

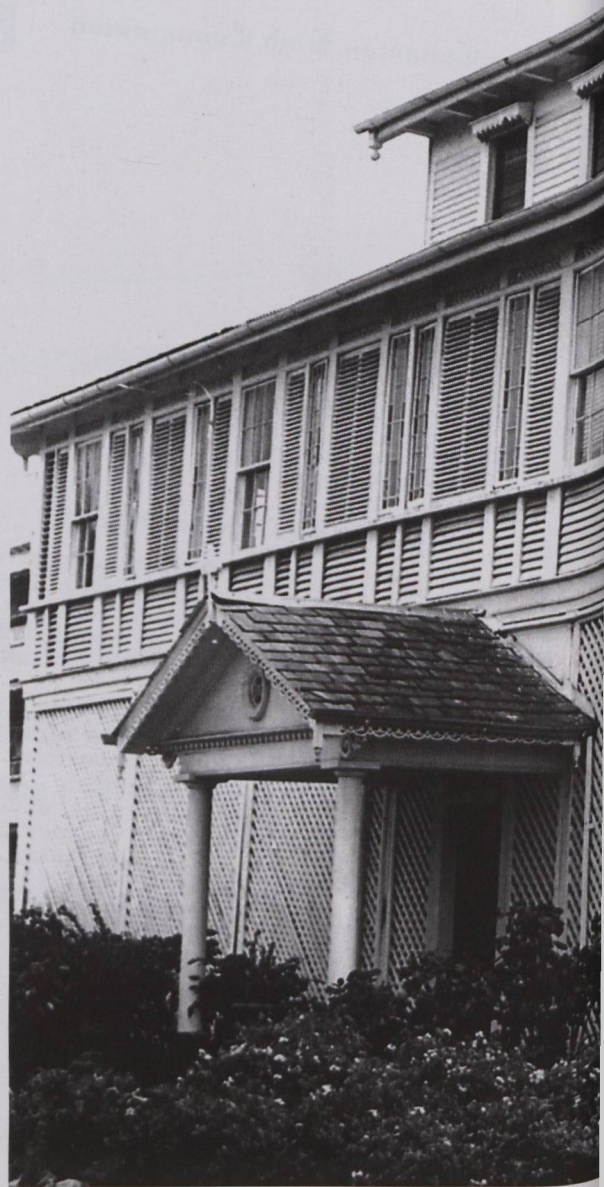
valued at \$40,000.

On September 3, 1949, architect Mr. Carl McCowan applied to the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA), on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, "...to convert 61-62 High Street into dwelling and sleeping accommodations for the Sisters with a temporary chapel therein" and on lot W 1/2 98 Duke Street to erect a two-storey wing for sleeping rooms, semi-detached from 61-62 High Street, reserving room for the construction of a proper chapel at a later date.

However, Mr. McCowan's plan for the chapel did not find favour with the Sisters. Instead, they decided to dismantle the old chapel in Charlestown and rebuild it on the new site. In fact, much of the vacated Charlestown building was taken apart and reused in the construction of the new convent.

According to Menezes (1992: 3), it was "due to the expertise of the workers of John Fernandes Ltd. that the Chapel was dismantled and relocated in Kingston. Each board was carefully marked; it was truly a work of art". And although the Sisters were pleased with the rebuilt chapel, it is obvious from his letters that architect Mr. McCowan was not. His letter of January 9, 1950 to the City Engineer disclosed that he did not think that either the rebuilt chapel or the 61-62 High Street building held much architectural interest. He wrote that "it is proposed at some future date to replace these two buildings by a group of more imposing structures of some architectural merit" (Ibid:3).

The land transfer was approved in 1949 and by 1951 the Sisters had full occupation of the former Camacho and De Freitas properties. 61-62 High & Young Street and 97-98 Duke Street were now home to the Sisters of Mercy Convent and, somewhat later after they had settled, to the Stella



ABOVE: MAIN REFECTORY BUILDING at the corners of High & Young Sts. - view from north/west of garden.