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Salve Regina College Purchases "Wakehurst" Former Van Allen Estate, October 1, 1972

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALVE REGINA COLLEGE
PURCHASES "WAKEHURST"
FORMER VAN ALLEN ESTATE

Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., president of Salve Regina College, announced today the acquisition of "Wakehurst," former Van Alen estate, located in the heart of the present College campus in Newport, Rhode Island.

"Our plans for future expansion can more easily be fulfilled," said the president of the 25-year-old liberal arts college for women, "with the acquisition of 'Wakehurst' and the 13 1/2 acres of land which make up the total estate."

Negotiations have been underway for some months, and Salve Regina, with its previous sales, ("Belmead," known as "Queen Hall" and the former Elisha Dyer residence, known as "St. Joseph's Hall") has, in fact, exchanged two other pieces of property for the former Van Alen estate.

"We recognize the tax loss to the city of Newport as a result of the tax exemption Salve Regina enjoys under its charter, whenever the College acquires additional land and buildings," said Jeremiah C. Lynch, Jr. Mr. Lynch is a member of the Salve Regina Board of Trustees and the law firm of Moore, Virgidamo, Boyle and Lynch, in whose office the deed was transferred at 10:00 a.m. today (Thursday, October 5, 1972).

"What the College in fact, has done, is replace two pieces of prime property with one - - - the one which allows the College to consolidate its ocean-front campus. This was one of the primary reasons the College disposed of other property, in September," Mr. Lynch concluded.

The purchase of "Wakehurst," through the United States Trust Company of New York, trustee under the will of James Lauren Van Alen, does, in fact, consolidate the College holdings. "Wakehurst" is literally encircled by the present Salve Regina campus, from Miley Hall on Narragansett Avenue, to Ochre Court, (the former Ogden Goelet estate), Angelus and McAuley Halls (the former Eurden estate), O'Hare Academic Center (also on the original Eurden property), Moore Hall (gift of the late Cornelius C. Moore),

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Salve Regina's shipping and receiving center (the former stables of "Chateau-sur-Mer," the Wetmore estate), Creative Arts Center (formerly Ochre Court stables), and two units of faculty housing, which are backed by the "Wakehurst" gardens.

"Under consideration is the possibility of disposing of other properties not presently required for the operation of the College," Sister Mary Christopher continued, "particularly in the light of the 'Wakehurst' purchase. "Since adopting the policy of allowing off-campus living, we are not in need of as much dormitory space."

The Board of Trustees at Salve Regina, in 1970, approved off-campus living for college Seniors who choose apartment accommodations in town, instead of dormitory life.

Present plans for "Wakehurst," home of the Van Alen family since before the turn of the century, are still in the making and for this reason, the College president and Board of Trustees do not wish to announce further plans for expansion until the close of the academic semester.

"Rest assured that our future use of this beautiful estate will be in the best interests of higher education, our expanding student-centered curriculum and the community at large," Sister Mary Christopher re-stated.

"Open House" at "Wakehurst" is planned for the weekend of October 13 to 15, when an American Art Exhibit, a portion of Salve Regina's Creative Arts Weekend, will take place on the first floor of the English Tudor mansion.

"We hope," said Sister Mary Christopher, "that Newporters in particular, as well as other interested persons from throughout New England, will avail themselves of the opportunity to visit 'Wakehurst' during this first public opening."

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