

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 103-05-0172
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

B-19
004

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip DATE: 8/15/75
Town Hall 655 Main St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516-581-2000

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, & Development

IDENTIFICATION

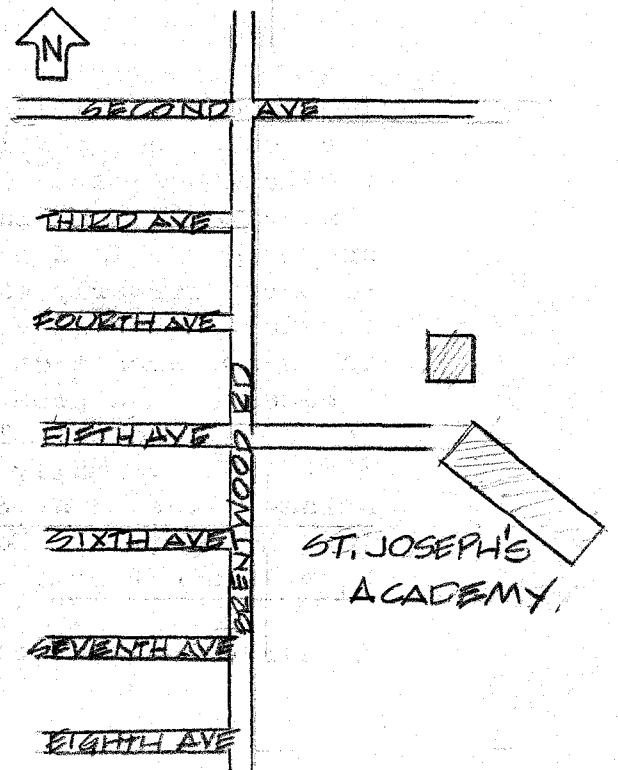
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): St. Joseph's Academy
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Brentwood
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Brentwood Rd; east side; opposite fifth Ave. South.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: St. Joseph's ADDRESS: Same
- 6. USE: Original: Convent/School Present: Convent/School
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) Structural Steel
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: Negative No. C-6A

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: Many large buildings.

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
St. Joseph's Academy consists of many major buildings set on three hundred acres of rolling lawns and trees. It is a serene expanse of many different buildings and statues situated in clusters.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
Impressive huge light colored brick buildings in Spanish Missionary Style. (Jesuit Style). Main Building has: original windows with various shaped pediments and surrounds in stone. Tile roof supported by brackets. Panelling under eave. Flanking twin bays with Jesuit Style parapet. Baroque Cupola on roof.

SIGNIFICANCE Formal entrance with orders of stone.

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: _____

ARCHITECT: _____

BUILDER: _____

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
The handsome Spanish Style buildings of St. Joseph's Academy were constructed during many different periods representing the growth of the Academy. Not all of the buildings are as elaborate as the Academy building. The Sisters of St. Joseph acquired the land on which the Academy was founded in 1896. The property formerly was the location of the 1870 Franch-Chateau Mansion of Robert W. Pearsall who engaged Frederick Law Olmstead, landscape Architect of Central Park, to design the grounds. Also located on the grounds was the 1880, 135 room Astral Hotel, built by the syndicate. These buildings were incorporated in the plan.

21. SOURCES: **The formally planned Academy is also a convent.**
Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County (Western Section)
 New York: E. Belcher Hyde, 1915. Plate 17.
Long Island Forum. June 1961, P. 142.

22. THEME:
 Research by the Society for the Preservation of L.I.I. Antiquities
 EFW

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ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
UNIQUE SITE NO. <u>10305.000172</u>	
QUAD _____	
SERIES _____	
NEG. NO. _____	

YOUR NAME: Town of Islip/SPLIA DATE: February 1990

Town Hall, 655 Main St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Islip, L.I., N.Y. 11751 TELEPHONE: 516.224.5450

ORGANIZATION (if any): Dept. of Planning, Housing, and Development

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Academy of St. Joseph in the Pines
- 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Brentwood
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Brentwood Rd., east side, opp. Fifth Ave.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____
- 6. USE: Original: convent/school Present: convent/school
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain by app't.

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: terra cotta
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) structural steel
e. other _____
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- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

-Refer to 1975 Inventory Form-



Neg. KK XXVIII-34, fm. S., showing facade of central building and tower, NW of chapel and convent buildings.

8-19

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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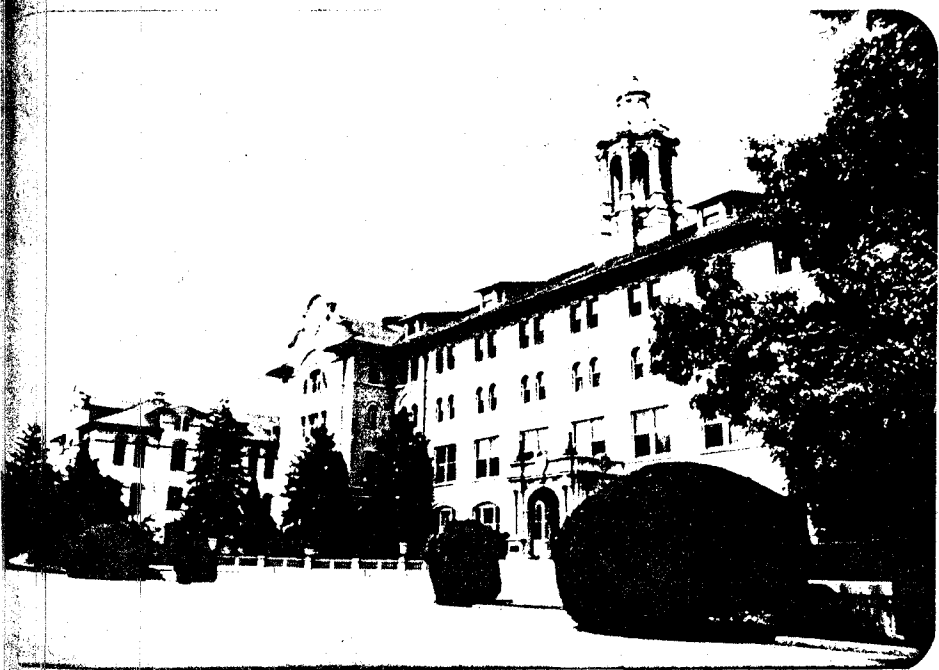
IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): St. Joseph's Academy
 2. COUNTY: Suffolk TOWN/CITY: Islip VILLAGE: Brentwood
 3. STREET LOCATION: E. side of Brentwood Rd. from Third Ave South.
 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
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 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
 Interior accessible: Explain _____

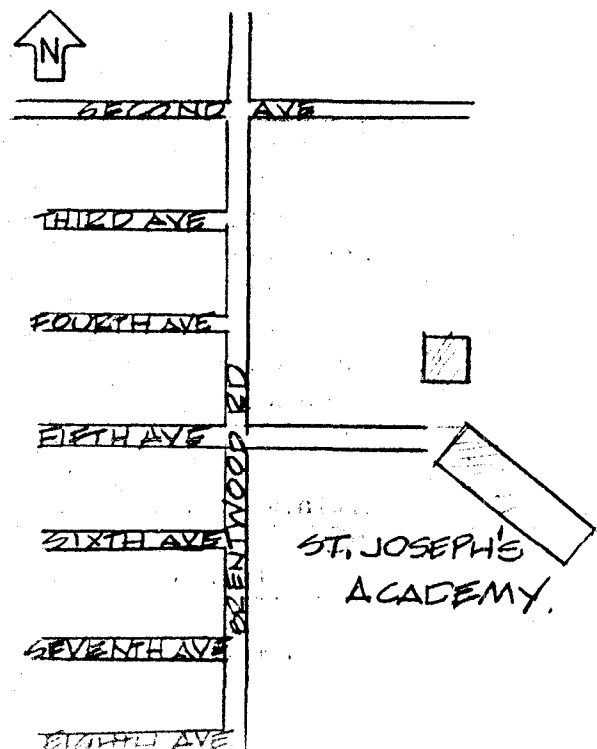
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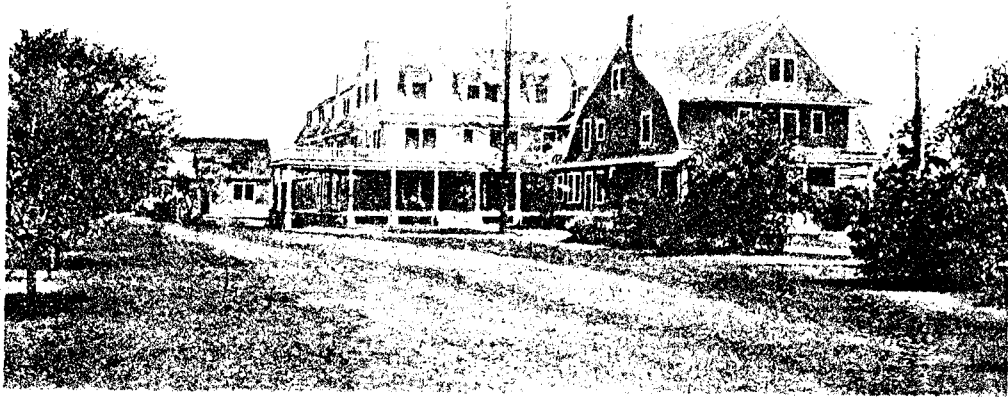
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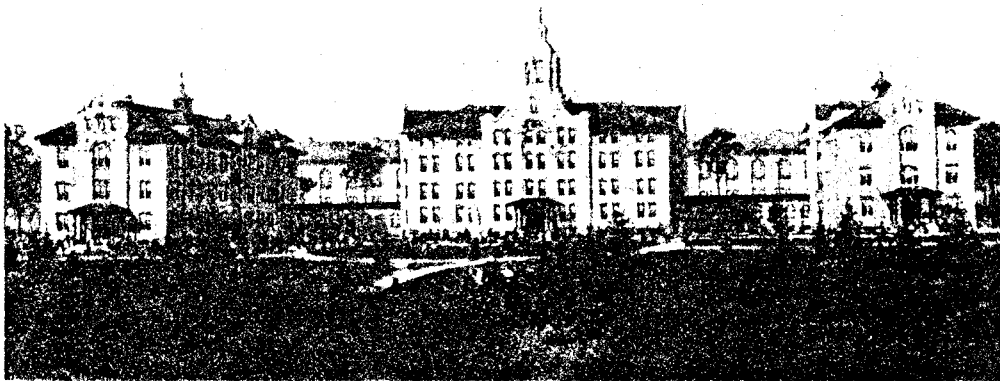
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Atlas of the Ocean Shore of Suffolk County (Western Section)
 New York: E. Belcher Hyde, 1915. Plate 17.
Long Island Forum. June 1961, P. 142.

22. ~~THEME:~~

BRENTWOOD AND HAUPPAUGE



Dr. W. R. Ross's Sanatorium, Brentwood



The Academy of St. Joseph of the Pines, Brentwood



A View at Hauppauge
 Ruther, Frederick. Long Island Today, 1909.

General of the Religious Communities in the Diocese, was introduced by the pastor of St. Anne's, Rev. Hugh M. Graham. About thirty members of the Catholic clergy were present in the sanctuary.

The parish had passed through the pioneer days of its founding; had been nurtured by the solicitous care of Monsignor John M. Kiely, and the kindly attention of Monsignor Thomas Connally; had witnessed the erection of a parochial school by Monsignor Thomas Murray and the consequent increased financial burden to him and his successor, Father Francis Flanagan. Monsignor John J. Boardman's pastorate saw the added care of Pilgrim State Hospital necessitate the help of an assistant priest. After having endeared himself greatly to the community, Father Hugh Graham was transferred in 1947 and was succeeded by Rev. Joseph E. Egan. His fluency in the Italian language led to his transfer to a large Italian-American parish in Brooklyn. A sudden death terminated the pastorate of his successor, Rev. John I. Donovan. The present pastor, Rev. Thomas I. Conerty, through his earnest and interested zeal, has already found a firm and affectionate welcome in the village of Brentwood.

SAINT ANNE'S SCHOOL

When Father Thomas Murray came to Saint Anne's parish as the new pastor in 1917, he quickly envisioned the need of a school to insure the proper religious education of the growing Catholic generation. Having besought the generous cooperation of his people, Father Murray proceeded to formulate plans for the new structure, with the help of Gustave E. Steinback, architect. In due time the building was completed and on September 10, 1923, Saint Anne's School opened its doors to the children of the parish. Only twenty-seven boys and girls were enrolled the first year. The faculty consisted of two religious teachers,

of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Sister Immaculata Marie, principal, and her assistant, Sister Frances Carmelita. Joseph A. O'Connor had the honor of being the first pupil enrolled in the school.

"A great work had been accomplished in the parish", we read in the booklet of the Golden Jubilee of Saint Anne's Church (1895-1945). "The Catholic school with its absolute regard for religious training had come to Brentwood to stay. The future of Saint Anne's had been definitely assured. It would, however, be unfair not to add that the ambitious undertaking could not have been realized without the deep interest and fostering support of Mother Mary Louis, of happy memory, who, as Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, gave Saint Anne's School the finest teachers, supplied it with many of its material needs, and helped it in every way possible to approach the high standards of education which her great organization of religious teachers has set for itself. The people of Saint Anne's are deeply proud of their school, but they are equally grateful to Mother Mary Louis and her successors in office, Mother Jane Frances and Mother Charles Edward."

THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH MOVE TO BRENTWOOD

Charles Van Nostrand was responsible, it is said, for the coming of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to Brentwood. He informed the Bishop that the valuable property of the defunct Austral Hotel Corporation—the former Pearsall estate—was for sale and suggested that the church purchase it. The need for more spacious quarters for their Academy and Novitiate, then located in Flushing where they were established in 1860, led the Sisters of Saint Joseph to consider the matter.

In February, 1896, a tract of about three hundred acres, then known as Pine Park, which included the old Pearsall residence,

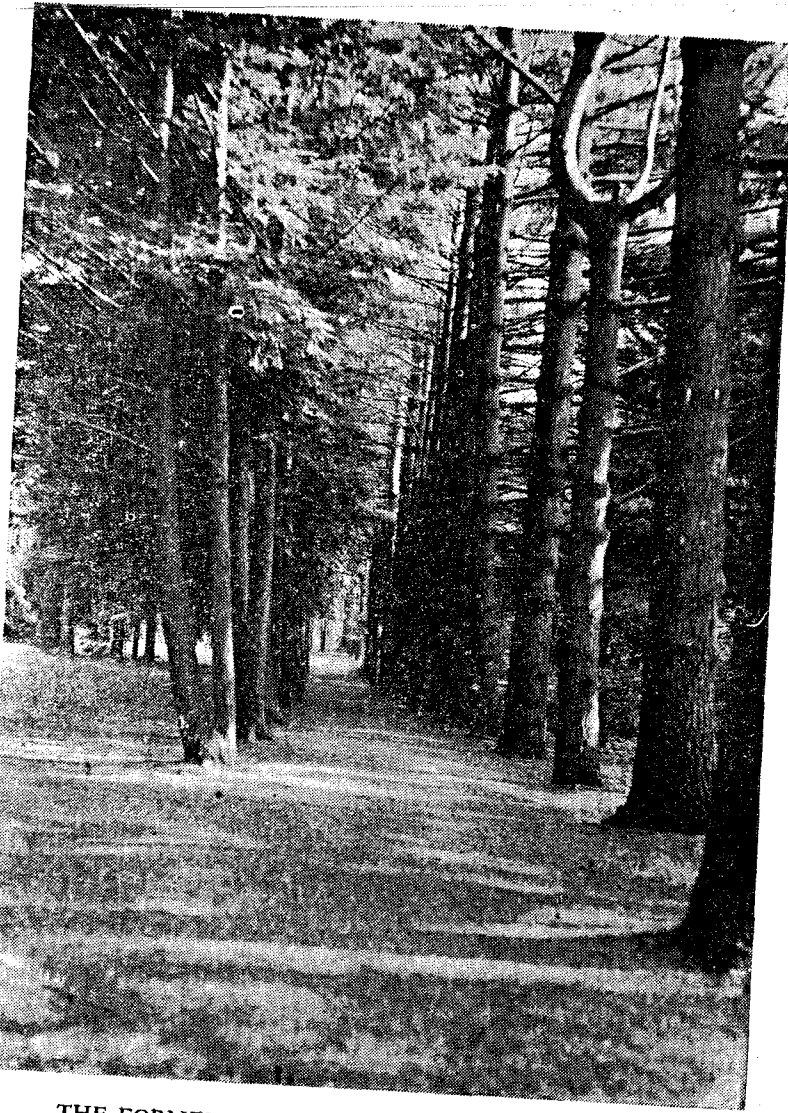
the 125-room Austral Hotel and several cottages, was purchased by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Austral Hotel soon became the Mother House, later the Novitiate, while the Brentwood Hotel (the Pearsall chateau) was renamed St. Charles Cottage and converted into a chaplain's residence.

The Bishop of Brooklyn, Most Reverend Charles E. McDonnell, through whose efforts the purchase of Pine Park by Mother Mary Louis was completed, said the first Mass in the new Berntwood Convent on April 19, 1896, in a chapel reconstructed from what former guests of the Austral Hotel had known as The Casino.

The erection of the first and original wing of the Academy, now known as St. Louis Hall, was entrusted to Schickel and Ditmars, Manhattan architects, with Contractor Kyran A. Murphy of Brooklyn in charge of building operations. The Long Island Railroad constructed a spur from its main track, near the Brentwood station, to the Academy grounds to facilitate the transportation of building materials.

One of the contractors employed on the original Academy building, in later years, mentioned with fond recollection a remarkable pioneer nun, Sister St. Gabriel. Among her many talents was a great knowledge of surveying. She laid out a considerable extent of water pipe line in the village. The contractor's daughter has in her possession several treasured pieces of ceramics painted by the same sister who was a gifted artist.

This contractor also related an interesting incident of the boiler room at the Academy. After it was discovered that bees were flying in and out of the place in great number, an investigation was made. A hive was discovered in a partition in the west wall. To get rid of the insects, the partition had to be removed. In the process several hundred pounds of honey in



THE FORMER LOVERS' LANE, NOW ROSARY LANE

Dyson, Verne. Village Press, 1950.

A Century of Brentwood. Brentwood:

Brentwood

different colors was discovered.

The formal opening of St. Louis Hall took place on June 11,



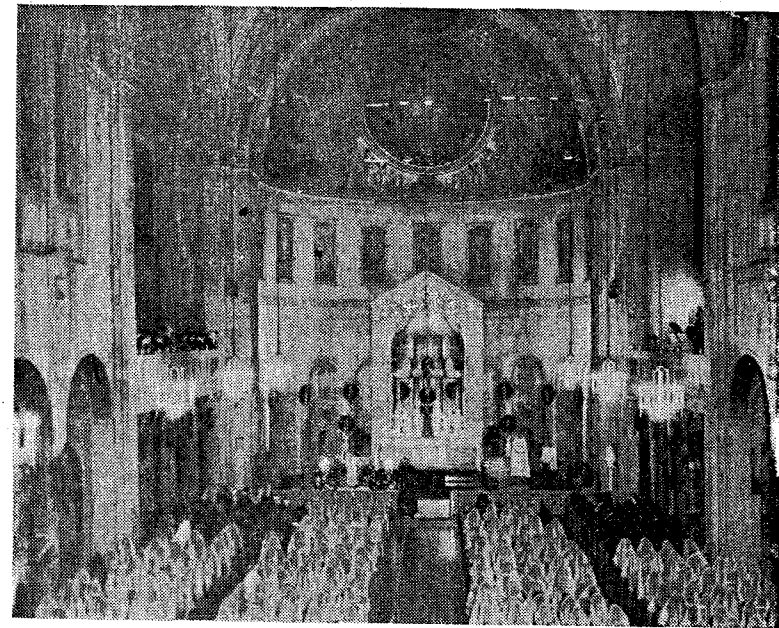
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART

1903, before a distinguished gathering of the friends of the far-famed Academy of Flushing, now to be superseded by Saint Joseph's-in-the-Pines. The school term began on September 8,

Dyson, Verne. *A Century of Brentwood*.
Brentwood: Brentwood Village Press, 1950.

1903, with ninety-seven students in attendance, but so quickly were the attractions of Brentwood heralded abroad, that by November 4, of the same year, the registration had soared to 167. (In 1950 the attendance of boarding students had increased to almost 300, with a small number of day students.)

By 1911, it became evident that Saint Joseph's Academy had once more outgrown its original building, and plans were made

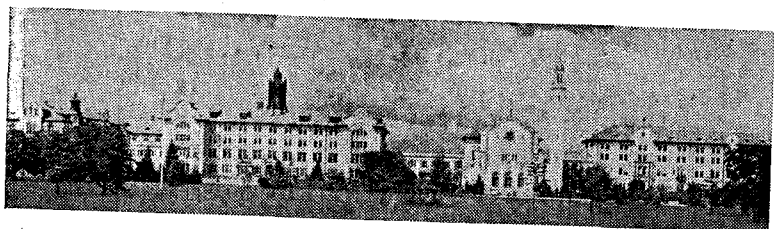


INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART

for a new and larger structure, extending eastward from St. Louis Hall. The corner-stone of this imposing main building of the Academy was laid, November 17, 1912, and the work of construction advanced under the supervision of Hannigan and McDermott, builders, with Schnickel and Ditmars as architects.

This main building is known as St. Joseph's Hall. It is a magnificent fire-proof structure, comprising in its exquisite appointments: classrooms, study halls, vocal and instrumental studios, libraries, laboratories, private rooms, dormitories, baths, parlors, and a roof garden.

The eastward growth of this remarkable cluster of buildings at Saint Joseph's-in-the-Pines was climaxed in March, 1927, by the breaking of ground for the new Convent and the Sacred Heart Chapel which completed the group. This Convent was opened to occupancy in January, 1929. The following Easter



SAINT JOSEPH'S-IN-THE-PINES

Sunday, the Chapel was opened. On April 18, 1933, the Chapel was solemnly dedicated by the Most Reverend Thomas E. Mollo, Bishop of Brooklyn.

The coming of the Sisters of St. Joseph to the village "signaled the rise of Brentwood fame far and wide, because the quiet little Community just arrived was destined to become the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the great Diocese of Brooklyn. Brentwood was to become the seat of one of the most desirable and best equipped institutions for the academic training of young women to be found anywhere. Generations of alumnae from many countries have made the name of Brentwood-in-the-Pines and the Academy of Saint Joseph symbolical of high intellectual standards, sound religious education, and

a social, cultural development that distinguishes her graduates in every walk of life".

An account in the *Islip Press* of April 27, 1949, made of a ceremony at the Convent is typical of those frequently held there:

"Twenty-eight candidates received the Holy Habit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Brentwood, on the Sunday after Easter. Monsignor Martin A. Fitzpatrick officiated. The young ladies, gowned in bridal white with long trains, and bouquets of white roses advanced to the altar, preceded by a cross bearer while the choir sang, 'Hail, Holy Joseph, Hail'. As the bridal procession left the chapel the choir sang. The re-entrance of the new Sisters dressed in the habit of Saint Joseph and carrying lighted candles was very impressive."

The enterprise of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is more or less self-sustaining. The group of buildings has its own heating system and electric light plant. Coal is brought by the car load direct from the mines to the Academy grounds over the switch track. The Sisters maintain a chicken ranch, a dairy, and a farm. Each of these units is managed by an expert in his line.

The Academy has an attractive library, an auditorium with a large seating capacity and stage, a comfortable living room, a home economics cottage, and many music rooms where all branches of vocal and instrumental music are taught.

Ten years ago a concrete roller skating rink was built, at great expenses, for the pleasure of the pupils. Situated east of the Academy buildings, it is one hundred feet square, lighted by large flood lights, making it possible to use the rink at night. In cold weather it can be flooded for ice skating. This rink added the final touch to a well-equipped campus which includes eight tennis courts, hockey and soccer fields, four basketball courts,

swings and slides for younger children, as well as facilities for horseback riding.

"Brentwood, known as the capital of the pine region," states an attractive booklet issued by the school, "is delightfully situated in the center of Long Island. Pine Park, its garden spot, now named Saint Joseph's-in-the-Pines, presents in its stretch of more than three hundred acres, attractive landscapes on every side; woodlands, orchards, groves, vineyards, farms, lawns, and driveways."

So, the beauty and magnificence of the old Pearsall estate and the Austral Hotel have not been lost. Sisters and students of the Academy and Convent, by the hundreds, each successive year, pursue training there which will make them better fitted for their vocation in life, to educate and lead others to the knowledge and love of God. Reverend Mother Charles Edward, a former member of the old Academy in Flushing, and a foremost leader in religious and educational activities and progress, has done much, as Mistress of Novices, and as General Superior to further this pioneer work so nobly undertaken by the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

XII THE McWHORTER ERA

THE TWENTIETH century opened in a golden aura of prosperity and hopefulness. The first decade was an age of golden dreams of enlargement and expansion in all directions and on all planes of life; mankind, it appeared, was in for the best of everything with the sky as the only limit. The United States was great; so was Great Britain, just then emerging from the splendid Victorian era. Germany was great, and so was France. A great age it was, in every respect. No part of the United States was more hopeful at that time than Long Island, and no group of people on the Island were more sanguine than the real estate operators of Brentwood.

One may expect things to happen differently at Brentwood for that is the general rule. Here in this village, under the auspices of the art of salesmanship, was witnessed the wedding of real estate and books. This idea, however, did not originate in our town but in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. At that time and in that place, when the century was young, one Emerson H. McWhorter was sales manager for Houghton Mifflin Company, book publishers specializing in high-priced limited editions. One of his salesmen who formerly had been connected with a real estate firm gave McWhorter a big idea which he forthwith placed in motion. It was this: Give a lot with every set of books sold.

The plan was tried out and found to be workable. Brentwood was selected as the scene of the enlarged operations. As the selling campaign progressed, the relative position of books and

File 6 Section 5
Brentwood

10/27/63

The College Behind the Gate

N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE

10/27/63

By Charles DeMangin
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

BRENTWOOD.

Motorists on Brentwood Road seldom notice the small plaque by a towering iron gate that identifies Suffolk County's oldest four-year college.

Set back deep in the pines and dogwoods, Brentwood College is a sequestered institution spreading over 250 acres. And its quiet solitude belies its role—that of educating 273 young girls who will eventually become Sisters of St. Joseph.

The college, now in its eighth year, also serves as headquarters for this teaching order's network of 74 elementary, and 12 high schools on Long Island.

PRESIDENT

President of Brentwood College is Sister Mary Ignatius, alert, articulate, friendly, and keenly aware of the progress of the school's student sisters.

"Though ours is a regular four-year liberal arts program leading to a B. S. degree," explained Sister Mary Ignatius, "our girls take five years to complete their schooling. This is because of the spiritual training involved."

The college president said it is customary for young girls to spread their freshman term over two years enabling them to prepare better for the day they will take their early religious vows while continuing their classroom studies. At the novitiate, the young ladies pursue a life leading to Sisterhood, taking their final vows after graduation.

FACULTY

The faculty of 12 full-time instructors plus an average of ten part-timers is staffed by Sisters of the congregation. Unconventionally, commencement ceremonies are held in October. The reason? To give summer students an opportunity to participate.

Members of the student body come mostly from high schools on Long Island and in Brooklyn and Queens. A few are from Puerto Rico. All reside in simple quarters on the upper two floors of the 1955-vintage four-story-plus-basement stone structure which is Brentwood College, chartered by the University of the State of New York.

While studying to become teachers and nuns, the girls do not leave the premises, but they are permitted to have visitors at specified times. Usually they greet parents and relatives in the downstairs auditorium and go for a stroll about the grounds when the weather is nice.

The college is equipped with modern classrooms and up-

to-date facilities—business offices, laboratories, library, gymnasium. But all is not always work.

"We provide extra-curricular activities, much like other schools," pointed out Sister Mary Ignatius who has headed up the college from the very 1955 beginning. "We have a school orchestra, art workshops, dramatic presentations and some sports." A school newspaper is in the planning stages.

Most students are able to determine during their first year whether they are suited to their chosen work. It is a period of considerable adjustment for the young students. "You might say, we size them up and of course they size us up," Sister Mary Ignatius said.

The college president recalls with a laugh that autumn when a former 37-year-old New York City policewoman decided to become a member of the congregation:

"This was an unusual occurrence, so much so that

a major news service called the college and asked one of the officials if the new student would care to make a statement. Our official cherked and learned that the girl would prefer to make no comment until the time she felt qualified to do so. Well, when would that be, asked the anxious reporter. Oh, in about four years, replied the official."

HISTORICAL

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph was founded in 1650 in LePuy, France, and it was in 1836 that the first group established itself in the United States near St. Louis. St. Mary's Academy was founded by the Sisters in Brooklyn in 1856, moving to Flushing in 1860. In 1898, the congregation acquired the 250 acres in Brentwood, the site of both the Brentwood Hotel and Austral Hotel, the later originally planned as a fashionable country club until it flizzed.

The congregation put the Brentwood acreage to use as a vacation area, home for the aged, and as a place to train teachers before formally moving there in 1903.

The Brentwood site is the home of the Academy of St. Joseph, a parochial elementary and high school. Preceding Brentwood College was a normal school started in 1920 for teacher training.

Brentwood College is considered a unique school by Sister Mary Ignatius. It is Long Island's first Sister formation, an institution of higher learning educating teachers exclusively for its own congregation.

Service to the community is not neglected. Just outside the spacious grounds is a building known as the Brentwood College Reading Center. Here members of the faculty give generously of their time to conduct remedial reading classes for people of all ages and all faiths who need this kind of help.

1955

1967

Mar 10 11 9 60 SM Mass
LONG AGO
 SECTION on **LONG ISLAND**
Brentwood
 By *Verne Dyson*

The destruction of the huge Austral Hotel on the grounds of the Academy of St. Joseph in Brentwood to make way for the erection of a new unit of Brentwood College recalls an expensive and unfulfilled dream of magnificence for the village. The history of the grandiose scheme begins with Robert W. Pearsall, a wealthy and ambitious aristocrat.

About 1863 Pearsall came to Brentwood from New York City where he had made a fortune in the wholesale grocery business. He bought a large tract of land which also included the present grounds of the Academy of St. Joseph, the sites of the High School, the Village School and other school and residence properties.

The inhabitants of the village were startled with the splendor of the residence which Pearsall completed in 1870. He set apart 12 acres of land in the southern part of the village for embellishment. There he erected a home modeled after a famous chateau in France, a building of grand design with lofty ceilings and hardwood floors. He sent an architect to France to obtain the plans of the chateau. Costly furnishings for the residence were imported from Europe, luxurious draperies, rare period furniture, Persian rugs, oil paintings and marble statues.

Pearsall employed Frederick Law Almstead, the noted landscape artist who designed Central Park in New York City, to come to Brentwood and beautify his estate. Under the magic of Almstead's art, Pearsall's grounds became radiant with flower beds, velvety lawns, lily ponds, and an artificial lake.

One year after Pearsall had completed his luxurious home, he died. The bereaved widow at once closed the house and went to Italy with her two children. There she

met and married a handsome Italian count. With her new husband, the lady returned to Brentwood and re-opened the chateau, but life in the village was dull for the count and the couple went back to Italy never again to return to Long Island.

The beauty of the Pearsall estate, idle now with the owners in Europe, gave real estate promoters an idea. A syndicate, composed of Arthur B. Hart, George B. Studley, Clinton W. Kellam, & others decided they would try to transform Brentwood into another Lakewood, New Jersey.

The promoters bought the Pearsall property and spent \$250,000 in building the Austral Hotel. The Pearsall residence was converted into a high-priced small hotel. A grand opening was held with large sums spent on advertising but for some unknown reason the crowds did not come. The project failed completely.

Again, the chateau was closed and also the huge new hotel. Then in February, 1896, the idle property—300 acres of land, the former Pearsall residence, the great Austral hotel, and a number of cottages—was bought by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

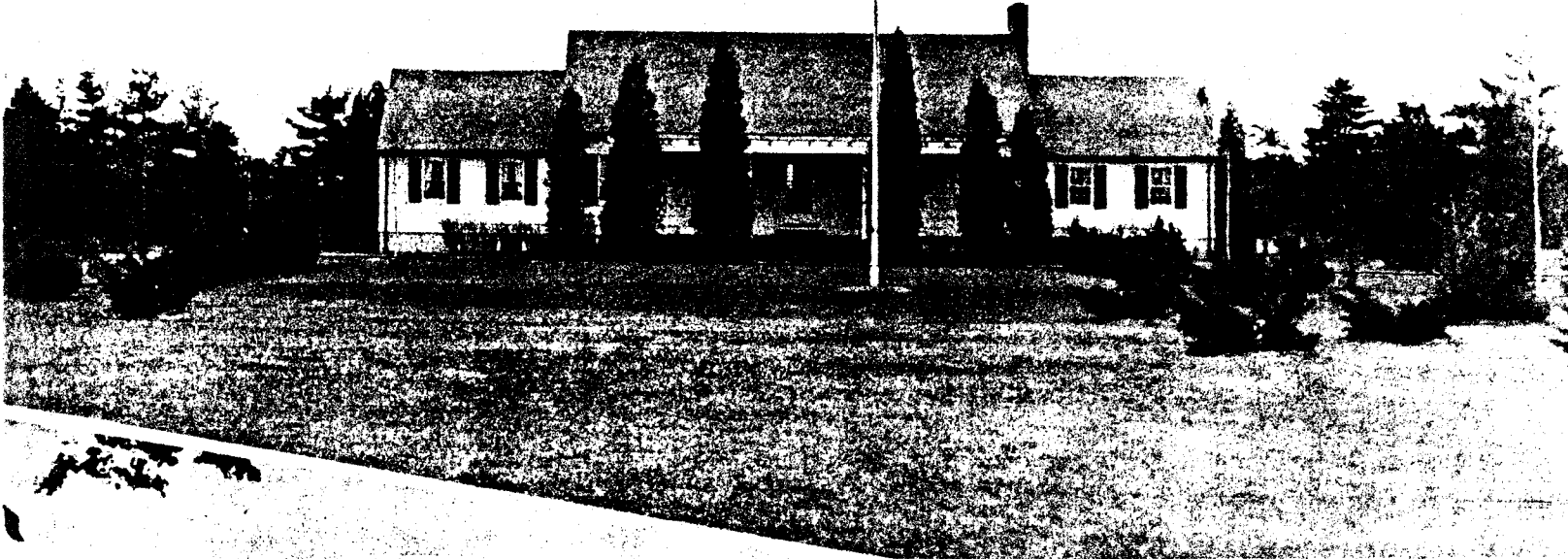
Smithtown Messenger,
3/10/1960.

Suffolk County's
Ten Great Townships,
1939.

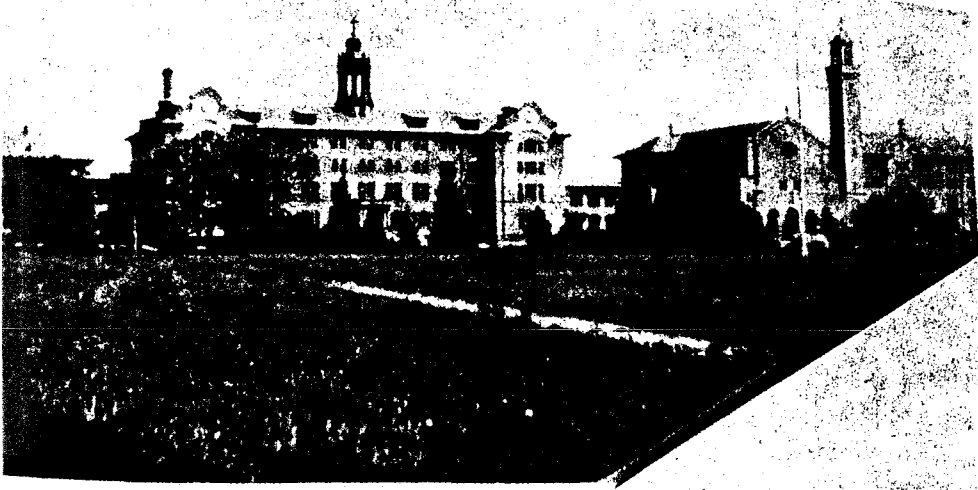


Brentwood

The healthfulness of this leading resort in Suffolk's inland pine country is widely-known. Is fragrantly cool, with abundant sunshine. Enrolled at St. Joseph's Academy are young ladies from many states and several foreign lands.



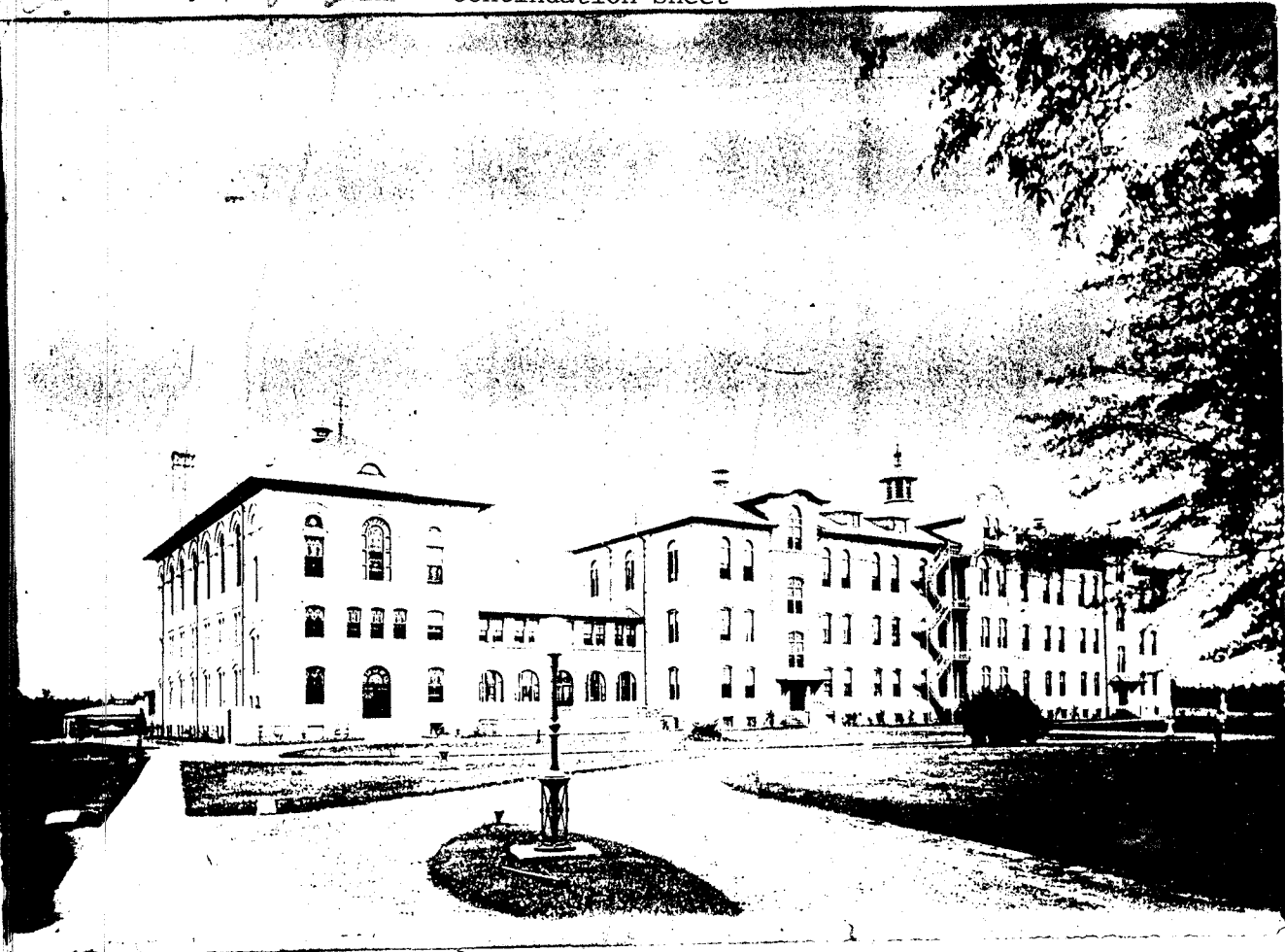
Brentwood Golf Club.



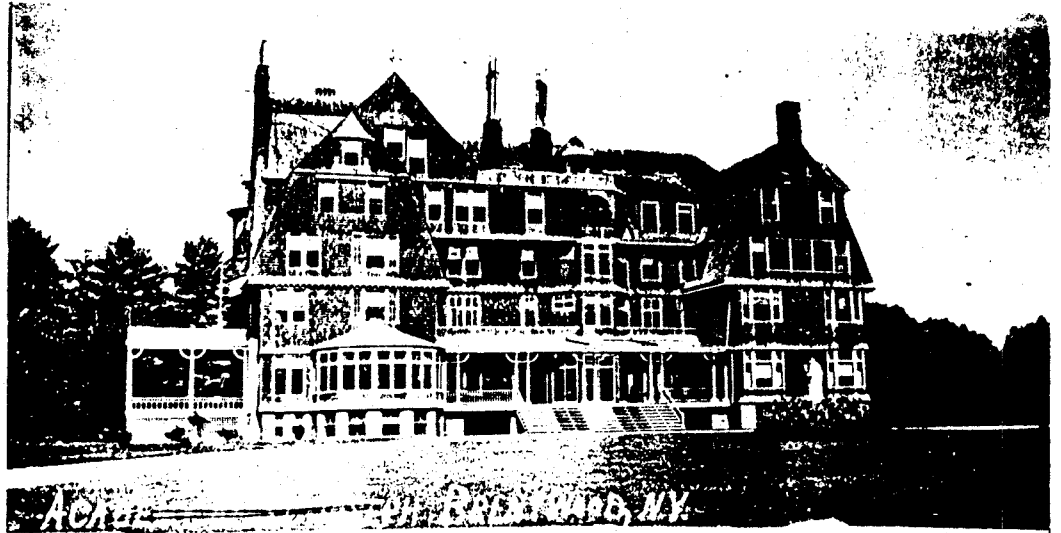
CHAPEL



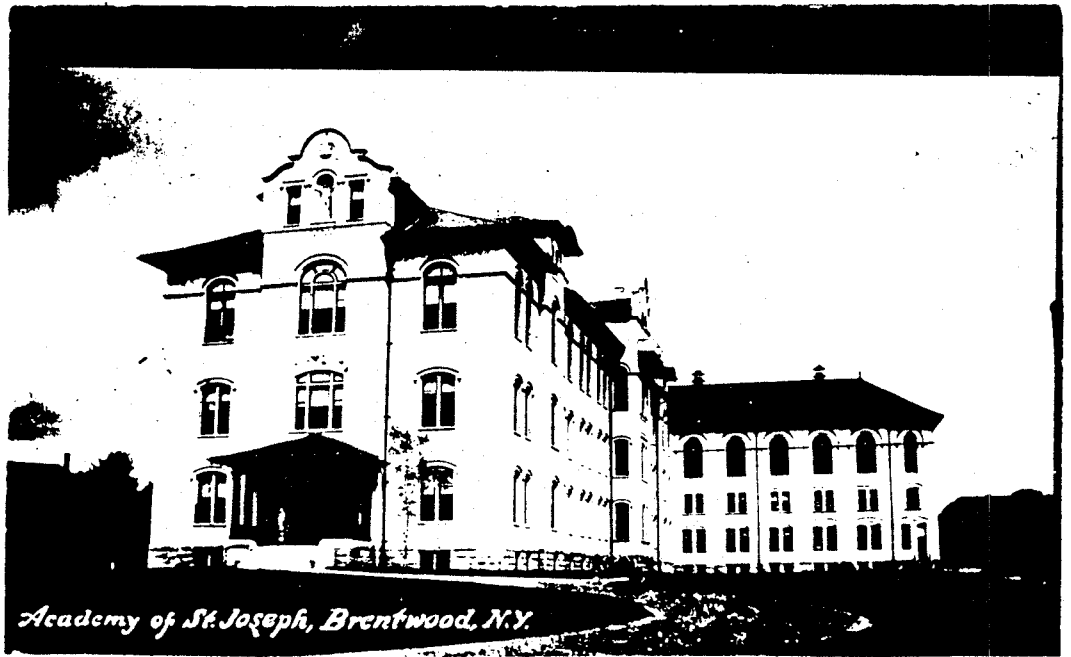
Korten photograph, prior to 1909, Coll. Nassau County Historical Society



Korten photographs, prior to 1909, Coll. Nassau County Historical Society



The Convent.



old postal cards, n.d.