



THE MOUNT WASHINGTON OCTAGON

5803-6003 Smith Avenue

c.1855

Architect: Unknown

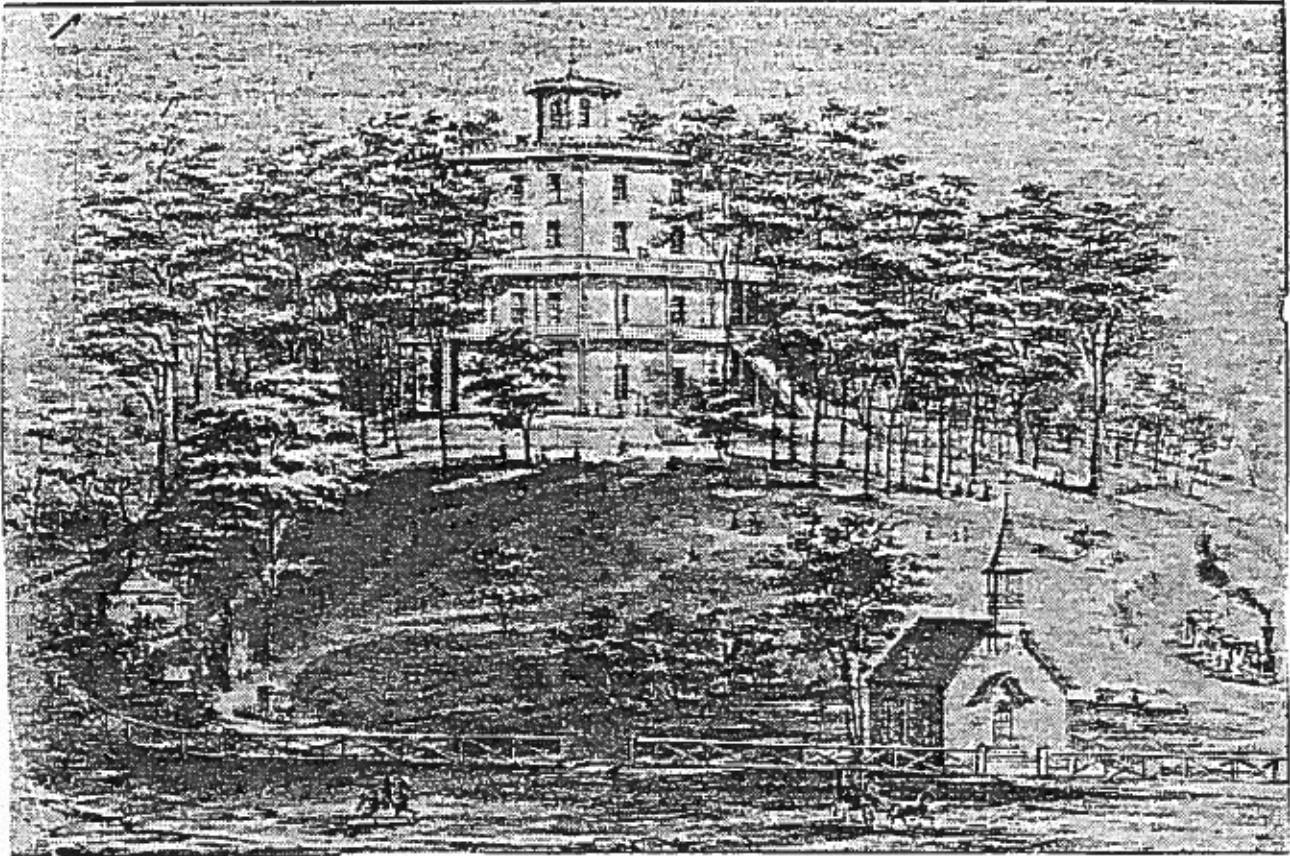
The Octagon mode was a building form that was popular in the mid-19th century, inspired by the writings of Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist and prolific author of books on health and marital happiness. Although Fowler advocated the octagon shape primarily for domestic structures, it was often adapted to other uses. The Mt. Washington Octagon, one of Baltimore's last remaining examples of the style, was built under the direction of the Reverend Elias Heiner of the German Reformed Church and was used until 1861 as the Mt. Washington Female Academy. After the Civil War the college failed and the building was bought by the Sisters of Mercy, who opened Mount St. Agnes College. The college was expanded over the years to include 129 acres and several more buildings. In 1971, Mt. St. Agnes merged with Loyola College and moved from the Mt. Washington site. U.S.F. & G. recently purchased this property and is undertaking an upgrading of the campus which will include restoring the Octagon building.

BUILDINGS OF LANDMARK STATUS

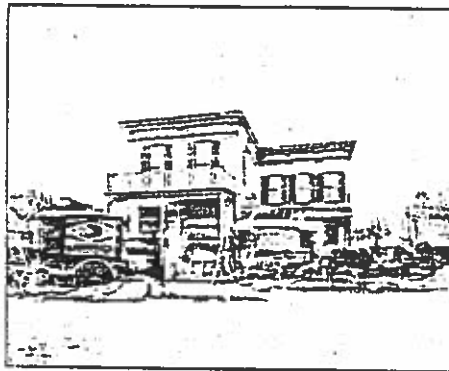
Mount Washington Octagon - Mount Saint Agnes College  
5801 Smith Avenue  
Date: 1855

The Mount Washington Octagon is a four story high, brick building designed in the octagonal mode. It features an octagonal porch encircling the building and an eight-sided cupola capped with a finial cross. The building sits upon the highest elevation in the Mount Washington community, on the Mount Saint Agnes campus.

This structure is significant as one of Baltimore's last remaining examples of the octagonal style of architecture. Octagonal buildings were popular in the mid-nineteenth century, inspired by the writings of Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist and prolific author of books on health and marital happiness. Although Fowler advocated the octagonal shape primarily for domestic structures, it was often adopted to other uses. The Mount Washington Octagon was built under the direction of the Reverend Elias Heiner of the German Reform Church, and was used until 1861 as the Mount Washington Female Academy. The famous Confederate spy, Belle Boyd attended school there. After the Civil War, the school was operated by the Sisters of Mercy and became known as the Mount Saint Agnes College. Today the buildings are largely vacant, and a developer is interested in rehabilitating buildings on the campus and creating a new mixed use development.



Mount Washington Octagon.



General Store,  
THOMAS G. BLOOM,  
Ice Cream, Cakes, Groceries,  
General Supplies.



General Store,  
SMITH & HAMILTON,  
Groceries, Provisions, Dry Goods  
and Notions.

C

Bloom General Store and Mount Washington Tavern from  
Picturesque Mount Washington.

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Mount Saint Agnes Buildings  
5801 Smith Avenue

Atkinson Hall, 1872 with additions 1891 and 1901  
Lourdes Hall, 1905  
McCauley Hall, 1925

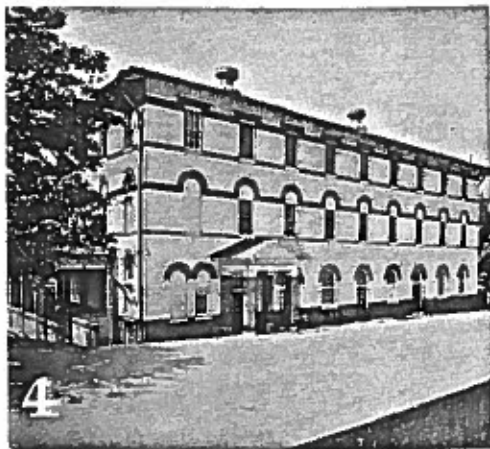
These three buildings are among the earliest Mount Saint Agnes structures which housed classrooms for the college. The Octagonal Building, Atkinson Hall and McCauley Hall are connected to each other by brick passageways. This large complex of academic buildings form the heart of the campus. Atkinson Hall is six stories high with brick full bearing walls inside wooden construction. The building has somewhat of a Second Empire appearance because of its mansard roof. The five story high McCauley Hall features two inner courtyards. It has load bearing brick wall construction with reinforced concrete beams, columns and concrete floors. The exterior of the building features arched windows on the fifth floor, a pedimented entrance building section and a long, stone porte cochere. Lourdes Hall is southwest of this main building complex, however this building is also distinguished for its use as an early classroom building of the school. This three story building has stucco on masonry walls, arched windows, and a number of brick band courses at the lintel and sill level of upper story windows. The third floor of the building was added in 1926.

The Mount Saint Agnes College has played an important role in the Mount Washington Community since the inception of the suburb in 1854. The buildings which housed classrooms and were used for academic purposes are the most significant buildings on the campus, besides the Octagonal Building.

McCauley Hall



Lourdes Hall



Atkinson Hall

