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Six educational and residential buildings surround the central quadrangle of St. Stanislaus Seminary, including three buildings of nineteenth and three of twentieth-century origin. These Seminary buildings are situated on the east side of Howdershell Road, one-half mile south of the junction of Howdershell and Charbonier Roads, in Florissant, Missouri (St. Louis County). Included on the Seminary grounds are various other structures of religious and administrative function, but all are of later origin. An exception is the early brick barn located west of Howdershell Road opposite the quadrangle. The large tract upon which the barn is situated is being sold for residential development by the Missouri Province Educational Institute, the curators of St. Stanislaus Seminary. Likewise, the Province must dispose of the buildings constructed in more recent years, including the Chapel (1923), the Novitiate (1950), and the new Juniorate (1942). These newer quarters, situated in a row north of the historic buildings, do not especially conform to the architecture of the early structures hereby presented for inclusion in the National Register of Historic The Missouri Province Educational Institute is negotiating to sell the later buildings to a new occupant who has given assurances they will not structurally alter the three, but will need to significantly modify all interiors to conform to a new, possibly secular, function. The Jesuits will retain in their possession the Rock Building, the Tertian Building, the Juniorate, and approximately 100 acres of parkland fronting the three early structures. These historic buildings should be recognized as the St. Stanislaus Seminary Historic District.

The Rock Building, facing east-north-east away from the quadrangle. is a three-and-one-half story limestone-block building constructed in broken courses of cut stone in a modified Federal style of architecture. Completed in 1849, the Seminary remains today in nearly unaltered The east (primary) facade of the structure is divided into nine-bays, of which five are projected: three central and two end bays. Each bay contains a double-hung sash window of twelve-overtwelve lights on the first floor, an eight-over-twelve light on the second floor, and an eight-light casement window on the third. Basement windows are six-light and of steel-frame design, obviously a later addition. Stone lintels appear above all windows. (probably original) appear on the first, second and third floor windows, but not on the basement, and the absence of hooks suggest no shutters have ever been used on the ground floor windows. Entrance to the Rock Building is provided through a doorway in the central bay sheltered by a Greek Revival porch and surrounded by a rock stairway with concrete risers (probably a later addition or modification). A recessed doorway appears in the central bay at the second floor level, surrounded by several side-panel lights and embellished by a bracketed entablature and a statue of the Virgin Mary. A pediment three-bays in width rises modestly above the central bays

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Building at St. Stanislaus Seminary, Florissant, Missouri, is significant as the earliest surviving structure at the first Jesuit novitiate established west of the Mississippi River. Completed in 1849, the Rock Building was the first permanent building at the novitiate, designed to replace less substantial structures which had quartered the seminary since its founding. (Gilbert J. Garraghan, Jesuits of the Middle United States, 1938, I, 604-606). Stanislaus Seminary was established in 1823 as a mission school to train Indian children from the neighboring tribes of the Missouri Valley. Built upon a farm in St. Louis County donated to the Society of Jesus by the Bishop of Louisiana, Bishop William DuBourg, the Indian school began instruction in the log farm buildings which had quartered DuBourg's tenant. By the fall of 1824 a large log cabin had been built to suppliment the farm dwellings, providing adequate facilities for the school. An additional frame house was erected on the site during 1828 and teaching continued in the wooden school buildings until completion of the Rock Building.

Construction of the Rock Building commenced in June, 1840, and the cornerstone was dedicated in 1844. (The Story of One-Hundred Years at St. Stanislaus Seminary, 1923, 3-4). Bricks for the walls were fired at the seminary and limestone blocks for the foundation and exterior were hauled overland from the bluffs of the Missouri River. Jesuit brothers, novices, and slaves in residence at St. Stanislaus Seminary provided all of the labor necessary to complete the Rock Building, including blasting, transporting and cutting limestone used in the construction. The foundation was completed above the ground level before 1844. The Rock Building was dedicated in 1849, and the first mass in the new novitiate was said on July 29th of that year. One Jesuit resident boastfully described the edifice as "the best building in the whole state of Missouri for solidity, convenience, and elegence." (Garraghan, I, 1938, 604).

Bishop DuBourg initially conceived the establishment of a seminary to minister to the Indians of the Louisiana Territory. The Bishop had reasoned that the spiritual needs of the tribes had been neglected and he had attempted to encourage individual Jesuit missionaries to journey into the lower Missouri and Osage Valleys to

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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6. #1

ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY

THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (John A. Bryan)

Published: The St. Louis Architectural Club

1928

Code: 29

Historic American Buildings Survey

National

Historic American Buildings Survey

National Park Service Washington, D.C. 20020

1941

Code:

08

Missouri State Historical Survey

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Missouri State Park Board

Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

1971

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One-Hundred Historic Buildings in St. Louis County

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St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

Clayton, Missouri 63105

1970

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7. #1 ST.STANISLAUS SEMINARY THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

to a height equal to the peak of the roof, and a modest cornice appears along all nine bays, extending slightly along each side elevation. The size of the limestone building blocks is fairly consistent throughout all facades except larger stones are to be found in the quoin pattern. An octagonal columnated cupola projects from the middle of the slated gable-roof.

The west (rear) facade is quite similar to the front elevation, although most embellishments have been removed and the projected bays eliminated. The molded cornice reappears on the rear and the window pattern has been duplicated from the main elevation. Stone lintels also appear above all windows. An archway similar to those at both ends of the buildings has been removed from the central bay, leaving a large scar from repair work. A smaller window and door have been added to the bay from which the passageway was removed, but the wall of the Rock Building was patched with stones similar in size and texture to the original work. A stone stairway leading to the central rear door has obviously been added at a later date and the third-story window in the central rear bay deviates from all others at that level as it is a double-hung sash type.

The north and south facades of the Rock Building are quite similar, both being dominated by the chimney and parapet arrangement so typical of many ante-bellum Missouri homes. Windows in these two elevations follow a regular pattern: twelve-over-twelve lights on the first floor, eight-over-twelve on the second, and casement windows in the third story. One small basement window in the south elevation has been closed with stone, probably at an early date. Two identical wooden archways project from the center of both north and south walls at the first and second stories to connect the Rock Building with two flanking structures.

The companion buildings south and north of the Rock Building, the Juniorate and the Tertian Building, were constructed in 1898-1900 as additional residences and school facilities for the Seminary. Although the buildings were constructed of brick on a squared-rubble foundation, a certain architectural compatibility was maintained with the Rock Building, especially in the similarity of front porch design and the placement of statuary above the entranceway. In both buildings, however, a decorated gable dormer replaces the central pediment, and many variations in roof style, window arrangement and cornice design appear. The companion buildings reflect a greater opulence and desire for splendor typical of late-Victorian construction, but many forms were

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7. #2 ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

obviously variations adopted from the older building. Both structures were built on a rectangular plan, with front facades divided into three-bays and side elevations of seven bays. The middle bay on both front elevations is projected similar to the Rock Building. Both the Juniorate and Tertian Building have truncated hip-roofs of slate, although dormers were added to the Tertian Building about 1930. The southern appendage to the Juniorate was added in 1914, giving the building an "L-plan" appearance. Although the style of the original building was carefully executed in the addition, the foundation of the newer wing is concrete and a mortar line is evident on the north wall. The Juniorate and Tertian buildings were both constructed of identical design with many similar embellishments, but subsequent modifications especially to the Juniorate have given this building a very unique appearance.

The front facades of both companion buildings are identical except for the use of double windows on the second and third floors of the Juniorate. Both structures have rounded-arch, two-over-two light windows on the first floor flanking an arched doorway. Second floor windows are likewise two-over-two light, double-hung sash type, but are embellished with a modest brick shelf above and a decorated lug sill below each pair of windows. Top floor windows do not feature the extensive brickwork but the lug sill is retained and third-floor windows in both central bays are framed in molded trim of stone. Brickwork on both buildings is arranged in Flemish bond and a boxed cornice predominates with paired brackets separating the bays at the roofline. The walls of each elevation are articulated with recessed panels framing the window and door openings, and a stone belt divided each facade between the first and second floors.

The general pattern on the front facades is maintained on all other elevations of the companion buildings except for the rear wall of the Tertian Building which has a parapet gable and windows only in the middle bay. A passageway to a demolished building has been removed from this wall. The south elevation of the Tertian Building also displays certain variations with regard to the placement of windows, and a one-story wooden bay has been appended at the center of the first floor.

The interiors of all three buildings exhibit a similarity of plan. The Rock Building once contained a chapel, but it had been removed to provide classrooms and residential accommodations. Many similar rooms of varying dimension flank a long north-south central corridor on each floor, and many of these rooms have been designated special functions,

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7. #3

ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY.
THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

such as small libraries and offices. A similar plan predominates in the Tertian Building, which was constructed as a school and dormatory. But the interior of the Juniorate, once quite similar to the Tertian Building, has been extensively remodeled for an infirmary and a library. But with the exception of the old addition to the Juniorate, and a modest number of window and door alterations, the three old Seminary buildings at St. Stanislaus remain basically intact as they were constructed.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. #1 ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

proselytise. As early as 1820, the Bishop of Louisiana had been successful in convincing a few priests to venture into interior Missouri, where they ministered principally to the Osage tribe, baptising many children and spreading the Faith. (William B. Faherty, Better the Dream. St. Louis: University and Community 1818-1968, 1968, 11-12. Nina DosSantos [(trans.)], "Letters Concerning Some Missions of the Upper Mississippi Valley, A.D. 1818-1827, "Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, XIV, (1903), 141-153). The receptiveness of the tribesmen to the Jesuit "Black Robes" encouraged DuBourg to petition the United States Government for financial assistance in the missionary endeavor. The Bishop furthermore assured President Monroe that the Jesuits would secure the loyalty of the tribes to the American Republic. (John Rothensteiner, History of the Archdiosces of St. Louis, 1673-1928, I, 1928, 322). Following a lengthy communication with Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, Bishop DuBourg became aware that a more effective method of "civilizing" the tribes was to bring young Indians to a mission school near a major settlement where the childrens' contact with white society would be more intensive and complete.

The Bishop's plan for the establishment of an Indian school in Missouri coincided with an increasing interest in Indian affairs within the Monroe Administration. Liberated temporarily from foreign gonsiderations through the Monroe Doctrine, the Administration had begun to emphasize internal matters after 1823, and the problems of tranquility with frontier Indians commanded special attention. Since the missionary aspirations of Bishop DuBourg were compatible with the Government's Indian policy, Secretary Calhoun promised financial assistance if the Bishop could persuade a Jesuit order to establish a school for Indian instruction near St. Louis. Congress had appropriated \$10,000 for maintenence of such schools, and the Administration had agreed to subsidize two-thirds of the construction cost. (Rothensteiner, 1928, I, 322. [(Calhoun's circular, dated February, 1820, is published in American Catholic Historical Researches, X, 154-159)]). Calhoun furthermore promised a grant of \$200 per annum for each missionary the Bishop dispatched among the tribes of his diosces.

Encouraged by the promise of Government support, the Bishop offered his farm in Florissant to any Jesuit province desiring to send mission-aries to the Missouri frontier to establish a seminary and Indian school. Writing to Calhoun in March, 1823, Bishop DuBourg stated the seminary would be used to study "the manners of the Indians...and the arts best adapted to the great purpose of civilization." Convinced of

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8. #2 ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

the Bishop's sincerity, Calhoun pledged an additional \$800 annual stipend to support the school. (Calhoun to DuBourg, in Rothensteiner, 1928; I, 326). Having secured financial assurance from the Monroe Administration, (an obligation never fulfilled by the Government), the Bishop solicited the Maryland Province Jesuits to send volunteers to Missouri to operate the school. He received an enthusiastic response from the financially insolvent Whitemarsh Novitiate in the State of Maryland. Suffering a prolonged antagonism with the Archbishop of Baltimore, the small Novitiate was perpetually threatened by a dispute concerning the title of ownership to their lands. Consequently, an opportunity for a portion of the Novitiate to move to the frontier and re-establish the seminary near the Missouri River appealed to the Jesuits of Whitemarsh. On May 23, 1823, twelve Jesuits from Whitemarsh, under the leadership of Father Charles Felix VanQuickenborne, arrived at Bishop DuBourg's farm in Florissant and established the first Indian School in the Louisiana Purchase, St. Stanislaus. (Garraghan, 1938, 73, 79. A transcript of the "Concordat " or agreement between the Bishop of Louisiana and the Society of Jesus is preserved in the Archives of the Archdiosces of St. Louis, quoted in entirety in Rothensteiner, 1928, I, 329-331).

Primarily because of the Government's failure to provide the promised subsidy, the small school at Florissant began to decline and was forced to suspend Indian instruction after 1830. Furthermore, by 1830, eastern Missouri had been traversed by the westward expansion of the frontier and Indian tribes had been pushed south and westward out of the lower Missouri and Osage Valleys. Indians were rarely to be seen in St. Louis after 1830. Consequently the necessity for maintenence of an Indian school at Florissant became more difficult to justify and the Seminary began to concentrate entirely upon preparing missionaries. In this capacity St. Stanislaus flourished, especially during the late 1840's as Jesuit exiles from Europe came to America, and as the demand for instructors in the western missions increased. Such influential Priests as Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, whose work among the tribes of the upper Missouri is legendary, received his seminary training at St. Stanislaus. (Pierre Jean DeSmet, S.J., Letters and Sketches, 1843, passim. Hiram Chittenden and Alfred Richardson, Letters and Travels of Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, S.J., 4 Vols., 1905, passim). Expansion of the Seminary caused more suitable instructional and residential facilities to be built, hastening completion of the Rock Building, and eventually the two companion structures.

The two seminary buildings flanking the Rock Building were constructed

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8. #3 ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

between 1898 and 1900. Both structures were intended to provide facilities for students receiving instruction at more advanced levels, and with three independent buildings, the Novitiate, Tertianship, and Collegiate Seminary Program at St. Stanislaus could be maintained in individual quarters. The Tertian Building, north of the Rock Building, furnished housing and classrooms for students within three years of completion of their seminary instruction. A separate facility had been deemed essential to allow the Tertian Priests more complete isolation from the novices and to afford an environment more conducive to the study of spiritual writings. The Tertianship was transferred to Cleveland, Ohio, about 1910, and the building at St. Stanislaus thereafter became a residence for Brothers and Priest Teachers. The companion structure south of the Rock Building, the Juniorate, had quartered students in the Collegiate Seminary Program at St. Stanislaus but since 1942 it has been an infirmary, an administration building, and an extension of the novitiate. The original Juniorate was extensively enlarged in 1914, and in 1960 the second floor of the building was redesigned as a library. The Tertian and Juniorate Buildings were built by contract labor, rather than by Jesuit residents as was the Rock Building.

St. Stanislaus Seminary, the earliest Jesuit novitiate west of the Mississippi, provided personel for other Jesuit schools throughout the west. The most important of these institutions, St. Louis University, grew from an academy established by the Bishop of Louisiana in 1818, but was administered from St. Stanislaus after 1829. (Faherty, 1968, 19-20. Rothensteiner, 1928, I 354-356. Walter H. Hill, S.J., Historical Sketch of St. Louis University, 1879, 10-40). Jesuits from St. Stanislaus also established a similar novitiate in Georgetown, Kentucky, a high school for boys in St. Louis, and numerous missions on the upper Missouri, Columbia, Snake, and Willamette Rivers in the American west. Fathers and Brothers from the Florissant seminary also founded St. Francis Mission at Fort Pierre, Dakota Territory, St. Marys College in Kansas, and later preached in the interior ranges of the Rocky Mountains in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. Many other colleges and high schools were established by Jesuits from St. Stanislaus during the nineteenth century, including Creighton University in Omaha, Loyola University in Chicago, and Marquette University in Detroit.

The Seminary at St. Stanislaus was closed by the Society of Jesus in August, 1971. As the removal of the frontier necessitated a change in Jesuit teaching methods, so today have the problems of urban America persuaded the Society to abandon the isolation of the rural seminary

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8. #4

ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY
THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE

and orient their ministry toward the central city. Appropriately the Collegiate Seminary Program has been transferred from Florissant to an inner-city location, Fusz Memorial, near the campus of St. Louis University, and the novitiate has been relocated at Rockhurst College in Kansas City. The Society will, however, preserve the nineteenth century buildings at St. Stanislaus Seminary, and will restore the Rock Building as a museum of Jesuit instruction, including many original furnishings constructed by the novices and used in the seminary since the 1850's. (Father Charles McDermott, Jesuit Faculty, St. Louis University, interviewed by Stephen J. Raiche, staff, Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, September 22, 1971). The Society of Jesus has offered the remainder of the seminary buildings (constructed between 1923 and 1960) for sale to a small Protestant college desiring classroom facilities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

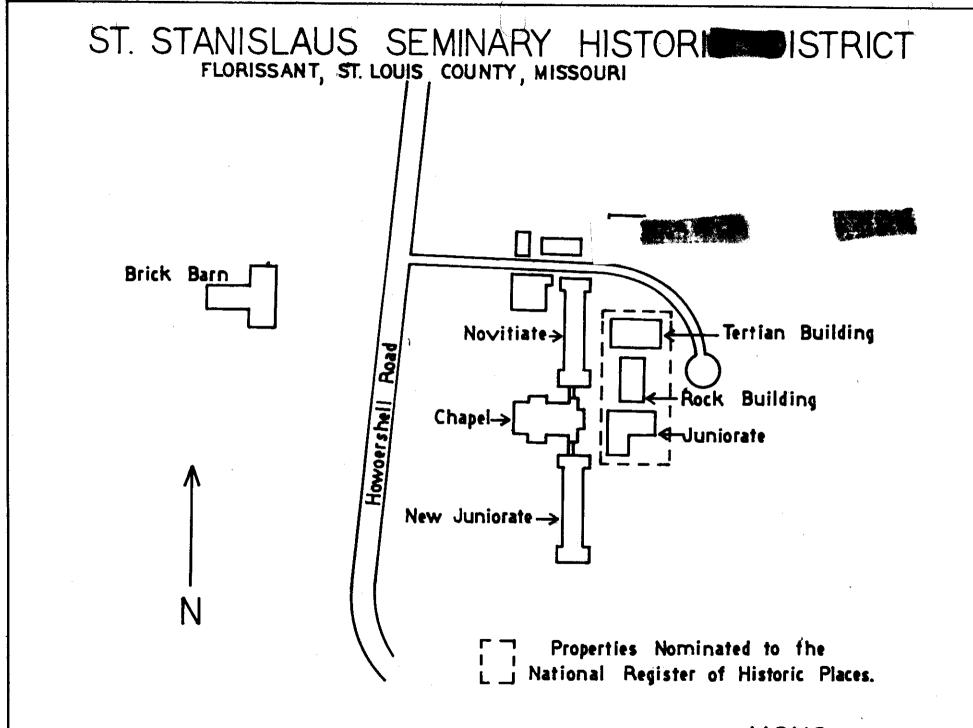
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- 9. #1 ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY
 THE ROCK BUILDING, THE TERTIAN BUILDING, THE JUNIORATE
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M.S.H.S. February 17, 1972.

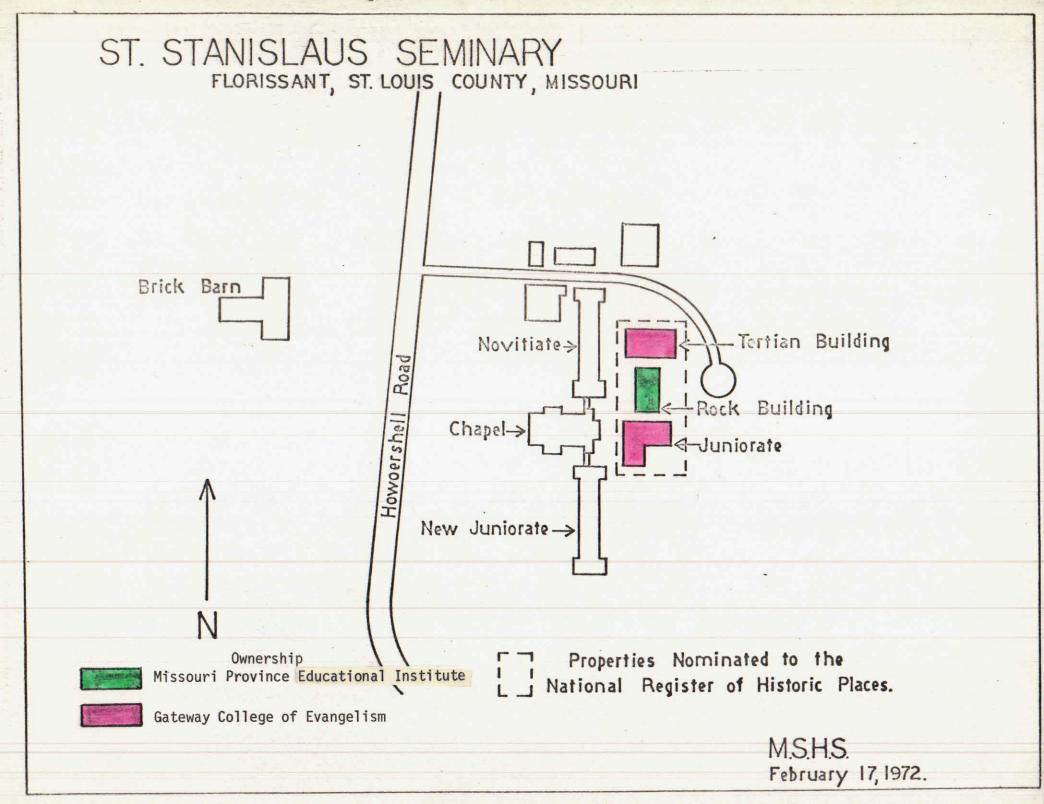


Photo Log:

Name of Property:		St. Stanislaus Seminary			
City or Vi	cinity:	Florissant			
County:	St. Louis	County	State:	МО	
Photograp	oher:	MO Province Educational I	nstitute)	
Date Photograp	ohed:	1971			

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 5. Primary elevation, Rock Building, E to W.
- 2 of 5. The Juniorate, SE to NW, showing primary elevation and S addition. Rock Building in background.
- 3 of 5. The Tertian Building and Rock Building, primary elevations. NE to SW.
- 4 of 5. Rock Building prior to construction of the Tertian Building, S to N. Building in foreground has been destroyed.
- 5 of 5. The Museum of the Western Jesuit Missions at 700 Howdershell Rd. in Florissant was built in the 1840s to serve as home of a Jesuit Seminary on the American frontier.









