

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area

G-6-30

G-6-26

G-6-25

Area letter

233

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

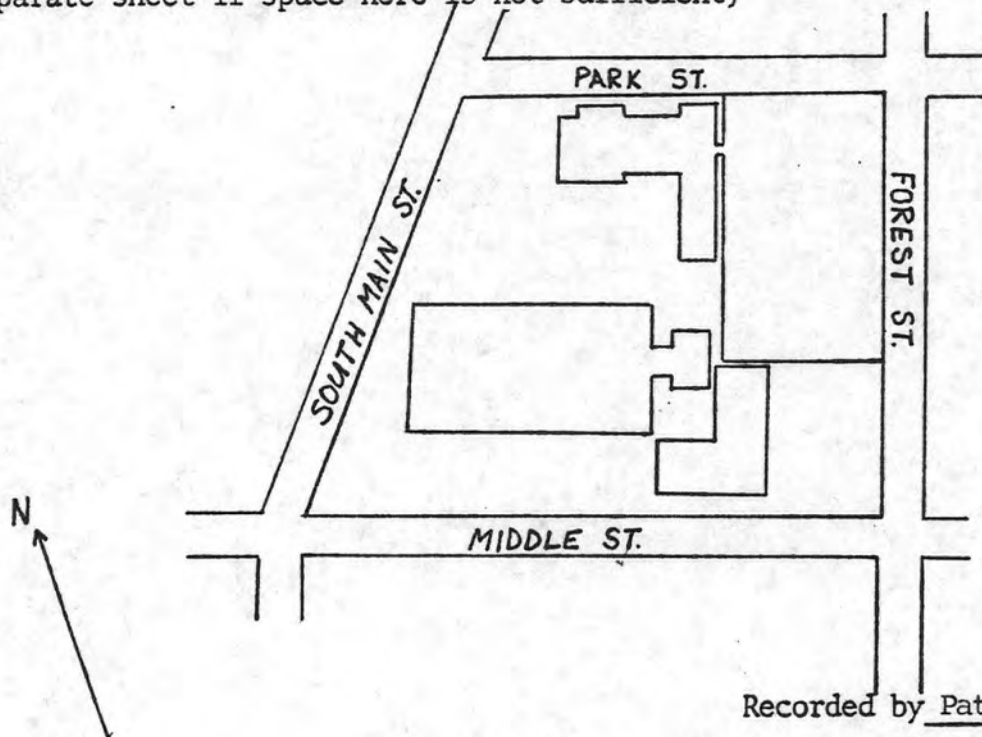
Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) St. Anne's Church

and Parish Complex

General date or period 1891-1905

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Pat Giza/Pam Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 4/12/82

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Magnificently located facing Kennedy Park, St. Anne's Church stands proudly as a masterpiece of architecture and a lasting tribute to the generations of immigrants from French Canada who built it.

The idea of erecting a monumental church as a shrine to St. Anne was conceived by the church's fourth pastor, Father Bernard Sauval, in 1891. Plans were drawn by Napoleon Bourassa, one of Canada's finest architects, with the execution entrusted to the prominent Fall River architect Louis Destremps, the designer of Notre Dame Church. The basement was built and the first Mass celebrated there in 1895. Construction was halted for many years, as church authorities feared that a marble church would burden the parish with debt. In 1902 permission was granted, and the upper church was dedicated in 1906.

The twin onion domes, unusual French Baroque style, and use of blue Vermont marble (cont'd)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

St. Anne's church is historically significant as the first French parish in Fall River and one of the city's major religious shrines.

The parish was established in 1869 with Father Adrien de Montaubricq of Bordeaux, France as first pastor. A chapel was erected in 1870 and was soon replaced by a larger church located at the corner of Hunter and Hope Streets. In the early years the parish numbered between 500 and 600 families, generally immigrants from Quebec who began coming to Fall River in the 1860's to work in the mills. This migration continued up to the turn of the century until Fall River had attracted the largest concentration of French Canadians in the United States.

St. Anne's was taken over by the Dominican Fathers in 1887 and the second Dominican pastor, Father Sauval (1891-1901), decided to build a spacious new church as a national shrine for pilgrims. Even before the new church was built, he set out to organize and promote pilgrimages, the first of which was held on the feast day of St. Anne, July 26, in 1892 and attracted more than 1000 worshipers. Under the direction of Father Grolleau (1901-1908) the upper church and adjoining rectory were completed.

Among the other important church figures was Father Vincent Marchildon, who spent nearly 60 years at St. Anne's as curate and assistant pastor and was noted for his kindness and devotion to the poor and suffering. ✓

As a shrine, St. Anne's is considered to be a privileged center of divine favors, a special place where God favors those who come from great distances to pray. (cont'd)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fall River Office of Historic Preservation-Inventory Forms

"St. Anne's Church and Shrine," pamphlet produced in cooperation with the Bristol County Development Council

Fall River Chamber of Commerce Review, feature article, July 1969

Rose Marie Texeira, "Romanesque Architecture and St. Anne's Church and Shrine" (student report)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

G-6-30

G-6-26

G-6-25

Property Name: St. Anne's Church
and Parish Complex

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

on a base of local granite make St. Anne's unique and outstanding among Fall River churches. The towers stand 155' high and the facade displays marble figures of St. Anne in the upper niche and the Good Shepherd just above the center doors. The nave measures 273'x90', with 120' in the transepts. The apse has an ambulatory with five chapels. The walls of the nave have rounded arches supported with marble corinthian columns. Due to limited funds the original windows were not stained glass but were recently replaced with stained glass versions. The pews and ornamentations in the ceiling are of red oak. The upper church, with choir loft and balconies, can seat 1600.

The 2½-story rectory, which is of the same materials as the church but is simpler in style, was erected in 1905 by the Dominican Fathers, again with Louis Destremps as the supervising architect. Also part of the complex is the 4-story Romanesque Revival convent, also by Destremps, which is of red brick with delicate white glazed brick lintels outlining the arched windows. The center section was built between 1891 and 1894 and the additions in 1908 and 1916.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Because St. Anne was the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, She is thought to be the object of God's special favor. St. Anne's cult was widespread in Europe beginning in the 8th century and was brought to the United States and Canada by the first missionaries, most of whom came from France. Pilgrims still come to St. Anne's in large numbers because of its unique atmosphere of faith, prayer and devotion.

Also part of the church complex are the granite and marble rectory of 1905 and the brick Dominican Sisters Convent. The center section of the latter was built between 1891 and 1894 as a convent and co-educational Catholic School. It became a private academy and boarding school for girls in 1898, staffed by Dominican sisters, and was enlarged in 1908 and 1916.

The St. Anne's Church complex is significant as a local masterpiece of ecclesiastical architecture, designed by an important local architect, and for its role in serving Fall River's expanding immigrant population during the late 19th century. The property meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 11/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Read, Nathan, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce M. Doyle

Attest

72. Ruggles Park

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

73. Sagamore Mill No. 2

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

74. Sagamore Mills #1 and #3

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

75. Sanford Spinning Co.

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

76. Santo Christo Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

77. Seaconnet Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

78. Smith, John Mace, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

79. St. Anne's Church and Parish
Complex

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

80. St. Joseph's Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

St. Anne's Church and Parish Complex (Fall River
MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/10/83
☐ RETURN
Entered In the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexcavated	☐ original site
		☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



NAME: St. Anne's Church and Rectory

LOCATION: 780 South Main Street and
818 Middle Street
Fall River, ^{MA}Mass.

PHOTO CREDIT: Pamela Shields (1981)

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Fall River Office of Historic
Preservation
One Government Center
Fall River, Mass. 02722
(PSNR-7-14)

IDENTIFICATION: St. Anne's Church and Rectory
Looking east
photo #1 of 2



INST. 6-11

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
780 SO. MAIN ST.

Fall River MRA, Ma

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279

Dominican Sisters
37 Park Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02721

Object
St Anne's Church complex
(of 3 owners)

October 1, 1982

RECEIVED

OCT - 6 1982

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Dear Ms. Weslowski,

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 1982, regarding the nomination of Saint Catherine Convent, 37 Park Street, Fall River, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is owned by Saint Catherine Convent of Fall River, Inc. As an officer of the corporation, I hereby indicate our objection to being listed at the present time.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. McCarthy, O.P.
Prioress General

Gloriette Levesque
Gloriette Levesque
Notary Public
My commission expires 2/7/85