



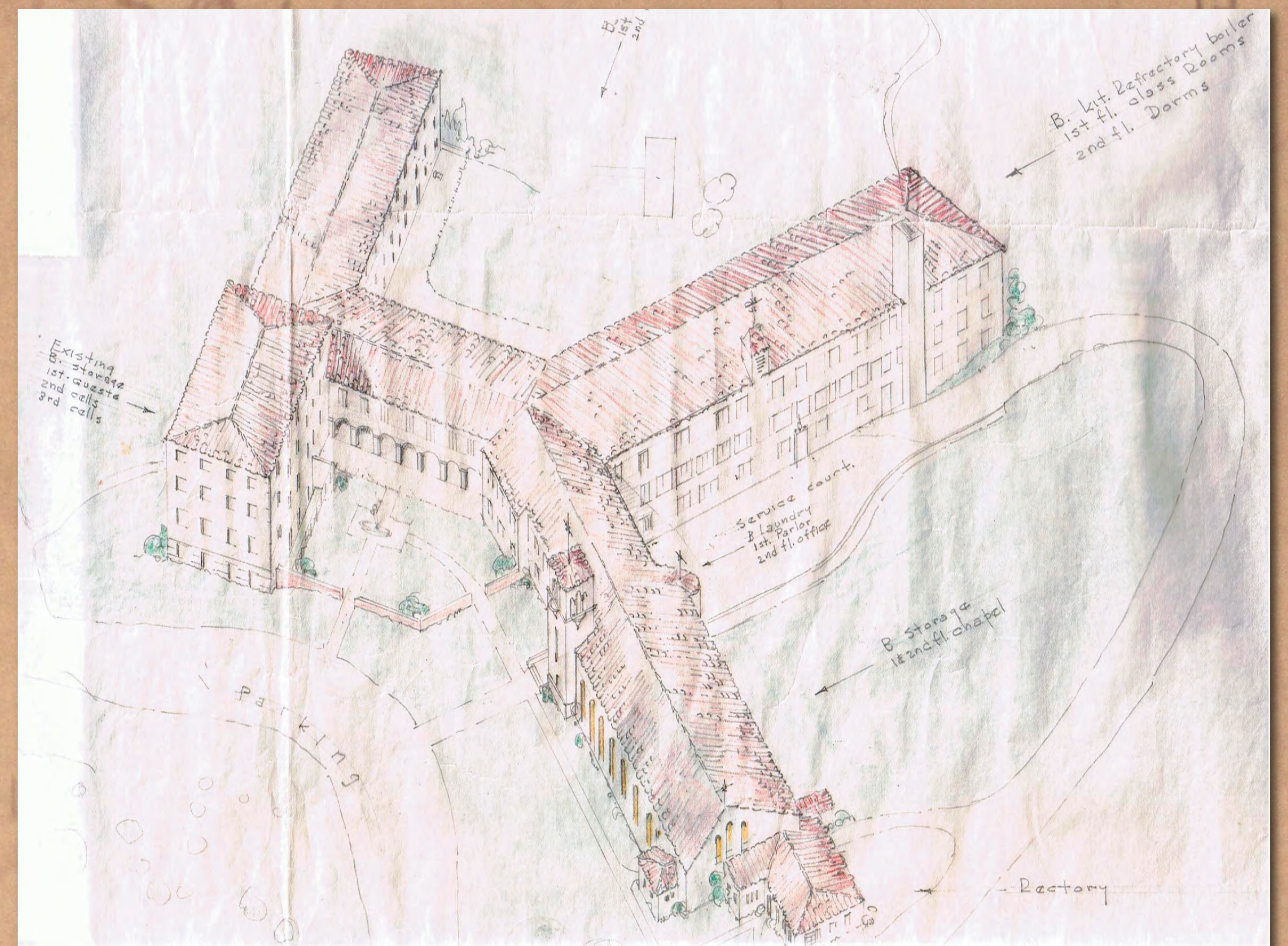
As their numbers and ministries soared, the Sisters at Marycrest found their facilities woefully inadequate. In 1947 the Sisters commissioned renowned Denver



Colorado and Its People (1948)/Public Domain

Architect John K. Monroe.

architect John K. Monroe to design a new Motherhouse. He envisioned an ornate edifice with a large, east-facing chapel. The dormitory wing was designed to house ten professed Sisters, six novices, and four postulants, leaving plenty of space for additional young women interested in becoming nuns.



John F. Connell, "Sketch of Motherhouse Addition," November 1955

Architect John F. Connell's early sketches for the Motherhouse addition included both a three-story wing to the east and a chapel extending southward. The Motherhouse was ultimately constructed with a single-story wing to the east and no chapel wing.

On January 20, 1953, construction began on the three-story dormitory wing. The remainder of the Motherhouse was constructed in 1958 from plans by architect John F. Connell, largely based on Monroe's original concept. Connell suggested the Chapel wing be added later, but it was never completed. Another notable difference was the location of the belfry. Monroe envisioned it centered on the façade of the Chapel; Connell wanted it on the west side of the Chapel wing. It was ultimately constructed at the northwest corner of the central entry bay. The Marycrest Motherhouse was dedicated on November 26, 1958.



Mary Therese Anstey/Historitecture

In honor of the 750th anniversary of the death of St. Francis, the Sisters commissioned Brother Mel Meyer to remodel the Motherhouse Chapel. Brother Mel was a member of the Marianist Order and a trained architect and artist. Completed in 1976, his scheme featured "Mod" frescos and furnishings, and fixtures of "rusted steel, welded scrap metal, and hammered ammunition shells."