

# Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-981

Page 1 of 2

**Name of Property: St. Frances Academy**

**Location: 501 East Chase Street, Baltimore City, Maryland**

The nationally significant St. Frances Academy is the convent and school built by the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1870. The Oblate Sisters of Providence was the first Catholic order of black nuns, founded in 1828, the same year the school was founded as the first school for black children in Maryland. The convent and school have occupied the East Chase Street location in the district continuously since 1870.

The St. Frances Academy remains an active Catholic educational institution in 2012 and was added to the Baltimore City Landmark List in 1982. There is also an MHT Easement on the property.

**MIHP No. B-981**

**St. Frances Academy, 501 East Chase Street, Baltimore City, Maryland**

<u>Image File Name</u>	<u>Description of the View</u>
<b>Exterior Views</b>	
B-981_2012-03-12_01	Front view of 501 E Chase St
B-981_2012-03-12_02	Street view of 501 E Chase St looking west
B-981_2012-03-12_03	Front view of 501 E Chase St
B-981_2012-04-18_04	Campus building on E Chase St
B-981_2012-04-18_05	View from E Chase and Brentwood Ave
B-981_2012-04-18_06	View looking south on Brentwood Ave
B-981_2012-04-18_07	Detail view of Chapel front
B-981_2012-04-18_08	Front elevation of Chapel
B-981_2012-04-18_09	Front entrance of Chapel
B-981_2012-04-18_10	View of Chapel and Academy from Brentwood Ave
B-981_2012-03-14_11	View of garden and grotto
B-981_2012-03-14_12	Grotto
B-981_2012-03-14_13	View from inside main gate looking north
<b>Interior Views</b>	
B-981_2012-03-14_14	Mother Lange Room View 01
B-981_2012-03-14_15	Mother Lange Room View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_16	Mother Lange Room View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_17	Mother Lange Room View 04
B-981_2012-03-14_18	Mother Lange Room View 05
B-981_2012-03-14_19	Mother Lange Room View 06
B-981_2012-03-14_20	View of alter in chapel
B-981_2012-03-14_21	Chapel View 01

**Prepared by:**

<u>name/title</u>	Robyn Chrabasz, Historic Preservation Officer		
<u>organization</u>	Baltimore City Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev.	<u>date</u>	May 1, 2012
<u>street &amp; number</u>	417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 313	<u>telephone</u>	443-984-1871
<u>city or town</u>	Baltimore	<u>state</u>	MD

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Inventory No. B-981

Page 2 of 2

**Name of Property: St. Frances Academy**

**Location: 501 East Chase Street, Baltimore City, Maryland**

B-981_2012-03-14_22	Chapel View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_23	Chapel View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_24	Chapel View 04
B-981_2012-03-14_25	Chapel View 05
B-981_2012-03-14_26	Chapel View 06
B-981_2012-03-14_27	New stairwell (c. 2004)
B-981_2012-03-14_28	School first floor corridor
B-981_2012-03-14_29	Lobby View 01
B-981_2012-03-14_30	Lobby View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_31	Lobby View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_32	Lobby View 04

Photographers: Saul Stoogenke, Robyn Chrabaszcz

Paper and Ink combination used:

Epson UltraChrome K3 Ink with Epson Photo Paper Glossy

**Prepared by:**

<u>name/title</u>	<u>Robyn Chrabaszcz, Historic Preservation Officer</u>		
<u>organization</u>	<u>Baltimore City Dept. of Housing &amp; Comm. Dev.</u>	<b>date</b>	<u>May 1, 2012</u>
<u>street &amp; number</u>	<u>417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 313</u>	<b>telephone</b>	<u>443-984-1871</u>
<u>city or town</u>	<u>Baltimore</u>	<b>state</b>	<u>MD</u>

# Addendum Photo Log

## Maryland Historical Trust

### Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. B-981

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: St. Frances Academy, 501 East Chase Street

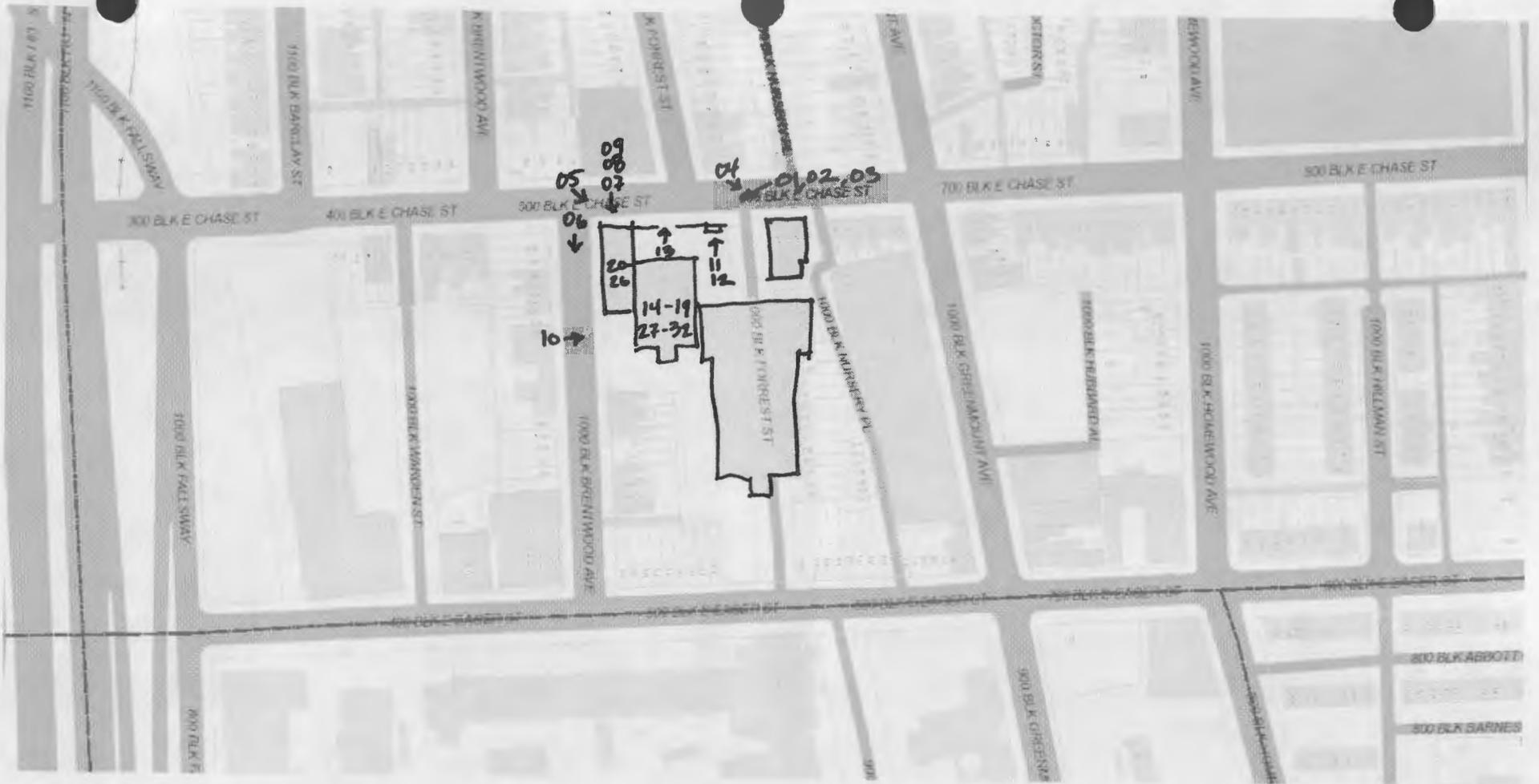
Location: Baltimore City, Maryland

St. Frances Academy, 501 East Chase Street

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B-981_2012-03-14_15	Mother Lange Room View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_16	Mother Lange Room View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_17	Mother Lange Room View 04
B-981_2012-03-14_18	Mother Lange Room View 05
B-981_2012-03-14_19	Mother Lange Room View 06
B-981_2012-03-14_20	View of alter in chapel
B-981_2012-03-14_21	Chapel View 01
B-981_2012-03-14_22	Chapel View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_23	Chapel View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_24	Chapel View 04
B-981_2012-03-14_25	Chapel View 05
B-981_2012-03-14_26	Chapel View 06
B-981_2012-03-14_27	New stairwell (c. 2004)
B-981_2012-03-14_28	School first floor corridor
B-981_2012-03-14_29	Lobby View 01
B-981_2012-03-14_30	Lobby View 02
B-981_2012-03-14_31	Lobby View 03
B-981_2012-03-14_32	Lobby View 04

Photographers: Saul Stoogenke, Robyn Chrabasz

Paper and Ink combination used:  
Epson UltraChrome K3 Ink with Epson Photo Paper Glossy



MIHP No 981

Addendum Photo Map/Key

May 14, 2012

Page 1 of 1

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD



ST. FRANKLIN'S  
SCHOOL

B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/12/2012

MD SHPO

Front view of 501 E Chase

Photo 1/32



B-981  
St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD  
Saul Stoogenke  
03/12/2012  
MD SHPO  
Street view of 501 E Chase looking west  
Photo 2/32



SAINT FRANCIS  
ACADEMY

B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/12/2012

MD SHPO

Front view of 501 E Chase

Photo 3/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabascz

04/18/2012

MD SHPO

Campus Building on E Chase St

Photo 4/32



B-981

St. Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabascz

04/10/2012

MD SAPO

View from E Chase and Brentwood Ave

Photo 5/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabaszcz

04/18/2012

MD SHPO

View looking south on Brentwood Ave  
Photo 6/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabascz

04/18/2012

MD SHPO

Detail view of Chapel front

Photo 7/32



B-981

St Francis Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabasz

04/18/2012

MD SHPO

Front elevation of Chapel

Photo 8/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabascz

04/18/2012

MD SHPO

Front entrance of Chapel

Photo 9/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Robyn Chrabascz

09/18/2012

MD SHPO

View of Chapel and Academy from Brentwood Ave  
Photo 10/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase ST  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stooginke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

View of garden and grotto

Photo 11/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPD

Grotto

Photo 12/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

View from inside main gate looking north

Photo 13/32



B-981  
St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD  
Saul Stoogenke  
03/14/2012  
MD SHPD  
Mother Lange Room View 01  
Photo 14/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Mother Lange Room View  $\phi$ 2

Photo 15/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Mother Lange Room View Ø3

Photo 16/32



Walter P. Wood  
1844-1907

Walter P. Wood was born in  
the town of...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Mother Lange Room View 04  
Photo 17/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Mother Lange Room view 05

Photo 18/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stougenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Mother Lange Room View Ø6

Photo 19/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St.

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

View of altar in chapel 77

Photo 20/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Chapel View #1

Photo 21/32



B981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/14/2012

MD SAPD

Chapel View 02

Photo 22/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoenice

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Chapel view 03

Photo 23/32



B-981

St Francis Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPD

Chapel view 04

Photo 24/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Chapel View 05

Photo 25/32



B-981  
St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD  
Saul Stroogenke  
03/14/2012  
MD SHPO  
Chapel View 06  
Photo 26/32

OPPORTUNITY  
SINCE  
1828

PRAYER MATS FOR SALE

B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Staugenke 03/14/2012

MD SHPO

New stairwell (c. 2004)

Photo 27/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Seul Staogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

School - first floor corridor

Photo 28/32



B-981

St Francis Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Strogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Lobby View of corridor

Photo 29/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPD

Lobby view Ø2

Photo 30132



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St  
Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Lobby View 03

Photo 31/32



B-981

St Frances Academy, 501 E Chase St

Baltimore City, MD

Saul Stoogenke

03/14/2012

MD SHPO

Lobby view of

Photo 32/32

B-112  
981

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Frances Academy

AND/OR COMMON

St. Frances Academy

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

501 East Chase Street

(Chase St. & Brentwood Ave.; Brentwood was formerly called Constitution)

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Oblate Sisters of Providence

Telephone #: 539-5794

STREET & NUMBER

501 East Chase Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21202

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maryland Hall of Records (Baltimore City Land Records)

Liber #: 24

Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

St. John's Campus

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-981

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The St. Frances Academy is a handsome Second Empire brick structure.

The architect was George Aloysius Frederick, the noted Baltimore architect of such other notable structures as the Baltimore City Hall, the old Rennart Hotel (now demolished) and the churches St. Pius, and the Fourteen Holy Martyrs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Completed and dedicated November 27, 1870 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Aloysius Frederick

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Frances Academy building situated on Chase Street in the city of Baltimore, was completed and dedicated on November 27, 1870. Archbishop Spaulding officiated. George Frederick was the architect.\* This academy was originally located on Geroge Street, known as Saint Mary's Court in 1828. It was at the George Street residence that the Oblate Sisters of Providence were founded by Father James Hector Nicholas Joubert de La Muraille, a Sulpician Father, in 1829. Two "colored women," Maria Magdalene Balas and Elizabeth Lange, started the school which served boarders and day students, both those that could pay and those that could not. These women, Maria Magdalene Balas and Elizabeth Lange were the first two novices of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, and cofounders of the order with Father Joubert. The academy was also located on Richmond Street, for awhile, before the office on Chase Street was constructed.

St. Frances Academy is the pioneer educational facility in Baltimore City, devoted to neglected "colored children". The academy's curriculum in 1870 included, religious instruction, English, French, arithmetic, geography, History, grammar, orthography, penmanship, sewing in all its branches, embroidery in cotton and chenille or gold tapestry, the waxing of fruits, music, painting and housekeeping. In 1873, algebra, natural philosophy and fine art were added to the curriculum, in 1876 Latin, in 1878 Sacred History, in 1881 ancient and modern history and in 1889, Spanish and geometry.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, St. Frances Academy functioned simultaneously as a boarding school day school and orphanage. Orphans where under the charge of the Oblates at Saint Frances, until the 1920's. when the Archbishop of Baltimore transferred them to the care of the Franciscan Sisters.

Some of the girls that graduated from St. Frances Academy conducted highly successful schools of their own. Arabella Jones operated a school known as Saint Agnes Academy in Washington and Martha Costin's school is listed in the May 30, 1969 "Report on Public Schools in the District of Columbia."

St. Frances is a flourishing High School today, but it should be remembered for its historical significance in the educational gains of black Americans. Perhaps the finest tribute ever given the institution was written by the Commissioner of Education (Washington D.C.) in 1871: "...For many years (St. Frances) was the only colored school within reach of the colored people of this District (of Columbia), in which anything was attempted and the rough primary training of the promiscuous school, and there are women who still live in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, whose well-bred families owe their refinement largely to the culture which the mothers of a quarter of a century ago, or more received in this female seminary. It was here that many of the first well-trained colored teachers were educated for the work in this Capital... The academy has always been well patronized,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Primary Sources

- U.S. Catholic Almanac of Laity's Directory for the Year 1835
- Archives of the Motherhouse of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore
- Annals and Records of St. Frances Academy and Convent, Baltimore
- Diary of Father J.H.N. Joubert, found in Oblates' Archives, Gun Road, Catonsville

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Carroll Greene, Jr. Dir., Special Projects

May 29, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

20 Dean Street

267-5955

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Annapolis

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE TO  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND CURA

1829 - 1962

by

Sister Mary Emma Hadrick, O.S.P.

A Dissertation  
Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts  
and Sciences of The Catholic University of America  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Arts

Washington, D.C.

August, 1964

## CHAPTER II

## EARLY FOUNDATIONS, 1829-1892

1828- Saint Frances Academy -  
Baltimore, Maryland

The noble work of teaching which is the primary work of the Oblate Sisters of Providence began with its founding. Their first and oldest school has the unique distinction of being established before the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

As has been previously mentioned, Father James Hector Nicholas Joubert de la Muraille was the founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. For a long time this priest had in mind the idea of a school for colored children. His greatest problem was who to get to teach in his school. About the same time, two colored teachers named Maria Magdalene Balas and Elizabeth Lange had the same idea as Father Joubert. These two ladies did conduct a school and made a fair living while so doing. They were educated and mistresses of their own time and lives. Through Divine Providence Father Joubert met these ladies who were later to become the foundresses of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Their identical ideas and plans were at once realized. For years the two young ladies had wanted to dedicate themselves to God in order to better educate colored children. Father Joubert then had obtained women to begin the foundation of colored nuns which had long been his dream.<sup>1</sup> Father Joubert sought the necessary

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<sup>1</sup>Father Joubert's Diary, p. 9.

permission from his Superior who approved but found the idea not very feasible. Father Joubert was not easily discouraged and he tried the Archbishop who at that time (1827) was Right Reverend Ambrose Maréchal, also a Sulpician like Father Joubert. He too approved but wondered from whence would come the necessary funds. Everything was at a standstill. The following January Archbishop Maréchal died and Monsignor Whitfield who had been administrator of the diocese succeeded him. After listening to Father Joubert's plan for a school for colored children Monsignor Whitfield saw no objection, not even on the score of funds, and gave permission for Father Joubert to start the school as soon as he was able. He began at once, which according to the records was the early part of March, 1827.<sup>1</sup>

Saint Frances Academy was a pioneer in the field of education in Baltimore for neglected colored children who could be instructed in reading and thus be able to study their catechism. In 1828, there were no schools for colored children in this country. Father Joubert and the two young ladies, Elizabeth Lange and Marie Balas, dared to open a school for Negroes in Baltimore. It was mutually agreed that the young ladies could best staff the school as religious, and they were delighted with the priest's proposal to write a rule for them. Thus we have the humble beginnings of the present Saint Frances Academy, which at this writing has been conducted by Oblate Sisters for one hundred and thirty-three years.<sup>2</sup>

Funds for the school were provided by Mrs. Chatard and Mrs. Ducatel, who were intensely interested in the spread of religion. These two ladies, who became the first benefactors of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, were both

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 12.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

wealthy and socially prominent. Madame Chatard was the wife of Doctor Peter Chatard who also served the Oblate Sisters. He sold them a house for much less than he had paid for it and for the rest of his life he gave them medical attention as did his son and grandson. The Chatards have been friends of the Oblates for over a century.<sup>1</sup>

The first building to house the Academy was located on George Street known as Saint Mary's Court. The house was leased and taken possession of on June 13, 1828. During the first year the novices taught eleven boarders and nine day pupils.<sup>2</sup>

Because Father Joubert was so precise and accurate he kept a record of the names of the first pupils admitted to the school. Also in Father Joubert's records is the fact that from the beginning the Oblate Sisters took care of and educated gratuitously poor children. Entered on a separate page of the account book this item occurs:

Entered gratuitously, June 23rd, 1828  
 Germaine, age 12 years, pensionnaire  
 Elise Williams, age 8 years, pensionnaire  
 Jean Williams, age 2, pensionnaire<sup>3</sup>

Besides the names listed above, Father Joubert's records also shows the names of the other scholars entered that first year. They are as follows:

June 1828	Clara Bourgoin. . . . .	Boarder
	The two Sequins . . . . .	Boarders
	(Josephine) Amanda. . . . .	Boarder
	Almaide Luchemin. . . . .	Boarder
	Marie Jacques . . . . .	Day
	Camela Jacques. . . . .	Day
	Lecocadie Dominique . . . . .	Day
	Rose Charles. . . . .	Day

<sup>1</sup>Archival Material, Oblate Sisters' Motherhouse, Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Father Joubert's Records.

July 1828	Julienne Barbe . . . . .	Day
	Lucia Barbe . . . . .	Day
	Adine Deshais . . . . .	Day
	Ursula Deshais . . . . .	Boarder
	Hospillene Deshais . . . . .	Boarder
September	Ann Mills . . . . .	Day
October	Josephine L'Evielle . . . . .	Boarder
	Catherine Craig . . . . .	Boarder
	Susan Wick . . . . .	Day
	Emilia Wick . . . . .	Day
November	Martha Berry . . . . .	Day <sup>1</sup>

In addition to these names four other students listed in Father Joubert's diary left before the year was over.

The Catholic women of Baltimore did all they could to encourage the Sisters and to further their work. With encouragement from all sides the school of the Oblates prospered and they soon had to purchase a larger house on Richmond Street.

Before the Sisters were professed there were twenty-four pupils of school age under their educational care. This does not include the orphans. It seems fitting to mention that some of the girls who finished at the Oblate School conducted highly successful schools for their race in the District of Columbia. Two of them were Martha Costin and Arabella Jones whose names are on the very early records. Arabella Jones' school was called Saint Agnes Academy, and was situated in the District. She was a lover of the English Classics and very proficient in French and music.<sup>2</sup> The school Martha Parke Costin, a pupil of the Oblates in 1832, conducted had first been begun by her sister Louise Parke Costin in her father's house. Their school was found to be up to date and in keeping with the public schools of their time. Information concerning their school was found in "Report on Public Schools in the District of Columbia, May 30, 1858."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Sherwood, op. cit., p. 34.

The prospectus of Saint Frances Academy, probably composed by Father Joubert himself states:

The object of this institution is one of great importance, greater indeed than might at first appear to those who would only glance at the advantages which it is calculated to directly impart to the leading portion of the human race (women?) and through it to society at large. In fact, these girls will either become mothers of families or domestic servants. In the first case the solid virtues, the religious and moral principles which have been acquired in the school will be carefully transferred as a legacy to their children. . . . As to such as are to be employed as servants they will be entrusted with domestic concerns and the care of young children. How important, therefore, that these girls shall have imbibed religious principles and have been trained up in their habits of modesty and integrity.<sup>1</sup>

The subjects taught at that time seem somewhat meager today: reading, writing, French, English, arithmetic, all kinds of fine sewing, embroidery, bead work, and gold work, geography, music, and washing and ironing. To judge the school fairly one must contrast it with the schools of that day. At the elite school in Baltimore, advertising in the same almanac, the subjects of bookkeeping, history, philosophy, and the use of the globes were added but the instruction in needlework was practically the same in both schools, proving how large a place the plying of the needle held in women's lives then.

Tapestry that was done as early as 1829 is still preserved in the Sisters' convent and is often admired by visitors to the convent. Visitors are particularly amazed at the dates which are worked in on the tapestry. Some of the work done by the children in these earlier days is still on display in the halls at Saint Frances Academy today and other pieces are hanging in the halls of the Oblate Sisters of Providence Motherhouse.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 35, 36.

## Terms and Regulations of the School in 1834

Besides the care bestowed on their religious education, the girls of color are taught English, French, Cyphering, and writing, Sewing all its branches, Embroidery, Washing and Ironing.

## Terms (Boarders)

Boarding and tuition, monthly, payable in advance. . . . .	\$4.00
Fuel for the winter quarter. . . . .	1.00
Half-boarding and tuition, monthly, payable in advance . .	2.00
Fuel for the winter quarter. . . . .	.50

## Day Scholars

Tuition, quarterly, payable in advance . . . . .	\$2.00
Fuel for the winter quarter. . . . .	.50
For the use of books, day scholars pay annually. . . . .	.37

Boarders pay an extra charge for books and stationery, the care of the sick, washing and mending, unless parents choose to attend to these objects in person, the whole may be furnished by the school for the sum \$24 annually, but in case of protracted sickness the doctor's bill is added.

The pupils are to be provided, at their entrance, with bed and bedding, they may be furnished by the Sisters for \$3.

The pupils who reside in the City are permitted to dine with them on the first Sunday of every month, and to remain until five o'clock in the winter, and until seven in the summer. This permission, however, may be refused by way of punishment.

Special permission is required to sleep out of school, and is granted only for particular reasons.

The vacation commences on the 10th of August, after the distribution of premiums, and ends on the first Monday in September.

During the vacation the boarders are allowed to remain at school, and no deduction will be made, should they spend it with their parents.<sup>1</sup>

With little change these advertisements continued to appear until after the Civil War when the curriculum expanded. In 1865, the pupils were taught in addition to religious instructions, English, French, arithmetic, geography, history, grammar, orthography, writing, sewing in all its branches, embroidery

<sup>1</sup>The United States Catholic Almanac and Lally's Directory for 1834, p. 125.

in cotton and chenille or gold tapestry, the waxing of fruits, music, and painting. The expansion of the curriculum after the Civil War is indicated in the following table.

TABLE 1\*

## EXPANSION OF THE CURRICULUM OF SAINT FRANCES' ACADEMY AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

Year	Academics	Art	Economic	Commercial
1853	..	Marking Tufted Work, Wax Work	Darning Domestic Economy	..
1859	..	Silk Embroidery	Housekeeping	..
1873	Algebra Natural Philosophy	Fancy Painting	..	..
1875	Latin	Dramatics, Lace Embroidery	..	..
1878	Sacred History	Crewel Work Harp	..	..
1879	..	Hamstitching	Dressmaking	..
1881	Ancient and Modern His- tory	..	..	..
1885	..	Outlining and Cotton Embroidery	..	..
1885	..	Japanese Embroidery	..	..
1889	Spanish Geometry	Roslyn Work	Pastry	Bookkeeping

\*The above data were compiled from the official Catholic Directories.

During the second half of the nineteenth century Saint Frances Academy functioned simultaneously as a boarding school, day school, and orphanage. The Catholic Directory of 1890 lists "sixty-seven pupils" of whom ten are boarders;

seven orphans." Until 1853, the number of pupils did not change much, but in that year one hundred twenty-five pupils are listed, twenty-five of whom were boarders and four orphans. The directories show that in 1864, the tuition was increased to \$22.50.

From the beginning it was the custom of Oblate Sisters to care for orphans. They were at Saint Frances until as late as the 1920's when the Archbishop of Baltimore transferred them to the care of the Franciscan Sisters to leave the Oblates free for their teaching work. But the Oblates are still caring for orphans and this will come up in a later chapter.

At present Saint Frances Academy, located in the heart of Baltimore, at Chase Street and Brentwood Avenue, consists of a high school catering both to day and to boarding students. The present enrollment is two hundred and eleven, sixty-five of whom are boarders. The neighborhood has gone down a great deal in the past few years. The Sisters are hoping to build in the not distant future a new Saint Frances Academy in another neighborhood. The Bishop has already given the necessary permission to build. What they need are the funds.

Saint Frances has state accreditation, and is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Admission is granted to those submitting a transcript of credits for work done previously, or more often to those passing an entrance examination in the required subjects.

The faculty is composed of fourteen Oblate Sisters of Providence who hold degrees from leading Catholic Colleges throughout the United States.<sup>1</sup> The scholastic year is divided into two semesters. The first begins in September and ends in January. The second begins the first of February and ends with the June commencement.

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<sup>1</sup>Archival Material. Oblate Sisters' Motherhouse, Baltimore, Maryland.

The school is equipped to meet modern demands. It has large, bright classrooms, a recreation room, dining halls, and attractive dormitories, a library and six thousand volumes under the supervision of a trained librarian, a cafeteria for the use of day students, food laboratory with gas fixtures and individual utensils, as well as a large hotel bake-oven, a clothing laboratory with facilities for hand and machine sewing, and an auditorium.<sup>1</sup>

A modern academic program is followed at Saint Frances Academy. It comprises the classical and general curricula. Monthly test and examinations, together with daily classwork, determine the students' scholastic standing. To be graduated from the Academy a girl must achieve a passing average of seventy in all subjects. The same average is needed to pass on to the next class.

Tables 2 and 3 show the classical and general curricula and their credit value as they were in 1942. Tables 4 and 5 show the curricula as they are today.

The Academy has many student organizations with programs embracing different phases of student life. Some are religious and others promote activities of various kinds; among them are: Saint Martin's Union, Sodality of Our Lady, Catholic Youth Organization, Newman Club, Urban League, Ladies Auxiliary, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, YMCA, School Paper, Choral Club, Bowling League, Alpha Psi Omega, Delta Sigma Theta, American Guild, Third Order of Saint Dominic, Future Teachers of America, and Housing Committee of Family Service.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Records, Saint Frances Academy, Baltimore, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

TABLE 2\*

## THE CLASSICAL CURRICULUM OF SAINT FRANCES ACADEMY--1942

Subject	Periods per week	No. of years	Units
Religion . . . . .	5	4	..
English. . . . .	5	4	4
Latin. . . . .	5	2	2
Mathematics. . . . .	5	2	2
Social Studies . . . . .	5	4	4
Problems of Democracy. . . . .	3	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
General Science. . . . .	3	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Science. . . . .	5	2	2
Modern Language. . . . .	5	2	2
Home Economics . . . . .	3	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Physical Education-A	3	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Physical Education-B . . . . .	2	2	..
Music (Vocal). . . . .	2	4	..
Music (Instrumental) . . . . .	3	4	..
Total			18

\*From the Records of Saint Frances Academy.

TABLE 3\*

## THE GENERAL CURRICULUM OF SAINT FRANCES ACADEMY-1942

Subject	Periods per week	No. of years	Units
Religion . . . . .	5	4	..
English. . . . .	5	4	4
Mathematics. . . . .	5	2	2
Modern Language. . . . .	5	2	2
Social Studies . . . . .	5	3	3
General Science. . . . .	3	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Science. . . . .	5	2	2
Home Economics . . . . .	5	3	3
Physical Education . . . . .	2	4	..
Music (Vocal). . . . .	2	4	..
Music (Instrumental) . . . . .	3	4	..
Total			16 $\frac{1}{2}$

\*From the Records of Saint Frances Academy.

TABLE 4\*

## THE ACADEMIC COURSE-1952

First Year	Second Year
Religion	Religion
English	English
World History	Algebra II
Algebra I	French or Spanish
General Science	Hygiene
Physical Education	World Geography
Music	Physical Education
French or Spanish	Music
Typing or Shorthand (electives)	Typing and Shorthand (electives)
Third Year	Fourth Year
Religion	Religion
English	English
United States History	Problems of Democracy
Latin I	Latin II
Biology	Trigonometry (elective)
Geometry	Chemistry
Physical Education	Physical Education
Music	Music
Typing and Shorthand (electives)	Typing and Shorthand (elective)

\*From the Records of Saint Frances Academy.

TABLE 5  
THE GENERAL COURSE-1962

First Year	Second Year
Religion	Religion
English	English
Algebra	Food and Nutrition
French or Spanish	French or Spanish
General Science	Hygiene
Physical Education	World Geography
Music	Physical Education
Typing and Shorthand (electives)	Music
	Typing and Shorthand (electives)
Third Year	Fourth Year
Religion	Religion
English	English
United States History	Problems of Democracy
Clothing	Home Management
Biology	Art
Physical Education	Physical Education
Music	Typing and Shorthand (electives)
Typing and Shorthand (electives)	

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\*From the Records of Saint Frances Academy.

Saint Frances Academy is a flourishing school today, and it stands as a noble monument to the pioneer efforts of those who carried it through the dark days of trial to the steady development which called forth the glowing tribute paid to the Sisters in 1871 by the Commissioner of Education:

In this connection it is not inappropriate to give some account of this school, which has done so valuable a work for the education of the colored people of the District and the country at large. For many years it was the only colored school within reach of the colored people of this District, in which anything was attempted beyond the rough primary training of the promiscuous school, and there are women who still live in this District and elsewhere, whose well-bred families owe their refinements largely to the culture which the mothers of a quarter of a century ago, or more, received in this female seminary. It was here that many of the first well-trained colored teachers were educated for the work in this Capital. . . . The Academy has always been well patronized, comprising girls from every part of the South as well before as since the War. The number the past year was some 170, of which forty-five were boarders, a large number being from Washington and Georgetown. Attached to the convent is also a free school for girls and an orphan asylum, and until last year (1868) they had for many years maintained a school for boys. In 1852 some of these Sisters established a female seminary in Philadelphia, which has been very successful. There is also a colored female school in Washington under the care and instruction of teachers formerly attached to this sisterhood. For nearly a quarter of a century this seminary at Baltimore was the school in which most of the colored girls in the District, who were so fortunate as to receive any of the refinements of school culture, reported for their training from the foundation of the convent down to 1852.<sup>1</sup>

Many of the girls who were graduated from Saint Frances Academy have attended institutions of higher learning in many states. Some of the colleges and Universities attended were: Coppin State, Morgan State, Notre Dame of Maryland, Howard University, Catholic University, Baltimore Junior College, Mount Saint Agnes, Hampton Institute, Bennett College, Xavier University, Regis College, Wilson Junior College, D.C. Teachers College, N.Y.U. Business School,

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<sup>1</sup>M. B. Goodwin, Special Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1871, pp. 205-206.

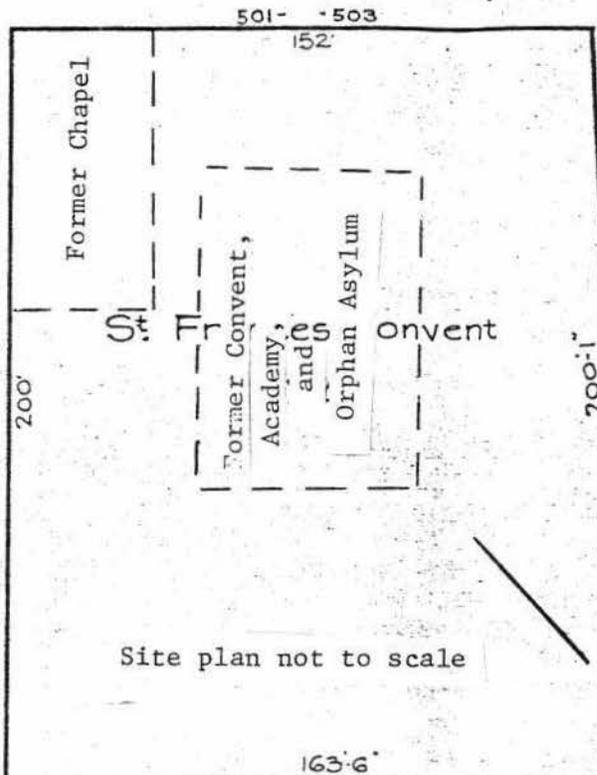


E. CHASE

ST.

AVE.

ST.



ST. FRANCES ACADEMY COMPLEX  
 501 East Chase Street  
 B-981

1003	1005	1007	1009	1011	1013	1015	1017	1019	1021	25	80'	10'	74'	23	18.3	
14.5	15-11	16'	16.5	16'	16'	16'	16'	16'	16.5	26			75'	22	14.2	
										27			76'	21	13.5	
										28			76.6	20	13.5	
										29			77'	19	14.1	
										30			78'	18	14.2	
										31			79'	17	13.10	
										32			80'	16	14'	
										33			80.6	15	14'	
										34	80'	10'	81'	14	15.5	
1000	1002	1004	1006	1008	1010	1012	1014	1016	1018	1020	Alley	10'		82'	13	13'

BRENTWOOD

EST

75'						76'				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.3	14.1	14.1	13.11	14'	14.1	13.11	14.10	15.2	15.1	15.1
500	502	504	506	508	510	512	514	516	518	520

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS  
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 10 SECTION 5

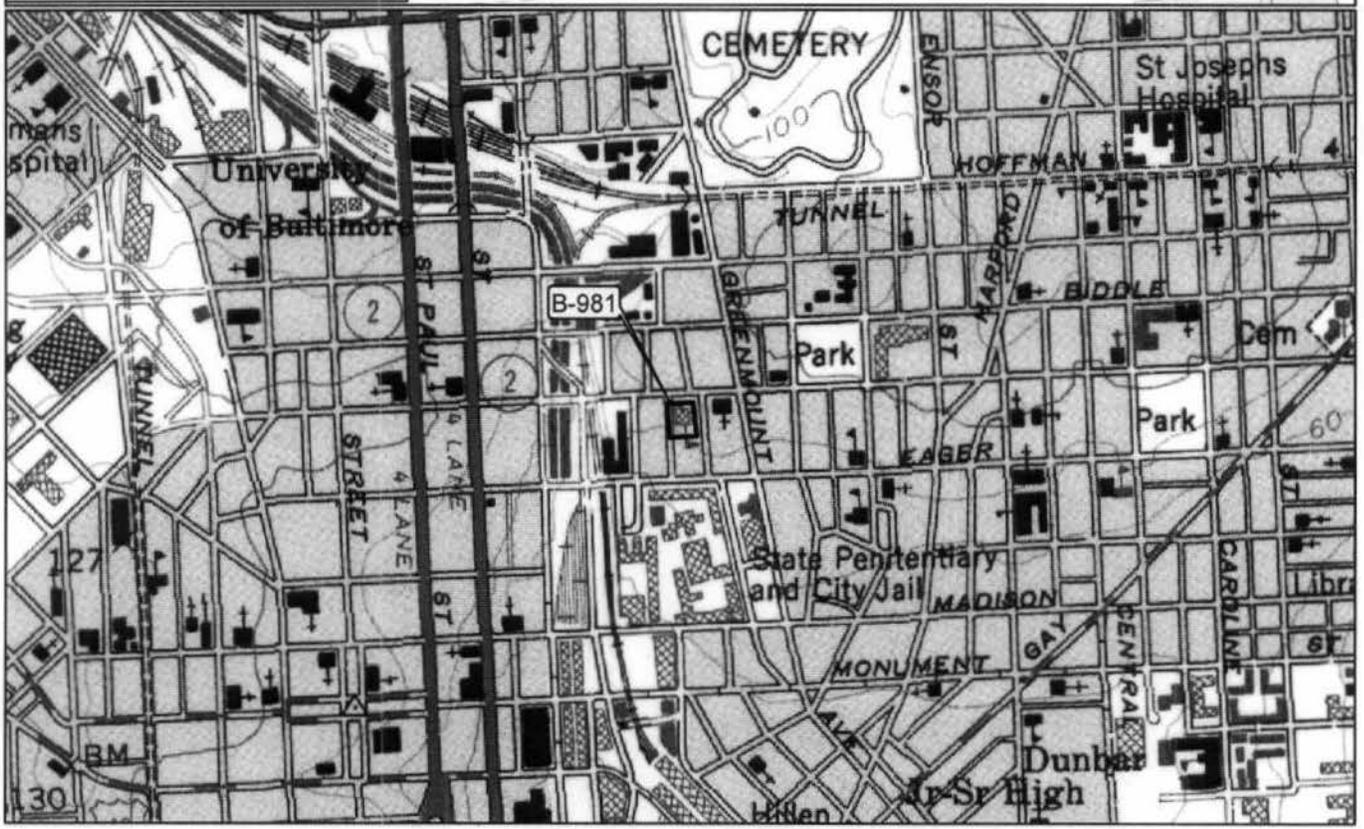
BLOCK 1180

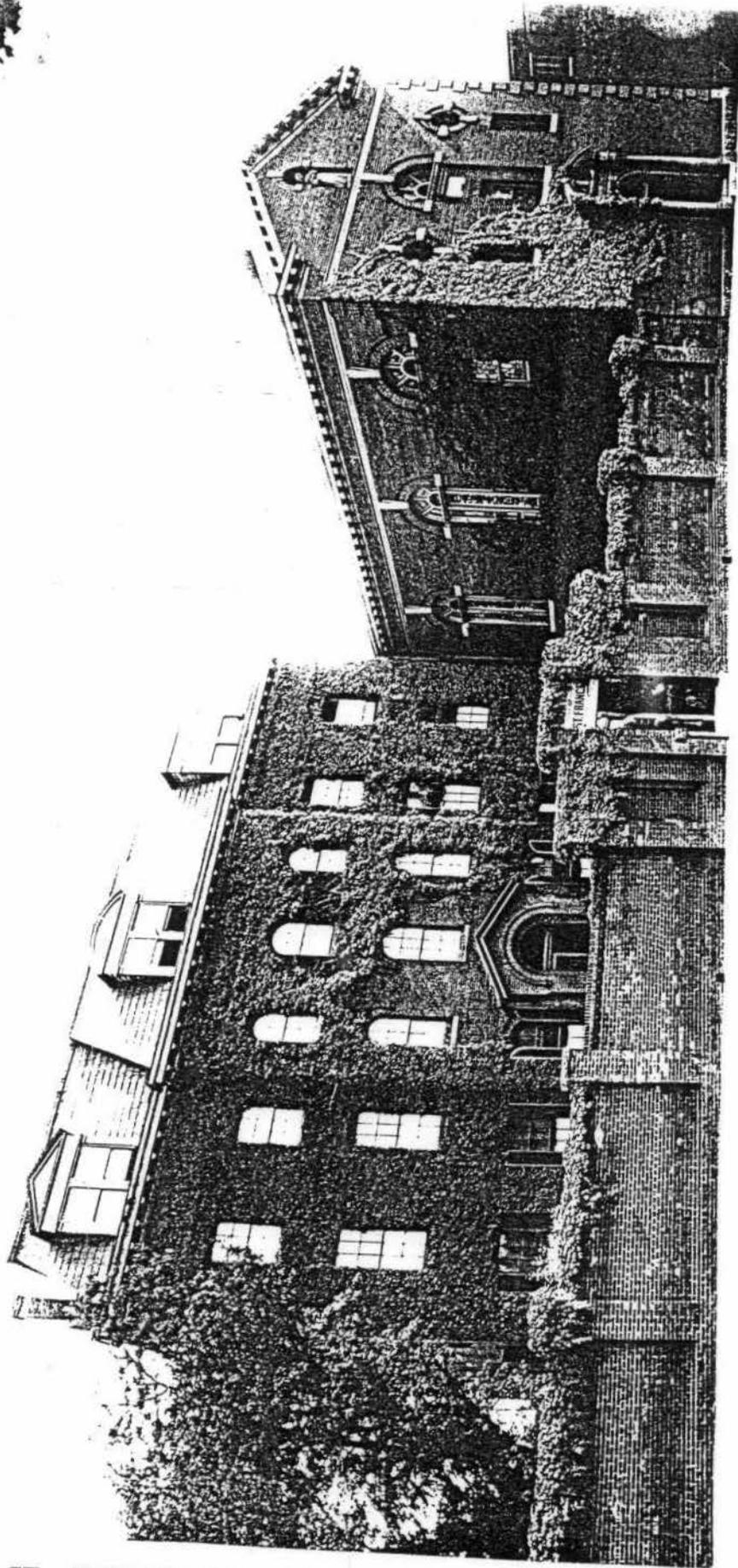
SCALE 1 INCH = 50 FT. DATE May 1929

B-981  
St. Francis Academy  
501 E. Chase Street  
Block 1180, Lot 024  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

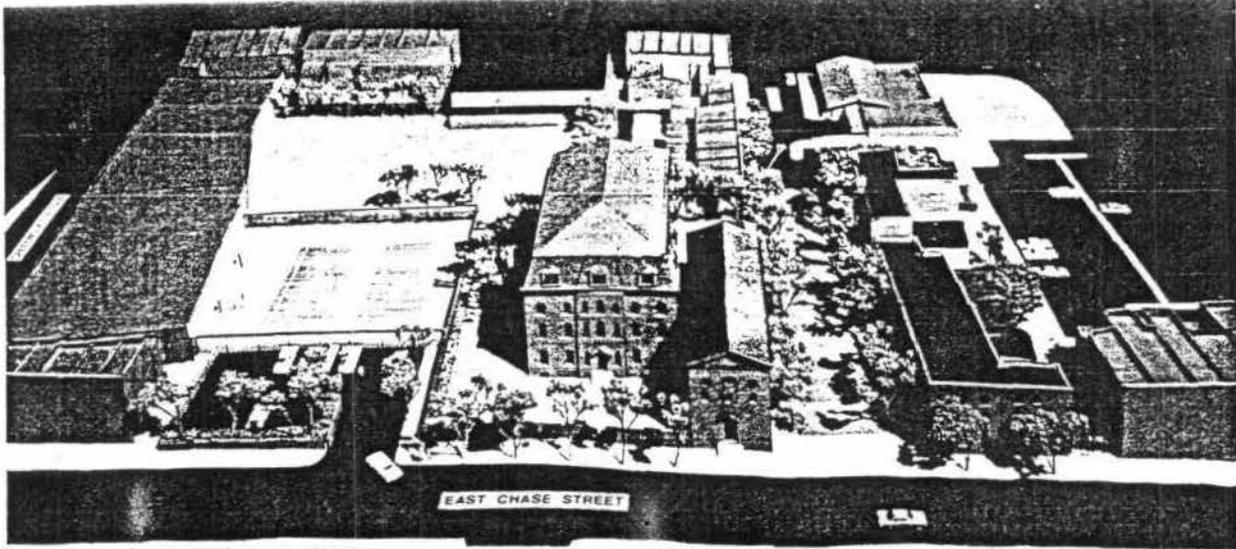




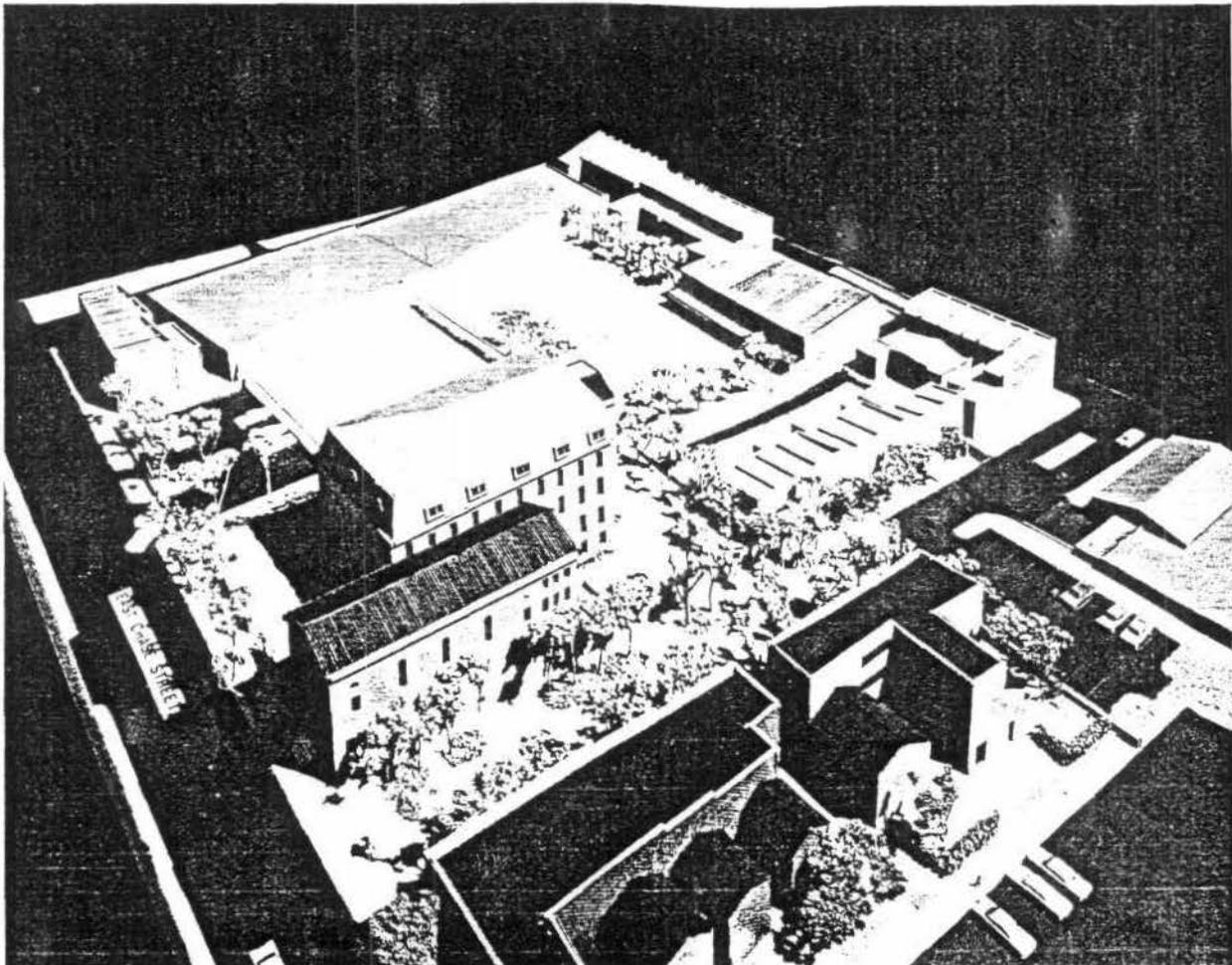
ST. FRANCES CONVENT AND CHAPEL, CA. 1910

Prints and Photographs, Library, Maryland Historical Society. PP8.655

B-981



MASTER PLAN - ST. FRANCES ACADEMY  
BRENTWOOD FORREST AREA - BALTIMORE CITY  
CONDUCTED BY  
OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE  
GAUDREAU INC - ARCHITECTS - MARCH 1977



150th Anniversary Oblate Sisters of Providence, (Baltimore, MD.:Oblate Sisters of Providence. [1979]), p.38?



St. Frances Academy

B-981

501 E. Chase St.

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: June 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

North elevation-school

1/4



St. Frances Academy

B-981

501 E. Chase St.

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: June 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Northwest corner view-chapel

2/4



St. Frances Academy

B-981

501 E. Chase St.

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: June 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southwest corner view

3/4



St. Frances Academy  
501 E. Chase St.  
Baltimore (City), Maryland

B-981

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: June 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
North elevation-main entrance-school

4/4



St. Frances Academy B.

B-981

Photo by  
Ron Houghton

Oblate Sisters of Providence

Oldest Order of Black Nuns in US