

PROVIDENCE ACADEMY
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
1874-1950



Sister Mary Claver Morrow

On the afternoon of September 21, 1873, Vancouver, Washington, witnessed a most impressive procession. It had been formed at St. Joseph Hospital on Eighth and Reserve, and assumed the following order:¹

Band of the twenty-first Infantry
Sisters of Charity
Orphan Girls
Sisters of Charity
Orphan Boys
Boarders
Cross Bearer and Acolytes
Reverend Clergy
Right Reverend Bishop A.M.A. Blanchet
Citizens in Carriages

In a short time it reached a slightly elevated piece of land to take part in the "Laying of the Cornerstone of the Orphan Asylum at Vancouver, W.T."

This did not mark the beginning of a new institution. At the end of the ceremony, all, with the exception of the Hospital sisters, the Band of the Twenty-first Infantry, and the Citizens in Carriages, would return to the orphanage, the boarding school, convent, bishopric, priests' house, near the St. James Cathedral to await the completion of the new House of Providence.

It is the purpose of this paper to tell of the acquisition of the land on which the edifice was built, of the later additions to the building, and of the works carried on in it.

In 1856, Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, with four companions, had come from Montreal at the request

¹ The Catholic Sentinel, Portland, Oregon, September 26, 1873. See Appendix E

of His Lordship, Bishop A.M.A. Blanchet to assist him in the work of charity and education in the Diocese of Nesqually. Orphans, the sick, the aged, boarding pupils, day scholars found a place on the Mission Grounds, and it soon became evident that the erecting of little wooden buildings could not go on forever. Since the land on which the Mission was located was property claimed by the United States government for a military reserve, all recognized the wisdom of not incurring great expense for suitable buildings there. In 1857 Bishop Blanchet gave Mother Joseph \$5000.00 to assist her in the works already undertaken and to give her the opportunity to seek a suitable location outside the government property line.¹

Examination of the Farnsworth survey of Vancouver made in 1858² might give the impression that the town was laid out in blocks separated by well-defined streets. On the contrary, the settlement begun on the banks of the Columbia had gradually spread back from the waterfront along paths and trails, and for many years there was to be no street improvement.³ Acres of uncleared land were interspersed with small farms whose owners had felled great fir trees of the surrounding forests.

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. I, p. 67

2 Clark County Records, Book "C" of Deeds, p. 53

3 Report to the Citizens of Vancouver by the Planning Commission, 1945, p. 10

Catholics have the reputation for wisdom in the selection of choice pieces of land for the erection of their buildings, and Mother Joseph was no exception. Her eye fell on a plot of ground which at the time seemed well out of town, bordering on the military reserve. The desired blocks were numbered 40, 41, 42, and 47, 48, 49 on the Farnsworth Survey. Early in 1861 she engaged a French Canadian, John Predmore, to acquire in his name blocks 41 and 48, and the fractional blocks 40 and 49. After having felled the largest trees, Mr. Predmore fenced in the property and built a cabin on each block.¹ On June 11, 1861, he ceded his rights for the sum of \$325.00.² Mr. D. J. Thornton fenced in the two adjoining blocks, 42 and 47, for which he ceded his rights on January 19, 1867.³

During the years that intervened between the acquisition of the land and the digging of the first shovelful of earth, it was necessary to make provisions for the enclosure of the streets. This story can best be learned by following the brief newspaper accounts appearing during the years 1867-1873.

In the Vancouver Register of March 9, 1867, the problem is clearly stated:

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. I, p. 110

2 Clark County Records, Book "C" of Deeds, p. 368, Appendix A

3 Clark County Records, Book "G" of Deeds, p. 483; Appendix B

The Sisters of Charity are owners of four blocks in the upper portion of the town near the Garrison cemetery, upon which they intend to erect the new Edifice elsewhere spoken of in this paper. The blocks are situated in a square and compact form, and are divided by streets which are laid out and surveyed upon the town plot but have never been opened. Any one of these blocks is insufficient in size to contain all the improvements contemplated, hence they have petitioned the Council to be allowed the use of these dividing streets so they can put the main buildings in the center of these four blocks, enclose the whole with a fence and provide sufficient room for all their out-houses, play grounds for children, cistern, stable yard, etc. The petition was referred to a special committee of the council, consisting of Messrs. Brant, Fletcher, and Preston with instructions to report at the next regular meeting.

According to the issue of March 23, "the Committee were allowed further time to report." The March 30 edition announced that on the following Monday the Council would consider the petition and suggested that since some opposition had been manifested, all those opposed should "come forward and urge their remonstrances". Evidently "fact-finding committees" are not original with our day, because on May 11, the paper reports the appointment of a committee of three "with instructions to take all the papers, the petition in favor and the remonstrance against it, together with the Ordinance which fully describes the premises, with authority to take legal advice in the matter and ascertain what, if any right, the City had to grant the privilege prayed for. The expense of such advice to be

defrayed by the Sisters."

The Providence Chronicles state that the petition was refused because the majority were against it.¹ The affair did not die for in a letter to the editor, January 30, 1869, August A. Schaeben comments that one of the reasons for the slow progress of Vancouver is the refusal of the City Council to grant such petitions as the one for the "privilege to enclose certain streets for building purposes for the Sisters of Charity, streets never travelled except by mules, oxen and cayotes."

On May 20, 1873, Mother Caron, Superior General arrived from Canada and realized that conditions were such that immediate building was a necessity. As late as the petition was still before the Council. Under the heading "City Matters", we read in the Register and Home, May 31, 1873:

We understand that the Sisters of the House of Providence contemplate an extensive building this summer if our city fathers will permit them to use a portion of the streets so as to connect their grounds. We are informed that the buildings contemplated are to be brick at a cost of over \$50,000.00. We think that the city should rather encourage than throw any hindrance in the way of so valuable an improvement.

Finally the Council was convinced of the fact that the new building would be an ornament to the city and granted the request.²

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. I, p. 110

2 Vancouver City Ordinance, No. 76, See Appendix D

With this problem settled, events moved rapidly. On June 9, Bishop Blanchet, Rev. Aegidius Junger, Mother Caron, Mother Praxedes of Providence, Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and Mr. J. B. Blanchet went to the property to measure the dimensions of the proposed building. On the following Wednesday it was Mother Caron who turned the first shovelful of earth.¹

On June 10 the contract for the brick was given to the Hidden Brick Company of Vancouver, who supplied the hand-pressed bricks. The first one was laid on August 3, and the cornerstone on September 21.

The purpose to which the building would be put held a natural appeal and according to the annalist, "the poor and the rich, all took part in this good work; the poor gave their time, the rich their money." Among the outstanding gifts were those of Dr. David Wall, who contributed the statue of St. Joseph.² At the time only a plaster statue could be had. Later an artist proposed to make a mold and cast a statue in cement. On the feast of the patronage of St. Joseph this statue was taken to the Cathedral to be blessed by Bishop Blanchet and the next day was hoisted to the niche.³

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Vol, I, p. 241

2 Ibid., p. 266, It was at the foot of this statue that a register was placed to be signed by almsgivers together with the amount of their offering. "The total amassed by St. Joseph was \$2000.00" See Appendix F

3 Sister Joseph of the S. H. to Bishop Bourget, May 24, 1874

By the first week of September, 1874, the house was near enough to completion to permit the transfer of the personnel from the old mission to the new. The Chronicles state merely that "on September 7, 1874, we took possession of this 'asile' so greatly desired."¹ For anyone who has watched a family move from one house to another, it demands no great imagination to surmise the events of the preceding days, the moving of furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, to say nothing of the possessions of some seventy orphans. At last after seventeen years, the works of Providence could function under one roof. On the next morning, Bishop Blanchet blessed the house and celebrated the first Mass in the parlor, which served as a chapel until the 18th of March following.²

The first winter was not easy. The new building was unfinished; no paint or varnish covered the wood; in some cases there were only the frames of doors and windows. Though western Washington is known for its mild climate, every twenty-five or thirty years it endures a winter that sets the pioneers discussing the last time they suffered one similar. That of 1874 was exceptional. Animals died. Pipes froze. The Sisters took their turns heating the stoves. Some days it was impossible to cook, so they ate everything cold.³

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. I, p. 309

2 Ibid., p. 310

3 Ibid., p. 311

Winter does not last forever, and each month saw more of the house completed. On March 18, 1875, the chapel though still unfinished was blessed by Bishop Blanchet, and on the next day, Sister Mary Conrad and Sister Anna Marie became the first novices to pronounce their vows in it. The small side altars were dedicated to St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul. Though Mother Joseph greatly desired to see it completed, she had determined that the debt be paid first.

On March 7, 1878, Mother Joseph returned from Montreal bringing for the Chapel:

The statue of the Sacred Heart, given by Father de la Croix

The statue of Saint Anne for the niche above St. Vincent de Paul given by Mr. I. G. Piette
Gilded heart for the altar of the Sacred Heart, gift of Mlle. Hotte, sister of Sister Joseph of the Sacred Heart

The wax figure of St. Victor

Material for the clothing of St. Victor, gift of the novices of the Mother House

The bell for the convent

Another most welcome gift was that of \$1500.00

from Mr. Alfred Laroque for the purpose of the completion of the chapel.¹

On November 25, 1881, the Blessed Sacrament was taken to the large parlor and stayed there from November 26 until January 25, 1883, while Mother Joseph directed the decorations of the chapel, and finally on January

1 Ibid., p. 339

25, it was dedicated to Our Lady of Seven Dolors.¹

When in 1867 plans for the new orphan asylum had become known, many considered the sisters far too enterprising. When erected, it was the largest building in the whole Territory of Washington. The Cupola, completed in 1878, could be seen for miles around.

Yet in 1889 the annalist could write² "Day by day the house became too small to satisfy our needs. The number of orphans was greater than ever; every corner was used. It was necessary to put some orphan girls above the laundry. The sisters' departments and those of the Novitiate were too small."

In 1891 the erection of a one hundred foot extension on the west wing of the main building was begun, and by September 17, 1893, it was ready for occupancy.

Another three-story building, 30 x 60 was completed by May 1, 1904, has been used for a laundry, bakery, dormitory for the sisters, and today houses five classrooms.

Other additions include the kitchen wing (1901) and two service towers, built in 1912 and 1930.

1 See Appendix for list of donations. Appendix F
When the Provincial House was transferred to Seattle, in 1924, the statues of St. Joseph and of St. Vincent de Paul were moved to the community room and entrance of Mount St. Vincent. New statues of Our Lady and of St. Joseph replaced them.

2 House of Providence Chronicles at Mount St. Vincent, Vol. II, p. 59

Works of Charity

More important than the edifice itself were the works of charity for which it continued to be the center. Judging from the newspaper again, it appears that it was to the Sisters of Charity that all looked for assistance. On October 8, 1876 a member of the City Council appealed to the Sisters to come to the assistance of a young Methodist woman of twenty-five afflicted with the disease. That evening Sister Peter Claver and a tertiary, Virginia Desloges, dressed in their oldest habits, and supplied with a crucifix, a little statue of the Holy Family, and two prayerbooks, made their way to a little two-room cabin in the woods about a mile from town. There they remained for three weeks until the patient died. Each day food was brought from the Community and left near the little house. On the night of her death she asked for the priest, and Sister Peter Claver set out alone through the woods to the home of the husband of the sick woman. An hour later Father Louis Schram came to baptize her. So great was the fear of the people that the sisters had to place her into the coffin and carry it out to the steps, where men with potato sacks on their heads lifted it to a wagon and transported it to the cemetery.¹

Forty-four years later the visits to the homes were carried on. The annals of 1920 emphasize "the good done by Sister Mary Constance to the poor and the

¹ House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. I, pp. 324-328
Catholic Sentinel, Oct. 12, 1876

sick of our little town. During the snow when all traffic was tied up and no means of conveyance was available, Sister Mary Constance was out bringing relief to the needy.¹ In the Chronicles of 1931 we read, "Sister Mary Constance continues to exercise her mission of relief to the poor."²

The Vancouver Independent of April 29, 1876, tells of the arraignment of a woman before Recorder McDonald on a charge of beating her thirteen-year-old child. She was fined one dollar and costs, and "the girl will remain under the care of the Sisters of Charity."

Yet all the children on the orphans' side were not strictly speaking, orphans. Some had one parent, others had both, and were able to pay a small amount. Until 1919, the boarders of all ages continued to be housed in the west wing, and all the orphans lived in the east wing. In that year a change was made so that all girls above the seventh grade were placed in one department and all the little girls in another, so that no distinction was made between boarder and orphan.³

With the increase of enrollment that came with World War II, it was found necessary to initiate a department for the girls of the intermediate and upper

1 House of Providence Chronicles, p. 251, Vol. III

2 Ibid., p. 402

3 Ibid., Vol. III, p. 235

grades, separated from the smaller children.

Of interest are the following statistics for Orphans, Boarders, and Day Pupils:

	Orph- ans	Boar- ders	Day Pupils	Total
1880	76	21	45	142
1890	98	23	111	222
1900	130	29	123	282
1910	74	33	113	220
1920	38	68	254	360
1930	14	95	250	359
1940	--	52	269	361
1950	--	110	616	726

In 1897, the Brothers of the Christian Schools had taken over the Holy Angels College for boys, which had been closed for three years, discontinued the boarding school, and changed the name to "St. James College."¹ The boys of the parish attended classes here until 1911 when the Brothers left. In September of that year the gymnasium building was moved to the Providence Academy grounds and fitted up for classrooms for the boys. At the same time the boys' parish school was united to that of the orphan boys at the request of the Pastor, Reverend Felix Verwilghen.² In 1929, this building was razed and four grades transferred to St. Vincent's.

¹ Providence Academy Chronicles at Mt. St. Vincent, Vol. III, p. 216

² Ibid, p. 167

The first high school graduation took place in 1895, when Mollie Clancy received her diploma. Elaborate were the Commencement Exercises of that period. The Nonnariel, a magazine published by the boarders, gives the following account of the graduation of Katherine Stefan, Cecelia Geohegan, and Flora McKee in 1902:

June 25, 1902, witnessed the Commencement exercises at this Academy. A large and appreciative audience assembled in our Auditorium, amongst whom we are proud to state were our own beloved Bishop, (Edward J. O'Dea), also Bishop Glorieux of Idaho, our devoted pastor, Rev. F. X. Verwilghen, Rev. Fathers Delannoy and Moins, our honored guests. The curtain went up promptly at eight o'clock and displayed an effective stage picture, all the pupils in white, on the prettily decorated stage, garland of Oregon Grape and baskets of roses and myrtle were used in decorating. The Class Mooto, in white and gold, was in front and above the stage.

The different numbers of the program were carried out in a faultless manner and to the entire satisfaction of all present. Our three graduates in their different roles of Salutatorian, Goddess of Liberty, and Valedictorian delighted everyone by their sweet simplicity and modesty.

"The War of Roses", which displayed much grace, was a very pretty number and the Drill of the Patriots was greatly admired. The little tots of the Kindergarten made a pretty picture in the midst of trees and flowers. They all wore myrtle wreathes and had their playthings, dolls, etc. The boys amused the audience very much and were called back to repeat "Forty Miles an Hour." One of them returned to the stage and to the enjoyment of everyone said, "The Engine is Off the Track," so of course they could not respond to the encore. The drama was thoroughly enjoyed...The music and singing which

were excellent, delighted the appreciative and cultured audience assembled in our auditorium. The young lady graduates occupied seats of honor on the stage as a large number of their companions sang the closing song, "Gently Down the Stream of Time." Then came the number that proved of great interest. Rev. F. Verwilghen read the diplomas, which were presented to the graduates by our beloved Bishop.

The account continues to say that certificates, medals, premiums were awarded in the Grammar, Intermediate, and Primary Departments.

The High School received state accreditation in 1921. In 1924, the portion of the third floor formerly used by the novitiate, as well as two dormitories previously occupied by the professed sisters were renovated and fitted as a high school. The grades moved into the rooms on the second floor.

Beginning with 1941, the statistics for enrollment reflect the growth of Vancouver resulting from the war. For Providence Academy as for other schools in the area, this necessitated the use of every available space for classrooms and each summer saw the preparation of more classrooms.

When the new wing was completed in 1892, a kindergarten was opened. It was closed in 1904 and the children distributed among the various classes, with the exception of the orphans, who as before, attended special classes in their departments. It was then that the hall began to serve as a music room.¹

¹ House of Providence Chronicles, Vol. III, p. 47

In 1940, a kindergarten department opened its doors to thirteen pre-school children in the junior boarders play room, renovated and equiped with teaching devices. In 1944 a new brick kindergarten building 72 x 28 was erected in the yard east of the Academy. It was used for that purpose until 1948, when increased enrollment necessitated its use by the grade school. The kindergarten returned to the playroom on the second floor.

In September of 1942 a nursery school was opened for children three and four years of age. In 1945 this work expanded and since that time has provided children from two to five with a wholesome environment under Catholic auspices. It aids particularly the child whose mother works, and gives to "only children" the opportunity of socialization.

The story of this house cannot be told without mentioning the importance to its history of Vancouver Barracks.

When the Sisters arrived in Vancouver in 1856, there lay to the north of the Hudson's Bay Company fort a military post now in its eighth year of existence. The two companies of soldiers there at the time and the personnel of the Garrison in the years that followed proved themselves good friends of Providence. From 1860, when Sister Mary of the Precious Blood made the first collection for the furnishing of the Cathedral to the period of World War II when groups of sol-

diers visited the children's play yard for what might be called informal military drill, officers and men showed great kindness to the house. In December, 1887, two sergeants brought thirty-three dollars for a Christmas box for the orphans.¹ In 1899 on the occasion of the departure of soldiers from Vancouver, they gave clothing of all kinds for the aged and the orphans.²

In 1896 a ruling was passed at the Garrison forbidding the collections on paydays. However the commanding officer did not intend to submit the Sisters to this law, but he permitted it quietly, and the collections continued as before. This preference provoked criticism and someone decided to complain. He went to Colonel Anderson with the aim of making the Sisters subject to the law. The Colonel answered, "The Sisters of Charity are exempt from this law, and it is my intention that they be well treated." At another time he told the soldiers that they were to come to the assistance of the sisters at any time without waiting for a command.³

When in 1874, the transfer had been made from the old mission to the new, the annalist recalled with a certain nostalgia the "maisonettes" wherein had been

1 House of Providence Chronicles, Mt. St. Vincent, Vol. II, p. 33+

2 Chronicles of Providence at Mt. St. Vincent, Vol. III

3 Ibid., p. 179

spent the first eighteen years of Providence in the West. Today as the enrollment nears the eight hundred mark, it is good to be mindful of the thought and labor of those sisters who have spent their years in the new Providence, shaping its policies that the work of Catholic education may continue.

Appendix A

Deed to blocks 41, 48, 49

This indenture made the 11th day of June in the year of¹ our Lord 1860 between John Predmore of Clark County, party of the first part and the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence of the City of Vancouver, Territory of Washington, party of the second part, Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of three hundred (\$300) dollars lawful money of the United States of America to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part at or before the enrolling and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remise, released, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part and to their successors and assigned forever the following blocks and tracts of land known as blocks number (41 and 48) forty one and forty eight and fractional block number (49) forty nine and the Northwest fraction of block (40) forty lying and being situated in the City of Vancouver County of Clark and Territory of Washington and more particularly known as being part of the fraction of land between the Military reserve and the land claim of A. M. Short, deceased, surveyed by L. Farnsworth.

Together with all and singular the linements hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto, belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder, and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof, and also all the estate, right, title, interest, property, possession, claim and demand

¹ Auditor's Records, Book C, Page 368, Clark County

whatsoever, as well in law as in equity of the said party of the first part, of, in, or to the above, described premises, and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances, To have and to hold, all and singular the above mentioned and described premises together with the appurtenances unto said party of the second part their successors and assignees forever and the said John Predmore for himself and heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said party of the second part, their successors and assigns that he has not made, done, committed, executed or suffered, any act or acts, thing or things what soever, whereby or by means where of the above mentioned and described premises, or any part or parcel thereof, now are or at anytime hereafter shall or may be impeached, charged or encumbered in any manner or may whatsoever.

In witness whereof the said party of the first part, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of:

N. Henrikson
I. Henrikson

John (X, his mark) Predmore

Territory of Washington : S.S.
County of Clark : On this 11th day of June 1861 before me

William Kelly, clerk of the District Court of the 1st. Judicial District, personally appeared John Predmore of said County to me well known and in due form of law acknowledged to me that he executed the within deed for the uses therein mentioned voluntary and freely as his act and deed..

In testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand and affixed
the seal of said court this 11th day of June 1861.

Wm Kelly
Clerk of the Court

Recorded this 24th day of August 1861.

P. Ahern
Recorder and Auditor

Appendix B

This indenture made the 19th day of January in the year of our Lord 1867 between Thomas Jefferson Thornton of Clark Co., Washington Territory of the first part and the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence in the City of Vancouver, Clark County and Territory of Washington of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part the receipt is hereby acknowledged, have remised, released and quit claim unto the said party of the second part and to their assigns forever, all of Blocks numbered (42-47) forty two and forty seven east of the City Meridian line within the City of Vancouver in the County of Clark and Territory of Washington and being situated and described as above numbered and recorded on surveys made by Levi Farnsworth, City Surveyer for the City of Vancouver.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging in any wise appertaining and the reversion remainders, rents, issues and profits, thereof; and all the estate, right, title dower and right of dower, interest, claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity, of the said party of the first part of, in or to the above described premises and every part thereof:

To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, and their assigns forever. It is understood between the parties that Block no (47) forty seven is marked

1 Auditor's Office, Book G, Page 483, Clark County

as no (55) fifty five in the map of the survey made by order of
A.M.A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nesqually recorded in the Records
Office.

In witness whereof the said parties of the first part have
hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above
written.

Signed and sealed and : Signed:
delivered in presence of : Thomas J. Thornton
Cleophina Thornton

Julius Suiste
J. B. Blanchet

Territory of Washington
Clark County

Be it remembered that on the 19th day of January 1867 before
me the subscriber, one of Justices of the Peace in and for said
County, personally appeared Thomas Jefferson Thornton and Cleophina,
his wife, to me personally known to be the individuals described
in who executed the within deed and severally acknowledged that
they had executed the same. And the said Cleophina after I had
made known and explained to her the contents of said deed on an
examination, separate and apart from her said husband, acknowledged
the same to be her act and deed and that she executed the same
voluntarily of her own will and without the fear or coercion of
her said husband.

Witness my hand the day and year first above written.

Signed:

Julius Suiste
Justice of Peace
Clark County, Washington Territory

Recorded this 28th day of January, A.D.
1867

P. Aberne
County Auditor

Appendix C

Deed of A. M. A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nesqually

This Indenture, made this 12th day of June, in the year of ¹
Our Lord 1875 between Rt. Rev. A. M. A. Blanchet, Bishop of
Nisqually, a Corporate Body, of the County of Clark, in the
Territory of Washington, of the first part and Sisters of Charity
of the House of Providence of the second part, Witnesseth, that
the said party of the first part, in consideration one one dollar
to him paid, has bargained, sold and quit claimed, and by these
present does bargain, sell and quit claim unto the said party of
the second part and to their successors forever, the following
described tracts of land, To Wit: fractional block forty (40)
blocks (41, 42, 47, 48) forty one, forty two, forty seven, forty
eight, and fractional block (49) forty nine, in that part of the
City of Vancouver lying East of "A" or Main St. as laid off by
the said City and recorded on Book "C" pages 53 of the records
of Clark County together with all and singular the tenements,
hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise
appertaining, and also, all the state, right, title, interest,
possession, claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity
and as well in possession as in expectancy, To have and to hold
the same to the said Sisters of Charity and to their successors
forever. In witness whereof the said party of the first part has
here unto set his hand and seal the day and year first herein
written.

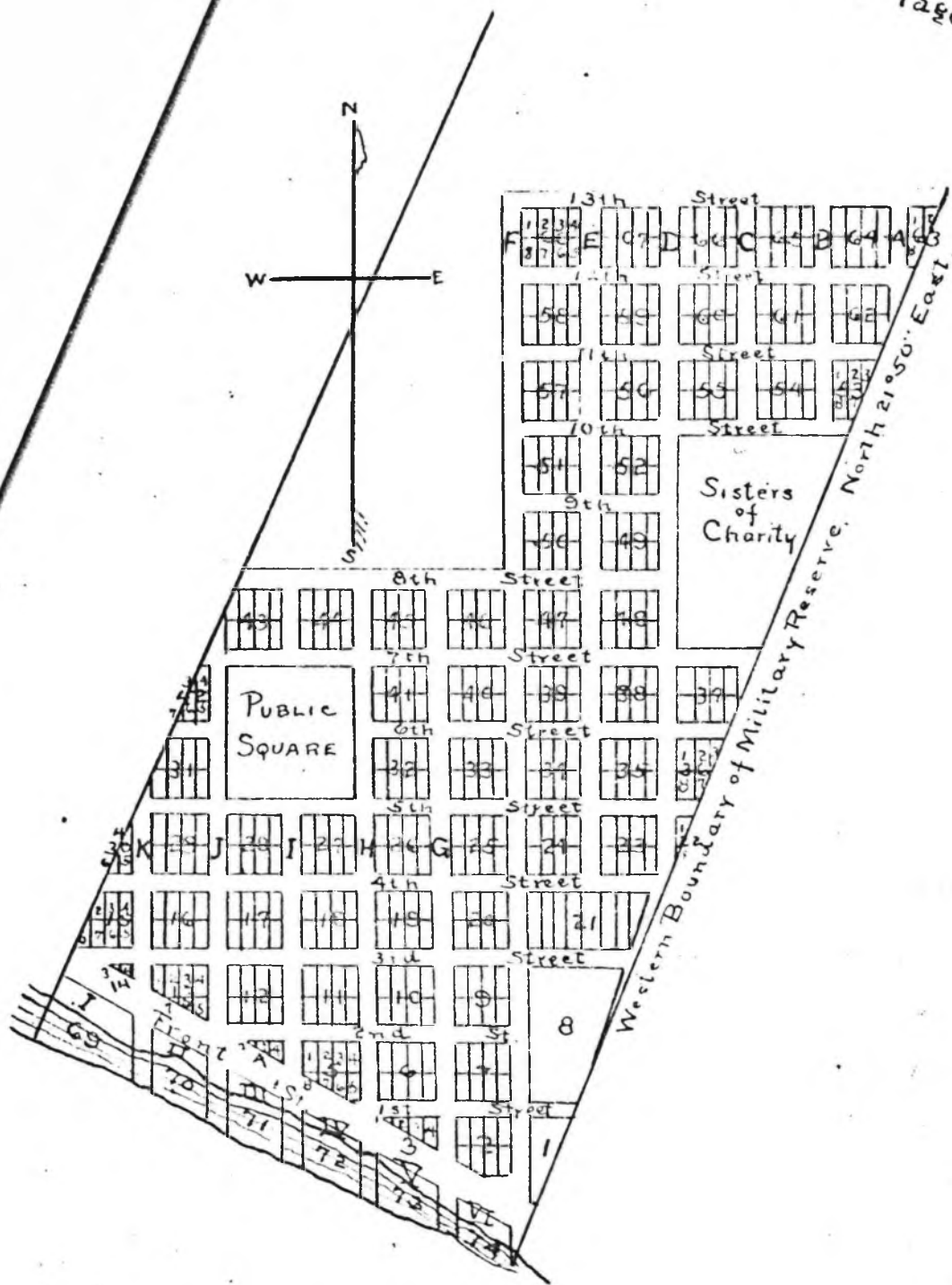
Executed in presence of : A. M. A. Blanchet
Bishop of Nesqually
John O'Keane
John Denny

1 Auditors Office, Book K, Page 205, Clark County

Filed: January 29, 1859.

Book "B" Page 439.

V-2



TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF CLARK: Be it remembered that on this 2nd day of June A. D. 1875 before me the undersigned, personally came Rt. Rev. A. M. A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nesqually whose signature is subscribed to the foregoing Deed and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the uses and purposes wherein set forth, the said tracts described are marked fractional blocks 53, blocks 54, and 55 and a tier of blocks lying south of the same as per Mission plat, recorded on Book "B" page 439. Clark County, Washington Territory.

Given under my hand the day and year last above written:

John Denny
Justice of the Peace

Filed and Recorded June 18, 1875

Chas Brown
Auditor and Recorder of Clark County, Washington
Territory

Appendix D

ORDINANCE NO. 76

An Ordinance vacating parts of certain streets in the City of Vancouver.¹

WHEREAS, the "Sisters of Charity" of the House of Providence, in the Territory of Washington, have presented to the Common Council of the City of Vancouver their petition in writing, praying the said Council to vacate parts of certain streets in the City of Vancouver: to-wit- all of Eleventh Street East of the West line of blocks number forty-two and forty-seven, and all of C and D Streets North of the Tenth line of Tenth Street, and South of the South line of Twelfth Street, all East of Main Street in said City, which petition give a distinct description of the property asked to be vacated, and set forth the particular circumstances of the case, and

WHEREAS, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the said Common Council, that notice of the pendency of the said petition has been given in the manner, and for the length of time required by law, to-wit: by setting up three printed notices in three of the most public places in the said City containing a description of the property to be vacated which said notice were so posted more than twenty days next preceding the day of the heading of the said petition was filed with the clerk of the said Common Council more than twenty days next preceding the day of the hearing thereof.

Therefore,

THE CITY OF VANCOUVER DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section I.

That all that part of eleventh Street East of the West line of Blocks number Forty-two and Forty-seven, and all of C Street, and South of the South line of Twelfth Street, (all East of Main

Street) be and they are hereby vacated. Provided, however, the said City of Vancouver reserves the right to open a Street forty (40) feet in width East of and adjoining the Western boundary line of the United States Military Reservation, such Street to be opened at any time after giving the said Sisters of Charity forty days notice and without any compensation to the said Sisters of Charity.

PASSED the Common Council July 7, A. D. 1873.

(Signed) August A. Schaben
Clerk of the Common Council

Approved this eighth day of July A. A. 1873

A. C. Tripp
Mayor of the City of Vancouver

VACATION OF "C" AND "D" STREETS ON PETITION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY
EXPLANATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 76

This vacation is evidently based on the Streets as designated¹ on a certain Map or Plat as surveyed by Levi Farnsworth in 1858, wherein what is now Broadway Street is shown as "A" Street, "C" Street as "D" Street and etc.

Ordinance 580 changes all this and names the streets as are shown on the current City Maps.

Ordinance 1034 changes the name of "B" Street to Broadway.

Since there is no record of what is now "E" Street North of the North line of Tenth Street and South of the South line of twelfth Street ever being vacated, it must be assumed that what is now known as "D" and "E" Streets are "C" and "D" Streets as vacated in Ordinance No. 76.

1 Ibid

ORDINANCE NO. 423

An Ordinance to vacate that portion of East "E" Street between¹ the North line of 12th Street and the South line of 13th Street, between fractional block 50 and block 51--East Vancouver, Washington.

WHEREAS: the Sisters of Charity of the House of Providence did heretofore on the ___ day of ___ 1907 petition the City Council of the City of Vancouver, Washington, to vacate a certain portion of East "E" Street, in said City., and

WHEREAS, at a meeting subsequent to such time the said City Council did, by resolution fix a time when said petition should be heard and determine on thereafter, the City Clerk of said City gave notice of the time fixed for said hearing, by passing the same according to the requirements of law, and

WHEREAS, at the time fixed for the hearing of said petition all objections to said petition were heard and it appearing to the Council that all the acts and proceedings were and are in all respects regular and according to the law and the Council having determined to grant said petition have prepared a resolution to vacate that portion of said Street by ordinance.

THEREFORE the City Council of the City of Vancouver, Washington DO ORDAIN as follows:

SECTION I.

That all that portion of East "E" Street and the South line of 13th Street between fractional block 50 and block 51 East Vancouver, Washington, as shown by the Plat East Vancouver now on file of the County Auditor of Clark County, Washington, by and the same is hereby vacated and shall no longer be used for street purposes.

SECTION II.

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after passage, approval by the Mayor and publication according to law.

Read First and Second time October 21, 1907. Read Third time December 16, 1907.

Approved this 23rd Day of December, 1907.

R. H. Harvey
Mayor

Attest:

J. E. Harris
City Clerk

1 Ibid

Appendix E

Laying the Corner Stone of the Orphan Asylum at Vancouver, W. T.

Another temple marks the Heaven born charity of the Catholic¹ Church. Another asylum has been founded wherein the forsaken may find friends, where the orphans may find parents, and where the sick and destitute may find physicians that can heal and comfort both body and soul.

On last Sunday we witnessed one of the most gratifying and imposing ceremonies that can gladden a Catholic heart. After years of toil and privation, the Sisters of Charity at Vancouver have-- under the blessing of God--achieved the noble project of erecting a commodious brick edifice for the accommodation of the numerous orphans under their care. The site of the new building is admirable adapted to the purposes for which it is intended, being located on the brow of a hill overlooking the town, and commanding a beautiful prospect both up and down the Columbia River. When completed the Orphan Asylum will be the finest structure in Washington Territory.

On Sunday morning the steamer *Garric* conveyed a large number of citizens from Portland to witness the imposing ceremonies of laying the corner-stone. Arriving at Vancouver, the excursionists had ample time to roam over the garrison and grounds, and through the city, until half-past two o'clock, when the procession formed at St. Joseph's Hospital in the following order:

Band of the twenty-first Infantry,
Sisters of Charity,
Orphan Girls,
Sisters of Charity,
Orphan Boys,
Boarders,
Cross Bearer and Alcolytes,
Reverend Clergy
Right Reverend Bishop A. M. A. Blanchet,
Citizens in Carriages.

Arriving at the grounds, Bishop Blanchet assumed Pontifical robes, when the Veni Creator was intoned. The ceremony of blessing the stone was then commenced, during which the Litany of Saints was recited and the 129th and 112th psalms were chanted. After which Rev. A. E. Junger delivered the eloquent and appropriate discourse which we publish in full on our third and eight pages, and which we heartily commend to the perusal of all our readers. At the conclusion of the sermon the vast concourse formed in line for the purpose of going through the customary ceremony of striking the stone, and placing thereon offerings towards the construction of the noble edifice of charity. The exercises closed with solemn Benediction, given by his Lordship Bishop Blanchet, after which the procession formed again and returned in the same order. The following articles were deposited in the corner-stone:

Holy relics; programme of the ceremony; paper containing the names of His Holiness, Pius IX, and of His Lordship, Right Rev. A. M. A. Blanchet, Bishop of Nesqually, and the Reverend clergy of the Diocese; names of the Lady Superiorese, Foundress of the institution in Canada, Rev. Mother, Superior General, Rev. Sister, Vicar of the House of Providence, Vancouver; names of Federal, Territorial and city officials; statistics of the foundation of the House of Providence, Vancouver, from December, 1856, to September, 1873; pastoral letter of Right Rev. A. M. A. Blanchet, instituting the House of Providence at Vancouver; act of incorporation of the Sisters; ordinance of the City Council vacating streets of blocks on which the Orphan Asylum is built; one copy of Directory of Washington Territory for 1872; medallion portrait of His Holiness Pius IX; copy of report of the Golden Jubilee of Rt. Rev. Bishop Blanchet; copy of report of the Golden Jubilee of the Right Rev. Bishop Bourget, founder of the Order; list of contributors to the

present building; specimens of United States and foreign coins;
copy of the Catholic Sentinel.

Appendix F

The Orphan's Fair at Vancouver

As may be seen by the Sisters' "Card of Thank," which we¹ publish elsewhere, the Orphans' Fair lately held in Vancouver, has been a most complete success. The fact that this new appeal to the generosity of their many friends so closely follows another call in behalf of the erection of their new Orphanage, speaks volumes in utterance of the esteem and favor their charitable undertakings meet with from the community at large, and for which they have many reasons to be, and no doubt are very grateful. We are now enabled to publish the long deferred list of contributions towards the new building, just now under roof, which has already cost \$30,000 and which, before completed and furnished, will probably cost as much more:

Dr. D. Wall, statue of Saint Joseph, \$50.
J. Petrain, cut sante niche, \$200.
M. Carroll, key stone, \$30.
J. Gruber, inscription on the building \$__.
M. Balantine, corner stone, \$26.
J. Beebe & Co. 50,000 bricks \$300.
J. B. Blanchet, 50,000 bricks \$300.
St. Helen's Mill Co., Lumber \$150.
Ben Holladay, chapel window \$100.
J. McMullen, door \$10.
A. Young, Door, \$40.
C. R. Stotgart, Door and Window \$50.
P. Buckley, \$30.

The following named persons contributed each a triple window, valued at \$20:

J. Johnson
Mrs. J. Bowling,
J. Walsh
L. Sohns
S. W. Brown
R. Cassidy
N. Schofield
M. O'Connell

For single windows, valued at \$10 each:

Col. Trip
J. Denney

1 Ibid., November 7, 1873

D. Blanchet
G. Christ
J. L'Keane
J. Burke
E. Lajeunesse
J. M. Glethcher
F. Brogan
E. Moore
J. P. Bertscih
J. Tallais
D. F. Schule
M. Wintler
B. M. Washburn
W. C. Hazard
C. W. Slocum
J. Wise
J. Suiste
P. O'Leary
P. Rogers
Raisemono
J. W. Sloan
A. Martel
L. Comer
M. J. Healy
M. Ryan
J. Muckle
J. J. McCarthy cash \$6.

Cash contributors, \$5.

J. Q. Healy
J. Davidson
J. Hartney
J. Jaggy
J. Probstel
J. Workman
P. Redmond
L. Lyons
O. Carriere
M. Dillon
L. Armstrong
J. T. Lovelace
J. Fisette
A. L. Coffee
A. Martel
J. Blanchet & M. Burke

Bibliography

PROVIDENCE ACADEMY
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
1874-1950

Primary Sources

The Catholic Sentinel, September 26, 1873;
November 7, 1873

Register and Home, Vancouver, Washington, May 31, 1873

The Vancouver Independent, April 29, 1876

Vancouver Register, March 9, 1867; March 23, 1867;
March 30, 1867; January 3, 1869

The Nonpariel, Student Publication, Providence Academy,
Vancouver, Washington, Volumes II and III.

Letters of Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Archive of
Mount St. Vincent, Seattle, Washington

Chronicles of the House of Providence, Vancouver, Washington

Volume I 1856-1886
Volume II 1886-1904
Volume III 1904-1940
Volume IV 1940-

Chronicles of the House of Providence, Mt. St. Vincent, Seattle

Volume I 1856-1875
Volume II 1875-1892
Volume III 1892-1908
Volume IV 1908-1940
Volume V 1940-

Clark County Book of Deeds, Vancouver, Washington

Secondary Sources

Report to the Citizens of Vancouver by the City Planning
Commission, 1945