

# House of Mercy

Zachary Burt, DC Preservation League

March 19, 2024 | ANC 1D Monthly Public Meeting



# House of Mercy

- 2000 Rosemount Avenue NW
- Square 2618 | Lot 811
- Mount Pleasant Historic District
- Submitted to HPO: June 2023
- *Planned HPRB Hearing: April 2024*



Map from the Office of Planning

# Background

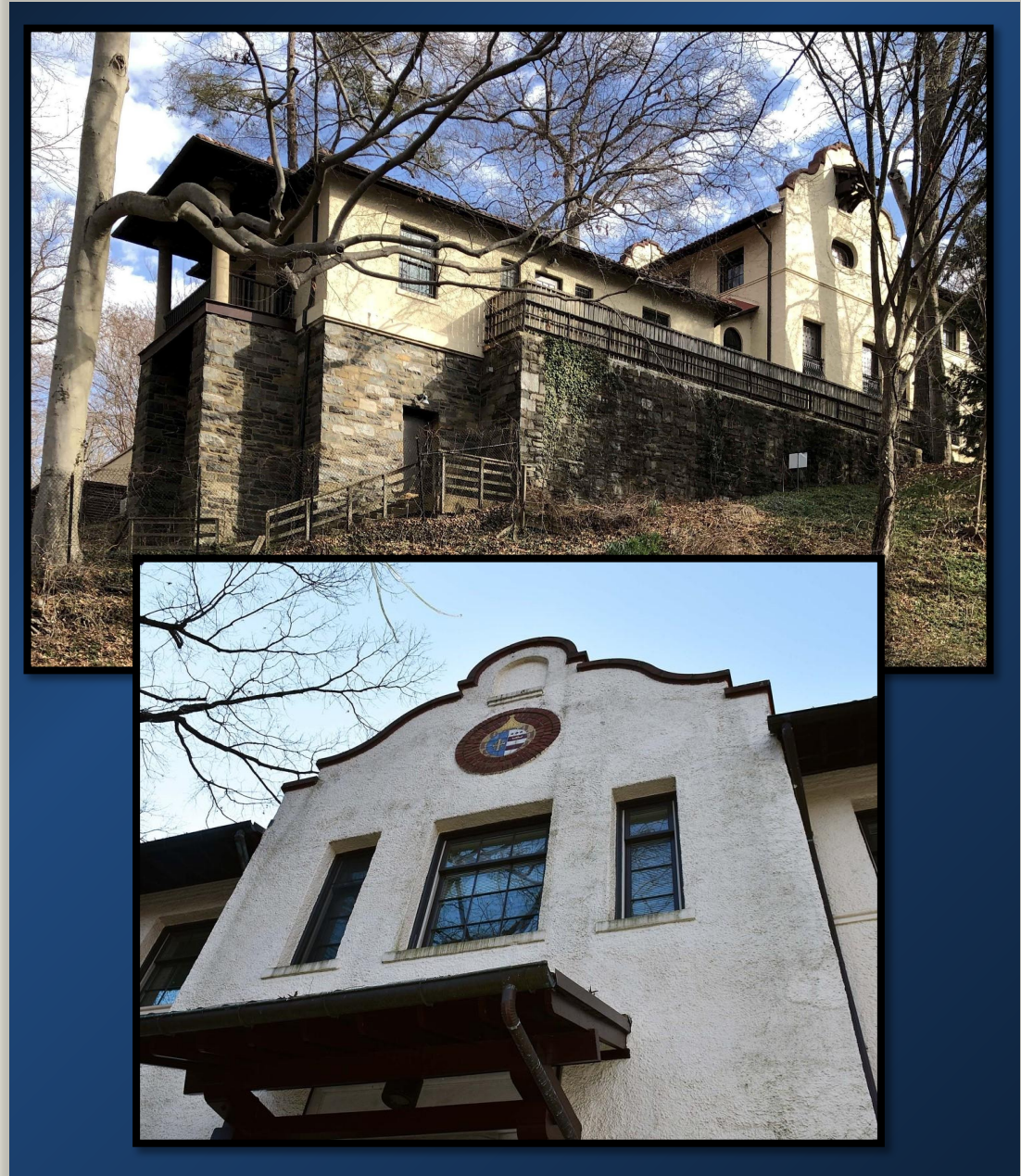
- **Architect: Nathan C. Wyeth**
  - Attended École des Beaux Arts
  - DC Municipal Architect (1933-45)
- **Builder: Charles A. Langley**
- **Date of Construction: 1911**
  - Renovation and Addition in 2005
- **Style: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival**
- **Strong physical integrity (exterior)**
- **Setting: “Sanctuary” in forested landscape at the edge of Rock Creek Valley**



Ca. 1955, Photo by George Kalec  
Courtesy of Rosemount Center Archives

# Significance

- **Period of Significance: 1911 – 1972**
  - Corresponds with House of Mercy
  - Rosemount Center established in 1972
- **National Register Significance**
  - Criteria A (History/Events) and C (Architecture)
  - Social History, Education, Architecture, and Health/Medicine



# House of Mercy History

- **19<sup>th</sup> Century Rural Estate Prior to House of Mercy**
- **1884 – Episcopal Diocese of Washington established the Association for the Works of Mercy (House of Mercy) in Foggy Bottom; by the following year, 29 women (to 40 years old) and 15 babies were supported**
- **More space needed... 1910 – Cassie Meyer James purchased and donated the Rosemount Avenue NW property to House of Mercy; she also gave money for construction (and determined the architectural style)**
- **1911 – New building on Rosemount Avenue completed**
- Over time, the mission shifted to assisting unwed mothers and their children; however, this type of facility would eventually become obsolete and admission would drop
- **1972 – House of Mercy closed and reopened as Rosemount Infant Day Care Center (El Centro Rosemount)**



Photos Courtesy of Rosemount Center Archives



# Thank You!



**Zachary Burt, DC Preservation League**  
zach@dcpreservation.org

