

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Saint Joseph's Nurses Home

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing N/A)

2. LocationStreet & number: 835 Van Buren StreetCity or town: Fort Wayne State: IN County: AllenNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/Nursing education

EDUCATION/Education related housing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

(Work in progress)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

foundation: STONE/limestone

walls: BRICK

STONE/limestone

CONCRETE

roof: SYNTHETICS/rubber

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Saint Joseph's Nurses Home is located west of downtown Fort Wayne, Wayne Township, Allen County, Indiana, at 835 Van Buren Street. The original address was 735 West Berry Street. This building is located on what was the south side of the 700 block of West Berry Street, just east of Van Buren Street. The 700 block of West Berry Street was vacated and closed to traffic in 1987 by an addition to the St. Joseph's Hospital/Medical Center. That addition, a medical office building and attached parking garage now closely crowds the nurses home on two sides and is 12.5 feet from its entire rear elevation. The office building-parking garage is as close as 2 feet to the nurses home's entire east elevation and 4.5 feet from the easternmost quarter of its north (front) façade. West Berry Street now terminates at Broadway on the east side of the campus and resumes on the west side of Van Buren Street, on the west side of the campus. Facing north, the Neoclassical nurses home sits south of a landscaped courtyard with sidewalks, green space and benches. The building sits on a slight rise in the elevation. To the south of the building is a vacated alley and the concrete parking garage. The five-story reinforced concrete nurses home building has a brick and limestone veneer in the Georgian revival style. The building sits on a raised basement and has three distinct sections. The center is recessed within the east and west ends of the building, creating an "I" shaped plan with a variety of architectural details. The

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building was constructed in 1928 with three stories on a raised basement. A fourth and fifth story addition was completed in 1945. The building retains significant historic and architectural integrity. The St. Joseph's Nurses Home and the former Saint Joseph Hospital campus (now Lutheran Downtown Hospital) are adjacent to the West End Historic District, listed in the National Register and having local historic designation (as West Central Historic District).

Narrative Description

St. Joseph Hospital's nursing school program started in 1918. The success and growth of the school led to the construction of the nurses home in 1928. It opened in 1929. The nurses home was a dormitory and had classrooms and a basement auditorium for lectures. The building was built in the Neoclassical style and designed by Fort Wayne architects Fred and Martin "Mox" Pohlmeyer. The cost to build the structure was \$150,000. The continuing success of the nursing school program led to the addition of the fourth and fifth stories to the building in 1945. That addition was designed by notable Fort Wayne architect Alvin M. Strauss. His design blended seamlessly with the original Pohlmeyer design. The school closed in 1987 due to decreasing enrollment and the shift of nursing education toward the universities. After the school closed, the building was used for hospital storage, offices and occasional health education programs.

Façade (north elevation): Red and black bricks are laid in a common bond with a header row every seventh course across the entire facade. (see photos 0001-0003) Unless otherwise specified, all windows on the building are vinyl-wrapped wood sash single-hung windows installed c. 1981. The east and west corners of the north facade are adorned with limestone quoins. (see photo 0002)

Dressed limestone blocks clad the walls of the raised basement around the perimeter of the building on this elevation and the east and west elevations. A carved limestone band transitions the limestone veneer to the brick-clad walls of the first story. At the east end of the basement level façade, there are double hung one-over-one windows. A third opening has been filled in with matching limestone veneer. An additional window faces west on the portion of the east end that projects from the recessed central portion of the north façade. On either side of the main entry steps, window openings have been converted to vents with metal louvers. Flanking these vents are two additional one-over-one windows. (see photo 0004) The western end of the building has three one-over-one windows in the basement. All of the basement windows are covered by steel grates.

The first floor windows of the nurses home are unified by a carved limestone belt course that doubles as a continuous window sill. On each end of the building are three one-over-one windows and limestone Juliette balconies. (see photo 0002) Above each of these windows, in the spandrel panel between first and second story, are square brick

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tapestries with centered, carved limestone flower medallions. Moving to the windows in the recessed central portion and inward-facing wing walls, each window is one-over-one single-hung with brick soldier course flat arch lintel and limestone keystone. The windows immediately adjacent to the front entry are narrower than the rest of the windows on the first floor. All windows in the central recessed portion of the building are loosely paired.

The central recessed portion of the first story is dominated by the main entrance and large limestone surround. (see photo 0004) The c. 1944 metal and glass double doors with sidelights and ribbed-glass transom are surrounded by Neoclassical detailing. Two fluted Corinthian pilasters on either side of the entry support the large entablature featuring a flared cornice with egg-and-dart and dentil moldings, carved frieze and stepped architrave. The frieze includes the carved inscription "ST JOSEPH'S NURSES HOME." Between the pilasters on each side of the door is an original metal and glass light fixture mounted on the limestone wall. The front doors and transom are accentuated by a carved limestone shouldered surround with Christian cross and two carved limestone medallions.

The second story windows follow the same pattern as the first story, except the second and subsequent floors have individual limestone lintels that extend slightly past the window opening. In the central recessed portion of the second story façade, two smaller paired one-over-one windows are surrounded by an elaborate limestone carving with swan's neck broken pediment and a pineapple-shaped finial and scrolling above the lintel. (see photo 0004) Above this paired window on the third story is another paired one-over-one window with a limestone surround, sill and keystone. Two carved limestone medallions with crosses inside them flank this paired window on the third story. On both the second and third floors, the central recessed portion of the building flanks these elaborated windows with two smaller one-over-one windows with a simple limestone surround, sill and keystone on each side.

The fourth story windows on the east and west ends of the building have limestone lintels with keystones and brick tapestry work in the spandrel panels underneath. (see photo 0002) The central recessed portion of the building has one-over-one windows with brick soldier course lintels with keystones, matching the previous three stories. The paired windows in the center of the recessed section are narrower than the other windows.

A limestone cornice with dentils runs around the perimeter east, west and north elevations of the building. (see photo 0005) Underneath the cornice there are stone modillions and a stone frieze. This north elevation is the only one with stepped brick parapets with limestone coping and a central pediment. Each parapet has an inlaid limestone carving. The two parapets on the east and west ends feature swag details, while the pediment on the central recessed section has two limestone colonnades and floral medallions.

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The east and west ends of the building have decorative brick tapestry squares with carved floral medallions in the center of them only on the second floor. The upper stories only have the brick tapestry squares.

West Elevation: On the west elevation there are three one-over-one windows on the north end of the raised basement and stairs leading to an exterior basement access door. A limestone knee wall partially disguises this stairwell and entrance. South of the door there are four additional windows, a large gap, and then a fifth window in the corner of the elevation. (see photo 0005)

These windows, like the basement windows elsewhere on the building, have a metal security grate over the opening. On each of the first through the fourth floors there are windows bays spaced close together, then a small gap at the south end of the group, and then a ninth window. The limestone belt course from the façade continues onto the west elevation, serving as the sill for the first story windows. Second, third and fourth floor windows all have individual limestone sills. All windows on this elevation have brick soldier course flat arch lintels with limestone keystones.

The limestone staircase leading down provides exterior access to the basement auditorium.

East Elevation: The east elevation is adjacent to the modern medical office building and parking garage, which crowd it closely. (see photo 0006 and photo 0009) The east elevation's architectural detailing is significantly less ornate than the west elevation. The limestone details including cornice, knee wall, window lintels with keystones, and quoining are not present on this elevation. The west wall of the medical office building/parking garage is as close as 2 feet to the east façade of the nurses home. This elevation is still visible, although access is limited by a modern concrete masonry unit wall and steel door blocking access between the medical office building at both the north and south end of the St. Joe Nurses Dorm.

Rear (South) Elevation: The south elevation is much less ornate than the north and west elevations. (see photo 0007 - 0009) There are limestone quoins on the west end, but not on the east. The parapet wall has limestone coping on the west end of this elevation but not on the east. On most of this elevation, the mechanical/service aspects of the building are visible. A brick five-story structure extending from the building houses the elevator shaft. (see photo 0008) A rectangular three-story brick structure with unglazed openings was originally intended as a porch. It is likely that when the elevator was installed, metal stairs were installed in the porches. These staircases are intact. On the central portion there is a set of metal replacement doors with a transom. Windows on the central recessed portion and east wing are identical to those found on other parts of the building, but they have simple limestone sills and brick soldier course lintels without keystones. (see photo 0009) The stories on these parts of the elevation are delineated by soldier-course belt courses. There is another entrance with a plain metal door on this side of the building.

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Interior: The interior of the Nurses Home contains four stories of classrooms, meeting rooms, residential rooms, offices, a fifth-story penthouse with roof access and mechanical spaces in the basement. Each level has terrazzo floors. The interior is generally in a "white box drywall" state with the exception of the basement which has furniture, fixtures and equipment removed, but not yet been remodeled. Each level except the fifth story is accessible by two interior staircases and a passenger elevator. On each floor the stairs are closed off from the hallways by the addition of glass and metal curtain walls with doors.

Basement: The full, raised basement of the nurses home primarily contained mechanical rooms and work spaces, but there is some space originally dedicated to learning. Similar to the other floors of the building, a central hallway runs east to west through the basement, connecting the east and west ends of the building. At the west end of this hall is a glass and metal door and surround that was added c. 1980. (see photo 0023) At the west end of the basement is a large auditorium with an open floor plan and a stage with wood-paneled curtain wall at one end. (see photo 0017 and 0019) The auditorium has terrazzo floors. Adjacent to the auditorium are classroom and storage rooms. (see photos 0020-0022 and photo 0024)

First Floor: The main entrance has modern front doors and a set of inner doors. Between these doors is a patterned pink, yellow, gray, beige and green terrazzo floor that has three different floor patterns. (see photo 0010) Directly upon entering the building is a pattern that has a pennant design with a cross at the bottom. The second pattern is alternating diamond pattern. The third pattern is an abstract floral motif. Two radiators with metal decorative radiator covers are on each side of the vestibule. A central set of terrazzo stairs leads to the main hall of the first floor. The hall also has a terrazzo floor. Along this hallway are white box drywall apartments. (see photos 0011 - 0016) A large suite of white box drywall rooms on the west end of this floor retains original granite fireplaces on either side of a shared wall. (see photo 0011) The terrazzo floor has been covered with modern tile in these two rooms. To access the second story, there are two staircases on the outer walls of the central portion of the building as well as a passenger elevator and exterior staircase on the south elevation. The interior staircases have terrazzo steps and landings with wood balustrades inside the glass curtain walls and doors.

Second Floor: Much like the first floor, the second originally had classrooms and offices but is now approaching white box drwall condition with original terrazo floors. Room layouts have been remodeled to create space for apartments along the footprint of the original central hallway. (see photos 0025-0033)

Third and Fourth Floors: The upper two stories of the nurses home were originally dedicated to student housing. Each floor is now in white box drywall condition. These

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rooms all have terrazzo floors. Generally, the rehab called for large openings between former dorm room partition walls (see photos 34 – 46).

Fifth Floor: A three-room penthouse story provides access to the roof and fifth floor mechanical room for the elevator. (see photo 0049) A small restroom and two small storage rooms are on this level. (see photos 0052 and 0053) Facing west, a set of metal glazed double doors opens onto an area that has the feel of an open plaza. The flat roof and 5-foot parapet wall defining the space over the entire west end of the building contribute to this feeling. (see photo 0048) On the same wall as the doors is an original wood glazed one-over-one window with limestone sill and wood-covered lintel. On the east elevation is a small door that provides access to the roof over the central portion of the building. On the south edge of the roof is another brick structure that has a metal door and metal glazed six-light window. This structure houses mechanical components of the elevator system. (see photo 0050) Both of the structures have decorative tapestry style brickwork.

The St. Joseph's Nurses home has retained much of its architectural integrity and historical character. The new owners are utilizing the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit, Parts 1 and 2 have been approved by NPS. The owner expect to place the building in service in 2025 or early 2026.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

HEALTH/MEDICINE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928-1973

Significant Dates

1928, 1945

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pohlmeyer, Fred W. & Martin "Mox"

Strauss, Alvin M.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Saint Joseph's Nurses Home in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has local significance under Criteria A and C.

The building is a physical record of the evolution of the nursing profession in Fort Wayne, qualifying it under Criterion A. The hospital's nurses training school evolved with the profession into a full-fledged educational program requiring its own, grandly scaled building that graduated health care professionals who were able to qualify for state licensing. Graduates filled the growing need for nurses at either St. Joseph, the sponsoring hospital, or in any hospital statewide. This building is now the only building left in Fort Wayne that reflects the professionalization of nursing. The buildings that housed the other two hospital-based schools of nursing are no longer extant. This building is also all that remains of the old St. Joseph Hospital campus, which has been replaced by a new, smaller Lutheran Downtown Hospital.

Under Criterion C, this is an exemplary example of institutional Georgian Revival architecture in Fort Wayne. As part of a group of similar, important buildings designed and constructed about the same time, the St. Joseph's Nurses Home stands out for the size of the project and the grandeur and skill of its design, both in the original building and the 1945 addition. The architects for its original design, and for its later addition, are locally significant for their work. This building represents a level of excellence in their work, enabling the building to achieve its high artistic values. Architects of the original building were Pohlmeier & Pohlmeier, brothers who were well known for their work in Fort Wayne. Fred W. (1885-1953) and Martin "Mox" (1896-1981) Pohlmeier designed multiple residences, commercial buildings and institutional buildings in the city. The fourth and fifth stories of the building were designed by Alvin M. Strauss (1895-1958) of Fort Wayne. Strauss designed a vertical addition that blended seamlessly with the original Pohlmeier design.

The period of significance for the St. Joseph's Nurses Home begins with its 1928 construction and opening in 1929 and ends 50 years ago in 1973. The end of the period of significance reflects the period when cultural changes triggering lower enrollment and a move of nursing education from hospitals to universities were accelerating their impact on operations of the nursing school, though the use continued to 1987.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

While nursing is a highly professional licensed occupation today, such was not always the case. Medical care in the United States before the end of the 19th century was largely provided at home by untrained lay persons. The initial professionalization of nursing is often attributed to Florence Nightingale in 19th century England. Nightingale became famous for her nursing during the Crimean War. Her work in the battlefields led to postwar work in England establishing nursing schools that used a set curriculum rather than simply having students work in a hospital.

Not long after Nightingale established her nursing schools, the Civil War in the United States began. Much like in the Crimean War, there was a shortage of trained and knowledgeable nurses to assist with the ill and wounded soldiers. There were no nurses' schools or training programs in the United States at that time. Civil War nurses were volunteers, often wives of soldiers, slaves or members of Catholic religious communities. American Civil War nurse Clara Barton gave nursing care and medical supplies to soldiers. After the war, while in Switzerland, she learned about the Red Cross movement and brought that idea back to the United States. Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881.

Social reformers and physicians saw a need for formal nurses' training and often requested help from England. In some cases, organizations requested graduates of Florence Nightingale's schools to establish local programs. Unlike Nightingale's schools, which were operated from the Nightingale Fund, money donated by grateful English citizens, nursing schools in the United States were often associated with a specific hospital. These programs were especially popular in the late 19th and early 20th century; they were essentially apprenticeship programs. Students lived and worked long hours at the hospital under strict supervision and no pay. There was little structured education in early nurse training programs. Later, the creation of professional organizations and licensing boards improved the conditions and quality of a nurse's education.

By 1903, the Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada was calling for the establishment of state nurses associations. In Indiana, efforts were led by E. Gertrude Fournier, an alumna of Hope Hospital's nurses training school in Fort Wayne. The Indiana State Nurses Association was formally incorporated in 1904 and began working for legislation that would require the registration of nurses. Efforts to legitimize the nursing profession were successful in 1905, when the state legislature passed the Nurse Practice Act. This act established the State Board of Registration and Examination. In 1907, this board created a standard curriculum for nursing schools and in 1921 set admission requirements for nursing schools.

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In 19th century Fort Wayne, there was limited access to trained medical assistance. In 1868, eight nuns from the order of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ traveled from Germany to Fort Wayne to serve their many countrymen and other residents settled in this part of northeast Indiana. The Catholic Diocese purchased the former Rockhill Hotel, built circa 1838, and the sisters used the building as a hospital, which became St. Joseph's Hospital. The nuns and members of their religious community served exclusively as nurses for the hospital for most of its early history. New members of the religious order were privately trained as nurses in the hospital.

The Rockhill Hotel was built by pioneer settler William Rockhill. He chose that location to help stimulate growth to the west of downtown and to capitalize on the nearby route of the Wabash-Erie Canal and later the railroad route. The hotel struggled financially as canal traffic declined and the railroads used other routes through downtown Fort Wayne. "In its first years the hotel was called 'Rockhill's Folly,' but later it was honored as one of the state's finest luxury hotels."¹ Rockhill died in 1865, and the Rockhill Hotel "which was never a financial success," closed in 1867.²

By 1918, in the context of the Spanish flu epidemic and World War I creating additional need for trained nurses, it was decided the hospital would also train lay women. St. Joseph's Hospital's formal nursing school operated from 1918 to 1987. According to the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, there was a St. Joseph's Nurses' Training School located north of its current location in an existing repurposed, formerly residential building at the northeast corner of Berry and Van Buren streets. The first class that included lay persons had 19 students, twelve of whom graduated in 1921 as the first Registered Nurses from the St. Joseph's Hospital Nurses Training School.

By the 1920s, the old West End (now West Central) Neighborhood was well developed with a mix of mostly residential on its west side and institutional and commercial uses on the eastern edge abutting downtown Fort Wayne. Space was purchased across West Berry Street from St. Joseph's Hospital for the new nurses home, where two large parcels with residences encompassing three platted lots were cleared, and in 1928 the Poor Handmaids of Christ built the nurses home that would serve the hospital and community for many years.

The continuing success of the program, plus pressures of growth by the hospital itself, necessitated the construction. At a cost of \$150,000, the existing St. Joseph's Nurses Home was constructed in 1928 at 735 West Berry Street, just a block south of its previous location in a former house. Soon after the nurses home was constructed, a new

¹ Hawfield, Michael, "CITYSCAPES: City hospital was once a hotel," News-Sentinel, 15 August 1994
<http://egen.fortwayne.com/ns/projects/history/haw3.php>

² Hawfield, Michael, "CITYSCAPES: City hospital was once a hotel," News-Sentinel, 15 August 1994
<http://egen.fortwayne.com/ns/projects/history/haw3.php>

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hospital building went up facing the house, just across West Berry Street.³ The brick Neoclassical nurses home building could accommodate up to 120 nurses in mostly double rooms with some singles and triples. Classes were held in this building which also included an auditorium, library, lounges, offices, nursing lab, laundry, sun deck and tennis court. Students lived and learned in the building and, after six months of training, began working in the hospital.

The school would not be Fort Wayne's only nurses training program. Parkview Hospital's program ran from 1953-1991 in English Hall at the Parkview Randallia campus on East State Boulevard. That building was demolished in 2014 and was not as architecturally detailed decorative or grand as the St Joseph's Nurses Home building. Lutheran Hospital's program began in 1904, occupying two different locations on the Fairfield Avenue campus, both of which have been demolished. Like the St. Joseph's program, the nurses were housed in a former dwelling until a building was built just for the nursing program. Their building did not have the same high level of architectural detailing as the St. Joseph's Nurses Home, but like St Joseph's building, it had an I-shaped plan. The Lutheran nursing program was morphed into the Lutheran College of Health Professions that was founded in 1987. That college merged with St. Francis College (now University of Saint Francis) in 1998.

St. Joseph nurses were trained in obstetrics, nutrition, psychiatric care, orthopedics, and surgical and emergency care. The program was largely successful, and during World War II experienced great growth due to participation in the United States Cadet Nurse Program.⁴ The program was created by the 1943 Bolton Act. Women who enrolled through this program received tuition assistance and were required to serve in the military upon graduation, if needed. The popularity of the program even necessitated the addition of a spring enrollment at the St. Joseph's Nursing School. The need for the 1945 Strauss addition of the fourth and fifth floors can be tied to this era's growth spurt.

After World War II, professional nurse's organizations called for changes in nursing curriculum. Previously, nursing education was split between classroom instruction and hands-on experience gained from working in a hospital. Professional organizations were calling for the emphasis to be focused on education rather than service. This change made it more expensive for hospitals to support nursing schools because they were losing the free help from students, and St. Joseph's was no exception. Changes were made to the curriculum and structure of the school, but by 1965, St. Joseph's was even using televised science courses broadcast from the University of Minnesota as an affordable way to provide necessary courses.

³ "History of Fort Wayne & Allen County: 1700-2005, John D. Beatty, editor, M.T. Publishing, 2006, page 686, 706.

⁴ Whelan, Jean C., "Where did all the nurses go," University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing website, <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nhhc/workforce-issues/where-did-all-the-nurses-go/>

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The strain of curriculum changes and lower enrollment due to cultural changes grew throughout the 1970s. By 1980, St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing accepted part-time and male students for the first time, but continuously low enrollment numbers necessitated a partnership with St. Francis College in Fort Wayne. In 1987, low enrollment and high cost of operation led the hospital's administration to close the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing. The program was transferred to the University of Saint Francis where it continues today.

The old St. Joseph Hospital complex was demolished in 2022. The site will be used for parking for the new hospital that was built across Van Buren Street directly west of the old hospital site. The new hospital opened in November 2021 and is known as the Lutheran Downtown Hospital. The parking garage south and the medical office building east and north of the historic nurses home will be the only other remaining structures left standing on the old St Joseph's Hospital campus. The St. Joseph's Nurses Home is the only remaining historic building of the old St. Joseph's Hospital campus. Fort REI, LLC, acquired the St. Joseph's Nurses Home in 2022. The company plans to rehab and create market-rate apartments.

Criterion C

The Saint Joseph's Nurses Home stands apart locally as an excellent example of a 1920s postsecondary educational building of high quality and style. Other local structural contemporaries include the 1923 Worthington Apartments at 425 E. Wayne Street, the Alvin M. Strauss-designed 1926 Sheridan Court Apartments at 719 Union Street and the Charles Weatherhogg-designed 1928 Fairfield Manor. Worthington Apartments is smaller in massing and has fewer and simpler architectural details than the Nurses Home. Fairfield Manor Apartments has more stories, and Arts & Crafts/Beaux-Art architectural features, but it still has fewer and simpler architectural details than the Nurses Home. Sheridan Court Apartments is located within the West End neighborhood, north and west of the Nurses Home. The building is similar with the number of stories and the expression of high-style features; in the Sheridan's case the Spanish Eclectic style. However, it has a different, less institutional purpose (individual, private apartments) and the plan focuses its architectural interest on its internal courtyard. In contrast the Nurses Home has a solid form and an impressive formal facade displaying fine details.

The architects of the original building, Pohlmeier & Pohlmeier, are well known for their work in Fort Wayne. Brothers and Fort Wayne natives Fred W. (1885-1953) and Martin "Mox" (1896-1981) Pohlmeier were the children of Fred C. Pohlmeier, a local contractor. The older brother, Fred, studied architecture and apprenticed at firms in Chicago and Fort Wayne. Mox graduated from Carnegie Tech and studied under prominent East Coast architects. The brothers established their own firm in Fort Wayne in 1922 and went on to design multiple residences, commercial buildings and institutional buildings. The pair was known for using modern building materials and technologies in their designs, such as modern insulation and gas heating systems.

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Pohlmeyer & Pohlmeyer mostly designed residential buildings, but among the firm's larger commissions are the 1927 Neoclassical-styled Irwin Elementary School at 3501 South Anthony Boulevard, the 1928 Neoclassical-styled St. Joseph Hospital at 734 West Berry Street (demolished), and the 1938 Art Deco-style Coca-Cola Bottling Works at 1631 East Pontiac Street. Irwin Elementary School and the Coca-Cola Bottling Works have strong architectural integrity, yet the St. Joseph's Nurses Home stands apart from these other large Pohlmeyer & Pohlmeyer projects for the grandeur of its architectural detail. For example, the elements of Christian symbolism in the building's details communicate the purpose behind the building's construction. The St. Joseph's Nurses Home is one of the largest, most grand, and architecturally detailed buildings designed by this firm.

The 1945 addition of the fourth and fifth stories was designed by Alvin M. Strauss (1895-1958) and blended seamlessly with the initial Pohlmeyer & Pohlmeyer design. Strauss was a Fort Wayne architect who designed many landmark buildings in Indiana and Ohio throughout the early and mid-twentieth century. Born in 1895 to immigrant German parents in Kendallville, Indiana, Strauss became one of Indiana's leading architects. He apprenticed in the offices of prominent architects in both Chicago and Fort Wayne and in 1918 successfully established his own firm in Fort Wayne. Strauss' career bristled with activity, and his reputation as an architect quickly spread well beyond Northeast Indiana. He worked in a number of popular styles, and many of his designs are major public, commercial, and residential landmarks in cities throughout Indiana and northwest Ohio.

An impressive variety of examples of the work of Alvin M. Strauss still survives in Fort Wayne today, ranging from modest homes to grand public buildings, such as the former St. Vincent Villa Orphanage in the 2000 block of Wells Street, the movie palace Embassy Theatre-Indiana Hotel, the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, and the 1930 Lincoln Bank Tower. Like the Nurses Home, Strauss also seamlessly added a second story in 1927 to Fort Wayne's 1921 South Side High School, designed by Griffith & Goodrich. Strauss also designed several buildings on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, and the Art Deco-style Auburn Automobile Co. offices, factory and showroom in Auburn, Indiana, a National Historic Landmark.

St. Joseph's Nurses Home
Name of Property

Allen, Indiana
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anderson, Karen, West End National Register nomination, 1980, 1984.

Boen, Jennifer, "A century of care: Lutheran Hospital is holding a variety of public events to celebrate its 100th anniversary," *News-Sentinel*, 23 November 2004, page 1A.

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Jarosh, Andrew, "St. Jude's plan to seal off Forest Avenue contentious," *The News-Sentinel*, 30 July 1998, page 1A.

"No regret about selling nonprofit Lutheran to for-profit owners, *Journal Gazette*, 23 July 2017.

"Quorum buying St. Joseph," *Journal Gazette*, 19 May 1998, page 1A.

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"Parkview pays tribute to nursing heritage," *Business Weekly*, 15 August 2014, https://www.fwbusiness.com/business/latest/businessweekly/article_fbe24328-2488-11e4-8b8e-001a4bcf6878.html

PATI: Allen County tax database, <https://lowtaxinfo.com/allencounty/1902408-2022>

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1954, page 15.

Shawgo, Ron, "Nursing school, religious order launched colleges' histories," *Journal Gazette*, 17 April 1998, page 7A.

St. Joseph's Nurses Home

Name of Property

Allen, Indiana

County and State

"St. Joseph Hospital has a long history of care," St. Joseph Hospital website,
www.stjoehospital.com/history.

"St. Joseph Medical Center clinches deal with Quorum," *Journal Gazette*, 2 July 1998,
page 2C.

Whelan, Jean C., "Where did all the nurses go," University of Pennsylvania School of
Nursing website, <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nhhc/workforce-issues/where-did-all-the-nurses-go/>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
(NPS #220007)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

St. Joseph's Nurses Home
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 655451	Northing: 4549010
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

St. Joseph's Nurses Home

Name of Property

UNOFFICIAL COPY

Allen, Indiana

County and State

2022060628

RECORDED: 11/10/2022 04:15:15 PM

ANITA MATHER

ALLEN COUNTY RECORDER

FORT WAYNE, IN

02-12-02-353-003.000-074

WAYNE

INFA21-6414 MWK

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY WARRANTY DEED

This indenture witnesseth that ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Grantor"),

CONVEYS AND WARRANTS TO FORT REI, LLC, an Indiana limited liability company ("Grantee"),

In consideration of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the following described real estate in Allen County in the State of Indiana:

This description, prepared by Aaron J. Carl, Professional Surveyor License Number LS20800123 and employed by T-E Incorporated, was created as part of an Original Survey for Job No. 21223 on September 21, 2022, recorded November 3, 2022 as Instrument No. 2022059266. A part of Lots 84 thru 86 in Rockhill's Amended Addition to the City of Fort Wayne, also part of vacated West Berry Street according to General Ordinance G-38-86, all located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 30 North, Range 12 East, of Wayne Township, Allen County, Indiana, also being part of tracts of land conveyed to St. Joseph Health Systems, LLC by Document 980044720 and Document 203047762, all recorded documents in this description are recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Allen County, and more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 100 in said Rockhill's Amended Addition, also being the intersection of the North right-of-way line of West Wayne Street and the East right-of-way line of Van Buren Street, being marked by a 5/8-inch diameter rebar with an identification cap stamped "T-E INC FIRM ID #0070" (from herein referred to as "T-E Cap"); thence North 11 degrees 33 minutes 39 seconds West (being the basis of all bearings this description), on and along the East right-of-way line of said Van Buren Street, also being the West line of said Lots 100 and 84, a distance of 197.84 feet to the Point of Beginning, being marked by a "T-E Cap"; thence continuing North 11 degrees 33 minutes 39 seconds West, on and along the East right-of-way line of said Van Buren Street, also being the West line of said Lot 84, a distance of 142.49 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence North 78 degrees 26 minutes 21 seconds East, a distance of 73.60 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 56 degrees 33 minutes 15 seconds East, a distance of 37.73 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 85 and the Northwest corner of said Lot 86, being marked by a "T-E Cap"; thence South 11 degrees 33 minutes 11 seconds East, on and along the East/West line of said Lots 85 and 86, a distance of 25.58 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence North 78 degrees 31 minutes 25 seconds East, a distance of 44.42 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 11 degrees 27 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 44.13 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence North 78 degrees 13 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 1.60 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 11 degrees 27 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 8.50 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 78 degrees 13 minutes 36 second West, a distance of 1.60 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 11 degrees 27 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 21.98 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 78 degrees 32 minutes 24 seconds West, a distance of 13.24 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 11 degrees 27 minutes 36 seconds East, a distance of 15.10 feet to a "T-E Cap"; thence South 78 degrees 13 minutes 56 seconds West, a distance of 131.29 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.407 acres of land more or less, being subject to and/or together with all easements and rights-of-way of record.

DULY ENTERED FOR TAXATION
SUBJECT TO FINAL ACCEPTANCE FOR TRANSFER

Nov 10 2022 CP

NICHOLAS D. JORDAN
ALLEN COUNTY AUDITOR

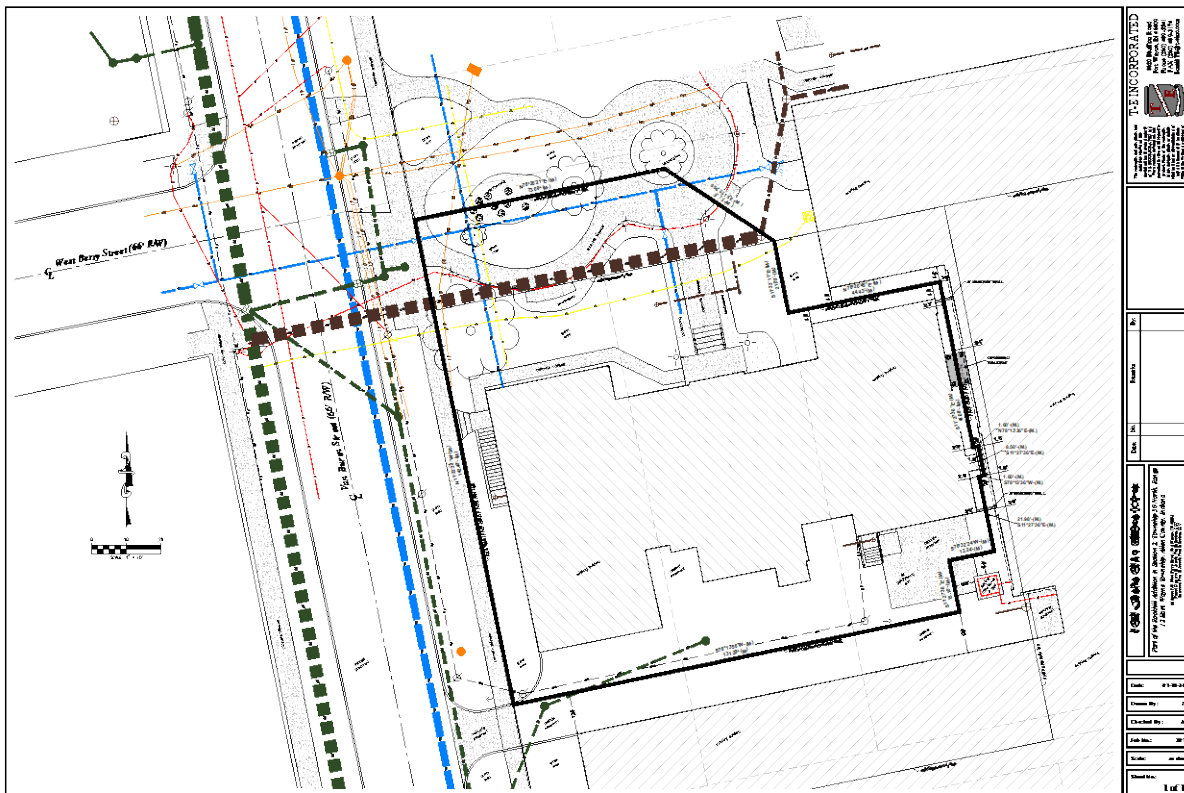
Allen County Recorder Document #: 2022060628

St. Joseph's Nurses Home
Name of Property

Allen, Indiana
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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Saint Joseph's Nurses Home correspond to the legal description of the parcel. The survey drawing (legal description boundary is the solid black line) shows how the legal description relates to the building footprint and to other nearby structures.



11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Weston, Historic Preservationist; Connie Haas Zuber, Historian;
Michael Galbraith, Historian

organization: ARCH, Inc. on behalf of Fort REI, LLC

street & number: 818 Lafayette Street

city or town Fort Wayne state: IN zip code: 46802

e-mail director@archfw.org

telephone: 260.426.5117

date: March 30, 2023

St. Joseph's Nurses Home
Name of Property

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. Joseph's Nurses Home

City or Vicinity: Fort Wayne

County: Allen

State: Indiana

Photographer: Michael Galbraith

Date Photographed: February 2025

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

Photo 1 of 54 -
Camera facing southeast. View of north and west elevations.

St. Joseph's Nurses Home

Name of Property

Photo 2 of 54 -

West end of façade. Camera facing south.

Photo 3 of 54 -

Façade. Camera facing south.

Photo 4 of 54 -

Close-up of entrance. Camera facing south.

Photo 5 of 54 -

West and south elevations. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 6 of 54 -

Façade and medical building. Camera facing east.

Photo 7 of 54 -

South elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 8 of 54 -

South elevation. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 9 of 54 -

South elevation and medical building. Camera facing north.

Photo 10 of 54 -

Terrazzo floor in entry. Camera facing north.

Photo 11 of 54 -

First floor room with fireplace. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 12 of 54 -

First floor rooms. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 13 of 54 -

First floor rooms. Camera facing east.

Photo 14 of 54 -

First floor hall. Camera facing west.

Photo 15 of 54 -

First floor room. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 16 of 54 -

First floor, east wing hall. Camera facing south.

Photo 17 of 54 -

Basement auditorium stage. Camera facing south.

Photo 18 of 54 -

Steps to auditorium stage. Camera facing south.

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St. Joseph's Nurses Home

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Photo 19 of 54 -
Auditorium. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 20 of 54 -
Basement classroom with shelves. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 21 of 54 -
Basement classroom. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 22 of 54 -
Basement former laundry room. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 23 of 54 -
Auditorium doors to hall. Camera facing west.

Photo 24 of 54 -
Basement work room. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 25 of 54 -
Second floor room. Camera facing south.

Photo 26 of 54 -
Stair landing at second floor. Camera facing south.

Photo 27 of 54 -
Second floor hallway. Camera facing west.

Photo 28 of 54 -
Second floor room. Camera facing west.

Photo 29 of 54 -
Second floor room. Camera facing west.

Photo 30 of 54 -
Second floor dorm room, closets. Camera facing north.

Photo 31 of 54 -
Second floor room and windows. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 32 of 54 -
Second floor room. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 33 of 54 -
Second floor room. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 34 of 54 -
Third floor room. Camera facing north.

Photo 35 of 54 -

St. Joseph's Nurses Home

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Third floor dorm room and closets. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 36 of 54 -

Third floor room. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 37 of 54 -

Fourth floor main hall. Camera facing east.

Photo 38 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 39 of 54 -

Fourth floor hallway to elevator. Camera facing south.

Photo 40 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 41 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 42 of 54 -

Fourth floor, west wing hall. Camera facing south.

Photo 43 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 44 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 45 of 54 -

Fourth floor room. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 46 of 54 -

Fourth floor hall. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 47 of 54

Rooftop on west wing. Camera facing south.

Photo 48 of 54 -

Rooftop on west wing. Camera facing north.

Photo 49 of 54 -

Rooftop on west wing. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 50 of 54 -

Rooftop view of elevator service room. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 51 of 54 -

Central building rooftop. Camera facing east.

St. Joseph's Nurses Home

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Photo 52 of 54 -

Fifth floor restroom. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 53 of 54 -

Fifth floor restroom. Camera facing south.

Photo 54 of 54 -

Fifth floor steps. Camera facing south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

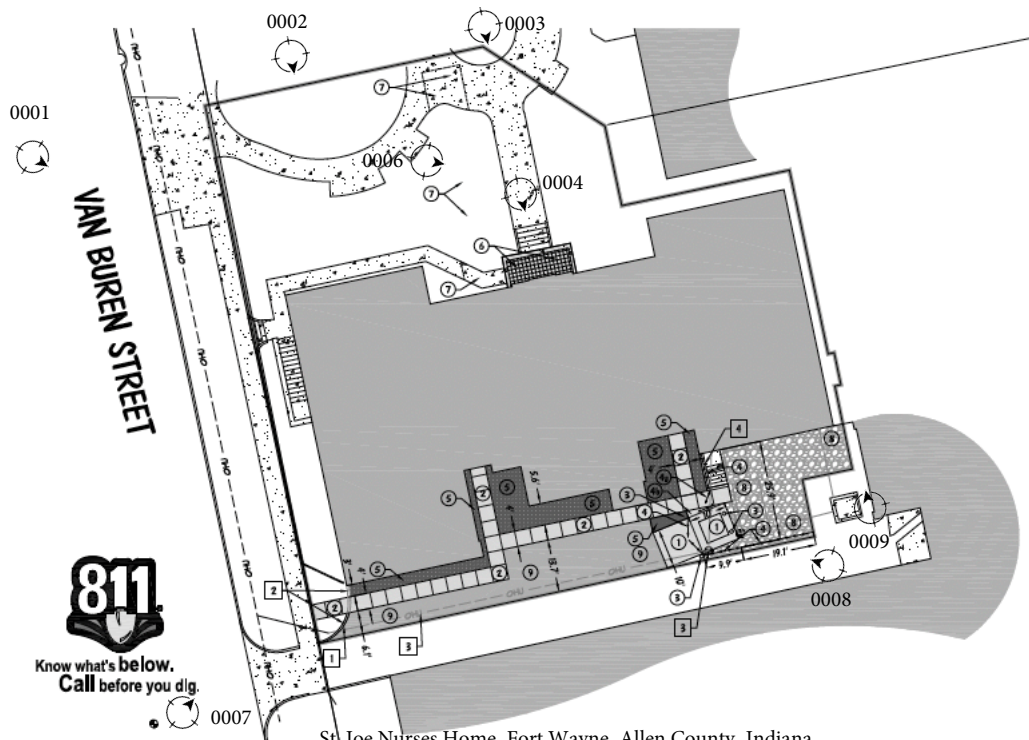
Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

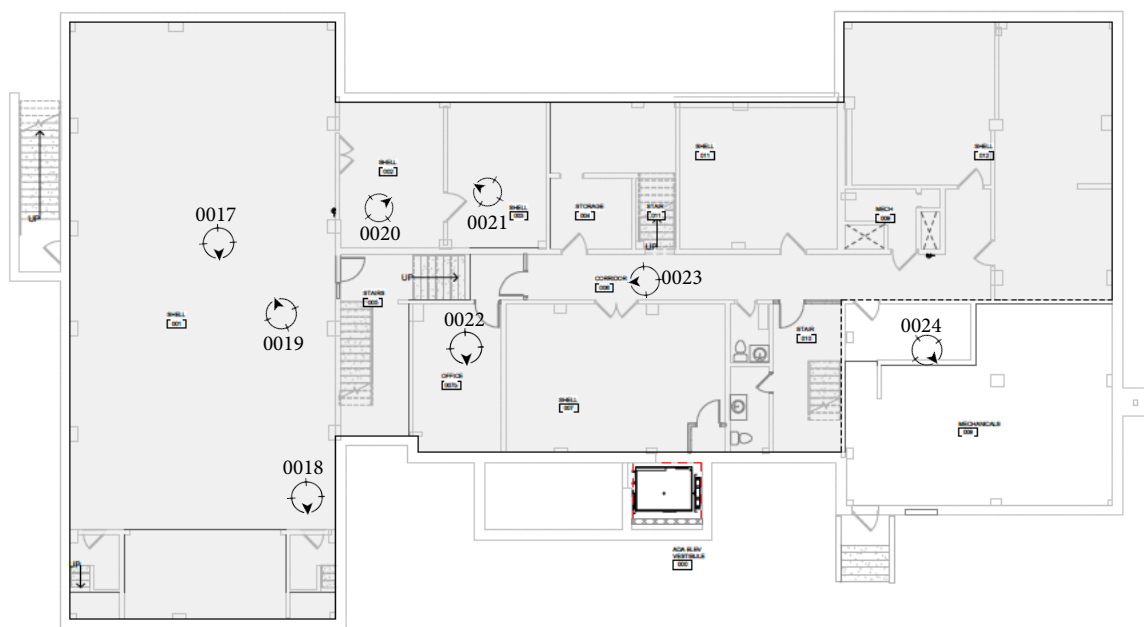
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana

0005  **Site Development/Demolition Plan**
 Scale: 1" = 20'  000# = Photo direction and number

St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana



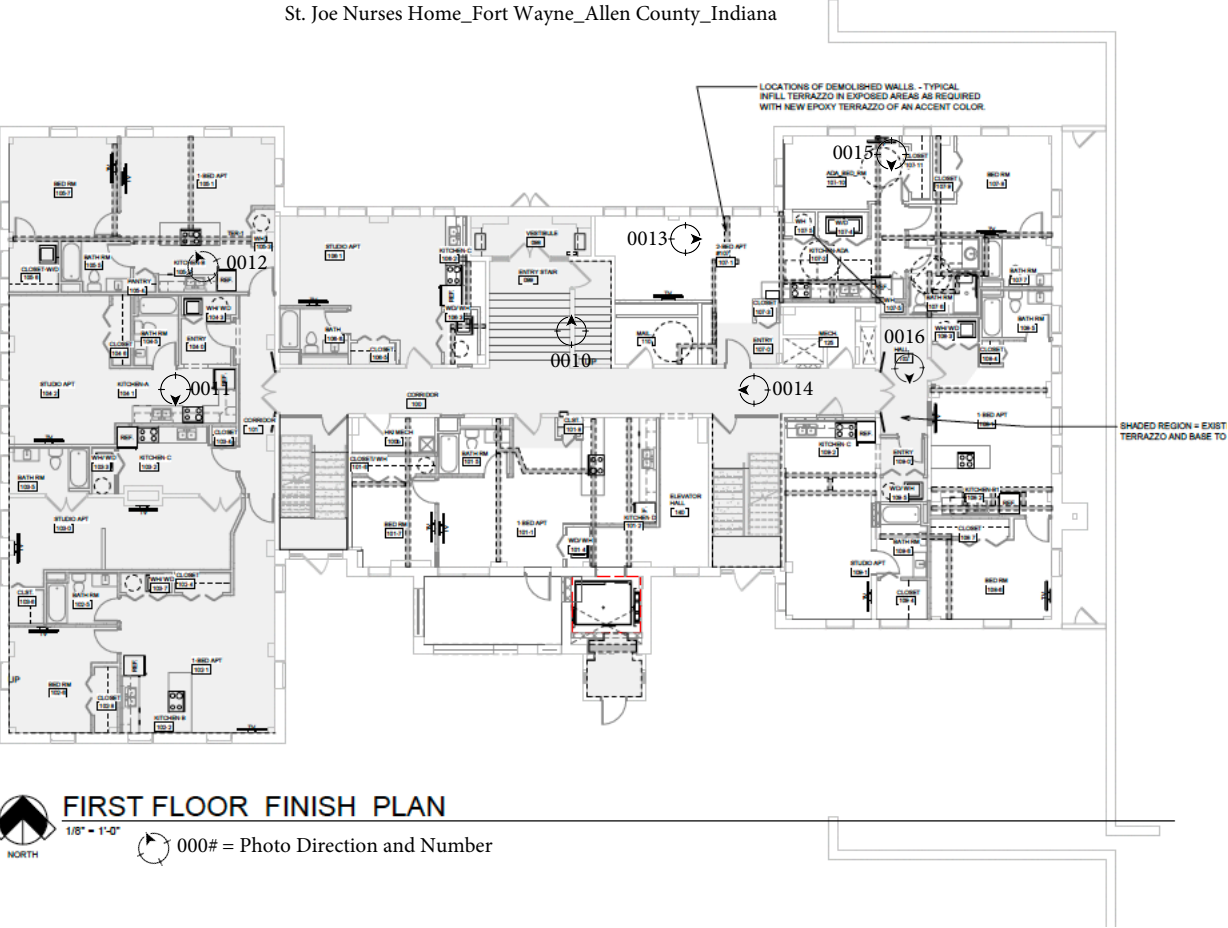
LOWER LEVEL FINISH PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"

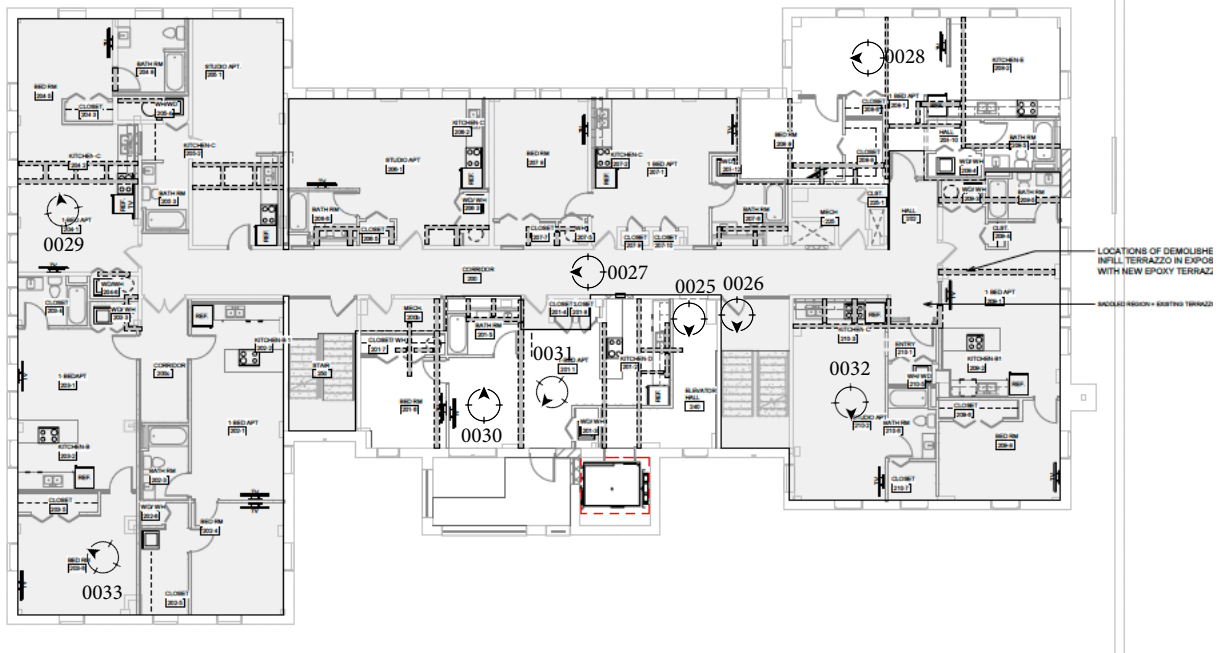


000# = Photo direction and number

St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana



St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana



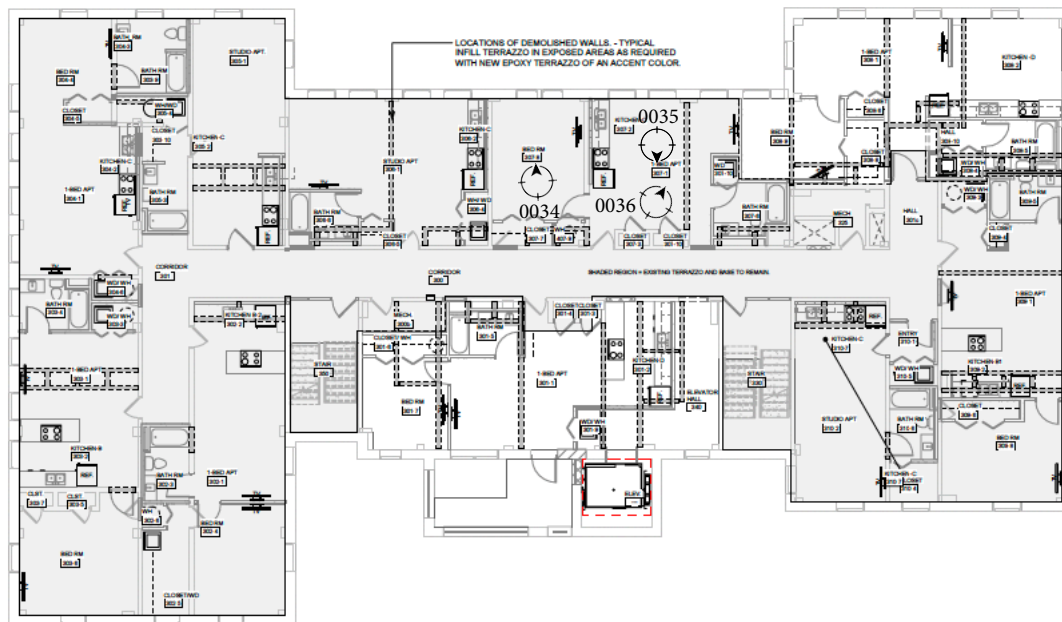
SECOND FLOOR FINISH PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"



000# = Photo direction and number

St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana

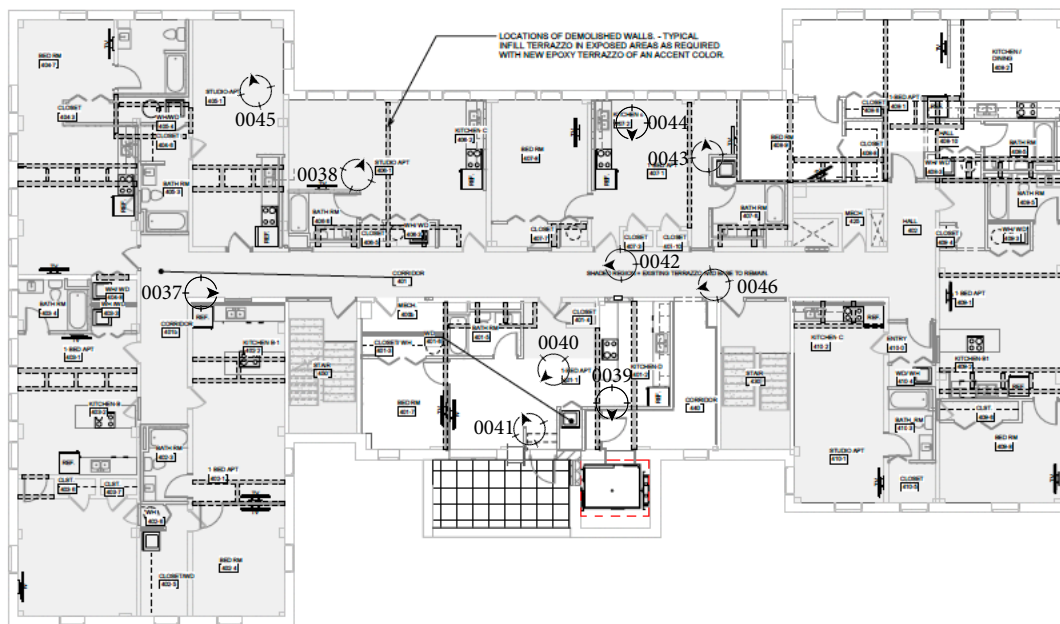



THIRD FLOOR FINISH PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"

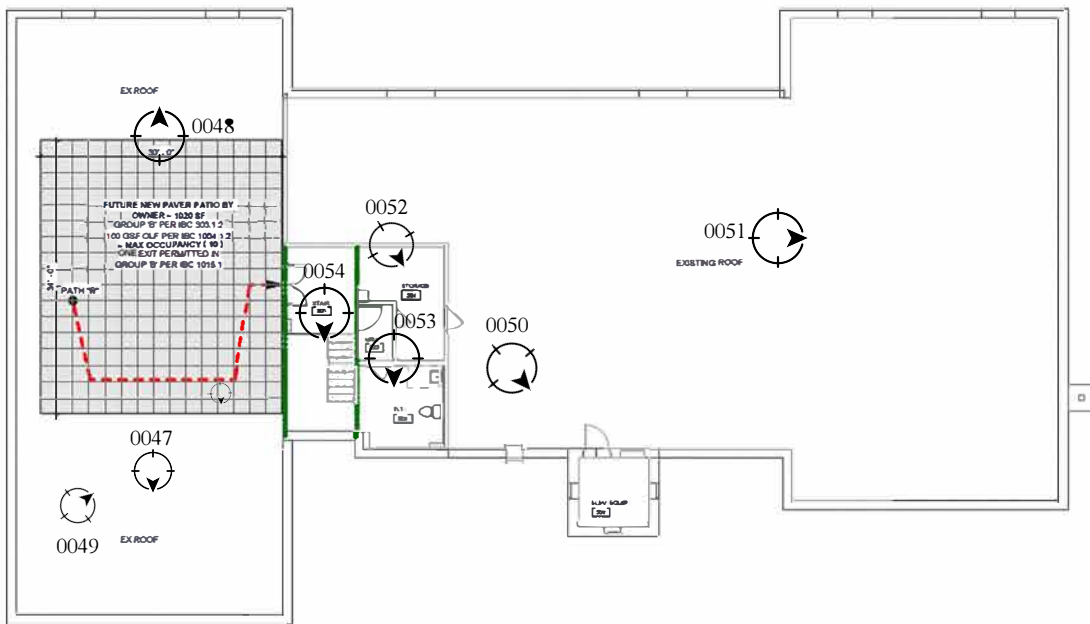


000# = Photo direction and number

[illegible]

 000# = Photo direction and number

St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana



FIFTH FLOOR CODE REVIEW PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"



000# =Photo direction and number



3/2025

St. Joe Nurses Home_Fort Wayne_Allen County_Indiana

NAD 83 UTM = 16G55451 4549010





IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0001



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0004



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0005



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0006



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0007



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0008



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0011



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0013



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0017



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0026



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0028



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0031



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0037



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0045



IN_AllenCounty_St.Joseph'sNursesHome_0048