

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

**United States Department of 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property****historic name** St. Catherine Residence for Young Women**other names/site number** N/A**2. Location**

<b>street &amp; number</b>	1032 East Knapp Street	N/A	<b>not for publication</b>
<b>city or town</b>	Milwaukee	N/A	<b>vicinity</b>
<b>state</b> Wisconsin	<b>code</b> WI	<b>county</b> Milwaukee	<b>code</b>
		<b>zip code</b>	53202

**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 \_ nationally \_ statewide X locally. ( \_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_ meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( \_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

St. Catherine Residence for Young Women

Milwaukee Co.

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the

National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the

National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.☐ removed from the National

Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
as apply)☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources  
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	0 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
1	0 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property  
listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources****previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / institutional housing

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / institutional housing

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

METAL

roof SYNTHETICS

other STONE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. Catherine Residence for Young Women  
Name of Property

Milwaukee Co.  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Property is:

- ☒ 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

#### SOCIAL HISTORY

### Period of Significance

1966 – 1971

### Significant Dates

1966

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Hinton, F. John

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Name of Property

Milwaukee  
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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- ☒ 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 #

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1    16T    426814.43    4766455.60  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

2    \_\_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

3    \_\_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

4    \_\_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

☐ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rachel Barnhart, Associate	date	January 2021
organization	MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC	telephone	312-488-1682
street & number	53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1142	zip code	60604
city or town	Chicago	State	IL

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Milwaukee

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

<b>name/title</b>	Melissa Rankin	<b>Date</b>	January 2021
<b>organization</b>	Mercy Housing Inc.	<b>telephone</b>	414-939-7002
<b>street &amp; number</b>	120 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1915	<b>zip code</b>	60603
<b>city or town</b>	Chicago	<b>state</b>	IL

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Start description on line below

**Summary**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women is located at 1032 East Knapp Street in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The eight-story and basement building is situated in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood, approximately one mile northeast of the city's downtown. The building was designed in 1950 in the Modern Movement style by Milwaukee architect F.J. Hinton as the Martinique Apartments. It was rehabilitated in 1966 into the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women (also known as St. Catherine's) with accommodations for up to 240 women in need.

St. Catherine's faces south towards East Knapp Street and has a T-shaped footprint. It has a concrete foundation, orange and yellow face brick cladding along its front (south) portion, and metal corrugated cladding along its rectangular rear (north) portion. The roof is flat with an original one-story brick mechanical penthouse projecting from the front portion. The building has paired one-over-one replacement windows in the original window openings. The main entrance is offset in the front (south) façade and sheltered with a flat-roofed canopy supported by columns clad with polished granite slabs. The interior of the building reflects the 1966 rehabilitation and features an entrance lobby with a reception area; communal spaces such as a lounge, dining room, chapel, and kitchen; and double-loaded corridors lined with suites typically containing two rooms and a shared bathroom. The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women retains good integrity to express its significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History, with a period of significance beginning in 1966 and ending in 1971, the National Register program's 50-year cutoff.

**Setting**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women is located at 1032 East Knapp Street in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Milwaukee is Wisconsin's largest city and is located in the southeast region of the state along Lake Michigan. The St. Catherine Residence is situated in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood, approximately one mile northeast of the city's downtown. The building is one block west of Veterans Park, which fronts Lake Michigan.

The building faces south towards East Knapp Street, and is located on the south side of the block bounded by East Knapp Street on the south, North Astor Street on the west, East Ogden Avenue on the north, and North Franklin Place on the east. The immediate surroundings reflect the evolution of the Yankee Hill neighborhood's development from the late-nineteenth century through the twenty-first century. The oldest extant buildings are frame and brick residences and churches from the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Gothic Revival style First Unitarian Church, completed in 1892, anchors the northwest corner of the block where St. Catherine's is located. Low-rise commercial buildings and

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apartment buildings began to replace some of the earlier residential buildings during the first decades of the 1900s. A mid-rise apartment building boom during the mid-twentieth century resulted in the subject building at 1032 East Knapp Street along with several others in the area, including immediately east and south of the St. Catherine Residence. Architect F.J. Hinton designed several of these post-WWII apartment buildings. Along with the nominated building, completed in 1950 as the Martinique Apartments, Hinton designed two eight-story apartment buildings immediately south of the St. Catherine Residence. At the turn of the twenty-first century, taller apartment high-rises appeared in the neighborhood, including a late 1990s high-rise apartment building at the southeast corner of the block. Between 2005 and 2010, the four-story McAuley Apartments to the west of St. Catherine's was built as affordable housing.

**Site**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women sits on a legal parcel that is 90 feet wide and 180 feet deep. The eight-story building is set back approximately 20 feet from East Knapp Street. A shallow landscaped strip, a public concrete sidewalk, and a grass curb strip front the building. Asphalt-paved driveways abut the east and west sides of the building and lead to the rear of the property where there is a small asphalt-paved lot. A wood picket fence lines the north and most of the east edges of the parcel.

**Exterior Description**

*Overview*

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women at 1032 East Knapp Street was designed in 1950 in the Modern Movement style by Milwaukee architect F.J. Hinton. The eight-story and basement building has a T-shaped footprint. The south, or front, portion of the 'T' faces East Knapp Street and is 70 feet wide and about 40 feet deep. The longer north, or rear, portion of the 'T' is about 50 feet wide and extends about 100 feet to the north. The building has a concrete foundation, orange and yellow face brick veneer cladding on the front portion of the building, granite veneer cladding at the base of the primary (south) façade, non-historic corrugated metal cladding on the rear portion, and a flat roof. A brick-clad mechanical penthouse with a brick chimney projects from the front portion's roof. To the southwest of the penthouse is a roof deck surrounded with a metal mesh fence. Concrete pavers clad the remaining area of the front portion's roof. The rear portion's roof is covered with white thermoplastic membrane. All windows in the building are non-historic vinyl replacements unless noted otherwise.

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*South (Primary) Façade*  
(See Photos #1-2)

The building's primary façade faces south and is five bays wide. The water table and the center portion of the first story is clad with historic polished granite panels, and the rest of the facade is clad with original orange and yellow face brick in a six-course common bond. At the second through the eighth stories, the three center bays are outlined with slender limestone piers that terminate at a limestone cornice. The façade has a regular fenestration pattern with original window openings containing paired vinyl replacement one-over-one windows.

The offset primary entrance to the building is located at the first story in the fifth bay from the west. The entrance and the window bay to the east are fronted with a porch covered with a flat-roofed canopy built in 1966 when the apartment building was remodeled for the St. Catherine Residence. The porch base is constructed of concrete and brick, and a concrete accessibility ramp with aluminum railing leads from the west driveway to the west side of the porch. The porch canopy is supported with wide rectangular concrete columns clad with polished granite panels matching the granite cladding on the first story. The front column has original raised metal lettering reading "ST. CATHERINE RESIDENCE" with non-historic raised metal lettering below reading "1032 E. KNAPP ST." The flat canted roof of the canopy has a textured stucco ceiling and metal flashing at the cornice. The primary entrance contains a single-leaf aluminum-frame glazed door. The window bay to the east contains a historic aluminum-frame, multi-light, fixed window. To the west of the entrance and the porch are three window bays with single one-over-one vinyl windows. These bays are clad with polished granite panels and feature tall projecting granite window lintels with a fluted pattern. The outer window openings on the first story contain paired one-over-one windows with soldier brick flat-arch lintels and granite sills.

Stories two through eight have a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The center bay on all upper stories has two window openings separated by a brick-clad mullion; each opening contains paired one-over-one vinyl windows with metal mullions. The remaining outer bays on all upper stories contain one window opening with paired one-over-one vinyl windows with metal mullions. The three center bays on all upper stories project slightly and are framed with narrow limestone piers that terminate at a limestone cornice. Within the frame created by the limestone piers and cornice, a continuous spandrel panel clad with orange face brick is below each row of window bays. The building's original design featured continuous concrete solar screens along the base of each spandrel panel; these were removed sometime in the early 1980s. The wall flanking each window bay within the limestone frame is clad with contrasting yellow face bricks. The two, centermost yellow brick wall panels are ornamented with four recessed yellow brick square-shaped panels. The windows within the limestone frame have continuous limestone sills and continuous stretcher brick flat lintels. The window openings in the outer bays on the upper stories have limestone surrounds.



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*West (Side) Façade*  
(See Photos #2-4)

The west façade is visually divided into a three-bay south portion with orange face brick cladding and a longer recessed eight-bay north portion with brick cladding at the first story and non-historic corrugated metal cladding on the upper stories. Each portion is regularly fenestrated with non-historic vinyl windows in the original window openings with limestone sills and flat brick lintels. On the south brick-clad portion, the first bay from the south at each story contains paired one-over-one windows, the second bays contain narrow one-over-one windows, and the third bays contains slightly wider one-over-one windows.

There is a one-bay-wide wall that faces north transitioning between the brick-clad south portion and the recessed corrugated metal-clad north portion. This north-facing portion has painted brick cladding at the first story and corrugated metal cladding at the upper stories. The window bay at each story contains a one-over-one vinyl window.

The longer, recessed, north portion of the west elevation corresponds to the building's rear wing. The first story of the rear wing is clad with orange face brick and the upper stories have non-historic corrugated metal cladding. An access door to the basement is located at the south end of the rear wing and accessed via a flight of concrete steps. A first-story entrance with a single leaf metal door is located in the fourth bay from the north. The upper stories are regularly fenestrated with eight bays. Starting at the south end, the first, second, third, sixth, and eighth bays contain paired one-over-one vinyl windows. The fourth and fifth bays contains one-over-one vinyl windows. The seventh bay contains narrow one-over-one vinyl windows. A metal duct is affixed to the elevation between the seventh and eighth bays.

*North (Rear) Façade*  
(See Photos #4-5)

The north façade of the rear portion is approximately fifty feet wide. The first story is clad with painted brick and the upper stories are clad with non-historic corrugated metal siding. The first story contains two single-leaf metal doors; the west door accesses an interior stairwell and the east door accesses a receiving room. The upper stories have three irregularly-spaced bays at each level. The west bays contain a single one-over-one vinyl window at each story. The center bays contain a single, narrow one-over-one vinyl window at each story, corresponding to an interior stairwell. The east bays contain paired one-over-one vinyl windows at the third through eighth stories.

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*East (Side) Façade*  
(See Photos #1, 6)

The building's east façade is nearly identical to the west façade. It is comprised of a three-bay south portion with orange face brick cladding and a longer recessed eight-bay north portion. The longer north portion has non-historic corrugated metal cladding. Each portion is regularly fenestrated with non-historic vinyl windows in historic openings with limestone sills and flat brick lintels.

On the south brick-clad portion, the first bay from the south at each story contains paired one-over-one vinyl windows, the second bays contain narrow one-over-one vinyl windows, and the third bays contains slightly wider one-over-one vinyl windows.

There is a one-bay-wide wall that faces north transitioning between the brick-clad south portion and the recessed corrugated metal-clad north portion. This north-facing wall has painted brick cladding at the first story and corrugated metal cladding at the upper stories. The window bay at each story contains a one-over-one vinyl window. A sunken concrete L-shaped stairwell at the base of the wall leads down to a single-leaf metal door at the basement level that leads to the boiler room.

The first story of the longer north portion of the elevation is clad with orange face brick and the upper stories have non-historic corrugated metal cladding. A first-story entrance with a single leaf metal door is located in the third bay from the north. The upper stories are regularly fenestrated with nine bays. Starting at the south end, the first, second, third, and sixth bays contain paired one-over-one vinyl windows. The remaining bays contain single one-over-one vinyl windows.

**Interior Description**

*Overview*

1032 East Knapp was originally designed in 1950 as an apartment building with a parking garage on the first floor and one-bedroom and studio units on the upper floors. In 1965-1966 the building's interior was remodeled for the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women. The original first-floor garage was removed, and the basement and first floor were remodeled to create communal spaces such as a commercial kitchen, large dining room, and lounges, as well as administrative offices and mechanical service spaces. On the first floor, a reception desk and common seating area were created near the main entrance at the south end of the building. A few apartments at the north end of the second floor were removed and replaced with a chapel. (Although the program was operated by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, religious affiliation was not a prerequisite for tenants.) The kitchenettes in the studio and one-bedroom apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> floor were removed, and the

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demising walls beyond the original double-loaded corridor adjusted to create suites with small bedrooms and shared bathrooms. Private dressing rooms, about the size of a large closet, were installed in some of the suites. Two original elevators at the south end of the building were retained and provide circulation from the basement through the eighth floor. An original north stairwell and an original south stairwell were retained and access the basement through the eighth floor.

The building currently retains the interior layout as designed in 1965-1966, although many finishes in the common rooms and suites have been updated for the comfort of residents. The communal dining room in the basement has spans of original painted brick walls, original wood cabinetry, and a dropped ACT ceiling. The second-floor chapel is intact with its original finishes. The elevators are in their historic location with non-historic cab interiors. The south (front) stairwell has concrete stairs covered with carpeting, painted metal pipe handrails, and drywall walls and ceilings. The north (rear) stairwell's finishes are identical to the south stairwell except the stairs lack carpeting. The corridors and suites have carpet or vinyl plank flooring. Many windows retain historic painted wood sills and aprons. Many rooms have wall radiators below windows.

*Basement*

The basement is assessable via the south elevators and the north and south stairwells. A short central east-west aligned hallway organizes the south end of the floorplate, which contains mechanical and storage rooms, access to a short hall leading to the boiler room, and the communal laundry room. A narrow corridor along the west side of the floorplate leads north and accesses a mechanic's room, communal television room, communal fitness room, communal reading room, and storage rooms. A short north-south oriented hallway at the north end of the floorplate is accessed by the north stairwell and leads to storage rooms and a receiving room with a cooler.

The basement has utilitarian finishes. The south hallway has vinyl tile flooring, painted CMU walls, and a concrete painted ceiling. Storage and mechanical rooms have concrete floors, exposed concrete columns, exposed brick or concrete walls, and exposed concrete ceilings with pipes and ducts. The communal laundry room has ceramic tile flooring painted CMU walls, and painted concrete ceilings with exposed pipes, ducts, and conduit. The narrow west corridor and the communal TV room and fitness room have carpeting, painted wood board and batten wall cladding, and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. The north hall has linoleum flooring, CMU walls, historic wood cabinetry, and a plaster ceiling.

*First Floor*

The main entrance to the building is located at the south end of the first floor. The main entrance opens into a small vestibule that leads to an entry hall with a reception desk to the east and a

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communal lounge to the west. The entrance vestibule has tile flooring, drywall walls, and a plaster ceiling. The tile flooring continues into the entry hall. The reception desk is non-historic and two offices with non-historic finishes are located to the east (behind) the reception desk. The lounge has vinyl plank flooring, drywall walls, a historic wood built-in bookcase and an acoustic tile ceiling. The elevator lobby, containing two elevator cabs, is to the west of the communal lounge. It has tile flooring and an acoustic tile ceiling. The wall with the elevators has historic marble cut stone panels.

A short hall leads to the north of the elevator lobby and provides access to a storage room, a communal snack kitchen with a phone booth, and a communal TV room. The elevator lobby features two sets of elevator doors and historic marble wall cladding. A set of wall-mounted metal mailboxes, possibly historic, are mounted on the wall of the hallway next to the storage room. The communal snack kitchen has non-historic finishes, and the phone booth is original to the 1965-1966 rehabilitation. The phone booth was operational until the summer of 2020. The communal TV room has vinyl plank flooring, plastered walls with radiators, and an acoustic tile ceiling.

The north end of the hallway opens into the communal dining room. The communal dining room has vinyl plank flooring, original painted brick walls with sections of furred drywall, and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. An original wood built-in cabinet stands in the center of the dining room. The north end of the dining room has a cafeteria line with a pass-through window from the building's commercial kitchen. The commercial kitchen has tile flooring, historic ceramic tile wall cladding, and an acoustic tile ceiling. A small staff dining room is located to the east of the commercial kitchen and retains historic wood cabinetry, linoleum flooring, unpainted brick and furred drywall walls, and an acoustic tile ceiling with drywalled soffits.

*Second Floor Chapel*

The 1966 double-height chapel is located at the south end of the second floor. The chapel has a simple layout with a nave and an apse with an altar at the chapel's west end. From the corridor, original double-leaf wood doors with original metal stylized door handles open into the center of the nave. To the west of the double-leaf doors is a secondary chapel entrance with an original single leaf wood door with original metal door handle that opens into the west end of the nave. The chapel has non-historic carpet flooring. The apse is raised above the nave and fronted with two steps. The walls of the apse are clad with non-structural wood timbers and wood panels on a fabric backing. The south end of the apse has a recessed panel with textured gypsum panel cladding and a hanging statue of the crucifixion of Jesus. A simple wood altar is located in the apse. Religious statues are set on the narrow walls flanking the apse. The nave has six rows of wood pews.

The nave's walls are furred with gypsum board panels. The window openings along the south wall of the nave are set within wood-framed surrounds that extend up to the ceiling. Above the windows, the

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surrounds contain three panels with fabric backing and smaller wood panels. Above the panels are three bays of stained glass windows with geometric shapes and red and blue glass.

The nave and the apse have a gabled roof form with an acoustic tile ceiling ornamented with non-structural wood timbers. Original lighting fixtures are set into the ceiling above the apse. Above the nave, original cylindrical hanging lighting pendants with wood trim are suspended from the ceiling.

*Private Suites – Second through Eighth Floors*

The second through eighth floors are organized with a T-shaped double-loaded corridor lined with private suites. Each suite typically contains two bedrooms (called “units” on floorplans), one shared bathroom, and one shared closet. The layout dates to the 1966 conversion to the St. Catherine Residence, although the corridor and suite finishes are non-historic. Some windows have historic painted wood stools and aprons.

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floor corridors are carpeted, while corridors on the remaining floors have vinyl plank. Corridor walls are cinderblock covered with gypsum board panels with a knockdown finish and rubber baseboards. Fire hose cabinets are located in the corridors. The corridors have dropped acoustic tile ceilings with inset LED lighting panels. The elevator lobbies do not have extra ornamentation, and the elevator cabs have painted metal doors. The north and south stairwells are enclosed with single-leaf wood fire doors with a thin viewing panel.

Entrances to suites are non-historic single-leaf wood composite fire doors set within painted metal frames. Suite halls and bedrooms have either non-historic carpet or vinyl plank flooring. Walls are finished with gypsum board with rubber baseboards. Ceilings are finished with gypsum board and have simple non-historic light fixtures. Bedroom windows have historic painted wood stools and aprons. Radiator units are located below most windows. Ductwork is encased in drywall soffits and chases. Electrical conduit is exposed and typically painted to match the walls. Shared bathrooms contain one toilet, sink, and shower. The equipment and fixtures are non-historic.

**Integrity**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women retains sufficient integrity to communicate its significance at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The building retains the character-defining features that illustrate its significant role as a young women’s residential hall during the period of significance, 1966 through 1971 (fifty-year rule). Major alterations that have occurred (outlined above) do not obscure or drastically inhibit the building’s character-defining features. The character-defining features related to the building’s Criterion A significance are embodied in the

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historic interior layout, which is preserved. Important communal spaces inherent to the residence hall are retained in their original locations; these include the basement laundry room and lounges, the first floor dining room, kitchens, reception area, and lounge, and the second floor chapel. The historic layout of the upper floors is preserved and continues to reflect the significant history of the building; this layout is characterized by a central double-loaded corridor lined with suites containing shared bathrooms and bedrooms. The dimensions and configurations of the suites are largely unchanged, with the exception of a few suites on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor that are currently used as offices. The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women continues to serve its historic mission as a social service program providing affordable housing for women, and is directly associated with important historical trends of social services and housing in the city of Milwaukee.

**Location and Setting:** The building remains in its original location and the immediate setting is largely maintained.

**Design:** The current design of the building dates to its 1966 rehabilitation into the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women. The exterior design is largely preserved. The major design alteration has been the removal of exterior concrete solar screens from the primary façade sometime between 1967 and 1978. The removal of the concrete screens affects integrity but does not render the building ineligible for listing, because its historic significant function under Criterion A can still be conveyed despite the loss. On the interior, the historic layout is retained and strongly conveys the building's significance.

**Materials and Workmanship:** On the exterior, original brick cladding is retained but concealed beneath non-historic metal cladding on non-primary elevations. The metal cladding is a reversible alteration. Much of the interior's historic finishes has been replaced with non-historic finishes. These alterations were done by St. Catherine's to promote the comfort of the residents, and do not render the property ineligible for listing, because the historic interior layout is retained and conveys the significant function of the building.

**Feeling and Association:** The building retains the feeling of a residence hall and is directly associated with Milwaukee's oldest and longest-running residence program for young women, the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women.

End of Description of Physical Appearance

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     **Insert Statement of Significance**

**Statement of Significance**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women<sup>1</sup> at 1032 East Knapp Street in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood is proposed for listing in the National Register at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History. Established in Milwaukee in 1894 by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy and relocated to the subject building at 1032 East Knapp in 1966, the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women is directly associated with important historical trends of social services and housing in the city of Milwaukee. The organization was the first in the city to provide affordable dormitory-style housing for young women, and has continued providing this service for the past 126 years. The establishment and growth of St. Catherine's occurred within an important, larger pattern in social history in which women's residence halls proliferated in urban cities across the nation during the first half of the twentieth century. In Milwaukee, the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women was among the city's largest women's residence halls in operation, and today is the last remaining. The proposed period of significance begins in 1966 when St. Catherine's re-opened at 1032 East Knapp, and ends in 1970, the fifty-year cutoff.

St. Catherine's and other secular and non-secular women's residence halls, which were at their most numerous in urban areas across the country during the first half of the twentieth century, specifically catered to young, unmarried women who had recently relocated to cities in search of employment opportunities or to further their education. Beginning in the late 1800s, young, single women increasingly moved from rural to urban areas in search of employment. However, they often lacked sufficient income and social connections for housing upon their arrival. Housing options for young women were also shaped by the paternalistic cultural views of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which regarded women, and their morals, as needing protection. Women's residence halls thus supplied a protective environment in which residents could obtain lodging and meals and foster social connections. Women's residence halls were not exempt from the rigid patterns of residential segregation in America. Prior to the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Black women could not benefit from the services of most women's residence halls.

Non-secular organizations like St. Catherine's were at the forefront of the movement to create women's residence halls, as they usually aligned with traditional values of faith which emphasized morality, cooperation, and community service. However, tenants were generally not required to

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<sup>1</sup> This nomination uses the name "St. Catherine Residence for Young Women" (no apostrophe) in keeping with the nominated building's extant original signage. The nomination also uses the common abbreviated name "St. Catherine's." The organization is often referenced as "St. Catherine's Residence" and had a few varying historic names since its inception, including "St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls" and "St. Catherine's Home for Business Women."

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express a religious affiliation. At the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women, residents did not have to be a member of the Catholic faith or practice Christianity. Thus, the property meets Criteria Consideration A, and its significance is derived from the important role it played in Milwaukee's social history.

**Land Acknowledgement**

This nomination recognizes the depth of human presence here, the ancestral homeland of American Indians for millennia, including the Menominee, Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes. From as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, inter-tribal conflict, Euro-American exploration and settlement, and ensuing military campaigns, all had the effect of repeated displacement of Indians of many tribal affiliations. This continuous tribal movement resulted in Wisconsin being home to many tribes who originated from other parts of the country, generating a pattern of immigration, relocation, and formation of a new homeland. Some of these tribes remain in Wisconsin; others may not, but numerous count Wisconsin as home: Brotherton, Dakota, Fox/Meskwaki, Ho-Chunk, Kickapoo, Mascoutens, Menominee, Miami, Munsee, Odawa, Ojibwa, Oneida, Potawatomi, Stockbridge, Sauk, and Wyandot tribes. We acknowledge that the property that is the subject of this nomination is located on land long occupied by the Menominee, Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes.

**Women's Residences in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

The concept and implementation of communal homes for young working women developed in urban areas in the United States in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, with non-secular organizations leading the trend. As more young women migrated from rural areas to urban cities, usually in search of the city's range of employment opportunities beyond those offered in agrarian communities, a growing need for safe, affordable housing emerged. Many young women lacked the stable income and the social connections necessary to secure long-term housing upon their arrival in a new city. Furthermore, existing options for temporary lodging, such as boarding houses, were generally viewed as threatening to the moral character and safety of young women. Religious organizations, such as the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, and philanthropic individuals were among the first to respond to the need for safe, convenient, and affordable housing for young women by creating communal residences for women only. These communal women's residences were typically called "homes" or "clubs" which reflected the desire to create homelike, comfortable settings for the occupants.

Women's residences provided many vital benefits to young women seeking to establish new lives in cities. They were affordable, which was a priority for working women and students on a limited budget; their comfortable furnishings and in-house administration offered a sense of security during a



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transitional time in the occupants' lives, many of them having moved to a city for the first time; they offered flexibility via a mixture of private rooms and shared suites, which served a range of needs for privacy; and their communal setting provided opportunities for establishing and growing social networks. Thus, the popularity of women's residences grew during the early-twentieth century in urban areas across the country. Milwaukee, as the largest urban area in Wisconsin, was no exception.

Milwaukee's first women's residence was established in 1894 when the Catholic Sisters of Mercy opened St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls in a two-story brick residence at 1131 West Sycamore Street (address later updated to 1201 W. Michigan Street) to the west of the city's downtown. St. Catherine's initially housed between 20 and 30 residents and provided boarding and meals for an affordable weekly fee. The Sisters of Mercy lived at and operated the home, but received no pay. In 1897 the *Milwaukee Sentinel* described St. Catherine's Home as a "non-sectarian retreat" offering "cheap but pleasant accommodations for young women of good reputation."<sup>2</sup> This early description reflects American society's paternalistic concerns for the moral character of young women and the origin of women's residences as an institution in which young women could be protected from the dangers of cities. The *Sentinel* article continued: "This home has been established for the accommodation of respectable young women possessing unquestionable references as to character. It is a place where self-supporting young women, having no homes of their own, can find board according to their means, and it is also a place where young women can find protection and comfort while seeking employment. It is the constant aim of those who have the home in charge to make the house as comfortable and homelike as possible." The home contained a chapel but religious discussion was not encouraged, "lest the sensibilities of some one should be wounded."

The city's first purpose-built women's residence hall was established in 1901 when the Milwaukee chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association, a Protestant organization commonly abbreviated as the YWCA, constructed a women's home at 626 N. Jackson Street with a \$100,000 donation from Elizabeth Plankinton, president of the YWCA board of trustees.<sup>3</sup> The YWCA residence hall, also called the Plankinton Building, was located at the eastern edge of the city's downtown and constructed as a two-story building, with another three stories added in 1909.<sup>4</sup> The building featured offices, parlors, and a gymnasium on the first floor, a dining room on the second floor, a chapel on the third floor, and dormitory rooms on the third through the fifth floors with a capacity for about 115 residents.<sup>5</sup> At the building's opening address, the Rev. Edwin G. Richardson of St. James's Episcopal Church made a speech characterizing the mission of the YWCA as "to raise the standard of social

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<sup>2</sup> "For Homeless Women: Catholic Sisters' Non-Sectarian Retreat," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, November 14, 1897.

<sup>3</sup> "New Y.W.C.A. Building Formally Presented to the Society," *Milwaukee Journal*, November 1, 1901; Tchakirides, "YWCA Southeast Wisconsin"; "Y.W.C.A. in 33 Years of Service Here," *Milwaukee Journal*, February 15, 1925.

<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, AHI#113490, accessed July 31, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> 1910 Sanborn Map.

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purity, and to cultivate a high ideal of personal and domestic life so that our houses may become homes.”<sup>6</sup> Along with protecting moral character, early women’s residence programs also sought to direct young women towards the traditional, societal-approved path of marriage.

In 1916, St. Catherine’s replaced their original residence with a larger, purpose-built building with a capacity for 155 tenants. The four-story brick Revival style building contained four parlors, a library, a gym, a chapel, a sewing room, a communal dining room, and private and dormitory-style rooms with shared bathrooms. Milwaukee now had two large women’s residence halls, each with accommodations for over 100 boarders. As more young women moved to the city in search of work, other charitable groups in Milwaukee founded women’s homes, particularly in the 1910s and 1920s. While religious affiliation was not a requirement for admission into most women’s residences, various Christian denominations each established their own residence hall programs, which likely encouraged women to seek out accommodations that reflected their religious upbringing. In her 1931 report of young women’s residences in the *Milwaukee Journal*, Nell Katharine Gleason wrote that lodgers gravitated towards the residence which reflected their religious background: “All houses, particularly those assisted by religious organizations, encourage church attendance. While no one house is denominational to the point of excluding members of other creeds, it would seem that the majority of the girls gravitate to the house sponsored by those of their own belief. Participation in religious activity is voluntary and the religious note is nowhere capitalized. Occupants of the clubs are girls first and church members second.”<sup>7</sup> Since the mission of women’s residences was often rooted in a paternalistic endeavor to protect young women’s morals and guide them towards marriage and family, those who wished to start a family with someone of a similar religious background would find support at affiliated non-secular residences. Young women’s residences typically incorporated a common lounge on the main floor where lodgers could socialize with male guests. To gain access to a residence, potential tenants typically had to apply (if there was room) and provide references. While larger purpose-built residences like St. Catherine’s and the YWCA had more available rooms, it was not unusual to encounter a waiting list for smaller residences.

Milwaukee’s first secular women’s residence, called the Girls’ Club, was established in 1913 and founded by the College Women’s Club, which was part of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Association of University Women. The Girls’ Club was formed “to remedy the undesirable situation faced by young women when they arrived to take positions in Milwaukee,” referring to the lack of affordable housing.<sup>8</sup> By 1920 the Girls’ Club was located in a three-story mansion at 1035 N. Van

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<sup>6</sup> “New Y.W.C.A. Building Formally Presented to the Society,” *Milwaukee Journal*, November 1, 1901.

<sup>7</sup> Gleason, “Providing Homes for Working Girls,” *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

<sup>8</sup> Lois Hagen, “Working Girls’ Refuge Comes to End,” *The Milwaukee Journal*, September 3, 1963.

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Buren Street in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood.<sup>9</sup> It was one of the city's smaller residence programs, housing thirty to fifty tenants.

During the 1920s, four small women's residences, one mid-size residence, and one large residence were established in Milwaukee (see Table #1 at the end of this section). These smaller women's clubs housed about thirty to sixty residents and were usually located in large, retrofitted residences. Due to demand and limited space, smaller women's residences sometimes instituted age and salary requirements and limits on duration of stay.<sup>10</sup> Of the four small residence programs created in Milwaukee in the 1920s, two were Lutheran and two were Catholic. The Lutheran Girls' Hospice was founded in 1921 by the Milwaukee Inner Mission Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to "provide pleasant, inexpensive living quarters for young working girls."<sup>11</sup> It was located about one mile west of downtown in the Hoffman residence at the northeast corner of N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Highland Avenue, formerly known as Prairie Street.<sup>12</sup> In 1940 the home was renamed the Lutheran Business Girls' Club and relocated to the former Gustav Wollaeger mansion at 3126 West Highland Avenue, about 2.5 miles west of downtown Milwaukee, where it housed about twenty-five residents. The city's other Lutheran home, the Walther League Lutheran Girls' Home, was also founded in 1921 and operated in a residence at 1220 North Astor Street in the Yankee Hill neighborhood. The small Catholic organizations were the Calaroga Girls' Home, founded in 1923, and the Our Lady of Good Counsel Home for Girls, founded in 1927. The Sisters of Saint Dominic operated the Calaroga Girls' Home at 437 West Galena Street.<sup>13</sup> The home was located about one mile northwest of downtown Milwaukee and had approximately forty residents. The Catholic League of Wisconsin operated the Our Lady of Good Counsel Home for Girls at 1331 N. Astor Street in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood.

The St. Clara's Girls' Home, a Catholic mid-sized women's residence with about seventy boarders, was established in 1926 at 1527 West National Avenue, approximately 1.7 miles southwest of downtown Milwaukee.<sup>14</sup> The Romanesque Revival style, 3.5-story building was originally constructed in ca. 1901 as the Mercy Academy Day and Boarding School for Girls.<sup>15</sup> Milwaukee's last women's residence was established in 1928 by the Deaconess Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The six-story brick building, called the Deaconess and Girls' Home, was located at 917 N. Eleventh

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<sup>9</sup> Hagen, "Working Girls' Refuge Comes to End," *The Milwaukee Journal*, September 3, 1963.

<sup>10</sup> Lungren, "Refined, Comfortable Home Houses Girls in City Alone," *The Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1949.

<sup>11</sup> "Home Club for Girls in Fine Old Residence," *The Milwaukee Journal*, October 6, 1940.

<sup>12</sup> "Society," *The Milwaukee Journal*, March 29, 1921.

<sup>13</sup> Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

<sup>14</sup> "St. Clara's Girls Go to St. Catherine's," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 10, 1966.

<sup>15</sup> Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, AHI#103903, accessed June 12, 2020; Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

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Street, about 1 mile west of downtown, and housed between 135 and 150 young women.<sup>16</sup> The building contained an elegantly furnished parlor, a library, a recreation room, a laundry room, a sewing room, and a dining hall.<sup>17</sup> It was re-named Grant Hall in the 1940s.

In 1931, approximately 500 young working women in Milwaukee lived in not-for-profit women's residences in the city."<sup>18</sup> The largest of these at the time were St. Catherine's, the YWCA Residence Hall, and the Deaconess and Girls' Home. While young white female transplants to Milwaukee could avail themselves of the city's various women's residences, Black women had few and limited options for affordable housing. Beginning with World War I and lasting into the 1970s, large numbers of African Americans living in the South relocated to northern cities such as Milwaukee in search of refuge from oppressive Jim Crow laws. The Great Migration was in full effect during the time frame when residences for young women were established in Milwaukee. However, it is unlikely that young Black women were generally allowed admittance to these residence halls prior to the Civil Rights Movement.<sup>19</sup> Northern cities continued to enforce various Jim Crow policies that kept African Americans confined to segregated areas of cities for housing. By 1920, Milwaukee's Black population was approximately 2,200 and largely confined to live within an area bounded by North Avenue on the north, Third Street on the east, State Street on the south, and Twelfth Street on the west; this area also included a sizeable portion of Greeks, Jews, Slavs, and Bohemians.<sup>20</sup> At this time, local chapters of the Urban League and the NAACP were formed in Milwaukee. Prominent religious institutions such as St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, Calvary Baptist, and St. Benedict the Moor also provided support and mutual aid for Black Milwaukeeans. The Milwaukee chapter of the Urban League worked to help newly arrived migrants, including women, find housing and jobs. In 1920 the Milwaukee Urban League partnered with the Milwaukee YWCA to create La Circle Club for Working Women.<sup>21</sup> La Circle Club's mission was to support the social, cultural, political, and religious needs of African American working women in Milwaukee. Members of the club gained connections to a broader network of working Black women through the YWCA. By the end of the 1940s, La Circle Club was a well-known activism and mutual aid space in the city. However, La Circle Club was discontinued in 1950 when the Milwaukee YWCA integrated its programs.

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<sup>16</sup> Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931; Lungren, "Refined, Comfortable Home Houses Girls in City Alone," *The Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1949.

<sup>17</sup> Lungren, "Refined, Comfortable Home Houses Girls in City Alone," *The Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1949.

<sup>18</sup> Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

<sup>19</sup> A review of all of the women's residences listed in Table #1 below in the 1940 federal census showed that all female lodgers at these organizations were identified as white. Further research is needed to determine the racial identification of lodgers in previous and subsequent decades.

<sup>20</sup> Robert S. Smith, "African Americans", *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, accessed August 3, 2020, <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/african-americans/>.

<sup>21</sup> Crystal M. Moten, "'Kept Right On Fightin' ...': African American Women's Economic Activism in Milwaukee," *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* 2, no. 1 (2016): 36.

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Between 1940 and 1965, five of the nine women's residences in Milwaukee were closed – the Girls' Club, the Lutheran Girls' Hospice, the Calaroga Girls' Home, the Our Lady of Good Counsel Home, and Grant Hall. In 1966, St. Catherine's Residence was re-located to the apartment building at 1032 East Knapp Street (the subject of this Part 1 application) when their 1916 building was acquired and demolished by the city for the expansion of Marquette University's campus.<sup>22</sup> St. Catherine's new building was formally called the "St. Catherine Residence for Young Women" and its capacity was increased to 240 residents. That same year, St. Clara's Girls' Home closed and the residents were transferred to St. Catherine's.

By 1970, the Walther League Lutheran Girls' Home was closed. Milwaukee's YWCA, the city's other remaining large women's residence next to St. Catherine's, closed in 1973 due to a lack of funds to maintain its aging building and continue the residence program.<sup>23</sup> St. Catherine's Residence at 1032 East Knapp Street continued in operation as the city's main women's residence program well into the twenty-first century.

**Table 1. Women's Residences in Milwaukee**

<b>Building &amp; Location</b>	<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls</b> (renamed St. Catherine Residence for Young Women in 1966)  (1131 West Sycamore Street – legal address changed to 1201 West Michigan Street) (Second Location: 1032 E. Knapp St.)	1894, replaced with new building on same site in 1916  Moved to 1032 E. Knapp St. in 1966	1201 West Michigan St. - Not extant; demolished in 1966  1032 E. Knapp St. – Extant (nominated building)	Operated by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy. Original location of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women was at 1201 W. Michigan St. until the expansion of Marquette University forced the organization to relocate to 1032 E. Knapp Street in 1966. Was one of the largest women's residences in the city. Still in operation as a women's residence.

<sup>22</sup> "Girls' Home From Home Relocating," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, September 5, 1966.

<sup>23</sup> "YWCA Residence To Close," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 28, 1973.

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<b>Milwaukee Y.W.C.A. Residence Hall</b> (626 N. Jackson St.)	1901, expanded in 1909	Not extant; closed in 1973 and demolished between 1985 and 1990	Operated by a Protestant organization, the Young Women's Christian Association. One of the larger women's residences in Milwaukee.
<b>Girls' Club</b> (1035 N. Van Buren St.)	1913	Not extant; demolished in the 1960s	Founded by the College Women's Club, which was part of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Association of University Women. A smaller residence that housed between 30 and 50 tenants.
<b>Lutheran Girls' Hospice</b> (renamed Lutheran Business Girls' Club in 1940)  (1104 N. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, relocated to 3126 West Highland Avenue in 1940)	1921	1104 N. 12 <sup>th</sup> Street – Not extant, demolished in the 1940s  3126 W. Highland Ave. – Extant, closed in 1950	Founded by the Milwaukee Inner Mission Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. A smaller residence that housed about 25 women.
<b>Walther League Lutheran Girls' Home</b>  (1220 N. Astor St.)	Ca. 1921	Not extant; demolished ca. 1970	Operated by the South Wisconsin district of the Luther Walther League. A smaller residence.
<b>Calaroga Girls' Home</b> (437 W. Galena St.)	Ca. 1923	Not extant; closed in 1940 <sup>24</sup> and demolished in the 1970s	Operated by the Catholic Sisters of Saint Dominic. A smaller residence with approximately 40 residents.

<sup>24</sup> Dolores Enderle, O.P., *The Dominicans of Racine, Wisconsin: 1901-1962, Volume Three* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2009), 151-152.

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<b>St. Clara's Girls' Home</b> (1527 National Ave.)	Ca. 1926	Extant; building constructed in 1901 as Mercy Academy and heavily altered in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	Catholic-operated. Considered among the larger women's residences in Milwaukee. St. Clara's Girls' Home was closed in 1966 and the residents were transferred to the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women at 1032 E. Knapp St.
<b>Our Lady of Good Counsel Home for Girls</b> (1331 N. Astor St.)	Ca. 1927	Extant, closed ca. 1956	Operated by the Catholic League of Wisconsin
<b>Deaconess and Girls' Home</b> (re-named Grant Hall in the 1940s) (917 N. Eleventh St.)	Ca. 1928	Not extant; closed by 1962 and demolished between 1995 and 2000	Operated by the Deaconess Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. One of the larger women's residences in the city.

**History of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women: 1893 – Present**

Sister Catherine Elizabeth McCauley founded a women's residence in Dublin, Ireland, in 1827 and established the Sisters of Mercy Catholic religious order in 1831 with a mission to care for the poor.<sup>25</sup> The Sisters of Mercy established missions across the world and reached Milwaukee the 1890s. In 1894<sup>26</sup>, the Sisters of Mercy established the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women in Milwaukee at a two-story brick residence located at 1131 West Sycamore Street.<sup>27</sup> The non-profit organization was first named the St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls and provided safe, comfortable,

<sup>25</sup> "A Home Away From Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 4, 1965; Joy Krause, "The first home away from home," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 9, 1980.

<sup>26</sup> There is discrepancy among sources regarding the official establishment of St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls with 1893, 1894, and 1895 all referenced. This Part 1 has selected 1894 as the year of establishment, which is cited by the majority of consulted sources.

<sup>27</sup> This legal address was changed to 1201 West Michigan Street after the city changed the street name.

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affordable, and furnished housing for young women of all faiths who had relocated to Milwaukee for work or school. Six sisters operated the home without pay, which accommodated about twenty to twenty-five boarders.<sup>28</sup> For the price of an affordable weekly boarding fee, residents shared a furnished bedroom with one to two other boarders and received meals in a communal dining room. The home had two bathrooms for boarders to share. Other amenities for the residents included a parlor for entertaining guests and socializing, a sitting area with a communal sewing machine, a library, and a laundry room. Boarders in financial need could assist with operation and chores in exchange for decreased weekly boarding fees.

St. Catherine's continued to grow in popularity and by 1913, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported that St. Catherine's was "overtaxed by applicants" due to the "growing tendency of young women to come to the city and become part of its industrial scheme."<sup>29</sup> Although some in American society did not believe in the mission of women's residence halls and promoted the belief that women belonged in "the country or village home," the Sisters of Mercy expressed that "it is impossible to stem the tide of young life setting cityward..."<sup>30</sup> Since it had become routine to turn away potential boarders due to lack of space, local Milwaukeeans headed by city treasurer Joseph P. Carney started a campaign to fund a new, larger building on the site. By 1914, St. Catherine's had served over 195 tenants since its establishment.<sup>31</sup> It continued to be portrayed as a "preventative" program that protected young women and "enabled girls to live respectably at small cost."<sup>32</sup> Early plans for the new St. Catherine's building intended for it to contain an employment agency, domestic science classes, and a myriad of night classes, and Archbishop of Milwaukee Sebastian Gebhard Messmer gave his blessing for the solicitation of funds. In 1914, Elizabeth Marshall contributed \$25,000 for the new home, which a newspaper called "the biggest contribution in the history of Milwaukee to philanthropy."<sup>33</sup>

In 1915, work on the new St. Catherine's building commenced at the site.<sup>34</sup> The new residence hall opened in June of 1916 at a cost of \$65,000 with room for 155 tenants.<sup>35</sup> The four-story fireproof building was designed by Martin Tullgren & Sons with brick cladding, limestone trim, a flat roof, and a T-shaped footprint. The building's design reflected a mix of Tudor Revival and Neoclassical Revival stylistic details. It contained 63 private rooms, 28 dormitory-style rooms, and 25 bathrooms, or

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<sup>28</sup> "For Homeless Women: Catholic Sisters' Non-Sectarian Retreat," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, November 14, 1897; Prigge, "St. Catherine's Residence," *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, accessed May 18, 2020, <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/st-catherines-residence/>; 1894 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, accessed via Milwaukee County GIS and Land Information Map.

<sup>29</sup> "St. Catherine's Home for Girls Now Overtaxed by Applicants," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 11, 1913.

<sup>30</sup> "Women's Clubs," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 8, 1914.

<sup>31</sup> "Women's Clubs," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 8, 1914.

<sup>32</sup> "Women's Clubs," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 8, 1914.

<sup>33</sup> "Home for Girls Reaches 75<sup>th</sup> Year," *The Milwaukee Journal*, May 25, 1969.

<sup>34</sup> "Work Started on New St. Catherine's Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, August 24, 1915.

<sup>35</sup> "Plan Opening of New Working Girls' Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, 1916.



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approximately one for every five residents.<sup>36</sup> Communal spaces included three small living rooms, one large living room, a laundry room, a library, a gym, a sewing room, a chapel, a kitchenette for residents to prepare their own snacks, a large dining room, and a smaller, private dining room for more intimate dinners.<sup>37</sup> The old St. Catherine's home on the site was dismantled.

By 1931, the residence hall was branded with an updated name, the "St. Catherine's Home for Business Women" and the city had assigned the building with a new legal address, 1201 West Michigan Street, after revising the street names.<sup>38</sup> In 1949, weekly rates at St. Catherine's ranged from \$9.75 to \$13, depending on the number of beds per room.<sup>39</sup> St. Catherine's continued the practice of allowing residents to lower their weekly boarding fee in exchange for completing chores, which included operating switchboards and washing dishes after communal meals. The Sisters also continued to administer the residence hall without pay.

In 1964, Milwaukee's City Redevelopment Authority acquired the St. Catherine's building to facilitate the expansion of Marquette University's campus.<sup>40</sup> The city's redevelopment plan required the demolition of St. Catherine's building, forcing the organization to find a new building for the residence hall.<sup>41</sup> St. Catherine's requirements for a new building stipulated that it be close to downtown so its residents were in proximity of transportation, jobs, and educational opportunities.

After a year-long search, in April of 1965 St. Catherine's selected the Martinique Apartments building at 1032 East Knapp Street as their new location.<sup>42</sup> The building was only 15 years old at the time, and contained its original 103 one-bedroom and studio apartment units. Importantly, its location in the Yankee Hill neighborhood was close to downtown Milwaukee. The 1032 East Knapp building allowed St. Catherine's to house up to 240 women, compared to the previous building's capacity of 155 residents.<sup>43</sup> Sister Mary Rosaire, St. Catherine's administrator, was presented the deed to the Martinique Apartments, along with a piece of turf and a twig from the property, on July 1, 1965.<sup>44</sup> Arthur P. Schmidt, president of St. Catherine's advisory board and community relations director of the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company, Robert A. Duffy, advisory board member and vice-president of

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<sup>36</sup> Nell Katharine Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

<sup>37</sup> Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931; Jeanne Lungren, "Refined, Comfortable Home Houses Girls in City Alone," *The Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1949.

<sup>38</sup> Sister Gately, *The Sisters of Mercy: Historical Sketches, 1831-1931* (New York: Macmillan, 1931), 105.

<sup>39</sup> Lungren, "Refined, Comfortable Home Houses Girls in City Alone," *The Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1949.

<sup>40</sup> "Girls' Home May Buy East Side Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 29, 1965.

<sup>41</sup> "Girls' Party Brings a Touch of Sadness," *The Milwaukee Journal*, December 15, 1965.

<sup>42</sup> "Girls' Home May Buy East Side Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 29, 1965.

<sup>43</sup> "Girls' Home May Buy East Side Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 29, 1965.

<sup>44</sup> "Girls' Home Gets Deed to Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, July 2, 1965.

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Marine National Exchange Bank, and Nicholas J. Lesselyoung, vice-president and secretary of the Milwaukee Gas Light Company, were also present in a show of community support.

The purchase and remodeling of the Martinique Apartments at 1032 East Knapp Street amounted to about one million dollars.<sup>45</sup> To facilitate the relocation, Marquette University provided St. Catherine's with a 40 year, \$500,000 loan and the City Redevelopment Authority paid \$376,000 for St. Catherine's 1201 West Michigan Street building.<sup>46</sup> Lesselyoung established a fundraising committee to cover the remaining costs of the relocation.<sup>47</sup> Lesselyoung led the fund drive with a telephone campaign to solicit donations from about 300 Milwaukeeans, stating, "I urge the many employers in the community who have, or have had, young ladies from 'St. Kate's' in their firms to help us continue this fine work."<sup>48</sup>

Although the location and general layout of the Martinique Apartments was favorable, a remodeling of the building was necessary so it could fully meet the organization's needs. The Milwaukee firm of Schweitzer-Slater Associates designed the remodel, which began in October of 1965. The building's exterior was largely unaltered except for the addition of a new primary entrance canopy on the south façade. The entrance canopy featured support columns clad with granite veneer panels matching the existing granite cladding on the base of the building, aluminum railing, and a flat, canted roof. Raised metal lettering on the front granite-clad support column read "ST. CATHERINE RESIDENCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN" – a visible update of the organization's previous names, "St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls" and "St. Catherine's Home for Business Women."

Most of the remodeling occurred in the interior. The building's first-floor parking garage was cleared and new communal, administrative, and maintenance rooms were designed for the basement and first floors. Newly-created spaces in the basement included a communal laundry and drying room, storage for soiled linens and soap, a vending area, a maintenance shop, an air conditioner equipment room and boiler room, a kitchen cooler and dry storage room, a sewing room, a music room, and a recreation room. The main entrance opened into the first-floor lobby and waiting room with an information desk and two offices. The southwest side of the first floor had a main lounge and a men's toilet for visitors. Next to the elevator lobby with two elevator cabs were two additional smaller lounges and a women's bathroom and powder room. The first floor also featured a rent office, coat room, and a small kitchen for residents to make light meals. The portion of the first floor formerly occupied by the parking garage was redesigned into a large communal dining room and commercial kitchen. The south portion

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<sup>45</sup> "Girls' Home Wins Plea on Rezoning," *The Milwaukee Journal*, May 21, 1965.

<sup>46</sup> "Working Girls' Home to Cost City \$376,000," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 15, 1966; "Girls' Home May Buy East Side Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 29, 1965.

<sup>47</sup> "Girls' Home May Buy East Side Apartments," *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 29, 1965.

<sup>48</sup> "Girls' Home Opens Drive," *The Milwaukee Journal*, June 23, 1965.

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of the second floor was completely redesigned with a chapel, a private room for the House Mother, and a counseling room. The remainder of the second floor contained shared bedrooms and bathrooms for the Sisters in residence. On the remaining upper floors, the original double-loaded corridor layout was retained while demising walls in the apartments were revised to create suites with shared bedrooms and bathrooms. The communal bathrooms were typically shared by no more than two bedrooms, and were accessed from within each suite, rather than the shared corridor. The original kitchenettes were removed from all apartments. A sundeck with a redwood floor was installed on the roof of the building.

The relocated and expanded St. Catherine Residence for Young Women began accepting applications in March and officially opened in September of 1966 after some delays caused by a labor shortage and masons' strike.<sup>49</sup> At this time, St. Catherine's was among the last remaining women's residences in the city, with the other large program being the YWCA.<sup>50</sup> It continued to be operated by six sisters, including Sister Aquin, who had been at St. Catherine's since 1934.<sup>51</sup> In November of 1966, the St. Clara's Girls Club at 1527 West National Avenue in Milwaukee, a mid-sized Catholic women's residence hall in operation for forty years, was closed and the residents were transferred to St. Catherine's.<sup>52</sup> During the 1960s, weekly boarding fees ranged from \$18 to \$21 per week and included a room, breakfast, and dinner.<sup>53</sup> The *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported that most residents were from rural areas or small towns in Wisconsin, and a few residents were from other U.S. states, the Philippines, Korea, and Guatemala.<sup>54</sup> About 40% of the residents were not Catholic. Most residents were between 17 and 21 years of age, and stayed an average of six months to one year.<sup>55</sup> The majority of residents were working rather than in school. Counseling and nursing care was available for residents, as well as social and recreational activities.

Throughout the 1970s, the organization continued in its mission of providing affordable housing for young women seeking employment or educational opportunities in Milwaukee. During this time, St. Catherine's offered job training courses in addition to their established amenities. Milwaukee's other largest women's residence hall, the YWCA, closed during the 1970s. By 1980, St. Catherine's was the last remaining women's residence program in the city and the *Milwaukee Journal* opined that with the

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<sup>49</sup> "St. Catherine Women's Home To Open June 1," *The Sheboygan Press*, March 10, 1966; Girls' Home From Home Relocating," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, September 5, 1966.

<sup>50</sup> Prigge, "St. Catherine's Residence," *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, accessed May 18, 2020, <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/st-catherines-residence/>.

<sup>51</sup> Home for Girls Reaches 75<sup>th</sup> Year," *The Milwaukee Journal*, May 25, 1969.

<sup>52</sup> "St. Clara's Girls Go to St. Catherine's," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 10, 1966.

<sup>53</sup> "A Home Away From Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 4, 1965.

<sup>54</sup> "A Home Away From Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 4, 1965.

<sup>55</sup> "A Home Away From Home," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, October 4, 1965; Home for Girls Reaches 75<sup>TH</sup> Year," *The Milwaukee Journal*, May 25, 1969.

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closure of the Barbizon, a famous women's residence in New York City, St. Catherine's was the "last of a vanishing breed."<sup>56</sup> During the early 1980s, St. Catherine's maintained a 90 to 94% occupancy rate and residents stayed an average of three months.<sup>57</sup> About a third of the residents worked full time and others were interns, particularly in Milwaukee physical therapy programs, or students at schools such as the Milwaukee School of the Arts and the Milwaukee Area Technical College.

By the 1990s, St. Catherine's had evolved into a residence for not only young women, but women of middle age and older in need.<sup>58</sup> Director Sister Ruth Mutchler explained, St. Catherine's is "a safe place for women in different stages of life and with varying histories. In the same rooms where women once practiced needlepoint while preparing for their futures, they now listen to motivational lectures or work on their computer skills."<sup>59</sup> St. Catherine's continues to operate at 1032 East Knapp Street today and is currently owned by the nonprofit organization Mercy Housing. The St. Catherine Residence's current mission is to "ensure safe, affordable and supportive housing to low-income women of diverse talents and needs who aspire to maximize their personal growth and employment opportunities."<sup>60</sup> Occupants can rent on a short-term or long-term basis, and continue to utilize the same amenities offered to St. Catherine's residents during the period of significance, including the communal dining room, lounges, community kitchen, laundry room, and chapel.

**Criterion A Significance: Social History**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women at 1032 East Knapp Street is proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History. The St. Catherine Residence has been in operation for 126 years and provided a critically important social service for young women recently relocated to Milwaukee for work or school and seeking safe, affordable living quarters. St. Catherine Residence's communal setting fostered supportive networks among its young, female residents, but also served as a space in which the morals and character of young women could be shaped and protected. The residence hall operated on a not-for-profit basis with the assistance of donations.

The St. Catherine Residence is an important reflection of the historic late-nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth century societal movement to provide a protective environment for young, white, female transplants to urban settings seeking work and education opportunities. Embedded in the movement

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<sup>56</sup> Joy Krause, "The first home away from home," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 9, 1980.

<sup>57</sup> Joy Krause, "The first home away from home," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 9, 1980.

<sup>58</sup> "St. Catherine's is for Women Starting Out," *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 4, 1993.

<sup>59</sup> "St. Catherine's is for Women Starting Out," *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 4, 1993.

<sup>60</sup> "About St. Catherine Residence," Mercy Housing, accessed June 12, 2020, <https://www.mercyhousing.org/lakefront/st-catherine-residence/>.

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was the perception that urban areas were dangerous, and that women from rural areas needed a protective transitional environment in which to adjust to their new lives. Women's residences proliferated in urban areas across the nation during the first half of the 1900s; in Milwaukee, St. Catherine's was the first such organization, and among the three largest organizations in the city. The operation of women's residences in urban areas during the first half of the twentieth century, and their policies and practices, also highlights the systemic barriers that Black women faced when attempting to find affordable housing.

The St. Catherine Residence was established in Milwaukee as St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls in 1894 by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy. St. Catherine's Home accepted applicants regardless of faith, with a mission to create a nurturing and protective environment for young women embarking on their adulthood. The typical residents of St. Catherine's were unmarried women from rural areas moving to the city for the first time in search of employment opportunities that were not available in their rural hometowns. For an affordable weekly boarding fee, St. Catherine's Home provided comfortable lodging, two to three meals per day, enrichment activities, and communal spaces such as a living room for entertaining guests, a sewing room, a chapel, and a dining room. By the 1920s, Milwaukee had several such homes for young women, with St. Catherine's Home being one of the largest in number of residents. In 1931, Sister Mary Gertrude, director of St. Catherine's in Milwaukee, spoke of the general goals of women's residences to a gathering of social workers in St. Louis:

"The end and object of our work in these homes for girls is to protect our girls physically, morally and spiritually, to be of benefit to them in all ways that are at our command and which are the result of our experience. In brief, to do what lies in our power to make them happy, for to keep them happy is to keep them good ... We must offer the girl a building to which she may point with pride the interior of which will be commodious and inviting. We must give her the freedom of the house in those ways which are a part of every normal home life. We must provide parlors in which she may entertain her friends and give her the privilege of holding private parties. We must provide nourishing meals-and all this at a figure within the means of the working girl for whose protection these homes exist."<sup>61</sup>

The proposed period of significance begins in 1966 with the relocation of St. Catherine's to the subject building at 1032 East Knapp Street, and ends in 1970, the 50-year cutoff. The 50-year cutoff is proposed because St. Catherine's continued to be an important social service organization in Milwaukee after 1970. While the proposed period of significance spans less than ten years, the building at 1032 East Knapp Street appropriately represents the Criterion A importance of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women. The organization's previous buildings at 1201 West Michigan Street are not extant. The organization's relocation to 1032 East Knapp Street expanded its

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<sup>61</sup> Gleason, "Providing Homes for Working Girls," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 9, 1931.

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capacity from 155 to 240 tenants and city and business leaders demonstrated their support for St. Catherine's via a loan to subsidize the move and a community fundraising drive. These coordinated efforts clearly demonstrate that the city recognized the vital importance of St. Catherine's in 1966 and supported its continued operations.

Although the property was owned and operated by a religious organization, it meets Criteria Consideration A because its Criterion A significance in the area of Social History is derived from the important role it played in Milwaukee's history of women's residence halls. Non-secular organizations like St. Catherine's were at the forefront of the movement to create women's residence halls, as they usually aligned with traditional values of faith which emphasized morality, cooperation, and community service. However, tenants were generally not required to express a religious affiliation. At the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women, residents were not required to adhere to the Catholic faith.

Comparable Properties

There were nine women's residences in Milwaukee during the 1900s (refer to Table #1). Among these, St. Catherine's, the YWCA, and the Deaconess and Girls' Home were the largest, each accommodating well over 100 tenants. The Deaconess and Girls' Home was closed in 1962, and the YWCA was closed due to lack of funding in 1973. The YWCA building was demolished by 1990, and ten years later the Deaconess building was also razed. The St. Catherine Residence at 1032 East Knapp Street is the last remaining historic high-rise women's residence hall in Milwaukee, and it retains character-defining features of the residence hall type, which includes communal spaces such as lounges and dining rooms, support spaces such as the chapel, and operative spaces such as offices, the commercial kitchen, laundry room, and smaller snack kitchen. The building also retains its original layout of double-loaded corridors lined with suites featuring two bedrooms and shared bathrooms.

The six remaining women's residence organizations operated on a smaller scale with most having an average of thirty to forty residents. They were usually located within larger, remodeled houses. While most in Milwaukee have been demolished, the remaining extant buildings are: St. Clara's Girls' Home at 1527 West National Avenue (operated from 1926 – 1966), the Lutheran Business Girl's Club at 3126 West Highland (operated from 1940 – 1951), and the Our Lady of Good Counsel Home for Girls at 1331 N. Astor (operated from 1927 – ca. 1956).

St. Clara's Girls' Home at 1527 West National Avenue was located in a Romanesque Revival style, 3.5-story building that was originally constructed in 1901 as the Mercy Academy Day and Boarding School for Girls. The building is extant, although its architectural integrity has been diminished by the construction of a large non-historic addition projecting from the rear elevation. The Lutheran Business

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Girls' Club at 3126 West Highland and the Our Lady of Good Counsel Home for Girls at 1331 North Astor are examples of smaller women's residences located within remodeled mansions. While the interior integrity of these buildings is unknown, due to their smaller size it is unlikely that they reflect the range of communal spaces seen in larger residence halls such as St. Catherine's. Among the extant examples of women's residences in Milwaukee, the St. Catherine Residence at 1032 East Knapp Street is an important example because: 1) it is representative of the earliest and longest-running non-profit women's residence programs in Milwaukee, 2) it was among the largest women's residence programs in the city, and 3) it retains the distinct interior character-defining features of a women's residence.

**Additional Information**

1032 East Knapp Street: Early History

In 1949, plans for a new three-quarter million dollar, eight-story apartment building at 1032 East Knapp Street in Milwaukee's Yankee Hill neighborhood were announced by private developer Harry Forman.<sup>62</sup> Architect F.J. Hinton was hired to design the eight-story building, named the Martinique Apartments upon completion in 1950. The builder was the Lake Construction Company.<sup>63</sup> The new apartment building, the first major multi-family building to be constructed by a private developer in Milwaukee since World War II, was designed with 103 apartment units; 66 units were one-bedroom and the rest were studios with fold-away beds.<sup>64</sup> The Yankee Hill neighborhood was selected specifically for its proximity to downtown. Established in the 1830s, Yankee Hill was initially developed with elaborate single-family residences in the Colonial Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles.<sup>65</sup> However, in the 1920s and continuing through the mid-twentieth century, the socioeconomic composition and density of the neighborhood shifted. This shift resulted in the construction of apartment buildings and the subdivision or demolition of many of the neighborhood's historic single-family residences. In 1937, East Knapp Street between Astor Street and Franklin Place was lined with brick and wood-frame two and three-story residences.<sup>66</sup> By 1949, the announcement of the new apartment building at 1032 East Knapp presaged the removal of more single-family residences for the construction of additional apartment buildings along that stretch of East Knapp in the early 1950s.

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<sup>62</sup> "Tells of Plans for Apartment," *The Milwaukee Journal*, July 31, 1949.

<sup>63</sup> "Issue Building Permit for 8 Story Apartment," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 25, 1949.

<sup>64</sup> "Eight Story, 103 Apartment Building Will Be Erected Here," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, July 31, 1949.

<sup>65</sup> James K. Nelsen, "Yankee Hill," *Encyclopedia of Milwaukee*, accessed May 26, 2020, <https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/yankee-hill/>.

<sup>66</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin*. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 1, Sheet 43, 1910. Map, accessed May 26, 2020, [https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09622\\_006/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09622_006/).

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The Martinique Apartments was designed to provide housing for singles or couples working in downtown Milwaukee. The one-bedroom apartments were marketed at \$87.50/month and the studios at \$72.50/month. Private developer Harry Forman and his partner Louis Radin, head of a Milwaukee street and sewer construction firm, received a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage to cover ninety percent of the building costs. No subsidies towards the costs were provided by the City of Milwaukee or the public housing authority. However, city zoning laws had to be updated to allow for the construction of the building. The FHA mortgage terms stipulated that the building must have 28 parking spaces. On August 25, 1949, after initially denying a permit and following an appeal by Forman, the city approved the building permit for the Martinique Apartments and granted a variance permitting the creation of eleven outdoor parking spaces at the rear of the building.<sup>67</sup>

The Martinique Apartments were completed and opened in October of 1950. Veterans were allowed a 30-day window of first choice of selection in the building, after which units opened to all interested parties.<sup>68</sup> Early advertisements for the Martinique Apartments promoted the building's convenient location, comfortable furnishings, and compact, efficient layout. Architect F.J. Hinton designed the eight-story building in the Modern Movement aesthetic with a T-shaped footprint, a granite-clad base, yellow and orange face brick, limestone sills and trim, and a flat roof. Uninterrupted orange brick spandrels across the primary south-facing façade created strong horizontal lines. Aluminum solar screens topped the windows on the primary façade (these were later removed sometime between 1967 and 1985.)

Driveways on each side of the apartment building led to offstreet parking at the rear of the site and to the covered garage parking on the building's first floor. The interior of the building featured two elevators and a forced ventilation system powered by fans on the roof. The apartment units were designed with all-electric "Pullman kitchens (i.e., long and narrow) with a stove and refrigerator. The one-bedroom units had a 19 by 12 foot living room and a 10 by 11.5 foot bedroom.<sup>69</sup> The studio apartments had a 12 by 17.5 foot living room and a studio apartments had a 12 by 17.5 feet living room and a 5 by 6 feet dressing room, with a foldaway bed stored in a 5 by 3.8 closet. Each apartment was equipped with a bathroom, and tenants had access to private locker space.

1032 E. Knapp continued in use as the Martinique Apartments until it was rehabilitated in 1965-1966 for the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women. During the 1950s and 1960s, the portion of East Knapp between Astor Street and Franklin Place was developed with several multi-story apartment buildings. The architect of the Martinique Apartments, F.J. Hinton, designed two other apartment buildings on that stretch of East Knapp: the eight-story Empire Apartments (1951, extant) at 1041 East

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<sup>67</sup> "Issue Building Permit for 8 Story Apartment," *The Milwaukee Journal*, August 25, 1949.

<sup>68</sup> "Tells of Plans for Apartment," *The Milwaukee Journal*, July 31, 1949.

<sup>69</sup> "Eight Story, 103 Apartment Building Will Be Erected Here," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, July 31, 1949.



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Knapp Street, and the eight-story Shoreland Manor Apartments (1951, extant ) at 1029 East Knapp. The contemporary-style studio apartment building at 1040 E. Knapp to the east of the former Martinique Apartments was constructed and opened in circa 1963. The Edgewater Apartments at 1106 E. Knapp was also completed in 1963. Rental advertisements in Milwaukee newspapers during the 1960s marketed these apartments towards bachelors and single working women, promoting their location close to downtown and Lake Michigan and the convenient bus route along East Knapp Street.

Architect F.J. Hinton

Architect F. John Hinton established an independent practice in Milwaukee in the 1920s as a builder, engineer, and financier, and maintained an office in the city at 828 North Broadway.<sup>70</sup> Hinton was prolific in the state and designed a range of residential and commercial buildings and centers. He primarily adopted the Modern Movement style for his buildings following World War II. In 1947, he designed an industrial building at 1130 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Milwaukee (not extant). He designed the ranch-type residence of former Wisconsin governor Julius Peter Heil at 2550 Menomonee River Parkway in Wauwatosa in 1948 (extant).<sup>71</sup> In 1950 Hinton was commissioned to design four eight-story apartment buildings in Milwaukee financed with Federal Housing Administration loans: the Martinique Apartments at 1032 E. Knapp, the Empire Apartments at 1041 E. Knapp, the Shoreland Manor Apartments at 1029 E. Knapp, and the Prospect Heights Apartments at 1646 North Prospect Avenue. All four apartment buildings are extant and demonstrate Hinton's use of the Modern Movement style. The buildings are designed with brick veneer cladding with common details including granite cladding at the base and/or at spandrels, decorative limestone trim around windows and/or entrances, and the use of ornamental brick to accent entrances and/or windows. Hinton emphasized either horizontal lines through prominent, repetitive spandrels or vertical lines through prominent narrow limestone piers. Like the Martinique Apartments, the first floors of the Shoreland Manor and Prospect Heights apartments contained garage space for parking with additional outdoor parking space at the rear of the buildings.<sup>72</sup> In 1950 Hinton also designed the four-story Modern Movement style Park Ridge Apartments at 1653 N. Prospect Avenue.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Hinton is referenced as "F.J." Hinton in most resources, however, he may have also gone by John Hinton. Advertisement, *The Milwaukee Journal*, March 18, 1928; "New Architectural Concern Is Formed," *The Milwaukee Journal*, March 26, 1957.

<sup>71</sup> "Heil Supervised Plans, Unloaded Blocks to Make His Dream Home a Huge Reality," *The Milwaukee Journal*, December 1, 1949.

<sup>72</sup> "Two More Apartment Buildings for Milwaukee," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 14, 1950.

<sup>73</sup> "Construction on the 75....," *The Milwaukee Sentinel*, December 10, 1950.

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In addition to the Milwaukee apartment buildings, in 1950 Hinton was also commissioned to design another FHA-loan apartment building, the Cass Apartments, in La Crosse, Wisconsin (extant).<sup>74</sup> The *La Crosse Tribune* described Hinton as a specialist in apartment building design. The eight-story apartment building, located at 804 Cass Street, was the largest multi-family housing endeavor in La Crosse at the time. Construction was initially delayed by steel shortages, however, the Modern Movement style apartment building was completed in 1952 and employs similar granite and limestone architectural details as seen in the Milwaukee buildings.<sup>75</sup> Another 1953 commission included the Jim King Chevrolet Used Car Lot Office at 3052 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee (not extant). In 1957, Hinton designed the River Bend Shopping Center at 7500 West Oklahoma Avenue in West Allis, Wisconsin, (extant), possibly his first shopping plaza.

Hinton would go on to design several modern shopping plazas in Wisconsin as president of the firm Hinton, Poethig and Steuerwald, formed with fellow Milwaukee architects Robert W. Steuerwald and Fred Poethig in 1957.<sup>76</sup> In 1958 the firm designed the Creston Park Shopping Center in Janesville (extant)<sup>77</sup> and the Greendale Village Shopping Center at the 5600 block of Broad Street in Greendale (extant).<sup>78</sup> In 1960 the firm designed the Rapids Drive Shopping Plaza at 2100 Rapids Drive in Racine, Wisconsin, (extant)<sup>79</sup>; the Shorecrest Shopping Center at 3900 Erie Street in Racine (extant)<sup>80</sup>; and the Mid-City Shopping Center at 35<sup>th</sup> and Juneau in Milwaukee.<sup>81</sup> In addition to shopping centers, the firm designed a multi-residential apartment complex in 1957 at East Randolph Court in Milwaukee (extant).<sup>82</sup> The apartment complex was created by developer Harry Forman, whom Hinton worked with on the Martinique Apartments at 1032 East Knapp in 1950, and financed using an Federal Housing Administration 270 loan. Hinton retired in the mid-1960s.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> "Plan 103-Apartment Building Here," *The La Crosse Tribune*, January 18, 1950.

<sup>75</sup> "103 Units in Apartment at Eighth, Cass," *The La Crosse Tribune*, June 15, 1952.

<sup>76</sup> "New Architectural Concern Is Formed," *The Milwaukee Journal*, March 26, 1957.

<sup>77</sup> "Social Security Regional Director Addresses Open House Guests, Rotarians," *Janesville Daily Gazette*, July 22, 1958.

<sup>78</sup> "New Greendale Village Shopping Center Opens Tomorrow With 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration," *The Milwaukee Journal*, November 18, 1958.

<sup>79</sup> "Plan Shopping Center North of Rapids Drive," *The Journal Times (Racine, Wisconsin)*, August 14, 1960.

<sup>80</sup> "Builders Eye Year-end Completion of New Shorecrest Shopping Center," *The Journal Times (Racine, Wisconsin)*, April 17, 1960.

<sup>81</sup> Advertisement, *The Milwaukee Journal*, April 12, 1961.

<sup>82</sup> "Two New Apartment Programs Revealed Here," *The Milwaukee Journal*, June 30, 1957.

<sup>83</sup> Eldon Knoche, "Steuerwald designed grocery stores," *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, March 30, 1998.

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**Archaeological Potential**

Milwaukee has a long history of prehistoric and historic period habitation so the potential exists for archaeological resources to be located in the vicinity of the subject building. Archaeological remains could potentially provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of Milwaukee's history and the history of previous occupants of the land, and may be present beneath the footprint of the nominated building. Archaeological investigation was outside of the scope of this nomination, therefore, potential is unassessed.

**Preservation Activities**

The St. Catherine Residence for Young Women will continue in use as affordable housing. The building will be rehabilitated with the assistance of state and federal historic tax credits. The rehabilitation will preserve the building's historic character-defining features.

End of Statement of Significance

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    End of References

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Insert Boundary Descriptions

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The National Register boundary corresponds to the legal parcel (see Figure 1).

The legal parcel is defined as: PARTITION OF THE E 1/2 OF SW 1/4 SEC 21-7-22 BLOCK 20

The building is bounded to the south by East Knapp Street, and to the east, west, and north by legal parcel lines.

**Boundary Justification:**

The legal parcel encompasses the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women and its associated grounds.

End of Boundary Descriptions

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Section Photos Page 1

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     **Insert Photo Descriptions**

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** St. Catherine Residence for Young Women

**City or Vicinity:** Milwaukee

**County:** Milwaukee

**State:** Wisconsin

**Photographer:** Rachel Barnhart

**Date Photographed:** May and September 2020

**Location of Original Digital Files:** State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society

**Photo 1 of 14**

South Façade  
Camera facing northwest

**Photo 2 of 14**

South and West Façades  
Camera facing northeast

**Photo 3 of 14**

West Façade  
Camera facing east

**Photo 4 of 14**

North and West Façades  
Camera facing southeast

**Photo 5 of 14**

North Façade  
Camera facing south

**Photo 6 of 14**

East Façade



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Camera facing southwest

**Photo 7 of 14**

South Façade, Main Entrance  
Camera facing north

**Photo 8 of 14**

First Floor, Communal Lounge  
Camera facing southeast

**Photo 9 of 14**

First Floor, Elevator Lobby  
Camera facing northeast

**Photo 10 of 14**

First Floor, Communal Dining Room  
Camera facing southwest

**Photo 11 of 14**

Second Floor, Communal Chapel  
Camera facing west

**Photo 12 of 14**

Fourth Floor, Typical Unit  
Camera facing northeast

**Photo 13 of 14**

Fourth Floor, Typical Unit  
Camera facing west

**Photo 14 of 14**

Sixth Floor, Typical Elevator Lobby and Corridor  
Camera facing northwest

    End of Photo Descriptions

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     **Insert Figures**

**List of Figures**

**Figure 1.** Site Map with National Register Boundary

**Figure 2.** Exterior Photo Key

**Figure 3.** Current Basement Plan

**Figure 4.** Current First Floor Plan and Photo Key

**Figure 5.** Current Second Floor Plan and Photo Key

**Figure 6.** Current Fourth Floor Plan and Photo Key

**Figure 7.** Current Sixth Floor Plan and Photo Key

**Figure 8.** 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

**Figure 9.** Historic postcards of the original St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls (left) and the nominated St. Catherine Residence for Young Women (right)

**Figure 10.** Ca. 1960 photograph of the former St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls, razed in 1966

**Figure 11.** Ca. 1966 postcard of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women with interior views

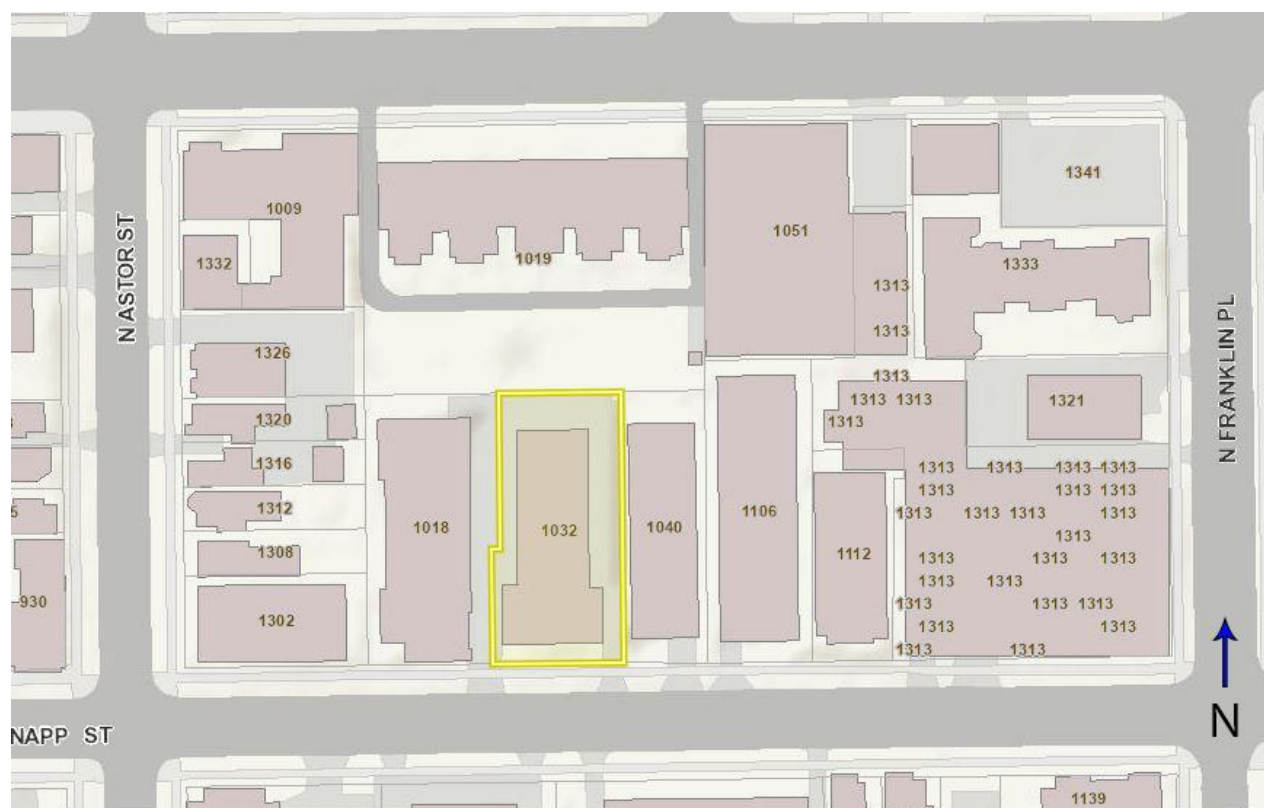
**Figure 12.** 1985 photograph of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women

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**Figure 1.** Site Map with National Register Boundary. *Source: Milwaukee County GIS and Land Information Map with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC.*



St. Catherine Residence  
for Young Women  
1032 East Knapp St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Zone: 16T  
Easting: 426814.43  
Northing: 4766455.60

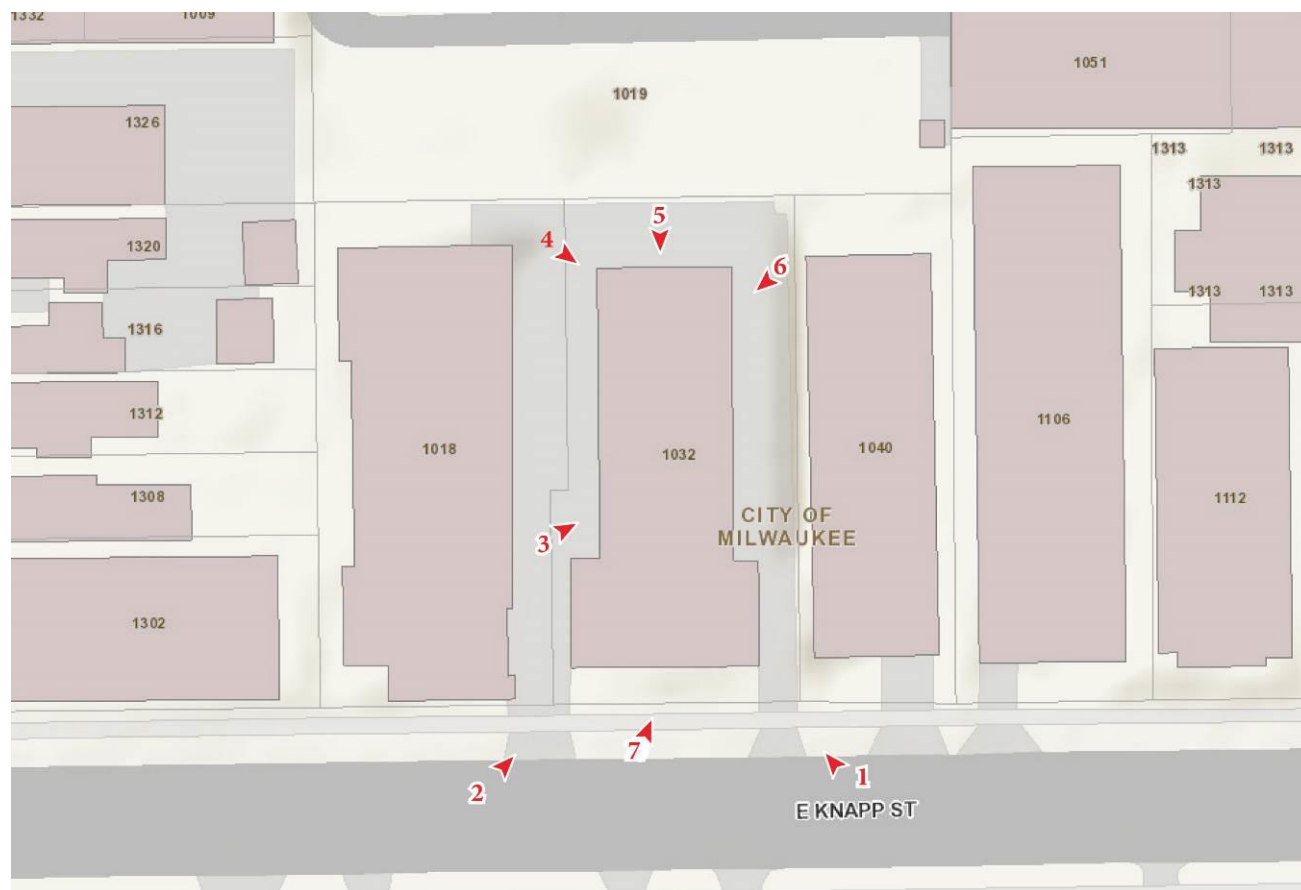
 Legal parcel and  
National Register  
Boundary

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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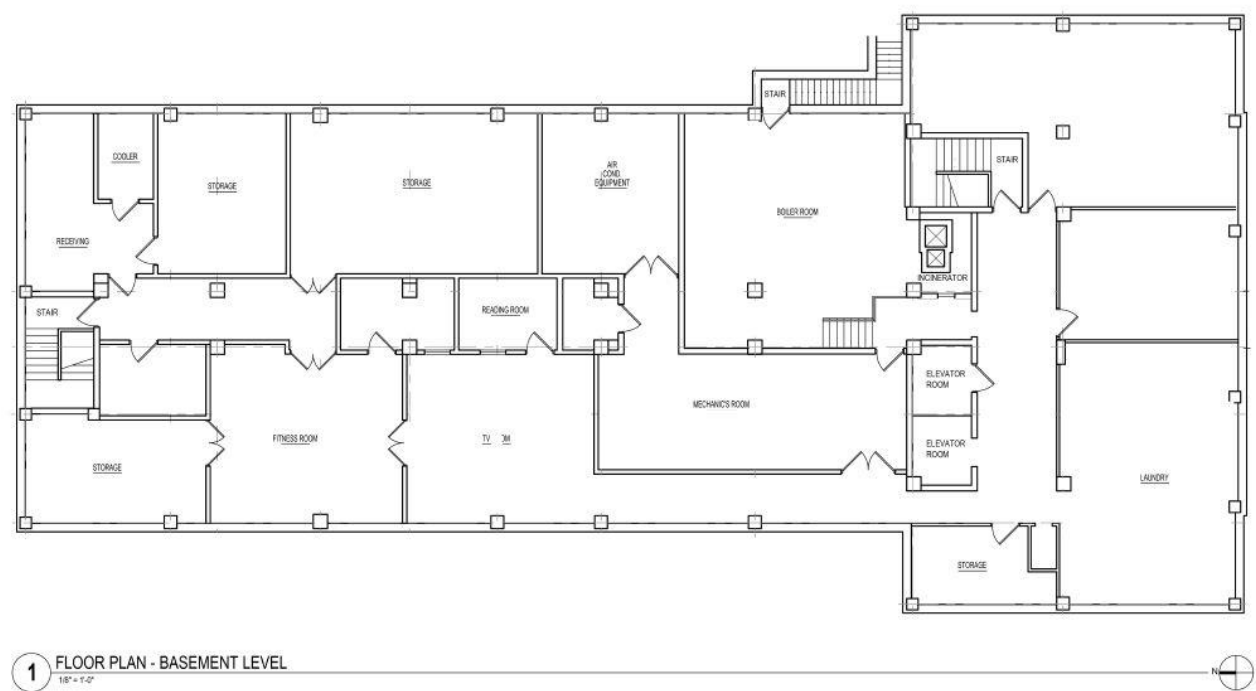
**Figure 2.** Exterior Photo Key. *Source: Milwaukee County GIS and Land Information Map with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*



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**Figure 3.** Current Basement Floor Plan. *Source: Mercy Housing with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*

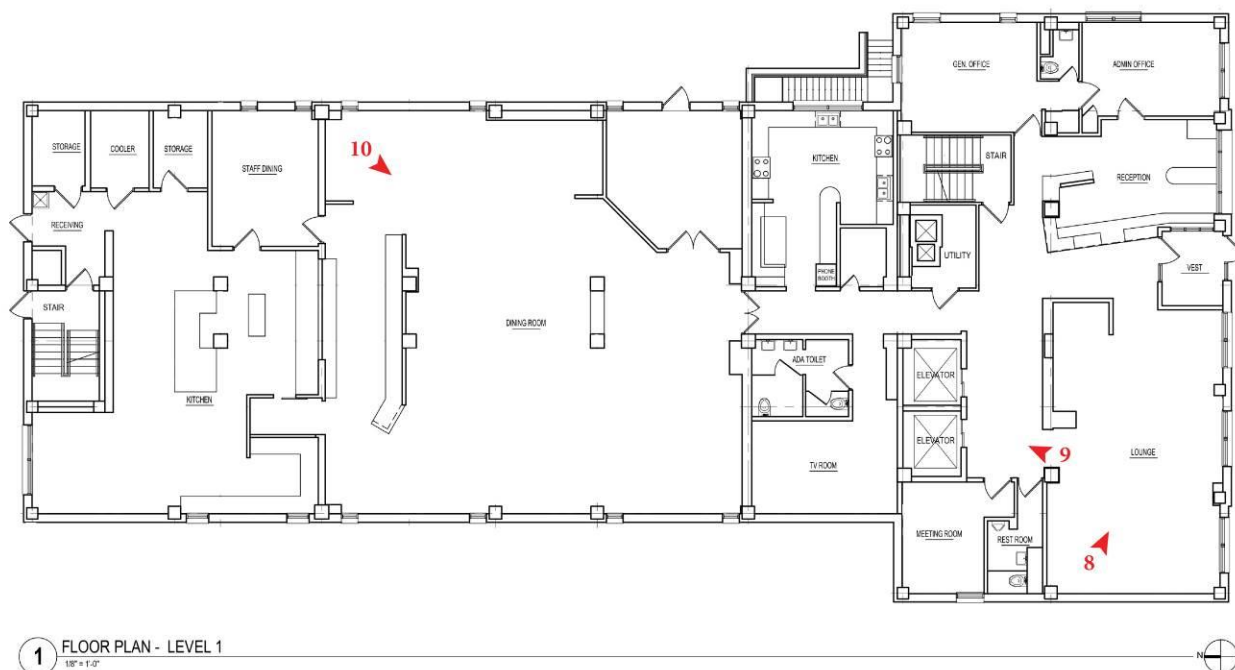


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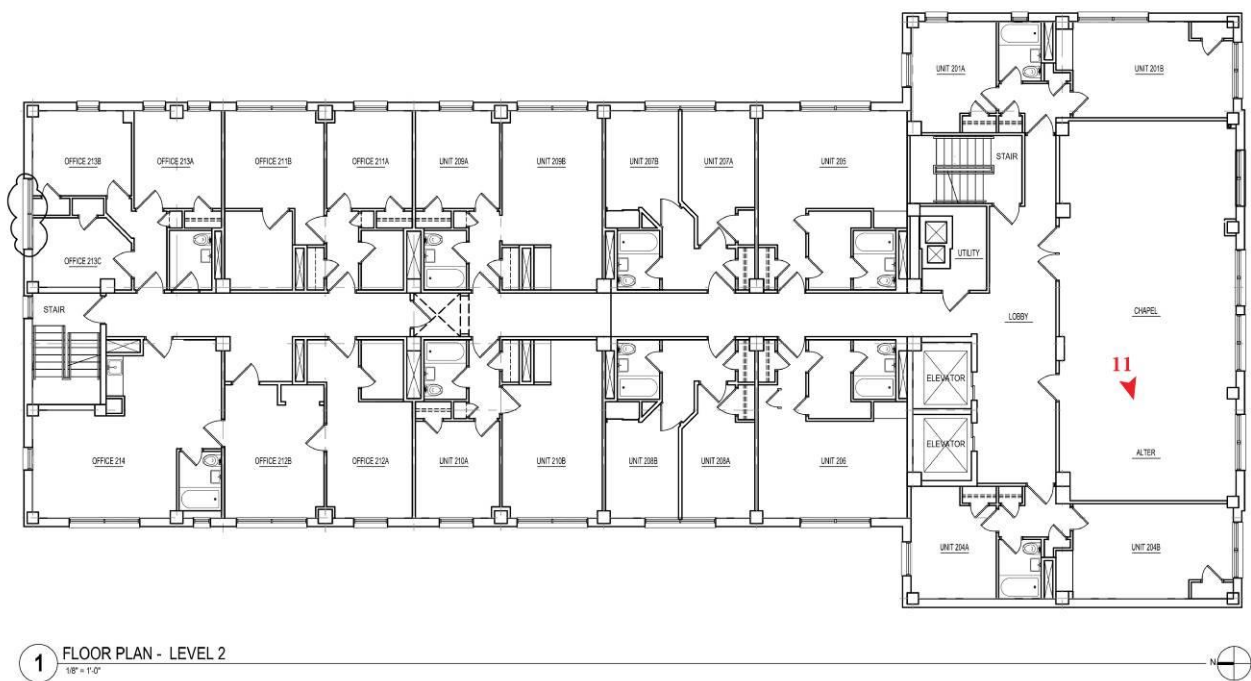
**Figure 4.** Current First Floor Plan with Photo Key. *Source: Mercy Housing with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*



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**Figure 5.** Current Second Floor Plan with Photo Key. *Source: Mercy Housing with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*

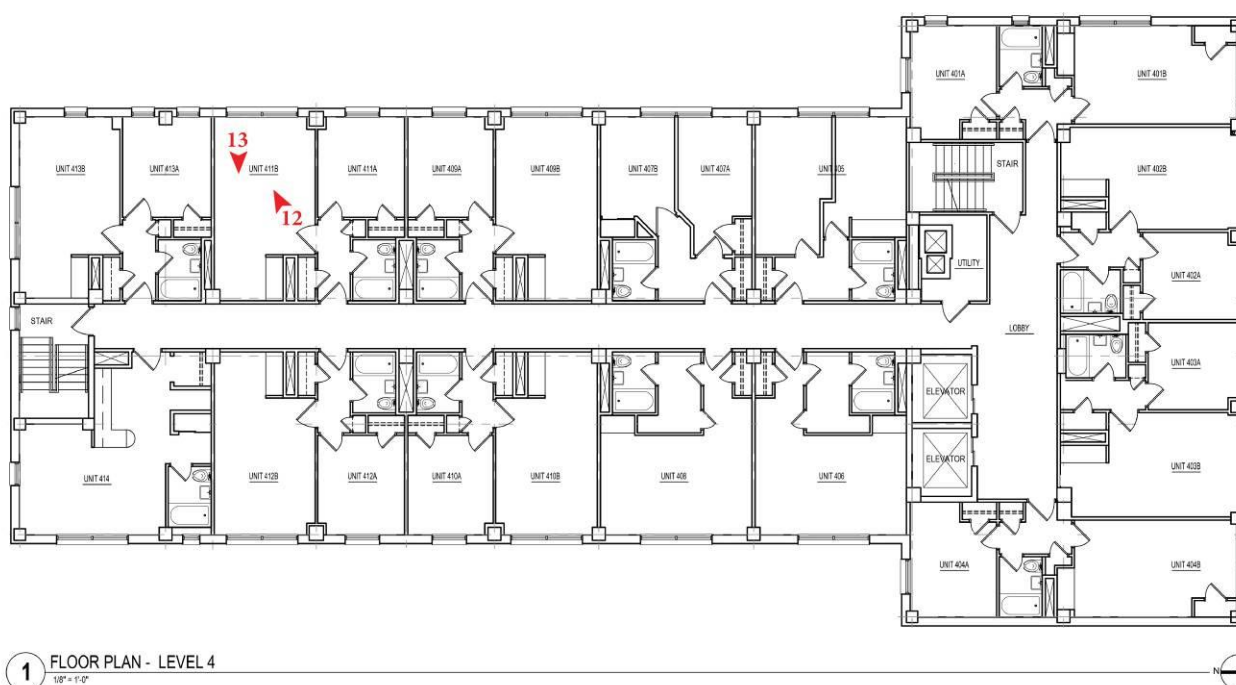


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**Figure 6.** Current Fourth Floor Plan with Photo Key. *Source: Mercy Housing with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*

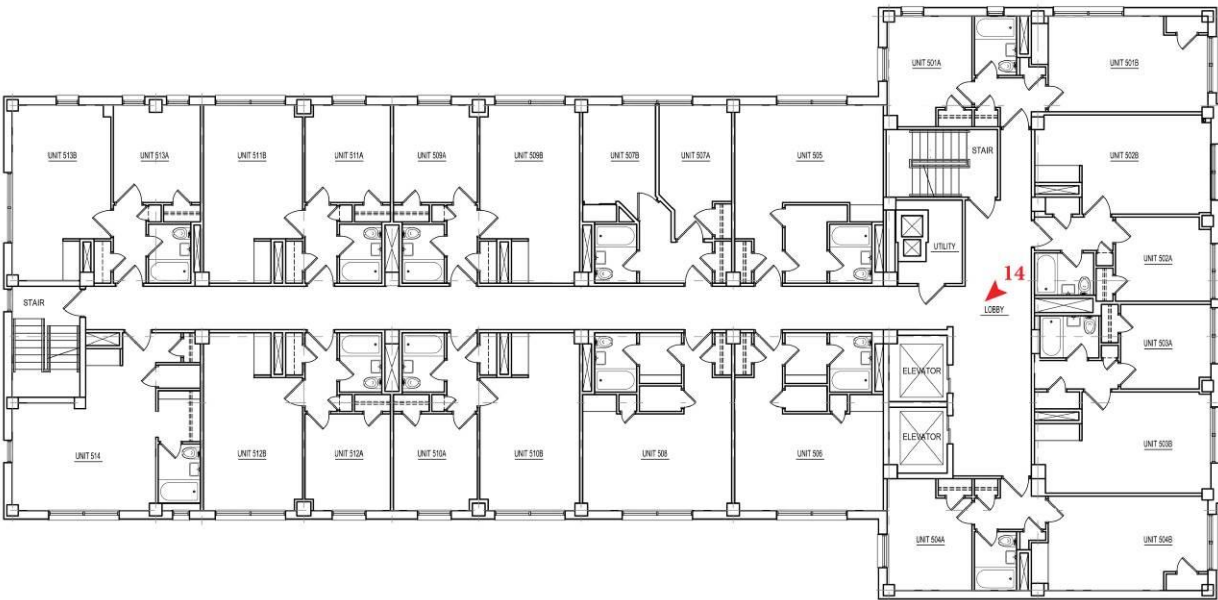




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**Figure 7.** Current Sixth Floor Plan with Photo Key. *Source: Mercy Housing with annotations by MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC*



1 FLOOR PLAN - LEVEL 5 AND 6  
1/8" = 1'-0"



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**Figure 8.** 1910 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Future site of 1032 East Knapp Street outlined.



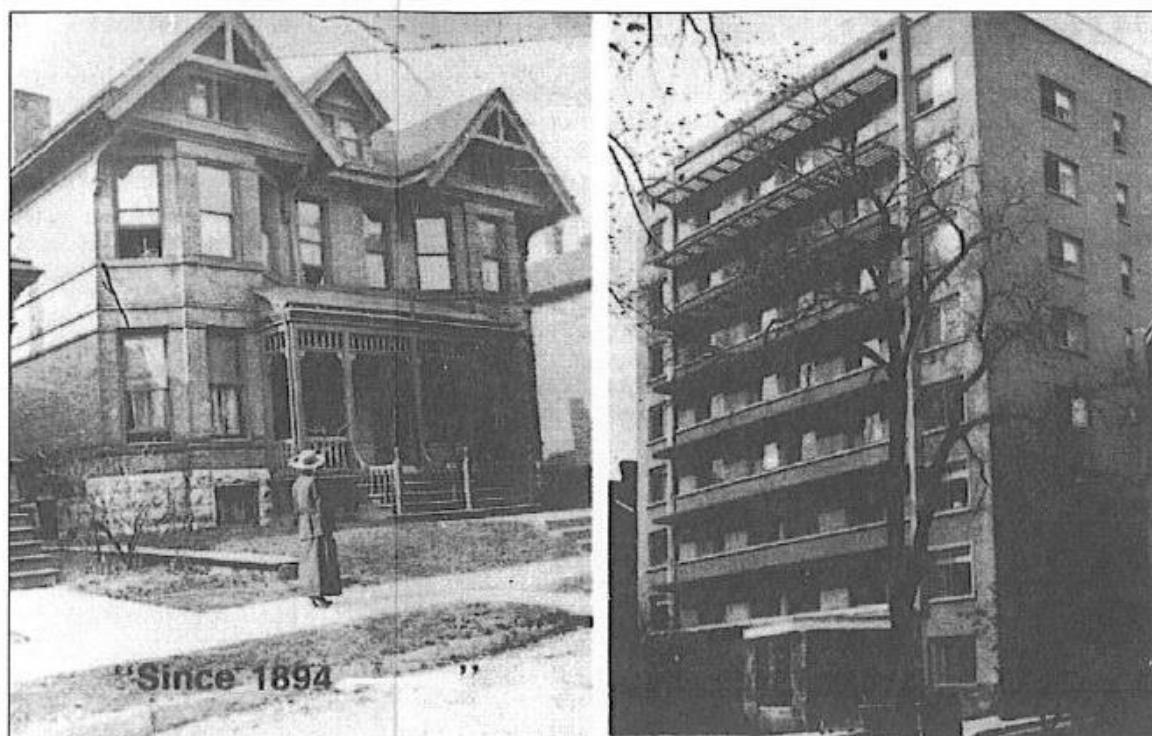
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**Figure 9.** Historic postcards of the original St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls (left) and the nominated St. Catherine Residence for Young Women (right). *Source: The Catholic Herald, January 12, 1995.*



**St. Catherine Residence has changed facilities in its 100 year history, but the Sisters of Mercy's commitment to serving women remains constant. The above postcard photo shows the original duplex, located at 1131 Sycamore St., Milwaukee and at right the current building at 1032 E. Knapp St., Milwaukee. (Mitchell Color Cards)**

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**Figure 10.** Ca. 1960 photograph of the former St. Catherine's Home for Working Girls, built in 1916 at 1201 W. Michigan Street. This building was razed in 1966. *Source: Marquette University, Department of Special Collections and University Archives*





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**Figure 11.** Ca. 1966 postcard of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women with interior views (chapel, bottom left and dining room, bottom right). *Source: Marquette University, Department of Special Collections and University Archives*



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**Figure 12.** 1985 photograph of the St. Catherine Residence for Young Women. *Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, Architecture and History Inventory Database.*



\_\_\_End Figures