



Blueprints: St. Mary Academy as imagined

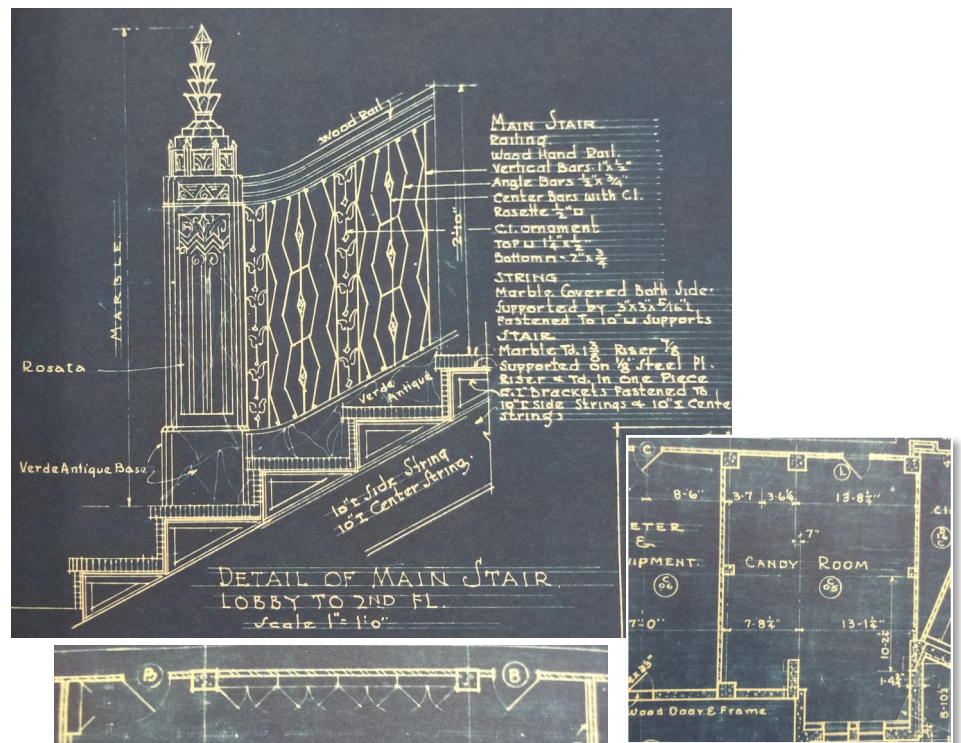
The Archives staff recently had occasion to bring out the original 1931 blueprints for the third St. Mary Academy. The massive 4-foot-by-5½-foot documents tell the construction story down to minutest detail.

The 1929 fire that destroyed the second Academy loomed large in the planning process. A *Monroe Evening News* story in May 1932 said the building would be as fireproof as possible, since it was made of steel, brick, marble, stone and tile.

The detailed instructions of the main stair railing (above right) came to life and can be seen with students surrounding it.

Some rooms sound odd to modern ears, such as a Eurythmy Room in the music department, the Cold Room next to the pharmacy and a Candy Room.

The newspaper article praised “the remarkable achievement of the Sisters” in financing, planning and constructing architectural masterpieces. “The effect is one of mingled magnificence and peace.”



Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

610 W. Elm Ave.
Monroe, MI 48162
www.ihmsisters.org
Follow us on Facebook
Phone: 734-240-9695

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Director: Jennifer Meacham, Archivist
jmeacham@ihmsisters.org

Editor: Deborah Saul
dsaul@ihmsisters.org

Since 2000, all IHM sisters have been encouraged to submit individual chronicles to the IHM Archives. These records about your own life and ministry over the course of a year or more add breadth and depth to the documented history of the IHM Sisters. Your contribution will enrich the future record of the IHM, so please be sure your life's story is included in the community's story.



Assembly '80 showcased typical IHM excellence



The secret to a big undertaking is always in the planning. In this 1980 photo, we see the Planning Committee for the IHM Assembly '80 gathering. Planning had to cover all of the details for the workshops, discussion, goal-setting and daily needs for the 996 people registered. Under the oversight of this group were another 12 committees responsible for equipment, housing, speakers, worship, food and other areas. This Committee included (from left to right) Sisters Mary Ellen Sheehan, Carol Quigley, Sue Gourley, Claudia Carlen, Nancy Sylvester and Mildred Baker. The sessions were held Aug. 1-6, 1980.

When this photo was shared recently on Facebook, it prompted this wonderful comment from John Zarb. He wrote, "I worked for 40 years in 'corporate' settings. I saw the good, the bad, and the ugly insofar as program, project, and process management. Since retiring, I have been affiliated with the IHM Sisters as a family member to a patient, as a volunteer, and, recently, as a member of their guidance team. I have concluded that the simplicity, tenacity, fairness, and forethought which the IHM Community sets as their planning / operating standard is, perhaps, the best I have ever seen. Thanks to the pioneers who built the foundation and strength to those who will continue the quest."