

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. MARY'S ACADEMY AND COLLEGE IN PRAIRIE DU CHIEN LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Prairie Du Chien, Wis. – The Wisconsin Historical Society has announced the listing of the St. Mary's Academy and College in Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, in the National Register of Historic Places. National Register designation provides access to certain benefits, including qualification for grants and for rehabilitation income tax credits, while it does not restrict private property owners in the use of their property.

St. Mary's Academy and College was an all-female Catholic school that operated in the building between 1872 and 1961. St. Mary's was one of the only Catholic girls' schools operating in the region during the late-nineteenth century and drew students from throughout the Midwest, particularly Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. In 1913, the school became the first four-year Catholic college for women established in Wisconsin. St. Mary's College relocated to Milwaukee in 1929 (with the new name Mount Mary College), but the complex in Prairie du Chien continued to serve as a preparatory high school for girls until 1961.

St. Mary's was constructed in 1872 in the Italianate style with major additions built over a period of four decades; the last addition was built in 1914. The additions were designed to be stylistically consistent with the original building. As a result, the building is an impressive example of the Italianate style applied to a large institutional building.

The register is the official national list of historic properties in America deemed worthy of preservation and is maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Wisconsin Historical Society administers the program within Wisconsin. It includes **sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts** that are significant in national, state or local history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

To learn more about the State and National Register programs in Wisconsin, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.

About Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing

stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit wisconsinhistory.org.

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Documents and/or Photos available for this release:

Caption(s):
St. Mary's Academy and College

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