

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 1700 North Water

Ursuline Academy of St. Teresa of Decatur, Illinois.

Legal description: Partition of Est of Benjamin Davis.

NW 1/4 Sec 2-16-2 (Exc 500' lying W of Broadway between 1700 and Van Buren Street and 224' of W 324.75' of E 744.25' Broadway and S. of Van Buren 11.31A)

Notes: The portion owned by the nuns, originally about 33 acres, includes about 20.35 acres in 1975 after the above noted exclusions of acreage. On four different occasions land was sold or traded to the Illinois Power Company. The portion added, by trade, adjoined the north property line, fronting on Water. It is currently used as a parking lot for St. Teresa High School.

Date of original construction: 1913.

Name of original owner: St. Teresa's Academy or Ursuline Academy of St. Teresa of Decatur, Illinois. (The land was originally in the name of the Alton Roman Catholic Ursuline Convent of the Holy Family, but by the time the structure was built, the Decatur Ursulines had independent status, and held title to it).

History:

1. A very incomplete chain of title follows: (Source: Notes of Sister Ursula made from the abstract, with Miss Charlotte Meyer copying only a portion of those notes, March 25, 1975).

August 13, 1830 - Parmenius Smallwood secured from the U. S. A. through a land grant the NW 1/4 Section 2 of Township 16 North of Range 2 East of the 3rd Prime Meridian in Macon County including 153.96 A.

December 24, 1851 - (on or about) Parmenius Smallwood died intestate.

May 13, 1859 - Benjamin Davis purchased the entire estate of Parmenius Smallwood, NE 1/4 of Section 3 (152 acres), the south part of the NW 1/4 of Section 2 (104 acres), and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 2 (40 acres) - total 296 acres - for \$14,948.

Present owner's name: St. Teresa's Academy (Assessor's office)  
Ursuline Academy of St. Teresa of Decatur,  
Illinois, (Sister Ursula).

History Summary

1. May 1881 - Ida Davis Downing (Mrs. William P.), daughter of Emanuel Davis, and granddaughter of Benjamin Davis, on the partitioning of the Benj. Davis estate, received the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 2 and the south 22 acres of the NW 1/4 of Section 2.

March 1, 1906 - Hiram Johnson sold to the Alton Roman Catholic Ursuline Convent, 32.6 acres.

2. See copy of excerpts from Sister Eugenia's unpublished history for information pertaining the years, 1911-1918. These years include a description of the previous Ursuline Convent on East Eldorado Street, directly across the street from the present St. Patrick's Church, the decision to build a new structure at 2700 N. Water, and follow-up pertaining to the early years.

Architect - George A. Stauduhar of Rock Island, who had also designed St. Patrick's Church in Decatur.

3. In conversation with Sister Eugenia, one of three remaining foundresses of the Decatur Ursuline house, the following was learned about the present structure:

a. The exterior of the building has had very little modification since it was occupied on December 22, 1913. A door was added on the north about 1930 to provide easier access to the St. Teresa High School, and kitchen and laundry facilities were placed in an addition built in 1929 after an old frame structure that had previously housed these facilities burned.

b. The basic interior structure of the 1913 building is unchanged, but uses of facilities have changed. What were dormitories for boarding students and nuns in the earlier days have been subdivided with partitions to increase the numbers of private rooms, each nun having her own private room today. What were once used as a gym and an art room on the first floor now houses a kindergarten. The first floor retains dining rooms and kitchen; the second floor houses parlors, visitor's suits, offices, the nun's recreation room, and the third floor has thirteen private rooms, an infirmary and the chapel; the fourth floor has private rooms where there once were dormitories. All is very well cared for, is spacious and sturdy.

c. The major service of Ursuline nuns was originally directed toward the education of girls; however, their purposes were so-stated that when co-educational programs were needed, the

History Continents3. Continents

- c. nuns could provide them. The convent at 2700 North Water, originally a school for girls, elementary through high school, boarding and day students, is the residence - the home - for nuns now teaching at St. Patrick's, St. Thomas and St. Teresa High School in Decatur, and at vacation time for nuns serving a mission in Oconee, Illinois.
- d. See clippings regarding the first convent and the opening of the 2700 North Water convent.
- e. See xerox copy of Mabel Richmond's section on St. Teresa Academy in her 1930 Centennial History of Decatur and Ma-  
con County.

From The Ursulines and I, an unpublished history written by Sister Eugenia O'Laughlin, OSU, a foundress of the present Ursuline Academy of St. Teresa at 2700 North Water, Decatur, Illinois. The particular selections that are quoted are from Sister Eugenia's record of personal experiences, 1911 through 1913, and are to be found in Volume One of her unpublished history. These excerpts are quoted with Sister Eugenia's kind permission.

Charlotte Meyer  
March 25, 1975

"At the close of the annual retreat in 1911. I was missioned to Decatur, Illinois. I knew few of the nuns who were to be my community companions. I knew nothing of the city; I little dreamed that this assignment would be lifelong!

"Sister Edmund Noonan and I arrived in Decatur by train, shortly before noon towards the end of August. As we stepped from the train at the Wabash station we were met by a courteous gentleman who escorted us to a waiting carriage. Later, I learned to my amusement, that the gentleman was Mr. J. J. Moran, the local undertaker; the carriage was one of his funeral coaches!

"Since the convent (on East Eldorado directly across from St. Patrick's Church) was only a few blocks away, we arrived there in less than ten minutes. As I stepped into the parlor, I knew immediately from the delicious odor permeating the air that peach canning was in progress. The nuns, aproned, sleeves and habits pinned up, gathered to welcome us. We were invited into the kitchen. I was right! On the table stood jars and jars of freshly canned fruit. There were several bushel baskets of peaches yet to be peeled. In the middle of the kitchen stood Mrs. John Clark and her daughter, Marguerite, who was later to become our own dear Sister Margaret Mary. In the doorway stood Marguerite's younger brother, Charles, who as a Jesuit was to do such outstanding work among the ex convicts that he has been named the "hoodlum priest." It was this Clark family who went into the country to get the fruit for us.

"After dinner we were invited to make a hurried tour of the convent. Much must be said about that house later. We found it was a three story building containing twelve rooms. As far as I can remember the first floor consisted of a parlor, large music room, the kitchen and the refectory. On the second floor was our small chapel, some guest rooms and perhaps some other rooms, I can't recall. The third floor supplied the community room and the dormitories.

"After the tour I slipped into some old clothes and went over to the school, which was located east of the convent. It was a brick building erected in 1882. It reminded me vividly of our old school at St. Peter and Paul's in Alton. It contained four rooms; two downstairs; two above. Sliding partitions between these rooms could be opened so that one room became two. The building was heated by a furnace which usually provided scant heat. I was to teach the third and fourth grades. Long rows of double desks provided room for the seventy-three pupils who enrolled on the first day.

"The night after that first day we were called to the parlor to meet our well-known pastor, Reverend Andrew Smith. A slim, tall, curly haired Irishman, recently ordained and fresh from the Emerald Isle. He was well-liked, had a good sense of humor and a delightful Irish brogue which for all the years, and they were many, during which I knew him he never quite lost. He was, because of his priestly kindly understanding a pillar of strength for us in those early days.

"My own pastor, Father Jeremiah Murphy, was a unique personality, a saint in the making. One had to know him pretty thoroughly to really appreciate his worth. He was highly intelligent, energetic, hard as steel, but he had a heart of gold under his gruff exterior. His name will often come to the memory.

"Actually one who in those, the immediate things in his surroundings. I think that when I moved in the front porch of my new home I could look directly into the sanctuary of our cathedral-like church across the street, if the doors were open. I discovered that our house was the block from the corner between Jackson Street and Broadway, that's a very long block. The corner house on Jackson belonged to the Peter Mooney family; the house on W. W. Thompson's lived in the second house, next to the corner. These three buildings occupied the space now covered by the library. An apartment building now stands on the site of the old school building.

"In the year 1854, that St. Teresa Academy was the first building erected on the north side of Main Street between North Main and the Illinois Central Railroad. It had not always been a convent. Before becoming such it had served several other purposes. Its erection was the result of the coming of Mother of a school.

"In 1853 the Great Western railroad ran tracks through the city. Its depot was on Broadway. An energetic, forwarding gentleman, a Mr. Humphrey, realized the advantages of having a hotel in this vicinity. He immediately began plans for such a building to be located at 450 East Eldorado Street. The contract was let to Mr. Joseph Mills who had in 1853, opened a lumber yard in Decatur. The planned hotel was completed in 1854 and bore the title, "The Humphrey House." It was made of such bricks as were available at that time. They were handmade and soft, so that they absorbed the moisture from the air and the earth. This, as we shall see later, caused the mums much suffering. Because of later competition Mr. Humphrey became bankrupt. His hotel was then used as a boarding house designated as the "Murphy House".....

"The Sunday after my arrival in Decatur, I attended Mass for the first time in St. Patrick's Church. I was awed! Gothic in structure, it is built of white stone with a seating capacity of at least one thousand. It was dedicated in November, 1909 by Bishop James Ryan.

"The building is cruciform in shape. On Sundays we sisters sat in the transept facing Our Lady's altar. When the church was crowded, some of us occupied the loggia, above and around the ornate high altar.

"On either side of the church the beautiful stained glass windows cast a soft, subdued light. Each of these windows depicts some Gospel scene. They are a never-ending source of prayerful contemplation. High above these windows are those of the clere story. The edifice is supported by huge circular columns. Back and above the great pipe organ which can fill the church with triumphant music, is the lovely stained glass rose window.....

"The days between August 15th and registration day whizzed by. At the close of that day we were overwhelmed! Like the old woman who lived in the shoe we had so many children we didn't know what to do. The old school, plus the annex built in 1882, south of the convent, overflowed. The upper room of the latter had been in use as a classroom for a long time, so it didn't help to solve the problem. But something had to be done, and immediately!

"Luckily the old church still stood (where St. Patrick's School is presently located). Sister Alberta Ringemann with courageous ingenuity converted that old building into a temporary classroom. She and her eighty-odd, yes, I said eighty-odd, first and second graders, occupied it for six weeks. The youngsters sat on the kneelers and used the seats for desk tops. There were no conveniences of any kind. At recess Sister and her charges trooped over to the Eldorado Street school yard.

"A makeshift classroom was also set up in the rectory basement. Still there was a small overflow. These, Sister Edmund Noonan taught, in the Sisters' dining room in the convent. The children sat around the refectory table on the nun's chairs. One day Sister Edmund noticed some paper on the floor. She said to Albert Goodman, "Albert, will you please pick up that paper?"

Albert replied, "Sister, 'tain't mine."

"No matter, said Sister, "you can do an act of charity, can't you?"

A few days later Sister saw Albert scrambling about under the table.

"Albert," she said, "what are you doing down there?"

Very seriously Albert replied, "Sister, I'm doin' an act o' Hope."

"Before September had passed Father Murphy had decided we must have a new school. After a short time the old church was torn down and the new building was begun on its site.....

"The year of 1911-1912 passed very swiftly for me. Again I was living through history-making days. Now that the Roman Union was properly established all Ursuline houses were expected to become independent. Decatur was planning to apply for autonomy. Reverend Mother Lucy who had been appointed provincial in 1911, was our loyal champion and staunch supporter. The request for autonomy was signed by the following six nuns:

Mother Leo Eries  
 Mother St. Bernard Pilon  
 Mother Celestine O'Rourke

Mother Celestine O'Rourke  
 Mother Constance Merklin  
 Sister Eugenia O'Laughlin

"These six nuns, in this way, became the charter members of the community.

"The Document authorizing autonomy was received July 22nd, 1912 by Reverend Mother Angela Schwartz, the Superior of Alton; at that time our superior also. Because of Reverend Mother Lucy's illness the document did not become operative until November 9th of that same year.

"Some time early in November Rev. Mother Lucy came to Decatur. On the 9th, the community was assembled for the signing of the autonomy document. Rev. Mother carefully explained that we were free to sign or to remain subjects of the Alton house. She also made it clear that if we later decided to return to Alton that too, could be arranged.

"Therefore, on November 9, 1912 the following eleven members of the Decatur community signed the autonomy:

Mother Leo Eries  
 Mother Celestine O'Rourke  
 Mother Constance Merklin  
 Sister Eugenia O'Laughlin  
 Sister Edmund Noonan

Sister Alberta Ringemann  
 Sister Paul Brewer  
 Sister Irene Wucherpennig  
 Sister Patrick Hines  
 Sister Martina Holly  
 Sister Veronica O'Brien

"Immediately after our signatures were attached the canonical election of a superior took place. Mother Celestine O'Rourke was chosen. Our electing chapter consisted of only five members. Mother Celestine received three out of the five possible votes. After her installation, Reverend Mother Lucy said with a sigh, "There's only one thing that bothers me; you are all so young."

"With a twinkle in her eye, our new Reverend Mother replied, "Mother, don't let that worry you. We shall correct that fault day by day."

.....

"Now we were faced with another tremendous decision. As time had gone relentlessly on, it had become more and more apparent that the "Old St. Teresa Academy" must soon be replaced. If the old house had been, as we have seen, so dilapidated in 1873, by 1912 it was ready to cave in on our hapless heads.

"At the time we had property, but no money. In 1906, the Alton Community had acquired a 33 acre tract of land on North Water Street. This property was later transferred by a Quit Claim Deed, to the Decatur House. In 1912 this tract was a veritable "out in the country" section. It was surrounded by cornfields and a deeply wooded hillside. There were no paved roads, no sidewalks, no trees, no anything! But, to us that barren tract of land, was the land of promise; the land where in our dreams, we saw a

stately new academy. To be sure, it would be for a long time to come, but a wing of the proposed building which would some day be an immense structure consisting of a main building with identical wings on either side. The main section would house the chapel, gymnasium, the Auditorium and such parts as were open to the public. One wing would house the boarders; the other would be exclusively for the nuns. Alas! As we shall see, only the north wing ever materialized. But plans were begun at once.

"At the close of that school year our little band of eleven was augmented by three new members. Mother Regina Bierbaum was admitted to stability on June 27, 1913. Mother Gabriel Fitzgerald was admitted in December, 1912, and Sister Rose Condon was admitted August 3, 1913. These nuns came with us to the new house, bringing our number up to fourteen.

"Our young superior was a woman of action, farsighted and courageous. She had a deep faith and a firm trust in the Providence of God. As soon as possible she began definite planning for the erection of the new building, for the reception of postulants, and for the acceptance of boarders.

"Of necessity, Mother's first concern was for the obtaining of funds. She and another sister went to consult Mr. John Fitzgerald, a lawyer, about handling their business transactions. He listened carefully as Mother outlined her plans. Then he inquired, "How much money have you?" When Mother answered briefly, "We haven't any," Lawyer Fitzgerald leaned back in his chair and regarding the two nuns in amazement, finally he remarked, "You are either saints or fools." Saints or fools, whichever they were they got the loan.

"Immediately Mr. George Staudahar, the noted architect who had planned St. Patrick's Church was contacted. Yes, he would accept the job. Without delay he drew up the plans. The contract was let to Polson and Polson Brothers. Excavation for the new St. Teresa's was begun Tuesday, May 12, 1913. Ten men with five teams started the work; later more were added. The building was expected to be open November 5, 1913.

"Meanwhile many exciting things were taking place at the "Old Academy". The new St. Patrick's School being ready for occupancy, we moved into it in February 1913.....

"In the meantime we were getting encouraging reports about the progress of the new building. It was daily becoming more and more a reality. Mother Celestine decided early in August that we should see for ourselves. She announced that on August 15, we would have a picnic at the new St. Teresa's. Enthusiastically we welcomed the idea.

"That year, August 15th fell on Friday. The Holy Father had dispensed all Catholics from abstinence; therefore, we might have meat. Miss Elizabeth Hayes and Miss Margaret Burke spent the 14th preparing the food.



"Friday morning proved to be an ideal picnic day, not a cloud in the sky. We all attended the nine o'clock Mass at St. Patrick's. The "all" included our two hostesses and also Mother Teresa Breeman who had come to Boston. She was admitted to stability on July 28, 1914.

"After Mass we climbed into the surreys that were to take us to North River Street. We reached the site about eleven o'clock. Miss Joyce and Miss Marie went on off to explore, while they laid out the tent.

"At that time only the framework of the new house was complete. Back to the amusement of the contractors who were examining the work, we got up and down ladders, climbed precariously on cross beams and peered into every nook and corner.

"To passers-by that huge skeletal framework might have appeared unattractive. In our eyes, at that moment, the most beautiful sight in the world. That fifty-room house would be palatial.

"At 11:30 in answer to the girls' "No-No" we gathered for dinner under the sunny shade of the tent but the trees at the edge of the property. The food was fit for a king! Fried chicken, baked ham, potato salad, the vegetables, puddings and slices, cake and ice cream and all the luxuries we could get.

"After standing our picnic dinner with the contractors we still had enough food for supper. During the afternoon we inspected the small cottage near the old convent. Later it was moved to the east side of the new building and connected to it by a runway. In this runway we installed a refrigerator. The first floor of this small addition housed our kitchen, laundry and storeroom. We did the laundry by hand using the old fashioned washboards. The laundry was done with heavy flat irons heated on the small stove. Collars and neckties were starched and stretched on "girders" made of big heavy boards covered with zinc, I believe. The upper floor of the annex provided three sleeping rooms for a time.

"By some strange chance, some one later jokingly referred to this small building as "Jericho." Naturally the big building became "Jerusalem." Thereafter we made many trips between Jericho and Jerusalem.

"Our next tour of inspection on picnic day was a thorough exploration of the 33 acres. We were delighted to find a small creek flowing through our land. Late that afternoon we ate our picnic supper, climbed into the surreys and returned to the old convent dust-grimed, happy and relaxed.

"In the fall of 1913 we were anxious to take boarders on Eldorado Street so we would have a nucleus for the new Academy. At least four girls came.....

"As we had hoped the new building at 2700 North Water was ready by December, 1913. Some of us had gone out on Saturday to clean rooms that were finished.

"At last the great day came! On December 22, the nuns who were not teaching at St. Patrick's left early for the new convent. Three nuns remained to do the actual closing of the "old Academy." St. Patrick's faculty taught part of the day.

"The following is an account of the last morning as described by Mother Edmund Noonan:

"After meditation, office and the community Mass we took a hurried breakfast, our last in the old house - and then began hasty preparations for our journey out to the new Academy. (I use the word "journey" for in fact the trips back and forth in those days were "journeys" as you will learn on reading this history.)

"Suddenly the door bell rang with gusto. When the portress answered the call, in trooped a Reverend Father to say Mass. He was followed by eight other priests in succession. (Deanery meeting was in session at St. Patrick's Rectory and Rev. Father Murphy wanted to hold on to us as long as possible.) Since this had not been anticipated, plans had to be adjusted to meet the emergency and so the sacristan Mother Edmund Noonan with Mother Paul Brewer and Sister Rose remained behind to close the old house. It seemed Our Lord did not want to leave us. Was this His reward for our faithful service to Him in the old house? We like to think so. Anyway, in His Omniscience He knew in advance of our leaving that it would be a long time before we should again enjoy such spiritual luxury. (We didn't know then, that daily Mass would be impossible for a year or longer.) After all the Holy Masses were over, and good Sister Rose had given the last priest his cup of coffee and toast, we stripped the altars and packed the vestments, candles, altar wine, etc. together with the few remaining kitchen utensils into a large basket which good Sister Martina had left at our disposal. Solemnly we closed the windows and the front door, then stepped into the buggy, clothes basket and all. We left the Old Academy at noon just as the Angelus was ringing and arrived at the new Academy at 3:00 o'clock. A journey yes, looking back with the eyes of 1970, it was. The buggy mentioned belonged to Miss Margaret Burke. It was drawn by her old white horse and Miss Burke did the driving.

"After school (Father Murphy let us dismiss early) St. Patrick's faculty set out for the new Academy. It was bitterly cold traveling on the street car. Arriving home, we all set to work helping to unpack, and unpack it was! The furniture had all been stored in the art room, now a part of Sister Alberta's kindergarten. Willing hands made quick work. Soon we came to the beds which we had to carry - yes, carry - up four flights of steps to the dormitory. At that time we had no elevator in operation. Six o'clock P.M. came before we knew it; time for supper. When we entered the refectory where the guests' dining room is now, we were surprised - paint buckets filled one whole corner; there were neither tables nor chairs - who cared for that! We said grace, found chairs

for Reverend Father and the other nuns, then we young people sat back-fashion on the floor. We had no idea what food we'd have. The only stove available was a small heater in the upstairs of the small building mentioned earlier.

We soon discovered that Father Gabriel and the boarders had peeled and stewed apples, so we had apple sauce, bread and tea. Unfortunately we had to - as mothers tell their sons - "go easy on the bread." Charles Clark, who is now famous as Reverend Charles Dismas Clark, the Hamilton Priest, had been delegated to ride in one of the moving vans and to take care of the bread. In some way several loaves were lost, so we had to think of breakfast and lay some aside.

Father Gabriel Fitzgerald who had been appointed first boarder's mistress, assisted by the girls, kept the apple sauce kettle filled and for the first week we lived on tea, bread and apple sauce, bread tea and apple sauce, and apple sauce, bread and tea. Dear M. Fitzgerald! Not for long did she assist us. Shortly after our settlement at St. Teresa's she suffered a paralytic stroke, and was the first of our little band to die R. I. P. (January 20, 1916)

The next two days, after our arrival at the new house, we worked like dogs. Christmas was so near! Could we be ready? Yes, by the time of that magical of days we really felt at home. Out we went to Hill of Clouds Hill riding in the big "Houniers' Coaches" provided by St. A. J. Hounier, upholsterer, one of our best friends. In these days such was not so common as now.

When we first moved out to St. Teresa's we were definitely "the lonely house on the hill." On all sides there was nothing but empty fields and vacant lots. Ours was the only house except Downing's place on North Water Street and a little brick school called "Brush College." Two blocks west of us was the Pythian Home erected in 1910. Later it became St. Joseph's Hall, Tertian Retreat House. At present it is a home for the elderly called Creneen's Manor. In early days there were no paved roads, if it rained we were likely to get "stuck in the mud." When it snowed our driver, like as not, had to get out and literally shovel a way through the drifts. Sometimes his language could have melted the snow. That was after we had acquired a big bus drawn by Race and Fay, our two stout black horses.

To add to our difficulties there stood, right in the center of the road, in front of Downing's homestead a "great-grandfather" cottonwood tree. This venerable tree was almost 100 years old (1912) and had been saved many times by protests, but finally in 1916 when Bloomington Road, as it was then called, became a state highway this landmark had to go.

"It had been of great value in reckoning distances. It was exactly two miles north of the courthouse. It stood on the North and South section line and only a few feet off the East and West section line. Travelers had often rested their teams under its shade. But to us that tree was a menace. Its huge roots spread out above ground so that if a driver wasn't careful his vehicle easily tipped to one side and the occupants were thrown to the opposite side. Moreover the huge tree branches hung so low that they scraped the high topped conveyance of any kind. For these reasons we didn't mourn the tree's uprooting.

"Early in the year 1914, the new Academy was blessed under the title of the Academy of St. Teresa. The chapel was dedicated to the Sacred Heart. For the first two years we had no resident chaplain, so twice a week the young assistant from St. Patrick's, Rev. Andrew Smith, said Holy Mass for us and gave us Holy Communion. He, if you can imagine it, rode a bicycle, whenever it was possible. Remember there were no paved roads, no sidewalks. Often he couldn't pedal through the snow or mud, then he'd hide his bike in Downing's bushes and proceed on foot. Many mornings he had to be "thawed out" before he could say Mass.....

"Because we were so far out and so unimportant, no merchants would deliver anything, so the St. Patrick's faculty became the delivery boys. Every evening each of us carried a bundle - loaves of bread, packages of meat, cans of milk, pounds of butter. Many amusing things happened - one evening M. Edmund's bread bundle string broke. Out tumbled a loaf. Before she could retrieve it, a man right behind her accidentally kicked it, sending it half way down the car. Of course, we all laughed. This set the embarrassed man at ease and helped to make friends for us. Another day it was a milk can lid that went rolling away but we took it all in good part. By traveling on the street car, we proved to the sometimes bigotted or prejudiced people that nuns could laugh and were really quite human after all. By the end of the year many of those who had regarded us almost with hostility had become quite friendly. One lady who had been especially distant, accepted our invitation to visit the convent. She chose a summer afternoon to make her call. When the front door was opened in answer to her ring, she stood in surprised amazement, as she saw nuns in gingham aprons, sleeves and habits pinned up, mop buckets in hand, everybody busily engaged in summer house cleaning. When the visitor was duly welcomed, she exclaimed, "I never dreamed you people knew how to work like that, I thought all you ever did was teach school and do embroidery.....

"In order to help pay the debt on our new house we held annually a chicken fry, sometimes around August 15th. For days we nuns cleaned chickens some of which we had raised, many had been solicited by the ladies of St. Patrick's parish. On chicken fry day we nuns did the serving, using all available space on the first floor of the convent. That evening we washed, I didn't count them, but I'm sure it was thousands of dishes. We were our own electric dishwashers! And believe me, it kept us moving very fast! Somewhere between 12:00 and 1:00 we crept tiredly but happily into bed. Hadn't we just earned many additional dollars to help pay for our beloved St. Teresa's.....

"The spring of 1916 found us well prepared for large scale work farming. On February 1st, we secured the services of Mr. Burton Deale, a well qualified, enthusiastic young farmer, possessed of energy, vision and drive. He immediately planned the utilization of all our available land. At that time our property extended north and south from what is now Van Buren Street almost to the Illinois Traction tracks; east and west from Broadway to North Water Street. A small creek which runs about midway between the two latter streets, became the dividing line for the different kinds of planning.

"A large part of the property east of the creek was seeded with feed corn. As soon as it began to grow we spent hours weeding between the rows. The property west of the creek was planted in sweet corn, peas, beans, cabbage, lettuce, onions, radishes, strawberries and tomatoes. Since the latter were in great demand, we raised bushels and bushels of them. From early morn until late in the evening, Sisters Constance and Alberta, braving the hot summer sun picked and sorted them. The choicest were basketed and marketed at excellent prices. The less acceptable bushels were canned, Sister Regina and I doing that job.

"Every evening we picked, sorted and boxed strawberries. We hunched radishes and onions. These products too, brought good prices at market. The need for a greenhouse was imperative in order to supply young plants. It was erected on the site where the boiler room now stands. Sister Regina took charge of it. She not only raised enough plants for our own use, but sold a great number.

"Our next venture was the raising of poultry. Chicken houses were built, brooders purchased. Sister Alberta cared for hundreds of fluffy baby chicks. We soon had plenty of fresh eggs and fryers, not only for our own use, but also for the chicken-fry held each year. Our cows supplied us with milk and butter. The Young Brothers butchered the pigs we raised and any cows or calves we didn't wish to keep. This helped solve our meat problem.

"Each year brought its own exciting events - 1917 was no exception. That year, with the assistance of our loyal friends, we had the rare good fortune of winning an automobile, a shiny, brand-new Pan-American. It came to us as the result of a contest sponsored by the paper. "The Labor World".....

"The Irish often refer to events by saying, "It happened the night of the Big Wind," or "It was during the potato famine." Or again, "It was the year Con Meaghan died." We, in the United States, could have later referred to the year 1918, as "the year of the Big Flu." The epidemic of that year was widespread and disastrous. It was no respecter of persons. Few families escaped and there were many deaths. The nuns fell like flies until only two were able to be up and about to serve the whole, very ill community.....

"In what ~~some~~ year we really went modern by the purchase of an auto bus. Two long seats on either side accommodated not only St. Patrick's family, but later on St. Thomas' also. Later too, when the kindergarten was opened the bus proved to be almost invaluable. In it the kindergarten teacher could collect and deliver all her pupils in a morning and a noon trip.

"Mr. O'Heren, our driver, never went out during the winter months without a shovel. Since the "paved roads", extended only as far as Division Street, we would like as not get stuck in a snow drift or in very deep mud. If hot words could have heated the atmosphere we would not have sat freezing while Mr. O'Heren swearingly dug us out. Of course, we could and did make use of the time, saying our office and other prayers. Then again, when we did get started we made good progress - since at that time stop lights and traffic signs existed only in the mind of God.

"Sometime in 1918 Professor Johannes Schumacher, a European exiled artist set up a studio in Decatur. He gave art lessons at the Academy. Sr. Angela Wessel was one of his outstanding students. Under his direction she did China and oil painting. Two of her masterpieces, "The Boy Christ" and "A Woodland Scene" still adorn our walls.

"Even in the early days of dire poverty, when earning and saving were imperative, we never forgot we were first, nuns, second, teachers and last, social workers as we were needed. Since our prayer-life held priority, we rose at 5:00 A.M. and retired late at night, in order to find time for the four hours of daily prayer prescribed by our Holy Rule.

"Our intellectual life was not neglected. As teachers we were constantly striving to better ourselves. Mother Celestine, our superior, was a gifted, highly educated person, an outstanding mathematician, in the Order. She devised ways and means for intellectual development. She encouraged each nun to make full use of any and every talent she possessed. It was Mother Celestine who inaugurated what we called The Ursuline Hour.

"According to Mother's plan, the community was divided into committees. Each group was responsible for the presentation of an interesting, instructive program at four o'clock each Sunday afternoon. Through these we all benefitted intellectually. They usually required a great deal of research. The one I most vividly remember was The Illinois Hour. I was young and knew very little about our great state. I left that Hour, an Illinois enthusiast!

"During that hour, we were given the history of the state; sketches of the lives of her famous men and women were read; the symbolic meanings of the state flag, the state tree, state bird and state flower explained. Parts of the constitution were read and appropriate songs

Ursuline Academy of St. Teresa



Far Left--St. Teresa High School  
Right-- Ursuline Convent of St. Teresa -- 1913

were interspersed. During that program I heard for the first time our state song, Illinois. The idea of the Ursuline Hour soon spread throughout the Province.

"When, by law, teachers were required to hold degrees, or be working towards them, Mother Celestine put forth every effort to assist the nuns in securing them. All our teachers, now hold one or more. We have one nun who holds a Ph. D. During those early days working towards a degree was a great hardship. It meant taking correspondence courses during the school year, and required many years of Summer School work, but no one fell by the wayside!

"In addition to boarders, girls and young ladies who lived at the Academy, attended classes in the classrooms on the second floor of the building, we also taught day students, both boys and girls in another second floor classroom. All girl students could, if they so chose, continue their education through the grades and high school and be graduated from the Academy chapel. The boys, after completing the third grade, attended their respective parochial school, either St. Patrick's or St. James'.

"We Ursulines will always be most grateful to the pastors and parishioners of all the parishes, especially the two earliest ones, St. Patrick's and St. James', Without their financial help, encouragement, and support, we could not have succeeded as we have in erecting and maintaining the Academy at 2700 North Water Street. We are also deeply grateful to the thousands of Decatur citizens of all ranks and denominations, who so generously have come to our assistance. Our only way of rewarding all these people is by keeping them constantly in our prayers. Since, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," we are confident that God, Who can never be outdone in generosity, will be their reward, exceeding great."

*no trees - no nothing  
but we were very  
happy!*



Sister Eugenia , OSU--  
Sister Eugenia O'Laughlin--  
author of an unpublished history--  
The Ursulines and I . Photo,  
courtesy, Sister Eugenia.



# Timer's e Red as x Arrives

The weather in 1938 was almost exactly normal. A total of 39.9 inches of precipitation came down in the year and this was just 13 per cent over our normal annual rainfall. Despite this there was a lack of moisture toward the end of the year.

In the first seven months of the year a little more than 27 inches of rain fell, while in the last five months of the year there was slightly less than 12 inches of precipitation. Five of the months of the year had an excess in moisture while seven fell below normal. The five excess were February, March, April, May and October.

Sunday 31, and 19, Jan. 2, 1938

## St. Teresa's to Celebrate Silver Jubilee Next Sunday

### Hardships Have Marked Struggle to Develop Institution; Bishop Griffin to Officiate

The 25 years of effort which has resulted in the present St. Teresa academy and high school will be commemorated with a Silver Jubilee program next Sunday.

Opening the celebration will be a special high mass at 10:30 a. m. with the Most Reverend James A. Griffin, of Springfield, officiating.

After the mass a silver jubilee luncheon will be served at the academy at 1:30 p. m. Reservations should be made by 10:30 a. m. on Wednesday.

Although the program marks but the last 25 years of the struggle, the hardships began long before the opening of the academy in 1914. It started with a handful of students and gradually has increased to take a place among the largest in the city.

**Came in 1873**

It was in 1873 that six Ursuline nuns came to Decatur from Alton to take over the educational work previously carried on by other religious orders. Elderly nuns found that it was not difficult for these first Decatur Ursulines to share their views of poverty, for they possessed only the bare necessities.

The St. Teresa academy of the early days was a small 12-room house, which served as living quarters for the nuns and a few boarders and also for classrooms. Two wood-burning stoves heated the building, it was recalled.

For their hard work and prayers these nuns first saw reward

in the same source of information. The annual report for 1937 was a slight increase from 1935 to 1937 as the number of workers employed in the production of the products named. The years paid over, the same period increased from 8 million dollars to 23 million dollars. This source also indicates that the 1937 production of corn starch alone amounted to 935 million pounds valued at over 35 million dollars, an increase of 24 per cent in weight and 34 per cent in value compared with 1935.

#### Cornstarch Consumption Up

It is understood that the total consumption of cornstarch sold in the United States in the form of starch was greater in 1937 than in any year since 1926, with the exception of 1936. In the first nine months of 1938, although imports of tapioca and sago have been less than one-half of what they were in the same period of 1937, domestic sales of cornstarch have declined (Continued on Page 9)

in 1911 when a small piece of land—33 acres just beyond the city limits—was purchased.

Two years later, the firm of Folsom and Folsom was employed, and started immediately to build the present academy. On Dec. 1, 1913, the building was ready for occupancy and a month later the new chapel was dedicated.

#### Father Murphy Officiated

The solemn high mass on that occasion was celebrated by Rev. Jeremiah Murphy, who still reigns as pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic church.

After the sisters took up their new residence in the St. Teresa academy the doors were opened to girls of all creeds and ages. It was several years, however, before debts began to diminish and hopes were turned to further expansion.

In 1929 at the suggestion of Bishop Griffin plans were put underway for the erection of a co-educational institution, which resulted in the St. Teresa high school, an important cog in Decatur's present educational system.

#### WITH THE SICK

Dolores Dickson, who has been ill in St. Mary's hospital, has returned to her home, 1320 East Hickory. She may receive visitors.

#### FLUE FIRE

Firemen were called to the home of W. D. Mannering, of 915 East Lincoln avenue, at 7:41 last night, where a flue was burning out.

## Spanish War Vets Have Annual Dinner Monday

Members of the Spanish War Veterans' camp and auxiliary and newly elected officers of the organizations will have their annual dinner Monday in the Canton Tea Garden, 328 North Water street, instead of at Walgreen's as they had previously planned. The change was made necessary by the fact that Walgreen's will be closed all day Monday.

Following the dinner, the annual installation of officers will be held in the Knights of Columbus ballroom, with Department Commander Walter F. Coolidge, Granite City, and Department President Josephine O'Brien, Chicago, as installing officers.

Among those attending the dinner and installation will be Mrs. Helen Coolidge, Granite City, District President Ina G. Neal and Department Adjutant Charles N. Neal, Springfield.

Members attending the dinner will meet in the Knights of Columbus hall at 5:30 p. m. Monday. The dinner will be served at 6 o'clock.

## Beekeepers to Plan Exhibit for Institute

Members of the Macon county Beekeepers' association will hold their regular meeting at 7:30 o'clock Monday evening in the Farm Bureau building, 404 South Water street.

The purpose of the meeting will be to make arrangements for a general exhibit to be shown at the Farmers' institute, which will be held early in Feb. 1, 2 and 3.

## Skating Is Now Safe On Lake in Fairview

With ice on the pond in Fairview park now three and a half inches thick, it was pronounced safe for skating yesterday and was given heavy use. Skaters also were seen on Lake Decatur near the new Nelson park boathouse, but ice on the lake is not generally regarded as safe. There is still open water in the center of the lake.

#### RECKLESS DRIVER FINED

Arrested by police Saturday Frank Watkins, of rural route 5, entered a plea of guilty to reckless driving before Justice E. A. Schroeder and paid a fine of \$8.40.

This former hotel was used as both convent and school from 1868 to 1913.

Decatur Diary

Sun. Herald and Review  
4/2/67

# Sisters Bore Privations Silently

By Richard S. Edinger  
Of the Herald and Review  
For nearly 100 years, the Ursuline Sisters have been making a quiet, but significant, contribution to the parochial life of the community.

Since 1873, members of the Ursuline Order have been guided the Catholic educational process in the St. Thomas Academy.

The education of Catholic children began several years before the Ursuline Sisters arrived, however. Decatur's first parochial school was a private institution conducted by a Miss Shepherd in the late 1850s. The school was held in a home in the 40 Block W. Prairie Ave.

The school was continued in this home by several different teachers until after the Civil War.

In 1868, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary opened a new school under the name of St. Thomas' School. It was located in the church building in the 30 Block W. Prairie Ave. street had been vacated by St. Patrick's upon moving into new quarters.

**Small Other School**  
In 1881, sisters of the Holy Names Order, of Montreal, Canada, came to establish a school, but because of language barriers and a lack of funds, distance from the maintenance and the lack of support, they were forced to discontinue the school and return to Canada.

During this period, the Ursuline Order of New York came to Decatur for a while, but they did not remain.

Finally, in 1873, 10 religious women came from a Decatur convent to St. Thomas' parochial school. A St. Thomas charge nurse, Sister Joseph

By this time, a larger building had become necessary to house the growing enrollment of the school.

At first, the building—located in an old hotel in the 400 Block E. Eldorado St. where the Armory now stands—was used as a convent and boarding school for girls, while the boys remained in the former school building.

### School Building Erected

In 1885, a school building was erected next door to the convent. Both the boys and the girls attended school in the new building, but later the increase in attendance made it necessary again to use the convent building for school purposes.

The six members of the pioneer sisterhood in 1873 were the

Rev. Mother Teresa Gillespie, Mother Xavier, Mother Henrietta, Sister Agnes, Sister Mechtild and Sister Elizabeth.

"The outside world knew nothing of the difficulties they encountered, of the privations they endured," a 1923 newspaper account reported.

The old academy was a 12-room brick house. It was made of such bricks as were available in those days, bricks handmade and soft so that they absorbed the moisture from the air and from the earth.

The old house was damp and there were only two stoves to partially heat the 12 rooms. Meals were served in a room where there was no stove.

### No complaints Made

"There was no complaint from the sisters," the account said. "During those days when in bitter winter weather their food froze to their plates, the world did not know."

In 1896, the Alton Sisterhood purchased a 30-acre tract of land north of Decatur.

In 1912, two developments took place which resulted in vastly increased Catholic teaching facilities. The Rev. Jeremiah Murphy inaugurated plans which later became a parochial school at Jackson and Eldorado streets.

At the same time, Ursuline Sisters began to see the development of the dream they had cherished — an academy in more than name.

In January, 1914, the new building on North Water Street was ready for opening to non-resident pupils. Of the 30 students at the new academy, some were boarders and others day pupils.

As the years went by, enrollment at the academy grew. While plans for expansion were under consideration, the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, bishop of Springfield, told the Ursulines they should build a co-educational high school for the area.

Contracts for the new school were signed in April, 1930, and the new building was dedicated Aug. 31. On Sept. 3, 1930, the doors were opened to 120 high school boys and girls.

January 5, 1914.

## NEW GIRLS' SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS

Fifty Pupils Registered At  
St. Theresa's.

IS A COMPLETE HOME

Large Dormitories for Sisters  
and Boarders.

St. Theresa's academy opened this morning in the beautiful new building on North Water street although not with a full attendance of pupils. The transition from the old building on East Eldorado street to the new building in midwinter was not so easy and it will take several days to complete the change.

### FIFTY REGISTERED.

Fifty pupils are registered in the new building. Not all of these were present this morning, nor all of those who had arranged for rooms. More pupils came in the afternoon and it is expected that within two or three days all of them will be settled in their new home. The school is handicapped in the matter of growth for this year by the necessity of moving into the new building in the middle of the year. A good many pupils from out of Decatur were refused at the beginning of the year because there was no room for them and the new building was not ready. These pupils are of course in other schools for the rest of the year.

### ACCOMMODATES FIFTY.

There are accommodations in the new building for fifty boarders and 100 of the day pupils. It is perhaps well understood that this is a girls' school and the pupils range from elementary to high school grades. Most of the girls from Decatur who are boarders will live in the building from Monday till Friday. Those from out of the city or others if they please may live there all of the time.

### UNDER STATE CHARTER

It may not be generally understood that the school housed in this new building is not a new school to Decatur but is the St. Theresa's academy that has occupied the building on East Eldorado street for a good many years. The school is conducted under a state charter which has been in existence for forty years. It is in charge of the Ursuline sisters and at the head of the institution is a superioress.

It is expected that with the new building and the increased facilities the school will grow and will attract many more girls from Decatur and elsewhere. The building which has just been completed is to be one wing of a great school building of which the administrative section will be the next to be erected.

### IS COMPLETE HOME.

The new building is not only a complete school with all modern school facilities but is a complete home for the pupils who live there and for the sisters. Every thing is yet new and all of the furnishings have not been placed but even now it is a delightfully homey place. The building is deceptive in size. There is no basement, the ground floor being built on the ground, this floor is devoted to kitchen, laundry, refectory for the boarders, another for the sisters, serving room, a gymnasium and some music rooms.

The second floor, which is the main floor or parlor floor, contains reception room and parlor, a room for the portress, a private suite for a chaplain, school rooms, a large recreation room and private rooms for boarders, etc. Not all of the school rooms are yet furnished with desks and seats but will be equipped as they are needed. The desks used are of steel supported on a single pedestal which greatly facilitates the cleaning of the rooms.

### LARGE DORMITORY.

On the upper floors are a large dormitory for the sisters, another for the boarders, a beautiful chapel whose furnishings are not yet complete and other rooms.

The old farm house which was on the site when the ground was bought stands at the rear of the new building. This house has been connected with the new building by a covered passage. The house is partly occupied by the steam plant and contains eight excellent rooms which will be used by the school.

## NEW ACADEMY OPENS MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Building is Now Complete and Sisters  
Will Move in During Next Two

*Decatur Review Sat, 12/20/1913*

The new building of St. Theresa's academy is now ready for occupancy and the sisters will move into it some time during next week. With the exception of five rooms, the workmen have completed the work. School will open in the new academy Jan. 5 instead of Jan. 19. At present the fifty boarding places in the school have not been nearly all taken. There is room for at least forty-five more boarders.

This academy is non-sectarian, and Catholics and Protestants will be admitted alike. In all there will be room in the new school for about 300 day pupils. It will comprise a twelve-year course, primary, grammar and academic work. The academy is entirely separate from St. Patrick's parish school and is entirely under control of the sisters.

## SCHOOL BUILDING HAS BEEN RENTED

*12/22/1913*

Old St. Theresa's structure to Become  
a Boarding House.

The original purpose of the old building on East Eldorado street which for the past thirty-five years has sheltered generations of children treading the thorny path to knowledge under the tutelage of Roman Catholic sisters, and has been known to so many Decatur students as St. Theresa's academy, will be resurrected the first of the year when L. C. Townsend takes over the old place in order to start a first class boarding and rooming house.

### EQUIPMENT MOVED.

Monday morning the last of the school equipment was taken from the old academy buildings and moved to the new school building on the Bloomington road, where classes will be started Jan. 1. Everything is now in readiness for the move and the Christmas holidays will give ample time for the final preparations to be made before school takes up again.

Mr. Townsend comes to Decatur from Weldon. He will take over the buildings Jan. 1. *Decatur Review*

## CHAPTER XXXIII

## PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

**D**ECATUR'S first parochial school was a private school for Catholic children, conducted by Miss Shepherd in the late '50s in a house in the 600 block West Prairie avenue. She left in 1858, and the school was conducted the next year by Miss Barry. Sessions then were held in a house on West Main street. The school was continued there by different teachers until after the Civil war.

After St. Patrick's congregation erected a church building at the corner of East North and Jackson streets, the old frame church building, which had stood in the 700 block West Prairie, was moved to the lot just east of the new church and was turned into a school room. At that time Mr. and Mrs. St. Leger were conducting the school. They left in 1866. That fall Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary opened the school under the name of St. Teresa's school, with Sister Ignatius as superior. Their stay was short. Then some sisters from New York, of the Ursuline order, came and taught several years, but finally returned to New York.

Meantime the school enrollment had been growing, and a larger building became necessary. In 1868 the congregation purchased a

hotel building in the 400 block on East Eldorado street. At first this building was used as a convent and boarding school for girls, while the boys remained in the former school building. In 1873 the present order of Ursuline sisters came from Alton, led by Mother Teresa Gillespie, and established St. Teresa's academy. The school was incorporated in 1884.

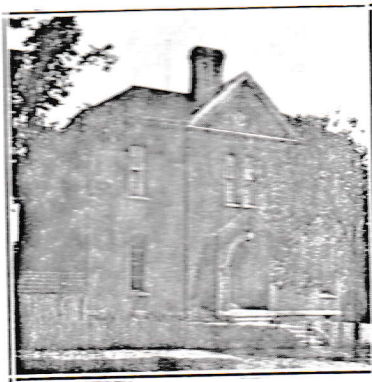


ST. TERESA'S ACADEMY  
Erected in 1914.

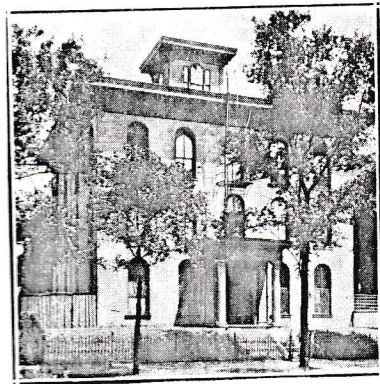
In 1885 a school building was erected next door to the convent. Both the

*From Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County  
by Mabel C. Richmond, published by The Decatur Review  
1930 page 177.*

boys and girls attended school in the new building, but later the increase in attendance made it necessary again to use the convent building for school purposes.



OLD ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL

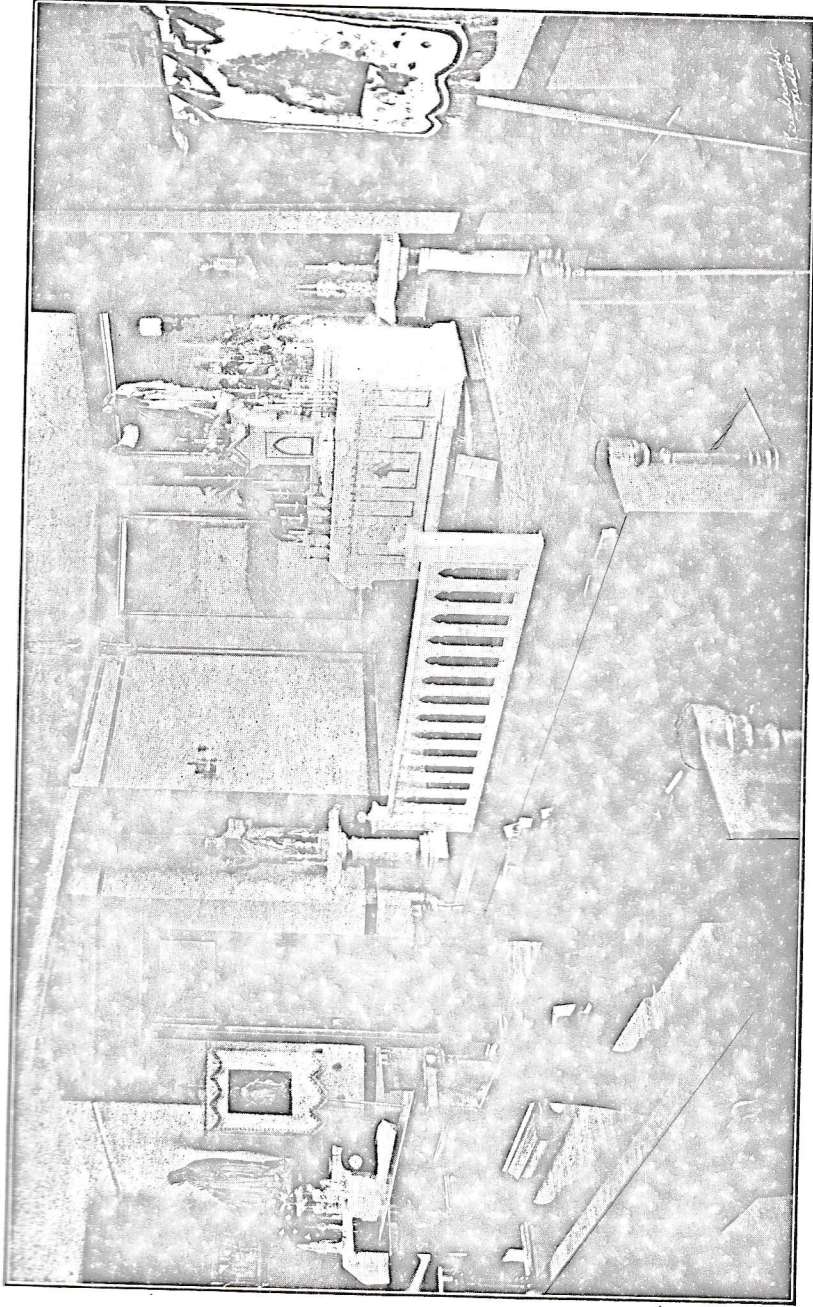


CONVENT AND SCHOOL

In later years these buildings became inadequate. Then St. Patrick's congregation erected a new parochial school building at the corner of North and Jackson streets, and it was occupied in 1913. That same year the Ursuline sisters started the erection of a new academy building on North Water street at the north edge of the city. School was opened in the new building in 1914, and has continued there since.

In 1930 a new St. Teresa's Catholic high school was erected near the academy. With the opening of school in September, 1930, all high school sessions were moved to the new building.

*From Cathedral History of Decatur and Macon County  
by Wald & Richmond, published by The Decatur  
Review, 1930, page 178.*



CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART

*Academy of St. Teresa  
Dexter, Illinois*

*From a school catalogue. Date not given.*

*This chapel is in use at present (April, 1975.)*

*Amesbury*

V

### Terms per Session of Five Months

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

Board, plain laundry, tuition . . . . .	\$150.00
Private room . . . . .	\$50.00
Instrumental Music, Piano, Violin, Mandolin, two lessons a week and one hour's daily practice on instrument . . . . .	\$37.50
Lessons in Art . . . . .	\$37.50
Dancing at Professor's terms.	
Library Fee . . . . .	\$1.00
Use of Typewriter . . . . .	\$5.00
Entrance Fee (on first admission only) . . . . .	\$5.00
Lecture Fee . . . . .	\$1.00

### Graduation Fee

Academic Course . . . . .	\$10.00
Course in Music (Graduate) . . . . .	\$10.00
Certificate in Business Course . . . . .	\$5.00
Eighth Grade . . . . .	\$1.00

Special arrangements may be made for private lessons.



# Academy of St. Teresa

Decatur, Illinois

## General Information

Founded during the first half of the sixteenth century, the Ursuline Order has a record of nearly four centuries' experience in the noble work of educating young girls, and its foundress, Saint Angela, is sometimes called the Seraph of Schools. During all these cycles of years, while nation warred with nation, while kingdoms fell and republics arose, the Ursulines kept the noiseless tenor of their way, devoting themselves solely to the duties of their sacred calling.

The first Saint Teresa's Academy in Decatur, founded from Alton, was opened more than 50 years ago in a building on Eldorado Street, opposite St. Patrick's Church. Many were the trials and hardships those devoted pioneer



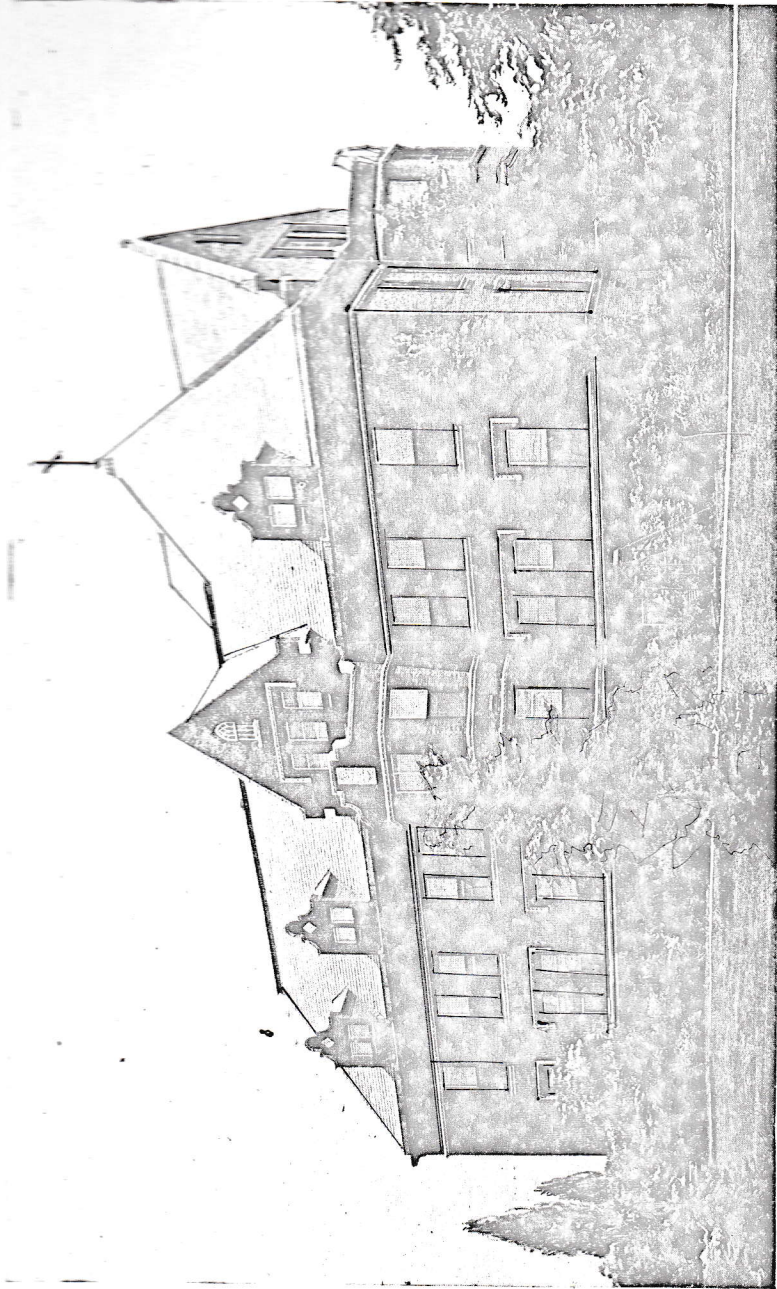
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*From a brochure (a school catalogue) entitled,  
Academy of St. Teresa, Decatur, Illinois. Date  
not given; possibly early 1920's.*

Sisters had to endure in the early days of the foundation. Providence permitted them to prosper however, and in 1914 the new St. Teresa's was erected. It is charmingly situated in the northern part of Decatur just on the outskirts of the city limits and within easy reach of the street car line. It occupies an elevated and beautiful site comprising thirty-three acres which afford ample advantage for healthful exercise. The present site of the Academy is ideal for boarding and day pupils, combining the advantages of proximity to the city with the quiet surroundings of the country. The steel structure fire proof building is of red brick with white terra cotta trimmings. It is in reality the west wing as in the near future the Sisters hope to erect the main building and the east wing, thereby making St. Teresa's one of the grandest Academies of the Ursuline Order in the West.

All departments are furnished with every modern improvement in lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitary requirements. The class rooms, music rooms, dormitories, dining hall, and recreation rooms are all arranged with a view to physical comfort, convenience and the influence of environment which cultivate the mind and heart.

The pupils of the various departments are ever under the care and supervision of the Sisters, and the social training, refinement, and polish acquired during the regular Academic course contribute beyond all estimate to a young woman's success in after life. The possession of secular knowledge alone does not constitute the true woman of the Bible whose worth is beyond price, nor furnish the necessary elements for genuine success. Hence the untold advantages afforded young girls by that thorough system of education which refines and elevates the heart at the same time that it develops the intellect; and as knowledge and intellectual development have of themselves no efficacy in the formation of character, the greatest importance is attached to the religious element, which alone can guide and strengthen the will and keep the heart pure.



ACADEMY OF ST. TERESA

From a catalogue, date not given:  
Academy of St. Teresa, Decatur, Illinois, Herald Printing and  
Stationery Company. Possibly, 1920's.

### Location and Purpose

This Institution, situated just outside the city of Decatur, was founded for the education of little girls and young ladies. The aim of the Religious is to educate mentally, morally and physically, the pupils committed to their care.

### ACCESS

The Academy is reached from Decatur by taking the Edward and Pythian Home Car from the Transfer House. All communications should be addressed:  
Mother Superior,

ACADEMY OF ST. TERESA,  
North Water St., R. R. No. 7,  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

Telephone Main 3940.

Affiliated with the University of Illinois.

*From Academy of St. Teresa, Decatur, Illinois,  
a catalogue. Date not given. Possibly early 1920's*