



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

This complex consists of four separate buildings, a church, a school, a rectory and a convent, set on ample, well-cared-for tree shaded grounds in an urban three-decker neighborhood near the American Optical Company. The 1926 stone Neo-Gothic church, built close to the sidewalk on Charlton Street, is the dominant structure of the complex. Also facing Charlton Street are the 1909 brick Colonial Revival Rectory and Convent, set back from the street in a spacious lawn. Seen at the rear of the lot from Charlton Street, the substantial Colonial Revival Style school building faces on Mechanic Street with a large lawn in front. Although residential/commercial buildings stand between the school and Mechanic Street, the facade can be seen at the end of a treelined vista down Brochu Street.

**Sacred Heart Church, Charlton Street, 1926, Neo-Gothic**

Pierced by large Gothic arched windows, the facade of this stone church is articulated by two facade towers and a projecting entrance porch. Large Gothic arched windows in the tall buttressed clerestory light the nave from above. The side aisles are lighted by low segmented arched windows in the buttressed outer walls. Verticality of design is achieved by the use of repeated buttresses and of slim facade towers capped by filigree belfries and spires. Breaking the skyline, the small tower spires and a - cont.

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

Sacred Heart parish was established in 1908 when the church of the original French Canadian parish, Notre Dame, had grown too small to accommodate the ever-growing Franco-American population in Southbridge. The geographical lines of the new parish were drawn to include the large French Canadian population which had settled in the area known as "The Flats" near the Main Works of the American Optical Company. The construction of a school-chapel, a rectory and a convent were begun on an ample piece of property on Charlton Street in the Flats about 1909. The gift of \$70,000 from Notre Dame got the new parish off to a good economic start. The new school was opened in 1910 under the direction of the Sisters of the Assumption of Nicolet, the same order of nuns which ran the parish School of Notre Dame. Church services were held in the school building from 1910 until the present church was built in 1926. The first pastor was Father Emile St. Onge. By 1919 Sacred Heart parish served about 600 families. The school had four hundred students under the care of eleven teaching sisters.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

maps, atlases

Gatineau, F. Histoire des Franco Américains de Southbridge, 1919, pp. 90-92

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Southbridge

Form No:

6-229,231,  
232

Property Name: Sacred Heart Church  
Complex

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Sacred Heart Church (cont'd)

diminutive fleche accent this upward movement. Like Notre Dame, the other French Canadian parish in Southbridge, Sacred Heart is built of stone, is massive in form and monumental in appearance.

The earlier buildings in the complex employ a generalized Classical Revival vocabulary. The school is a large brick hip block crossed by a second hipped frontispiece with three Roman arched entries. The rectory is two-story, brick, hipped block with a central entry, adding a bowed bay to its facade and projecting bays to its long lateral walls. The convent takes a similar but more symmetrical form with bay windows on the first floor on either side of the central entry porch, and a rear ell with porch as well. Each residential building is treated with wide friezes at the cornice line, keystones at the first floor windows, and a stone belt course above the raised basement.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT

The Sacred Heart Church District is significant for its association with the expansion and development of Southbridge's French Canadian community early in the 20th-century. Its stone Neo-Gothic Church design marks the importance of the French-Canadian community and the more austere school and residences relate well to other Roman Catholic complexes in the region. It meets National Register criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of setting, location, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association. The boundaries indicated on the attached assessors map are those of current ownership.

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

MRA

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Southbridge MRA  
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
61. Oakes, J.J., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
62. Phillips, E.M., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
63. Plimpton, Simon, Farmhouse Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
64. Richard, Stephen, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
65. Sacred Heart Church Historic District Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
66. Smith--Lyon Farmhouse Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
67. St. George's Greek Orthodox Church Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
68. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church-- St. Mary's School Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
69. Stone, Lorenzo R., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____
70. Sumner, George, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 6/22/89</u> Attest _____

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sacred Heart Church Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Southbridge MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/31/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/16/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000598

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6/22/89 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Church  
Sacred Heart District  
Southbridge, MA  
1986

Southbridge Historical Commis  
-son

Roll # 6

Form # B-248 1986 photo

Southbridge

Sacred Heart Church Area  
Church

Roll #

2014-05-05



Rectory, 40 Charlton St.

Sacred Heart District

Southbridge, MA MA

Ceccacci, 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll #6



Convent  
Sacred Heart District  
Southbridge, MA  
Ceccacci, 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission  
Roll # 6

Form # B-248 1986 photo  
Southbridge  
Sacred Heart Church Area  
convent  
Roll # 6



St. Joan of Arc School  
Sacred Heart District  
Southbridge, MA

Ceccacci, 1986

Southbridge Historical Commission

Roll # 6

Form # B-248 1986 photo

Southbridge

Sacred Heart Church Area

St. Jeanne D'Arc School

Roll # 6

B-248



JOHN B. O'DONNELL & ASSOCIATES  
 AMBURN, MAINE  
 1971

**SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS.**

SCALE IN FEET  
 0 100 200

**36**

PANELS SHIPPED  
 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43

SOUTHBRIDGE MASS

*Sacred Heart Church Area, Charleton Street*

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000294