



SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS COLLEGE

GUERIN HALL

Anne-Thérèse Guérin Hall is named in honor of the foundress of the Sisters of Providence, whose name is inscribed along the top of the building. It is Renaissance Revival with an ornate front entrance featuring heavily carved Indiana limestone Corinthian capitals on pilasters. The contrast between brick and stone makes the pilasters more prominent. The porch incorporates common features of the Italianate period: scrolls, leaves and fruit garland. Carved stone lion head brackets near the front door function as drains to carry off rainwater from the 2nd floor balcony; the lion's face consoles have an almost human quality in their faces. The two-story, octagonal rotunda balcony is supported by Ionic columns; decoration is scagliola and faux painting. The building surrounds a central, open courtyard, which allows natural light into all the rooms. Along the interior west hallway is the "Little Theater," which still is used for College performances.

Originally built as a classroom building and residence hall, Guerin Hall housed the entire College student body until January 1924. Following the construction of Le Fer Hall, Guerin housed freshmen students. Former laboratories, a social hall and reception rooms have been repurposed as administrative and academic offices and classrooms. Today, the building houses administrative offices, classrooms several apartments for visiting professors and other staff members.

Conservatory of Music and Guerin Hall

With the prospect of a four-year college at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods came the need for further building. The Academy building had sufficed for the students to this point, but their numbers were increasing each year. From its graduating class of one in 1860 to twenty in 1910, the numbers increased to forty-two Academy graduates and fourteen College graduates by 1920. Since it was considered inappropriate to have the Academy and the College students housed in the same facility; plans were begun in 1911 for two buildings, one primarily a residence hall for the College students, the other a Conservatory of Music.

On August 11, 1911 the contracts for the erection of the new College Building and the Conservatory of Music are let. The contracts for the two buildings are given to the Bedford Stone and Construction Co., the lowest bidders. Their figures are \$441,800. Owing to recent legislation in regard to Communities' borrowing money, application was made through our Cardinal Protector to the S.C. of Religious for permission to borrow \$250,000. The permission granted by rescript, dated March 9, 1911. The loan was adjusted with the Massachusetts Loan Association.

Both buildings were erected in the Renaissance style mirroring the American popular taste of the time. In the decades following the Civil War, domestic architecture in particular reflected the influence of the French Second Empire, with this interest in the Renaissance and Baroque period, and the so-called Queen Anne Revival in England.

It was 1913 before these two buildings were completed and ready for dedication. On October 12, 1913, Chartrand, the coadjutor bishop, blessed both buildings. At the High Mass, the Afcostolic Delegate John Bonzano officiated and Chartrand preached.