



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no.	76-173
Negative no(s).	4369, 4370, 4371

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Linton Hall/St. Benedict's	Common name	Convent
County/Town/City	Prince William Co.		
Street address or route number	9535 Linton Hall Rd., Bristow, Va.		
USGS Quad	Gainesville	Date or period	cl895, 1915, 1930 to present.
Original owner	John Augustine Elliott Linton	Architect/builder/craftsmen	Shrine: Early Studios(?); Chapel: Leroy Harris (Arch.), Bahen & Wright, Wash.,
Original use	Farm	Source of name	Linton family D.C. (contractors)
Present owner	Benedictine Sisters of Va.	Source of date	Architectural evidence, published history.
Present owner address	9535 Linton Hall Rd. Bristow, Va.	Stories	1, 2, 3 (See individual descriptions)
Present use	Military School, Convent	Foundation and wall const'n	See individual descriptions.
Acreage	cl,790 acres	Roof type	See individual descriptions.

State condition of structure and environs Buildings to be retained are in good condition, as are grounds.
 State potential threats to structure Oldest and 2d oldest structures on property to be demolished 1979.
 Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no X

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

Linton Hall School and St. Benedict's Convent are located on a large (1,790-acre) tract of land on the north side of Broad Run, a few miles west of the City of Manassas. It is a campus-like facility with about a dozen buildings altogether, including St. Anne's Convent, The Immaculate Conception Chapel, the old St. Anne's Convent and school (the two oldest buildings, which are to be demolished), a small shrine, the buildings associated with Linton Hall Military Academy, built in 1951, several barns and farm buildings, and a few scattered residences. Old St. Joseph's Church and St. Joseph's Industrial School, the first buildings to have been erected on the property, were demolished in the 1960s, and a caretaker's residence was erected on the site. A large frame building which housed St. Edith's Academy, constructed in 1894, was demolished in about 1910, and in its place a new brick boarding school was built. In the 1950s, St. Edith's Academy was demolished, and the present St. Anne's Convent was constructed on its site. The first chapel, a brick building constructed in 1894-1901, was enlarged by the addition of one story in 1911, and was demolished in the 1930s when the present chapel was constructed on the same site. The buildings which originally housed St. Anne's Convent and St. Anne's home and school for poor girls was constructed in 1897, and enlarged in 1911 by the construction of a large dormitory building in front of St. Anne's. These buildings are both planned for demolition. A guest house for temporary or weekend visitors was constructed beside St. Anne's Convent and School in about 1928 and was demolished in 1978. In its place there is a 1-story brick building. The shrine was built in 1928 on the site of the old log cabin that existed on the Linton Farm prior to the arrival there of the Benedictines. Among the other buildings on the property, there are several residences and outbuildings, a slaughterhouse, and two large barns, one a dairy barn built in about 1930 and now used as a workshop, and the other, a livestock barn, built in 1915 and

Interior inspected? Yes.

Historical significance (Chain of title: individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

"Early in the Summer of 1893 a large tract of land, known as the Linton Estate or Linton's Ford, located in Prince William County, Virginia, was offered to the Benedictine Fathers of Belmont, North Carolina, by Sister Baptista Linton of the Visitation Convent, Washington, D.C., and her half sister Miss Ann Philips." Thus reads the first entry in this convent's journal, the "Community Chronicle," probably begun in 1899 by Mother Alphonse.

The Linton Farm consisted of a 1,700-acre tract lying on both sides of Broad Run about 5 miles west of Manassas. The Linton house was located on the west side of Rt. 619, but it burned before the Civil War, and a modern dwelling exists on its site. The Linton family graveyard is located on School/Convent property and contains the graves of John Augustine Elliott Linton, John Tyler Linton, and Ann Cecelia Phillips.

The patent for the original 740 acres of this property was taken up in 1726 by Moses Linton, the grandfather of John A. E. Linton.

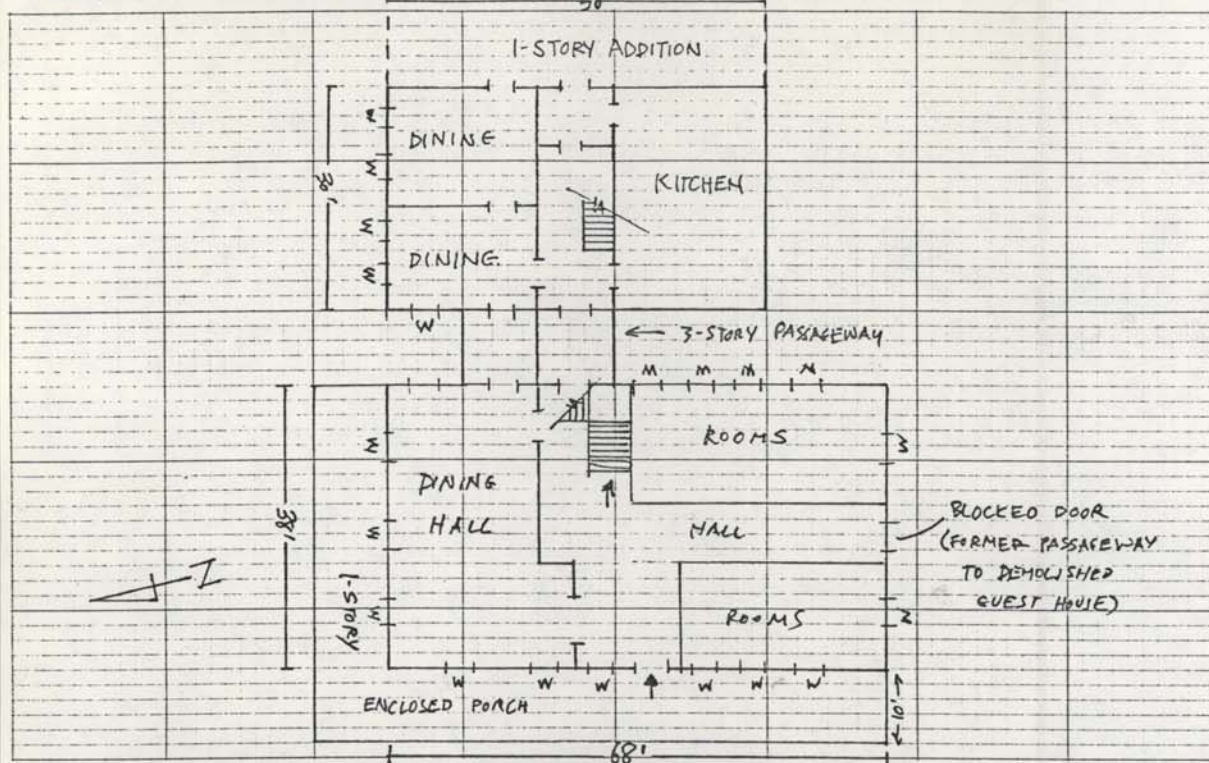
Sister Baptista Linton (born Sarah Elliott Graham Linton) was a daughter of John Tyler Linton and Cecelia Ann Graham. She was educated in and became a member of the Convent of the Visitation in Georgetown.

(continued)

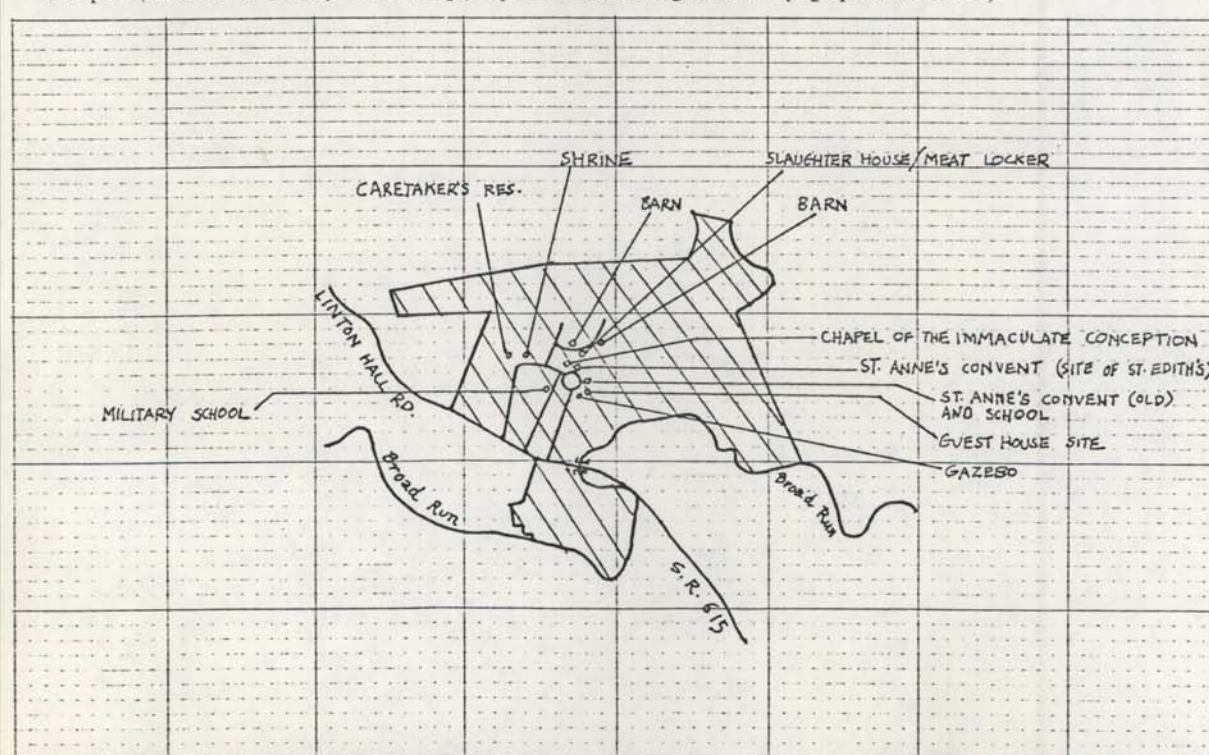
Sources and bibliography
 Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) Sister Mary H. Johnston, *The Fruit of His Works* (©1954), in *Prince William County Library*; W.P.A., *Writers Project, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places* (1941, 1961), p. 148; Sandra Pence, "Benedictine Sisters Came to Prince William County in 1864," 2-part Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.) article in *Manassas Journal-Photos*, journal of Convent Activities in library of Convent. *Messenger*, 25 Feb 1965.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Sister Ernestine, St. Anne's/St. Benedict's Convent

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



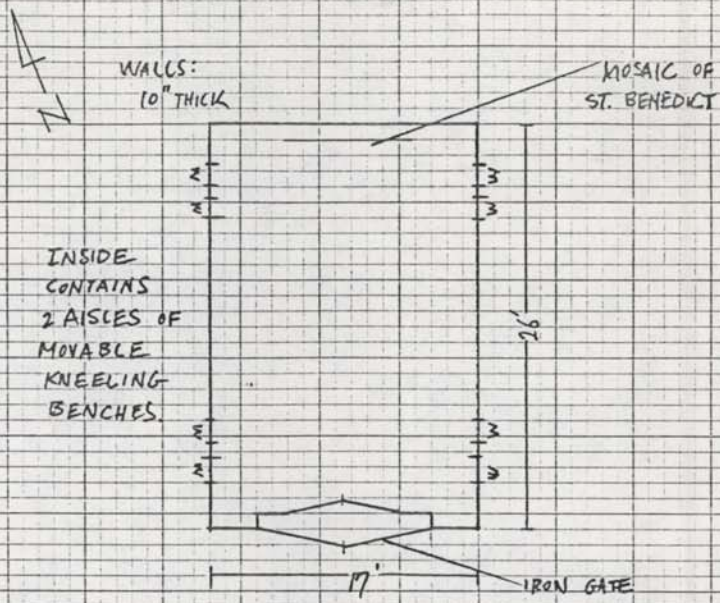
Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date MARCH 1980

LINTON HALL/ST. BENEDICT'S CONVENT 76-173 -- SHRINE



APRIL 1980
F. JONES

Linton Hall/St. Benedict's Convent
(Continuation Sheet)

Architectural Significance (continued)

still in use. There were formerly several small rustic, pole-built summer houses or gazebos on the grounds, only two of which remain. There are two cemeteries on the property--the small Linton Family graveyard and the larger convent cemetery behind the convent.

St. Anne's Convent and School. This is a two-part frame structure; the two-story section at the rear, having once served as St. Anne's Convent and School for orphaned girls, was built in 1894. In front of this building was constructed in 1915 a large, 3-story dormitory-like addition. This addition contained, in addition to the dormitory for the girls school, an auditorium, dining hall, kitchen, and offices. Both buildings are scheduled to be demolished. The older section, though much of the interior woodwork had been removed when the site was visited by this surveyor, appeared to have been solidly constructed with modest but attractive interior woodwork. The two-story, 5-bay structure has a gable roof and rests on a stone foundation. A single flight, straight, open stair leads from what was the main entrance prior to the construction of the 1915 addition. At that time, the main entrance was relocated to the new wing, and a passageway joined the two buildings at several points, including the second and third floors. The old building contained large, 4-panel doors. There was evidence of paneled wainscoting and moulded chair rail in the two dining rooms, or parlors, on the first floor, north side. A large kitchen was located in the south room, first floor. The hall was paneled with beaded wainscoting. The 45"-wide stair had a turned newel, turned balusters and a moulded rail. The interior trim around the doors and windows was symmetrically moulded, with cornerblocks. The front and rear doors both had a two-pane overhead transom window. Plain box trim surrounds the doors and windows of the exterior. The windows once had shutters. Weatherboarding, or channeled siding could be seen beneath the asbestos shingles. There was a brick stove chimney at either end, one capped and the other apparently functioning. A one-story concrete block addition on the rear served as part of the kitchen. The floors are pine.

The 1915 addition, a large, 3-story dormitory-style building with a gambrel roof originally had a colonnaded, one-story, open porch across the front and part-way along each side. The porch was later enclosed and the earlier weatherboards on the exterior were replaced with asbestos shingles. Much of the interior of this wing's first floor was paneled with floor-to-ceiling pine. The open well, three-flight stair was constructed of pine and had a large square, moulded pine newel.

The Shrine, located on the site of the first mass celebrated here by the Benedictine Brothers in 1893, was built in 1928-30. An inscription on a plaque affixed to the front reads:

Erected in memory of/W.A. Johnston/by his wife
Mary S. Johnston/1930.

William A. and Mary S. Johnston were the parents of Sister Inez Johnston, a longtime member of the convent. Mr and Mrs. Johnston were frequent visitors and residents of the convent. They also planted the pin oaks on the Academy grounds.

The shrine was constructed by Bahen and Wright (contractors); and the mosaic of St. Benedict was made by John J. Early, of Early Studios.

The Shrine is a 1-story brick building laid up in 5-course American bond. The foundation is also brick. The gable roof is covered with slate shingles and topped by a wooden cross. Round-arch casement windows with tinted glass are located in pairs along each side. The front entrance is located within a slightly pointed polychrome mosaic arch which is supported by engaged stone columns with rectangular capitals. The interior walls are stuccoed and painted cream-colored. The plain trim is painted brown. The rafters and supports of the trussed roof are exposed. The ceiling is horizontally-laid boards. The floor is concrete and flagstone.

A large iron bell sits beside the Shrine. It bears the manufacturer's name Henry McShane & Co., Baltimore, Md., and the date 1885.

Architectural Significance (continued)

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated in 1933. The architect was Leroy Harris and the contractors were Bahen & Wright, of Washington, D.C. The chapel was built as a memorial to Judge William Head and his wife Sarah, of Westmoreland County, Pa. Their daughter, Sister Gertrude Head, was a member of the Community. The sanctuary of the Chapel was remodeled in 1968. Stylistically it resembles the Shrine: stuccoed walls, exposed roof rafters and trusses, slate floor, circular cutout windows. The chapel has tracery design stained glass windows along the exterior walls of the aisles and in each end. The chapel is connected to the convent by a one-story covered passageway.

Historical Significance (continued)

Sister Baptista and her half sister Ann Philips left part of "Lintonford" to the Benedictine Fathers of Belmont Abbey, North Carolina, on the condition that a school for poor boys be erected there; and another part, about 500 acres, to the Benedictine Sisters of Richmond on a similar condition, that a school for poor girls be built there. The boys' school, established in 1894, was to become St. Joseph's Industrial School. When Father Julius and two Benedictine brothers arrived at Bristow, they found an unfinished frame mansion and a log cabin, which was the kitchen of the house. They tore down the unfinished frame building and moved into the log cabin. St. Joseph's Chapel, which was attended by many area Catholic residents, was built near the school. It was demolished in the 1960s.

Mother Edith of the Richmond order of Benedictine Sisters accepted Sister Baptista's gift of the Linton property and immediately purchased the adjoining Kincheloe farm which she saw as excellent land, suitable for both growing crops and erecting buildings.

In the spring of 1894 the sisters moved from the mother house in Richmond to Bristow. Under the leadership of Sister Alphonse Bliley, OJB, St. Edith's Academy, a frame building, was completed in 1894. St. Edith's was a private girls' boarding school established to provide money to operate St. Anne's, a home and school for poor girls which became the orphanage for the Catholic diocese in Virginia. St. Anne's which also housed the convent, was built of lumber which had been cut from the woods on the property and was finished in 1897. The carpentry at St. Anne's, a frame, 2-story building to which subsequently a large dormitory-style addition was made, was performed without pay by Leonard Baumgardner.

In 1901, the "Mother House" of the Benedictine Sisters moved to the "Bristow Mission," creating a need for more space. Thus, in 1901, a large wing was erected on the back of St. Edith's, thus providing space for kitchen, dining rooms, a number of private rooms and a storeroom. A chapel, built in 1894-1901 and blessed in 1902, was partly financed by the wife of the streetcar magnate Thomas Fortune Ryan. In 1911, the chapel was enlarged by the addition of one story. At about the same time, a new boarding school building was constructed, and a large, 3-story, frame building was constructed in front of the old St. Anne's School and Convent. A farm on the grounds provided most of the food for the convent and schools, and in 1915 a large "loafing" barn was completed.

St. Edith's Academy was closed in 1922 and moved to Richmond where it reopened as St. Gertrude's School. St. Anne's was also closed, and the orphanage was moved to Richmond. In 1927 the Belmont Fathers closed St. Joseph's Industrial School and left the Bristow Mission. The sisters then operated a day school for neighboring children in St. Joseph's buildings. After 1928, the buildings of St. Anne's became a retreat facility. To house temporary or weekend visitors, the Guest House was built beside the former St. Anne's School (demol. 1978). The Shrine, a small brick building constructed on the site of the early log cabin, was built in 1928.

In the 1930s, the original chapel was demolished, and a new chapel was built on the same site. In the 1950s, old St. Edith's Academy was demolished, and the present St. Anne's Convent was constructed on its site. The military school which is operated by the sisters grew out of the Linton Hall School for Boys, a boys' preparatory school which was opened when the girls' academy closed in 1923. In 1932, the school became a military academy. The present buildings date from 1951.

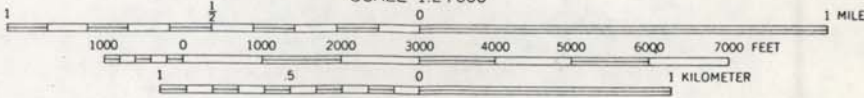
Scattered around the "campus" are numerous other buildings, including homes of those employed at the convent or school, barns and other outbuildings, and several rustic gazebos or summer houses.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, about 13,000 soldiers, en route to Camp Thoroughfare, Va., stopped and camped at Chapel Springs, near Bristow about 2½ miles from the convent grounds. The sisters sent food and medical supplies to the soldiers, who remained at Chapel Springs for about 1 week.



000 FEET 35' 276 BRISTOW 2.6 MI. TRIANGLE 20 MI. (NOKESVILLE) 5461 11 NE 278 279 32'30"

SCALE 1:24 000



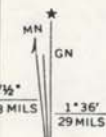
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

LINTON HALL / ST. BENEDICT'S CONVENT

76-173

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in
Commonwealth of
taken 1972. This
Purple tint indicate



AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH
ON AT CENTER OF SHEET

GAINESVILLE Q.