. This utility building is an interesting one-story brick veneered structure with an overlay of colonial detail. The gable ends project above the roofline to form false chimney stacks. Blind arches with masonry keystones and corner blocks fill the spaces above the sash windows. A brick veneer carport was added to the west side during the 1950s.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 est. 1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William S. Drummond,
C. E. Hartge, Richard Upjohn and

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

others

The shaded campus of St. Mary's College includes a collection of educational buildings from the long history of the school, ranging from the simple, cubical buildings of the 1830s to the more decorative Gothic and Neo-Classical structures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to traditional and contemporary recent buildings. St. Mary's was established in 1842, the third oldest school for women in North Carolina, successor to the short-lived Episcopal School of North Carolina, established for boys in 1833. The stone buildings, East Rock and West Rock, were built in 1834 for the original institution from stone discarded during the construction of the State Capitol; these were followed the next year by a large central brick structure, built by William S. Drummond and Samuel Handcock. These buildings were the core of St. Mary's school which opened under the auspices of the Reverend Aldert Smedes in 1842, assisted financially by Duncan Cameron and associated with the Episcopal Diocese. Since that time the school has grown gradually and has served the daughters of North Carolina and other states as well. During the Civil War the family of Jefferson Davis and the daughter of Robert E. Lee were at St. Mary's, and in April, 1865, Union troops camped there. The campus has retained its original large area though the town has grown around it, and notable buildings have been added, including the delightful chapel, attributed to Richard Upjohn, and the robust Neo-Classical buildings of Raleigh architect C. E. Hartge. The campus is a vital anchor of tradition, green open space, and continuity in an area of Raleigh that is subject to strong urbanizing pressure.

Criteria: (A) Associated with the education of women in antebellum years as well as postwar period.
(C) Embodies distinctive characteristics of several periods of architecture from antebellum through Victorian and Neo-Classical.

In May of 1833 the convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina authorized the establishment of the Episcopal School of North Carolina, a school planned to provide both classical and business training for boys. A tract of 159½ acres was purchased from Colonel William Polk, and within several years three large buildings had been erected on the campus just west of Raleigh. The East Rock building was completed in the summer of 1834. On June 17, 1834, the School Committee of the Episcopal School authorized the erection of a second building identical to East Rock, except for the interior arrangement; West Rock was completed by January 14, 1835. The rock houses were fifty-six by thirty-six feet, two stories high, and roofed with tin. The gneiss blocks, discards from the state capitol under construction at the same time, are of random sizes and were had free for the hauling. The approximate cost of East Rock was \$4,000; no information regarding the contractor has been located.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The main building, now known as Smedes Hall, was authorized by the School Committee on February 12, 1835, and work began the next month. William S. Drummond, who also worked on the state capitol, was the contractor. Samuel Handcock provided the brick. The brick building with stone foundations is eighty-five by sixty feet and four stories high. A detailed account of the original interior partitions can be found in the minutes of the Building Committee of the Episcopal School. This building has always been a multiple-use building. From 1842 until 1900 the families of the rectors (headmasters) lived in a spacious apartment on the third floor. The large room in the eastern half of the second floor has been a formal parlor since 1842. Ever since its erection, most of the building has been used for dormitories.

The Episcopal School of North Carolina, for which the buildings were erected, flourished briefly under Joseph Green Cogswell who with George Bancroft had owned the prestigious Round Hill School in Massachusetts. Cogswell's departure in April of 1836 combined with the panic of 1837 weakened the Episcopal School, and it was closed in 1839 because of financial difficulties.

The school property was rented for a time by individuals for short-lived private schools and then sold to Duncan Cameron, one of the trustees of the Episcopal School of North Carolina, for the indebtedness which was approximately \$10,000. Cameron and Bishop Levi Silliman Ives had an understanding that the property was to be used for educational purposes. Judge Cameron was a prominent and wealthy politician and businessman who served as state senator from Orange county, president of the State Bank of North Carolina, and on the committee to build the state capitol.

With the aid of Judge Cameron, the Reverend Aldert Smedes of New York City reopened the school as St. Mary's, a school for girls, on May 12, 1842. St. Mary's has been in continuous operation ever since. Aldert Smedes rented the property from the Cameron family during the thirty-five years he served as rector of the private school which was very closely, though unofficially, related to the Diocese of North Carolina.

St. Mary's was an immediate success. No detailed records are extant for the years prior to 1879, but it is estimated that from 1842 until his death in 1877 Dr. Smedes and his faculty educated about 1,900 young ladies. St. Mary's students came from all over the south, but most were North Carolinians; a few came each year from the north. The usual enrollment was about ninety boarders and about forty day scholars. Students were accepted from about eight years of age, although twelve or older was the more usual age for admission. A girl stayed at St. Mary's for as long as her parents wished her to and was educated to the limit of her ability and desires in the basic academic subjects, foreign languages, music and art. The institution was called simply a "achool." Although its academic level was higher than that of an academy, the school made no collegiate claims until the twentieth century. Its curriculum during the last half of the nineteenth century was similar to that of many of the "female seminaries." St. Mary's

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

began to grant diplomas in 1879. Historians usually list St. Mary's among the institutions of higher learning in antebellum North Carolina. The faculty of about a dozen women and a few men was always a well educated and a dedicated one.

During the years before the Civil War St. Mary's was a center for cultural activities in Raleigh. The frequent musicales, or "soirees", given in the spacious and elegant parlor in which was hung Dr. Smedes' art collection, were attended by state officials and the leaders of Raleigh society. The local papers often reported the details of these affairs. The Raleigh Register of October 21, 1845, carried a letter describing a soiree at St. Mary's:

. . . a rich feast of music was served. The Hall was brilliantly lighted, the walls adorned with old Paintings of the first School, a whole host of beautiful women promenaded the floor. Supper made the finale to the evening's entertainment. . . . There is so much that is refined and excellent around his Establishment [Mr. Smedes'] ; he has gained so large a share of public patronage and confidence . . .

A chapel for the college was built in 1856 after drawings by Richard Upjohn. Before 1856 the school's religious services were conducted in the East Rock building.

St. Mary's did not close during the Civil War, but became a haven for students from occupied areas of the south and for more famous refugees. Mrs. Jefferson Davis and her children spend some weeks at the school during the summer of 1862. In a letter written to James A. Briggs of Raleigh, June 1, 1895, Varina Davis said:

. . . dear old Raleigh. . . . When I rented a part of Dr. Smedes' house, and took board in his school, I was greatly depressed and heavy with anxiety--but in him and his, and in the dear people of hospitable Raleigh I found friends whose regard made a home feeling which I am sure would come back to me if I should revisit that dear and well loved town. I⁹ am now old however and am unable to travel much. . . .

Mildred Lee, the youngest and favorite child of General Lee, was a student at St. Mary's during the war, as was Lucia Polk, the daughter of General Leonidas Polk.

In April of 1865 federal troops under General Oliver O. Howard were camped in the St. Mary's grove. They were received with courtesy by Dr. Smedes, and the buildings went unharmed. Events of those days were described in letters to her family by a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

St. Mary's student.

Easter, April 16, 1865. This morning O horrors, the United States flag was hoisted in the grove. . . . About an hour after dinner the band and about two hundred Yankees came up, & had preaching in the grove. General Howard is a Methodist preacher. . . .

April 18, 1865. Yesterday we heard the dreadful news of the assassination of Lincoln, Seward, & his son. We knew that on the least provocation the Yankees would do anything they wanted to us. . . . The officers thought they could restrain their soldiers, but they thought if the news of Lincoln spread among the soldiers, they would set fire to houses. . . . We all slept in our clothes having filled the pockets of our dresses with anything we particularly wanted to save. Nothing however happened, I am thankful to say.

April 29, 1865. Gen. Howard left this morning. Although he is a Yankee, I certainly feel kindly towards him as he treated us with the greatest kindness and consideration. There is still a camp in the grove.

Dr. Aldert Smedes ran St. Mary's until his death in 1877, and his son, the Reverend Doctor Bennett Smedes, continued to rent the campus from the Cameron family until 1897. He continued his father's emphasis upon sound Christian education establishing a regular curriculum of college preparatory work. Vassar College accepted St. Mary's graduates without examination. During Bennett Smedes's tenure the Language-Art Building was erected in 1887.

By 1897 Dr. Bennett Smedes felt too burdened, both physically and financially, to continue to carry the sole responsibility for St. Mary's. The Episcopal Church accepted his proposal that the North Carolina Dioceses buy the property from the Cameron family. Dr. Smedes continued as rector until his death two years later. In 1899 the charter was changed to involve the dioceses of both Carolinas. Today St. Mary's is controlled by a Board of Trustees, some of whom are elected by the dioceses of the two Carolinas; the others are elected by the board itself.

Several buildings were erected soon after the turn of the century--the Eliza Battle Pittman Auditorium and East and West wings. Smedes Hall was remodeled by Raleigh architect C. E. Hartge; he may have done the other projects of this period.

The name of the institution was changed in 1945 to St. Mary's School and Junior College, in 1954 to St. Mary's Junior College, and in 1972 to St. Mary's College.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Actually, the last two years of high school and the first two years of college work are offered now, making the institution a unique intermediate college. The high school diploma and the associate in arts degree are granted, and St. Mary's is fully accredited. There are approximately 500 students about 90 of whom are day students. The faculty ratio is about fourteen to one.

Footnotes

¹ The note to Col. Polk for \$1,619.17 was signed by Bishop Ives, George W. Freeman, Duncan Cameron, Thomas Devereux and George Badger. A copy dated December 3, 1833, is in the Cameron Family Papers, Southern Historic Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

² Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A., Diocese of North Carolina, Journal of the Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina, 1835, p. 47. Also, Proceedings of the School Committee, June 17, 1834, Episcopal School of North Carolina Papers, State Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

³ The state suddenly billed the Episcopal School \$200 for the blocks used to build East and West Rock. Eventually, the state forgave the debt on the condition that the buildings continue to be used for educational purposes. Proceedings of the School Committee, loose notes dated Jan., 1841, Joseph Blount Cheshire Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

⁴ Journal, Diocese of North Carolina, 1835, p. 47.

⁵ Minutes of the Building Committee, February 12, 1835, Episcopal School of North Carolina Papers, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Also, Journal, Diocese of North Carolina, 1835, p. 38-39.

⁶ Receipt dated January 1, 1842, is in the Cameron Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

⁷ Bennehan Cameron to Rev. Alfred A. Berkley, September 1, 1910, Bennehan Cameron Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

⁸ Aldert Smedes, "St. Mary's School, Raleigh, N.C.," Our Living and Our Dead, III (July, 1875), p. 116.

⁹ Varina Davis to James A. Briggs, June 1, 1895, Jefferson Davis Papers, 1861-1899, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹⁰ Letters from Bessie Cain to Mrs. Sarah J. Cain, Archibald Henderson Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cameron Family Papers. Southern Historic Collection. University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Bennehan Cameron Papers. Southern Historic Collection. University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Joseph Blount Cheshire Papers. Southern Historic Collection. University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 23 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	712310	396230
ZONE	EASTING	31C	NORTHING
C	17	712210	396150

990	110	F-17/712030/	
E-17/711930/3962320	340	3962260	
B	17	712320	396100
ZONE	EASTING	31C	NORTHING
D	17	712330	396190

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The St. Mary's campus is bounded to the south by Hillsborough Street, to the west by rear property line of houses on 100 block of Park Drive, to the North by College Place, and to the East by St. Mary's Street. NOTE: Consideration has been given to including only the part of the campus with mostly old building. However, the historical importance and integrity of the entire campus and the survival of all its major early buildings seem to outweigh the presence of some newer buildings. As a tax-exempt organization this school will not be affected by the Tax Reform Act provisions affecting historic commercial properties.

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 Description prepared by Mary Ann Lee, Consultant

Significance prepared by Martha Stoops, St. Mary's College, History Department

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

733-4763

109 East Jones Street

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

North Carolina

Raleigh

27611

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 12, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

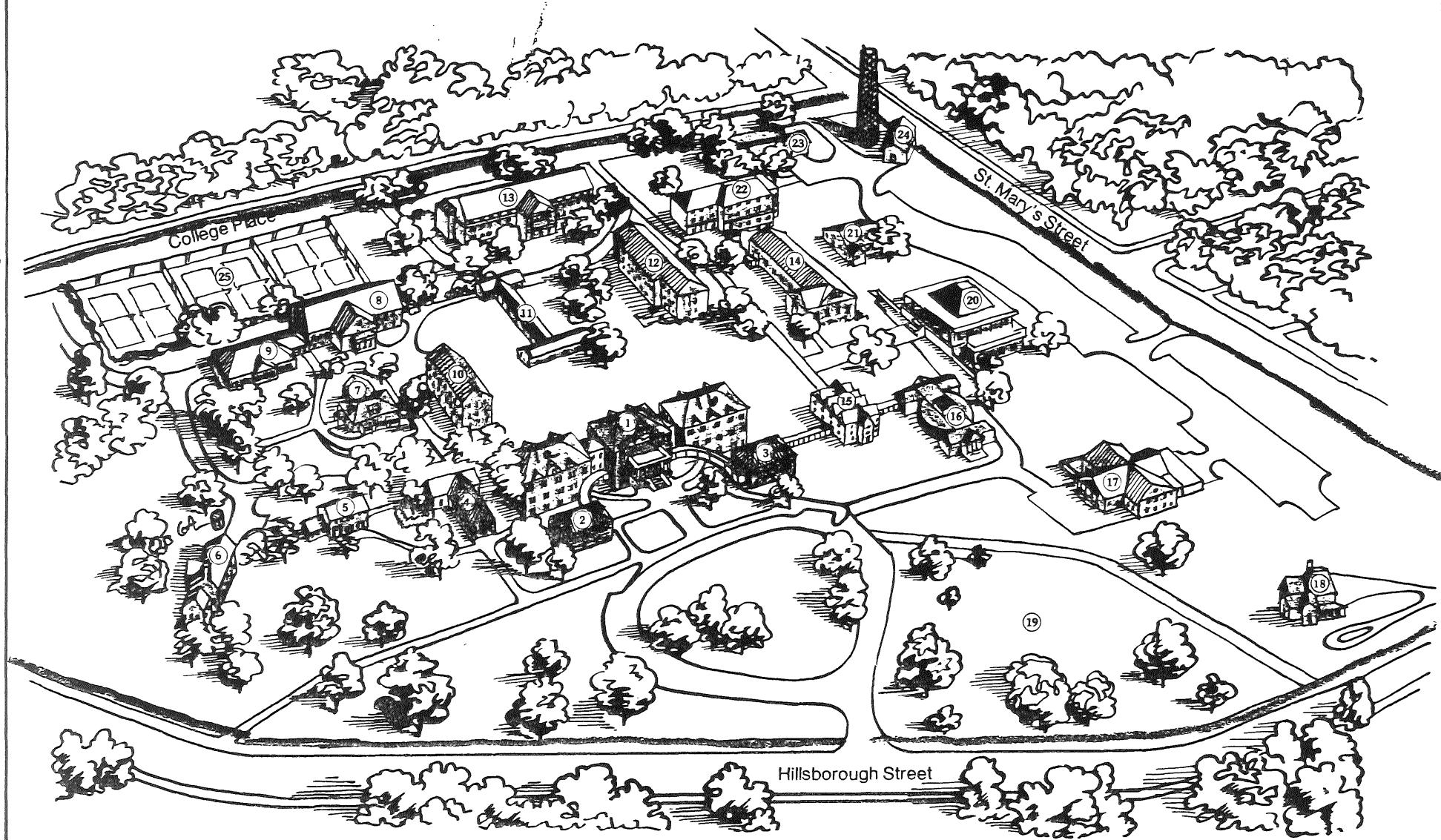
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

to back line of E. Park Dr.



**St. Mary's
College**

Key:

- 1833-1855
- 1855-1887
- 1887-1930
- 1930 - present

Boundary —

KEY

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Smedes Hall | 10. Holt Dormitory | 19. Athletic Field |
| 2. West Rock Dormitory | 11. Music Building | 20. Kenan Library |
| 3. East Rock | 12. Penick Dormitory | 21. Day Students' House |
| 4. Chapel | 13. Cruikshank Dormitory | 22. Ragland Classroom Building |
| 5. Chaplain's Home | 14. Cheshire Hall | 23. Student Laundry |
| 6. President's Home | 15. Language-Art Building | 24. Heating Plant |
| 7. 1903 Dormitory | 16. Pittman Auditorium | 25. Tennis Courts |
| 8. Gymnasium | 17. Student Center | |
| 9. Pool | 18. Infirmary | |

