

✓ L.R.: 2-19-80
NR#P: 5-7-80

#127-319

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Sophia Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 16 North Harvie Street

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

--- VICINITY OF

Third (David E. Satterfield, III)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(in city)

CODE

760

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED (partially)	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, partially vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME

Harvie Street Limited Partnership c/o George R. Hinnant

STREET & NUMBER

Obenshain, Hinnant, Dolbeare & Beale 1 N. 5th St.

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

zip code

23219

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Richmond City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

900 East Broad Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

Has this property been determined eligible?
 Y N

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Sophia Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, also known as Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged, is located at 16 North Harvie Street in Richmond. The original structure consisted of a brick residence built in 1832 and incorporated into an Italianate brick hospital between 1877 and 1881. Successive modifications occurred with the addition of a convent wing to the south in 1894 and a service wing to the north in the 1950s. The 3½-story brick structure is built on a brick basement and is covered by a mansard roof.

The east elevation is executed in stretcher-bond pressed brick with the secondary walls constructed in seven-course, American-bond brick. The brick is corbeled at the third story and raised brick pilasters define the main entrance bay. The main entrance is located on the east elevation of the 1877-81 building. It is believed to mark the main entrance for Warsaw, the 1832 residence in which the institution had its beginnings. The present entrance, installed ca. 1960, consists of a transom-light, metal-frame entryway with single-paned glass doors and is sheltered by a metal canopy. Secondary entrances are found on both the east and west elevations. These entrances consist of segmental-arched transoms that top plain wooden doors within simply executed architraves. The entrance on the south wing retains its original wood pedimented canopy embellished by a lacy cast-iron frieze and supported on iron posts. A contemporary cast-iron railing in an elaborate pattern ornaments the steps. While the cast-iron railing on the main entrance was replaced with a simple metal example, original railings survive on its flanking entrances and also on the rear (west) entrance. The rear entrance is sheltered by a second-floor balcony that also encompasses an iron fire escape. A cast-iron balcony covered by a shed roof was originally found on the east elevation of the south wing, but it was removed in the present century.

The mansard roof was added ca. 1894 to create a fourth floor. It replaces an earlier low-hipped roof on the 1877-81 section. The roof is covered by slate shingles and is broken by dormers that contain 6/6 hung sash. A dentil and bracket cornice runs the perimeter of the eaves course. This treatment is also found on a pediment over the main entrance. A cross surmounts the pediment. Fenestration consists of segmental-arched 6/6 hung-sash windows in simple wooden architraves.

The 1877-81 hospital plan was originally "U"-shaped and consisted of the present five-bay entrance section with adjoining pavilions to the north and south. It is believed that the entrance section followed the plan of Warsaw, recently found to be encased within the entrance hall. The plan became "E"-shaped when the convent wing was added in 1894. The wing added an extra bay to the two-bay hospital pavilion, making the central pavilion three bays. This later wing has a completely independent circulation system. The last major addition was a lounge and community service area added to the Floyd Avenue elevation in the 1950s. This late addition is to be removed in a forthcoming renovation.

Connecting the wings is an asymmetrically positioned hall that runs from north to south. The doorways in the corridor are defined by curvilinear-arched transoms vaguely Moorish in inspiration. Off the corridor run three lateral stair halls that contain open-well stairs. The stairs in the oldest section have turned walnut newels, while the stair in the 1894 wing has a square newel. All the stairs have molded handrails

(See continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1832, 1877, 1881, 1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former hospital of St. Sophia, Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, is a prodigious and rare example for Richmond of late Victorian institutional architecture. It is also an important element in the fabric of Richmond's Fan District, a popular late 19th-century urban residential neighborhood. Adding interest to the building is the fact that incorporated within its walls is Warsaw, a brick farmhouse built in 1832 as the residence of William Anderson, whose farm now forms a large portion of the surrounding neighborhood. Anderson's spacious residence was acquired in 1877 by the Catholic mendicant order of nuns, the Little Sisters, and converted into a charitable hospital. The building was greatly enlarged in the Italianate style between 1877-1881 and further enlarged in the Second Empire Style in 1896, all making it an interesting evolutionary structure. The Little Sisters removed to a modern complex after ninety-nine years of service in the Fan District. The hospital is now under new ownership and is awaiting conversion into luxury apartments.

Building in Richmond in the years following the Civil War was extensive but tended to be primarily commercial and residential. The commercial building was concentrated in the area downtown destroyed during the evacuation fire. Residential construction was most extensive in the Jackson Ward and the new neighborhoods spreading from downtown to the west. There was practically no new governmental architecture until the new city hall was begun in 1887. Institutional building in the 1870s was confined almost exclusively to the new Richmond College complex and the hospital for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The college complex was destroyed by fire in the early 20th century, leaving the hospital as the city's major institutional structure of the period.

The 1870s was a period of great expansion for the Roman Catholic Church in Richmond. During Reconstruction it developed the St. Joseph's Home and the Monte Maria Convent on Church Hill and acquired a new site for a cathedral to replace St. Peter's, the original cathedral of the Diocese of Richmond. In 1876 Bishop James Gibbons purchased Warsaw and four lots which he gave to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The Little Sisters is an international Roman Catholic order of nuns which maintains a mother house near Rennes, France. The sisters take the vow of poverty and support themselves through begging, church donations, and church auxiliaries. The patients or "guests" at the home are chosen without regard to religion, nationality or race. The sisters offer physical and occupational therapy and recreation. The founder of the order expressed the religious significance of their work: "Remember that the poor are Jesus Christ".¹

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Baist, G. William. Atlas of Richmond, plate 10, Philadelphia, 1889.
- Edwards, Robert. Communications Department, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Richmond, Va. Interview, December 1979.
- Palmer, Vera, "Early Hospitals of Richmond and Their Noble Work." Richmond News Leader, December 18, 1920.
- Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives, Richmond City File 1275

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See continuation sheet #2)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Richmond, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 2,8,2 7,8,0 4,1 5,8 2,2,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Bounded on the SE by Harvie Street, on the NE by Floyd Avenue, on the NW by Plum Street, and on the SW by Main Street. Map reference W000-0525-001, Lot 78-81, Richmond City Tax Assessor's Office. Register bounds coincide with limits of said lots measuring approximately 340' x 380' (collectively).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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

Tucker Hill, Executive Director

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 19 1980

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Sophia Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Richmond, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 4, 7 PAGE 1,1

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Harvie Street Limited Partnership:

George R. Hinnant
Sam T. Beale
Dr. Merritt W. Foster, Jr.
Estate of R. Finley Gayle, III

7. DESCRIPTION

and turned balusters.

The home was vacated by the Little Sisters in 1976, and at that time, the kitchen was located in the basement along with a separate room for dishwashing. The first floor had been used for lounges, offices, patient rooms, and miscellaneous storage. The remaining floors contained patient and community rooms. Most of the interior finishes had been recently updated and included resilient tile flooring, suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and a modern elevator installed in the main corridor of the 1877-81 section.

On axis with the main hall and presumably constructed before the 1894 convent wing is a chapel. The Italianate-style chapel is cruciform in plan with a three-sided apse projecting to the west. The two-story space is surmounted by a four-sided cupola. Stained-glass windows added within the last twenty years provide a natural source of light. At the same time, the chapel was extensively renovated and the original pews removed. A tile floor was installed along with wooden paneling and new lighting. An iron railing was provided on a second-floor mezzanine.

In addition to the hospital, convent, and chapel, several outbuildings exist to the rear (west) of the main complex. They all appear to date from the late 19th century. A two-story brick building, seven bays by two bays, is found immediately to the west of the main structure. At the time the complex functioned as a hospital, this edifice contained a community room, barber shop, and foot bath on the first floor and a guest suite on the second floor. Further to the west is a two-story brick and wood stable consisting of a main pavilion flanked by two smaller wings. Executed in seven-course American bond, the building measures 115' x 23' and last served as a garage and storage area.

(See continuation sheet #2)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

St. Sophia Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Richmond, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7, 8, 9 PAGE 2, 1, 1

7. DESCRIPTION

A plain 20th-century gazebo, 18' x 18', is located to the south of the hospital. Surrounding grounds are well landscaped and contain a variety of large trees and shrubs. About the time the convent wing was added, the streets in the area were lowered for the development of the Fan District. A seven-course American-bond brick retaining wall with a metal fence surrounds the property.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property is a city block, a 2.7-acre tract defined by Harvie, Main and Plum Streets, and Floyd Avenue. The property, surrounded by the brick retaining wall of 1896, is the same tract of land acquired by the Little Sisters after they moved to Richmond in 1877.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1876, at the time of the sisters' arrival in Richmond, the city was in need of hospitals. During the Civil War temporary hospitals were established all over the city in every available dwelling, store, factory and warehouse. The Chimborazo hospital center was organized in 1862 and disbanded at the end of the war. The old almshouse was the only place that offered facilities for the care of the sick. The arrival of the Little Sisters filled a great void in the city's health care program. The demand grew and forced the enlargement of the facilities, with the convent pavilion and chapel representing the largest additions. Not only did the addition of the mansard roof in 1896 increase the usable space, but it also contributed to the building's Second Empire feeling. Popular on the institutional buildings of the North, the Second Empire Style is rare on Southern Reconstruction period structures.

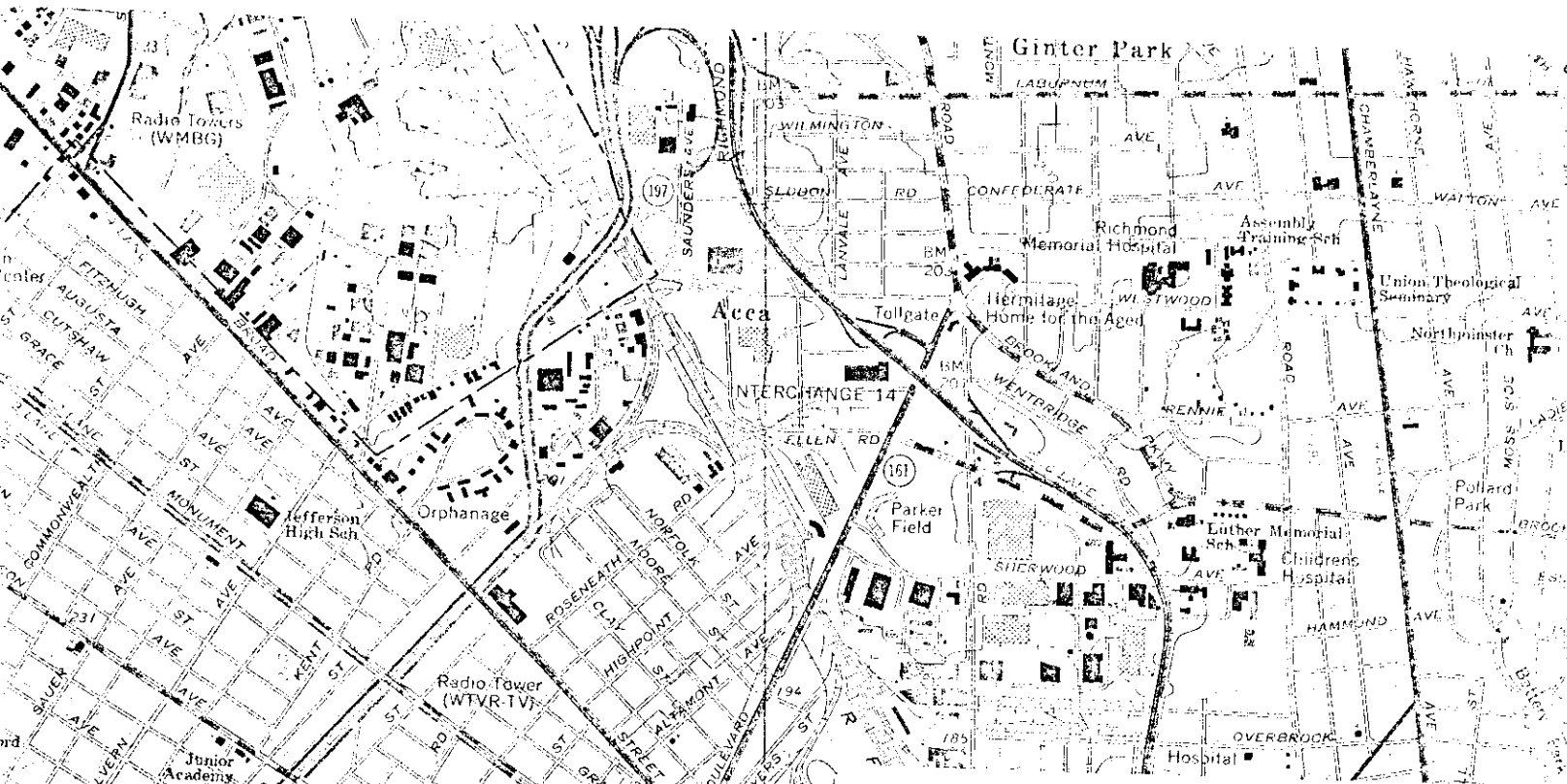
VDS/RCC

Notes:

1. Dukie Pearce, Richmond News Leader, June 29, 1969.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert Winthrop, "Little Sisters of the Poor," n.d.
Welton, Carolyn, "140 Year Old Home Loses Little Sisters of the Poor". Richmond News Leader, August 24, 1972. p. 23.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Richmond, Va. 1964 (PR1968, 1974)

ST. SOPHIA HOME OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE
 POOR, Richmond (city), Virginia

UTM References:

18/282780/4158220

