

Georgetown University
Healy Building
Near 37th Street and O Street, N.W.
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-248

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, HEALY BUILDING

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- Location: Healy Building is located on the campus of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. It is about 250' west of the main entrance gates where O Street intersects 37th Street.
- Present Owner and Occupant: Georgetown University
- Present Use: The building now contains classrooms, an auditorium, the library, the President's office, administrative offices, reception rooms, the University Archives, and dormitory rooms. (The library will be transferred to its new building in January, 1970.)
- Statement of Significance: Healy Building is the most prominent structure on the University campus and a picturesque landmark for all Georgetown. Its construction marked the evolution of the school toward true University status. It was designed by the architects Smithmeyer and Pelz, who also designed the Library of Congress.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Excavation for the Healy Building began in November, 1877, and the exterior was finished, except for the front porches, by November, 1879. Interior work was far from completed, however, and original drawings and plans bear dates up to 1881. Some of the special rooms, such as the auditorium and library, were not completed until even later. Dates on the plans suggest that Gaston Hall was finished about 1896-97; the Riggs Memorial Library in 1889; the Hirst Reading Room in 1901; and the second-floor reading room about 1909. The two front porches were completed about 1899.
2. Architects: J. L. Smithmeyer & Co., Washington, D. C., a firm composed of architects John L. Smithmeyer and Paul J. Pelz.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Georgetown University occupies all of Square 1321 (formerly 80) and parts of neighboring Squares. At present the University owns more than 90 acres of land in Georgetown. In 1787 Fr.

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John Carroll obtained the first 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land from William Deakins and John Threlkeld, which formed the original site of Georgetown College. The first building, Old South, was erected in 1788 (and demolished in 1904). Healy Building was erected on land 85' east of this building. (John M. Daley, S. J., Georgetown University: Origin and Early Years, Washington, D. C., 1957, pp. 46-49; also, University Office of Information.)

4. Original plans, construction: In the blueprint files in the office of the Vice President for Development and Physical Plant there are many original drawings and plans, original blueprints, and blueprints and ozalids for later additions and changes. These are grouped more or less by subject (i.e., most of the library changes are together) but are not in any order, and the notations penciled on the reverse are often inaccurate. Following, by topic and chronological order, are the pertinent plans. Copies of those marked with an asterisk are filed at the Commission of Fine Arts. A selection have been photographed for this data-book.

Early Plans

*1876 - "Second story" plan, scale 1/32" = 1 foot, showing a proposed floor plan. It differs considerably from that actually used. The north wing (or "pavilion" as the architects called the north and south wings) is devoted to a lecture room 66' x 94', and the south wing, somewhat smaller, used as a "Physical theatre" with a smaller room for "physical apparatus" to the west. This forms a wing about 40' x 88' with the east front bowed. The central hall has rooms on both sides; to the south these are classrooms, to the north the library. The drawing is signed "J. L. Smithmeyer & Co./Architects" with the date torn off. It is, however, identical in style and on the same thin tracing paper as the following.

*1876 - "Fourth Story (attic)" plan, scale 1/32" = 1 foot. Both wings are now the same size (66' x 94') and the plan is similar to the present 4th-floor plan, with small bedrooms on either side of the central hall. At the north and south end, however, there are two large rooms in each wing. To the south both

are marked Dormitory (each 40' x 66'); in the north, one room is marked Painting, the other Drawing. On this sketch the fourth floor is continued out over the location of Old North, which is shown in dotted lines as if its demolition had been contemplated. It is signed "J. L. Smithmyer [sic] & Co./ Architects 22/4 '76." This and the previous drawing are done in red and black ink.

Original Drawings

Among the plans, etc., are a number of original drawings in black ink on light tan linen. Most are headed "Georgetown University" and are signed "J. L. Smithmeyer & Co. Architects"; the address of the architects, when given, is 703 15th Street, Washington, D. C. Few are dated. The earliest is June 22, 1878, and the latest is marked "copied May 6/'81." It appears, however, that while the exterior was being finished, interior drawings were being perfected and completed.

Exterior:

"East Front Elevation", ink drawing to the base of the spire; does not include window details, finials, or small dormers on the roof. The north doorway lacks the gable over the porch. A second ink drawing is identical to this, except details of windows and dormers are complete.

*"Brickwork/Court Elevation/Fronting West." Original drawing, scale 1/8". There are also four blue-line copies of this.

"Stonework of Basement and cellar of New East Wing", i.e., Healy Building.

"East front Window details/scale 3/4 inch (Pavilions)." This also includes a window on the west front of the north wing or pavilion.

"Elevation of North Pavilion windows, second story." The use of iron sills is indicated in the drawing.

*East elevator to the height of tower; ink on heavy paper. An autographic print of this is also in the files made at a time when the drawing was less damaged.

West elevation; two fragmentary ink drawings on heavy paper.

Front porch, section from north. Fragment of an ink drawing on paper.

Interior:

*"Plan of 1st floor." Original drawing, scale 1/8".

"Plan of 2nd Floor joist/s/". Scale, 1/8"; a blueprint of an original drawing.

*"Plan of 3rd Floor", original drawing; also an almost identical drawing on paper of the same plan.

*"Plan of 4th floor", original drawing; also an almost identical drawing on paper of the same plan.

"Elevation, Section and Plan of/South tower door."

This door is still in place. The sheet shows full size sections as well, and is labeled "Detail Sheet No. III" (several sheets bear these numbers but because they do not seem to follow any specific order or arrangement they have been grouped by place here). This sheet has the note, "Copied 10/9.80".

"Detail of North Pavilion Main Entrance Door." Scale, 3/4". Shows the original panel door, with some changes noted on the plans. Also, a detail of the wainscotting in the hall. Detail sheet No. IV. "Copied 10/5.80".

"Details of Interior Finish - Basement". The entrance doors, four-panel, like the south tower doors. Scale, 1-1/2". Detail sheet No. 12.

*"Detailed Plans, Elevations & Sections/of Main Stairs, North Pavilion." This shows a railing under the stairway which was replaced in 1888. Scale, 3/4". Detail sheet No. VII.

"Detail of North Pavilion and Curtine Room Doors". Scale, 3/4". Most of these are five-panel doors, both single and double. Detail sheet No. V.

"Detail window framing". Also, details of the President's and Treasurer's offices and the first floor parlors. Detail sheet No. I. Dated 10/18/80.

"Detail of Ventilating Windows in President's Room". Scale, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ "; dated 10/8/78.

*"Detail of interior finish of North pavilion stair windows/2nd story Platform", and "Detail of Partition between Vestibule and Ante Room/Presidents Offices, North Pavilion, 2nd Story...". Scale, 3/4". Detail sheet No. XIII, "copied May 6/81".

*"Details of Interior Finish", and "Entrance to Museum". Scale, 3/4". Detail sheet No. VI. Dated 22/7 '78.

"Detail of columns in Museum/4 like this/scale 3/4 inch".

"Side elevation of gallery Girders, brackets, posts, etc. in Aula Maxima" i.e., Gaston Hall. East frontage; scale $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

"Detail of Anchors in North Front, North Pavilion/ for Gallery beams in Aula Maxima". Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ ", dated 21/9 '78.

"Side elevation of Gallery Girders, Bracketts [sic], posts, etc. / Aula Maxima, East Frontage". Scale, 3/4".

"Detail of posts, Bracketts, Girders, Wallpieces, etc. under Gallery/in Aula Maxima". Scale, 3/4".

"Detailed Elevation, Sections and Plan/of Galvanized iron Cornice for large Hall". i.e., Gaston Hall. These are the quatrefoil medallions and the brackets now in place around the ceiling. Scale, 3/4".

"'Cathedra' for Debating room." This is the speaking podium at present in the Philodemic Room. Scale, 3/4".

Gaston Hall

Gaston Hall was not completed with the rest of the building and a series of later drawings for further

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work (its present form) is included. These are signed Paul J. Pelz rather than Smithmeyer & Co. and generally dated 1896-97.

"Gallery for/Gaston Hall/Georgetown University". This includes plan of the ceiling under the gallery and the framing of the gallery. Signed Paul J. Pelz, and dated July 17, 1896; sheet #1.

"Gallery for/Gaston Hall..." This shows the riser plan for the gallery, and details of the newel (here represented as a spiral) and the balusters, etc. July 17, 1896. Drawing #2.

"Gallery of Gaston Hall/Georgetown College D.C." This is similar to drawing #2 above but the newel is columnar (as built), not spiral. Dated April, 1897 and labeled #1.

"Gallery of Gaston Hall/..." Ceiling plan and section, dated April 9, 1897. Sheet #2.

"Gallery of Gaston Hall/..." Framing plan, scale $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Sheet #3.

"Section West and East looking Northward/Gallery of Gaston Hall". A blueprint showing the gallery as presently built. Signed "Paul J. Pelz/ Architect/April 9, '97".

"Elevation of Stage". Proposed new proscenium arch for the stage, elaborately paneled, but never executed. Ink on linen; the plan is also indicated. Dated January, 1894.

North Porch

The North Pavilion Porch was first built with the steps and platform only, omitting the upper portion. This was completed, and the shield of Georgetown University inserted in a gable over the entrance in 1899.

"Front Elevation of North Pavilion Porch". This shows the gable design and includes measurements for all stonework. Sheet #1. This sheet, and subsequent ones, are labeled "Originally Prepared by J. L. Smithmeyer & Co. in 1880. Revised and Completed by Paul J. Pelz... January, 1899".

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"Side Elevation..." of same.

"North Porch/...Half Pier plan and vaulting;/Half parapet and roof plan". Sheet #3.

"North Pavilion Porch". Longitudinal section of the northern half, looking east and looking west. Shows the vaults made of brick, with ribs of "Ohio stone" and a concrete infilling, and the roof truss above this. Sheet #4.

"North Pavilion porch..." Section through the center of the north bay, looking north. Sheet #5.

"North Pavilion Porch..." Section through the center arch, looking north. Sheet #6.

"North Pavilion Porch..." Section through the south bay looking north. Sheet #7.

Center Porch

In addition to a number of blueprints listed below, there is also one drawing in pencil on heavy yellow paper by Mr. Pelz. This shows two capitals and two lion heads and is labeled: "Full/ Scale/ details of Colonette caps &/gargoyle heads, centre/porch buttresses Georgetown College/Paul J. Pelz/Archit." It is dated 1899 and is further inscribed, "Four of these, two right and two left".

"Center Porch/Georgetown College, D.C." Half section looking east and half section elevation. "Originally prepared by J. L. Smithmeyer & Co. in 1880/Revised and completed by Paul J. Pelz Architect Jan. 1899". Plan #1.

"Center Porch...North Elevation of upper portion". Plan #II.

"Center Porch...North elevation of Base". Plan #III.

"Center Porch...Half plan of Foundations". Also the half plan of porch. Plan #IV.

"Center Porch...Section through center of upper portion looking North". Plan #V.

"Center Porch...Section through center of Base looking North". Plan #VI.

Library

The Riggs Memorial Library occupies the first and second floors in the south wing, plus the four levels of stacks beginning on the third floor. (Other rooms have also now been converted to use, and books are presently also shelved in the basement.) This library was completed later than the rest of the building. The first portion was the 3rd and 4th floor stack area with an impressive light court in the center (plans 1889). The second stage of construction was on the first floor room, now called the Hirst Reading Room, but on the plans of 1898 and 1901 designated "Students Library." The third group of blueprints deals with the proposed extension of the Riggs Library stacks out under the central roof, to the central tower. These plans, dated 1907, were apparently never effected. The last group of plans has to do with the second floor reading room, now the Circulation Department, and are dated 1909. These blueprints (other types are noted) are listed in this order below.

"Georgetown College Library/Plan of First Tier of Bookshelves". Paul J. Pelz Architect, no date. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$ ". There are notes also indicating the book capacity per tier, with the total being 104,830 volumes. On the reverse are pencil drawings by the architect showing details of the girders. The date "1899" subsequently penciled on the reverse is ; incorrect.

"...Plan of 2nd & 3rd Tier of Bookcases/and of 1st & 2nd galleries".

"...Plan of 4th Tier of Bookcases/and 3rd Gallery".

"Detail of Iron Work for the 'Riggs Library'/ Georgetown College". This shows a half plan of first gallery, scale, $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the half plan, elevation and details of shelving and stairway. Dated March, 1889.

"Ceiling for Library in Georgetown College Building". This shows the ceiling (skylight) and details of the decorative metalwork. Dated Feb. 1889.

*"The 'Riggs Library' Georgetown College/General Plan of Book Repository fronts". Also the plan and elevation of interior, and details of the stack arrangement. Dated March, 1889.

"Bookstacks in Students Library/Georgetown University..."

This shows plan and elevation of the first floor
Hirst Reading Room as it now exists. Dated
August, 1898.

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"Iron Work for Bookstacks in Students Library".

Scale, 1". Signed and dated, "Paul J. Pelz,
Architect/Corcoran Building/Mar. 1901".

"Iron Work for Book Stacks..." Plan and elevation of
the balcony level. Dated March, 1901.

"Plan showing Woodwork for New Bookstacks/in Students
Library..." Dated, March, 1901.

"Panels for Georgetown University, D.C. 3/4" scale".

This ink drawing is not further identified, but
may be a study for the above.

"Plan of Stacks". Ink drawing, apparently a prelimi-
nary study for the second-floor reading room (now
the Circulation Department). Almost the entire
room is devoted to stacks--not just the western
half, as the room was ultimately built.

"Plan of Riggs Library steps". These are the stairs
from this second floor up to the 3rd-floor stacks.
No date.

"Proposed metal library shelving for the Georgetown
University". These blueprints (not signed by
Pelz, but rather "Art Metal Construction Co.")
are dated 5/28/09. They are for the stacks at
the west side of the room (the east is open).
There are three sheets that show the stack level,
elevations, stairs, etc. A blueprint of this
floor plan with the stacks is dated 6/25/09 and
has the electrical outlets marked.

"Extension of Riggs Memorial Library". General plan,
ceiling plan showing electrical outlets, etc.
Scale, 1/4". This is an extension out from the
stack area northward in the attic space to the
central tower. Signed by Paul J. Pelz, and
dated March, 1907.

"Extension..." Longitudinal section. Scale, 1/2".
Dated Feb. 1907.

"Extension..." Upper tier of book stacks; labeled shelving plan No. 2.

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"Extension..." "Elevation towards Quadrangle". This shows proposed skylights on the outside of the roof which runs the length of the gable above the small dormers. This also has longitudinal and transverse sections. Dated Mar. 1907.

"Extension..." Elevation of roof trusses and new skylight over the library well. Scale, 3/4". Dated Feb. 1907.

"Extension...Shelving Plan #1". This is the lower tier of book stacks. Dated Feb. 1907.

"Floor Plan/Attic/Riggs Library". This appears to be a positive print of a preliminary drawing for the stacks in the attic.

"Library storage...Plans, sections & details". These blueprints appear to be related to the above projects, but seem much later in style. No date or name.

5. Alterations and additions: The following blueprints and ozalids, arranged in chronological order, indicate a number of subsequent changes in the building.

1888 - "Design for a glass Bulkhead under Main/Stairs-First Story-North Pavilion/To go with Detail Sheet No. VII of the original plans for the Building". This is a simple glass partition which replaces the open area below the main stairway; this in turn has now been replaced by solid paneling. This sheet also includes a full-size plan and section.

1900 - "Full Size details of/New Front Doors with Transom/Bar and Sash. Main Entrance Georgetown College". These blueprints have some coloring overlaid by the architect to indicate different materials, etc. Dated Dec. 1900.

1900 - "Full Size detail of Grills for/New Front doors-Main entrance..." Blueprint.

1900 - "New Front Doors with Transom/bar and Sash. Main entrance..." Scale, 1". Signed, "Paul J. Pelz Architect/Corcoran Building, Dec. 1900".

- 1907 - Plans for remodeling and installing a vault in the basement Archives.
- ND - "Wainscot, Bookcase/Reading Table & Office Railing/Archives--Georgetown University. Scale 3/4". This blueprint is signed "Ewing & Ghapelle (?)/Architects/345 Fifth Ave. N.Y."
- 1930 - Plans for installing an elevator (present location).
- 1931 - Plan of the north pavilion showing the new partitions and dated 1/24/31. Labeled Plumber's copy". Attached to it is a sheet for installation of a toilet in the northeast turret.
- ND - Two small blueprint sheets with eight vignettes each, numbered 25-40, showing roof details (gutters, gables, etc.).
- 1957 - Study by Bernard F. Locraft (civil engineer, Washington, D.G.) of the allowable live load of the second floor of the library.
- 1958 - Plans for air conditioning installation.
- 1962 - New seats for Gaston Hall, first level.
- *1964 - Blueprints, both floor plans and details, for the remodeling of Healy Building by Cooper and Auerbach, Washington architects. The plans are dated May 22, 1964. The major changes were: new center columns in the east rooms of basement; reinforcing first floor classroom beams; glass partitions and metal doors at the ends of halls; the remodeling of the third floor from small student rooms into offices; new entrance doors on both main and gallery level of Gaston Hall; a new elevator installed in the location of the previous one; and a few other minor changes.

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A printed plan* of the entire quadrangle including Healy Building, is also filed with the drawings and blueprints. Each floor is shown and identified. It was published by the Norris Peters Co. of Washington, sometime between 1907 and 1929.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

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1. Notes on the history of the construction of the Healy Building: The following record of the building progress of Healy Hall is taken from John Gilmary Shea, Memorial of the First Centenary of Georgetown College, D.C., Comprising a History of Georgetown University.

The erection of new and appropriate buildings for Georgetown College had been long discussed, was more than once taken up, and then laid aside. Plans had been prepared, but the work seemed a hazardous undertaking. Father Healy took the matter energetically, and determined that great work should be begun. He consulted eminent architects, and finally had complete plans prepared by Messrs. Smithmeyer and Pelz, after those architects had carefully studied the intended site. These plans were forwarded to Rome, and submitted to the General of the Society of Jesus. As September days were waning [1877], the students saw the architect and his assistants measuring and, finally, staking out the lines of a large structure. Then foundations were laid, and it became evident that the work was really in hand.

The new building, only part of a general plan, lies to the east of the structures formerly constituting the College, and connects the old North Building with the southern row. It was to be 312' long and 95' wide at the pavilions, which formed the north and south ends, and was to comprise four stories and basement.

The main entrance was to face the college gate, while the entrance for students was to be in the centre of the new building. The architects, J. L. Smithmeyer and Co., had already won a prize for the design of a new building in which to place the Library of Congress.

By the third of November, the ball alleys were down, walls carted away, the gymnasium moved back. Even the heavy stone gateway to the Walks was sacrificed, and a yawning excavation showed the extent of the great future College.

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The first copy of the photo-lithograph of the projected building was sent by the president of the College to W. W. Corcoran, Esq., of Washington, the oldest student living.... The president proposed that all blessed with means should have the privilege of assuming the expenses incurred....

.....

By the 12th of December the concrete for the foundations was all completed, and shortly after three o'clock in the afternoon the first stone of the building was laid by Father J. B. Mullaly, S.J., Minister or Vice President of the College. This stone is at the northeast corner of the north wing.

The work was pushed on vigorously during the next year, and in December, 1878, the roof was placed on the completed north pavilion. The main portion was so well advanced that the busy turmoil of the closing years would not be renewed. As spring approached, some work was resumed. On the 20th of March the stone cross on the front gable of the north pavilion was placed in position, resting on a square block of Potomac gneiss, the sample cut by John Hannon from which the supply for the whole building was ordered. On the same day the highly ornamental finials on the four corners of this roof were set up.... On the 14 May, the cross was reared on the gable of the south pavilion.

.....

The stonework on the central tower was finished in July, 1879, and the spire was run up ready for sheathing and slating. Its apex was 206' high; a pole bearing the U. S. flag was planted above, on the 4th of July, and the national colors waved from the highest point they had ever reached in the District.... (pp. 264-265)

The completion of the building was described as follows:

...The commencement of 1879 was held in

the large hall of a magnificent structure. The building was not yet completed, and the hall presented its rough walls; but on the hastily erected platform were the President of the United States, the Attorney-General, Devens, Postmaster-General Key, Mr. Smithmeyer, one of the architects.... Father Healy, president of the college... was unable to take part in these inaugural exercises. (p. 271)

...the students were gratified by seeing the last slate put on the new building, November 11, 1879. Within a month and a day less than two years, the grand education structure was completed exteriorly, with the exception of the two stone porches of the front. (p. 274)

In Jackson, Chronicles of Georgetown, D.C. 1751-1878 the following additional statistics are given on the building:

Length: 307'
Altitude: 79' 9- $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Depth: North end 90'; south end 63' 8"; middle 49'.

There are 292 windows, 5" x 10" with nine interior doors and eighty-two rooms. The number of bricks is estimated at two million. "...the quantity of stone called blue gneiss, which is quarried from the banks of the Potomac River, will be five thousand cubic yards used in the construction of the front and sides of the college". (p. 226)

A reproduction of the exterior of the building and a floor plan appeared in The American Architect and Building News, March 27, 1880, in the illustration section, p. 129. The description mentions that the walls were of blue gneiss from the upper Potomac, with blueish gray Ohio freestone and North-river bluestone for the cut work. As actually constructed, the contrasting stone appears to be a light tan sandstone. The brick of the court front corresponded with the brick of the adjoining buildings. Ceilings in principal rooms and halls were finished in wood; all corbels, columns, and a great portion of the sills were of freestone, built in place. "All the constructive woodwork in the interior is of Southern pine and oak, planed, chamfered, and carved and built in place." The 200' central tower was to be used as a ventilator. Heating was accomplished by "warm water in coils which are placed in the window recesses, where they

draw fresh air from the outside through the hollow iron sills of the window frames." Many of these radiator coils are still in place.

The study by Joseph T. Durkin, S.J. Georgetown University: The Middle Years (1840-1900), is a particularly well written account, which on pp. 103-9 deals specifically with the construction of the Healy Building. Notes indicate sources of information in original letters, the House Diary, etc., in the University Archives.

2. Smithmeyer and Pelz, architects: John L. Smithmeyer was born in Vienna in 1832. He began his American architectural practice in Indianapolis. After the Civil War he came to Washington seeking government work. The Office of the Supervising Architect appointed him an inspector of public buildings in southern states. In 1872 he resigned from this position to form a partnership with Paul J. Pelz and prepared drawings for the Library of Congress competition. The architects, after they won the competition, became involved in a controversy with the government which involved a suit against the government and finally an appeal before the Supreme Court.

Aside from the Library of Congress and Healy Building, other major buildings designed by Smithmeyer were the Army-Navy Hospital at Hot Springs, Arkansas; Carnegie Music Hall, Allegheny, Pennsylvania; and the Hotel Chamberlain, Old Point Comfort, Virginia. Smithmeyer, who became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, died in 1903.

Smithmeyer's partner, Paul J. Pelz (1841-1918), was born in Silesia, Germany, and studied in Breslau. He came to New York and served as apprentice to Detlef Lienau and then worked as a draftsman in his office for two years. He came to Washington as an architect and engineer for the United States Lighthouse Board, met Smithmeyer, and formed the partnership which led to the commission for the Library of Congress. Pelz designed the Administration Building at the Clinic Hospital, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

(Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased, [Smithmeyer, p. 562; Pelz, p. 466/.])

3. Reverend Patrick Healy: Reverend Patrick F. Healy, S.J. (1783-1882), was extremely active in the development of Georgetown University both in its intellectual stature and in its physical growth. He was made "prefect of

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studies" (in charge of curriculum) in 1868 and continued in this office for a few years even while president (1874-1882). Due to his tireless efforts over many years the Healy Building, in spite of considerable financial difficulty, was finally erected. A full account of his activity is found in Durkin, Georgetown University: The Middle Years (1840-1900).

4. Notes of the founding of Georgetown College: Georgetown College, the oldest Catholic academic institution in the United States, was founded by the Reverend John Carroll, who was born in Upper Marlborough, Maryland, in January, 1735. His parents sent him to Europe for his education, where he entered the Society of Jesus and then, as a novitiate, went to the College of Liege. In 1759 he was ordained a priest, and then spent several years as a professor at St. Omer and Liege (Belgium).

In 1762 the Jesuits were expelled from France, and Father Carroll went to Bruges to teach. He also travelled on the continent as tutor to the son of an English noble. In 1773 Father Carroll, along with the other Jesuit priests in Bruges, was seized as a prisoner because a Brief of Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Society of Jesus. Carroll managed to get to England, where he accepted the hospitality of Lord Arundell, a descendant of Lord Baltimore. Here he became aware of the oppression of the American colonies. "Fully convinced of the justice of the claims made by the colonies, the American priest patriotically resolved to return to his own country and share its fortunes, making it field for future labors in the ministry." (Shea, p. 7.)

Carroll landed in America in June, 1774, and returned to his family home in Maryland. Immediately he undertook missionary work along the shores of the Potomac and Rock Creek. He formed a close personal friendship with Thomas Sim Lee, governor of Maryland.

Carroll strongly believed that the future of the Catholic Church in America depended on the education of young Catholic men. He wrote to a friend in England in December, 1785: "The object nearest my heart now, and the only one that can give consistency to our religious views in this country, is the establishment of a school, and afterwards of a seminary for young clergymen." (Shea, p. 11.)

Familiar with the Rock Creek and Potomac area, and recognizing the importance of the city of Georgetown, Father Carroll recommended a site on a point of land which jutted

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out into the Potomac, which was free from malaria, and which was cooled by breezes off the water. Holy Trinity Church was then under construction to the east--this, too, probably influenced Carroll's choice of sites. In the first prospectus seeking subscriptions for the building, Carroll wrote:

In the choice of Situation, Salubrity of Air, Convenience of Communication, and Cheapness of Living have been principally consulted, and Georgetown offers these united advantages. (Devitt, p. 26.)

A committee of five clergymen acquired one-and-a-half acres of land from William Deakins and John Threlkeld, for which they paid only 75 pounds. The deed for the transaction was not delivered until January 23, 1789, after actual work on the buildings had already begun.

The first building was probably begun in the summer of 1788, was partially completed in 1789, and was ready for occupancy in 1791. This building, referred to as "Old South", was torn down after standing more than a century. It was a brick building, three stories high, and about 64' x 50'.

The first students enrolled in September 1791; by the end of the school year 1792, the enrollment was sixty-six students. Forty-seven new students enrolled in 1793. In that year an additional two acres was purchased from John Threlkeld to provide a site for a new building to be used as a dormitory, refectory, and apartments so that students could board at the college. (This is Old North Building and is still in use.)

The Society of Jesus was reestablished in the United States in 1805; prior to that time, the college had been under the control of the Corporation of the Clergy of Maryland. Since 1805 Georgetown has been a Jesuit school. By the early nineteenth century the College was firmly established as a leading Catholic educational institution. In 1815 a congressional Act raised the rank of Georgetown from a College to a University.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: A large number of old views of the Healy Building, both interior and exterior, are filed in the University Archives. These show the exterior before the

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porches were added, and also in their first un-canopied state. The interior views show original furnishings and fixtures in a variety of rooms. Included are classrooms, chemistry laboratories (1893), the Coleman Museum before changed into the President's office, the Philodemic Society room before and after the present decoration was installed, the Hirst Reading Room, the Collier Study Hall (second floor) in 1893, and Gaston Hall in 1880, then unfinished. A selection of these are included with this data-book; others are on file at the Commission of Fine Arts.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources: Approximately 80 original drawings and blueprints of Healy Building and about 20 subsequent plans provide essential information of the dates and stages of construction, extent of work, the architects involved, etc. These are filed in the office of the Vice President for Development and Physical Plant.

The file of photographs in the University Archives has some dated photographs which also contribute to dating alterations. These were kindly provided by Fr. Bellwoar, Archivist.

Fr. Edward B. Bunn, president of Georgetown University 1952-1964, and now Chancellor, provided other specific information. (Interview, October 9, 1969.)

- b. Secondary and published sources:

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This Victorian structure of northern European Romanesque style--complete with towers, dormers, tall chimneys and spikey finials--is one of the most significant landmarks of Georgetown. It is a well preserved example of a vanishing type, and one of the most picturesque and noticeable features on the Virginia shore; it forms a striking focal point at the bend of the Potomac.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is well maintained inside and out. On the exterior some of the sandstone trim is flaking and crumbling, and a few of the copper finials are partially missing. On the inside, the Office of Development and Public Relations on the third floor

has been remodelled; other changes have been minor. Generally, the original features have been maintained and restored.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This building is generally rectangular in shape. The total structure is 310 feet north-south (including the southwest stair tower) and 74 feet east-west (at the south end). At the north, because this wing contains the large auditorium, the building is 100 feet east-west. The east facade has three major divisions: a slightly projecting wing (called a pavilion by the architects) at the north and the south ends, each wing being 67 feet wide; and a central section 170 feet long with the central spire of the building at the midpoint. On the west side, Healy Hall is attached to two other structures, thus forming a U-shaped courtyard. The north wing is attached to the Old North (1795); the south wing, to Maguire Building (1854). The building has four main floors, a full basement, and an attic with small dormers.
2. Foundations: Ashlar to grade.
3. Wall construction: Walls on the east, north, and south sides are laid in coursed ashlar of Potomac gneiss. This is generally gray in color, but some blocks have a yellowish or greenish hue. The blocks are hammer-faced (though some have a smooth cleavage) and range in size from 5" to 14" thick. Below the window sills on the second and third floors, and at the spring level of the arches, there is an even course of smooth-faced gneiss, which contrasts with the rougher stone. Gray mortar is used. A tan to grayish sandstone is also used for the water table, string courses, engaged columns, machicolation consoles, buttress caps, etc. On the west elevation, above the stone basement story, brick is laid in Flemish bond and sandstone trim is used sparingly (buttress caps, columns and window sills). At the basement level the walls are 3'-1" thick; at the first floor, 2'-10" thick; at the fourth floor, 2'-2" thick.
4. Framing: Load-bearing brick and masonry walls with interior partitions of brick. On the west facade four heavy tie-rod plates are visible below the base of the central tower. Two of them are cross-shaped. On the south end wall there are four smaller tie-rod plates; all are in the form of crosses, at the third-floor level.

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Four more identical plates are on the east wall of that wing. Similar features are found on the north wing.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: The main entrance to the building is in the east side of the north wing. The porch is reached by a flight of ten gray granite risers 25 feet wide. From a rectangular landing 25' x 10', five risers ascend to the upper landing which is covered by the porch. This porch has three arched openings at the east side and one each on the north and south. It also has engaged columns with molded bases and flaring foliate capitals, buttresses, and a central carved gable in sandstone with the shield of Georgetown University. At the outer edge of the porch, above the cheek pieces of the stair, are statue consoles with canopies above. There are no statues in place, however--the space is now occupied by cast-iron urns containing plants. The ceiling of the porch is composed of two east-west sandstone ribs and brick infilling. The cheek pieces on either side of the steps support copper lamps at the lower end. These lamps are composed of a shaft which terminates in a composite capital, and a lantern with beveled glass panes. Below the porch is a basement entrance which is reached from the north and south by nine risers each.

The second entrance porch on the east facade is directly below the central spire. This porch is reached by a lower run of six risers to the first landing, and then a run of eight risers to the top. The stair is ten feet wide with stepped cheek pieces. The porch has a single arch at the east side and smaller single arches on the north and south--all decorated with sandstone columns. The ceiling is a barrel vault of brick. The floor of the upper landing has a mosaic of pink tesserae with a light colored border which features crosses under a continuing black semi-circular arcade. At the north and south sides stone benches close off the arches.

On the west side, directly under the central tower, is a porch of brick at grade with the rear yard. It has a single arched opening facing west and half-arches (now glazed) on the north and south. The front piers of the porch are continued up as buttresses which help support the central spire. The buttresses have sandstone caps; the arched openings, sandstone columns. The ceiling is one half of a groin vault in neatly laid red brick. Below this porch there is a segmental arched opening (north and south sides) which was once an entrance to the basement, but which is now boarded up.

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6. Chimneys: Nine chimneys are visible. There are four major stacks. The largest, located at the northwest corner, is a stone stack whose upper portion is sandstone. It has a slightly projecting, circular, terra cotta flue. At the southwest corner of this north wing is a brick stack with sandstone string courses and a brick machicolated cap. On the east slope of the roof on the central portion of the building, there are two stacks next to the end wings. These chimneys are rectangular, with buttressed bases and a flat stone cap open on all four sides. Smaller chimneys are located in the wings. On the north side there are three rectangular chimneys with smooth faces and stone caps. On the south wing, near the southeast corner, there are two similar chimneys.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door in the north wing is a heavy oak, two-leaf door. Each leaf has a large bevel-edged plate of glass, protected by a wrought-iron grille with the shield of the University attached in the center in cast-bronze relief. The opening is 7'-6" wide and is round-headed. Above the doors a large lunette overhead contains a single plate of glass. On either side of the doorway is an engaged sandstone column. The arched sandstone enframing above is decorated with large four-lobed ballflowers, each of different design. There is a window on each side of the doorway.

Directly below the north entrance porch a similar door 8'-2" wide, leads to the basement. Although the lower portion to the spring is Potomac gneiss, the arch itself is red brick. The double doors are smaller than on the main porch, with sidelights and an overhead. The doors are four-panel (the upper one the largest) of glass.

At the north end of the central section is a doorway (facing east) which enters the building at the landing of a stairway which descends to the basement and ascends to the first floor. The double doors are metal, painted and wood grained, with side lights. Above, in the semicircular opening is a three-pane overhead. This has two vertical divisions formed by two columns with foliate capitals, pedestals and impost blocks. The doorway is nine feet wide. Over it is a wide sandstone label molding with varied quatrefoil decorations.

The doorway of the central east porch is similar to the above, and is also made of wood grained metal, with two columns dividing the overlight. Below this porch is an arched opening (similar to the one under the north porch) which has no doors and leads to a second arch, about 15 feet further west, behind which a glazed partition with a modern metal door is installed.

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In the southwest corner of the south wing is a small rectangular door, 24 inches wide and about seven feet tall with the sill flush at grade. This has a vertically boarded door and appears to be permanently fastened shut. (There is a similar doorway at the southwest corner of the north wing, facing south. It is completely boarded up.) The doors were designed to give access to the stairways in these corner towers.

At the southwest corner of the building there is a large rectangular stair tower about 27 feet square. It has a round-arched doorway similar to the others at the west side, closed by a double door of wood. Each leaf has five panels, with chamfered rails, stiles, and mullions. The doorway has sidelights and overlights. The door is original.

On the west side of the building the only door is under the brick porch. It is similar to the east facade doors, though it is constructed of wood and is about seven feet wide.

- b. Windows: The building has a variety of windows. On the east side the basement windows for the north and south wings and the central section are all paired, rectangular, one-over-one windows with a sandstone lintel, sill, and a central (chamfered) mullion. On the first and second floors the windows of the central portion are round-headed (though the voussoirs come to a slight point above), with the lower portion composed of paired one-over-one-light windows with a wide central mullion. The mullion resembles a fluted pilaster, without a base or capital, and with a rosette near the top. In the semicircular lunette above, there is a three-pane window with vertical mullions. On the third floor there are small, semicircular-headed windows (paired) with a sandstone column between pairs. Each is one-over-one light. The fourth floor has single round-headed windows, each divided by a slender central column or mullion into two one-light panes with a two-light lunette above.

In the north and south wings the windows are different. On the first floor there are segmental arched openings, each having a central sandstone column which supports a block. The block occupies the upper third of the opening and contains a bull's-eye window. On the second floor are paired, narrow, round-headed windows with columns between them. The upper portion contains a circular light; there is a one-over-one window below. In the auditorium and library sections are two-story windows with nine lights, a central column-mullion, and a wooden band with Gothic cutout decoration marking the intermediate floor level.

On the west side the fenestration is similar but simpler. The first-floor windows have brick hood molds, as do the windows on all floors in the five projecting bays. All other windows, however, are set flush with the wall and have brick voussoirs. The paired windows of the third and fourth floors are not joined together; two one-over-one, round-headed windows are placed close together between the vertical brick structural pilasters which articulate the west side.

There are a number of other rectangular and bull's-eye windows around the building.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The central portion of the building is covered by a north-south gable roof with gray rectangular slate covering and a band of red slate near the apex on the east and west slopes. These bands also enclose a series of crosses in red slate. The north and south wings are covered by steep hipped roofs, similarly covered with gray and red slate. All roofs have copper ridge pieces. The north wing, however, because it is longer east to west, has two such hipped roofs, the second one further west, joined as one slope on the north.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The main cornice is composed of a plain sandstone band supported by closely spaced, undecorated consoles. Above this is the copper rain gutter. On the central portion (east side) this sandstone band recedes between the small dormer-like roofs placed above the fourth-floor windows and is flush with the wall surface, with no brackets. Instead, at these recesses, the brackets are found two courses below, supporting stonework between the win-

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dows. On the west side the cornice is treated as brick machicolation.

- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Pyramidal dormer-like roofs are placed above the fourth-floor windows at the eaves and are topped with finials. On the north-south gable roof are ten dormers on the east side and eleven on the west. These light the attic space. The dormers have a single-light opening and steeply pitched roofs with no finials. On the east slope of each wing the roof has a large stone gabled dormer. At the fifth floor, attic level, each dormer contains three arched windows above the eaves and a bull's-eye window in the gable above this. These two dormers have sandstone finials in the form of a cross. A smaller dormer of this same general type is found directly below the central tower. It has two rectangular windows and side buttresses (for the tower). The west side of the central section is accented by three main vertical projecting bays in the brickwork, each bay ending above the cornice line in a corbie-stepped dormer. There are also two smaller corbie-step gables at the north and south juncture of the main section with the wing, where the gable fills in the angle at 45°. In the west slope of the south wing is a large skylight for the library below.

Cupolas and towers are also numerous. The most striking feature of the building is, of course, the central spire, which rises to 334.40 feet above the Potomac. The spire is about 200 feet tall (from ground level) and is composed of a rectangular base of three stories located at the midpoint of the north-south gable. The first level has two slit windows on the east and west sides; the second level above is separated by a sandstone string course on consoles. This level has a triple arched one-over-one window on the east and west sides and two arched windows on the north and south, with slit openings above them. On the third level, directly below the spire cornice, is the clock face on the east and west sides and two slit windows on the north and south. At the corners of the third level are inset columns. The lower section has a stone gable with two slit windows and a stone-cross finial above the clock faces on the east and west. On the north and south slopes are small wooden dormers with finials. The upper portion of the spire is separated from the lower portion by an open gallery having elaborate copper columns on all sides and a double finial at the apex. Both portions of the spire are covered with gray slate, with red-slate bands and crosses.

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A secondary spire is located at the southwest corner of the building, capping the stair tower. Above the cornice string course is an additional story the same size as the stair tower (about 27 feet square). On the east, west, and south sides this story has four arched openings consisting of round arches supported on paired columns. On the south and west sides, heavy balconies supported on five oversized brackets run the length of these openings. The north side of the tower is solid. At the corners of this level are four inset columns. Above is the cornice of the tower roof. There are gabled dormers on each side except the north, where there is only a small wooden dormer near the apex. Each dormer has two rectangular openings, now closed with wooden louver shutters; in the gable above there is a quatrefoil opening. The stone finial to each dormer is in the shape of a cross. Above this slate-covered roof is a stone spire with triple arched openings (two columns) on each side at its base. Loudspeakers are now placed in these openings. Above the openings on each side is a small peaked dormer with single narrow window. The slate-covered spire above has a copper cap and finial. As on the main central spire, the slate is gray with red banding.

Square corner towers, which contain spiral stairways (except for the northeast tower of the south wing) are another prominent feature. These stairs were designed as fire escapes. The towers are located at the southeast and northeast corners of the south wing, and the southeast, northeast, and northwest corners of the north wing. Each is formed by a plain square tower rising from ground level and capped, above the cornice level, with a steep pyramidal roof having a copper finial (some of the finials are damaged). In each exposed face of the tower are narrow slit windows that provide light for the stairway.

The finials of the building are particularly noteworthy. In addition to those mentioned above on dormers, gables, towers, and spires, there is one at each end of the ridge on the north and south-wing hip roofs. There are also a number of imaginative copper gargoyles. At the wings these project below the cornice level; on the central section (east side), they project from the overflow box near the top of the downspouts, just below the machicolated course at the fourth-floor level.

The building also has two plain metal fire escapes; one at the north end of the central section on the west side, and the second at the west side of the north wing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The first floor is divided into three basic parts. The north wing has a long entrance hall about 20 feet wide. There are five parlors on the north side. On the south side are the large Carroll Parlor, the entrance to the main north-south hallway, and the Office of the University Chaplain (formerly Treasurer's office). At the west end of the hall is the formal staircase to the second-floor offices. The central portion of the building, which connects the north and south wings, has a long hall at the west side. This hall is about 15 feet wide with brick arches spaced about every ten feet of its entire length. On the east side of this hall are (from north to south) a stairway; a modern elevator (originally installed in 1930) which has been inserted at the end of a classroom now partitioned off; two classrooms, each of which originally had two entrance doors; the central entrance; two more classrooms which are now converted into the Acquisitions Department of the Riggs Memorial Library and connected by a small door through the dividing wall. In the south wing is the Hirst Reading Room, which occupies the entire wing east of the hall. The room is about 45 feet east-west and 65 feet north-south with the northern 25 feet devoted to stack space. A row of three large Ionic columns, unfluted but grained like wood, divide the room north to south at the center. At the south end of the hall is the large stairway accented on the outside by the southwest corner tower. To the west of the south wing, Healy Building is connected with Maguire Hall.

The second floor is very similar in plan to the first floor. In the north wing the stairway ascends to the hallway with the Philodemic Hall (debating) to the north, and the current President's office occupying the eastern half of the wing (formerly the Coleman Museum, now re-partitioned). Above the present Chaplain's office is the present Academic Vice President's office (formerly President's office). The arrangement of the north-south hall is similar to the first floor. The first classroom is called the Bellarmine Room (now used as an extension of the Academic Vice President's office) and the second the Secchi Room (now the music listening room). Over the

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central entrance hall of the first floor is a room (formerly Prefect's office), now the office of the Philodemic Society. South of this, two classrooms have been made into The Randall Reading Room, though half of the southern room is partitioned off and is used for the Riggs Library data processing, labeling, etc. The south wing, east of the hall, is now entered from the door off the south stairway and is now the Circulation Department of the library. The room measures about 65' x 45'.

The third floor contains the main auditorium (Gaston Hall) in the north wing. The central section of the building, which formerly had a central hall with small bedrooms on either side, has been remodeled (1964) into offices for the Office of University Development and Public Relations. What was once a rear corridor off the south stairway is now a supplies room. The south wing is occupied (east of the corridor) by the Riggs Memorial Library stack area extending two floors, or four stack levels. This is also now used as the Graduate Reading Room.

The fourth floor has been changed very little. The north wing has the gallery level of Gaston Hall, and on either side of the central hall are small student bedrooms. The corridor leading to the south stairway is now being remodeled into a student lounge. The upper portion of the stacks of the Riggs Memorial Library occupies the remainder of the south wing.

The attic is unfinished and is not accessible to the public.

On original plans for the building, the floor heights are given thus: Basement, 12'-9- $\frac{1}{2}$ "; first floor, 15'-6"; second floor, 16'-2"; third floor, 13'-2"; and fourth floor, 13'-2". These are apparently measured one floor finish to the next and thus include joists.

The basement floor plan is almost identical to that of the first floor; it is now used for the library overflow. The university Archives are housed in a remodeled room in the south wing under the library.

2. Stairways: The grand staircase in the north wing is the formal entrance to the upper offices. It is a half-turn stair composed of a straight run of twenty six-inch risers, 6'-6" wide, to a landing about 20 feet north-south, from which are two runs of nine risers (4- $\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide) to the second floor. The first-floor mahogany newels are about

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six feet tall and treated as a group of four engaged columns in the lower half and a square block with decorative carving and a ball finial above. The front and back of this block are decorated with a cross in a sunburst; the sides, with a stylized flower. The molded mahogany handrail is supported by groups of five turned balusters, with panels between the groups. The newels at the landing and upper hall are simpler, about seven inches square and $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' tall, with a stylized rosette decoration and a ball cap.

The main circulation for the building is handled, however, by the stairway at the north end of the central section, and at the southwest corner. The stair at the north end of the central hall is in sharp contrast to the opulence of the formal staircase. From the first to second floors is a half turn with landing in runs of two and seven with $6\frac{1}{2}$ " risers. The tread is $7'-3"$ wide. The steps are apparently bluestone and the walls brick (painted to a height of about four feet) to which a plain (modern) iron handrail is attached. At the lower end of the stair the dividing wall with the descending flight is opened by a semicircular arch supported at the lower end by a column with foliate capital. Stairs are similar from the second to third floors, with runs of 20 and ten. The stairway from the third to fourth floors is a quarter turn, 23 risers with winders, the stairs attached to the wall at the south side only. Here the outer handrail is brass having cast-iron newels with acanthus decoration. Here, too, the wall between the ascending and descending stairs is opened up; in this case, by a circular hole about 40 inches in diameter.

The stairs in the southwest tower are similar, but arranged around a central brick core $8'-10"$ square (containing supply rooms for each floor). From the first to second floor is a $3/4$ turn, with three landings and runs of two, nine, nine and nine. The risers are $6\frac{1}{2}$ " with treads six feet wide. The plain, pipe handrail is attached to the inner brick core. The stairs appear to be bluestone. Other flights above are similar. In Gaston Hall there are four flights of stairs leading to the gallery; two at the east wall and two from the stage. The rear stairs are both quarter turn with landing and runs of 18 and five. The riser is $7\frac{1}{4}$ " and the tread $42\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; although it is a modern replacement. The lower newel post is columnar with a ball cap, and its total height is 55" from the first step. The handrail is an iron pipe supported by brass posts which rest on lozenge-shaped panels. Between the panels are groups of six

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miniature turned balusters. Thus there is not a regular baluster support system. On the east wall the railing is similar, attached to the wall by brass fastenings. The second pair, from the stage against the north and south walls, are similar. The newel is fluted and has a ball cap; the turned balusters are full size, however, and support a molded wooden handrail. The risers are 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the tread 27- $\frac{1}{2}$ " in a straight run of 17. The steps up to the stage from the auditorium floor are modern.

Small circular stairs are also located in the corner towers. These are of cast iron with 25-inch long treads (perforated in a diamond pattern) and with open risers. This enables the light which comes in from the narrow slit windows to illuminate the stairway remarkably well. The handrail of simple iron is attached to the exterior wall.

In the first-floor library (the Hirst Reading Room), the balcony stacks at the north end of the room are reached by a straight run of twelve 7- $\frac{1}{2}$ " risers, 34" wide. The risers are openwork of cast iron in the form of squared quatrefoils. The cast-iron newels have an octagonal paneled base, a spiral (rope-like) shaft and an octagonal cap with an acanthus bell at the top. The balusters are twisted wrought iron and support a simple iron handrail. The steps are iron.

On the second floor the library circulation department has a stairway at the north end to the third-floor stacks. This is a straight run of nine and 13 risers with a glass fire door at the landing level. At the upper end are two small runs of three risers, each to the east and west.

On the third floor the Riggs Memorial Library stacks have access to the upper three levels by spiral stairs in the northeast and southeast corners. The columnar newel is 41" tall and has sections that are octagonal, turned, fluted, molded, and acanthus-decorated. The handrail is wooden, and the balusters are attached to each step with a molded drop at the underside of the stringer. There are 12 risers to the second level and 11 to the third and fourth. The stringer ends have a leaf motif.

3. Flooring: Most of the flooring is modern, either terrazzo-- as in the first-floor hall, installed about 1956--or linoleum or tile covering. There are some areas, however, where old covering appears extant.

On the basement level, at the foot of the entrance from the north end of the central section, is a paving of reddish-brown and tan encaustic tiles, having an octagonal central motif and a square border with brown and black stripes. On the second floor, the upper landing in front of the current President's office is 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardwood which is patched in several places. In the former President's office the 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " pine floors appear to be original. The north-south hall on this floor is paved in 17-inch square flags of a grayish-tan and blue-gray stone, set at 45° to the side walls. The borders are also of the darker stone. The first-floor hall was similarly paved until terrazzo was installed. In front of the present Philodemic Society office this paving is laid in a lozenge shape with a darker border inset. On the third floor of the Riggs Library the original tile covering remains. The tiles are all rectangular or square; gray and tan/yellow predominate for the center sections of the four corners of the room, and the borders are light yellow and dark brown. The central section of the main well is gray tile. The stacks have gray/green slate flooring 1" thick. In Gaston Hall the floor is 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide pine on the main floor and 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " pine in the balcony. The lower floor slopes slightly to the stage (which has a modern plastic covering); the balcony has four levels for chairs at the sides and six levels at the center.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The north and south wings have very elaborate wall and ceiling finishes. In the north wing this is predominantly low plaster relief, or worked plaster (leaf, ribbon, and reeded patterns worked in a very thin layer of plaster). These are painted. In the south wing (the library) are cast-metal decorations (Riggs stacks area) and somewhat later ceiling painting.

In the north entrance hall the walls are paneled with wainscoting to a height of 4'-2" apparently in gumwood, now stripped and refinished in a lighter hue. Above this paneling is a band of worked plaster in a five-leaf motif. The walls are painted light green. The cornice is very elaborately treated. Below the picture molding is a band of leaves and berries; just below the cornice molding itself is a band of brown bay leaves and berries in wreaths and sprays bound with a green ribbon. Above the cornice molding is the painted ceiling. The hall ceiling is divided into five bays by wall piers and ceiling beams supported by angle braces. Each bay is treated identically, having a border of yellow bay leaves, corners filled with sycamore-like leaves, and a central four-lobed panel of

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cream plaster decorated with a bound wreath of bay leaves and palm fronds at each side.

The first-floor parlors off the entrance hall have been changed. The first (easternmost) is now used for the Information Office. The second parlor is little altered. There is an 11- $\frac{1}{2}$ " base molding and a 7" chair molding with the space between containing worked plaster depicting sprays of leaves and buds. This is painted pastel green, brown and pink; the walls are painted light blue. Below the picture molding is a similar leaf band and about it a large-scale guilloche formed by a ribbon with roses and leaves in the interstices. Above the cornice molding the ceiling has a border painting of similar design--roses and leaves. The third parlor is similar except all the plant motifs are varied. The fourth parlor has been repainted, except for the ceiling decoration. The fifth and sixth rooms of this side are combined now as offices.

The Carroll Parlor, on the south side of the hall, has more elaborate decoration. Although the baseboard and chair rail are similar, the cornice and decorative bands are in molded plaster relief, not just in worked plaster. Between the picture molding and cornice are swags, fillets and oil lamps; below the cornice molding are bay-leaf wreaths, antifix-like features, etc. Around the border of the ceiling are panels of worked plaster and relief medallions, alternating the shield of the University and IHS in a crown of thorns. Walls are blue; the reliefs gold, beige, etc.; and the ceiling, cream color.

The Chaplain's office (formerly Treasurer's office) on the first floor has been changed relatively little. In the anteroom the walls have been covered with acoustical tile, but the main room still has much of its original woodwork. The walls have a baseboard and a chair rail (34" from the floor); the corners of the projecting piers are protected by round dowels which have a squared base incorporated into the baseboard and another square plinth at the chair-rail level, with the dowel extending up to about six feet. The top is capped by a small, turned, urn-like feature. Walls are plain plaster; the ceiling has a molded wooden cornice, with the rest plain plaster. A chamfered beam spans the room at the projecting piers, supported by short columns which rest on stone brackets. The fireplace is not original.

In the upper lobby the landing and hall are also richly decorated. The west wall, with a recent portrait of Fr. Carroll (by Miss Margaret Lewis, 1953), has "Religio" and

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"Scientia" over the two windows and "lux mundi" at the center. The three ceiling panels, between beams supported by short wooden columns on stone brackets, have oak-leaf decorations around the border and plaques in the corners with inscriptions such as Philosophia, Poesis, Rhetorica, Mathesis, etc. The hall wainscoting, which extends to a height of 3'-2", consists of vertical panels below a band with rosettes. The east wall (formerly the entrance to the Museum) contains a segmental arch opening almost the width of the hall, with two doors below. The doors, and the panels above, have etched glass.

Off this hall to the north is the Philodemic Society room. This has elaborate wall decoration consisting of oval photographs of former august members, enframed in oak strips which are vertically chamfered; horizontal strips have a guilloche pattern with rosettes at the junctures. Around the ceiling, with a border painted in classical swags and fillets, are names of famous orators--Daniel Webster, Samuel Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Wendell Phillips, Stephen Douglas, J. C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, John Randolph, etc. On a plaque in the cornice level at the west end is the date AD MDCCCXXX (1830)--the date of the founding of the society. There is a 41-inch wainscoting (below the picture enframements) of stained and grained wood. The ceiling has two beams running north-south which are supported by short columns on stone brackets, as in the hall outside.

The former President's office, off this hall to the south, is directly above the Treasurer's office and is similar to it in plan. The baseboard and chair rail in the ante-room are intact. The detail in the office is similar to the former Treasurer's office (to which it was connected by speaking tubes). The cornice, however, is more elaborately painted and molded. The transverse beam is wider and is decorated on the soffit. It is supported at the piers by a bracket which rests on a short, engaged pilaster capital. These supports all appear to be of stone. At the north wall of this room, just below the ceiling molding, is a series of five ventilating windows which also provide additional light to the hall and stairway. Short columns support Y-shaped braces; these have incised patterns. This whole feature is shown in the original ink drawings. Each window is a single pane, rectangular in shape, with the upper two corners cut off.

In the current President's office (formerly the Coleman Museum), the large room was repartitioned into three rooms plus a vestibule about 1930. The very attractive wooden

paneling was done by Brother Virgil L. Golden (who died in 1932). Brother Virgil probably also did the paneling of the small first-floor classroom next to the elevator.

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In Gaston Hall, the third-floor walls are decorated with panels of worked and painted plaster around the lower portion. At the gallery level is a band of plaster relief in the form of linked shields or cartouches; above, over the stage, are wall paintings which were installed about 1900. At the sides of the hall are arches formed under the cove molding which contain shields of Catholic colleges. For further description of texts, etc., see "decorative features" below. The ceiling is divided into 18 large wooden coffers by the crossing beams; at the juncture of these is a gilt pendant boss. At the side walls these major beams are supported by hammer beams with a central large quatrefoil motif (not pierced). The hammer beams rest on large consoles. At the end walls (east and west) and between the main hammer beams at the sides are small curved supports resting on smaller brackets. Within these major coffers the ceiling is divided into nine panels each (six at the ends where the coffers are narrower) with tongue and groove running east-west. The ceiling is stained a rich dark brown.

The gallery here is supported by curved braces rising from the floor at each side, and by two columns at the rear (east). The paneling on the underside of the galleries has turned bosses at the intersections, with the tongue and groove running east-west, north-south, and diagonally. Here the braces and dividing strips are darker wood than the tongue and groove.

In contrast to the above, the hallways running north-south in the central section of the building are very plain, with a robust, functional appeal. The walls are laid in common bond; the ceilings are white plaster with a purple painted border. The lower five feet of the brick has been painted dark red; the upper portions appear to have been stained a reddish-brown in the past, so that the mortar looks pink rather than light gray. The ceilings are divided by semicircular arches spaced every ten feet the length of the hall.

The first classroom to the east of the first-floor hall was redecorated (probably in 1930 when the elevator was installed--and the room shortened), with a wood paneling to a height of about 6'-6" with a painted band of text (Thucydides and Isaias) below the cornice. There is an imitation fireplace in the northeast corner.

The second classroom has its original features. The pine wainscoting is 37- $\frac{1}{2}$ " high with baseboard and chair rail and vertical tongue and groove 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 4- $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide (with five beads) between. At the south end is the dais with an arched enframingent against the south wall. This has slender columns and plaster foliate capitals. The masonry openings for the windows have protective dowels to a height of six feet. The two transverse beams are supported near the center by modern square posts.

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The Hirst Reading Room of the Riggs Library is on the first floor of the south wing. Completed about 1901 in its present form, it has a classical revival air unlike the other decoration of the building. The old 34-inch-tall wainscoting of stained pine (with vertical tongue and groove of five beads) is still intact, but above this is all later work. The plaster walls have a worked design of fleur-de-lis between raised bands with wooden corner blocks, all painted to resemble wooden strips. This forms wall panels, and also enframes windows. Walls are dark blue but earlier were gray-green. The bookcases are wooden. The ceiling of the main room (to the south of the balcony stack area, which has undecorated ceilings) is most elaborately painted. The six major coffers, formed by the cross beams (plaster, grained to look like wood) have tromp l'oeil paintings of wooden strips and panels of carved oak leaf and acorn, bay leaves, etc., and also, in each coffer, inset paintings in gilt frames. These paintings represent a book or monument of a past language placed in an appropriate setting (ruins, etc.). These are: Mexican ideograph; Japanese; Hindustani; Greek scroll; Babylonian bricks, cuneiform; Rock of Behistun, Persian; Ruthwell cross, runes; Hieroglyphs; Ulfilas, Gothic; Hebrew scroll; Book of Kells; and Douay Bible.

In the Circulation Department on the second floor the chair rail and simple baseboard are still in place. Around the ceiling, however, is a painted cornice of Romanesque or Gothic-inspired design in a band above the windows. This cornice bears medallions with names of authors, such as Benson, Cervantes, Tacitus, Southwell, Chaucer, Corneille, Homer, Ramsay, Augustine, Bourdaloue, etc., in Gothic letters. The ceiling beams are of two sizes and have chamfered edges. They have been repainted and plastered so that the actual composition is impossible to tell. The larger east-west beams are 17" x 24"; the north-south beams are 8" x 17". In the resulting coffers a painted border in worked plaster 19 inches wide is made up of leaves, moldings, and other patterns.

On the third floor of the Riggs Library the four levels of stacks begin. These are constructed of cast iron. The shelf ends which face the central light court are decorated (at each level) and have two panels. The lower panel contains a cross with eight decorative squares of Gothic foliage in the spaces around the cross. Each relief is different. Above, the second panel has a round-arched enframing decorated with miniature Gothic or Romanesque caps and moldings. There are also inset slender columns at the corners the height of both panels and a narrow foliage panel at the top. The same motifs are repeated for all the book-stack ends facing the court. The iron is painted beige and cream with gilt detailing, giving the whole area a particularly rich and sumptuous effect. The ceiling is divided into several panels, now filled with corrugated plastic. A marble tablet placed by the University against the west wall bears the date 1891.

5. Doorways and doors: Most of the doors in Healy Building are original. In the entrance hall the parlors have double doors 5'-0" wide with each leaf four panel, the upper large panel being of glass. The lower panels have chamfered edges and horizontal moldings that correspond with and continue the wainscoting. Above the doors there is a semicircular beaded lunette with three vertical mullions; the central pane swings out as a transom. In the north-south hallway the classroom doors are all two leaf, with solid five-panel doors with similar chamfering. They also have a lunette above them. These are the two basic types of door for the building. Those at the west side of the Riggs Library stacks on the third floor are later, and have beveled glass with carved decorations of dolphin heads.
6. Decorative features and trim: Many of the decorative features have been described above under wall and ceiling finish. Most of the painting and plaster working seems to have been done about 1900 by Brother Francis G. Schroem, who died in 1924. Brother Francis also did the extensive painted decoration and the worked plaster in Gaston Hall. Around the lower level of the stage and hall are panels which contain inscriptions. At the rear of the stage are plaques with the names of scholars and scientists, with a painted emblem of the individual's field (microscope, retorts, books, etc.) above, all on a background of foliage. The names are Tasso, Suarez, Gaston, Ghomel, Bossuet, Lagrange, Gassini, Kircher, Pianciani and Waterton. Some of their painted emblems,

on canvas glued to the plaster, have fallen off. On the south wall of the stage are painted plaques containing important dates in the history of the University, the Society of Jesus, in the United States. Around the rest of the hall these panels have names of famous men and, on a painted scroll or plaque, an aphorism. These are:

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- Plato: "I know of nothing more worthy of a man's ambition than that his son should be the best of men."
- Bourdaloue: "There is nothing more precious than time, for it is the price of eternity."
- Cervantes: "One man is not greater than another, unless he do greater things."
- Washington: "Learn to keep alive in your heart that little spark of celestial fire, 'Conscience.'"
- Aristotle: "Education and morals make the good man, the good statesman, the good ruler."
- Solon: "Keep the end in view."
- Newman: "The first step is the idea of science, method, order, principle, and system."
- Dante: "Stand firm as the tow'r that never shakes its top whatever wind may blow."
- Chilon: "Do nothing immoderate."
- Solomon: "Hear counsel and receive discipline, that you may be wise in your later days."
- Cicero: "All the arts of refinement have a mutual kinship."
- Alcaeus: "Not well-built walls, but brave citizens are the bulwark of a city."
- St. Gregory: "Every man is the painter and sculptor of his own life."
- Aquinas: "The soul is perfected by knowledge and virtue."

Ignatius: "Go! Set all the world ablaze with the
fire of divine love."
Young: "Too low they build who build beneath
the stars."
St. Paul: "What fellowship hath light with darkness?"
Homer: "Restrain the haughty spirit in thy breast,
for better far is gentle courtesy."
Seneca: "The mind makes the nobleman and uplifts
the lowly to high degree."

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On the west wall of the stage are four wall paintings on canvas at the level of the gallery windows. At the far south end is the figure of Athena (inscribed below "mens sana") and at the far north end a classically draped athlete (inscribed below "in corpore sano"). Flanking the triple arched opening at the center are two allegorical paintings. To the south is enthroned Faith, with Morality and Patriotism to her right and left. The second painting shows Alma Mater giving victory wreaths to Art and Science (to the left and right) who sit below her. In the arches under the cornice are the crests of 60 Catholic colleges and universities throughout the world, each identified.

Other decorative features in Gaston Hall include a white marble plaque with a Latin inscription on the east wall, and the stained glass windows. These have light colored glass at the center with a border of darker red, gold and purple. In the bottom panel each window has the shield of the University.

In the Riggs Library (stack level) there are a number of decorative features in addition to the shelves noted above. The radiators are boxed in with an elaborate open grillwork composed of a lattice with numerous flowers; with the iron shelf above, the heating pipes are completely concealed. On the dividing mullion of the paired windows of the first floor is an engaged column. Below this, as if supporting its base, is an animal grotesque. These are cast metal, about 18 inches long, and are of two types: one is feline, the other an alligator-like dragon. One of these has been damaged; two have been removed. Above, at the second-stack level, the capitals of these supported columns contain either a cast-metal owl or an eagle. At the top of the bookcases, next to the ceiling, are two shields colored red, silver and blue, with striding animals. There appear to have been six others in correspond-

ing spaces above the bookcase ends, but these have been removed and only hooks remain. The railing of the entire stack area has newels and posts identical in design to the spiral-stair newel described above.

7. Notable hardware: In addition to the many original plain brass doorknobs, there are a few other pieces of original hardware. In the former Treasurer's office there is still one speaking tube in place near the south entrance and one near the north entrance. Above, in the former President's office, there are two tubes near the south entrance door, placed at right angles at the corner of the pier. They have a silvered finish. In the second-floor hallway are two small, wooden panel doors (without hinges or handles, however) located 21 inches from the floor, one to the south and one to the north of the central bay. The segmental arch opening is 16- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 27". They may be access panels to heating pipes or the like.
8. Lighting: A large number of gas butts are found throughout the building. One gas fixture remains in the south-east corner of Gaston Hall. It is of embossed metal with a triangular key. Crystal chandeliers hang in the Carroll Parlor, but they may not be original. Old photographs of 1893 show four-branch lighting fixtures with both gas globes and electric lights in some of the classrooms. Modern lighting is incandescent and fluorescent.
9. Heating: There are a number of fireplaces throughout the building. These were installed primarily for additional heat and display, since the building had warm-water heating when built. The fireplace in the former President's office seems to date from about 1930, judging from its style. It has two fluted Ionic columns on each side, supporting a dentilated mantel shelf which rests on large scroll brackets. The shelf is 66 inches long. Directly below, in the former Treasurer's office, a similar fireplace is composed of two elongated Ionic columns on each side, with a reeded panel above. The total height, including a panel behind the mantel shelf, is 5', 9- $\frac{1}{2}$ "; the shelf is 5'-0" long. The built-in bookshelf to the west of this has similar columns.

The parlors on the north side of the entrance hall have original fireplaces. These are rather small, placed at a 45° angle in the corner of the room. A reeded Ionic pilaster on each side supports a cyma reversa bracket, above which is the 54-inch-long shelf. Below the shelf, between the brackets, is a wood panel with a carved swag relief. The fire opening is closed with a heavy rectangu-

lar metal enframingent of cast iron with a perforated grate in the center. This has a basket-weave pattern with a lily in the center. Although it resembles a fire screen, it is not removable and may be purely decorative. The molded enframingent is 31- $\frac{1}{2}$ " across and 32- $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall. Each parlor has such a fireplace (some now painted) and also radiator coils.

These radiators are one of the most distinctive mechanical features of the building. They are found under the window in each small parlor, in the long north-south hallway, in the library, and elsewhere. They are formed of large cast-iron pipes 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter snaked around so as to be six pipes high and three or sometimes four pipes deep. These contained warm water and heated air, brought in through perforations in the cast-iron sill. The perforations are no longer visible. These pipes are concealed by a large, flat, cast-iron shelf above, which measures 28- $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep and 5'-11" wide in the parlors. In the second parlor the shelf has two pressed metal "supports" in the form of squat pilasters, with paired rosettes in the caps. In the Riggs Library the covering is extremely elaborate, perforated cast-iron; in the Carroll Parlor a larger radiator has two Ionic pilasters at each end, with the space between filled in by modern screening. Other radiators in the building (such as those in the Hirst Reading Room and the Circulation Department), although more conventional, have embossed curvilinear patterns.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Healy Building faces east and is located about 275 feet from 37th and O Streets. To the north is Copley Hall. The White-Gravenor Building at the north and the new library at the south form a large and impressive quadrangle.
2. Enclosures: None. Because the west quadrangle is higher land than the east quadrangle, the basement story on the west is below ground level, and is fronted by a terrace.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: On the east side, a herringbone brick walk eight feet wide runs around the building at basement level, a few steps below the general ground level. There is also a brick walk in the excavated area along the basement on the west side. This area was formerly reached by steps from the west entrance; these steps have been removed.

5. Landscaping: On the east side is informal planting. At the upper edge of the terrace at the west side is a hedge of low spruce trees. Ivy grows over the two east porches.

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Prepared by Daniel D. Reiff
Architectural Historian
Commission of Fine Arts
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1969 during a project to record 14 structures and a group of 16 items of "street furniture" in the Georgetown section of Washington, D. C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 10, Georgetown Architecture: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia.

The project was under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts. The recording team was composed of Miss Ellen J. Schwartz and Mr. Daniel D. Reiff, Architectural Historians, and Mr. William P. Thompson, Architect. The photographs were made by photographers J. Alexander and Jack E. Boucher under contract to the Commission.