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## Hayes-Healy Center of DePaul University

<b>Address:</b>	940 West Belden Avenue (North of the 900 block of West Belden Avenue on the Lincoln Park Campus of DePaul University)
<b>Date:</b>	1929
<b>Style:</b>	Gothic
<b>CHRS Rating:</b>	Orange
<b>National Register:</b>	Not Listed
<b>Architect:</b>	Dwight G. Wallace

### Threat:

The impending reconstruction of the CTA's Brown Line will require a platform extension at the Fullerton El Station to extend partially onto the footprint of the Hayes-Healy Center. For the past four years, Preservation Chicago has opposed the plans by the CTA and by DePaul University.

When DePaul University purchased the gymnasium and surrounding buildings in 1976, the Rev. John J. Courtelyou, head of DePaul University, spoke about the newly acquired buildings. He stated to the McCormick Theological Seminary leaders, "We assure them that the objectives they had in the disposition of the property are the same as those cherished by the University, namely, the preservation of the dignity and quality of the area."

Yet now, in 2005, DePaul is seeking to demolish the Hayes-Healy Center, reportedly planning to use part of the Hayes-Healy footprint to construct a parking garage or new dormitory. The opportunity for DePaul to demolish the building has been provided by the flawed plan for the Fullerton El platform.

Preservation Chicago asks that the facade of the Hayes-Healy Center be retained in situ to be incorporated into the platform base or a new structure. Alternatively, the technology certainly exists to relocate the building in whole or in sections. The Gothic character of the building should continue for the next 100 years to enhance the experience of DePaul students and passersby who live in the surrounding community.

*HAYES-HEALY CENTER OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY (Continued from previous page)*

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**Fulfillment of Landmark Criteria****Integrity:**

The Hayes-Healy Center exterior is 100 per cent intact, due to its solid limestone construction. The interior has been altered and could be reshaped to meet future needs.

**Significant Architect:**

Dwight G. Wallace, the architect of the Hayes-Healy Center served as architect for college buildings elsewhere in the Midwest, while also serving as architect for churches and other institutional buildings.

**Significant Architecture:**

The Collegiate Gothic Style was heavily used in the United States from 1900 through 1930. This style was intended to bring beauty to college campuses along with a sense of tradition and permanence. The marketing of campuses to prospective students had become dependent on providing an inspiring architectural environment. The Hayes-Healy building was constructed as part of a "Gothic Quadrangle" with the counterpart of the Hayes-Healy Center being the Collegiate Gothic structure that still stands across the open space of Wish Field. This other structure, the counterpart to the Hayes-Healy Center, is now known as the Cortelyou Commons building.

**Critical Part of the City's Heritage:**

Seminary students from all over the country have played sports in the gymnasium. The first chaplain to be killed in World War II had attended the seminary and likely pursued activities in the gymnasium. At the close of World War II, veterans who crowded the classrooms of the McCormick Theological Seminary engaged in spirited sporting competitions in the gymnasium against sometimes much younger non-veteran students. In 1976, DePaul University purchased the gymnasium and other buildings from the McCormick Theological Seminary, which then moved south to Hyde Park. The building was later renamed the Hayes-Healy Center of DePaul University.

**Unique Visible Feature:**

The monumental central part of the Hayes-Healy Center, with its paired gothic towers, is perhaps the building's grandest element. The impact of limestone Collegiate Gothic architecture cannot be overstated, especially when so much of the DePaul University campus has undergone demolition and redevelopment over the past 40 years.

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