

original

Spokane Register of Historic Places

Nomination Form

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Fourth Floor - City Hall
Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Holy Names Academy

and/or common Academy Apartments

2. Location

street & number N. 1216 Superior Street

city, town Spokane vicinity of _____

state Washington county Spokane

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>to be used for elderly apartments</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Academy Limited Partnership

street & number E. 715 Sprague Avenue, Suite 204

city, town Spokane vicinity of _____ state Washington

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spokane County Courthouse

street & number W. 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane state Washington

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Spokane City Plan Commission

city, town Spokane state Washington

OPR 85-568

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Holy Names Academy is an eclectic collection of nineteenth-century revivalistic architectural styles, combining elements of the Second Empire with decorative details common to Greek and Dutch Revival styles, and all of this tempered by the institutional nature of the building. Its eclectic nature is furthered by the fact that it was built in different stages, using different architects.

The current structure is a composite of additions to the original one built in 1891, which was laid out in a rectangle along a north-south axis fronting on Superior Street. Designed by Patrick Donohoe, this structure had a different entry-way and roof design than its current configuration. When Preusse and Zittel added north and south wings in 1903, giving the structure its current U-shaped plan, they changed the original building considerably to conform with their overall theme, adding the entry portico and replacing a bell tower with the gable over the current entry-way. Two non-conforming additions were added on to the wings in later years, and should be considered intrusive to the historical character of the building.

The Holy Names Academy building is a four-story, red brick masonry structure, done in a common bond coursing. Its main structural components consist of cylindrical steel interior columns and exterior masonry load-bearing walls supporting wooden beams and floor joists. It sits on a stone foundation done in cut granite with broken coursing.

The west front of the building, facing Superior Street, is marked most noticeably by its Greek Revival, flat-roofed, two-story portico framing the main entry-way. It consists of four wooden tuscan columns sitting on concrete bases with a cut granite foundation, supporting a plain, moulded entablature crested by a decorative wrought iron balustrade. The portico surrounds a smaller balcony, which projects from the second floor, suspended by steel tie rods from the roof of the portico. It too has a decorative wrought iron balustrade. The entire portico projects from a central projecting pavilion, four stories in height, with three symmetrical bays capped by a gable that sits on a bracketed cornice. The main and second floor center bays of the pavilion have double solid-oak paneled doors with lights. The second floor door has a semi-circular transom light. The gable is covered by aluminum siding and has an applied Greek pediment with returns over a plain cornice. The entire treatment of this gable is intrusive to the overall character of the structure. Old photographs indicate elaborate brick-work, with a stepped, corniced gable crested by a cross. The existing pediment capped a semi-circular-arch window-opening sitting between two segmented arch window openings, similar to but more elaborate than the gable ends of the two wings.

The east and west facades of the original portion of Holy Names Academy are identical, save for the portico at the entrance on the west facade, and a utility entrance and smokestack on the east facade. The pavilion on the east facade is similar to that on the west, with the same aluminum siding covering the gable. Like the one on the west, the east pavilion is di-

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 checked="" 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 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 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 1891, 1903

Builder/Architect Patrick Donohoe/Preusse & Zittel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Holy Names Academy stands as a monument to the works of the Sisters of the Holy Names, a Catholic order founded in Quebec in 1844, whose mission was to provide a Christian education to the children of remote areas in Canada. This mission was expanded to the Pacific Northwest in 1859, when, at the request of the Father Francis Blanchet, the Sisters established Portland's St. Mary's Academy, the oldest Catholic school in the region. Father Blanchet required the Sisters' aid to establish and staff schools for the children of settlers, who by that time were beginning to pour into the Oregon Territories in increasing numbers. The Sisters expanded their mission throughout the Oregon Territories, formally establishing the Oregon Province of their Order in 1877 and later establishing Holy Names Academy in Seattle in 1880.

The Society of Jesuits, who included such important figures as Father Peter DeSmet and Father Joseph Cataldo, had established missions in the Spokane area as early as 1841, when St. Mary's Mission was established in the Coeur d'Alene region of Northern Idaho. St. Mary's is now known as Cataldo Mission. Father Cataldo established Spokane's Gonzaga College, now Gonzaga University, which opened its doors in September of 1887 for the express purpose of providing a liberal Christian education for young men. It was at his request that the Sisters of the Holy Names sent five Sisters and one lay teacher to Spokane Falls (the early name of Spokane) in July of 1888, to open a school. Classes began on September 3, 1888, but by November enrollment had grown so much that the Sisters sent one more Sister and another lay teacher to handle the load. The school was originally known as the Academy of Holy Names, but later became Our Lady of Lourdes School. It was located on Main Ave., between Bernard St. and Washington St.

While building Gonzaga College, the Jesuit fathers saw a need for a similar educational institution for young women in Spokane. In 1889, Father Cataldo formally requested of the Sisters of the Holy Names that they establish a boarding school for young women in Spokane Falls, and by his authority the they were provided with a five-acre tract of land in Sinto's Addition, the current site of Holy Names Academy. The Academy was founded and construction begun, with the cornerstone laid on September 14, 1890. The Reverend Leopold Van Gorp, S.J., presided over the ceremonies that day, and he told those assembled, "Nowhere will your children be able to receive such an intellectual and moral training as at the hands of the Sisters who have devoted their lives to such an object, not from mercenary motives, but from their love of God and from motives of charity. They themselves are well trained in virtue and in every good mental gift. They, by word and example, will teach this to your daughters and thus preserve their morals and their purity--their very lives from contamination."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chronicles of Holy Names Academy, Spokane. 7 vol. 1888 to 1970; Unbound 1970 to 1975. Manuscript. SNJM Archives of Washington Province.

Schoenberg, Wilfred P., S.J., A Chronicle of Catholic History of the Pacific Northwest, 1943-1969. Portland, OR: Catholic Sentinel Printery, 1962.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.5 acres

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded by Superior Street on the West, Mission Park on the North, Spokane River and rail-road on the east, and Maplewood Gardens Retirement Home on the South.

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

state _____ county _____

state _____ county _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John P. Morrow (with assistance from Sister Edwardine Mary, SNJM)

organization Coldwell Banker Feldman Person Co. date September 4, 1985

street & number N. 2206 Pines telephone (509) 928-5750

city or town Spokane state WA 99206

12. Signature of Owner(s) Harry A. Gram
Peterson

For Office Use Only:
Date Received: 9-10-85
Date Heard: 10-15-85
Commission Decision: APPROVED
Council/Board Action: Approved
Date: October 21, 1985

Attest: Elizabeth Davidson
Deputy City Clerk
Approved as to form: Larry W. ...
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

Mayor Robert M. Higgins or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners
Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

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vided into three bays, with the middle one wider in proportion to the outer ones. Both facades are divided into four equal bays on either side of each pavilion, with a generally smooth face. The main and third floor window openings are rectangular, with cut granite sills and lintels and single wooden one-over-one double-hung sash. The second floor window openings are semi-circular arched, with cut granite sills and lintels, with the lintels connected via a cut granite belt course. The second floor sash is the same as that on the main and third floors except for its arched shape. The third floor is capped by a bracketed cornice done in tin that serves as a visual foundation for a mansard roof. The mansards are marked by three semi-circular arched dormers on both sides of the pavilions, with moulded hoods and single wooden one-over-one double-hung sash.

The two wings added in 1903 are largely identical, and though different from the original part of the building, they are done in a compatible style with compatible materials and techniques. Each wing is a gabled-roof structure, four stories in height. The west ends of each wing project outward from the west facade line of the original portion of the building. Their first stories are marked by rusticated brick-work and segmented arch window openings with radiating voussoirs and cut granite sills, capped by a cut granite belt course. The second and third story window openings form an arcade pattern, with tapestried brick spandrels separating the flat arched second story openings and the semi-circular arched third story openings. Radiating voussoirs crown all openings. All windows from the first through third story are single wooden one-over-one double-hung sash. The eave lines are marked by corbelled brackets which support a straight cornice of tin.

Each gable-end is stepped and corniced, crowned by an orbital-shaped finial, which gives the building its Dutch Revival elements. The fourth story of each gable-end has a Palladian-like, triangular-shaped window arrangement, with a semi-circular arched window opening surrounded by a segmented arched opening with radiating voussoirs on either side. The entire arrangement sits on a corbelled brick projection, with cut granite sills. Engaged brick pilasters frame the window openings, with those surrounding the center opening supporting a plain pediment. Fleur-de-lis patterns applied to the facade in wrought iron frame the window arrangement, reiterating its triangular shape. The window openings have single wooden, multi-lighted-over-one double hung sash, with a semi-circular fixed transom light over the center windows.

The north and south sides of each wing have various arrangements of stepped-gabled dormers with cornices, reiterating the Palladian-like elements in the larger gables over the pavilions and the gable-ends. The largest of these dormers have three bays, with segmented or semi-circular arched window openings in the middle and flat arched on either side, and single wooden one-over-one, or multi-lighted-over-one double-hung sash. The south side of the south wing and the north side of the north wing have a smaller dormer, framing double wooden multi-light-over-one double-hung

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sash. These smaller dormers cap a break in the bay sequence of the facade, which bays are wider than normal to accommodate for double-door entrances on the main floor. The north side entrance has a porte cochere supported by steel pipes, with a moulded entablature topped by an ornamental iron balustrade done in the same design as the balconies of the front portico.

The interior arrangement of the Holy Names Academy is typical for a school building of its day, with long, wide hallways, and high ceilings. Most of the first through third story is divided into individual classrooms, each typified by solid maple floors, fir trim around door and window openings, and solid fir paneled doors. Several classrooms have built-in fir cabinets, wainscoting and armoires. Two open stairways with spindled oak balustrades serve all four floors, as does an elevator added in later years. The main doors enter at the main floor, opening to a stairway that rises to the second floor, where the administrative and visitor's areas were located. A vaulted chapel area takes up nearly the entire south wing of the third floor. The third floor of the north wing houses the auditorium and theatre, complete with stage and seating. The entire fourth floor was largely dedicated to housing for the nuns and boarders.

Though eclectic in nature, the Holy Names Academy is a successful combination of diverse elements that as a whole make for an integrated architectural composition. Its designers designed the building to last, and indeed, it stands today largely as it did when built, with few modifications that intrude on its original character.

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The original Holy Names Academy was designed by Patrick Donohoe, an architect who practiced in Spokane between 1888 and 1891. The Holy Names project was his major work in the area, along with several buildings in Ellensburg, Washington.

Holy Names Academy opened with 12 students on August 31, 1891, growing to 235 students by 1902. Continual improvements were made to the facility throughout its first ten years, but by 1903 the number of students had increased to the point where additional facilities were needed. In that year the Sisters commissioned the firm of Preusse and Zittel, a noted early Spokane architectural firm, to design two wings to be added onto the north and south sides of the original building. Hermann Preusse and Julius Zittel, both German immigrants, were partners in Spokane from 1893 to 1910. Their association produced such important works as St. Aloysius' Church, the Gonzaga College Building, Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, and the Spokane Armory, along with several notable residential structures on the City's South Hill and in the Browne's Addition area. The additions to Holy Names were constructed by the contracting firm of J.E. Cunningham.

Holy Names Academy was formally established by state charter as a secondary school in 1891, and later received its accreditation in 1908. In 1907, an amendment to Washington State's school laws enabled the Sisters to establish private normal schools for the education of teachers. The Holy Names Academies in Spokane and Seattle were opened in September of that year, and received formal accreditation by the State Board of Education on December 31, 1907, thus becoming the first private normal schools in the State of Washington.

Holy Names Academy continued to serve as both a high school and normal school for the next two decades, until June 16, 1938, when the State gave permission for the Sisters to add another year to their normal school course, enabling them to grant a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. The Holy Names College of Education opened on September 15, 1938 with 118 women in attendance. Classes were held at the Holy Names Academy for over two years, until February 7, 1941, when a new college facility located south of the Academy was completed. This facility is now the home of Maplewood Gardens Retirement Home. The College eventually expanded its curriculum to a liberal arts format and soon moved to its current site, the former army base at Ft. Wright. The College closed its doors in 1982 due to economic reasons, but is still owned by the Order and operated as Holy Names Center, a conference, educational and retreat facility.

Holy Names Academy graduated its final class in 1975. After experiencing declining enrollments, as well as the decline of its physical plant, the decision was made to close the school. Gonzaga Preparatory School, Spokane's all-male Catholic high school, time, went coeducational in 1976, in order that Spokane's high school women would have a Catholic education available to them. Some of the Holy Names Sisters were hired by Gonzaga Prep for faculty positions.

The Sisters' archives show that in its 84 years of operation, Holy Names Academy had over 5,000 students in attendance and graduated a total

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of 3,742. Many of these students boarded at the school, having come from rural areas of eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana, where often times there were no parochial or secondary schools offering the quality education that Holy Names offered. Young women from throughout the Inland Northwest came to Holy Names for teacher training at the Normal School, and in turn went on to teach at public and parochial schools throughout the region. It is easy to see the profound impact that the Sisters of the Holy Names and Holy Names Academy had on the socio/cultural history and development of the Pacific Northwest if one examines the women who were educated there and then went on to become educators, legislators, jurists, musicians, actresses and probably most important, mothers. Holy Names graduates continue to this day to contribute their values and services to our communities; and though the school has long since closed its doors, its spirit and reputation continue on in the hearts and minds of its graduates and the people they've touched.