

PH0660329

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 16 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Our Lady of Mercy Chapel*

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
100 Whippany Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Whippany Hanover Township

VICINITY OF
5th

STATE
New Jersey

CODE
034

COUNTY
Morris

CODE
027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Parish of Our Lady of Mercy

STREET & NUMBER
9 Thomas Street

CITY, TOWN
Whippany

VICINITY OF

STATE
New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Morris County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Morristown

STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Morris County Historic Sites Committee -- Township of Hanover Historic Sites
August 1976 April 1976

DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Morris County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Hall of Records, Court Street, Morristown, New Jersey 07960

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Our Lady of Mercy Chapel built in 1854 is a "carpenters" Gothic Revival style building.

The exterior of the church is rectangular in shape with a double entrance door in the gable end; the projecting vestibule also with a gable roof.

The Gothic Revival features are the graceful pointed-arch windows, 4 on each side and two in the front flanking the entrance. There is a square tower, with belfry rising above the gable end. The tower has a jerkinhead roof topped with a cross.

The chapel overall is 30 X 60 feet. It was originally clapboard but that has been covered over with asbestos siding. The original foundation is filled stone and brick.

The interior includes a large rectangular, two-step, platform altar in back of the main church unit. There are 25 original pews of oak painted white divided into two sections by a center aisle. The floor is 1 X 3 oak flooring tongue and groove in the pew area, cement tile in the aisle. There is a pressed metal ceiling which was added in 1902. A small chair loft is located in the back of the church.

The rose window above the front entrance is the most outstanding feature of this edifice having 8 stained glass panels in Tripartite arrangement.

The entire church interior has been sheathed in modern paneling.

Also included on the property are several buildings associated with the church. They are:

- 1) Caretakers home, originally served as a convent. 2 story, 3 bays, hip roof, aluminum siding, modern porch, 2 story addition built into a grade, exposed basement.
- 2) Convent, 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, built foundation, 1 1/2 story addition, 2 bay aluminum siding, gable roof, twin chimneys of each end, mid-19th Century.
- 3) Recreation Hall, Quonset hut coregated sheet metal roof, circular roof 14 bays.
- 4) Rectory, 2 1/2 stories, aluminum siding, gable end front, "Queen Anne" features, modern addition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Our Lady of Mercy Chapel is one of the few remaining original Roman Catholic Chapels left in the Morris County area. It is the oldest Catholic Chapel in the county. The chapel is also significant for its Gothic Revival architecture and stained glass windows around the church and the large Rose Window under the belfry.

From the early 18th century Catholics began to settle around the Morris County area. In the beginning Mass was usually held in the homes of various members in the area. The number of Catholics in Whippany increased to such a point that the people decided to establish their own church in the town.

In 1846 Our Lady of Mercy was established as a Quasi-mission of Madison, a near-by community. In 1853 the cornerstone for the chapel was laid on land which had been donated by a parishoner. Our Lady of Mercy continued to be attended by priests from Madison until 1881, from 1881 to 1883 by priests by Morristown. Then in July 1883 Whippany was established as a mission with a resident Pastor Reverend James Brennan.

In 1871 the parishoners decided to open a school for the children in the area. The cost of the school was \$27,000.00. The first year there were 28 students in the school and the parishoners were able to pay the entire debt for the building of the school by holding concerts, lectures and contributions from wealthy church members.

In 1877 there were enough members in the church community to hold a mass every second Sunday. As the parish continued to grow and flourish a convent for the teachers in the school was added. A rectory was built in the 1890's.

The church remained unchanged until a fire in December 1943 partially destroyed the interior. Services were held in the Whippany Firehouse until the spring of 1944 when the church was restored.

In 1948 the parish purchased the property next door and converted it into the convent. The Old Convent is now used as caretakers quarters. In April 1949 a Quonset type building was erected for use as a parish community center.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Book: "Along the Whippanong: Myrose & Kitchell
 "Dunnigan's American Catholic Churches Directory: 1858
 "Sadlers Directory 1875
 "The New Jersey Sisters of Charity: Sister Mary Agnes Sharkey
 "Centennary Program Book: 1954 Our Lady of Mercy
 "Catholic Churches of New Jersey by Joseph M Flynn

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 1 9 1 6 1 0	1 5 1 8 1 6 9 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Whippany Road 200 feet SW of its intersection with Parsippany Road; thence proceed along Whippany Road 600 feet SW; thence proceed 400 feet NW; thence proceed 800 feet NE; thence proceed 100 feet SE to the point of origin

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(revisions, Nanci Kostrub Batchelor, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, (609) 292-2028)

Mrs. Anthony Lori (Elizabeth)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Township of Hanover Historic Sites

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

10 Troy Hills Road

887-0211

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Whippany, N.J.

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

Deputy
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

DATE

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

12-19-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Rettig

DATE

9/18/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William Lebovich

DATE

Sept 13, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
Hanover Township
Morris County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER

#8

PAGE

The parish membership continued to grow until it eventually outgrew the size of the chapel. In 1955 a new church and school was built several hundred yards from the chapel.

Since 1954 the building has been maintained with little or no changes except for upkeep. On special occasions and upon request the chapel is used for services.

Architecture

Our Lady of Mercy chapel was built in 1854 by Harvey Kitchel and is a representative example of the carpenter's Gothic Revival architecture in Morris County. Particularly noteworthy for the rose window in the gable end and the stained glass windows on the sides the chapel is an unacademic structure, but still projects an attractive appearance.

As the oldest remaining Catholic chapel in Morris County and as an example of the vernacular Gothic style Our Lady of Marcy merits inclusion on the National Register.

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Morris County

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER **8** PAGE **2**

The three (3) buildings included in the Our Lady of Mercy Chapel nomination were not always owned by the church, but have been associated with it since their construction.

The Rectory (Building #4) was built specifically to house the priest of the parish when the congregation had grown large enough to require a full time priest in the 1890's.

The Caretakers Home (Building #1) originally built as a convent for the teaching nuns was constructed in the 1880's. This building was also needed to serve the needs of the growing church community.

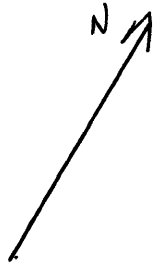
In 1948 the Parish purchased the property next door to the existing convent and converted it into the current convent (Building #2). The old convent had grown too small for the growing parish and is now used for Caretaker's quarters.

Building #3, a Recreation Hall is to be considered an intrusion.

- NOMINATION
BOUNDARY

BUILDING
NUMBERS

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHAPEL
HANOVERTWP,
MORRIS COUNTY
NEW JERSEY 034
NOT TO SCALE



EDEN LANE

PARSIPPANY ROAD

NEW CHURCH
&
SCHOOL

CONVENT
#2

CARETAKERS
HOME
#1

RECREATION
HALL
#3

CH
A
P
E
L

#4
RECTORY

WHIPPANY ROAD