

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received NOV 21 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic ☒ St. Joseph's Schooland/or common ☐ Same

2. Location

street & number Eagle Street

N/A not for publication

city, town North Adams

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Berkshire

code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☒ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☒ other: elderly housing

4. Owner of Property

name St. Joseph's Court Associates

street & number 200 North Main Street

city, town East Longmeadow

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth #128has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date May 1982

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

St. Joseph's School, North Adams, Ma

Condition		Check one	Check one	
☒ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site	
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved	date <u>N/A</u>
☐ fair	☐ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Joseph's School is a three-story masonry building prominently situated at the northwest corner of Eagle Street (NR-1972) and Route 2 (Veterans Memorial Drive). It is bounded on the east by Eagle Street, on the south by Lincoln Street and Route 2, on the west by a former convent, and on the north by modern development. The structure stands as an anchor marking a major entrance to downtown North Adams.

St. Joseph's School is characteristic of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The three-story building consists of a main mass, broken by a projecting gabled pavilion, and flanking wings which also project from the central block (Map-A). Additions to the main structure include a three story, square wing which was placed at the northwest corner in 1959 (Map-B). There is also a more recent five story addition attached to the north elevation. Constructed in 1982, this wing is part of a certified rehabilitation project which was completed for the entire building complex. This addition is faced with brick and connected to the main building by a recessed aluminum and glass curtain wall (Map-C).

The original building rests on a partially exposed basement story which is fully incorporated into the design of the main building. The basement and first story are constructed of coursed concrete blocks textured with coal and pink marble chips. The upper two stories are faced with buff brick; end elevation brick is laid in a geometric pattern. Separating the basement and second stories is a cast concrete, moulded water course. The first and second stories are divided by a concrete frieze and belt course inscribed "Bonitatem et Disciplinam et Scientia Doce Une Domine."¹ A wide plain cornice and simple parapet walls complete the roofline.

The original main entrance is set within the gabled pavilion of the facade. Approached by granite steps which are flanked by two concrete stoops and bronze posts supporting lanterns, the entrance has double wooden doors located beneath a bracketed entablature. Centered on the pavilion are also two decorative plaques and shields, depicting St. Joseph's School coat of arms. The pavilion is further adorned by the use of modillions placed beneath the pediment. Simpler pedimented entries are located on the two end elevations. The entry on the rear elevation is a new shed-roofed doorway approximately 25' long which now serves as the building's main entrance. Compatibly designed, it replaces an earlier wood enclosed entry.

Fenestration on the east (facade) and west elevations is symmetrical. Windows are large and rectangular and arranged in groups, with 6/6 wooden sash. The south elevation windows, located above the entry, are narrower and elongated, reflecting their position in stairwells. The north elevation has been largely obscured by the recent addition.

Of particular interest is the interior of St. Joseph's School. The first floor features a large front entry foyer connecting the two classroom corridors. The entry foyer floor is laid in yellow marble tile with a black marble border, providing a sharp contrast with the pink and gray marble wainscot. The floors of the corridors are covered with terrazzo tile with a black marble border. Walls are finished with raised panel, oak wainscot, and door surrounds. The second and third floors are finished in oak and pine respectively. A compound plaster cornice molding and terrazzo tile floors are found on the second floor, where the school's coat of arms occupies a central wall position.

1. "Lord, Teach Me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge" (Psalm 118)

8. Significance St. Joseph's School, North Adams, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☒ religion		
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science		
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture		
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social/		
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian		
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater		
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation		
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)		

Specific dates 1928-29

Builder/Architect Architect: Unknown; Builder: D.J. Donahue

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Joseph's School possesses integrity of location, design, materials, setting, and workmanship. Architecturally, the building is important as a rare survivor of Neo-Classical architecture in North Adams. Its historical significance derives from its origins in the late 19th century as the only Roman Catholic parochial school in a city whose economic base relied heavily on its Irish population to constitute much of the city's labor force. The school today is one of the few extant buildings reflecting this important immigrant heritage. Thus, St. Joseph's School meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Irish immigrants first came to North Adams in 1830 to work in the first cotton print works factory that had been started by Caleb Turner in the 1820s. The town's substantial growth, in terms of its industrial development at this time, is attributable to these immigrants who constituted much of the work force. Newly established mills existed in such areas as "The Beaver" (NR 1973), "The Union", Braytonville and Blackinton. By the mid 1850s large numbers of Roman Catholic Irishmen and their families had immigrated to North Adams, finding employment in the North Adams Iron Company, a wholesale shoe factory and/or the textile (wool and cotton) mills.

For nearly two decades the Irish community lacked a church. In 1848 a mission was established by Father Cavanaugh, and mass was performed four times a year. Sixteen years later, land was purchased at the corner of Eagle and Union Streets, and in 1869, St. Francis Church was completed.

The construction of the town's first Catholic church, together with the incorporation of North Adams in 1878 as a municipality separate from Adams, prompted plans for a parochial school. The Church's parishioners were solicited and \$16,000 was raised to purchase the land just north of the Church. St. Joseph's School opened in September 1886. It was named for the teaching order of St. Joseph who had come to North Adams earlier that year. The brick Italianate structure was designed by James Welch of New York City and featured a facade pavilion crowned with a cupola and paired arched windows. The building stood until 1981. The building served as an adjunct educational facility through the mid 20th century and later was used for social functions by the local parish. By 1981, the building was considered surplus property by the Archdiocese and due to its deteriorated condition, was demolished that same year.

By 1928 this ten-room school was too cramped for a student population that had reached 500, and plans for a new facility were explored. In June, a contract for the construction of a new building was awarded by the Springfield Roman Catholic Diocese to D.J. Donahue of Springfield. It was to stand on the opposite corner of Eagle and Union Streets, just north of the Rectory. This new structure replaced several buildings on the site which included a late 19th century shoe factory and a mid-19th century residence. The design of the new school called for a three-story building of ornamental stone construction, containing 26 classrooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium, and science laboratories. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barnes and Farnham, Atlas of Berkshire County (Pittsfield: 1904)
Beers, F.W., County Atlas of Berkshire (New York: 1876)
D.L. Miller, C.E., Atlas of Towns of North Adams, Adams, Williamston & Cheshire, Berkshire County (New York: 1894)

10. Geographical Data

Area of nominated property 1.30A
Quadrangle name North Adams Quadrangle
UTM References

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

A 18 654860 4729140
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at an iron pipe on the westerly side of Eagle Street at the northeasterly corner of the herein described premises; thence Section 26 59' 37" W. along Eagle Street 103.50' to a point; thence S. 26 11' 35" W. along Eagle Street 162.74 to a point; thence, on a curve

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Kubie with Nancy L. Doonan and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultants

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Peter H. Weselowski

11/15/83

title State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered on the
National Register

date

12/22/83

John M. Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet St. Joseph's School

Item number 7 & 8

Page 1

As mentioned earlier, the school underwent major rehabilitation in 1982. This project, which followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, involved converting the complex to a congregate elderly housing facility.

8. Significance Cont.

architect is not known.

The new St. Joseph's School opened September 9, 1929, with 605 students in attendance. Enrollment reached its peak of 1220 students in 1958. To accommodate the increased student body, a cafeteria, located in the gymnasium, a darkroom, and four classrooms the latter in a northwest wing (Map Section B) were added in the 1950s.

The school's population was noted for its academic prowess and ability. The school newspaper regularly won national awards, and the debate team won state and regional championships. 80-85% of the graduating class attended college and many continued on to law school.

The significant role St. Joseph's School played in the overall development of North Adams is multi-faceted. Originating as an educational center for the Irish Roman Catholic, the school grew in stature as the city's only parochial school. As Roman Catholic educational facilities in the northeast decreased in the mid-20th century, the school expanded to include nationalities from a variety of area parishes. With the demolition of the original St. Joseph's School, the nominated property acquired additional importance as one of the few remaining structures associated with Roman Catholic education in Northern Berkshire County.

In the late 1970s the school closed due to decreasing enrollment and financial problems. It was recently purchased by a private development group who converted the building for use as an elderly housing facility.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet St. Joseph's School Item number 9 & 10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References (Continued)

Insurance Maps of North Adams, Sanborn Map Company (1908 and 1929)

City Directories

50th Anniversary of St. Francis Church Booklet (1919)

Morris, Hamilton, Interesting Facts in the Early History of North Adams (Edited in Transcript 1859-60)

Rowe, H.G. North Adams and Vicinity Illustrated (North Adams: 1898)

North Adams Transcript: July 1, 1921; June 25, 1928; July 31, 1928; June 2, 1930.

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

to the right with a radius of 40.00' along Eagle and Lincoln Streets an arc distance of 43.63' to a pin in lead; thence, on a curve to the left with a radius of 582.66' along Lincoln Street 119.46' to a bound; thence, S. 75 24' 48" W. along Lincoln Street 18.00' to a point; thence, N. 12 32' 32" W. along land now or formerly of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield 49.08' to a point; thence, N. 08 50' 26" E. along last named land 220.47' to a point; thence, S. 80 16' 55" E. along land now or formerly of the North Adams Housing Authority 92.50' to a point; thence, N. 23 48' 39" E. along last named land 102.70' to an iron pipe; thence, S. 65 39' 51" E. along land now or formerly of Charles and Lillian S. Glickman 145.55' to the iron pipe at the place of beginning; containing an area of approximately 1.376 acres.

The nominated property includes the entire lot belonging to St. Joseph's School. Only the original 1928-29 section (labeled A) is considered to contribute to the significance of this nomination.

105
7

415.60'

LINCOLN

STREET

147.4'

231.73

68.0'

16

SITE PLAN
St. Joseph's School
North Adams, MA

Assessor's Map No. 106
Lot 17, revised according
to "Plan of Property for
Proposed St. Joseph's
Court," 1981.
Scale: 1" equals apprx.
66'

62

1.07

86.23

LINCOLN

STREET

MEMORIAL

EXTERIOR FENCE

PARKING

PARKING

7

B

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL
A

118.74

143.63

162.7

EAGLE

255.07

22

N

102.7

180.04

27.7

77.3

56

21

119

1.93

40.27

99.94

76

95

20

29

140

63.36

60

13

4.4

14

70.7

15

36.98

20

44.2

101.18

59.98

47.83

62

31.1

20

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

St. Joseph's School
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 21 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 12/22/83 - 1/5/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 12/22/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ 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	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
Eagle Street, N. Adams, MA
Photograph by Nancy L.
Doonan

August 1983

Negative filed at Gould Hill
Rd., Box 109, RFD 1.
Contoocook, NH

Photo #1&2; View looking
northwest at facade and
south elevation.



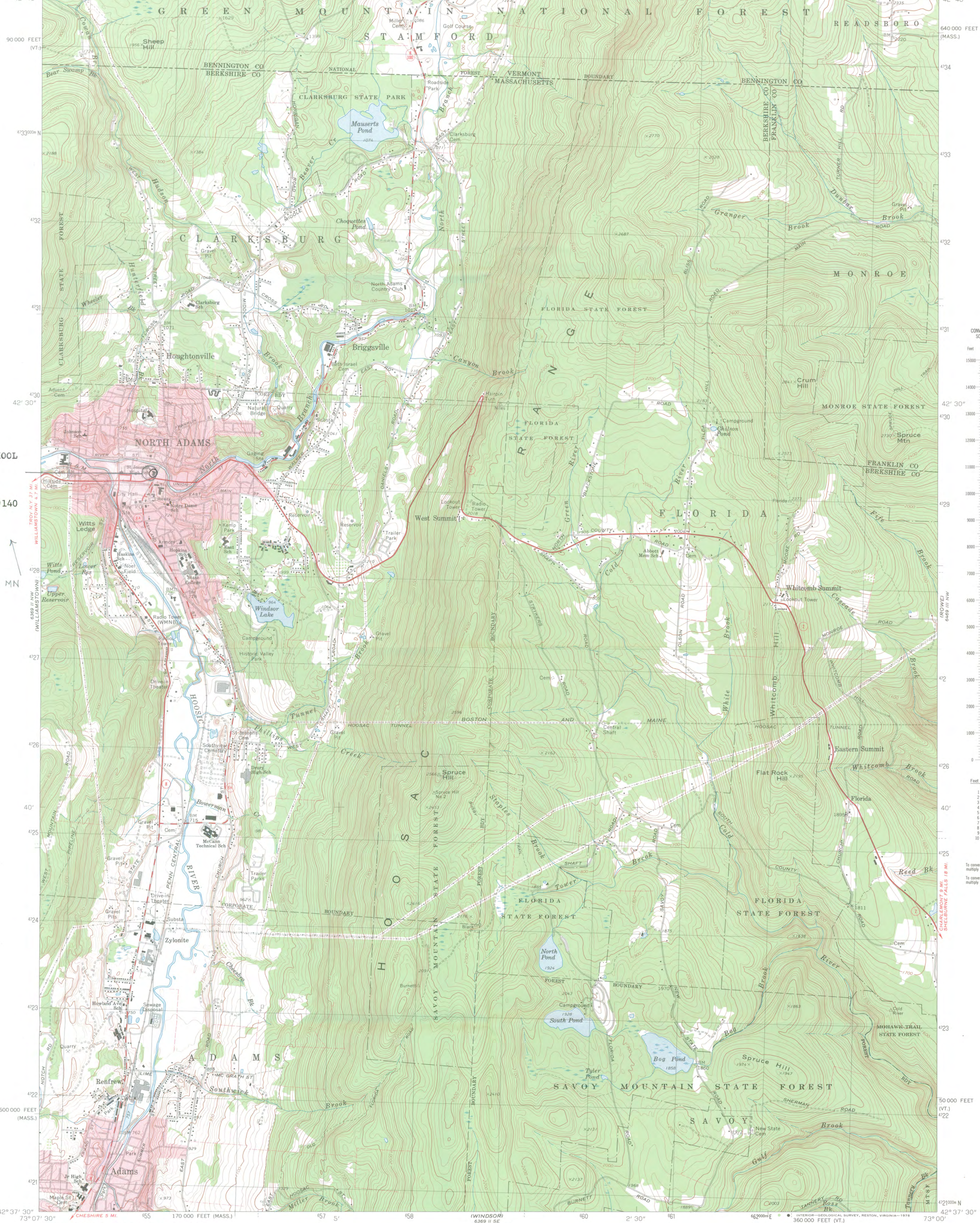
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
Eagle Street, N. Adams, MA
Photograph by Nancy L.
Doonan

August 1983

Negative filed at Gould Hill
Rd., Box 109, RFD 1,
Contoocook, NH

Photo #2052; View looking
northwest at facade

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
Eagle Street
North Adams, MA
UTM Reference:
18 654860 4729140



CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4200
13000	3900
12000	3600
11000	3300
10000	3000
9000	2700
8000	2400
7000	2100
6000	1800
5000	1500
4000	1200
3000	900
2000	600
1000	300
500	150
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3.048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808