

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Saint Joseph's Seminary

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 600 Burton Street SE

City or town: Grand Rapids State: MI County: Kent

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
- District ☒
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u></u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church school
RELIGION/church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Limestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The seventeen-acre campus of the Saint Joseph's Seminary is located on the south side of Burton Street SE just over two miles southeast of downtown Grand Rapids in western Michigan. The campus is rectangular shaped and is bounded by Burton Street SE on the north, Martin Avenue SE on the east, Winchell Street SE on the south, and Union Street SE on the west. The heavily landscaped campus has four contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one non-contributing site, the baseball diamond. The main building, completed in 1920 in the Late Gothic Revival style, is the oldest. The other three buildings were constructed after World War II and are in simplified modern styles. Mature deciduous and coniferous trees ring the border of the campus on all four sides and in lawns around the buildings. The campus retains historic integrity with few changes to the three oldest buildings since 1960.

Narrative Description

Setting

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Although built over a period of years, the four buildings footprints run from southwest to northeast across the campus. The main building is set back about half way from Burton Street. An asphalt paved circle drive runs from Burton Street beside the activities building and in front of the convent and main building. The drive is lined with mature deciduous trees and newer shrubbery and trees. A semi-circular lawn that is mostly open is located between the circular drive and the row of mature trees along Burton Street. The activities building is located to the south of the main building and runs north-south along the west edge of the campus next to Union Street. The convent building runs east-west and is directly east of the main building. Saint Henry Hall runs north-south, extending from near the northeast corner of the convent almost to Burton Street. An asphalt paved drive and parking lot are located on the east side of Saint Henry Hall, between it and Martin Avenue. The stone shrine is located in a grove of pine trees near the northeast corner of the property.

The south portion of the campus contains grassy athletic fields, including a non-contributing baseball diamond with a chain link fence back stop and chain link fence along the baselines, and two small concrete block dugouts. Large asphalt paved parking lots are located between the fields and the north half of campus containing the buildings.

The campus is surrounded on three sides by residential housing, and on the east side by a small commercial district along the intersection of Eastern Avenue SE and Burton Street SE. Additional residential housing is in the blocks east of Eastern Avenue. The residential neighborhoods around the campus generally contain one- and two-story houses constructed in the first half of the twentieth century.

The historic integrity of the campus is good, with few exterior changes since 1960. The buildings all remain in their original locations and the campus open spaces that existed during the period of significance still exist. Saint Henry's Hall has received the most alterations, with a complete remodeling into a retreat center with guest rooms in 2000. The windows have been replaced but retain similar configuration to the originals. The main building has had some interior changes since 1966, primarily for Diocese offices between 1973 and 2000, and between 2008 and 2010 for a subsequent school use. The original chapel windows were removed by the Diocese sometime prior to 2008 when they were relocated to Cathedral Square in downtown Grand Rapids. The convent has had the windows replaced with aluminum generally within the original masonry openings.

Inventory

Note that interior descriptions are provided for the two buildings that were made accessible by the current owner. The other building interiors were not accessible.

Main Building – 1919-1920 – Spier & Gehrke, architect; 1957-58 additions and remodeling – Humbrecht & Associates, architect – Contributing

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The Main Building is a three-story-tall, Late Gothic Revival style building with a raised basement and a tall cross gable roof. The building has a rough E-shaped footprint with the long portion of the E running parallel to Burton Street and the arms extending southward, with the east and west arms also projecting northward on the façade. An addition at the southeast corner (rear) of the building connects the central and east wings. The basement level main wall is clad in ashlar stone capped by a stone band at the sill line of the first-floor windows. A second limestone band runs around the building at the sill line of the third-floor windows.

The entrance to the building is marked by a one-story porch accessed by wide stone stairs. The base of the porch is clad in rough granite, the walls of the porch are red brick. The porch corners are hexagonal piers with buttresses supporting a Gothic arched opening trimmed in limestone. The point of the arch supports a limestone cross which extends up into the crenelated parapet wall of the porch roof. The side walls of the porch have limestone framed Gothic arch openings and a crenelated parapet.

Above the porch at the second floor is a group of five one-over-one windows with transoms. A gable wall dormer with stone trim, a recessed opening, and a stone cross on top of the pediment projects into the roof at the center of the building. A brick face gable dormer with an arched window is located on either side of the center dormer. On both sides of the central porch the main wall contains a one-over-one window at the basement level, and a one-over-one window with transom at the first and second floors. Flanking that the basement level has five one-over-one windows at the basement level, and a group of five one-over-one windows with transoms at the first and second floors. At the third level one-over-one windows are spaced equally across the entire wall.

The east and west wings project forward of the building's main wall and are identical. Each contains four one-over-one windows at the basement level, a group of four one-over-one windows with transoms at the first and second floors, four one-over-one windows at the third floor and a group of three windows with transoms in the gable ends. The gable has stone trim and stone coping.

The east and west walls of the building continue the decorative treatment of the façade with a stone clad basement level and a stone band at the third-floor window sill line. On the west elevation three gable wall dormers extend at the center of the wall at the roof line (the east elevation lacks corresponding dormers). The windows at the basement, second and third floors are one-over-one. The first-floor windows have transoms. The east wall of the building has a similar window pattern and there is a projecting solarium type bay window at the first floor above a basement entrance. The two added brick stair towers are located at the south ends of the east and west wings of the building.

The central arm of the E is two-stories tall, clad in yellow brick, and contains the chapel. The arched window openings have clear glass windows, the original stained-glass windows were removed by the original owner. There are miscellaneous one-story connectors between the west wing and the chapel. A two-story tall red brick addition runs between the chapel and east wing of the building. It has minimal fenestration.

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The interior of the building follows the E-shaped footprint with the main corridor running east-west in the north part of the building on all three floors. The chapel is located in the central arm of the E, with offices and dormitory rooms in the outer arms of the E. The building generally has plaster walls and ceilings with some terrazzo floors in corridors and stairways. Many areas have carpeted or newer tile floors and suspended acoustical ceilings. The first and second floors have offices and classrooms, the third floor has larger open spaces. Much of the wall configuration is not original and was altered when the building was used for diocese offices beginning in 1973 through 2000s. The chapel retains its original ceiling, balcony and pews but the altar and stained-glass windows were removed by the diocese sometime prior to 2008.

Convent – 1944 – Contributing

Two-story tall flat roof building clad in red brick with a rectangular footprint that is located to the east of the main building. The entrance faces north, in the center of the long side of the building which is three bays wide. Each bay contains three window openings at the first and second floors, except for the central bay which has the entrance door at the first floor. A one-story flat roof metal canopy supported by brick piers has been added in front of the entrance door. All of the windows have been replaced with an aluminum frame single sash window filling the original openings which have limestone sills and soldier course headers. The parapet wall is capped with limestone and has a shallow pediment above the central entrance. A limestone decorative cross extends from the peak of the pediment. A one-story wing extends from the east side of the building. It has two window openings in the north elevation. The rear wall of the building has a limestone clad foundation, the grade accesses a basement door. The first and second floors have aligned window openings spaced equally across the wall that are slightly recessed. The one-story east wing is set back from the main wall of the building.

Activities Building – 1955-56 – Humbrecht & Associates, architect – Contributing

Two story tall red brick clad building with a rectangular footprint. One-story tall ells project from both the north end and east side of the building. The main building has a gable roof, the ells have flat roofs. The main building is nine bays long, each bay is recessed and separated by brick pillars. There is set of three aluminum frame awning windows at the top of the wall in each bay on the east and west elevations. The wall is capped by a metal soffit and fascia at the edge of the roof. The west wall of the north ell does not have any openings, a slim metal cross is mounted to the wall. The north elevation of the building is comprised of the one-story north ell, there are three sets of a flush metal door and aluminum frame window at the first floor. The north elevation of the east ell has a flush metal door at each end and a row of aluminum frame windows along the top of the wall. The wall is capped with limestone coping. The south wall of the ell is similar, a row of windows near the top of the wall on the west half and a single flush metal door in the center of the wall.

The interior of the building is comprised of the large gymnasium, the handball courts and locker rooms. The gymnasium has wood floors, painted concrete walls, and exposed steel beams following the gable form of the roof with acoustical panels above. The handball courts are

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entered through doors in the north wall of the gymnasium. The courts have been converted to classrooms and have wood floors, plaster walls, and suspended tile ceilings. The former locker rooms and offices are located to the east of the gymnasium and have terrazzo floors, glazed block walls, and plaster ceilings.

Saint Henry Hall – 1956-57 - Humbrecht & Associates, architect; 2000 renovation – architect unknown – Contributing

Three-story tall red brick clad building with a rectangular footprint and flat roof. A one-story wing extends from the northeast corner of the building, and a three-story tall stair tower and one-story tall mechanical room projects from the center of the east wall. The east and west elevations are similar, the building is generally six bays long. The areas with windows are a metal wall and window wall system, some bays have rows of four aluminum windows at all three floors, some bays have two sets of two aluminum windows at each floor. The one-story wing has entry doors with sidelights on the east and west elevations. The north elevation of the addition has three entrance doors with adjacent windows regularly spaced on the wall. The three-story section of the building has one window opening at the third floor. The south elevation of the three-story building has windows at the second and third floors in the center of the wall. The stair tower and mechanical room on the east side of the building is void of openings except for a pair of flush metal doors in the east wall.

Stone shrine – date unknown – Contributing

A small stone shrine is located near the east edge of the property in a grove of pine trees. The shrine is constructed of fieldstone that is a variety of colors and sizes with large and random mortar joints. It has a circular footprint, about halfway up the south half is cut away to create a small altar and an arched opening that has been filled in. It likely originally contained a religious statue. The back side and top of the shrine are curved.

Baseball diamond – date unknown – Non-Contributing

The baseball diamond is located on the south half of the property and consists of two painted concrete block dugouts with flat roofs, a painted concrete block equipment shed, a chain link fence backstop, and chain link fences along the first and third baselines.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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opening at this site in 1920 (founded in 1909) until its conversion to a residential high school seminary program in 1966. The seminary is additionally significant as one of only three Roman Catholic seminaries in Michigan until 1960. The seminary served as the main educational institution for several generations of Catholic priests who served parishes in the Dioceses of Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Saginaw (all in Michigan) during a period of growth for the Catholic Church in Michigan. The end date of the period of significance is additionally significant as the year college-level seminarians began taking classes full time at nearby Aquinas College, ending the minor seminary structure at Saint Joseph's.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Diocese of Grand Rapids

The history of the Diocese of Grand Rapids began when the first Catholics arrived in the upper peninsula of Michigan. The Jesuits established a mission at Sault Ste. Marie in 1668. In 1701 Saint Anne's Parish in Detroit was founded and is generally recognized as the oldest extant congregation in Detroit and Michigan. The original priests were sent as missionaries and served the local Catholic population as well as worked toward converting the Native American population to Christianity. The Catholic population of Detroit and the surrounding territory, including Grand Rapids, continued to grow and during the early nineteenth century was organized under the Diocese of Cincinnati.

In 1833 Pope Gregory XVI created the Diocese of Detroit that covered the entire Michigan Territory, which at that time also included Wisconsin and a portion of Minnesota. There were approximately fifteen thousand Catholics in the geographic area that would later become the state of Michigan (Tentler, 1990, 13). Just four years later, in 1837 the Diocese of Dubuque was created, removing Minnesota from the geographic area of the diocese. According to the website for the Archdiocese of Detroit the diocese's boundaries were adjusted that same year to match the State of Michigan when it entered statehood. This information conflicts with Tentler's description of the evolution of the diocese boundaries below.

In 1841 the Diocese of Detroit's second bishop, Belgium native Father Peter Paul Lefevere, was appointed. During his tenure the geographic area of the diocese decreased again as population increased in the outlying territory. In 1843 the Diocese of Milwaukee removed all of Wisconsin. The Vicariate Apostolic of Upper Michigan, covering the entire Upper Peninsula, was created in 1853 and shortly became the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie under Bishop Baraga who also assumed responsibilities for the Indian missions in the northern portion of the lower peninsula (Ibid., 17).

The Diocese of Detroit's third bishop, German native Casper Henry Borgess, was appointed in 1869 and came from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The geographic boundaries of the Diocese of Detroit were reduced once again in 1882 with the creation of the Diocese of Grand Rapids by Pope Leo XIII. The geographic area of the Diocese encompassed thirty-nine counties in Michigan's lower peninsula. It stretched from Kent and Ottawa Counties in the south, to the

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Straits of Mackinac in the north, and over to Lake Huron in the east, including the Saginaw Bay region. The first bishop appointed to the Diocese of Grand Rapids in January 1883, was Henry Joseph Richter of Cincinnati. Bishop Richter passed away in 1916 and Michael James Gallagher was appointed bishop. He served until 1918 when he was appointed as bishop of the Detroit Diocese. In 1919 Michigan-native Reverend Edward D. Kelly was named as his successor. Bishop Kelly used money left by Bishop Richter to purchase land for a larger location for Saint Joseph's Seminary. Kelly served as bishop until 1926.

In 1938 Michigan dioceses were reorganized by the creation of the Diocese of Saginaw. Several counties were annexed from the Diocese of Lansing, which was created in 1937, to the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Then, in 1971, in response to the Second Vatican Council's call for smaller dioceses, the Dioceses of Kalamazoo and Gaylord were formed by annexing portions of the Dioceses of Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw. Today, the Ecclesiastical Province of Detroit contains the Archdiocese of Detroit, six dioceses, and a titular see (a diocese in title only), the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

Saint Joseph's Seminary and Development of the Campus

Training men for the priesthood was an important task in the Catholic Church. The Third Council of Trent in 1652-1563 declared that seminaries should be established in every diocese. The first priests in America were Irish or European, a trend that continued through the 1800s as waves of immigrants arrived. The first Catholic seminary in the United States was Saint Mary's Seminary founded in 1791 in Baltimore, the location of the first diocese created in the United States in 1789. The first seminary established in Michigan was Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Detroit which opened in 1886. It was a major seminary, it provided twelve years of education, five years of preparatory (high school), two years of philosophy and three years of theology. However, it was established to train European born men for the priesthood, primarily Polish, to minister to the many ethnic congregations being established around the country at the time.

In Grand Rapids Bishop Richter worked to establish a seminary in the diocese but lacked the funds to do so. In 1905 Pope Pius X encouraged him to proceed. In 1906 Bishop Richter recruited Monsignor Anthony Volkert a native of Munster, Germany and then working in Italy, to help develop a seminary program. In 1909 the diocese purchased a building on Sheldon Avenue near the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in downtown Grand Rapids to house the newly created Saint Joseph's Minor Seminary. Monsignor Volkert was appointed the first rector and taught Greek and Latin. The other three professors were Reverend Salvatore Cianci, professor of Italian; and Reverend Michael J. Gallagher, professor of Greek (and later Bishop of Grand Rapids and then Bishop of Detroit); and Reverend Andres Narloch, professor of Latin. The students attended some classes at Catholic Central High School (Bufka, 2015, 67).

The seminary was established as a minor seminary, comprised of four years of high school and two years of college for boys to be trained to enter the priesthood, after which they would go on to a major seminary for an additional four years to complete their studies. There were no other seminaries in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and at the time the only other seminary in Michigan

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was in Saints Cyril and Methodius in Detroit, a major seminary. Major seminaries offered four years of high school and the required eight years of college for entrance into the priesthood. A second major seminary, Sacred Heart Seminary, was founded in Detroit in 1918 by then Bishop of Detroit Michael J. Gallagher, who no doubt drew on his experiences in Grand Rapids. It wasn't until fall of 1960 that another minor seminary opened in Michigan, Saint Paul's Seminary in Saginaw. It closed in 1970 due to declining enrollment.

Saint Joseph's Seminary was successful enough that a four-story brick building was constructed in 1910 and enlarged in 1913, however it was still too small for the number of students. Grand Rapids students could not board at the school until their sixth year and all students had to attend some classes at Catholic Central High School. In 1916 Bishop Richter passed away and left money to construct a new building. In June 1919 Bishop Edward D. Kelly purchased the property on Burton Street, the former Winchell farm, in what was still a rural area of Grand Rapids (Ibid., 67).

Ground was broken for the seminary in August 1919, and a fund-raising drive began in October. It was noted by the *Detroit Free Press* as "the biggest Catholic event in the diocese of Grand Rapids since the installation of Bishop Edward D. Kelly." The cornerstone of the main building on the new Burton Street campus was laid on November 20, 1919, and the building was completed in late December 1920. A dedication was to be held after the Christmas holidays and was scheduled for January 12, 1921 but had to be postponed to January 19 due to the death of Monsignor Thomas D. Flannery in Alpena and the need for the bishop and other priests to attend his funeral (Ibid., 68).

The new three-story building was large enough so that it became mandatory that all students to board at the school. Boarding allowed for more religious discipline and study. The days were very structured, with an emphasis on prayer and attending mass. Rules at the seminary were very strict, the students were not allowed to receive visitors outside of scheduled family days, were not allowed to receive packages or phone calls, and were not permitted to leave campus except during vacations. During those vacations at home the local parish priests were required to produce a written report of the student's behavior. Students had to maintain high grades and any infraction of the rules or low grade could cause a student to be dismissed.

Only boys who were serious about the priesthood could attend Saint Joseph's. There was an application process and they had to be recommended by their local parish priest. Beginning in 1956 prospective students were also required to pass an entrance exam. At the end of their six years graduates were assigned to a major seminary by the bishop. As it wasn't contemplated that graduates would do anything but enter the priesthood, the school did not issue the equivalent to high school diplomas until the class of 1958-1959 in affiliation with Catholic University (Ibid., 54).

The Sisters of Mercy, a congregation established in 1827 in Dublin, Ireland, and active in the United States since 1843, lived in the first floor of the building to provide food services and operate the infirmary. The Sisters of Mercy remained with the seminary until 1930 when the apostolic congregation now known as the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids replaced them. A

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separate convent was constructed for the Sisters in 1944 to the east of the main building. A tunnel connected the two buildings. The Dominican Sisters were established in Grand Rapids in 1889, after some twenty years in Traverse City, Michigan.

The school was built for one hundred students, but by the late 1920s enrollment exceeded that number, having 118 students in the 1931-1932 school year. The *Detroit Free Press* reported in 1922 that the seminary had "grown very rapidly during the past few years." Reverend Charles D. White, a Grand Rapids native and then-rector of Saint Joseph Seminary, was quoted as saying that while the "building is adequately caring for present needs," he did "not know long it will continue to do so." Reverend White was later elevated to Bishop of the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, the first priest from Grand Rapids to such a position.

Although no doubt subsidized it was not free for students to attend Saint Joseph's. From 1925 through at least 1957, the board and tuition for boys from the Diocese of Grand Rapids was \$125.00 per semester plus about forty dollars in fees. It was three-hundred dollars per semester for students outside of the diocese.

With the exception of the years between 1938 and 1941, enrollment in the seminary continued to grow. Boys were recruited for the seminary from parishes throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids, while others came from dioceses throughout the state that lacked their own seminary. Others still came from out of state, with at least one student in the early 1930s from Lexington, Kentucky. To accommodate the growing numbers of students, numerous alterations were made to the main building. The east wing was altered in 1933, and again in 1943 when the third floor was divided into sleeping corrals with temporary partitions. In 1946 the attic was finished to create a fourth floor sleeping area. The renovation included adding bathrooms, showers and a new stairway to the area.

The seminary was also the site of significant celebrations in West Michigan Catholicism. In 1933 the seminary hosted a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first Maas in the city, as well as celebrated the golden anniversary of Bishop Richter's consecration. It was noted that "a choir of 1,000 voices will sing" at the events.

Through the middle decades of the twentieth century enrollment in the state's seminaries was in near constant increase. The post-World War II years in Michigan, like the country at large, were years of significant population and economic growth. These "boom" years affected secular and religious institutions alike.

By 1955 Saint Joseph Seminary enrolled over two hundred students. Similar enrollment in the seminaries in Detroit resulted in the "Crisis of 1955." Dioceses were told by both the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Diocese of Grand Rapids that they could accept only a limited number of seminarians. In response, some dioceses, like Saginaw, decided to build their own minor seminaries. The Diocese of Saginaw purchased land in 1956 and opened Saint Paul Seminary in 1960. Its first class consisted of eighty-two aspiring priests. Saint Paul Seminary closed in 1970.

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The opening of another minor seminary had, at first, little impact on Saint Joseph Seminary. In fact, the campus continued to expand. In 1955 the activities building was constructed south of the main building. Sports and physical activities were a key part of student life, and the gymnasium/auditorium in the basement of the main building was not large enough with the high enrollment. The new building contained a basketball court that could also be used for volleyball, four indoor handball courts, and locker rooms. The exterior of the building's east wall could accommodate outdoor handball courts.

In March 1956 ground was broken for Saint Henry Hall, named after the first bishop of the diocese. The new building was intended primarily for the students in the two college years of the seminary. It opened in the spring of 1957 and contained sixty-six student rooms, six faculty suites, four classrooms, a library, recreation room, physics laboratory, and a chapel for private prayer. The building was designed to be twice the size, although the second half was never constructed.

In 1957 and 1958 a wing was added to the chapel, the kitchen was enlarged and modernized, and stairwells were added to the southeast and southwest corners of the main building. Further alterations were required in 1964 to meet fire code.

Although a record number of 165 boys took the entrance exam in 1963, by 1968-1969 enrollment in the seminary had dropped below 100, the lowest since the late 1930s. This was due, in part, to the opening of Saint Paul Seminary in Saginaw in 1960, but also a portent of the changes coming in the Catholic Church. The 1960s were a time of cultural change, particularly in the United States, the sexual revolution, the war in Vietnam and associated protests, and the civil rights movement. Between 1962 and 1969 Pope John XXII convened the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). He called for the church to embrace the modern world. At Saint Joseph's discussion groups were organized with students and faculty to discuss the Vatican II changes. Saint Joseph's began to implement the changes called for as early as 1964, including prayers in English every other day and mass facing the people. Seminary students were no longer as sequestered from the outside world, they recruited prospective students, taught religion to children at local parishes, and took field trips (Ibid., 46-47).

In 1965 the college students began taking some of their classes at Aquinas College, a Catholic college in Grand Rapids that was affiliated with the Dominican Sisters and had been established by the order in 1886 in Traverse City. By the fall of 1966 seminarians took all of their classes at Aquinas, making Saint Joseph a high school only. In 1969 the college students were moved to a residence near Aquinas College. In 1973 the remaining high school students were housed in Saint Henry Hall, and starting in 1978 they took all of their classes at Catholic Central High School, also established by the Dominican Sisters. After 1973 parts of the main building were converted to offices for the diocese. Saint Joseph's remained an on-site high school until 1981, the enrollment of the school in its final year being only twenty-nine students across the four grades (Ibid., 84).

The diocese continued to use the main building for offices including the religious education department and bookstore, the *Western Michigan Catholic* newspaper, and the diocese archives.

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In 2000, Saint Henry Hall was remodeled and turned into a conference center. The diocese sold the property in 2008 to the Lighthouse Full Life Center Church who used the property as a school until recently. Before selling the property, the diocese removed the stained-glass windows from the main building's chapel and re-used them in the Cathedral Square Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

The faculty at Saint Joseph's was primarily made up of priests from the Grand Rapids diocese, many went on to much higher positions within the church. The faculty lived on the second floor of the main building. Some of the more notable faculty included Reverend Michael J. Gallagher, one of the first professors from 1909 to 1911. From 1915 to 1916 he was the Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids and promoted to the Bishop of Grand Rapids from 1916 to 1918. He was the Bishop of Detroit from 1918 to 1937 (Ibid., 112, 113).

Reverend Thomas O. Martin, Michigan's first priest-civil lawyer taught at the school from 1935 to 1938 and again from 1957 to 1966. Reverend Thomas O. Martin taught from 1954 to 1962 and became Auxiliary Bishop of Grand Rapids in 1968. A role he served in until 2001. Reverend Thomas L. Noa, served as faculty beginning in 1917, was appointed rector in 1927 and served until 1946 when he was appointed as the Coadjutor Bishop of Sioux City, Iowa. A year later in 1947 he was appointed Bishop of Marquette where he served until 1968 (Ibid., 112-114).

Reverend Robert J. Rose began teaching in 1956, it is unknown when he left, but from 1981 to 1989 he was the Bishop of Gaylord, and then the Bishop of Grand Rapids from 1989 to 2003. Reverend Charles D. White began teaching in 1911, was appointed rector in 1919, and served as Bishop of Spokane, Washington from 1927 to 1956 (Ibid., 112, 114).

The first alumnus of Saint Josephs to be named a bishop was Reverend Charles A. Salatka. He served as faculty from 1944 to 1946, was Auxiliary Bishop of Grand Rapids from 1962 to 1968, Bishop of Marquette from 1968 to 1977, and Archbishop of Oklahoma City from 1977 to 1992 (Ibid., 113).

Though its educational focus was training men for parish ministry, Saint Joseph Seminary also graduated individuals who went on to other endeavors. A number of alumni became teachers, entered the military, or became businessmen. Some entered the priesthood and later left. Sylvester Kasmer was graduated from the seminary in 1920, but instead of the ministry engaged in commercial endeavors. Kasmer served as president of the Saint Joseph Retail Merchants Association, and from about 1930 to 1937 was the business manager for the Loeffler drug store company before being named to the head of "chain store tax division of the sales tax department" for the State of Michigan in 1937.

Architects

Spier & Gehrke

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Spier and Gehrke designed the first, main building of the campus in 1919. The firm evolved from Spier and Rohns in 1908 when Hans Gehrke became a partner in the firm. Rohns died in 1915 and the firm was renamed Spier and Gehrke. The firm designed many buildings throughout Michigan but is best known for their church, Detroit fire station, and school designs. While Saint Joseph was likely a minor project for the firm, it is representative of their work outside of Detroit.

Frederik H. Spier (1855-1931) was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1873, first settling in Hoboken, New Jersey and arriving in Detroit after 1880 to superintend the construction of the Michigan Central Station on Third Street for architect Eidlitz of New York. He then worked for Gordon Lloyd and Elijah Myers before partnering with his co-worker and fellow German architect William C. Rohns in 1884. Spier and Rohns designed railroad stations all over Michigan, including one in Grand Rapids (Ferry, Hawkins, *The Buildings of Detroit*, p. 136).

Hans Gehrke (1881-1969) was born in New Orleans, grew up in Kentucky, and received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1904. He came to Detroit in 1902 to work at Spier and Rohns. He is credited with the Masonic Temple in Kalamazoo. It is unknown exactly he formed his own firm, but he is credited with designing fourteen Detroit fire stations between 1918 and 1931, including the headquarters building in downtown Detroit in 1929. His 1969 obituary stated he retired in 1967 after fifty-five years at his own firm, Hans Gehrke Co. and that he had designed many bank branches. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and Michigan Society of Architects.

Humbrecht & Associates

Humbrecht and Associates of Fort Wayne, Indiana, designed the Activities Building in 1955, Saint Henry Hall in 1956, and additions and remodeling to the main building in 1957-1958. The firm was founded in 1950 by Harry Joseph Humbrecht (1912-1978). Humbrecht was born in 1912 in Fort Wayne and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1934 with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering. He designed an International style house for his family in Fort Wayne about 1952. The house is a contributing building in the National Register-listed Southwood Park Historic District. In 1954 he designed the Saint John the Baptist Church located in the same historic district. According to the Southwood Park Historic District National Register Nomination, "Humbrecht and Associates primarily designed religious and institutional structures in northeastern Indiana." This is evidenced by the design of Immaculate Conception Catholic church school in Portland, Indiana (1954); the Newman Center at Ball State University (1955); and a school and convent for Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Garrett, Indiana (1956). The work at Saint Joseph's Seminary was likely a major commission for the firm at the time.

In 1961 the firm was reorganized as Humbrecht-Sherbondy and Associates with James C. Sherbondy as the second principal. Most of the firm's work was in Fort Wayne and included Saint Vincent De Paul Cathedral Church (1968); Georgetown Plaza Shopping Center (1968); Scott Paper Company Plant (1969); Farm Bureau Insurance Company office (1969); and United

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Parcel and Dispatch Center (1969). In 1974 the firm designed the Meridian North Office Park in suburban Indianapolis.

Wencel L. Cukierski

The original landscape design for the seminary grounds was created by Wencel L. Cukierski (1869-1926). Based on a historical postcard it appears that the layout of the circle drive and some of the older trees lining the circle drive are the only elements remaining from that original design.

Cukierski was born in Posen, Poland, and graduated from a large German agricultural college, Erfurt College in 1887. He worked in Berlin for two years before immigrating to Grand Rapids. He is most noted for his designs for the early growth and development of John Ball Park on the west side of Grand Rapids. He began working seasonally for the city parks department in 1892 and was eventually put in charge of the greenhouses and landscaping at John Ball Park. He became Superintendent of Parks in May 1898. His design for John Ball Park typified nineteenth century landscape design and created a beautiful romantic-era park. In 1903 he was a founding member of Sacred Heart Church which located on the edge of John Ball Park in what quickly became a new Polish neighborhood in Grand Rapids. In late 1908 he resigned as Superintendent of Parks amid political controversy, part of which was his taking on of private landscape design commissions such as a park in Cadillac earlier that same year. After resigning he continued with private landscape design under his company, Grand Rapids Floral Design. Some of his works include two cemeteries in Grand Rapids, the Polish Cemetery (now Holy Cross) in 1909, and Mount Calvary; four state parks – Ludington, Cadillac, Holland, and Muskegon; and the grounds at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon. He died in 1926 (City of Grand Rapids, *John Ball Park Historic District Study Committee Report*, pp. 29-31).

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Historic postcard, unknown date, showing main building and circle drive.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bufka, Norbert. *St. Joseph's Seminary, Personal and Historical Perspectives*. Self-Published, 2015.

City of Grand Rapids, *John Ball Park Historic District Study Committee Final Report*. January 2002.

Collum, Marla, Barbara Krueger, and Dorothy Kostuch. *Detroit's Historic Places of Worship*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2012.

Ferry, W. Hawkins. *The Buildings of Detroit*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968.

Gane, John F., AIA, ed. *American Architects Directory 3rd Edition, 1970*. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1970.

Marquis, Albert Nelson, ed. *The Book of Detroiters*. Chicago: A. N. Marquis & Company, 1914.

Quinn, Angela M. *Southwood Park Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. March 2008.

Tentler, Leslie Woodcock. *Seasons of Grace: A History of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency

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☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 16.67

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.553860 Longitude: -85.391053

2. Latitude: 42.553852 Longitude: -85.385945

3. Latitude: 42.552836 Longitude: -85.385874

4. Latitude: 42.552841 Longitude: -85.390985

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:

Easting:

Northing:

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- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Burton Street SE and Union Street SE and going west along the south side of Burton Street SE to the southwest corner of the intersection of Burton Street SE and Martin Avenue SE; then south along the west side of Martin Avenue SE to the northwest corner of the intersection of Martin Avenue SE and Winchell Street SE; then west along the north side of Winchell Street SE to the northeast corner of the intersection of Winchell Street SE and Union Street SE; then north along the west side of Union Street SE to the point of beginning.

Also described as:

Part of the NE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 7, T6N, R11W – Commencing at the SE corner of Burton Street and Union Avenue; then East 654 Feet; then South 957 Feet; then West 654 Feet; then North 957 Feet to the Point of Beginning. Also Lots 1 to 19 inclusive of Osterhout Addition.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the entire parcel presently and historically associated with the Saint Joseph's Seminary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kristine M. Kidorf
organization: Kidorf Preservation Consulting
street & number: 451 E. Ferry Street
city or town: Detroit state: MI zip code: 48202
e-mail kristine@kidorfpreservationconsulting.com
telephone: 313-300-9376
date: February 2018

Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Saint Joseph's Seminary

City or Vicinity: Grand Rapids

County: Kent

State: MI

Photographer: Kristine M. Kidorf

Date Photographed: November 28, 2017 and September 20, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 18. Looking southeast at main building and Saint Henry Hall from circular drive.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0001

2 of 18. Looking northwest from main building toward Burton Street SE.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0002

3 of 18. Looking east from main building toward Saint Henry hall.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0003

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4 of 18. Looking west from main building at circular drive.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0004

5 of 18. Looking southeast at main building from circular drive.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0005

6 of 18. Looking southwest at main building.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0006

7 of 18. Looking southwest at main building entrance.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0007

8 of 18. Looking southeast at front of convent.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0008

9 of 18. Looking northeast at rear of convent.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0009

10 of 18. Looking southeast at activities building.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0010

11 of 18. Looking northwest at activities building.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0011

12 of 18. Looking north at activities building in front and rear of main building behind.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0012

13 of 18. Looking southeast at Saint Henry hall.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0013

14 of 18. Looking southwest at Saint Henry hall.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0014

15 of 18. Looking northwest at rear of convent and Saint Henry hall

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0015

16 of 18. Looking northwest at Saint Henry Hall.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0016

17 of 18. Looking northeast at grove of pine trees and former shrine.

MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0017

18 of 18. Looking northeast at detail of former shrine.

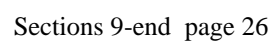
MI_Kent County_Saint Joseph Seminary_0018

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



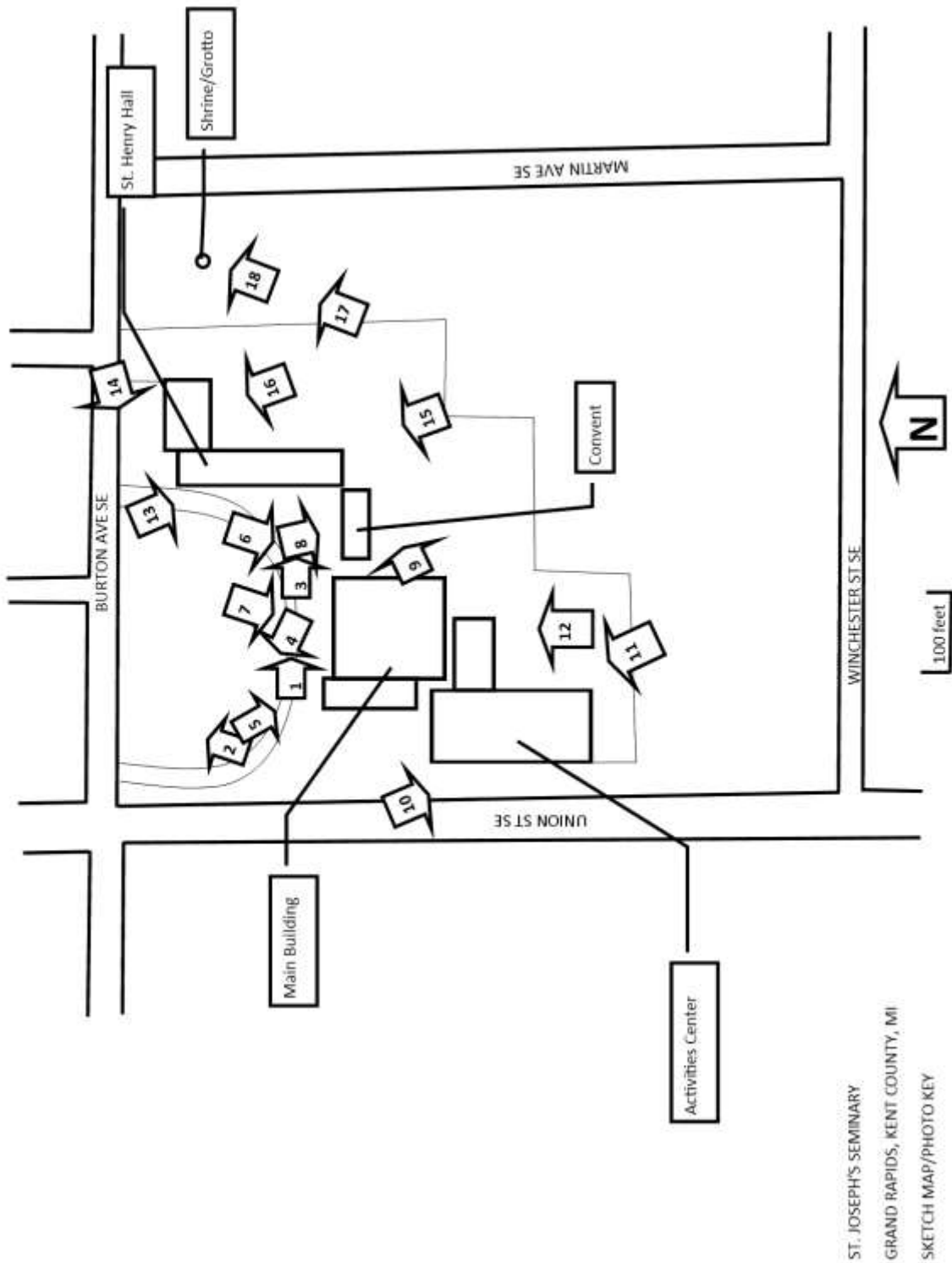
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