

A



Photo by Greg Frost

- A) The most elaborate portion of the exterior is the two-story Italian Renaissance Baroque front-piece with arches, niches and sculpture. Decorative elements on the building range from the 15th to 17th centuries.
- B) The beautiful mosaic in the chapel apse depicts the presentation of the Blessed Mother. It was imported from Germany at a cost of \$18,150.
- C) The Bruening Library, which originally held 35,000 volumes, cost \$53,000 to construct.
- D) The tiled dome over the Library is at the center of the complex.



HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR WOMEN

Promoting Recovery on a Campus Built for Religious Education

By Michael Fleenor

Since 1996, the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) has engaged with hundreds of sacred landmarks, providing impartial advice, technical assistance, and educational programs. Made possible by the Reinhold Erickson Fund from the Cleveland Foundation, CRS has helped sacred structures repair and light steeples, towers, and domes across the city. In 2014, CRS formed the Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative with a goal to assist highly significant sacred structures in preservation matters before they become an emergency.



Photo by Tom Truelson



Photo by Greg Frost

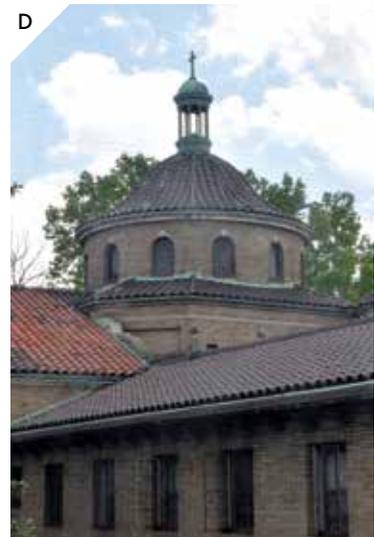


Photo by Tom Truelson

The committee began by identifying the most significant sacred landmarks in the region based on the following factors: architectural integrity and/or association with renowned architect, interior artistry, important stained glass, or special artifacts. As one might expect in a Legacy City like Cleveland, the identified buildings rate under several criteria. Many of these structures are in use as places of worship. Others have been adapted over time to meet the changing needs and demographics of their neighborhoods. One of the most compelling adapted sacred structures is the Hitchcock Center for Women, formerly St. Mary Seminary.

Ground was broken for St. Mary Seminary March 19, 1924. Located on Ansel Road overlooking Rockefeller Park, this was the second location of the diocesan seminary; the first was constructed in 1848 and located at East 6th and St. Clair. At the time that it was built,

St. Mary's was surrounded by impressive ecclesiastical architecture. The campus of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and school was across the street from St. Mary's, and designed in the Romanesque style, with imposing domes and sturdy stone. To the east was Notre Dame Academy, a soaring Gothic Revival style building. This secluded campus allowed those contemplating a vocation in the priesthood to study in an architecturally inspiring setting.

In 1989, Bishop Anthony Pilla conducted a comprehensive consultative process to determine the future direction of priestly formation within the Diocese of Cleveland. It was decided that programs to prepare pastoral ministers, permanent deacons, and priests be consolidated and housed at St. Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe. In 1992, the diocese sold the 95,000 square-foot St. Mary Seminary building to the Hitchcock Center for Women.



Photo by Ian Fess

The Hitchcock Center for Women was founded in 1978 by Jayne Mazzarella, a nurse working at Women's General Hospital in Cleveland. It was during this work that Ms. Mazzarella recognized that women recovering from addiction had different needs from men, so she set out to establish a center that catered specially to women. The Hitchcock Center for Women is an innovative addiction treatment facility and the only provider in Cuyahoga County that focuses on women and their families, allowing patients to have their children live with them while they seek treatment. Celebrating 40 years, the Hitchcock Center for Women remains a leader in substance abuse treatment for women, carrying out the mission to "wholistically empower women to achieve and maintain productive, chemically-free lives at home, at work, and in the community." (<http://hcfw.org/about-us/>)

The first center was located on Magnolia Drive in University Circle in a house donated by the Hitchcock Family, founders of Reliance Electric. The center later moved

to the former Euclid Avenue Congregational Church before purchasing St. Mary Seminary. Adapting the former seminary to the rehabilitation center has made perfect use of the large, cloistered complex of private rooms and social spaces, dining rooms, classrooms, and gymnasium.

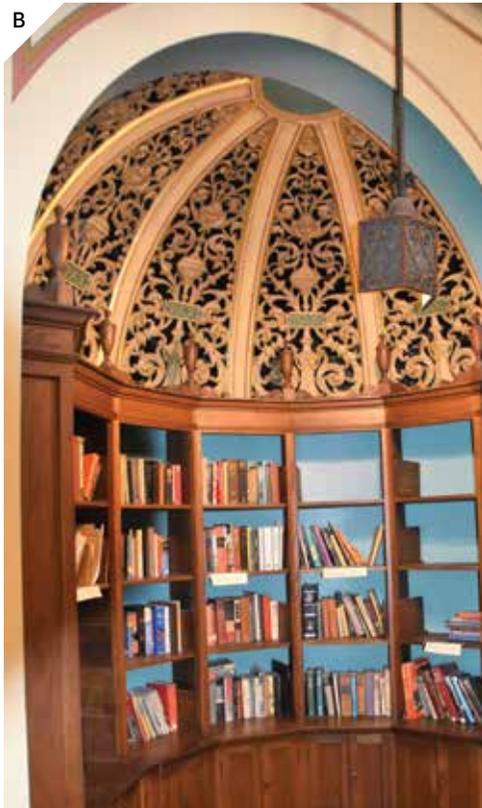
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Built in the Spanish Mission Style, the building is impressive and architecturally masterful. The projecting central pavilion possesses a curved gable in Rococo style, flanked by twin octagonal towers with a Spanish tile roof. The central dome is supported by pendentives and is reminiscent of earlier Byzantine churches. This central pavilion enters into a lobby

that leads to a richly decorated chapel. The chapel has an open beamed ceiling and a beautiful mosaic tiled apse. There are twenty-four figurative stained glass windows by Zettler of Munich. Above the entry in the central dome on the second floor is the library, another magnificent space with decorative plaster, woodwork, and ironwork.



A



B

Photo by Tom Truelson



D

Photo by Greg Frost



- A) At almost 95,000 square feet, the complex is built around two lovely courtyards, providing a private retreat for residents.
- B) The Library is richly decorated with stained glass, oak, marble, and raw iron metal grillwork.
- C) The windows in the chapel, by F.X. Zettler Studio of Munich, Germany, depict the four Evangelists, Peter & Paul, the Major Prophets, and the Latin and Greek Fathers of the Church.
- D) The Seminary took a full year to construct and students moved into one wing while it was being finished. Repointing the elaborate limestone wall caps and trim is a priority.

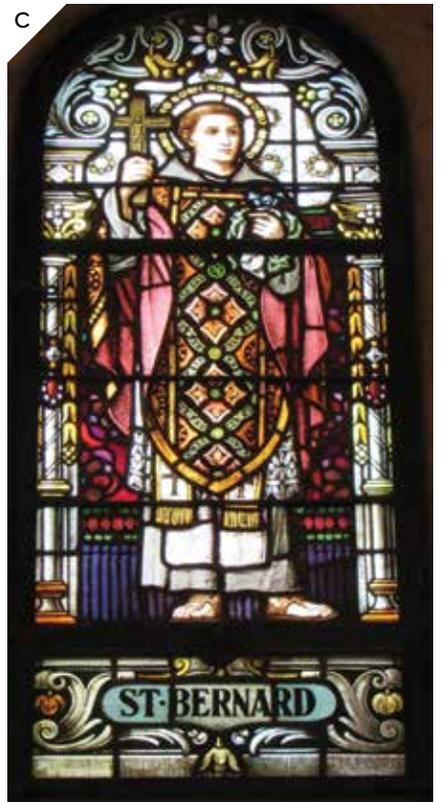


Photo by Janet Lipstreu

The Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative building experts completed a comprehensive survey of the building that included assessments in the following categories: ADA Access, Code and Life Safety, Exterior Envelope, Interior Assemblies, Building Systems, Environmental Hazards, Structure and Site. Each area was graded Good, Fair, or Poor with supporting comments. A number of investigative techniques were employed to complete the survey including the use of a drone to look at the roof. The committee then created an in-depth report that prioritized both short-term triage approaches as well as a long-term rehabilitation program. Major areas of concern include tile roof repair, masonry

repair, steel casement window repair, stained glass restoration, and plaster deterioration. Many thanks to the project team of generous volunteers: Denk Associates Consulting Engineers; First Choice Roofing; Frost Architectural Preservation; Jamieson Ricca Fenestration; One Constructive Services, Ltd.; Weber Murphy Fox Architecture; and Whitney Stained Glass.

With a plan for continued maintenance and repair, the Hitchcock Center for Women can continue their mission of treating women and their families in a safe, comfortable, and inspirational space. ❖