

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received **OCT 19 1982**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bishop School

and/or common Bishop School - Schoolhouse Apartments

2. Location

street & number 178 Bishop Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Waterbury

N/A vicinity of

congressional district Fifth

state Connecticut 06702 code 09

09

county New Haven

code 013

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: <i>MANANT</i> |

4. Owner of Property

name Connecticut Associates II Limited Partnership Arthur M. Winn,
General Partner

street & number Four Fanueil Hall Marketplace

city, town Boston

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts 02109

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Town Clerk's Office - Waterbury City Hall

street & number 235 Grand Street

city, town Waterbury

state Connecticut 06702

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Connecticut State Register
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes

date 1982

federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford

state Connecticut 06106

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

The Bishop School is located between Bishop and Beacon Streets, south of Crown Street, in an older residential neighborhood area of Waterbury delineated as the North End. (photo #1) Site orientation inclines downward to the west although the building is aligned along a north-south axis. The site is located among turn of the century two and three story, low and moderate income residential dwellings. The school is also adjacent to St. Thomas Church, on Crown Street. (photo #2) The Bishop School has a deep setback along Bishop Street where a group of maple trees articulate the lawn area. (photo #1) A mortared fieldstone retaining wall divides this area from the paved playground area in front of the facade of the building. The school building occupies the highest elevation on the site and is situated on the northeastern corner of the lot. The perimeter of the property is circumscribed with a chain link security fence, now in disrepair. There is a paved parking lot on the east side of the building.

The Bishop School is a red brick, two and one-half story load-bearing masonry wall structure composed of three principle elements arranged in a "T"-shaped plan. (photo # 3) Built in three elements over a twenty-year period, the building's form reflects an eclectic mixture of Italianate and early Romanesque Revival stylistic influences. The building is trimmed with Portland brownstone with a tooled finish. Brick masonry walls are laid up with dark mortar in common bond pattern. (See Floor Plan on Continuation Sheet)

The foundation is composed of rock-faced granite ashlar, uncoursed, with a bevelled brownstone water table.

The original, or central portion of the building, built in 1879, is nine bays wide by three bays deep and is defined by wall gables of differential size on opposite sides (east and west) of the structure. (photos #1,4 & 13) The larger or central gable is expressed with a pair of engaged wide brick pilasters which form, beneath the peak, a segmental arch of brick in the rowlock pattern. Both the central block and the two by two bay 1886 addition on the south are unified by double belt courses of brick which circumscribe the structures at the first and second floor ceiling levels. Simple decorative brackets embellish the four corners beneath the raking eaves of the gables on the central block and end wall of the south addition. The south end of the entire building is visually anchored by a prominent vertical element, a square free-standing tapered brick furnace chimney which substantially surpasses the ridgeline in height. The chimney stack, a later addition, is connected to the building at its base with a horizontal brick flue which pierces the foundation at grade. The following excerpt describes the appearance of the original schoolhouse in 1879:

"The site selected for the school is one of the most commanding in the city - having a front of 190 feet on Bishop Street and a depth of 238 feet on Crown Street, a new street just opened, running east from Bishop Street. This large lot affords ample play grounds and is most convenient of access."

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"The building is placed somewhat in front of the center of the lot, having a front towards Bishop Street of 57 feet including the wings, and is 55 feet deep. It is two stories high and contains four school rooms, each 34 feet 8 inches by 25 feet, and 13 feet high... Outside, the building shows a fine elevation. The four sides are nearly alike and a tower rises from the center. The best quality of New Britain brick are used for the outside walls which have belting courses in black mortar. The window sills, cups and water table are of Portland brownstone. There are four handsome bracketed porches in the angles of the four sides, as there are two wings each 10 feet by 26. The height of the building to the top of the vane is 57 feet and the windows in the tower are more than 250 feet above the level of our central park. From these windows a magnificent view of the city can be obtained." 1

The center of the west elevation is articulated with a vernacular Romanesque compound arch which enframes the raised, west entrance to the building along Bishop Street. A flight of granite steps with dressed finish is employed to compensate for the one-half story differential elevation between site grade and the first floor. (photo #4)

On the east side of the building, two entrances exist at grade and are contained within external vestibules, the larger having been unsympathetically modified, altering an earlier Romanesque arched entrance. (photo #3)

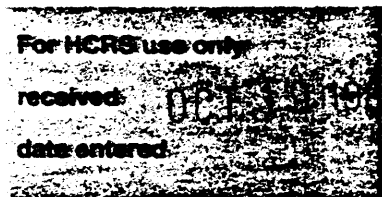
Window details of all three building elements include pedimented Portland brownstone lintels and rectangular sills with a tooled finish. Window sash were originally of six-over-six and two-over-two configuration but most of these are now concealed with plywood sheets applied to the rough openings to improve security.

Other architectural details of significance are the matched pair of late Victorian, bracketed porches appended to the south elevations of the central block and flanking the 1886 addition. (photo #5) Constructed of wood and painted white, these elements have chamfered posts, scroll-sawn brackets and molded arches with keystones. External doors are panelled and have double leaves and are of a common early twentieth-century pattern.

The Annex, or north addition, was the last expansion of the school (1895) and was designed by Joseph A. Jackson. 2/ (photo #6) Constructed on an east-west axis, the Annex is composed of three elements and was designed to address Crown Street. There is a central portion, seven

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bays wide and two flanking pavilions. The pavilion on the northwest corner is five by three bays, while its counterpart is three by four bays. The addition has a low hip roof which is suggestive of its pragmatic or utilitarian stylistic origin, which is consistent with the reason for construction. The structure is similar to the original main block however, in fenestration and window lintel details.

The entire structure is capped with low-pitched, hipped roofs with transverse gables, covered with black asphalt shingles and articulated with several small, non-decorative sheet metal ventilators. Originally, the main block bore a large cupola at the center of the roof peak, but it is believed that this element was removed in 1940 as part of a Work's Progress Administration assistance project. 3/ The cornice and eave line of the roof are defined with a light band of brick corbelling above the window lintels and a projecting boxed cornice, painted white, which fully circumscribe the structure. (photo #3)

The interior of the building conforms to the "T" plan on all three levels. (see Floor Plan on Continuation Sheet) The following excerpt from the period of construction of the main building, provides an illuminating description of the original interior:

"Each school room has two wardrobe rooms 5 feet by 10, which are separate from, but open into the school room. There are convenient teachers's closets attached to each room. The teacher sitting at her desk on the platform can look through a window into each wardrobe room; teachers will appreciate the great convenience of this arrangement, as a means of preserving order in their rooms. The subject of ventilation has received great attention and in this respect the Bishop Street School will be superior to all others in the district. Every room is supplied with four large ventilating flues, each 8 inches by 12 or 8 inches by 16, made of brick and lined with mortar. If the building is heated by steam, as proposed, a coil of steam-pipe will be placed inside the bottom of each flue, thus heating the air and securing a constant upward current... The ventilating flues run up through the roof, taking the form of chimneys, and are each surmounted by a patent "globe cap" which also causes a constant upward current. Foul, unhealthful air will thus be rapidly removed. Each room has seats for sixty pupils. The seats are made of black walnut and maple in alternating slats and present an elegant appearance."
4/ (photo #7)

The 1895 Annex contains three classrooms per floor which adjoin a corridor oriented east-west which transects the main hallway. (photos # 8 & 9) Running on a north-south axis, the main hallway is flanked on both sides by classrooms. (photo #10) At the south end, the square plan of the 1886

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addition provides a single large room at each level, served by several smaller side rooms used for storage, a nurse's dispensary and offices. The large classroom on the first floor contains a fireplace with a brick segmental arch located in the center of the endwall. (photo #11)

Significant architectural features include door and window trim with compound moldings and corner blocks with pateras. In some rooms, window trim consists of plain, narrow boards without moldings. Doorways to the halls have transoms which have been closed. Floors are of hardwood but are buckled in some places where water has penetrated the structure. Classroom doors, where they remain intact, are of hardwood or yellow pine, generally with four or five panels. Picture moldings circumscribe the upper walls of most of the classrooms. Blackboard and low wooden bookshelves are commonly found throughout the rooms, many of which also retain their decorative pressed metal ceilings. Many of the butt hinges used for door hardware are of decorative cast-iron design and bear pins with turned finials.

Illumination is provided by early twentieth-century suspended globe-type incandescent lighting fixtures. Steam heat is furnished via cast-iron wall radiators.

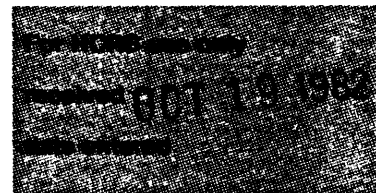
There are three stairways in the building. The two principal metal stairs serve the north and south ends of the corridor in the main block and are of fireproof construction and date after 1915. The third stairwell, of wooden construction, is located in the southeast corner of the main block and is representative as the only surviving example of the type stairs used in the original 1879 structure, of which there appear to have been four. (photo #12)

Footnotes

- 1/ Waterbury American. Waterbury, Connecticut. August 26, 1879. p.4.
- 2/ Burkepile, Lucinda., Brevoort, Roger A. "Waterbury Architects and Builders." Waterbury: The Mattatuck Museum. 1979. Unpublished architectural survey material.
- 3/ Annual Report of the Board of Education City of Waterbury 1940. Waterbury: Department of Education. (unpaged)
- 4/ Waterbury American. Waterbury, Connecticut. August 26, 1879. p.4.

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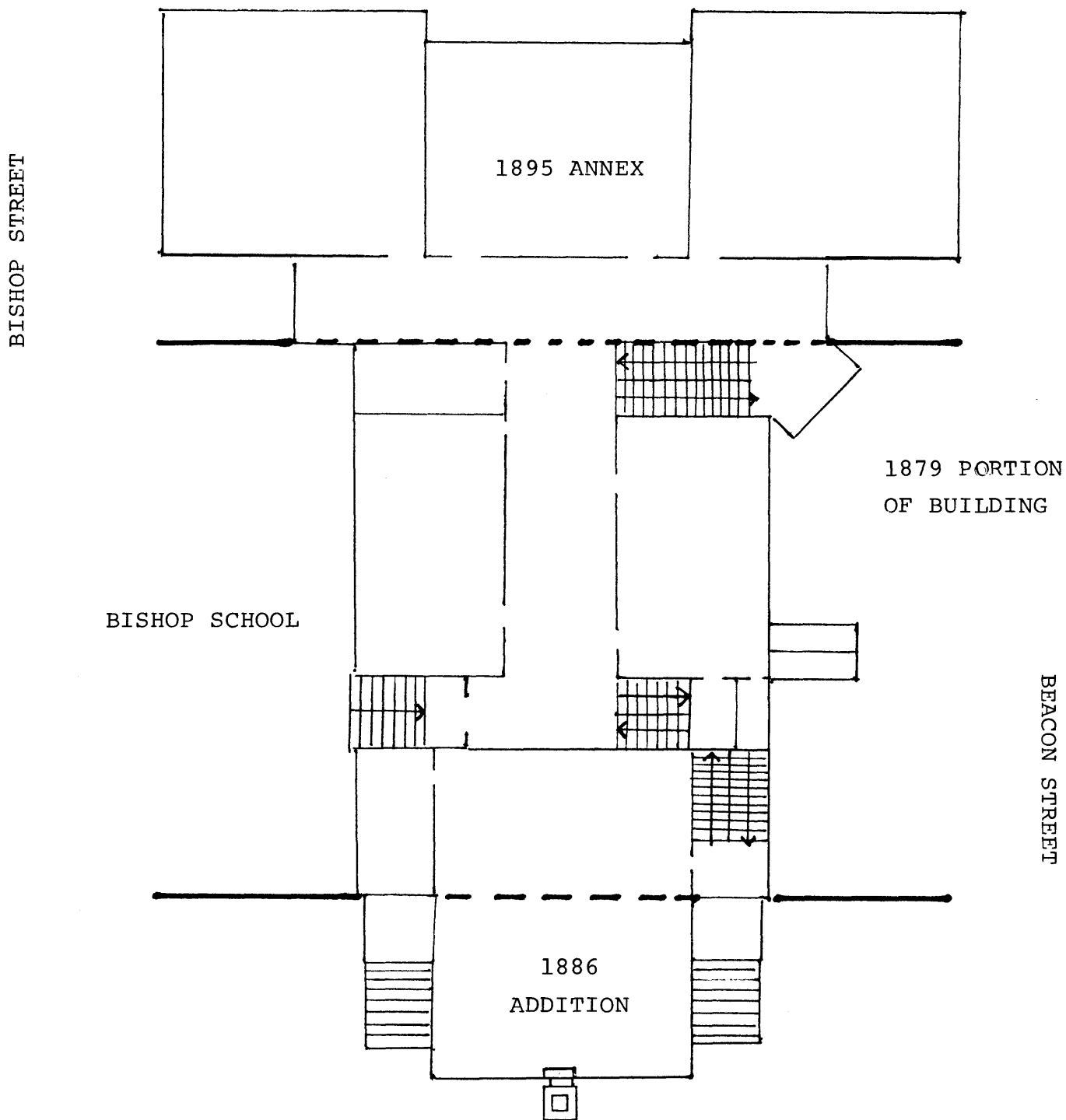


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TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN



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 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic history |

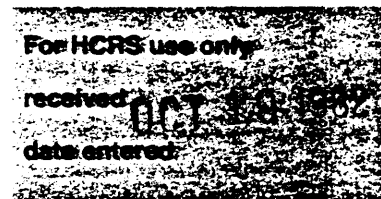
Specific dates 1879, 1886, 1895 **Builder/Architect** Miles L. Pritchard; Joseph A. Jackson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bishop School, a former public elementary school located in the northeast corner of Ward Two, is of local significance within the context of the elementary school system and the broad pattern of ethnic settlement and immigrant cultural life of the City of Waterbury, Connecticut during the period between 1879-1976. The original portion of the structure typifies the distinctive characteristics of transitional grammar school architecture of the period, which served as the prototype for larger, more expansive, multi-story, elementary school designs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Twice enlarged (1886, 1895), Bishop School represents, in its appended form, a composition whose additions may lack formal architectural distinction but which reflect a pragmatic response to the social forces of the period. In late nineteenth century Waterbury, precipitous immigrant urban growth stimulated by the growing concentration of the city's brass industry, 1/ coupled with the nationwide movement for consolidation of school and city governments, caused rapid development of the elementary school system, often under less than ideal conditions. Serving as a focal point of ethnic neighborhood life along with churches, fraternal and political organizations and unions, Bishop School was constructed in 1879 to initially serve a predominantly Irish population, the so-called "first wave" of European immigrants, who were drawn to the city after 1850 by economic hard times abroad and the allure of growing employment. By 1890, Waterbury had matured into an industrial city and prepared to receive the "second wave" of immigrants, principally from southern Europe, the Russian Empire and French Canada. 2/ It is with these and later generations of immigrants, who were to become "the anonymous Americans," that the significance of Bishop School is most closely associated. The immigrants' contribution in labor and ingenuity enabled the development of Waterbury as a modern industrial city and leader of the nation's brass industry, earning for it an international reputation. By location, Bishop School became associated with St. Thomas's Parish (1898), an Irish territorial parish founded as an outgrowth of Waterbury's first Roman Catholic Church, the Parish of the Immaculate Conception (1866). With final consolidation of the Center School District in 1901 and the large influx of Italian and Russian immigrants moving into the city after 1910, the familiar pattern of displacement occurred, thus altering the complexion of the neighborhood which the Bishop School served. The established and comparatively affluent Irish moved out to developing, outlying or hilltop areas of the city, vacating less desirable housing for the new arrivals. Immigrant elementary school population pressure had filled Bishop School beyond capacity since its construction and this resulted in three additional public schools being constructed in the North End by 1914 (Walsh, Webster and Driggs Schools). Bishop School was used briefly as a "Training School for Teachers" in 1900-1902, reflecting the progressive development of training of the city's elementary school staffs. Prior to this most of the system's teaching personnel, predominantly women, were recruited immediately upon graduation from secondary

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school. After the 1920s the Bishop School sub-district grew increasingly diverse in ethnic character and included Italians, Irish, Russians, Poles and Jews. After 1940, a significant number of American Blacks moved into the southern, eastern and western portions of the Bishop School neighborhood. In the 1950s Bishop School was the site of one of the first elementary teaching institutions in Waterbury to be staffed with black instructors, a significant development of the city's growing black minority population. The Bishop School continued in service as an element of the neighborhood elementary school system until its closure in 1976 and obsolescence within the contemporary, consolidated middle school system, which began to be implemented in Waterbury in the 1960s. (Criteria A and C)

The physical topography of the Naugatuck Valley in southwestern Connecticut was never suited for extensive agriculture but did possess an abundance of water power sites which were utilized by fledgling late eighteenth-century industries. Commencing in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and spurred by the decline of local agriculture, the first domestic manufacture of rolled and drawn brass was introduced in Waterbury. By 1860 this transformed the cottage-scale businesses of the city into capital and increasingly labor intensive industries as brass products such as buttons and pins, brass plumbing, lamps and clocks were developed as demand soared. The city's industrial leaders, solving problems of furnishing raw material and transporting finished goods, while consolidating control of sources of supply, established for Waterbury, by 1900, the title as the "Brass City," the largest single producer of brass and brass products in the United States. 3/

The city's industrial success was due in large measure to the skilled labor force it attracted, first from the surrounding countryside and then from abroad. In Minds, Metal and Machines - Waterbury at Work, Cecilia Bucki notes:

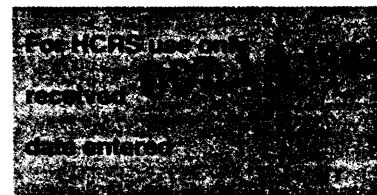
"The brass industry employed more workers than any other manufacturers in Waterbury. In 1890 45% of the city's blue-collar labor force (2,964 men and 1,369 women) was employed in brass, and this percentage increased to 57% by 1920 as Waterbury's economy became even more concentrated in brass manufacture. The work force represented a wide variety of skills and social standing, from the highly trained and highly paid casting and rolling crews to unskilled button-packers and mill laborers." 4/

The industrialization of Connecticut's cities, including Waterbury, was handicapped however, by the shortage of available laborers even by the mid-nineteenth century. Samuel Koenig wrote in 1938:

"So badly in need of workers were manufacturers in the 1840's that... the inconspicuous flow of overseas immigration broadened into a stream which supplied budding industries with cheap labor. The demand for labor may therefore, be considered as one of the chief factors responsible for the great influx of immigrants, and, consequently for the preponderance of foreign stock in the population of the State." 5/

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The composition of immigrant population in Waterbury for the period between 1850-1930 closely parallels the pattern of settlement found for the State of Connecticut, as the comparative exhibit below shows:

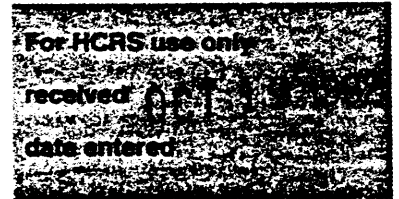
WATERBURY POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH - Exhibit 1 6/

| Country of Birth | 1850 | 1876 | 1890 | 1900 | 1910 | 1920 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Canada - French | 9 | 98 | 1362 | 1777 | 1901 | 1521 |
| Canada - Other | | | | 489 | 401 | 494 |
| England & Wales | 286 | 403 | 724 | 982 | 1243 | 1086 |
| Germany | 23 | 385 | 887 | 1195 | 1433 | 1010 |
| Ireland | 1038 | 3642 | 5402 | 5866 | 5838 | 4507 |
| Italy | 0 | 4 | 308 | 2007 | 6567 | 9232 |
| Lithuania | 0 | - | * | * | * | 3674 |
| Poland | 0 | 12 | 102 | * | * | 1629 |
| Russia | 0 | - | 123 | 1265 | 5600 | 3209 |
| U.S. Blacks | 21 | 87 | 186 | 540 | 775 | 951 |

* Note: In 1890, 1900, 1910 Lithuanians were enumerated as Russians. In 1900, 1910 Poles were enumerated as Russians, Germans, or Austrians. The Lithuanians, whose largest concentration in Connecticut was centered in Waterbury, became locally distinct as an ethnic group as early as 1894, with the founding of St. Joseph's (R.C.) Parish. By 1917, six thousand Lithuanians were enumerated in Waterbury.

(Exhibit I continued on following page)

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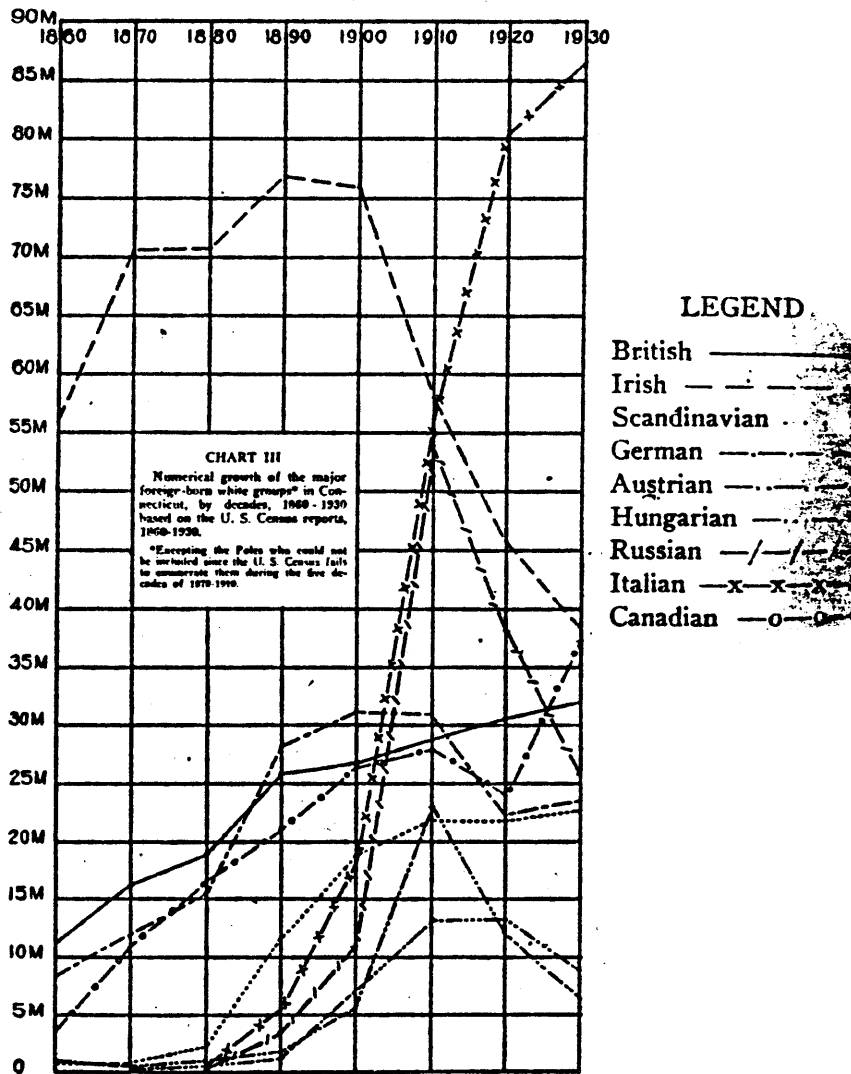


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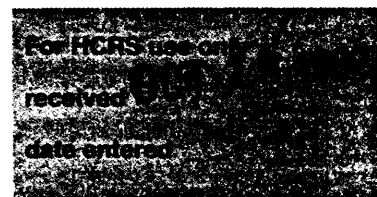
Exhibit I (Continued) 7/



The immigration of Irish to Waterbury was well underway by 1850 and may be said to date back nearly to the Colonial period. This, the so-called "Old Immigration," created an Irish population which constituted nearly

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three-fourths of the foreign born population in Connecticut by 1860, a trend in which the group maintained numerical leadership for the six consecutive decades following, reaching a peak of 77,880 in 1890 and surpassing all other immigrant groups. Although a rapid decline began in that year, the Irish still constituted the largest foreign-born element in the population of the State in 1910. 8/

Waterbury's growth rate during the nineteenth century reveals that significant population expansion did not begin to occur until the decade between 1850-1860. At this time the Irish comprised about twenty per-cent of the population. Exhibit II depicts the overall growth of Waterbury's population between 1790-1920.

WATERBURY POPULATION BY DECADE 1790 - 1920 - Exhibit II 9/

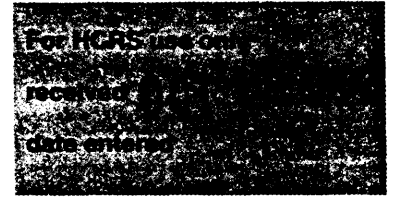
| <u>Year</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Growth/Decline: % Change</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1790 | 2937 | - |
| 1800 | 3256 | 10 |
| 1810 | 2874 | -11 |
| 1820 | 2282 | -20 |
| 1830 | 3070 | 34 |
| 1840 | 3668 | 19 |
| 1850 | 5137 | 40 |
| 1860 | 10004 | 94 |
| 1870 | 13106 | 31 |
| 1880 | 20270 | 54 |
| 1890 | 33202 | 63 |
| 1900 | 51139 | 54 |
| 1910 | 73141 | 43 |
| 1920 | 91715 | 25 |

Source: U.S. Census 1920

While the first wave of Irish immigrants settled initially in the Abrigador, Brooklyn and Railroad Hill sections of the city, the pattern of settlement became more diffuse as their number increased. The North End of the city began to be developed after 1870. As late as 1876 however, Beacon and Crown Streets, which form the northeastern corner of the Bishop School site, had

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not yet been laid out. 10/ In 1879 Crown Street was laid out, coincident with the construction of Bishop School, which appears to have been one of the major buildings in the immediate area. Designated as Ward Two, the area was encompassed by the Centre School District and was settled predominantly by immigrants of Irish and Roman Catholic ethnic and religious composition, initial development occurring in the northeast sector. 11/ By 1898, overcrowding of parishioners in the Church of the Immaculate Conception caused St. Thomas's Parish to be established, with the church edifice located directly north of Bishop School across Crown Street. Further study of period maps 12/ suggests, based upon changes in ownership of undeveloped property in the immediate neighborhood between 1879 - 1896 and measured by changes in national origin of last names, that the first generation of Irish immigrants gradually gained sufficient economic strength to purchase the residual tracts of property. Until the mid-1890s, it was the offspring of this group of Irish and to a lesser extent, German immigrants which Bishop School served.

Bishop School is also an important surviving physical reference of the movement to consolidate Waterbury's decentralized school governments during the last twenty-five years of the nineteenth century. The structure is also significant as representative of one of the first permanent, brick masonry sub-district schools established in the developing urban environment of the 1880s (the North Centre District School). In 1888 the Centre School District was divided into twelve sub-districts, of which Bishop was one. 13/ However, as late as 1891 there were still 78 schools within the Town and City of Waterbury. 14/ Records reveal that most of the elementary schools erected before 1880 were of wood frame construction, which presented considerable fire hazards. By 1895 the system had grown to include thirteen elementary schools within the district, serving a population of 5289 in daily average attendance. Bishop School ranked as having the fourth largest attendance at this time and Exhibit III places the school in relative perspective.

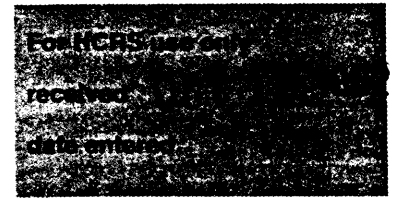
WATERBURY SCHOOLS 1895 - DAILY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE - Exhibit III 15/

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| High School...1134 | Porter Street...315 | Sperry Street...324 |
| Elm Street....490 | Washington.....262 | Locust Street...383 |
| Clay Street....389 | E. Main Street..197 | Dublin Street...117 |
| Bank Street....631 | Ridge Street...356 | Westside Hill...141 |
| <u>Bishop Street..432</u> | Hillside Ave....118 | |

In 1901 the consolidation of Waterbury's school system as a part of the city government was implemented by an act of the Connecticut State Legislature. Two primary school districts were established and the old Centre

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School District was abolished. The former independent school district governments were replaced with the Waterbury Board of Education which managed the city's school system under the direction of a school superintendent. 16/ Consolidation was not completed until 1936 when East Farms and Oronoke Schools were absorbed into the system.

The Centre School District, because of the mounting influx of immigrants, erected on the average, one new school building per year, commencing about 1875. Experiencing growth pressures and overcrowded conditions, the Centre School District, on August 19, 1878

"voted to erect a building of brick on Bishop Street, midway between the school houses of the Adams Street and Burnt Hill sub-districts, at a cost not exceeding \$7000," and "to sell the property belonging to the district on Burnt Hill and Adams Street." 17/

Designed by architect Miles L. Pritchard (Dublin Street School, East Main Street School), who practiced in Waterbury between 1877-1886, Bishop School was constructed for six thousand dollars. Contractors for the project were Tracy and Gaffney. 18/ The building was constructed and subsequently expanded during the beginning of the peak of the Irish immigration into the city which commenced in the 1870s.

Prompted by a report of the board of education, Bishop School was enlarged in 1886 with the addition of two classrooms.

"A very crowded attendance at the Bishop Street, Porter Street and Elm Street schools..." (obliged the children) "to sit upon benches placed in the aisles and on chairs brought from home, and even upon the edge of the teacher's platform. Both the health of the pupils and the inability of the teachers properly to instruct so large a number require that something should be done. 19/

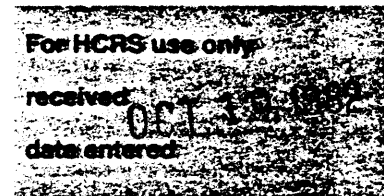
The school was enlarged again for six more classrooms in 1895.

"The number of grammar school scholars who passed examination for admission was 110, making the number at the summer term 252. These were packed into quarters originally designed for only 114. In several other rooms the condition reported was almost as bad,..." "At the district meeting already referred to, held May 9, 1895...not only was it voted to erect a new high school building at a cost of \$100,000, but to enlarge the Bishop street and Bank street schools at an expense of \$30,000 additional." 20/

Bishop School opened with four rooms in the fall of 1879. The building

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requires understanding as utilitarian design and not as high-style architectural expression. In order not to discount the value of the admittedly awkward 1895 addition, the subjectivity of contemporary tastes for utilitarian architectural forms must be considered. In plan and stylistic design, the original 1879 portion of the structure closely reflects ideas found in Henry Barnard's School Architecture. 21/ This portion of the school is significant as a transitional building design which bridged the era of the one-room schoolhouses which it replaced and the more modern, multi-room structures of two stories or more. It was designed to be expanded and as a pragmatic response it reflects the socio-political aspects of urban school consolidation considered earlier: larger classrooms and teaching staffs, neighborhood location and centralized administration. The accretions to the building are therefore important as a record of progress to the collective experience of the community and its descendants.

While the Irish population in Waterbury grew from 3,642 in 1876 to 5,866 by 1900, 22/ the period after 1880 saw further changes in the city's ethnic composition. Bucki wrote:

"As early as 1890 over 70% of Waterbury's citizens were either immigrants or children of immigrants. Between 1880 and 1890 some 1,300 French Canadians entered the city. And after 1890 southern and eastern European immigrants, especially Italians, Russians and Lithuanians became the dominant immigrant groups in Waterbury." 23/

These conditions severely strained the capacity of Bishop School as well as much of the elementary school system and even with the 1886 and 1895 additions, stimulated construction of additional new buildings. The erection of Webster School (1898) and St. Thomas School (1902), the city's second parochial school, were a direct result of increasing elementary school population in the Bishop School district. Coupled with the diminishing availability of appropriate sites within the city, school design was also influenced by immigration pressure, in addition to consolidation. A new generation of elementary schools began to be constructed whose typical form now consisted of two or three stories and a minimum of twelve classrooms.

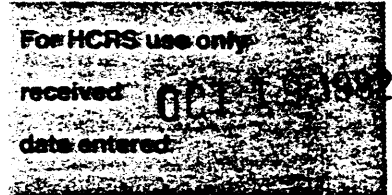
By 1910 the impact of the largest new immigrant groups, the Italians, Russians* and Slavic peoples was felt as they overshadowed the established Irish in numbers if not in influence. Of the Italians Bucki notes:

"Although ward population data showed that Italian immigrants lived in all wards of the city, the congested central city district was their highest concentration point." 24/

*Census enumeration included Poles and Lithuanians as Russians in 1900, 1910.

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The Bishop Street neighborhood and St. Thomas's Parish, both located within Waterbury's Second Ward and near North Square, the city's ethnic melting pot for arriving immigrants, appear to have received a proportionately higher concentration of non-English speaking immigrants after 1900. This is confirmed by the following excerpt which depicts the social composition of the Bishop School community in 1914:

"In the entire city, nearly one-half, or 50 per cent, of the pupils in school, have parents who were born in non-English speaking countries. In Bishop Street, Clay Street, Croft, Duggan and Barnard Schools about three-fourths of the children have parents who were born in non-English speaking countries. The per cents vary all the way from 77 per cent at Bishop to 6 per cent at Washington. It goes without saying that those schools which have the higher per cents of pupils whose parents were born in non-English speaking countries have peculiar problems to solve that the other schools do not have." 25/

The decade between 1900-1910 and the onset of the First World War contributed to increasing opportunities for steady employment which drew whole families from abroad. The growth rate of the approximately 20,000 Italians living in Connecticut at the beginning of the century was extraordinary, their number trebling by 1910. After 1914, as the brass industry and allied industries of the Naugatuck Valley geared up to meet the almost insatiable demand for ammunition and war materiel, the population increased again by about one-third. 26/ By 1920 the Italian population of Waterbury reached 9,232. 27/

Catholic immigrants entering Connecticut from Italy, the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires during this period adopted, principally for economic reasons, the pattern of settling in neighborhoods vacated by the Irish and Germans who had become sufficiently upwardly mobile to permit them to move to better residential districts. 28/ However, extra costs for tuition and books associated with parochial schools established by their predecessors precluded most newly-arrived immigrants or impoverished families from sending their children to these institutions. While registration records are not available for comparison of the student ethnic composition of Bishop and St. Thomas Schools, it is highly plausible that, given consideration of economic factors cited above, the two schools served relatively discrete populations, i.e., the more affluent, established Irish/German group at St. Thomas and the poorer, more diffuse, new immigrant groups at Bishop School. Because school district jurisdiction and parish boundaries roughly overlapped, membership and baptismal records for St. Thomas Parish for the period 1900-1950 illuminate, to a degree, the ethnic composition of parentage and changing trends in the school age population during this period. In 1900, church membership consisted of 1800 Irish. In 1905 and 1915, membership is recorded as being composed of 2500 Catholics, with no distinction of national origin. By 1930 however, the overall membership

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number had changed little but only 1200 parishioners were listed as being Catholics whose principal language was English, suggesting emigration of the older Irish community out of the parish. 29/ After 1935 fewer than one-half of new births in the parish were of Irish descent, while those of Italian background rose steadily from twenty-one percent of the total in the same year, to forty-six percent by 1950. All other groups comprised twenty-eight percent of new births in 1930, declining to fifteen percent by 1950. As costs of parochial education rose, it is assumed that the trend of different socio-economic but not necessarily ethnic groups served by the two schools continued until their closing in the mid-1970s. 30/

That the Italian and Russian immigration after 1900 extended and intensified the pressure on Waterbury's elementary and secondary public educational system is undeniable. The decades of overcrowded and substandard conditions at Bishop School and other institutions are understandable in part, by reason that parochial schools associated with other ethnic groups were not established as early as those of the Irish, which served as a kind of safety valve for the overburdened public school system. Koenig wrote in 1938:

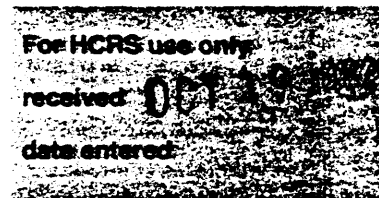
"Paradoxically, the largest Roman Catholic ethnic group in Connecticut, the Italians, which numbered 227,262 in 1930 has played a comparatively unimportant part in the development of Catholic education in the State. It wasn't until 1935 that the first Italian parochial school in Connecticut was opened in New Haven..." 31/

The disproportionately fewer parochial schools founded by the Italians of Waterbury during this period is at least in part attributable to broader cultural traits which de-emphasized organized religion as a motivating social, institutional development factor. 32/

The influence of Russian immigrants in the Bishop School neighborhood before 1920, along with Polish and Lithuanians, is less well defined. A Russian Orthodox Church was established at the eastern end of Crown Street in circa 1920, while the Polish community was served by St. Stanislaus Church (1913), a considerable distance to the east on East Farm Street. By 1933 the grammar school age population in the city had stabilized and begun to decline, reflecting both the federal immigration restrictions enacted in 1923 and the aging of the foreign white population. It was not until the post Second World War period that the American Black population began to settle in Waterbury in substantial numbers. Significantly, black teachers were introduced into Waterbury's elementary school system in the early 1950s. Bishop School was among the first, a response in part to the growing concentration of black settlement in the southern and western portions of the neighborhood along Bishop and Pearl Streets. To the south, at the intersection of Grove, Bishop and North Main Streets, the North Square area, which had been the traditional commercial center of the Bishop Street neighborhood, became predominantly occupied by black residents. As further testament to the evolving nature of the area, the Russian group moved further

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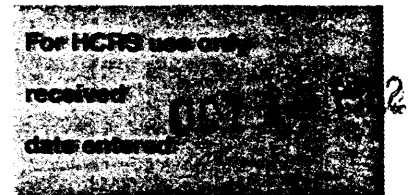
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north in the city, vacating the former Russian Orthodox Church, which was reconsecrated as a Baptist place of worship in 1975 to serve the growing local black population.

The association of the 1895 Bishop School Annex with its designer, Joseph A. Jackson, one of Waterbury's most prominent designers of institutional and commercial architecture, is also important. Jackson's association with Bishop School is significant because the structure is one of a group of three executed by the architect clustered about the intersection of Crown and Beacon Streets (St. Thomas Church 1898, St. Thomas School 1902). The formal massing and institutional plan of these structures represents an achievement in civic design which contributes significantly to the feeling of a neighborhood core atmosphere. As the historical nucleus of these structures, Bishop School has assumed additional importance with the loss of St. Thomas School by demolition in 1981. The Bishop School Annex, clearly designed as a subordinate structure to the main block, even though its massing contests the 1879 and 1886 portions of the building, is representative of the designer's ability with utilitarian form even while constrained with a difficult and uneven, sloping site. In its simplest form, the Annex is not an architectural landmark and thus should not be compared with other examples of Jackson's work which may fall into this category (Bank Street, Clay Street, Walsh and Slocum Schools*). In its present condition the Bishop School provides a strong reference to late Victorian institutional design and continues to exert a presence of stability and permanence to this late nineteenth-century ethnic immigrant neighborhood. Perhaps more importantly, Bishop School is a century-old reminder of the vital educational role the urban neighborhood school played in the acculturation process of the immigrant masses during Waterbury's Industrial Era.

*Note: Jackson's contribution to Waterbury architecture was substantial. His association with ethnic ecclesiastical structures was also significant as his commissions included St. Joseph's Church (Lithuanian); the convents of Notre Dame and St. Mary; and St. Patrick's Hall. He also designed Crosby High School (public). His major commercial buildings are too numerous to mention but are enumerated in Pape, pp. 137-138.

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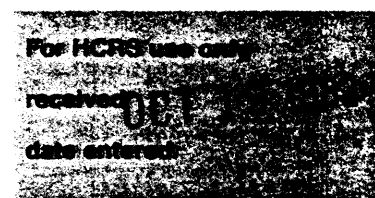
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Footnotes

- 1/ Public Schools. Department of Education. Waterbury, Connecticut 1925. p. 3.
- 2/ U.S. Bureau of the Census (Washington: Government Printing Office decennial, 1850 to 1920) Manuscript Books deposited in Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut. Exhibit I is extracted from Bucki, Cecilia., and the staff of the Mattatuck Historical Society. Minds, Metal and Machines - Waterbury at Work. Waterbury: Mattatuck Historical Society. 1980. p. 84.
- 3/ Bucki, Cecilia., and the staff of the Mattatuck Historical Society. Minds, Metal and Machines - Waterbury at Work. Waterbury: Mattatuck Historical Society. 1980. p. 4.
- 4/ Ibid. p.44
- 5/ Koenig, Samuel, Phd. "Immigrant settlements in Connecticut: their growth and characteristics." Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project for the State of Connecticut. Hartford: Connecticut State Department of Education. 1938. p. 15.
- 6/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1850-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki et al. p. 84.
- 7/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1860-1930 decennial reports. Quoted in Koenig. p. 18.
- 8/ Koenig. p. 16.
- 9/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1790-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki, et al. p. 83.
- 10/ View of Waterbury, Connecticut. (map) Milwaukee: O.H. Vogt & Company. Printed by J. Knauber & Company. 1876
- 11/ Atlas of the City of Waterbury. (maps) "Part of Ward 2 Waterbury." Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company. 1879. pp. 32, 33.
- 12/ View of Waterbury, Connecticut. (map); Atlas of the City of Waterbury. (maps) "Part of Waterbury." Philadelphia: D.L. Miller & Company. 1896. Plate 13.
- 13/ Pape, William J., History of Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley. New York: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company. 1918. p. 505

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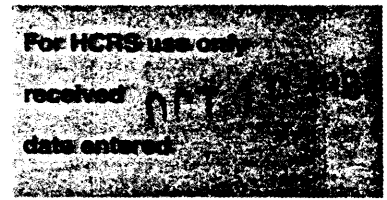
Page 13

Footnotes (continued)

- 14/ Anderson, Joseph. The Town and City of Waterbury, Connecticut, From the Aboriginal Period to the Year 1895. New Haven: The Price and Lee Company. 1896. p. 506
- 15/ Ibid. p. 506.
- 16/ Annual Report of the Board of Education City of Waterbury 1922. Waterbury: The Heminway Press. 1922. pp. 6,7.
- 17/ Anderson. p. 499.
- 18/ Waterbury American. August 26, 1879. Waterbury, Connecticut. p. 4.
- 19/ Anderson. p. 500.
- 20/ Ibid. p. 507.
- 21/ Barnard, Henry. School Architecture Contribution to the Improvement of Schoolhouses in the United States. New York: A.S. Barnes and Company. 1848.
- 22/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1850-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki, et al. p. 84.
- 23/ Bucki. p. 71.
- 24/ Ibid. pp. 72, 73.
- 25/ Pape. p. 79.
- 26/ Koenig. p. 26.
- 27/ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1850-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki, et al. p. 84.
- 28/ Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project. "Education in Connecticut: A New Slant on Barnard." Deposited in the Department of Manuscripts and Archives, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Record Group: Box 38:II-4. "The Emergence and Growth of Parochial Schools." (unnumbered pages). 1936.
- 29/ Records of St. Thomas's Parish, Waterbury, Connecticut. 1900-1930. Deposited in the archives of the Diocese of Connecticut, Hartford, CT.

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Footnotes (continued)

- 30/ Substantiated by telephone interviews with: Sando Bologna, Waterbury
CT 12/14/81
- Hyotha Hofler, Waterbury
CT December, 1981
- John O'Lear, Waterbury,
CT 1/9/82
- Eleanor Parks Davis,
Stamford, CT 1/19/82
- and personal interviews: Rev. George Condron
St. Thomas Parish,
Waterbury, CT
6/17/82
- Mildred Kelly
Waterbury, CT
6/17/82
- 31/ Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project.
Record Group: Box 38: II-5. "The foreign born school." (unpaged)
1936.
- 32/ Ibid. (unpaged)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 45,414 square feet

Quadrangle name Waterbury

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(see Continuation Sheet)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

office of:
name/title Christopher W. Closs, mnrp, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coor.
organization Community and Preservation Planning Consultants resubmitted January 19, 1982
date June 15, 1981

street & number 4 Bicentennial Sq./3rd Flr telephone (603) 224-6714

city or town Concord state New Hampshire 03301

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

date October 12, 1982

For HCRS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

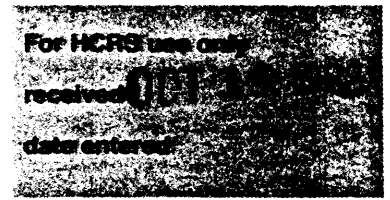
date 11/30/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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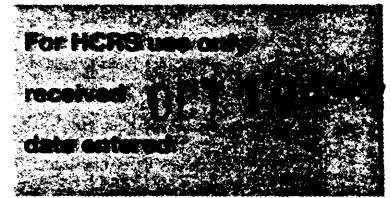
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- Pape, William J. History of Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley. New York: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company. 1918. pp. 79, 505.
- Public Schools. Department of Education. Waterbury, Connecticut. 1925. p. 3.
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 Eleanor Parks Davis, Stamford, CT 1/18/82
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1790-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki, et al. p. 83.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1850-1920 decennial reports. Quoted in Bucki, et al. pp. 83, 84.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1860-1930 decennial reports. Quoted in Koenig. p. 18.

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U.S. Bureau of the Census (Washington: Government Printing Office decennial, 1850 to 1920) Manuscript Books deposited in Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut. Exhibit I is extracted from Bucki, Cecilia, and the staff of the Mattatuck Historical Society. Minds, Metal and Machines - Waterbury at Work. Waterbury: Mattatuck Historical Society. 1980. p. 84.

View of Waterbury, Connecticut. (map). Atlas of the City of Waterbury. (maps) "Part of Waterbury." Philadelphia: D.L. Miller & Company. 1896. Plate 13.

View of Waterbury, Connecticut. (map) Milwaukee: O.H. Vogt & Company. Printed by J. Knauber & Company. 1876.

Waterbury American. August 26, 1879. Waterbury, Connecticut. p. 4.

Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project. "Education in Connecticut: A New Slant on Barnard." Deposited in the Department of Manuscripts and Archives, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Record Group: Box 38:II-4. "The Emergence and Growth of Parochial Schools." (unnumbered pages). 1936.

Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project. Record Group: Box 38: II-5. "The foreign born school." (unpaged). 1936.

Personal Interviews

Rev. George Condon, St. Thomas Parish, Waterbury, CT June 17, 1982

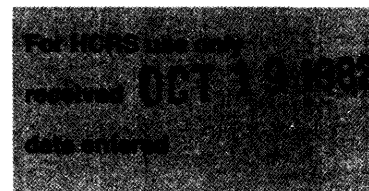
Mildred W. Kelly, 663 Cooke Street, Waterbury, CT June 17, 1982

Ethnographic Information

Bishop School Area: A Map of Ethnic Composition and Change - Circa 1890-1930
 Prepared by Hyotha R. Hofler, cartographer. Waterbury, CT December, 1982.

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Legal Boundary Description and Justification

The legal boundary description of the Bishop School Apartments is described as follows: "That certain piece or parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Bishop Street, the southerly side of Crown Street and the westerly side of Beacon Street in the City of Waterbury, Conn. bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a city monument marking the intersection of the southerly line of Crown Street with the westerly line of Beacon Street, said point being the northeasterly corner of the within described land, thence running in the westerly line of Beacon Street S6°-17'-30"E 191.00 feet to land now or formerly of Harry J. Bovino et al., thence running in line of land now or formerly of Harry J. Bovino et al. and land now or formerly of Estate of C. Wesley Clapp S77°-18'-0"W 229.68 feet to Bishop Street, thence running in the easterly line of Bishop Street N11°-59'W 190.00 feet to Crown Street, thence running in the southerly line of Crown Street N77°-20'-30"E 248.62 feet to Beacon Street and the point of beginning."

This property description refers to the sketch map (see Attachment 1-Item Number 10) and is derived from the title, recorded in the Waterbury Land Records, Book 1494, Page 139.

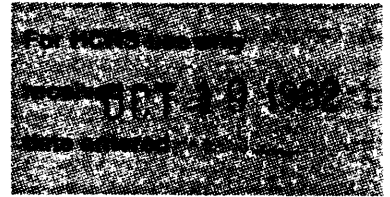
The boundary of the property is justified by the public rights-of-way which form the perimeter of the property on three sides and the neighborhood residential elements to the south.

The two principal elevations of the building front on Bishop and Beacon Streets (west and east respectively). Crown Street, laid out in 1879 when Bishop School was constructed, forms the northern perimeter of the sloping site. To the south, older residences screened by mature hardwoods in an irregular row parallel with the property line complete the enclosure.

A parking area, playground and landscaped woodland park are contained upon the site. To the west, between the school and Bishop Street, is an allee formed by parallel rows of several maple trees oriented on a north-south axis.

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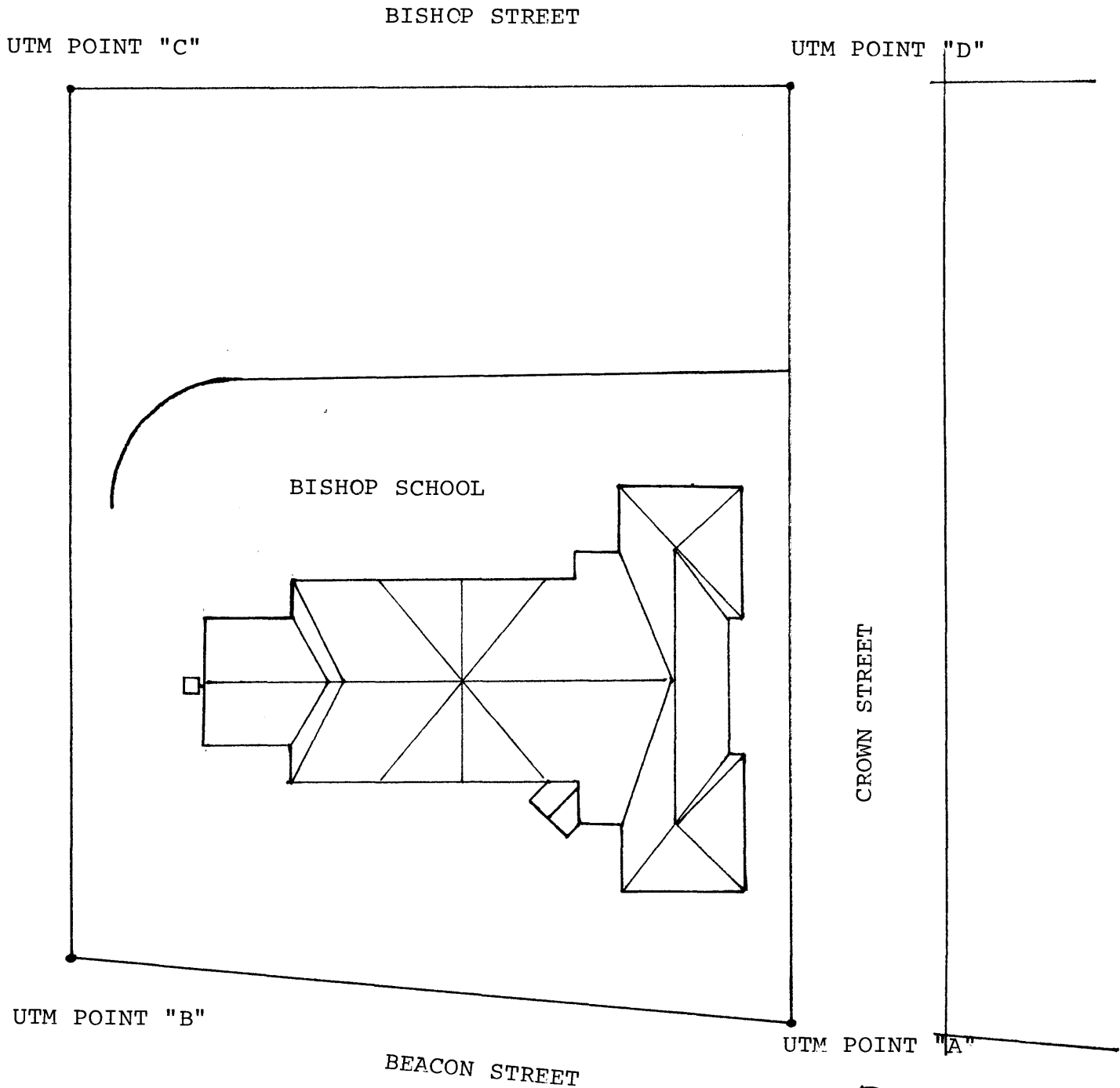
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SKETCH PLAN
(not to scale)

