

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Foley Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town St. Mary-of-the-Woods N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Vigo code 167

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sisters of Providence

street & number N/A

city, town St. Mary-of-the-Woods N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47876

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vigo County Courthouse

street & number First and Wabash

city, town Terre Haute state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Foley Hall is located at the northwest corner of St. Mary-of-the-Woods 53-acre college campus. The building is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac created by a boulevard, which runs the length of the campus and has all major structures fronting on it.

Styled in Renaissance Revival architecture, Foley Hall consists of the original 1860 three-story, three-wing brick structure, fronted by a more ornate 1897 Indiana limestone four and one-half story addition. There is also a small addition to the south wing. A large central courtyard is enclosed by the four sides of the building. The original structure has a slate gabled roof and a stone foundation. The addition has a flat roof and a rock-faced stone foundation. Presently, the building measures 200 feet by 280 feet and has an area of 144,000 square feet, excluding an unfinished attic.

Facing south, the main 1897 facade is composed of a projecting central pavilion flanked by a six bay area on each side. The facade has four distinct horizontal levels which are separated by stone coursing. A variety of stone detailing further enriches the facade. Highlighting the central pavilion, a two-story pediment supported by paired round stone columns with Corinthian capitals frames the central entrance. The pediment is decorated with dentils and modillions. Recessed in the center of the first level of the pedimented area is the main entry, which is accessed by stone steps flanked by curved stone stair buttresses. The entry consists of double paneled wood doors with wood molding below and single lights above. The doors are topped by transoms and flanked by similar single doors. A stone balustrade borders the outer edges of the porch fronting the main entry. A round stone Doric column is positioned in front of each side door and supports the first story entablature which extends across the entrance.

The second story of the pedimented area has an ornate window treatment: paired, round-arched windows with one-over-one lights are flanked by rectangular single light windows which are topped by an entablature. The windows are separated by small, engaged stone columns with Corinthian capitals. A molded stone arch surmounts the two round-arched windows and has a circular stained glass window in the tympanum, depicting St. Mary-of-the Woods College's seal. Below the the windows on the second level is a stone balustrade with stone dies which form the base of the pilasters. Above the second level, there is a wide entablature with a modillioned and dentiled cornice which is part of the pediment. A cross-shaped stone finial sits atop the peak of the pediment.

The projecting pavilion has two bays on each side of the pedimented area. The main level has plain, rectangular windows and the second level has round-arched windows with a key-stone. The windows are double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. Square stone pilasters with Corinthian capitals separate the windows and are paired at the corners of the pavilion. A stone balustrade is located below each second story window.

The third story of the pavilion contains six oval windows with keystones, three on each side of the pediment above the second level.

Directly above the square pilasters of the second level, molded stone piers topped with scroll-like ornamentation are positioned between the third story windows. Above the third story, there is a plain entablature which extends across the entire front facade.

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Six rectangular, double-hung sash windows with one-over-one lights are located on the fourth level of the pavilion. In the center of this level there is a recessed blind arch framed by small, engaged columns with Corinthian capitals. Paired stone pilasters form the pavilion corners on the fourth level. Stone molding extends across the facade and separates the fourth level from seven small, rectangular attic windows. A modillioned roof cornice is surmounted by a stone balustrade; both extend across the main facade.

The two areas flanking the pavilion have six bays on each level. The exterior of the main level and the two last bays on the second and third levels are distinguished by a rusticated stone exterior; the remaining exterior is smooth dressed stone. Each level of the side areas has rectangular windows with different surrounds.

Each first level window has a radiating voussoir and stone sill; each second level window has triglyph-like head ornamentation; each third level window has keystones and "eared" corners; and each fourth level window has an entablature. The three top level windows have molded side surrounds and the second and third level windows have molded panels below them. The attic windows are identical to the pavilion's attic windows.

The inner courtyard is rectangular on the oldest three sides, and concave on the south wall, which was added later.

Facing the inner courtyard, each bay of all four facades is identical except for the north and south walls' center bays. The dominant feature of each facade is a series of arcaded windows with molded stone arches. Each window grouping is separated by square brick pilasters extending to the roofline and broken by stone coursing which separates the first and second levels. The first and third levels of each facade have triple arcaded windows with stone sills. The first level windows have four-over-four lights and the third level windows are narrower and have two-over-two lights. The second level windows are paired, arcaded windows; each pair of windows is surmounted by a round stone arch with a circular stone relief sculpture in the tympanum. A recessed panel is positioned below each second level window.

On the ground level of the north wing, the center bay contains the original main entrance, a wood double door with sidelights and a fanlight surmounted by a molded round stone arch. Above the entry a recessed, blind arch is located on the second level. Surmounted by a triangular dripstone, the arch houses a religious sculpture and is flanked by narrow, round-arched windows. The south wing's center bay also features a niche and sculpture, flanked by round-arched windows; instead of a large, central entrance, however, there are two round-arched doorways.

A flat roof tops the main facade and a gable roof surmounts the three wing areas. A large cupola, topped by a spire, is directly above the entry area on the roof of the north wing; smaller cupolas are positioned where the gabled roofs intersect on the wing areas. There are numerous interior brick chimneys.

The interior of the building has a number of notable features, including the elegant dining room with its arcaded windows and Corinthian columns. The former main library room has Corinthian columns, molded wood ceiling beams, and wrought iron ornamentation. The building has a large spiral staircase and a bowling alley.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1860, 1897

**Builder/Architect** Dietrich A. Bohlen

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Foley Hall is significant as the oldest extant building on the campus of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, the oldest (1840) Catholic women's college in the United States. Owned by the Sisters of Providence as a separate entity from the college, Foley Hall has been leased for partial use by the college throughout its history, and has played an important role in St. Mary-of-the-Woods over 140 years of providing higher education for women. Architecturally, it is a fine example of both the first and second Renaissance Revival styles, and was designed by German architect, Dietrich A. Bohlen, a prominent 19th century architect in Indiana.

The Sisters of Providence came to St. Mary-of-the-Woods from Ruille, France, in 1840 and founded Indiana's first Catholic girls boarding school, St. Mary's Female Institute. In 1846, the school received the first Indiana charter for the higher education of women and became a liberal arts college. At this time, two wings were added to the already existing academy.

In 1860, plans were drawn up by D. A. Bohlen for a new educational building, the present Foley Hall. It consisted of three wings built around the existing academy, which was then razed. At the same time, Bohlen drew up plans for a south addition; in 1897, a modification of this plan was constructed. The addition provided an ornate front facade for the relatively simple structure.

The girls' preparatory school was located in the building until 1932, when it was moved to Ladywood School in Indianapolis. In 1925, the college took over use of some of the building's classrooms and the Academy building became known as Central Hall. In 1930, the building's name was changed to Foley Hall in honor of Mary Cleophas Foley, Superior General of the Sisters of Providence for 35 years; she had supervised the building of most college and congregational structures on the campus from 1890 to 1926, and increased the scope of the campus activities.

Throughout its history, Foley Hall has had many college and congregational offices located in it. College classrooms were located on the second floor of Foley Hall. They were chiefly used by the commerce and finance departments, and later by the art department. The Juniorate, a preparatory school for candidates to the Novitiate of the Sisters of Providence, was also located on the second floor of the building until 1965, when it was closed. An art studio and gallery with a resident artist are presently located on the hall's second floor. The college infirmary, which contains a collection of fine old furniture from the early days of the academy, is also located on the second floor.

When the four story addition was completed in 1898, a science and art museum, which had been established in the early days of the community, was moved to a large section of the fourth floor of the addition. The museum contained many biological, geological, and anthropological specimens. It also included many early possessions of the academy and

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congregation, including a diorama depicting the development of the Providence community from its beginnings in Ruille, France, in 1806. The museum was closed in 1965, and some of the collections moved to the Heritage Room in Providence in 1981. The fourth floor rooms have since been remodeled into private rooms.

In 1937, the college library of 50,000 books was housed on the first floor of Foley Hall. The library contained a rare book collection, including the "smallest published book in the world," a 1/4" by 3/16" copy of Omar Khayyam's Rose Garden, and the second largest collection of the fore-edge books in the world. The library included a children's library, which served the children in the community and the college students as a library science laboratory. The entire library collection was moved to a new library building in 1964 when the collection had more than doubled, and space in Foley Hall was inadequate.

A dining room addition was built on Foley Hall in 1921, and it continues to provide dining accommodations for 500 persons. The room is ornately decorated with arched windows and square Corinthian columns; it is used for student meals, a weekly public Sunday brunch, wedding receptions, and banquets.

Until 1965, Foley Hall housed the Alumnae Room, which contained the Alumnae news publication and a picture collection of the college's graduating classes since 1868. Still located in Foley Hall, Sacred Heart Chapel, which was once the auditorium of the academy, is the student chapel where daily mass is offered. The Shrine of the Sacred Heart is located on the second floor of the building and contains the first statue of the Sacred Heart brought to St. Mary's.

Architecturally, Foley Hall is significant as a fine example of Renaissance Revival architecture. The original 1860 structure exhibits the simpler style of the early Renaissance Revival period, while the main facade of the 1897 addition is characteristic of the more ornate style of the Second Renaissance Revival. The main facade has distinct horizontal divisions due to pronounced stone moldings, with each level articulated differently. Columns, pilasters, balustrades, dentils, modillions, and a pediment embellish the main exterior.

The architect, Dietrich A. Bohlen, one of the most prominent Indiana architects of the 19th century, settled in Indianapolis in 1853, two years after he migrated to the United States from Germany. He briefly practiced under the prestigious architect, Francis Costigan, and then began his own architectural practice. Foley Hall was among his earliest commissions. He later designed the General German Protestant Orphans Home and the City Market, two Indianapolis structures which are listed on the National Register. Bohlen's architectural legacy has been continued by three succeeding Bohlen generations, beginning with his son, Oscar Bohlen. All buildings on St. Mary-of-the-Woods campus have been designed by four generations of Bohlens, thus providing the best collection of Bohlen buildings anywhere. They reflect the most popular designs of the day while being attentive to the overall design of the campus.

Foley Hall is historically significant to the development of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and the community. It continues to be a focal point of the college and the Sisters of Providence.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEe Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name New Goshen

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	4	6	0	2	7	0	4	3	7	3	3	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary runs parallel to and 20 feet from the exterior walls of the building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sister Ann Kathleen Brawley, Archivist, Sisters of Providence  
Linda Cross Godfrey, Development Office, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College

organization St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and Sisters of Providence date January 5, 1981

street & number St. Mary-of-the-Woods Campus telephone 812/535-4141, Ext. 225

city or town St. Mary-of-the-Woods state Indiana 47876

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John C. Smith*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-6-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration