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Account of Sister Magdalen Pancratius about Life at Carthage

Sister Magdalen Pancratius
Sisters of the Good Shepherd

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March 1951

Account given by Sr. Mgd. Pancratius
nonagenarian at the Contemplatives'
Monastery - Carthage.

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The Carpenter shop and little cot-
tage (since then razed) were the only
buildings on the place when Sr. Pan-
cratius entered here. The front of
the cottage was used as a music room.
Anastasia Walz was the music teacher
there. The barns, pigsty were right
behind the cottage.

At that time the Mothers came out ev-
ery day from the city, arriving in
the morning and leaving about 5 P.M.
Sister recalls a Mother Sacred Heart
and a man who was said to be her step-
father (name Mac something) was in
charge of the "farm".

The first building erected was the
Novitiate building. The lower floor
was used as a boarding school - and
upstairs was the chapel. The Mothers'
Community Room was where the carpenter
shop is now. The Community Building
was then built - what is now the recep-
tion room - was the Mothers' Community-
room; the room which opens off the
porch (there was no porch then) was
Mother Superior's office. The Mothers'
sleeping quarters were on 2nd floor ab-
ove Reception Room. The space between
that bldg. and the novitiate was grass
plot - no building connecting as now.

The next building erected was that where the Mothers' library is, extending to where the laundry building is now. The extreme end was used by the White Preservates, the middle part was the Sisters' Magdalens. The extreme end of the Mothers' building was the chapel which was transferred from Novitiate bldg. when the Mothers' building was completed. The chapel was divided so as to have sections for Mothers-Magdalens Colored children & white children. The seculars used the part that is now the little kitchen off the guest dining room, and the part of hall leading to stairway. The same stairs were used by seculars. The Chaplain's apartment was where guest bed-room & the Oratory sacristy are now. The parlors were below present community room - the Bishop's guestroom was that room under dentist room. The Mothers' parlor was the room now used for store-room. The children's parlor was under present Priests' Dining-room. (now Angel Guardian parlor).

A new house was needed for the Colored children and friends sponsored performance downtown hall to raise funds. Lillie and Daisy McGee and Benedict all of the St. Peter Claver group were beautiful singers and took part in the program. 1904 Benedict - Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas (Colored children's Mistress feast-day_ singing was so heavenly that the Reverend celebrant - Fr. Moore - paused at the altar during Mass to drink in its beauty. Sr. also mentioned Margaret Mary Smith - colored organist.

2 - history of buildings cont'd.
by comments of Sr. Pancratius, S.Mgd/

(She entered religion but did not persevere. Understand she is still living).

Next was the Laundry building. Mother Theresa Maybury's estate paid for part of this.

Then the "stone" part of the building now housing canning kitchen (later multi-purpose room) was built. This was the Mothers' kitchen, then later the 2nd storey was added for the Mothers' refectory. (now 1968 this upper section is remodelled into sleeping quarters for G.S. Shepherd Sisters).

CE
Saint Mary Magdalen's Class included some young children - as young as 9 years old (Collette) Margaret Mary; Angela) the latter entered Sisters of Mercy.)