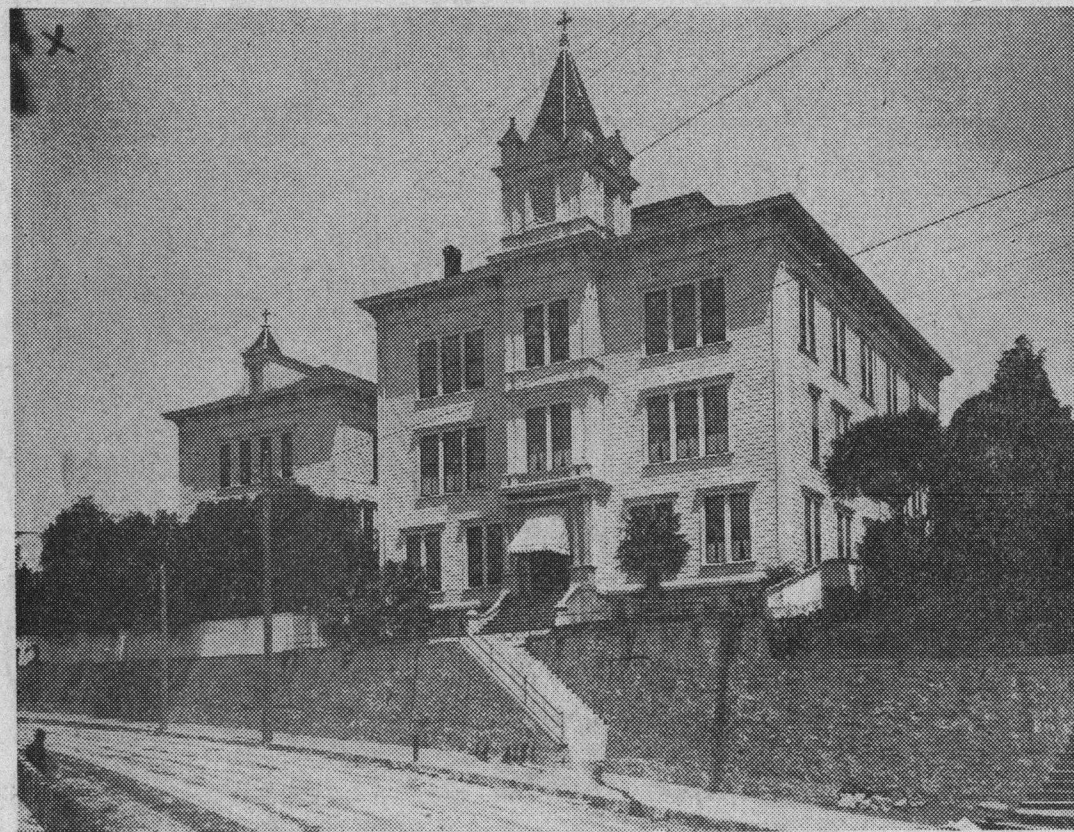




Christian Brothers boys' school was first established in a building located near the site of today's Santa Cruz Mission.

Later it was moved to the area west of Holy Cross church, as this picture from the Roy Boekennoogen collection shows. It included a dormitory, school

and Montgomery hall, former Methodist building which was moved and converted to a gymnasium and social hall.



Holy Cross school, graduating its 100th class today, served as orphanage, boarding and day school when it was located in these buildings "on the hill."

First established in 1862 in a nearby adobe, the school first moved into the building on the left which was built in 1865. In 1890 the three-story building

on the right was erected. The stone retaining wall along Mission street was completed the same year. Picture from the Roy Boekennoogen collection.

Holy Cross Graduates Its 100th Class Today

Holy Cross school today is graduating its 100th batch of young people — both eighth graders and high school students.

The 61 members of the eighth grade will receive diplomas at 9 a.m. at Holy Cross church; the 32 high school seniors will receive theirs at commencement exercises at the church at 3 p.m. that same day. Officiating will be the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William MacLoughlin, of Holy Cross church.

There has been a Catholic school "on the hill" since 1862 when Sisters of Charity came from Emmitsburg, Md., by way of muleback across the Isthmus of Panama to found it.

Headed by Sister Corsina, the nuns set up their school in an adobe which had formerly served as jail and hotel. It stood about at the corner of Emmet and School streets, near the site of today's new Holy Cross grammar school.

In 1862 the school served as orphanage, boarding home and day school, with more than 90 students.

In 1865 a new wooden school building was constructed near the brow of Mission Hill, where the present grammar school playground is today. In 1890 a second, much larger wooden building went up next to it. Both frame buildings faced Mission street hill, and the stone retaining wall and entrance steps were completed the same year.

In 1926 the present stucco high school (and junior high) building was put up; it also housed the grammar school in those days. The old wooden buildings on Mission hill stood vacant except for a brief time when they served as barracks for Mexican laborers, imported to "save the crops," during wartime.

In 1943 the Dominican Sisters arrived from Adrian, Mich., to take over the work of teaching in the stucco school on High street. The following year the old wooden structures were dismantled, with fixtures and redwood timbers going for salvage.

And in 1958 the present Holy Cross elementary school was constructed at the corner of Emmet and School streets, back near the site of the first jail-hotel-school adobe.

But Holy Cross school "on the hill" is not the only Catholic school that was founded in Santa Cruz. The Christian Brothers Order founded a school in the early 1890's; one authority places it as 1891. But a Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel of 1893 says: "Father Hugh McNamee contemplates renewing his efforts next year to have the unoccupied wooden church converted into a Catholic college for

boys, in charge of the Christian Brothers . . ."

(The old wooden church stood idle after the present brick sanctuary was completed in 1889).

The boy's school was established—first in a building which stood near the location of the Mission today—then the school was moved to the lot west of the present church, approximately where Holy Cross high stands today. The school consisted of a square frame house which served as dormitory, the school building, and Montgomery hall. The hall, which served as gymnasium, was a former

Methodist church building sold to the Catholic church in 1902 and moved from its original location at the corner of Green and Mission streets.

One local authority says that the outgrown church building never was used for the boys' school.

But even the Christian Brothers school does not complete the story of Holy Cross schools "on the hill" in Santa Cruz.

Historians might go back to May 19, 1794, when old Santa Cruz Mission was completed. Franciscan Fathers were the first teachers. Costanoan Indians were the first students.

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