Public comment regarding the nomination for
319 N. 19th St and 312 N. 18th St-
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School

Received by Philadelphia Historical Commission
April-August 2021
August 27, 2021

Via email: preservation@phila.gov
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School is a significant historic resource in Philadelphia and BOTH buildings merit being listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

I am requesting that BOTH Hallahan buildings be deemed historic. BOTH buildings combined make up Hallahan. BOTH buildings comprise ONE location are responsible for remarkable history. The Cathedral building is no less historic just because the architect was not as famous. The women that were fortunate to go to Hallahan took classes in BOTH buildings. I am sure many stories of memories of alumnae would mention the bridge and scurrying from one building to the other to get to class on time.

BOTH buildings are equally historic with respect to the result of educating women and the impact on national history. Please designate BOTH buildings as they comprise ONE entity...Hallahan.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joanne Connolly
I support the designation of both Hallahan buildings to the historical registry. History happened in both buildings, not just one!

Sincerely,

Marlana Rowan
To all:

I am writing to encourage you all to please vote to designate The Hallahan High School and the Cathedral School buildings as Historic Sites.


Hallahan H S in the sister school to Roman Catholic High School. Roman is a diverse thriving inner city school with Historic designation. Please Place Hallahan in the Historic registry.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Kearney
General Controls, Inc.
856 786 6664 x101
856 786 6996 fax
215 850 4893 cell
Dear Commission,

I am writing to you today regarding the historical designation meeting to take place on Monday, August 30th regarding the two properties located at 319 N.19th. Street and 312 N.18th. Street.

The building known as Hallahan located at 319 N. 19th. Street was constructed in 1911 and the Cathedral building was constructed in 1914. Both buildings meet the criteria to be historically designated and both are part of the one nomination. Both buildings have operated collectively as Hallahan and both have educated women in Philadelphia for 120 years. Both buildings comprise one location of specific and incredible history and are equally historic with respect to women's education and national history as the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country. They both have strong roots and hold a very special place in the educational landscape of Philadelphia and are, therefore, both worthy of being historically designated.

For that reason, I am requesting that when considering Hallahan for the historical registry that you also please designate both buildings as they are one entity.

I want to thank you so much for your consideration and time in this very important matter. I appreciate your dedication.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Rocci
Proud 1980 Graduate
To whom It May Concern:

I support the designation of BOTH of Hallahan’s buildings to the historical registry. History happened in both buildings, not just one.

Sincerely,

Colleen Kelly
BOTH buildings of Hallahan MUST be deemed historical! We were the first all girls Catholic High School, which is American history, and BOTH buildings made Hallahan what it is! Both should be preserved.

Thank you,
Mary Pownall, Class of 2000
As a graduate of John W. Hallahan the first all girl's catholic high school in the United States I am writing to you to request your support of the request to save the historic buildings of Hallahan at 19th and Wood Streets in Philadelphia. As you are aware there are two buildings that have educated thousands of young girls according to the wishes of Mary Hallahan as she bequeathed in her will to dedicate funds to the education of women in the Catholic faith.

The city of Philadelphia deserves the title of being a true champion of preservation of the history of girls education.

Thank you for your support.

Marianne McFadden Loftus, 1977
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission
Dear Commission,
I am requesting that the ENTIRE Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the original Hallahan building. More specifically, BOTH the Hallahan building and the Cathedral Parochial School building comprise ONE location of the Hallahan history.
The Cathedral Hallahan building is equally historic as the second and third floors of the Cathedral Parochial School building on 18th Street were utilized by Hallahan since as early as the 1930’s.... that is 90 years! A closed in fire escape with bridge connectors on the second and third floors allow access between the buildings.
Hallahan's historical women’s education occurred in both buildings. They are part of ONE historic place and ONE historic story and should be deemed as such. The two buildings are ONE entity.
I urge you to please include both buildings in the designation process.
Sincerely,
Dorothy A. Burton
Hello:
I am a graduate of Hallahan, Class of 1967. I fully support the historical designation of both buildings of my Alma Mater. Thank you.
Jane Caldwell Adams
From: Susan Loyden <Sloyden@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:54 PM
To: preservation
Subject: Hallahan

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Good day,

I am writing to express my support for designating both of the Hallahan school buildings as historical buildings. This school was started with private funds, by a woman who thought it important to ensure the girls of Philadelphia, the entire city, had access to a quality education. That is the reason the school was built in center city.

Please do not allow the archdiocese to profit from the closure of this beloved, historic school. It is bad enough they were successful in closing the school. My heart is broken.

I, along with all of Hallahan’s alumnae and students, are begging you.

Respectfully,

Susan Martin Loyden
Class of 1984

Sent from my iPad
From: Ted Shearer <tshearer2333@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 4:06 PM
To: preservation
Subject: Hallahan Students and School Building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

My mother, Margaret Green was a John Hallahan graduate and went into a great job with The Army Engineers. She passed away two years ago, but I know if she was alive she would be very upset about the treatment The Archdiocese is giving the girl and the school building that they treasured. I worked at the Family Court and the old Youth Study Center and would keep her informed about the place that helped her become the head of Personnel.

Please do all that you can do to preserve the building and a school for females that want to attend a Catholic High School in Philly. Thank you again for providing a school for these young ladies and for the staff that will watch them continue to grow.

In closing I feel a good Catholic education is important. I went to St. Al’s in South Philly, Bishop Neumann and Mount St. Mary’s Univ. My two children also went to Catholic grade school, Catholic High School and Catholic Colleges. If you have a good questions about my interest, I can be reached at 856-983-3798.

Sincerely Yours, Ted S. Shearer

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Historical Society,

I support the designation of both Hallahan buildings to the historical registry. History happened in both buildings, not just one.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Diane Benson
9626 Convent Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to ask that you issue historical building status to the Cathedral school building located at 18th & Wood Streets and the Hallahan school building located at 19th & Wood Streets.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Carol A. Lord
Dear Historical Commission:

I am writing to you today with the hopes that you would consider giving historical designation to both buildings that make up the FIRST All-Girls Catholic High School in the Country. John W Hallahan CGHS is ONE school that is made up of TWO buildings.

Even though it was not a part of the original structure, the Cathedral Building is as much a part of Hallahan as the Hallahan Building. It was one school that educated countless generations of women. History was made in both buildings.

On a more personal note, I am heartbroken that our beloved school is no more. Dealing with the decision of the AOP has been a daily struggle. Knowing that future generations of girls will not have the experience or opportunities that I had is devastating. The only comfort I have is the hope that both buildings would be saved and that the future owner will be respectful of the history that took place within those hallowed halls. The chance that we might lose the Cathedral Building is unbearable.

I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Carol M Bonewicz-Carlin
Class of 1993
"Alma Mater Glorify"
To all who this is concerned:

My name is Daniel F. Hallahan, My Grandfather and his wife donated millions to assure that the girls of Philadelphia had the opportunity for a “GOD” based education. This was done with there heart and this Historical in all aspects. For the city of Philadelphia and all the blessed students that have gone on to better Philadelphia and the rest of the world!
Dear Commission:

I am requesting that BOTH Hallahan buildings be deemed historic. Both buildings are Hallahan and comprise ONE location of specific and incredible Philadelphian history. The Cathedral building is no less historic just because the architect was not famous. The women, including myself a Graduate of the Class of 1992, were educated in BOTH buildings. BOTH buildings are equally historic with respect to women’s education and national history. Please designate BOTH buildings as they comprise ONE entity...Hallahan.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Rogers

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Sent from Gmail Mobile
Hello,
Please designate both buildings of Hallahan high as historic. Both buildings make up Hallahan as I knew it as class of 1981 and my five sisters, classes 1971-1994 as well as my mother, Hallahan class of 1947. My mother also attended the Cathedral grade school as a member of the Cathedral school parish. Please please designate these buildings so we will never lose them. Thank you.
Marie Eileen Dirvin Hallahan class of 1981.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Committee on Historical Designation:

I am writing in regard to the upcoming meeting on 8/30/2021. As a graduate of Hallahan, I am requesting that BOTH the Hallahan and the Cathedral buildings be deemed historic. Both buildings are considered Hallahan and comprise ONE location of specific and incredible history with respect not only to women’s education, but also to local and national history. The Cathedral building on 18th Street is no less historic. As one of the thousands of women that were educated there, I was educated in both the Hallahan and the Cathedral buildings. The buildings were connected and I was in both buildings daily during my 4 years at Hallahan. Please designate BOTH buildings historic as they together are John W. Hallahan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Josephine DeMarco McCoy, Class of 1975
128 Second Avenue
Broomall, PA 19008
Dear Commission:

I am requesting that BOTH Hallahan buildings be deemed historic. Both buildings are Hallahan. BOTH buildings comprise ONE location of specific and incredible history. The Cathedral building is no less historic just because the architect was not famous. The women that were educated there were educated in BOTH buildings. BOTH buildings are equally historic with respect to women’s education and national history. Please designate BOTH buildings as they comprise ONE entity...Hallahan.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Flanagan, Hallahan class of 2009
To the preservation@phila.gov. My name is Anita Mullen and I am a graduate of Hallahan High School Class of '77. I would like to humbly submit this request on behalf of the tremendous efforts to consider both the Hallahan and Cathedral Buildings as historic entities in the history and legacy of education both in Philadelphia and in the country. Thank you for considering our petition scheduled to be heard this coming August 30, 2021.

Anita Mullen
Dear Commission:

I am requesting that BOTH Hallahan buildings be deemed historic. Both buildings are Hallahan. BOTH buildings comprise ONE location of specific and incredible history. The Cathedral building is no less historic just because the architect was not famous. The women that were educated there were educated in BOTH buildings. BOTH buildings are equally historic with respect to women’s education and national history. Please designate BOTH buildings as they comprise ONE entity...Hallahan.

Sincerely,

Dana Cost "83
Dear Commission:

I am requesting that BOTH Hallahan buildings be deemed historic. Both buildings are Hallahan. BOTH buildings comprise ONE location of specific and incredible history. The Cathedral building is no less historic just because the architect was not famous. The women that were educated there were educated in BOTH buildings. BOTH buildings are equally historic with respect to women’s education and national history. Please designate BOTH buildings as they comprise ONE entity...John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

Sincerely,

Marie Angeli Flemming
Class of ’73
From: JoAnne Mann <joannemann2@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 2:28 PM
To: preservation
Subject: Preserve both Hallahan and Cathedral buildings

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________________________________

Sent from my iPhone
Historical Committee’

As a former graduate and neighbor

I am requesting the commission consider the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School building along with the adjacent Cathedral School building both to be deemed historical because they are it is more than the brick and mortar with these buildings it is what they stand for have stood for this past century of education thousands of students to become world class leaders in their various careers and people of integrity through the teachings in both of these buildings

Thank you

Patricia A. Howell

Cathedral graduate
John W. Hallahan graduate
Dear Commission:

Please designate both Hallahan buildings to the historic registry immediately and without delay.

Women's history lived within those walls! A fact is a fact and that history is not disputable.

Danielle Giangreco
Dear Historical Commission,

Please designate both Hallahan buildings as historical buildings. When I attended I had classes in both buildings. The Cathedral building holds so much history. I tutored children who went to school there. I am sure those students want that building to stand as a landmark. Please let these buildings be designated as historic so that rich history is not lost.

Thank you.

Nadine Boulware
Hallahan Class of 76
To whom it may concern: I’m writing to you urging that BOTH buildings Hallahan and The Cathedral School Building be declared HISTORICAL. History is history and it does NOT CHANGE. When I attended Hallahan High School we had classes in BOTH buildings. Why should those buildings now be separated in designation? I urge you to do what is correct!

Thank you Elizabeth Itzstein O’Brien class “58
Dear Philadelphia Historical Society:

Please consider the JW Hallahan buildings (the main building and the cathedral) for Historical designation. Although some would say it’s just a building, it’s much more than that. The very first Catholic High School for girls!! All others trying to emulate JW Hallahan, a school that taught me diversity, friendship, sisterhood, and how to navigate your way in a mans world. Other than the emotional attachment the building in and if itself is beautiful! Marble, stained glass windows and all the history it holds! Proud history! Even Walt Disney himself saw the value in JWH. Who else was given the written consent to use his most beloved character Mickey Mouse!... what a privilege!

In a society demanding change PLEASE don’t let our proud history and again a beautiful building be destroyed without a thought.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carol (McDevitt) Wadsworth ‘78 ❤️❤️❤️❤️

**Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone**
Hallahan both buildings are historical this should not be destroyed in any way. The richness of these buildings are observed in every way daily by the women who were fortunate enough to graduate from these hallowed halls.

Eileen Erikson 1961

Sent from my iPhone
My name is Marylou Montuoro. I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School class of 1964.
I am presenting to you a concern for our school located at 19th and Wood Streets.
This school which was begun over 100 years ago was for the main purpose of educating women, Catholic women who
have made many contributions to our community.
I submit to you my request to preserve not only the Hallahan building but the Cathedral building as well as an Historic
site.
I am a retired Catholic School teacher and I can say from my heart that my education at Hallahan gave me a strong base
on which to build. I cherish my faith which was strengthened, my education which was enhanced and my friendships
which are cherished.
I am submitting my request to you to consider Hallahan as an Historical Institution.

Sincerely,
Ms. Marylou Montuoro
Dear Commission:

When considering the historical designation of the John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S., please include the Cathedral School building. Cathedral is an integral part of Hallahan. Both buildings always operated as schools.

When attending Hallahan, I had classes in the Cathedral building and in the “New” building, which is what we called the Hallahan building. As you can tell by the previous sentence, I am old enough to receive “historical designation!”

Please remember this school is the first school for Catholic girls in the country. Our brother school, Roman Catholic, was the first Catholic boys High School in the nation and has already received the historical designation. We have a rich history of dedication, diversity and community service in the City of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Eileen Tepper ‘62

cc: Friends of Hallahan
File
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Hope Prisco
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,
Kathleen S. Clements, Class of 1968
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process. I am a Hallahan alum, this school is as historical as it gets and this history is the reason why people seek out Hallahan and it’s traditions. Please mark this as a historic as Hallahan is as historic as it gets!

Sincerely,
Madison Safarowicz
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Janice Soulas
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Thank you
Marianne McCallister
Hi!

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historical. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Both buildings have been used equally for decades to educate young women. They are one historic place and have helped create one historic story, together. They deserve to be deemed as such. The history that has been created within both buildings over the last 100+ years is truly something that deserves preservation. I ask that you please include both buildings in the designation process.

Thank you for your time,
Julia Marandola ’13
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Eden Roy
eden.wroy@gmail.com
Sent from my iPhone
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Katherine Burns Klinger

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Maria Marvasso
Class of 2008

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commission:

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and NOT just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women’s education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as much...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,
Denise M (Cunningham) Fullmer (68)
Sent from my iPad
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

Please, for your consideration, I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Fran Mignon Tessier
Class 1969

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women’s education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

My family has a long and wonderful history with Hallahan starting with my Aunt who became an Immaculate Heart Nun for 70 years. She graduated in 1938. My mother graduated in 1948 and many of her sisters and my cousins also attended the school. It would be absolutely tragic to see that building modified in any way.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Blaston
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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<th>From</th>
<th>maureen malone <a href="mailto:maureenmalone74@icloud.com">maureenmalone74@icloud.com</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>To</td>
<td>Maureen Malone <a href="mailto:malonemo@hotmail.com">malonemo@hotmail.com</a></td>
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Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,
Maureen Malone
Class of 1992

Sent from my iPhone
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<tr>
<th><strong>From:</strong></th>
<th>Suzanne Edinger <a href="mailto:sedinger134@charter.net">sedinger134@charter.net</a></th>
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Please designate BOTH Hallahan buildings as historic! Women were educated equally in both buildings! They are each an integral part of women’s history, Philadelphia history, and education history!

They are one entity! One building! One complete chapter in America’s and Philadelphia’s history!

Do not allow the owners to prevent further generations from experiencing the history of these magnificent buildings and the miracles that occurred within!

Thank you for your consideration!

Suzanne Edinger
Good Afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of myself, class of ’72 and my mother, Carmella Panichelli Finnegan, class of ’45.

We are unable to attend the zoom meeting on the 30th so we are writing to share our desire to grant the Hallahan building and the Cathedral building Historical Designation.

Over 120 years of historical education was provided to thousands of young women from across the City of Philadelphia due to the amazing vision of Mary McMichan.

Both buildings were home to many women who have gone on to do great work throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond.

These buildings are part of a very unique story of education for the City as well as the country. We feel both buildings should be historically designated as one entity so that the story can be preserved for whatever the future use of the buildings may produce.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Bellamaria Finnegan Amichetti ’72
Carmella Panichelli Finnegan ’45
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,
Jaclyn Moore ’09

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women’s education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Zarnowski graduated class of 2016 Sent from my iPhone
Philadelphia Historical Designation Commission

Dear Commission,

I am requesting that the entire Hallahan property be deemed historic and not just the Hallahan building. The Cathedral building is just as historic. Historical women's education occurred in both buildings. They are part of one historic place and one historic story and should be deemed as such...together as one entity. Please include both buildings in the designation process.

Sincerely,

Clare Ryan McAneny ‘HH 73
Dear Historical Association,

I am writing to plea that you please consider Hallahan and Cathedral, historical Buildings.

I attended Cathedral as a young kid and I absolutely love the experience and education that I received while a student at Cathedral. I further went on to Hallahan. I am an alumni from the class of 1975. I had the most wonderful and amazing experiences while a student both at Hallahan and Cathedral. Our daughter also attended Hallahan she is the class of 2005. I am very proud of the school as it provided me with a wonderful education that has made me the person that I am today. I am pleading that you reconsider destroying the school to make condos as it is home for so many of us. We take great pride in being graduates of Hallahan High!

Please reconsider destroying our legacy! 😊💙❤️❤️

Respectfully,

Carmen Olmo-Brown’75

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone
To the Historical Commission:

As a graduate of the class of 1969, and a proud member of the Alumnae of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, I sincerely hope for and support the designation of both the Hallahan building and the Cathedral building be deemed historic. This center city building has educated a diverse group of young women from various sections of our city, and it holds our hearts and our love. Being the first all-girls Catholic High School in the country is of historical value in itself.

I am hoping that as you make this decision, you will consider the many women who have contributed to our city, our state, and our country, and have called Hallahan their Alma Mater.

Sincerely,
Rosemarie Cunningham Rahill
Class of 1969
We are opposed to the demolition if 5139 Wayne Ave, as want to see this residence preserved as an Historical Residence
Sincerely,
Leslie and Frank Bruno
Germantown Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144
Dear Dr. Farnham:

I am strongly opposed to any continuance other than 30 days for the consideration of the Hallahan buildings for Historical Designation. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is well aware of this process and this building merits immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Carrozza

Sent from my iPhone
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30 Days. No more.
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<th><strong>From:</strong></th>
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<td>Friday, April 9, 2021 10:00 AM</td>
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<td><strong>To:</strong></td>
<td>preservation</td>
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<td>Save Hallahan</td>
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30 days! No more!!!

Meg Deviney  
Class of 2007
Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission

Dear Dr. Farnham,

I am strongly opposed to any continuance other than 30 days for the consideration of the Hallahan buildings for Historical Designation. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is well aware of this process and this building merits immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Carly McAneny
Dear Dr. Farnham,

I am strongly opposed to any continuance other than 30 days for the consideration of the Hallahan buildings for Historical Designation. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is well aware of this process and this building merits immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Carly McAneny
Dear Dr. Farnham,

I am a Hallahan graduate from the class of 87. I can’t express to you how much the thought of the closing of my precious high school grieves me. The immaculate historical buildings in which this school was built upon are in the danger of being lost forever. I am strongly opposed to continuance other than 30 days for the consideration of the Hallahan buildings for historical designation. The archdiocese of Philadelphia is well aware of this process and this building merits immediate consideration. The preservation of it’s legacy rests in your government department. The donations from families to form schools, hospitals, parks and a multitude of buildings is to preserve their family history. If there is no standard for preservation why would families donate anything for future use? The Hallahan family built the school for the future of women and now because the ground is worth more than the school tuition payments the history is up for debate.

Sincerely,
Roseann M Forbes
Dear Representatives of Philadelphia,

I graduated from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School in 1967. As I have gone through life, I have met many of my Hallahan “sisters”! We are a community of thousands who graduated from the hallowed halls of the Cathedral annex & the High School. We had over 680 girls graduate that year alone. The foyer mosaic was donated by our class.

I would love to see the Archdiocesan Offices change their minds about closing an historical iconic structure in the Philadelphia area. The fact that it’s harder than ever for Catholic Christian families to provide an education to children due to high tuition costs should indicate change is needed, however, not at the expense of an edifice that means so much to Philadelphia.

Consider making it an Academy, charge tuitions that can be afforded by those who can pay, but offer scholarships based on need, educational & sports excellence.

Continue to keep our school-
Alma Mater Glorify!

Sincerely,
Christine Ritchie Bailey “1967”
40 Ridgewood Ave.
Villas, NJ 08251-2047
Cbailey3201@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone
External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Please preserve this historical building for posterity. The first Catholic Girls High School for girls on 1912..8 yes before the suffragettes won the right to vote for women. To destroy this history is to negate the struggles that, not only Roman Catholic's endured, but the right of poor working class to receive higher education. Such an historic building needs to live! Our European architects never demolish cultural landmarks. Please respond. Lona Donal
Sir: I do hope you as well as other concerned citizens will consider and keep the building of Hallahan. My Mother, Helen Claire Cusack was a proud graduate of Hallahan in 1936. The schoomeant so much to her. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia Miller-Shaivitz, PhD.
Professor Emerita Palm Beach State College
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

Mary McMichan gave women a voice and opportunity to receive a free Catholic education. Since 1911 John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, as educated over 40,000 women. Mary McMichan was way ahead of her time, she cared about the future of women.

By copy of this letter, I fully support John W. Hallahan building designated as an historic designation.

The mere thought that 311 N. 19th Street, would not be the home to such a beautiful building, is a distressing thought.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
June 10, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School
    Historic Designation

Dear Dr. Farnham:

I am supporting the petition that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls
Highschool, (Hallahan) the First All Girls Catholic Highschool, in the country, be
designated as historic.

When Reverend John W. Shanahan called out that there was a need for an
establishment in the City of Philadelphia for a Catholic High School for girls, so
they have the right to the same academic opportunities as boys, Mary McMichean
answered that call. Hallahan High School and the Catholic Education system for
girls’ rests upon her vision, sacrifice, and generosity of our foundress.

The building located at 311 N. 19th Street is filled with history and one of a
kind architectural detail. As you are well aware, they don’t construct buildings like
Hallahan anymore – the new standard is skyscrapers, taller, shiner and with more
amenities.

I work in Center City and walk by Hallahan and the 222 Building every day.
I am sure if you do not protect the Hallahan building, the pictures below, will
depict the fate of this incredible building.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School is a significant historic
resource in Philadelphia and merits being listed on the Philadelphia Register of
Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Jody Connolly

Jody Connolly
If you do not designate Hallahan as Historical – this is what will happen. This is the property of the 222 building.
Exeter Property Group has proposed two residential towers for the corners of 17th and Vine and 17th and Race Streets, surrounding the historic Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul. The first phase will include 273 luxury rental units and 3,000 square feet of ground floor retail in the 23 story tower on the corner of 17th and Race Streets. The angled glass wall exterior will feature copper trim to mimic the dome of the Cathedral. The top floors will feature amenities including a fitness center, community room and outdoor deck overlooking the Parkway and the city skyline. The second phase will include a 685 foot-high tower on the corner of 17th and Vine Streets.
June 7, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

RE: Protect this significant landmark

I can’t imagine walking through Fairmount and John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School majestic building standing there for the next century.

Please, protect a significant landmark of our beautiful City.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Maissa Hill
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

June 9, 2021

Attn: Dr. John Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building. The building’s structure speaks of a lost craft in architecture not to mention what it has stood for for so long - the education of young women in the City of Philadelphia.

Your consideration for this building to be designated “Historical” is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul J. Nordegan
Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

They say a picture says 1000 words. All you need to do is look at the exterior of the building and appreciate all its beauty. If you are lucky enough to have walked the halls, no other words are needed. Honor her, as she should be.

Fondly,

[Signature]
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

As if Covid wasn’t a bad enough year, the closing of Hallahan was devastating news.
Give us some good news, protect the legacy - designate Hallahan as Historic.

Here’s to better times,

[Signature]
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

June 9, 2021

Attn: Dr. John Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am writing to request that the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School building be designated as a Historical building. As a resident of Philadelphia, I appreciate all the history that Philadelphia has to offer. One of them being the oldest all-girls’ high school. I am disappointed that my daughter will not have the opportunity to attend John W. Hallahan High School and continue the long-standing legacy. It would be detrimental to the history of Philadelphia not to have the building itself. Accordingly, I am respectfully requesting that this building be designated as a historical building.

Thank you for your consideration of this heartfelt request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Mannion
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building.

Allow her the distinguished honor so deserving for all her years of service.

Thank you for consideration of my request,

[Signature]
Rebecca Bowen
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

June 9, 2021

Attn: Dr. John Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I completely endorse the Petition that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School be designated as a historic building. As part of the education of young women for over 100 years and huge part of this City's unique history, please take into consideration the historical designation of this beautiful building. The closing of the school has been devasting enough. The devastation DOES NOT have to continue. Please add Hallahan as one of Philadelphia's Historical Buildings.

Sincerely,

Madeline S. Baio
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsoffallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I would like to add my support to the efforts to have John W. Hallahan designated as a Historical landmark in Philadelphia.

Woman were being underserved as not being offered the opportunity for a Catholic education and Mary H. McMichan changed that.

Even today, there are very few accolades to women, Hallahan and all it stands for is one of them.

Hallahan is one of the oldest buildings in Fairmount. I have seen pictures when Hallahan was being built there was nothing around it, except the library. This building is a testament to a vision and plan that succeeded.

Please consider my request to add Hallahan to the Historical Listings.

Sincerely, [Signature]
Barbara Ann Vernitsky
4859 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129

May 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St.
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am writing this letter in regard to designate John W. Hallahan as a historical building. As commercial and industrial activity increased in Center City, this building played and continues to play an important role in Philadelphia. The cornerstone of the building was laid on April 26, 1911, with thousands attending.

Mrs. McMichan was an extraordinary woman and way ahead of her times. Her vision, from the beginning of the 20th century, provided an opportunity for education and welcomed “the daughters of the working-class families”.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School, the first Diocesan all-girls Catholic high school in the US building stands as a constant reminder of past challenges and the fierce efforts to cover come them.

Please take action to designate this beautiful building and protect this neighborhood for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ann Vernitsky
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Please accept this letter as support of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building.

It is obvious to all that the building is sitting on prime real estate and worth lots of money. Please safeguard its history and allow that glorious building to remain standing forever!

Why should the story of Hallahan be erased?

Respectfully

[Signature]
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  

June 9, 2021  

Attn: Dr. John Farnham, Executive Director  

Dear Mr. Farnham:  

I am writing with regard to the nomination of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building. I was very disappointed to hear about the closing of the school as it is my grandmother’s alma mater. As I am sure you are aware, it is the oldest all girls’ school in the country. The building has been part of Philadelphia’s landscape for over 100 years. It would be disgraceful for such a beautiful building not to be designated as a historical building and continue to be part of the great City of Philadelphia.  

Respectfully,  

J. Fred Lorusso
June 7, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

Over 6,000 people stood in the rain, as they laid the cornerstone. The cornerstone at the corner of 19th and Wood Streets was purchased in Milan for $165, then brought to Rome for a papal blessing. it contains a metal box with artifacts from 1911. As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this building deserves to be designated historic. Need I say more....

Kathleen M Dougherty - Director

[Image of cornerstone with signatures]
May 6, 2021

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St.
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am writing this letter to support the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School at 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA as a historic landmark. Please protect this commendable institution for both the past and future generations of Philadelphians. There is only one century-old building left in this neighborhood that retains its original purpose for educating young women.

Hallahan, “the building,” with all its precious architectural characteristics, and Hallahan, “the legacy,” is as relevant today if not more than ever. This local treasure housing many traditions deserves to be preserved and I urge the Commission to protect it.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Hebal
Dear Mr. Farnham:

What can you say about a building that was built in 1911, is in prestige condition and features beautiful architecture details? There is so much history lining those halls, it is clearly evident, that the building should be honored and preserved. Mary McMichan was a forerunner and John W. Hallahan Catholic School building, deserves to remain standing tall as a reminder and tribute of ALL the women lucky enough to receive a Catholic education from Hallahan, due to Mary’s generosity.

Best,

[Signature]

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Virginia M. Rabchuk  
4837 Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  

May 11, 2021  

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director  

Dear Mr. Farnham:  

By copy of this letter, I fully support John W. Hallahan building designated as an historic designation. As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be a landmark and have the same respect as Roman Catholic Highschool, just a few blocks away. Roman Catholic HS at Broad and Vine Streets has been listed on the city’s historic register since 1986.  

Since 1911, Hallahan has educated over 40,000.00 woman. Mary McMichan was a visionary – she offered woman of the working-class family and opportunity to receive an education – even before women had the right to vote.  

I have spent my career working in law firms located in Center City. I can’t imagine walking through the city streets and not seeing Hallahan girls in their traditional blue jumpers and saddle shoes, or even imagine that magnificent historic building, with notable architectural characters will not be standing proudly for the next century.  

I am submitting this request as a resident of Philadelphia.  

Very truly yours,  

[Signature]  

Virginia M. Rabchuk
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

RE: 311 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street

I endorse the Petition that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School be designated as a historic building. Please offer the protection it clearly deserves!

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Laura A. Stankiewicz
May 8, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am requesting that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool, The First All Girls Catholic Highschool, in the country, be designated as historic. The building located at 311 N. 19th Street is filled with history and one of a kind architectural detail.

This building is a historic landmark. Built in 1911 with a cornerstone from Rome, stained glass windows, intricate stone work. They just don't make buildings like this anymore. Please don't let Hallahan become another building being replaced by more condos. Fairmount already has enough of them.

The interior is filled with tons of memories, that should not be allowed to be demolished. So many fortunate women earned diplomas from Hallahan and have entered society prepared to succeed. It is impossible to calculate the number of Hallahan girls who have impacted society as teachers, scientists, writers, police officers, musicians, nurses, artists, administrators, etc. Hallahan girls are everywhere! This institution is a legacy and should be able to continue the work it started.

Sincerely,

Roni Lenox
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am offering my support that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool be enrolled as an Historic building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After the All Boys Catholic High School was formed, Mary Hallahan McMichan, provided the same for the girls. Since 1911 her charity provided an education for close to 40,000 women.

This charming building rests deservedly in a quaint part of the City filled with history. Where it should remain for many years to come for all to see its beauty.

I am one of many, who are making this plea to honor Mary Hallahan McMichan's vision and story, and of course her building.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mary Towan
May 6, 2021

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St.
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as an historic building. Please help save this building which consists of beautiful architectural details inside and out – withstand the test of time. I can think of no other building deserving of such a title.

Thank you for your consideration,

Harry Lindsay
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School–historic designation

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am a student at Roman Catholic High School, as you know John W. Hallahan is our sister school.

I support that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School be designated as an historic building. Roman Catholic’s building was designated historic in 1986. Hallahan’s building deserves the same claim.

Thanks,

Aidan Bianco ’21
June 9, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Dr. John Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am writing regarding the nomination of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building. I am sure that you have received all kinds of letters regarding the designation of this building so I hope that you will continue to read this letter. I was raised in Philadelphia, but I was born in Portugal and immigrated to Philadelphia when I was 2 years old. My parents would take me back to Portugal every few years to see my family. I was always proud to say that I was from “Philadelphia”. It was not until I took my son to Portugal in 2019 that – through his eyes – I really appreciated the old architecture, the mosaics and the stained-glass windows of churches, cathedrals, and various parks. I also thought that I lived in a city with rich history and beautiful buildings, such as the John W. Hallahan building. As one of the oldest schools in Philadelphia with so many unique attributes and
history, it would be crime not to have it designated Historic and preserve its history and craftsmanship for future generations of not only Philadelphians, but for people all over the world that visit this awesome City.

Hoping that you can make the decision to list this building as a Historical building.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Dias
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am hereby petitioning that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool, the First All Girls Catholic Highschool, in the country, be designated as historic. The building located at 311 N. 19th Street is filled with history and one of a kind architectural detail.

This building is a historic landmark. Built in 1911 this building represents a unique style of architecture and materials important to our city. They just don’t make buildings like this anymore. I implore you please do not let Hallahan become another building being replaced by more condos or another parking lot. Fairmount already has enough of them.

As the 1st All Girls Catholic High School in the United States it played an important part in the development of not only Philadelphia’s education systems, but all over the country.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School is a significant historic resource in Philadelphia and merits being listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Hazel Altomare  
4200 Mitchell Street  
Apt 410  
Philadelphia, PA 19128

May 9, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am offering my support that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool be enrolled as an Historic building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This beautiful building sits in a neighborhood filled with history. This building is part of this history of the neighborhood and should remain a part of the neighborhood.

This institution has provided over 40,000 women an excellent education and was trying to continue to do so. In 2019 Hallahan instituted a new program with Community College of Philadelphia to allow Hallahan graduates to receive both a High School Diploma and an Associates Degree.

I am one of many, who are speaking out against the closure of the school and destroying over 100 years of history.

Truly,

Hazel Altomare
June 7, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Re: Protect Hallahan

Dear Mr. Farnham:

As the 1st ALL Girls Catholic High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be designated historic. The building is filled with history and unique architectural details both inside and out.

Mary Hallahan McMichan and her family deserve to be honored and respected for her dedication and support of educating so many women.

Please protect the legacy of Mary McMichan and the Hallahan Family.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our Petition.

[Signature]

[Name]
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

**RE: 311 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street**

I hereby request that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School be designated as a historic building. Please protect her!

Truly yours,

[Signature]

[Name]
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School—Historic Designation Nomination

Dear Mr. Farnham:

Hallahan set the standard for a Catholic education throughout the country. Mary McMichan gave the not so fortunate an opportunity to receive an education. Girls from every section of the Philadelphia, came to Center City to take advantage of such an opportunity.

The building’s entry way boasts of marble floors and walls, a grand chandelier and hand painted portraits of John W. Hallahan and our Foundress Mary. Throughout the building you will find stain glass windows, mosaic tile artwork, intricate woodwork to name just a few things on this historical marvel. The building is rich with history but is also a beautiful masterpiece. These details and craftsmanship are not being put into the buildings being built today. We must preserve this piece of history.

Please add Hallahan to the list of Philadelphia Historical Buildings. Give her the title she deserves!

Thank you,

[Signature]

Kathleen Lancellotti
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street · 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I can’t imagine walking through the Center City and not seeing Hallahan Girls in their blue jumpers and recognizable saddle shoes.

I can’t imagine walking through Fairmount and not seeing the Hallahan building.

I SUPPORT John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School building being designated as an historic landmark.

Respectfully

Mamita DeGrazio
June 7, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am hereby petitioning that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, the First All Girls Catholic High School, in the country, be designated as historic. The building located at 311 N. 19th Street is filled with history and one of a kind architectural detail.

Built in 1911, this historic landmark adds to the rich history and culture of Philadelphia, a city known for its preserved history. This beautiful building sits in a neighborhood of many historical places such as Logan Circle, the Central Library, Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Family Courthouse and the Franklin Institute.

As the 1st All Girls Catholic High School in the United States it played an important part in the development of not only Philadelphia’s education systems, but all over the country. I had the opportunity to attend this school when I was a student at Hallahan from 1995-1999. Over 40,000,000 women, like myself, have over 100 years of memories within its walls, and I cannot imagine the great loss of the history of women’s education in our great city.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School is a significant historic resource in Philadelphia and merits being listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I am submitting this request as a lifelong citizen of Philadelphia and a woman who shares in the history within its walls.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bridget Morak  
Formerly Bridget Evans, HH class of 1999  
7004 McCallum Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
215-410-9473
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School—historic designation

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am a graduate of Roman Catholic High School, as you know John W. Hallahan is our sister school.

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School nomination to be designated as an historic building. The Roman building was designated historic.

Roman Catholic High School was on the “chopping block” back in the early 80’s, so I truly sympathize with what these women are experiencing.

Regards,

[Signature]

[Printed Name]
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am offering my support that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool be enrolled as an Historic building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When Reverend John W. Shanahan called out there was a need of the establishment in the City of Philadelphia for a Catholic High School for girls, so they have the right to the same academic opportunities as boys. Mary McMichan answered that call. Hallahan High School and the Catholic Education system for girl's rests upon her vision, sacrifice and generosity of our founder.

This beautiful building sits in a neighborhood filled with history. This building is part of this history in Fairmount.

I am one of many, who are speaking out against the closure of the school and destroying over 100 years of history.

Truly,

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

By copy of this letter, I fully support John W. Hallahan building designated as an historic designation. Roman Catholic HS at Broad and Vine Streets has been listed on the city's historic register since 1986. As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be a landmark and designated historic.

Even before women had the right to vote, Mary McMichan gave women a voice and opportunity to offer them a Catholic education. Since 1911 Hallahan has educated over 40,000.00 woman. Mary McMichan was ahead of her time.

It is a devastating loss for the City of Philadelphia on both an education standpoint and historical landscape.

I am submitting this request as a resident of Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

June 5, 2021

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am hereby petitioning that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool, the First All Girls Catholic Highschool, in the country, be designated as historic. The building located at 311 N. 19th Street is filled with history and one of a kind architectural detail.

This building is a historic landmark. Built in 1911 this building represents a unique style of architecture and materials important to our city. They just don’t make buildings like this anymore. I implore you please do not let Hallahan become another building being replaced by more condos or another parking lot. Fairmount already has enough of them.

As the 1st All Girls Catholic High School in the United States it played an important part in the development of not only Philadelphia’s education systems, but all over the country.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School is a significant historic resource in Philadelphia and merits being listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Signature] 1970
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director  

Dear Mr. Farnham:

Hallahan was founded in 1911 as the first Diocesan high school in the nation. For over 110 years, Hallahan has provided young women from diverse economic, academic, and social backgrounds with a rigorous, faith-based, college-preparatory education which promotes personal development and prepares them for the future. Selective students were also fortunate enough to have dual-enrollment with college courses with the Community College of Philadelphia.

When Mary McMichan graciously donated her endowment, I am sure she did not truly realize the impact of her generosity for educating young women for over a century!

The Center City location offered numerous forms of transportation and employment opportunity going back to the time after the Civil War. Introduction of horse-trolleys, followed by electric cars expanded the distance of the daily community, which drew more students and families into the city, which stimulated economic growth.

Not only did what happen in the building, impact the city, it is the building itself. The building was designed by Ballinger & Perrott whose work has significant impact on our City's footprint.

Hallahan not only holds a special place in the hearts of graduates, but has offered and continues to offer significant value to our City.

I am hereby requesting John W. Hallahan High School be designated at historic forever preserving these two beautiful buildings and the important stories of the Girls of The Hallahan High!

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

[Signature]

Mary Anne Cole Steen  
\[71\]
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

RE: 311 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten Name]

[Handwritten Name]
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
Dear Mr. Farnham:

Thank you for considering John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School historic application.

I just want to ask you, how can building with so many names of women inscribed on the building not be preserved?

These selected names, I am sure were chosen very carefully to stand the test of time.

Saint Cecilia patron of Music
Saint Helena foundress of churches Saint Brigid of Ireland
First Woman educator Saint Gertrude lover of books
Saint Margaret of Scotland promoter of Christianity
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary devoted to the poor
Joan of Arc Saint
Patriot Isabella of Castile
Friends of Columbus Vittoria Colonnade
Patron of art Saint Teresa
Seraph of Spain Margaret Roper
Model daughter Saint Rose of Lima
Rose of the Southern Cross Katerina Tekawitha Lily of the Mohawks

This history of this school is more than a landmark, it is an institution that should be honored and preserved for educating over 37,0000 women. Mary McMichan was a pioneer and John W. Hallahan Catholic School building, deserves to remain standing tall as a representation of ALL the woman fortunate to receive an education from Hallahan.

Alma Mater Glorify,

Nancy Meier - '78
Francine Meier - '73
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I support the plea to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School (herein referred to as Hallahan) buildings to be designated as historic.

Hallahan's building was designed by one of Philadelphia's leading architects of ecclesiastical buildings. The firm of Ballinger 7 Perrot. In addition to Hallahan's building, they designed numerous Roman catholic, Methodist Episcopal churches 7 parish schools and were a major influence of the architectural landscape of this city. Perrot left behind a large collection of work including buildings at Georgetown University, Fordham University, St. Joseph's College, Immaculata College and Good Counsel College as well as numerous other churches and affiliated buildings.

Hallahan is one of the oldest building in the neighborhood that still functions in its original capacity - to educate women. There are very few buildings and monuments dedicated to exclusively honor women.

I ask that the Commission approve Hallahan's application to the registry.

Thank you.

[Handwritten signatures]
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School being designated as a historic building.

How long do you think it will take the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to sell that building? How long do you think it will take the new buyer to secure a permit to tear it down?

We all realize that building is prime real estate and worth a lot of money. I am asking that you please safeguard its history and allow that magnificent building to remain standing forever!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kathy Smith
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be designated historic. As a building that has a cornerstone from the Pope himself, flown in from Rome, and over a 100 years of history this building deserves to be designated as historic. Please protect the legacy of Mary McMichan and the Hallahan Family.

My request is being submitted as a life-long resident of Philadelphia.

Thank you,

[Signature]

[Handwritten signatures]
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School—Historic Designation Nomination

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am a graduate of Roman Catholic High School, (Roman) as you know John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School (Hallahan) is our sister school.

Collectively Roman and Hallahan schools initiated a diocesan high school system that became a model throughout the nation! Roman and Hallahan were both established by individuals who wanted to see Catholic education available for all, not just the rich.

Both were and are composed of a diverse student body that drew from every section of Philadelphia, including the surrounding counties. Both the buildings and the opportunity for education have impacted Center City’s landscape and economic growth.

There is a life-long bond between Roman and Hallahan. You can’t mention Hallahan, without thinking or mentioning Roman or visa versa.

As Roman was designated historic in 1986, it only makes sense that Hallahan now joins them!

So, please consider adding Hallahan to the list of Philadelphia Historical Buildings.

Thank you,

[Signature]
June 5, 2021

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I was fortunate enough to attend John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool (a/k/a Hallahan) and experience first hand a Catholic Education and a sisterhood. I was very active in the athletic program and always proud to put on my team uniforms.

I currently have a daughter in Hallahan and one that is incredibly sad, she will never get to experience being a “Hallahan Girl”.

Our brother school, Roman Catholic High School (a/k/a Roman) has the same history as us, first All Boys Catholic High School, they have been designated historic from 1986. We deserve the same respect!

Roman and Hallahan were both the first Diocesan High Schools in the Nation to offer Catholic Education which was only available at private institutions for the wealthier families. Both schools not only are housed by magnificent buildings, but also set the precedence for the standards of the Catholic Education for the entire nation. The closing of Hallahan High School greatly effects Catholic Education in the City of Philadelphia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the numbers HALLAHAN</th>
<th>By the numbers ROMAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96% Hallahan Graduates pursue higher education</td>
<td>96% Roman Graduates attend Post-secondary institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student to teacher ratiion</td>
<td>Student to teacher ratiion</td>
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<td>20:1</td>
<td>22:1</td>
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<td>Received in college grants and scholarships</td>
<td>Received in college grants and scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced placement courses</td>
<td>Advanced placement courses</td>
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Hallahan is a century old building in the neighborhood that retains its original purpose - to educate women. It deservingly sits in one of the most beautiful sections of the City. It is surrounded by beautifully, crafted buildings such as the Philadelphia Free Library, the Swann Memorial Fountain, the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and numerous others. I can't imagine walking through Fairmount and Hallahan's famous building, not standing there in all its glory.

Please, protect a significant landmark of our beautiful City.

Yours in faith,

Josie Owens Egrich
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I support the plea to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School (a/k/a Hallahan) buildings to be designated as historic.

Ballinger & Perrot were the architectures, who designed numerous Roman Catholic churches and schools in the City of Philadelphia.

Hallahan is one of the oldest building in the neighborhood that still functions in its original capacity – to educate women. There are very few buildings or memorials dedicated to honoring women.

I respectfully request that the Commission approve Hallahan's application to the registry.

Thank you.

[Signature]
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am sure, I am not the only one outraged by the closing of John W. Hallahan High School. When Reverend John W. Shanahan realized there was a need for an All Girls Catholic High School in Center City Philadelphia. Mary McMichan provided that school Hallahan High School and the Catholic Education system for girl’s rests upon her vision, sacrifice and generosity of our founder.

I am offering my support that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool be enrolled as an Historic building in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Truly,

[Signature]

GARY MCKEE
To whom it may concern,

I would like to add my support to the efforts to have John W. Hallahan designated as a Historical landmark in Philadelphia.

As women were longing to obtain equality of opportunity with men, and with the generosity from Mary McMichan, this opportunity was finally offered.

Today, there are few monuments to women, but Hallahan’s building has displayed and honored them for over 110 years. The names of women of courage such as Kateri Tekakwitha and Joan of Arc, are etched in the buildings, and if you take the time to “Google” these names, each tells a fascinating story.

Hallahan is one of the oldest buildings in Fairmount. Not only is the building itself a testament to architecture. The interior of the building has over 110 years of tradition. It is evident from the outpouring of support by its students, alumnae members and their families it holds a special place in many hearts for over a century.

Thank you for considering my request,

Maureen Stierer
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

**RE: 311 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street**

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated as a historic building.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Elizabeth Ann Metz
June 5, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street · 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

RE: 311 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated as a historic building. Please protect the legacy!

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Abigail M. Steinmetz
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be designated historic. As a building that has a cornerstone from the Pope himself, flown in from Rome, and over a 100 years of history this building deserves to be designated as historic. Please protect it.

My request is being submitted as a life-long resident of Philadelphia.

Thank you,

[Signatures]
June 6, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School—historic designation

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am a graduate of Roman Catholic High School, as you know John W. Hallahan is our sister school.

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School nomination to be designated as an historic building. Roman Catholic’s building was designated historic in 1986. Hallahan’s building is owed the same nomination.

Thank you,

[Virginia McCormick]
June 7, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
preservation@phila.gov and friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

RE: Save Hallahan Building

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, is not only a special place to it’s graduates, but the offers significant value to our City.

The endowment from Mary McMichan changed lives forever. I am sure she did not truly comprehend the impact of her donation would provide an education over 40,000 women.

This extremely detailed and thought-out designed building, should remain in tack as is for another 100 years.

I am hereby requesting John W. Hallahan High School be designated at historic forever preserving these memories of the Girls of The Hallahan High!

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

[Signature]

Ryan Wengert
June 7, 2021

Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director  
Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Farnham:

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School offered a Catholic Education for over 39,000 lucky graduates. Mary Hallahan McMichan, changed the lives of so many. As the first Diocesan All-Girls' Catholic High School in the Nation - it was a game changer. The closing of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School will greatly affect the teachings of a Catholic Education in Center City.  
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School is over 110 years old. It belongs exactly where it is, with no changes. Hoping you make the right decision and protect this pioneering structure forever.

Yours,

[Signature]

Joe Carroll
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Farnham:

By copy of this letter, I fully support the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls building designated as an historic designation. As the 1st Catholic Girls High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be a landmark and designated historic for many more to see.

Mary McMican supported women's education and over 38,000 were blessed by her generosity. Mary McMican was a kind remarkable woman with a mission.

It is a calamitous loss for the City of Philadelphia on both an education standpoint and historical landscape.

I am submitting this request as a concerned citizen of Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
# SIGNATURES NEEDED

**Nomination of Historic Building to the Philadelphia Historical Commission**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Nitted</td>
<td>6741 Orthodox St 19137</td>
<td>Raman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Cunningham</td>
<td>228 Peabody Street</td>
<td>Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanne Abel</td>
<td>353 Daylily Way</td>
<td>Joanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geraldine Bukowski</td>
<td>353 Daylily Way</td>
<td>Geraldine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Abel</td>
<td>2750 S. Cleveland St</td>
<td>Susan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Rogers</td>
<td>860 Central Ave, Columbia, NJ</td>
<td>Kimberly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Lagacki</td>
<td>3040 Miller St Pk 19134</td>
<td>Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Barnes</td>
<td>3040 Miller St Pk 19134</td>
<td>Tara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Lagacki</td>
<td>8404 Allegheny Ave Pk 19134</td>
<td>Colleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Timma</td>
<td>4 Hemlock Dr, Blackwood NJ</td>
<td>Kathleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Johnston</td>
<td>2517 Tilgham St 19112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meg Kelly</td>
<td>638 E. Somerseat St 19134</td>
<td>Meg</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Market</td>
<td>2569 E Cleffield</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin McCormick</td>
<td>3847 Constance Road</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sessions</td>
<td>2124 Sergeant St</td>
<td>John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Reilly</td>
<td>2350 E Pifth St</td>
<td>Ashley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Macdick</td>
<td>9835 Peatt St</td>
<td>Tim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Kub</td>
<td>4435 Richmond St</td>
<td>Chris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa DeCosta</td>
<td>1522 Finch Drive, Blackwood</td>
<td>Melissa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Dr. Jon Farnham
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Dr. Farnham:

J.W. Hallahan C.G.H.S., 311 N. 19th Street

Hallahan was the unique, the original, the first Catholic Girls High School in our nation. It set the example of post-grade school education for young women from families of moderate means.

Fittingly, the beginning centered around a key woman. Mrs. Mary McMeikan graciously offered the funds to build the school in memory of her beloved brother for whom it was named.

Early in its history and for decades Hallahan existed and functioned through the holiness and joyful generosity,
of five orders of religious sisters. They cooperatively divided the academics and other activities seamlessly among the different orders. Later, dedicated lay teachers joined the picture.

Down through the years, regardless of the size of the student body, Hallehen's graduates earned millions of dollars worth in competitive scholarships to colleges and universities.

Further, numerous businesses called our teachers every spring and asked them to send graduates to be to apply for employment with their firms. I was one of those girls. I easily got the job, along with another classmate. The bosses told us quite seriously, "We only want Hallehen girls."

Recently I heard the school administration had arranged for a number of
upperclass students to earn college credits at Philadelphia Community College in advance of high school graduation.

All this while still welcoming girls from families with very moderate means.

So much good, for so many years, now shut down.

It is an added sadness to ponder altering, defacing, or destroying this building. This would seem to erase the physical testimony of what happened there. The Hallehan successful model and the students' deep affection for everything Hallehan would be only a transitory memory of those who lived it.

I am asking respectfully that you designate the Hallehan School building as an historical site to be preserved.

Sincerely yours,

Regina V. Gillard '55