NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Reinbolt Hall at St. Mary's University
Other name/site number: St. Louis College
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 1 Camino Santa Maria
City or town: San Antonio State: Texas County: Bexar
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ 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 ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☐ statewide ☑ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☑ A ☐ B ☑ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 1/2/17
Signature of certifying official / Title **Date**

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting or other official **Date**

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

X	Private
	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education: College; Education-related
Religion: Church School; Religious Facility
Education- education-related residence

Current Functions: Education: College; Education-related
Religion: Church School; Religious Facility
Education- education-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick; Stone/Limestone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-10)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X	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.
X	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: A (Religious property)

Areas of Significance: Education; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1908-1967

Significant Dates: 1908 (construction)

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Wahrenberger, James (architect); Wagner, Jacob (contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 11-17)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 18)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- x State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*, Austin)
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.452901° Longitude: -98.561704°

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property is a subset of the legal parcel "NCB 9292 BLK 2 LOT S IRR 1925.89 FT OF 2 (ST MARY'S UNIVER U-2 SUBD)" and is limited to the building itself and the land upon which it sits, a rectangular area measuring approximately 75 feet x 180 feet.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Maria Watson Pfeiffer
Organization: NA
Street & number: 213 Washington Street
City or Town: San Antonio State: TX Zip Code: 78204
Email: ampfeiffer@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: (210) 222-1586
Date: May 16, 2016

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 19)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 21-30)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5-6, and 31-53)

Photo Log

Reinbolt Hall, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

1. **Reinbolt Hall, aerial view looking northwest**
October 2013
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

2. **Reinbolt Hall, south elevation looking northeast**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

3. **Reinbolt Hall, south elevation looking northwest**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

4. **Reinbolt Hall, south areaway looking west**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

5. **Reinbolt Hall, east elevation looking northwest**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

6. **Reinbolt Hall, south entryway looking north**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

7. **Reinbolt Hall, chapel, stained glass window**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

8. **Reinbolt Hall, chapel, stained glass window**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

9. **Reinbolt Hall, chapel, stained glass window**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

10. **Reinbolt Hall, west elevation looking east**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

11. **Reinbolt Hall, north elevation looking southeast**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

12. **Reinbolt Hall, north elevation looking south**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

13. **Reinbolt Hall, outside walkways, Reinbolt Hall (left); St. Louis Hall (right) looking north**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

14. **Reinbolt Hall, classroom, original wood trim**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

15. **Reinbolt Hall, classroom, old chalkboard**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

16. **Reinbolt Hall, office with original wood trim**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

17. **Reinbolt Hall, door to hallway with original transom and louvered ventilation panel**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

18. **Reinbolt Hall, basement, original stone arch**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

19. **Reinbolt Hall, hallway looking west showing original woodwork**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

20. **Reinbolt Hall, stairway from basement to first floor**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

21. **Reinbolt Hall, stairway, detail**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

22. **Reinbolt Hall, attic wooden trusswork**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

23. **Reinbolt Hall, chapel looking west**
May 2015
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Bexar County Texas
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer

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

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

Description

Reinbolt Hall, the second building constructed on the campus of St. Mary's University, is a three-story brick and limestone building with full attic and basement. Completed in 1908, the building was designed in the Romanesque Revival style by architect James Wahrenberger. The building is located immediately west of St. Louis Hall (1894; NRHP 2008), the first building completed on the campus and also designed by James Wahrenberger. Covered elevated walkways at the first, second and third floor levels dating to 1908 connect the two buildings. As originally constructed and used, the western portion of Reinbolt contained a two-story chapel and basement auditorium, while the eastern portion contained classrooms, dormitory rooms and dining halls. The building has been adapted over the years to serve various university functions and today houses classrooms and administrative offices as well as the chapel. The exterior of the basement is faced with rusticated stone and surrounded by an areaway. The upper floors feature arched windows with articulated moldings and stone sills. At the attic level, the south elevation is defined by a triple arched window spanned by an archway of brick and stone. The building is entered on the east and south sides. The building is topped with both mansard (eastern portion) and gabled (western portion) roofs. The chapel's stained glass windows, designed and fabricated by Ford Brothers Glass Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota, rise from the first to second floor and are set in arched and rounded openings on the north and south elevations. The chapel's apse defines the eastern end of the building. A noncontributing elevator tower is connected to the elevated walkway at the northeast corner of Reinbolt Hall. Though the interior of the building has been remodeled since its completion in 1908, it retains the original east/west circulation pattern, chapel arrangement, some original doors, transoms, and trim, and the full-height wooden stairway with decorative newel posts. With the exception of window and roofing replacement and removal of some decorative roof-top elements, modifications that took place in the 1950s and 1980s, the exterior of the building retains a high degree of integrity.

Setting

Reinbolt Hall, on the campus of St. Mary's University, is approximately five miles west northwest of downtown San Antonio. The surrounding neighborhood of modest houses dates to the early-to-mid-1900s. Reinbolt Hall is set at a right angle to St. Mary's University's main building, St. Louis Hall, which stands immediately to the east. The buildings are separated only by a narrow paved passageway spanned by overhead walkways. St. Louis Hall, which was listed on the National Register in 2008, is the only designated landmark in the vicinity.

To the west of Reinbolt Hall is a brick and concrete paved plaza that terraces southward to a circular plaza encompassing the campus clock tower. A grassy lawn with trees and concrete paved walkways lies between Reinbolt Hall and the clock tower plaza to the southwest. To the north of Reinbolt, numerous trees shade walkways that connect the building to other campus facilities.

General Characteristics

Reinbolt Hall is a two-part, three-story brick and stone, Romanesque Revival building with a basement and attic located immediately west of St. Louis Hall (photos 1, 2, 3). For purposes of this narrative, the eastern portion of the building is referred to as the "dormitory portion," and the western portion is referred to as the "chapel portion," referencing the building's original functional uses. The eastern part contained classrooms, dormitory rooms, and dining halls, while the western portion contained the auditorium, chapel and a dormitory. The chapel portion, generally rectangular in plan, extends west from the square dormitory portion. The dormitory portion is covered by a mansard roof and the chapel portion by a gabled roof.

The building's entire basement level is constructed of rusticated limestone. It is partially below grade and surrounded on all sides by an areaway to emit light and air (photo 4). The building is entered at the first floor level by stone and

concrete staircases located on the south (primary), west and north elevations. In addition, the second and third floors are accessed on the west side by elevated walkways connecting the building to St. Louis Hall a short distance to the west (photo 5). The connection was part of Reinbolt Hall's original design.

South

The south elevation of the dormitory portion of Reinbolt Hall is almost identical to the south elevation of adjacent St. Louis Hall. The major difference is that Reinbolt's south entry is set to the west in the chapel portion of the building rather than in the center bay as it is at St. Louis Hall (photo 6). The south elevation of the dormitory portion is comprised of three bays with fenestration arranged in a 3/2/3 pattern (photo 3). Raised brick piers at the southwest and southeast corners culminate in decorative brick capitals. The center bay is defined by raised pilasters that rise to the full height of the building. The piers and pilasters are articulated in stone at the basement level and in brick on the first, second and third floor levels. Stone finials with crosses that once topped the pilasters likely deteriorated and were removed in the 1950s. The center bay culminates at the attic level with a large gabled dormer window projecting from the mansard roof. The dormer is spanned by a brick and stone arch. A portion of the original stone finial is missing. An assembly of three small arched windows separated by decorative columns is set within the arch. Brick chimneys with decorative caps that once extended high above the roof flanking the dormer window were removed many years ago, possibly in the 1950s. Wood sash windows were replaced in 1984. Reading from west to east (left to right) the windows on the basement level are all identical and arranged in a 3/2/3 pattern with segmented stone relieving arches. A plain brick spandrel panel and simple stone stringcourse separate the basement and first floor and a decorative brick course separates the first, second, and third floors. Like the basement, windows on the first, second and third floors are arranged in a 3/2/3 pattern. Windows in the center bay have rounded arches while those in the flanking bays are topped with flatter arches. On each floor, articulated brick work forms a modified hood molding that unifies the two windows in the center bay and the three windows of the flanking bays. The third floor culminates with a decorative stepped brick cornice.

Proceeding west, the chapel portion of Reinbolt Hall is comprised of six bays and the two-bay sacristy/apse that projects at the west end of the building (photo 2). In the first bay, the stone and concrete stairs lead to a covered entry portal at the second floor level. The gabled portal is topped with a stone cross. A round stained glass window set in a stone surround is positioned above the gabled portal. The second, fourth, fifth and sixth bays feature two-story tall stained glass windows. A projecting three-sided bay with narrow windows occupies the third bay. A round stained glass window is set above the projecting bay. With the exception of the third bay, the bays are separated by stone and brick piers that rise to the fourth story level. At the third floor level, each bay contains one tall window with a rounded arch. These windows as well as the stained glass windows feature decorative brick arches that reflect those on the eastern portion of the building. The stained glass windows were designed and fabricated by Ford Brothers Glass Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The windows depict the Virgin Mary and scenes from the life of Christ (see photos 7,8,9). All stained glass windows have protective coverings.

West

The building culminates in a rounded apse and rectangular sacristy (photo 10). The sacristy has two windows with rounded brick arches and stone sills separated by a brick pier. The building's southwest corner is defined by a corner pier that projects above the pitched roof. The west elevation of the sacristy is supported at the corners by brick buttresses. The apse contains two windows with rounded brick arches and stone sills at the second floor level. The apse projects above the rectangular sacristy and culminates in decorative brick work just below the conical, standing seam metal roof. Three windows unified by decorative brick arches and a stone sill are set in the center of the attic's west elevation. The gable is topped with a stone cross.

North

The north elevation of the chapel portion of Reinbolt Hall generally mirrors the south elevation with the exception of its entrances (photo 11). A modern metal stairway provides access to the sacristy at the building's northwest corner and concrete stairs lead down to the basement beneath the chapel. Finally, the main entryway is located in the westernmost bay of the building's dormitory portion, not in the chapel portion (photo 12). Due to topography, this entryway is located almost at grade level; three stairs lead to the doorway. In contrast to the more formal south elevation of the dormitory portion, the north elevation is not divided into bays (photos 11, 12). A plain brick spandrel panel and limestone stringcourse separates the rusticated stone basement from the first floor.

Continuing east from the entryway, there are eight windows on the first floor with decorative brick detailing matching that on the south elevation. The second window from the northeast corner is filled by brick. On both the second and third floors, single windows emit light to the interior staircase. Continuing east, as on the first floor, there are an additional eight windows.

East

The east elevation of the dormitory portion is arranged in a 3/1/3 pattern that is repeated on each of the floors (photos 13). Entry to the building on floors one, two, and three is in the center bay. Elevated walkways on floors two and three connect Reinbolt Hall and St. Louis Hall. The third floor walkway is covered. Decorative corner brackets bracing the second floor walkway are original. Doorways are modern. Window design and decoration on the east elevation is identical to that on the north and south elevations. The center windows on the second floor have both been filled. A modern elevator tower connects to the elevated walkway but stands apart from the building itself.

The mansard roof of the dormitory portion contains two projecting dormers on the north, east, and south sides (photo 3). The gable roof of the chapel portion has four projecting dormers on both the north and south sides. The roof, which was originally metal shingle, was replaced in the 1950s—it is now standing seam metal.

Modifications and Restorations

The mechanical systems of Reinbolt Hall were upgraded several times in the mid-to-late twentieth-century, notably in 1957 (electrical), 1963 (air conditioning and electrical), and 1987 (air conditioning). Though the interior of the building has been modernized and partitioned into small offices and classrooms, numerous original details have been retained (photos 14, 15, 16, 17). Original stone arches, wooden doorways, transoms, hardware, and trim are still found, particularly on the third floor. Some original paneled doors are solid while others are glazed with opaque glass and feature ventilation grills in the lower portion of the doors. Some original terrazzo flooring has been exposed. Dropped acoustical ceilings have been installed throughout the building and carpeting covers floors (photos 18, 19). A central hallway running east/west provides internal circulation on all floors. The second and third floor hallways culminate at modern aluminum and glass doors that lead to elevated walkways connecting to St. Louis Hall. The original gallery overlooking the chapel remains at the west end of the second floor corridor.

The interior stairway that rises from the basement to third floor features original wooden risers, treads, and carved newel posts (photo 20, 21). In the stairwell, windows with bull's eye molding emit light and air to adjoining rooms. The ceiling of the stairwell is beaded board. A utilitarian stairway accesses the attic. The original attic structure including flooring and truss work is largely intact (photo 22).

The chapel has been remodeled many times since 1908 to meet changing liturgical design and practices, most recently in 2011 (photos 23). The resulting design is modern without decoration except for the original stained glass windows.

Throughout the various remodels, plaster moldings, the coffered ceiling, fixtures, and the ornate altar and altar railing were removed. The portion of the basement originally occupied by the auditorium is currently empty. The remainder of the basement is used for classrooms.

In 2015, the extensive work was done to alleviate water seepage into the building. This included improving site drainage and waterproofing the areaway. Where necessary, brick and stonework was carefully removed and reinstalled following completion of the project. In 2016, with the exception of window and roofing replacement and removal of some decorative roof-top elements, modifications that took place in the 1950s and 1980s, the exterior of Reinbolt Hall retains a high degree of integrity.

Statement of Significance

Reinbolt Hall, completed in 1908 and dedicated in early 1909, was the second building on the St. Louis College campus (today known as St. Mary's University). Catholic missionaries sent by the Society of Mary first established a school for boys on San Antonio's Military Plaza in 1852. The school grew quickly and soon moved to a site on the San Antonio River where enrollment continued to increase. In 1892, the Society of Mary acquired a 73.8-acre tract in San Antonio's Woodlawn Hills and hired prominent local architect James Wahrenberger to design a new, outlying campus for boarding students. The first building, known as St. Louis Hall, opened at the suburban site in 1894. The downtown campus continued to serve day students. The curriculum at the new campus expanded and the school was authorized to issue degrees and became a junior college in 1905. With this new status, the Woodlawn Hills campus became increasingly crowded and the Society of Mary announced in 1908 that it would construct a new building. The building, which adjoined St. Louis immediately to the east, was named for Father John Nepomucene Reinbolt, Provincial of the Society of Mary's Province of America. Like St. Louis Hall, Wahrenberger designed the new building in the Romanesque Revival style. Reinbolt Hall's design reflected both the academic and religious functions of the school. The eastern portion housed classrooms, a dormitory, and an infirmary for students, while the western portion included an assembly hall, chapel, and dormitory. Reinbolt Hall was remodeled several times to meet the school's changing needs, notably in 1926, 1935, and 1965 when some dormitory space was converted to housing. Though the building has not served a residential function for many decades, it has included classrooms and a chapel throughout its history, supporting the school's educational mission. Reinbolt Hall is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture as a good example of the Romanesque Revival style, as well as of the work of prominent Texas architect James Wahrenberger. It is also nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the area of education, for its importance to the early expansion of St. Louis College (St. Mary's University) and the school's continued academic development. Because the building is nominated for its significance in architecture and education, Reinbolt Hall meets Criteria Consideration A. The period of significance spans from the year or the building's construction through the current 50-year point.

Reinbolt Hall, the second building constructed on the St. Louis College campus (today known as St. Mary's University and called "St. Mary's" in this narrative), was completed in late 1908 and dedicated in January 1909. The school was established on this site in 1893. The name was changed from St. Louis College to St. Mary's College in 1923 and then to St. Mary's University in 1927. The first building on the campus, St. Louis Hall, was completed in 1894 (NRHP 2008). Over a decade elapsed before the second building, Reinbolt Hall, was constructed immediately west of St. Louis Hall.[1]

St. Mary's University was founded by the Society of Mary, a French order organized in 1817. By the middle 1800s, the order began to establish missions in the United States including in Ohio. The Ohio mission was headed by Brother Andrew Edel, who in 1852, was assigned to travel to Texas to open a school in San Antonio.[2] This was done at the behest of Bishop John Odin of New Orleans, a strong proponent of education, whose province included Texas. Odin, in stating his case to his French superiors, wrote, "A good school alone will be able to regenerate the people since the city is swarming with children plunged in the depths of ignorance."[3]

Edel and three other French Marianists arrived in San Antonio in May 1852 and opened a school for boys on August 25 in a rented room on Military Plaza. By mid-1853, the school, which enrolled both boarders and day pupils, had grown from twelve to over 100 students. To accommodate this growth, Edel purchased land on the San Antonio River

[1] Joseph William Schmitz, *The Society of Mary in Texas* (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1931) 163-165, 217-218.
[2] Schmitz 2, 27-28; Texas Historical Commission, National Register of Historic Places, St. Louis Hall, St. Mary's University.
[3] Joseph W. Schmitz, "The Beginnings of the Society of Mary in Texas, 1852-1866," Mid-America Volume 25, New Series, Volume 14, Number 1:4, n.d.

near the town's center and constructed a two-story classroom and dormitory for both faculty and students. The school was named St. Mary's Institute.[4] Enrollment continued to grow and reached 385 by 1882. New buildings were constructed on the Water Street (later named College Street) property to accommodate the increased student body. Anticipating that enrollment would grow as the city's population increased; San Antonio had 37,673 residents in 1890. The Society of Mary acquired a 73.8-acre tract from the West End Town Company for $1.00. It was on this site in the newly-established northwestern suburb of Woodlawn Hills that the Society of Mary established its new campus.[5]

The first building at the suburban site, designed by prominent architect James Wahrenberger, was intended to house the school's 150 boarding students with day students remaining at the downtown campus. Begun in August 1893, the building's cornerstone was laid in late December and grades five through fourteen opened there on September 4, 1894. By 1895, the school was authorized to issue degrees and given status as a junior college. The curriculum expanded and the first degrees were awarded in 1905. Two campuses were maintained until 1921when the downtown and suburban college classes were consolidated at the Woodlawn Hills campus that was named St. Mary's College in 1923. Grade school and high school students remained at the downtown campus known as St. Mary's Academy.[6]

The State Department of Education recognized St. Mary's College as a junior college in 1924, and the school became a member of the Association of Texas Colleges that year. It was recognized as a senior college by these bodies in 1926-1927 and began operating under a university charter in July 1927.[7]

Private Educational Institutions in San Antonio in the Late-Nineteenth-Century

With its opening in Woodlawn Hills in 1894, St. Mary's became the second private Catholic college providing a religious education to young people from San Antonio, South Texas and Mexico. Since the mission period, San Antonio's population had been largely Catholic, and while the religious landscape diversified with the arrival of new residents, there remained a strong Catholic presence. St. Mary's followed a long tradition of Catholic education begun when the Ursuline sisters became the first Catholic order to open a school in San Antonio in 1851. Other orders also followed, including the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word whose school for girls, later known as the University of the Incarnate Word, opened in 1881. The school moved to the northern edge of the city when a new site was purchased from George W. Brackenridge in 1900.[8]

In 1895, shortly after St. Mary's opened at its Woodlawn Hills, the Sisters of Divine Providence broke ground for Our Lady of the Lake Convent and Academy for girls west of downtown in the Lakeview subdivision. The schools were located less than two miles apart. Our Lady of the Lake offered high school classes beginning in 1896, and introduced

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[4] The school was informally called the French School. At the time the Marianist brothers arrived in San Antonio, girls were already being educated by the Ursuline order at a school established in 1851 along the San Antonio River on the northern edge of town (RTHL; NRHP 1969). The Society of Mary also used land at Mission Concepcion to raise food for the teachers and students.

[5] Schmitz, Beginnings 7-8; Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR) K2:158-159 (James Henderson to J.M. Odin, August 21, 1852); BCDR K2:496 (Maria Jesus Olivarri Rodriguez to J.M. Odin, November 25, 1852) ; BCDR 128:627 (West End Town Company to Society of Mary, October 31, 1892). The National Register of Historic Places nomination for St. Louis Hall indicates that the property transfer stipulated that a college building would be built on the site within a year. The documentation for this statement has not been located.

[6] Schmitz, Society 138-140, 216-217.

[7] "St. Mary's University of San Antonio," San Antonio *Express*, August 21, 1928, E-7.

[8] Schmitz, Society 173; Maria Watson Pfeiffer, *School by the River: Ursuline Academy to Southwest School of Art & Craft, 1851-2001* (San Antonio: Maverick Publishing Company, 2001) 19. Incarnate Word School moved to a site on the northern edge of the city in 1900 where it remains in 2016, known known as the University of the Incarnate Word. The administration building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

a college curriculum in 1911. The school became known as Our Lady of the Lake College and later, Our Lady of the Lake University. Like the Brothers of Mary, the Sisters of Divine Providence selected prominent Catholic James Wahrenberger as the architect for its early campus buildings.[9]

In the West End neighborhood nearer St. Mary's, San Antonio Female College opened in 1894. Like St. Mary's, the school was constructed on land donated by the West End Town Company to the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Renamed Westmoorland College in 1918 and the University of San Antonio in 1937, the school merged with Trinity University in 1942. Peacock Military Academy, opened in 1896, also acquired land from the West End Town Company and operated a private preparatory boarding and day school for boys ages 12 to 18 until 1973. In 2016, the city's three Catholic universities, St. Mary's University, Our Lady of the Lake University, and the University of the Incarnate Word, all continue to provide diverse higher education opportunities to the local, state, national, and international community. [10]

Reinbolt Hall

The St. Mary's campus became increasingly crowded as enrollment grew in the first decade of the twentieth-century. In January 1908, it was announced that the Society of Mary would spend $80,000 to construct a new building. According to the group "the improvements are necessitated by reason of an overcrowded condition, more than 100 prospective students being denied admission to the college."[11] Receipts in the St. Mary's University archives indicate that the construction contract totaled $74,788 with an additional $3,600 spent for a "brick outhouse." Like the first St. Louis Hall, the new structure was designed by the architectural firm of James Wahrenberger and Son. Jacob Wagner served as the contractor and Braden O'Neill installed the plumbing and heating system.[12]

The new building was named for Father John Nepomucene Reinbolt (1824-1895), Provincial of the Society of Mary's Province of America, who assured that the Marianists' work in San Antonio would continue after the end of the Civil War. When the San Antonio school was threatened with closure, Brother Andrew Edel traveled to the order's headquarters in Dayton to argue for its future. Father Reinbolt was convinced that the school should remain open and between 1866 and his retirement 1886, he made five trips to San Antonio to visit the school.[13] Ground was broken for Reinbolt Hall on February 2, 1908, and the cornerstone laid on May 17, 1908, the feast day of St. John Nepomucene. The cornerstone laying was witnessed by an audience of over 500 individuals who traveled to the ceremony by special streetcar and bus service.[14]

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[9] "History of Our Lady of the Lake University," http://www.ollusa.edu, accessed May 3, 2016; Texas Historical Commission, National Register of Historic Places, St. Louis Hall, St. Mary's University. The school was renamed Our Lady of the Lake University in 1975.

[10] Frances Donecker, "San Antonio Female College," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbs08), accessed October 30, 2015; Bexar County Deed Records: 3137:95-100, January 21, 1952; San Antonio Express, November 2, 1973; Sharon R. Crutchfield, "Peacock Military Academy," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbp09), accessed October 27, 2015. Trinity University moved to its present site on Stadium Drive in 1952 and the West End site was sold to the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

[11] "St. Louis College to Spend $80,000 in Improvements," San Antonio *Daily Express*, January 30, 1908, 14.

[12] Reinbolt Hall vertical files, St. Mary's University Archives.

[13] Brother Robert Wood, *Reinbolt Hall—Celebrating a History*, unpublished typescript, December 2008. Reinbolt became the Society of Mary's Assistant General for Education.

[14] Ibid; "Lay College Corner Stone Tomorrow," San Antonio *Light*, May 16, 1908, 2; San Antonio *Light*, May 17, 1908, as reprinted in "Through the Years," San Antonio *Light*, May 17, 1958,8.

> "The groundbreaking took place...amid the waving of flags, the stirring sound of music, and the loud cheers of the assembled multitude consisting of faculty, students, and employees of the school, and representatives from old St. Mary's, the parent institution of St. Louis"[15]

The building's auditorium was completed by the end of October and was used as a temporary chapel which was blessed on All Saints Day. Construction was completed in November, and the building was dedicated by Bishop John Anthony Forest on January 28, 1909. Some 2,000 witnessed the ceremony which was conducted with the assistance of 50 local and visiting priests. The ceremony concluded with a "grand illumination" of the building.[16]

The Building: Form and Function in Early-Twentieth-Century Education

Discussion of the need for additional space had begun in the spring of 1903. The Society of Mary debated whether the space would be an addition to St. Louis Hall or a separate building that could house boarding students. The conversation continued, and in late 1906, in conjunction with provincial authorities in Ohio, plans were approved. Though free-standing, at the time the building was considered a wing of St. Louis Hall. As finally designed, the Brothers of Mary determined that the building would have two distinct sections. The section closest to St. Louis Hall with direct access to offices and classrooms in the main building contained both academic and residential facilities. The western portion of the building containing the chapel and assembly hall could be separately accessed without passing through the classrooms and residential portion of the building.

The four-story building with a foundation of concrete and steel, extended west from the south wing of St. Louis Hall. The structure had a basement and was divided into two sections. The eastern portion of the building closest to St. Louis Hall measured 60 X 60 feet while the western portion measured 60 X 87 feet. Reinbolt and St. Louis Halls were, and still are, connected by overhead bridges at the second and third floor levels. Original plans detail the building's initial layout and provide insight into boarding school facilities and education in the early twentieth century.[17]

The eastern portion of the building

The eastern part of the building was divided by a central corridor running east/west. A stairway at the northwest corner connected all floors. Space was allocated and used as follows:

- Basement— a large dining hall and two smaller dining halls arranged on either side of the corridor;
- First floor— three classrooms on either side of the corridor;
- Second floor—four infirmary rooms, four private rooms, a bathroom, drug room and chaplain's room;
- Third floor— a large dormitory on either side of the corridor and a clothing storage room.

The western portion of the building

The western part of the building contained the assembly hall, chapel and a dormitory.

- Basement— The assembly hall or auditorium occupied the entire basement level of the building's western section. The stage and dressing rooms were in the westernmost end and the seating was on a raked floor.
- First and second floors— The two-story chapel was entered both from the first floor corridor and an outside stairway leading into a vestibule at the southeast corner. The altar and sacristy were at the westernmost end of

[15] Wood, Brother Robert, *Reinbolt Hall—Celebrating a History*, untitled typescript, December 2008, 1.
[16] "2000 Witness Dedication of Reinbolt Hall," San Antonio *Light*, January 28, 1909, 7. Because St. Louis College was located about a mile from the streetcar terminus, small buses known as "jitneys" carried passengers the remainder of the way.
[17] Original plans were provided by the architectural firm of RVK, project architects for the renovation of both ST. Louis Hall and Reinbolt Hall. The originals, housed in the St. Mary's University Archives, were not directly accessed.

the building. A cast iron stair led from the exterior into the sacristy at the northwest corner. A gallery accessed from the second floor corridor overlooked the chapel's main floor.

- Third floor— The third floor above the chapel was used as one large dormitory. A clothing storage room extended across the western end of the room.

Period accounts stated that both sections of Reinbolt Hall were "of elaborate design and constructed with a view to secure a maximum of light and thorough ventilation."[18]

The Architects: James Wahrenberger and Son

Reinbolt Hall was designed by the firm of James Wahrenberger and Son, the architects of adjoining St. Louis Hall. James Wahrenberger (1855-1928) was born in Austin to Swiss-born parents, John and Caroline Klein Wahrenberger. After his father's death in 1864, James was sent to school in Pennsylvania. He then entered university and studied in Switzerland and Germany for five years before returning to Texas in 1878.[19] In Austin, Wahrenberger partnered with John W. Glenn in the firm of Glenn and Wahrenberger, engineers and architects. The partnership was short lived and by 1881, Wahrenberger was practicing with Jacob Lamour, another brief association. He moved to San Antonio in 1883 and lived and worked there until his death in 1928.[20]

James Wahrenberger formed a partnership with Albert F. Beckmann, and together they designed both residential and commercial structures. These included the Edward Steves, Jr. and Carl F.A. Hummel residences (standing; King William NR Historic District), old Lone Star Brewery (NRHP 1972), and Maverick County Courthouse (NRHP 1980). Other structures included the White Elephant Saloon, Kalteyer Drug Store, City/County Hospital and St. John's Lutheran Church (all demolished). The partnership was dissolved in 1890 and Wahrenberger established his own practice. In addition to St. Louis Hall, some of his most prominent designs in San Antonio that remain standing are the Our Lady of the Lake University (Main Building, 1907; St. Ann's Hall, 1907; Moye Hall, 1920); Alamo National Bank Building (NRHP 1984), the William Reuter Building and the San Antonio Turnverein (Alamo Plaza NRHP District, 1977). He also designed Austin's George Littlefield House (Austin; NRHP 1970).[21]

Wahrenberger was active in local and state professional circles. In addition to his architectural practice, he wrote San Antonio's early building ordinances and served as its first building inspector. Wahrenberger served several terms as president of the Texas State Association of Architects. In 1918, the organization hailed him as the "Grand Old Man" of Texas architecture.[22]

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[18] Reinbolt Hall vertical file,St. Mary's University Archives.; "Work on Addition to St. Louis College," San Antonio *Light*, April 19, 1908, 16.

[19] " James Wahrengerger, 74, Architect, Dies Thursday," San Antonio *Express*, October 23, 1929, 10. John Wahrenberger immigrated to New Orleans in 1836 and to Texas in 1839. He met and married Caroline Klein in Austin.

[20] Maria Watson, "James Wahrenberger, Architect," *Perspective,* Volume 8, Number 2, 9.

[21] Ibid.

[22] "J. Wahrenberger, Texas Pioneer, Summoned," *Southern Messenger*, October 24, 1929, 1.

Reinbolt Hall: 1909-2016

Though Reinbolt Hall was not dedicated until January 28, 1909, the auditorium was completed the previous October and used as a temporary chapel until the building's chapel was finished. The rest of the building was completed by November. The dedication ceremony began with the blessing of the chapel and proceeded throughout the building. The day culminated with a High Mass celebrated by priests from throughout the United States.[23]

Since its completion, Reinbolt Hall has served the university's evolving educational needs. The building's eastern portion has been used continuously for many university-related functions. As previously described, the upper floors were originally used as dining halls, classrooms and dormitories. In 1926, some of the dormitory space was remodeled. Another remodeling took place in 1935 to adapt some space as living quarters for visiting brothers studying for their degrees. Other portions of the buildings continued to be used for classrooms.[24]

Reinbolt Hall's remaining dormitory rooms were later converted to offices and classrooms. In the early 1970s, a learning center planned for the third floor was instead placed on the first floor after it was determined that the upper floor structure could not accommodate the weight of materials and equipment. The University dean's office was housed in Reinbolt, as were the Language Department's offices, classrooms, and laboratories. In addition to the Language Department, in the 1980s and 1990s, the School of Humanities and Social Science, Dean of the Graduate School, Theology offices, Center for Professions and Ethics, and Human Services offices were located in Reinbolt Hall.[25]

The basement auditorium was "completely remodeled" in 1949 to house the university's music department. This included the creation of private studios.[26] Further modifications were made in the 1960s. During the 1960s and 1970s, the auditorium was known as the Shoestring Cellar, home to the Department of Speech and Drama's well-regarded Shoestring Players. The theater was renovated again in 1990 to accommodate contemporary performances, incorporating modern sound and lighting equipment. The theater closed prior to recent renovation work to stabilize the building. In 2016 the theater space is no longer accessible to the public. The remainder of the basement is used for offices and classrooms.[27]

Assumption Chapel, which was the school's original worship space, remains one of two worship spaces at St. Mary's University today. The chapel is most notable architecturally for its stained glass windows. University records indicate that the windows were purchased from Ford Brothers Glass Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The company supplied eight windows measuring 5 X 20-feet at a cost of $200 each, and four smaller windows costing between $5 and $60—for a total of $2,515.[28]

Ford Brothers was one of several art glass manufacturers in the Minneapolis area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Roger G. and William E. Ford began dealing in glass in 1892-1893 and entered the stained glass business in 1896. The company hired notable designers and earned a reputation as a leading stained glass studio with offices in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Kansas City. The Ford brothers operated the company under their name until 1918 when they merged with another firm and became the Ford-McNutt Glass Company. Ford-McNutt remained in the art glass business until

[23] "2000 Witness Dedication of Reinbolt Hall," San Antonio *Light*, January 28, 1909, 7.
[24] Christina Mendez to Maria Watson Pfeiffer, e-mail communication, May 16, 2016; "St. Mary's Repairs during Vacation Period," San Antonio *Express*, September 10, 1935, 9.
[25] Miscellaneous memos and notes, Reinbolt Hall vertical file, St. Mary's University Archives.
[26] "St. Mary's Slates Building Ceremonies," San Antonio *Express*, December 9, 1959, 2-A.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Reinbolt Hall vertical files, Folder Number 2, St. Mary's University Archives.

1924 when fire destroyed its facilities and records. The only other examples of Ford Glass Company's work identified to date in Texas include windows in Central Presbyterian Church in Paris (1917; RTHL 1994) and a window dating to 1911 in Houston's Trinity Episcopal Church.[29]

The chapel has been remodeled several times, most recently in 2009. New main and side altars were installed in 1944 to honor St. Mary's graduate, Staff Sergeant William Bordelon, who was killed in World War II and posthumously received the Medal of Honor. The chapel was remodeled according to plans by the architectural firm of Cerna and Garza in the 1960s when a new altar, canopy, altar rail, pews, grillwork, and floor covering were installed. Subsequent renovations in the 1980s and 2011 included a new organ, altar, carpeting, and statuary. The 2011 work was completed according to plans by Rohn and Associates Liturgical Designers. The chapel was rededicated in 2009 on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.[30]

A $7.5 million stabilization project focused on correcting water penetration on the building's lower level through the areaway; this work was completed in 2015. A second renovation phase will include mechanical systems and restoration of areas within the building to their original state. At present, this work has not been designed or scheduled. In 2016, Reinbolt Hall houses St. Mary's University's Theology Department as well as offices and classrooms for the language, Upward Bound, and Core Curriculum Development programs.

Reinbolt Hall is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture as a good example of the Romanesque Revival style, as well as of the work of prominent Texas architect James Wahrenberger. It is also nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the area of education, for its importance to the early expansion of St. Louis College (St. Mary's University) and the school's continued academic development. Because the building is nominated for its significance in architecture and education, Reinbolt Hall meets Criteria Consideration A. The period of significance spans from the year or the building's construction through the current 50-year point.

[29] Ford Brothers Company vertical file, Minneapolis History Collection and Special Collections; "Stained Glass Window a Mystery No More!" *The Window of Trinity Midtown*, Vol. XXI, No. 1, Easter, 2016; Greg Smith, Texas Historical Commission to Maria Watson Pfeiffer, e-mail correspondence, April 15, 2016. The Trinity Episcopal Church window is the only surviving of five installed in the church. Fires destroyed the remaining windows in 1919 and 1958. Ford-McNutt Glass Company continued as a plate glass company until 1988.

[30] *Southern Messenger*, April 11, 1944. Reinbolt Hall vertical file, St. Mary's University Archives. The altars installed in 1944 were donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Bordelon in memory of their son.

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Bexar County, Texas

Reinbolt Hall, San Antonio, Texas
Source: Google Earth, 2016.

Figure 1: St. Louis Hall, ca. 1900
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

Figure 2: Father John Nepomucene Reinbolt
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

Figure 3: St. Louis Hall, ca. 1910
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

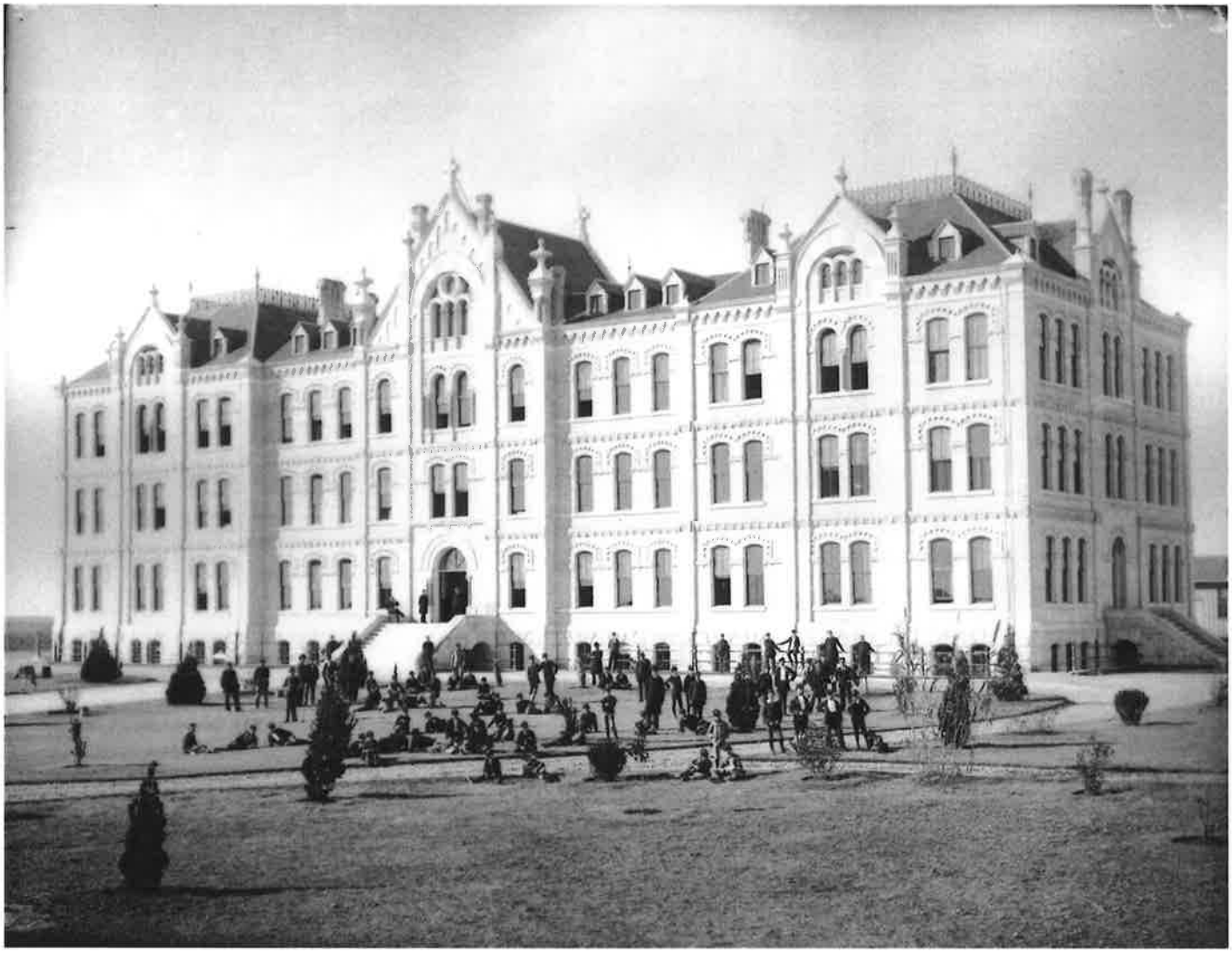
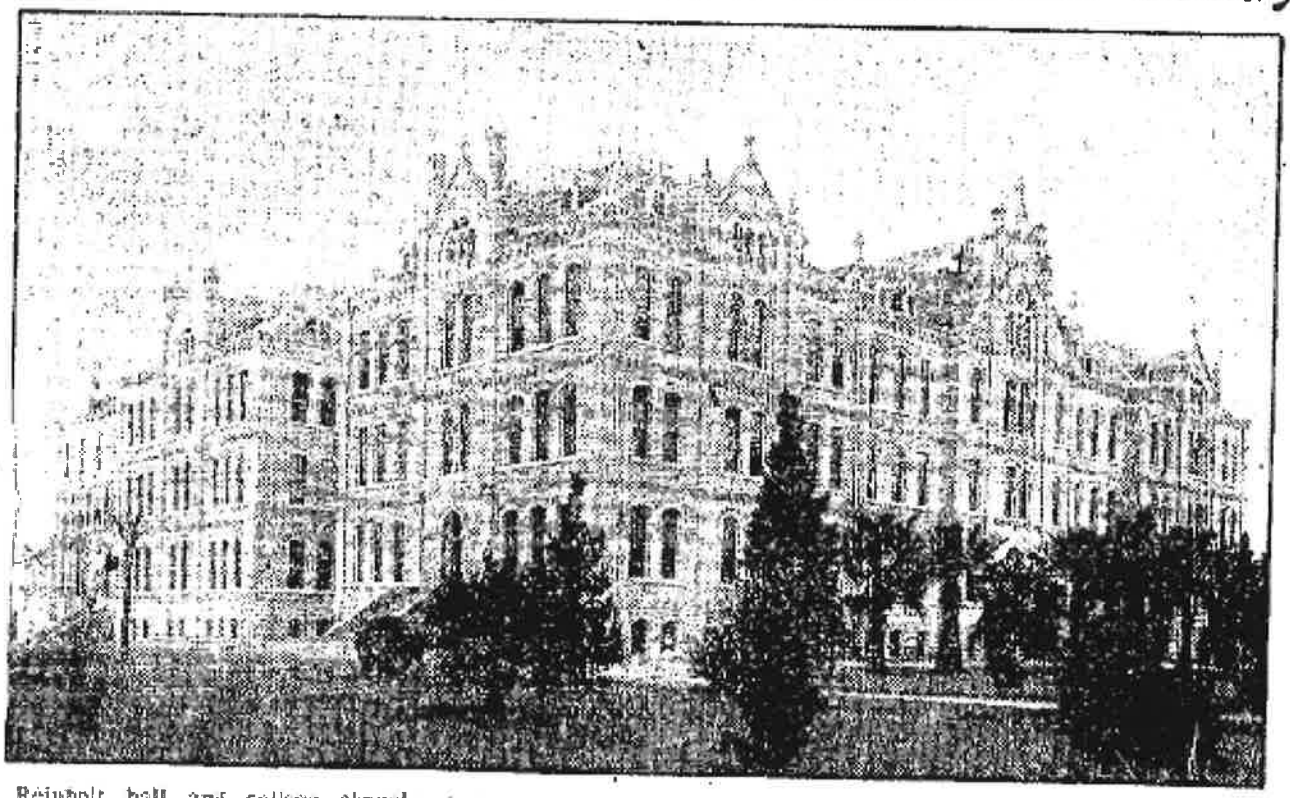


Figure 4: Reinbolt Hall & St Louis Hall, ca. 1910
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

Figure 5: Reinbolt Dedication- 1909
Source: San Antonio *Light*, January 28, 1909, 3.

St. Louis College and Reinbolt Hall; Latter Is Dedicated Today



Reinbolt hall and college chapel, the addition to St. Louis College, shown to the left of the picture, was formally opened this morning at West End in the presence of a large crowd. Appropriate exercises are being held, concluding this evening. St. Louis College is a Catholic institution, and the buildings which compose it are magnificent structures.

Figure 6: St. Mary's University advertisement
Source: San Antonio *Light*, August 12, 1928, 8.

San Antonio's Only Senior College for Men

Advantages of—
Full Affiliation
Highly Trained Faculty
Personal Attention
High Curriculum
Outstanding Athletics
Excellent Living Conditions.

Senior High School
Conducted Separately
Courses in—
Spanish
French
Mathematics
Commercial

Boarding Students at—
Reinbolt Hall
Woodlawn Hills

Courses Leading to
Degrees In—
Commerce and Finance
Engineering
Education
Arts—Science
Pre-Medical Pre-Legal.

Senior High School
Conducted Separately
Courses in—
Religion
English
History
Latin

Day Students at—
St. Mary's Academy
112 College St.

Established 1852—Conducted by the Society of Mary for 76 Years

A BEAUTIFUL campus of 135 acres with park, gardens and pasture surrounds the University Buildings, which are located on a high elevation overlooking the City of San Antonio. An athletic director supervises all sports. A private natatorium for swimming, a football team and other forms of healthful games are encouraged for their beneficent influence upon the physical well being of the students. The school maintains a private dairy of tested herds, which insures a bountiful supply of pure milk. Well-balanced menus, which are prepared with due thought to the needs of sound physical development, and a private artesian water supply are added advantages of the school.

First Semester Starts Sept. 10th

St. Mary's UNIVERSITY OF SAN ANTONIO

WEST END

TEL. WOODLAWN 500

Figure 7: Ford Brothers Ad
Source: *American Home Missionary,* Volume 20, January 1, 1914.

THE AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY. 351

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Of the highest character can be secured of

FORD BROTHERS GLASS CO.

We refer you to our windows in 1500 Churches in 26 States.

Our Book "SUGGESTIONS IN RELIGIOUS ART" Free

Designs and Prices upon application

STUDIOS: Minneapolis, Minn. OFFICES: Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City.

Figure 8: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, South Elevation,1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

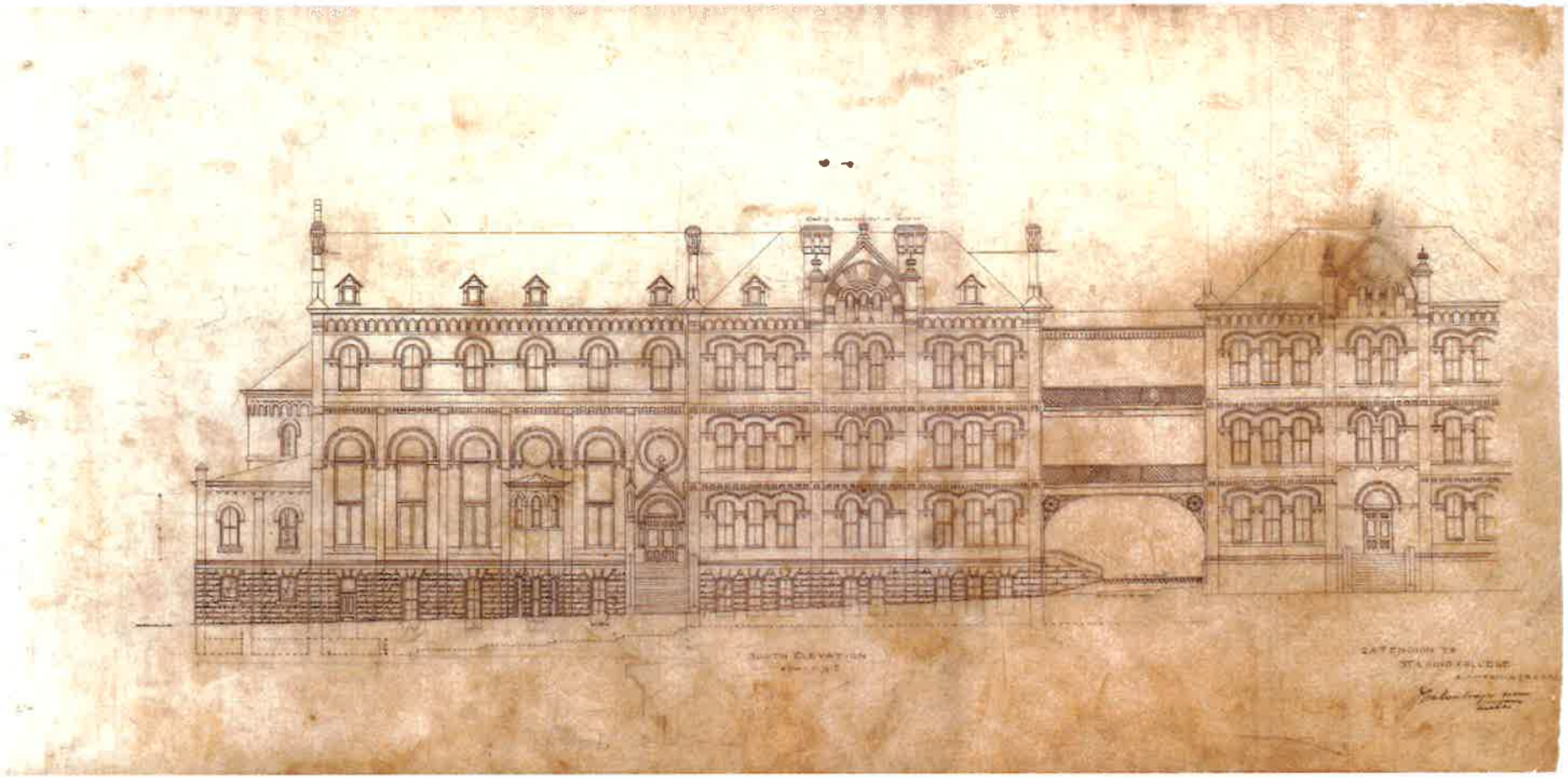


Figure 9: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, East & West Elevations, 1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

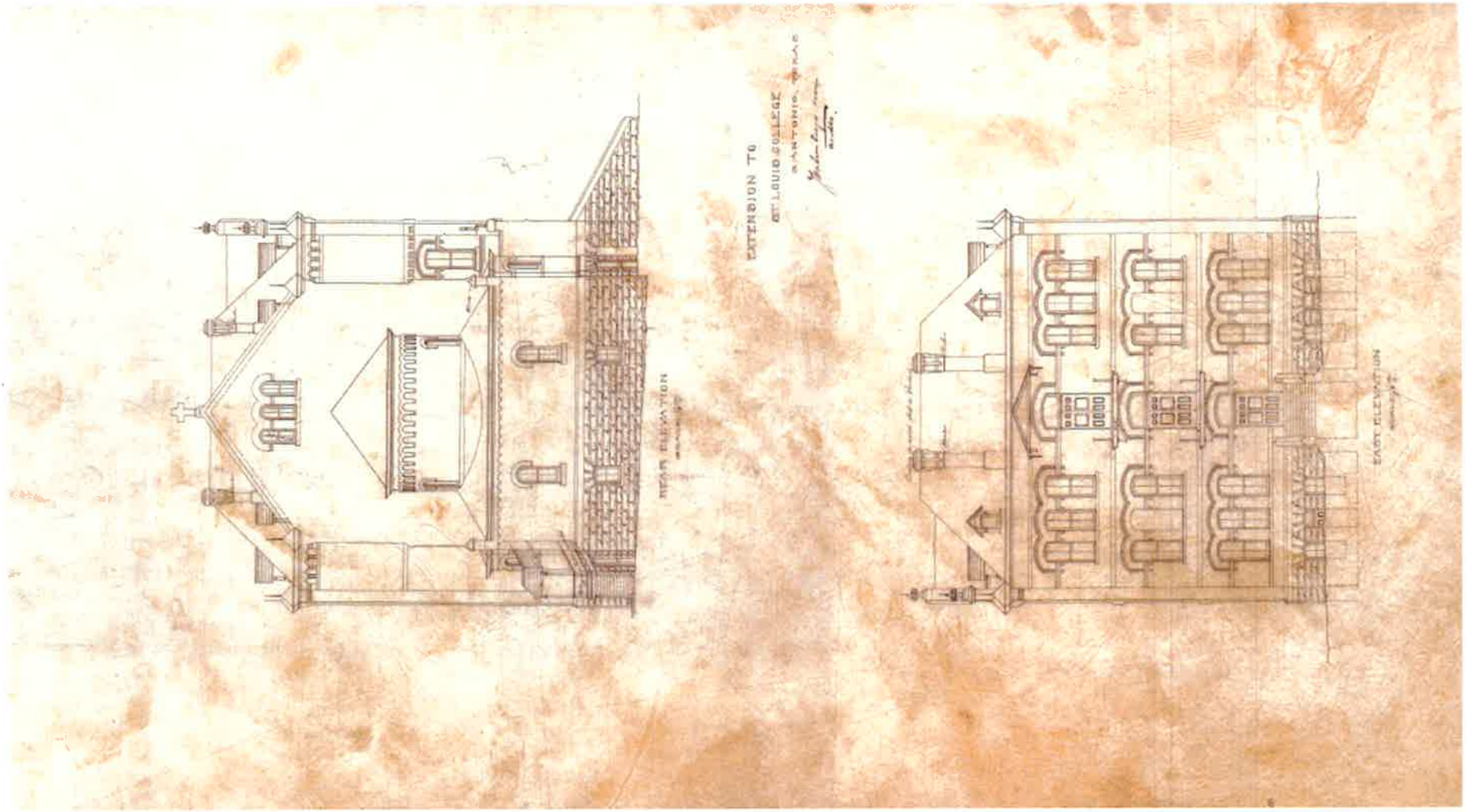


Figure 10: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, North Elevation, 1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

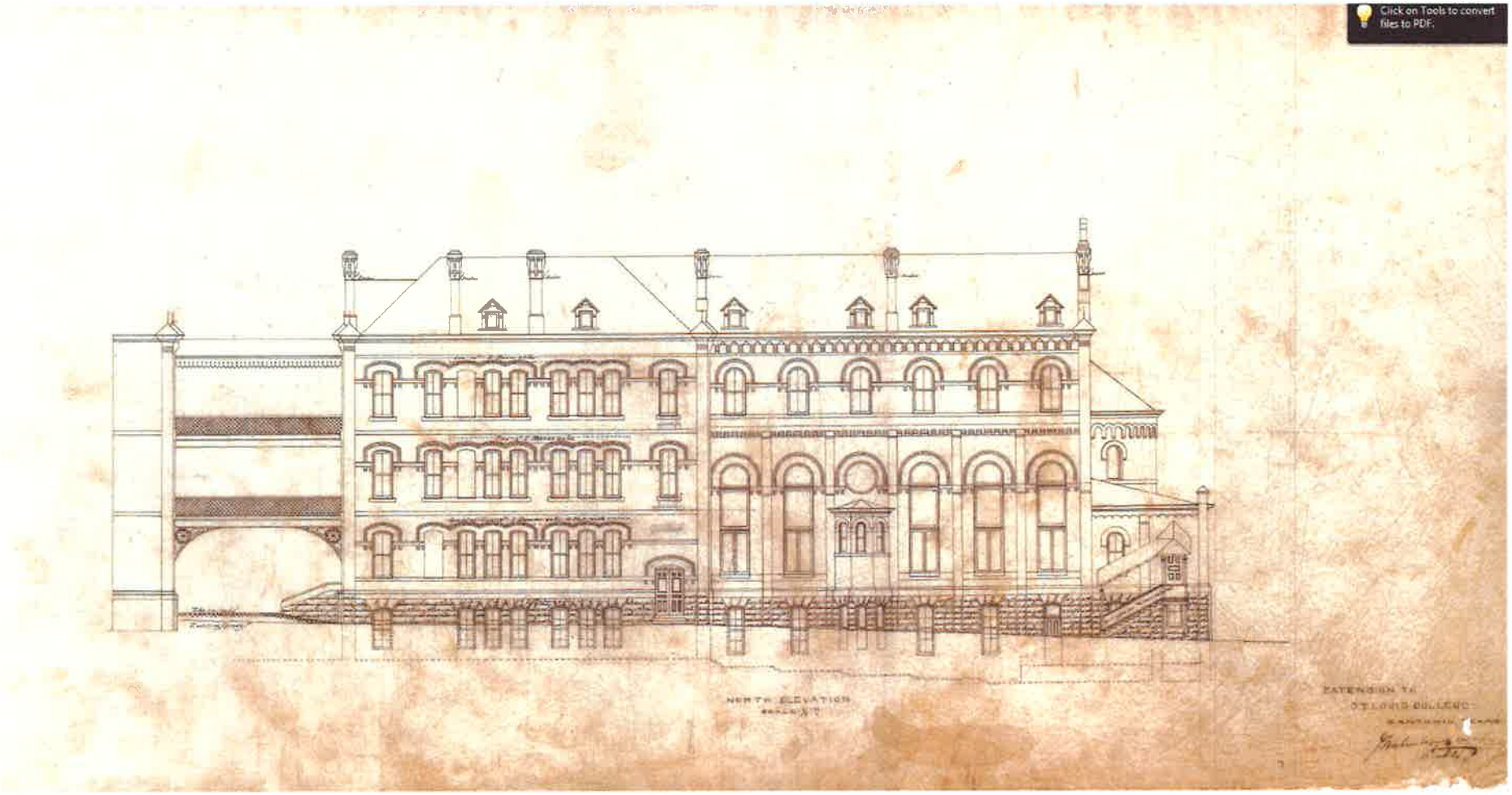


Figure 11: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, Basement Floorplan, 1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

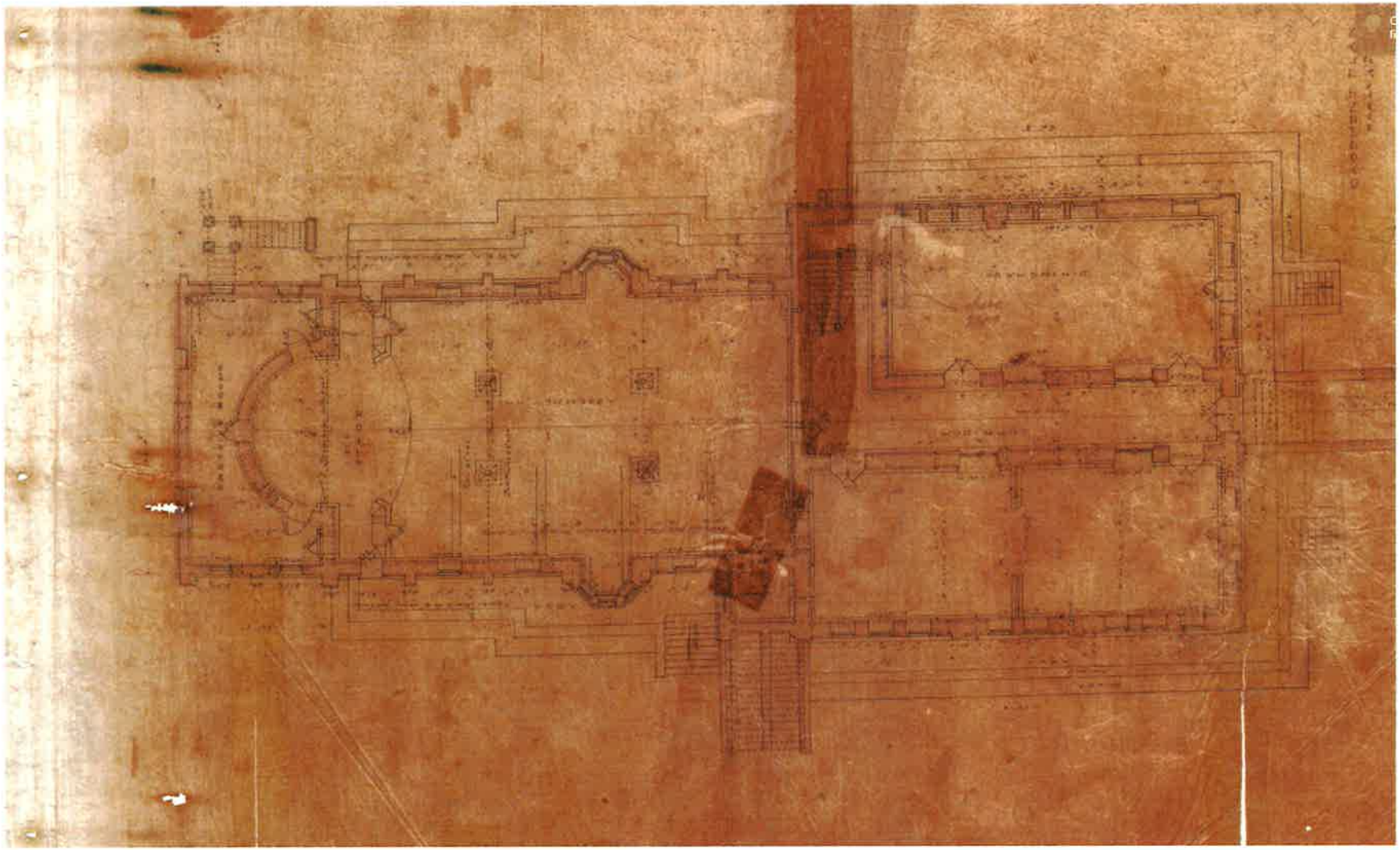


Figure 12: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, First Floor Floorplan, 1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

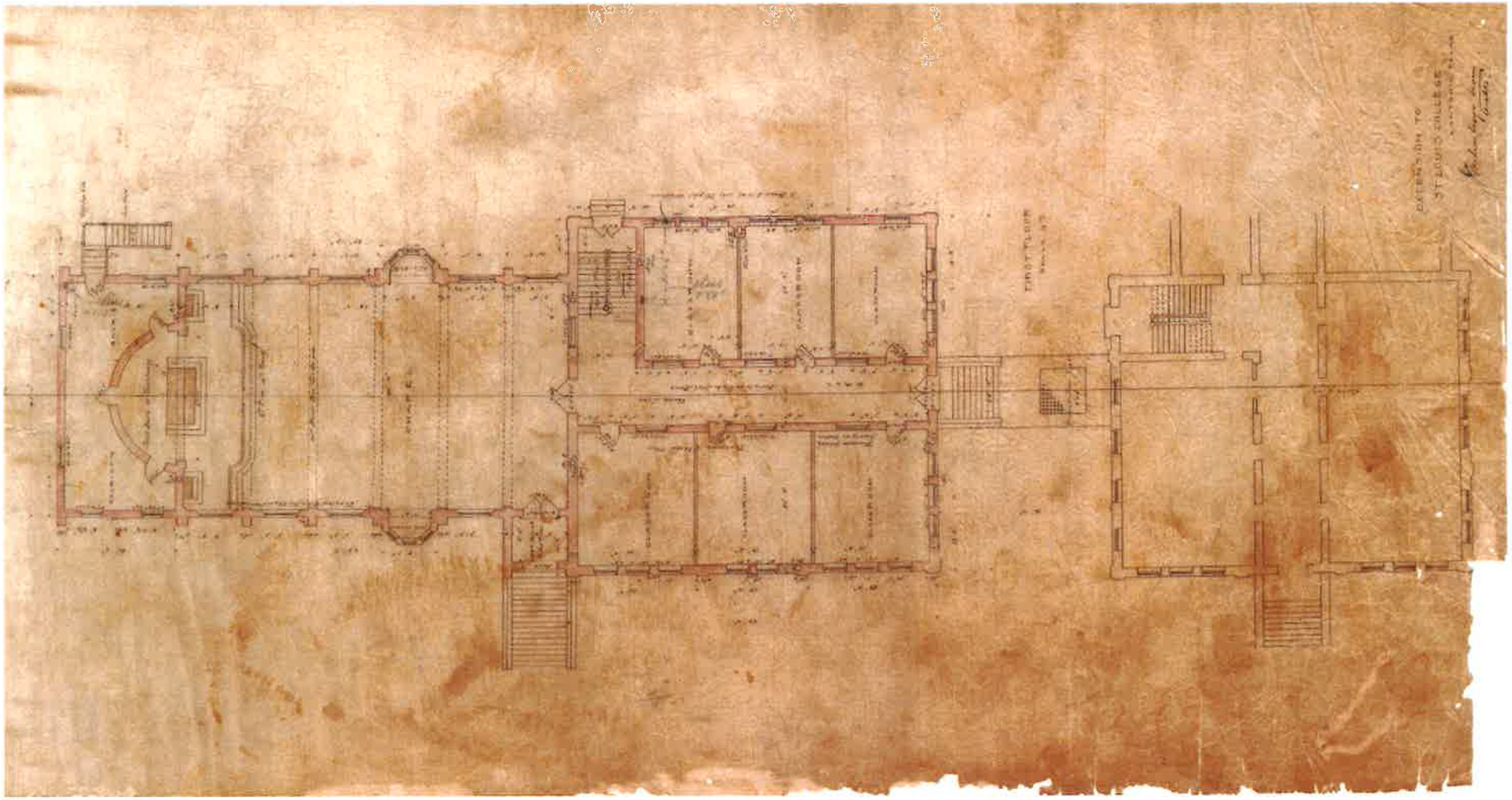


Figure 13: James Wahrenberger, Reinbolt Hall Construction Drawings, Second Floor Floorplan, 1908
Source: St. Mary's University Archives

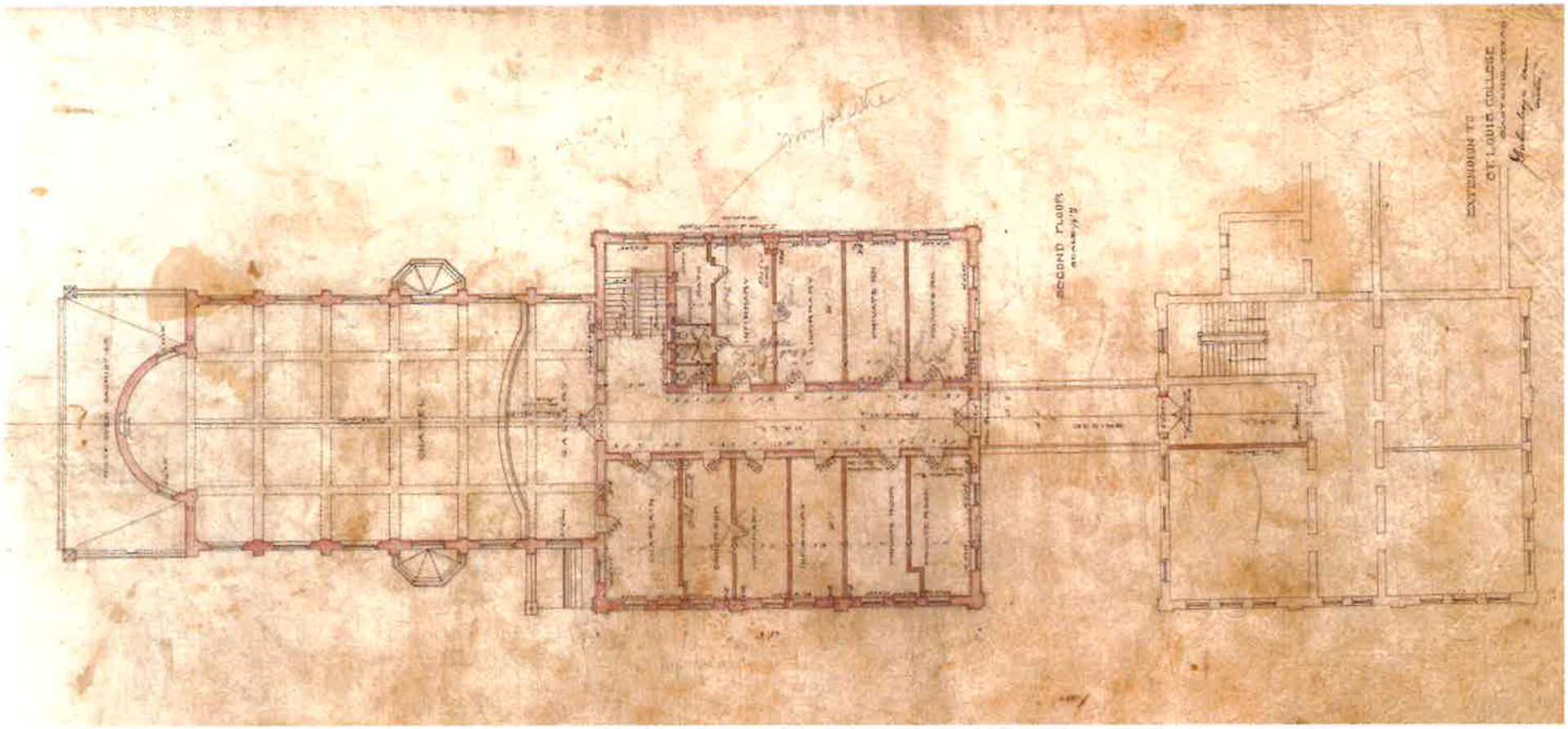


Photo 1: Reinbolt Hall, aerial view looking northwest
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, October 2013

Photo 2: South elevation looking northeast
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 3: South elevation looking northeast
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 4: South areaway looking west
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 5: east elevation looking northwest
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 6: south entryway looking north
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 7: chapel, stained glass window
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

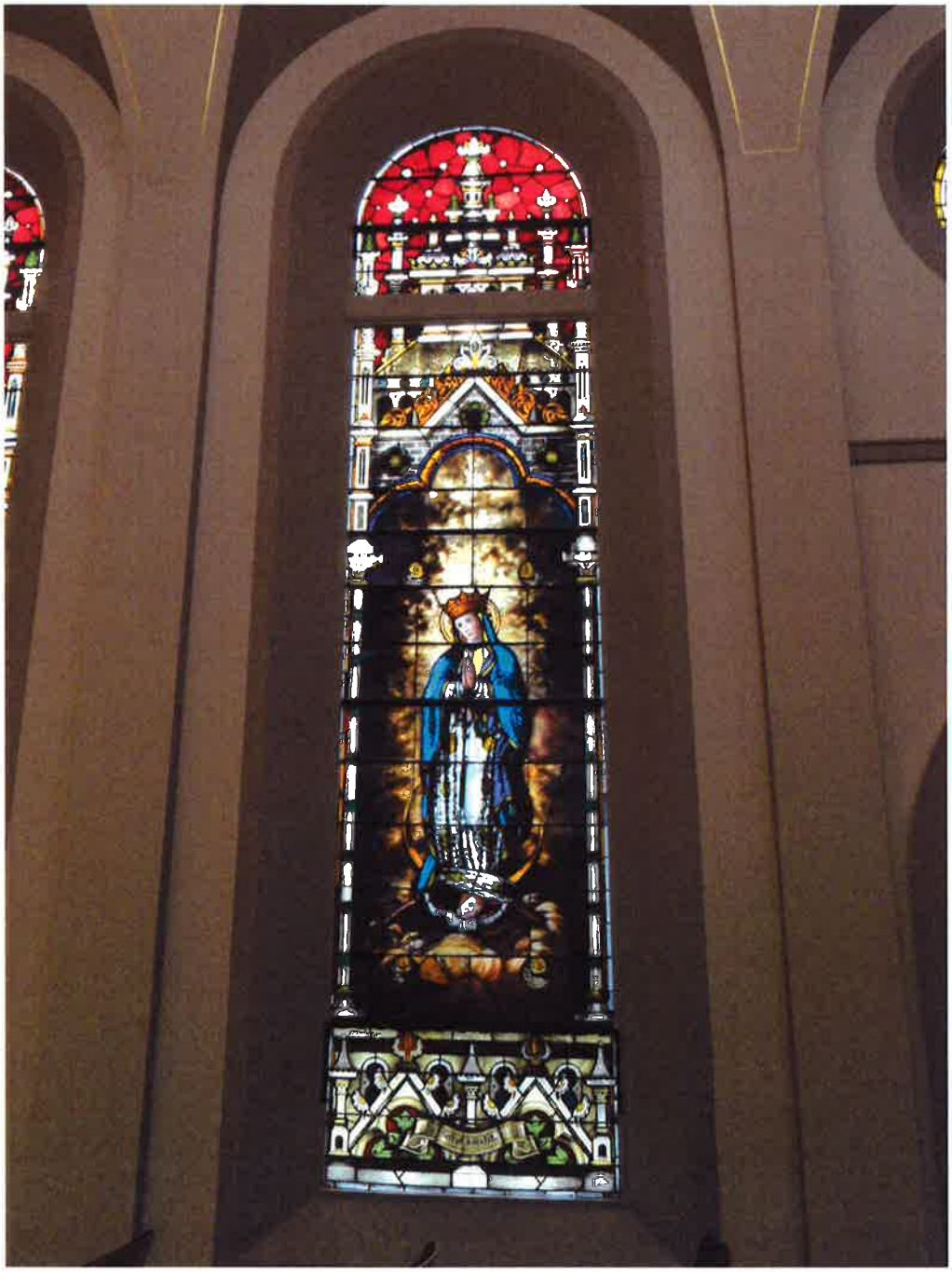


Photo 8: chapel, stained glass window
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 9: chapel, stained glass window
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 10: west elevation looking east
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 11: north elevation looking southeast
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 12: north elevation looking south
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 13: outside walkways, Reinbolt Hall (left); St. Louis Hall (right) looking north
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 14: classroom, original wood trim
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 15: classroom, old chalkboard
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

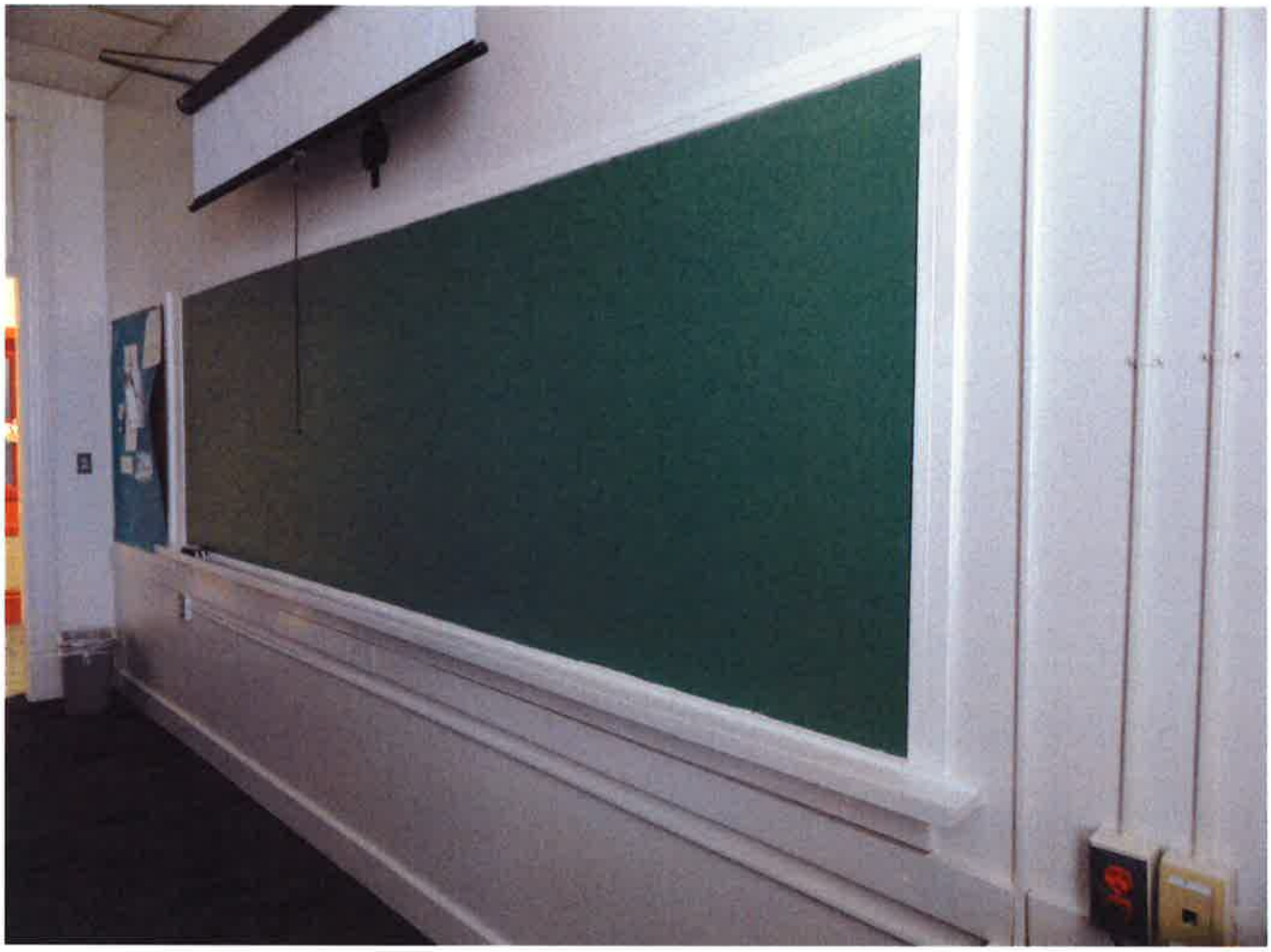


Photo 16: office with original wood trim
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

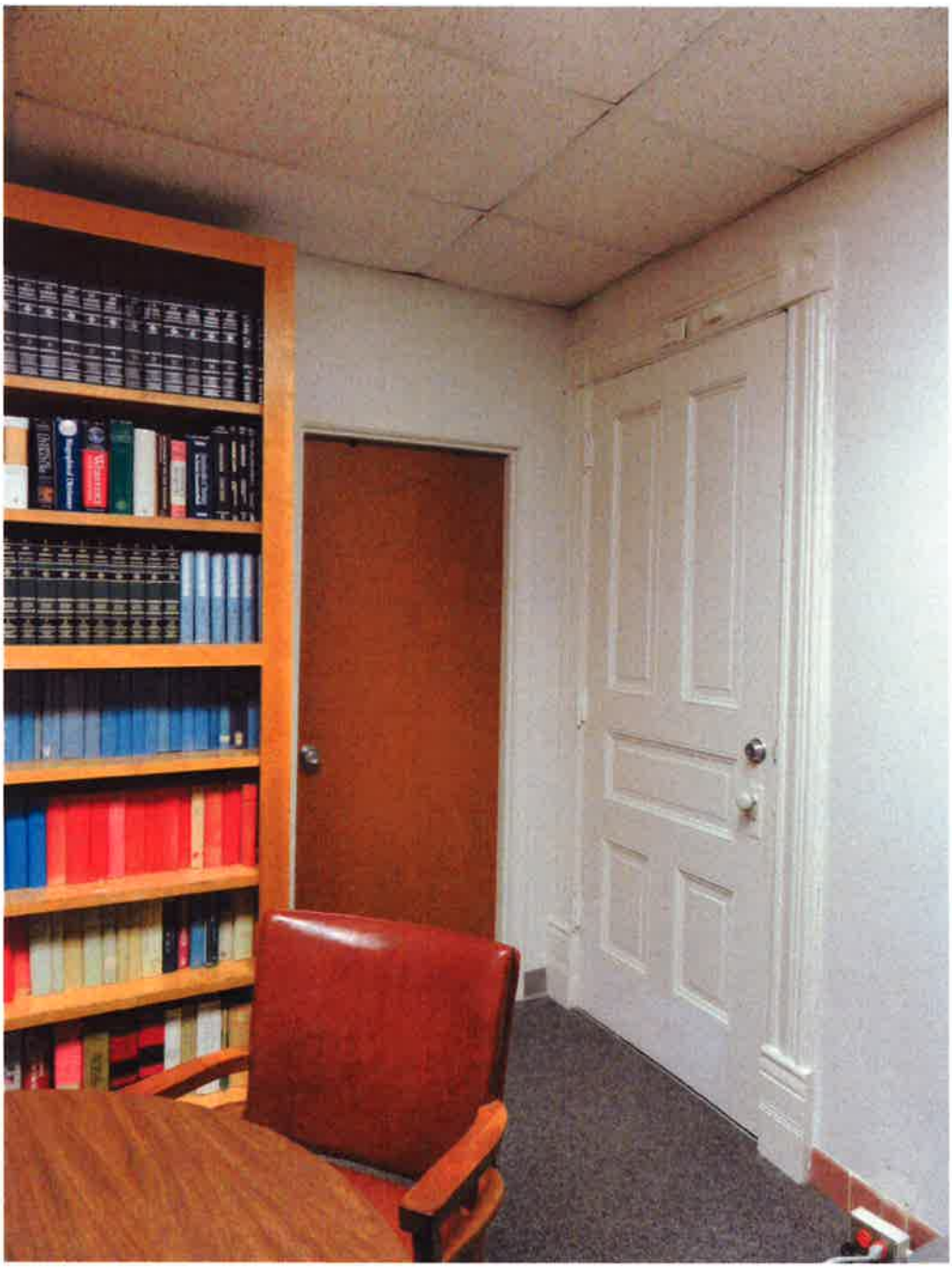


Photo 17: door to hallway with original transom and louvered ventilation panel
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 18: basement, original stone arch
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 19: hallway looking west showing original woodwork
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

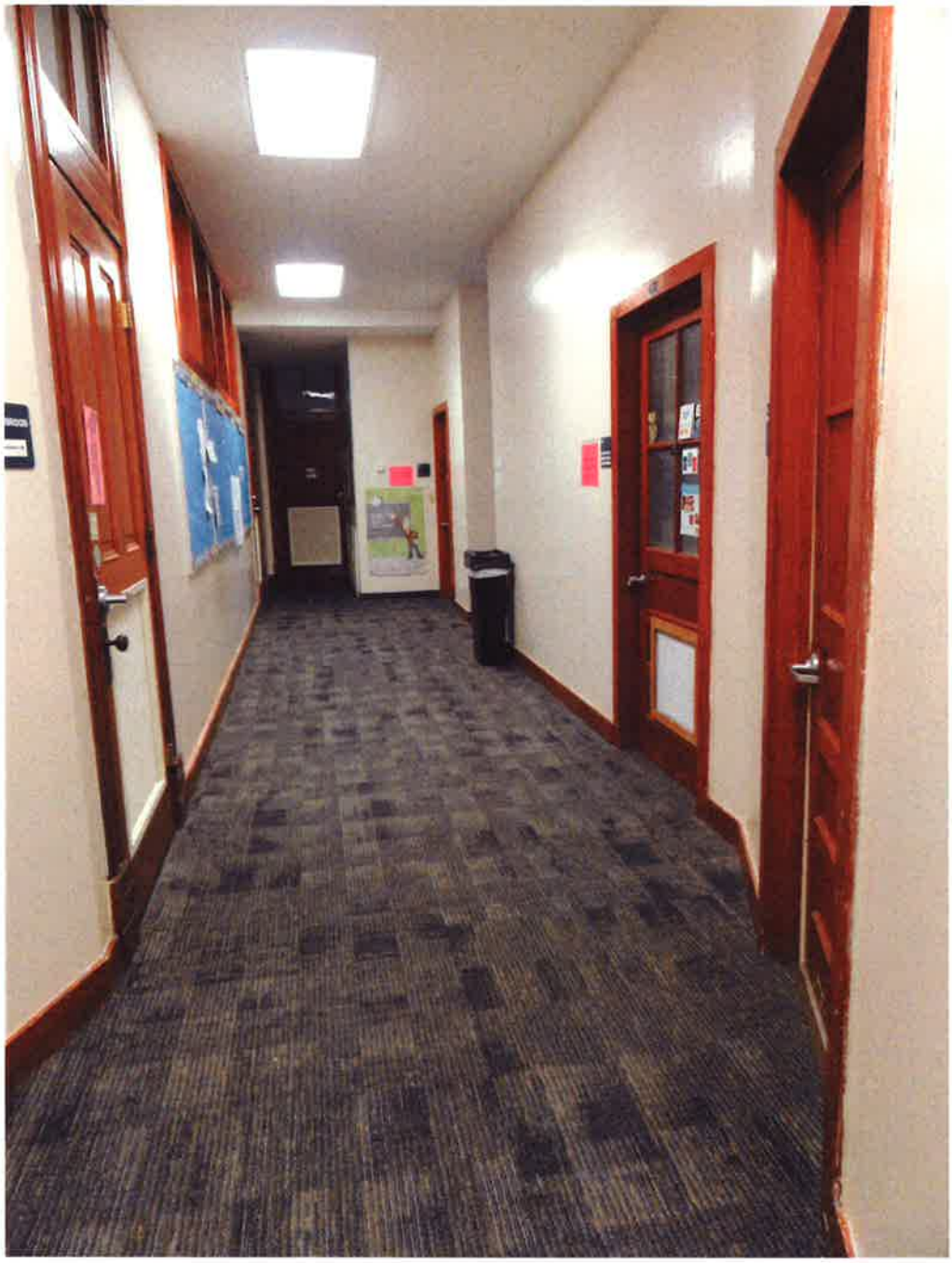


Photo 20: stairway from basement to first floor
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 21: stairway, detail
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 22: attic wooden trusswork
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

Photo 23: chapel looking west
Photographed by Maria Pfeiffer, May 2015

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