

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

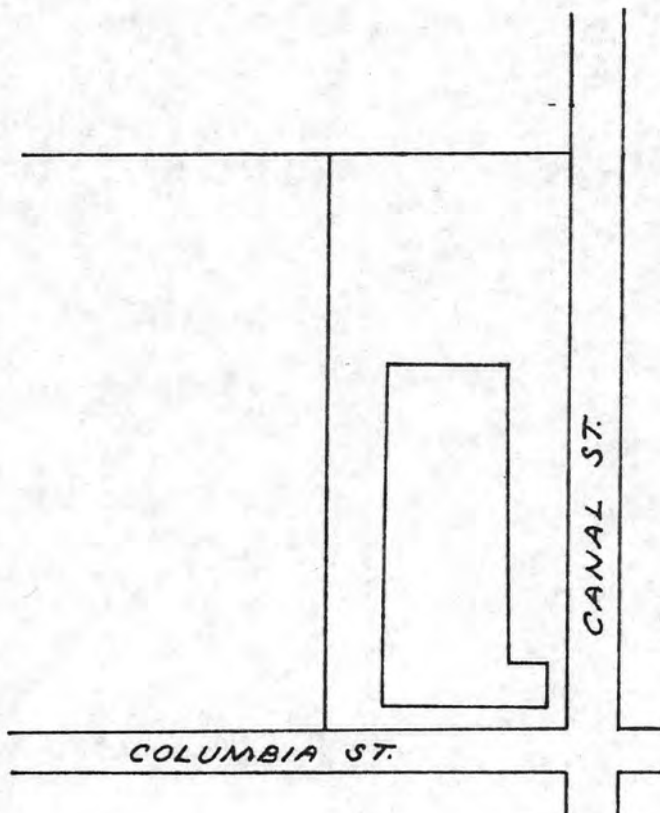
524
1/7/58

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number CPII #26A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)

1. Town Fall River, Mass.

Address 240 Columbia Street

Name Santo Christo Church

Present use church

Present owner Santo Christo Church

3. Description: large church w/side tower

Date 1924-1927

Source Fall River Herald News Clips

Style late Gothic Revival

Architect Murphy & Hindle, Providence

Exterior wall fabric tan brick, granite,
cast stone

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features pinnacles, buttresses,

tracery, tile roof, high granite basement,

cast stone trim.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 16,994 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Pat Giza

Organization FROHP

Date 7/23/80

7. Original owner (if known) Santo Christo Church

Original use Church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>X</u>
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Santo Christo Church (1924-1927) is a fine example of the Late Gothic Revival style which is historically significant as the first Catholic Church to serve the growing Portuguese population and as the largest ethnic church in Fall River.

The architects, the prominent Providence firm of Murphy and Hindle, also designed a series of early 20th century Catholic churches in Providence. For Santo Christo, they use the simple, subdued early 20th century version of the Gothic popularized by the nationally-known ecclesiastical architect Ralph Adams Cram. Of particular note are the stained glass windows and tracery, tile roof with copper coping, and cast stone pinnacles. A four-level corner tower with open belfry maximizes the impact of the building on this cramped urban site, and iron fencing also enhances the setting. The view of Santo Christo is particularly impressive when looking down the hill along Grant Street from William.

The parish history can be traced back to the founding of the first Portuguese mission to the City on March 10, 1876 by Rev. Antonio de Matos Freitas, a native of Sao Jorge, St. Michaels, Azores and at the time pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in New Bedford. During the last two decades of 19th century, Portuguese immigrants in the city were served by a series of New Bedford priests. Religious services were conducted in Hibernian Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Louis and St. Joseph's. The forerunner of Santo Christo Church was a wooden structure at the corner of Columbia and Canal Streets. It was a community house built by members of the First Baptist Church to serve the growing numbers of industrial workers. In 1889, the community church became a Catholic parish, the first in the city to serve the Portuguese people. Rev. Candido d'Avila Martins, the first pastor, named the church Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres (church of the Miracles.) In 1924 plans begun for construction of present structure. The exterior was completed in 1927 but the completion of the interior-interrupted by (cont'd)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Fall River Herald News	Sept. 30, 1976 clippings
	June 27, 1977 clippings
Church Records	Name of Architect

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Fall River, Mass.	Form No: 175-53 521
Property Name: Santo Christo Church	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

shortages of funds and materials and the austerities of W.W.II was not achieved until 1948.

Because of its distinctive style, workmanship, intact quality and important place in Fall River church history, the Santo Christo Church meets criteria A and C of the National Register individually.

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 11/5/87

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 McDaniel

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

Santo Christo Church (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 2/16/83
☐ RETURN
Entered in the ☐ REJECT
National Register
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	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unspoiled	

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



Santo Christo Church
240 Columbia St.
CP II # 26 a

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