

# **Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada**

## **Finding Aid - Mount Hope Motherhouse series (F01-S125)**

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# Mount Hope Motherhouse series

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Mount Hope Motherhouse series
<b>Reference code:</b>	F01-S125
<b>Date:</b>	1868-2005, predominant 1929-1980 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	6 cm of textual records 1 post card : col. 2 maps : photocopies, b&w 10 photographs : b&w negatives 32 photographs : b&w 1 scrapbook ; 25 x 36 cm
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	November 13, 2018July 2, 2020May 22, 2023

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1. London, Ontario is on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L#naapéewak, and Attawandaron Peoples.

On December 11, 1868, at the request of Bishop John Walsh, five Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto arrived in London, Ontario. Mother Teresa Brennan, Sister Ignatia Campbell, Sister Ursula McGuire, Sister Francis O'Malley and Sister Appolonia Nolan were accompanied by Reverend Mother Antoinette McDonald and were welcomed by Bishop Walsh, Rev. J.M. Bruyere, V.G., and Rev. P. Egan, pastor of St. Peter's Church. Awaiting the Sisters were sleighs that transported them from the train station to a temporary home at 170 Kent Street.

In accordance with their mission in London, three Sisters began teaching at St. Peter's School in January, 1869. After classes, they visited the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. They were also mandated to open an orphanage in the future. In order to accomplish these tasks, more Sisters and larger facilities were necessary.

On October 2, 1869, the Barker House at the corner of Richmond and College Street in North London was purchased and the Sisters moved there from Kent Street. The building was named Mount Hope, and it became the first Motherhouse of the Sisters, eventually housing the elderly, orphans, Sisters and novices.

On December 18, 1870, the Sisters of St. Joseph became an autonomous congregation in the London diocese, independent of the Toronto congregation. Sister Ignatia Campbell was appointed Superior General, an office she held until 1902. On February 15, 1871, the congregation became legally incorporated.

On October 7, 1877, an addition was made to Mount Hope. This building stood until it was demolished on August 3, 1980, surrounded by the growing healthcare institutions founded by the Sisters, beginning with St. Joseph's Hospital which opened at 268 Grosvenor Street on October 15, 1888, and followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1895, and the construction of a new nursing school building in 1927, which saw its last graduation in 1977. On May 1, 1951, St. Mary's Hospital was opened, followed by Marian Villa on January 12, 1966. In 1985, the hospital complex was renamed St. Joseph's Health Centre, and ownership was transferred in 1993 to St. Joseph's Health Care Society.

But it was not only in London that Sisters saw the need for healthcare and nursing education. On October 15, 1890, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital on Centre Street in Chatham, Ontario, which remained under their control until 1993. In 1895, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, which saw its last graduation in 1970. On October 18, 1946, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital at 290 North Russell Street in Sarnia which remained under their control until 1993. In Alberta, they administered St. Joseph's Hospital in Stettler (1926), St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad (1927), the General Hospital in Killam (1930), and St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey (1932).

On April 10, 1899, the Sisters opened Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Novitiate and Orphanage at the former Hellmuth College at 1486 Richmond Street North in London. The orphans were moved to this new location from Mount Hope, which remained a home for the elderly and was renamed House of Providence on June 3, 1899. The orphanage remained at Mount St. Joseph until it was moved to Fontbonne Hall in 1953 (to 1967). The original Hellmuth College building was demolished in 1976.

Later, on September 14, 1914, the Motherhouse and Novitiate moved to Sacred Heart Convent at Colborne and Dundas Streets in London, with the orphans remaining at Mount St. Joseph. The Sisters lived at Sacred Heart Convent until 1953, when they moved back to the newly built Mount St. Joseph, on the original location of the former Hellmuth College. The new Motherhouse and Novitiate was officially opened on June 29, 1954. It was here that they continued a private girls' school which had begun in 1950 at Sacred Heart Convent, and was now known as Mount St. Joseph Academy (to 1985). It was here too that they continued a music school which had also begun at Sacred Heart Convent and was now called St. Joseph's School of Music (to 1982). The Médaille Retreat Centre began here in 1992, and the Sisters also administered a Guest Wing for relatives of hospitalized patients (to 2005). The Sisters departed Mount St. Joseph for their new residence, a green building at 485 Windermere Road in London, in 2007.

On September 4, 1873, St. Joseph's Convent opened at 131 North Street in Goderich, Ontario, followed by other convents in Ontario, including Ingersoll (1879), St. Thomas (1879), Belle River (1889), Windsor (1894), Sarnia (1906), Kingsbridge (1911), Seaforth (1913), St. Mary's (1913), Woodstock (1913), Kinkora (1916), Paincourt (1923), Maidstone (1930), Leamington (1932), Delhi (1938), Tillsonburg (1938), Simcoe (1938), Langton (1939), West Lorne (1957), and Zurich (1963)

The Sisters also opened missions in other parts of Canada, including in Alberta: Edmonton (1922), Wetaskiwin (1929), St. Bride's (1934); and in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories Yellowknife (1953), and in British Columbia in Haney, now Maple Ridge (1956), and Rutland (1970). Branching even further afield, Convento San Jose was opened in Chiclayo, Peru in 1962.

Over the years, as well as their service as teachers in the separate school system, as music teachers, as healthcare workers, as nursing educators, in providing care to orphans, and in providing parish ministry, pastoral care, and administering spiritual retreats, the Sisters were also involved in social service ministry. In Windsor, they opened the Roy J. Bondy Centre on September 13, 1970 which was a receiving home for the Children's Aid Society, withdrawing in 1982 but continuing to provide residential care for disabled children afterward. In London, they opened Internos, a residence for teenage girls attending school and later for troubled teens (to 1979). This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre on September 13, 1973 (to 2005) and St. Stephen's House, an alcoholic recovery centre on February 1, 1982 (to 2000). Loughlin House in London opened as a residence for ex-psychiatric female patients in

1986 (to 1989), followed by the Home for Women in Need at 534 Queens Avenue in 1979 (to 2004). Later, St. Josephs' House for Refugees was opened in 1987 (to 2005), followed by St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, a food security program, on February 2, 1983.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in Hamilton, Peterborough, and Pembroke into one charitable corporation under the name Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Act, a Private Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which received Royal Assent on June 13, 2013.

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## Scope and content

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Series contains correspondence, deeds, photographs, and newspaper articles about Mount Hope Motherhouse in London, Ontario before its purchase and while it was operating. Earliest records include a report card from 1868, a letter dated 1869, and an original deed of land dated 1883. Records from the late 1920s to 1960s include original newspaper clippings. Many of the records are undated photographs, photocopies, or typed histories and biographies. The latest record dated 2005 is email correspondence.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is derived from the contents of the series.

### Immediate source of acquisition

Records were transferred from the Congregation to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives - London site.

### Location of originals

The records are located at The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

### Restrictions on access

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

### Finding aids

There is a series and file list.

## Related material

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Note [General]

Mount Hope was the first Catholic institution in the Diocese of London to offer refuge and a home for the sick, infirm, destitute, and forsaken. The property that was originally the Barker House, was purchased by Bishop John Walsh and opened in 1869 as a Motherhouse and orphanage for the Sisters of St. Joseph. By 1870, the number of orphans living at Mount Hope grew. The elderly also moved to Mount Hope from Victoria Hospital and the Municipal Home for the Aged. The residents helped with domestic duties, gardening and other tasks. In 1877, the original building was extended and renamed Mount Hope Mother House, Orphanage and Home for the Aged. The only source of revenue were the salaries earned by Sister teachers and donations. By the late 1890s, Mount Hope became overcrowded. For health reasons, the orphans were moved to a new location and the elderly stayed at Mount Hope which was then renamed House of Providence. In 1951, St. Mary's Hospital was built on one side, and in 1966, Marian Villa was built on the other side. The elderly were moved from the House of Providence to Marian Villa over time. In 1980, the House of Providence was demolished.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Revised

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## Access points

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- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Maps (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- London (place)

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## Series descriptions

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### Subseries F01-S125-01: History

Date: 1868-1869, 1948-1980, 2005 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries documents the history of Mount Hope and the House of Providence from 1857 to 1980. There is a chronological history of Mount Hope. Other histories document the construction of Mount Hope and its transition into the House of Providence. Also included is correspondence from 1869 between Frank Smith and Bishop John Walsh regarding the purchase of Mount Hope. There is also an 1868 report card from an orphan who attended Mount Hope. There are two aerial maps, one of which is a photocopy of an 1840 map depicting the planned area for Mount Hope, and the other a photocopy showing London West in 1897.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

1 post card : col.

2 maps : photocopies, b&w ; 22 x 36 cm

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S125-01-01	<b>File - Mount Hope 1869-1900 and House of Providence 1900-1966 Histories</b>	1869-1966	
F01-S125-01-02	<b>File - Mount Hope History</b>		
F01-S125-01-03	<b>File - Report Card 1868 Mother of Mrs. Helen Loughlin attended Mount Hope</b>	1868	
F01-S125-01-04	<b>File - Bishop John Walsh Letter</b>		

### Subseries F01-S125-02: Property

Date: 1883, [19-? ] (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains correspondence, municipal registration records, and deeds related to the conveyance of lands where the Mount Hope Motherhouse would later be located, all of which are reproductions, apart from one original deed of land dated 1883 transferring land from John Pope to William Thompson the Younger. This subseries also contains a biography of William Barker, the original owner of the Mount Hope property.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

#### File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S125-02-01	<b>File - Contracts and Agreements 1853-1949</b>	1883, [19-? ]	2 cm of textual records

### Subseries F01-S125-03: Photographs and Newsclippings

Date: 1929-1932, 1960-1966 (creation)

Scope and content: This subseries contains photographs of the Mount Hope Motherhouse and surrounding landscape, taken at some time after the 1877 renovations. There is a scrapbook, titled "Ancient Collection

from Mount Hope,” which contains newspaper clippings related to Bishop Fallon of London, St. Peter’s Seminary, the London Schools of Catechetic, Henry Edward Dormer, Bishop-Elect Dennis O’Connor, Father Frank Forster, the Canonization of Jesuit Martyrs, and Bishop Alexander MacDonnell. Bishop Fallon of London convalesced at Mount Hope. Three newspaper articles from 1961, 1962, and 1966 reference the Sisters of St. Joseph in London.

Physical description: 10 photographs : b&w negatives  
 32 photographs : b&w  
 1 scrapbook ; 25 x 36 cm

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

**File / item list**

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F01-S125-03-01	<b>File - Mount Hope and Landscape 1877</b>		
F01-S125-03-02	<b>File - Newsclippings/Scrapbook 1920-1932, 1960-1966</b>		