

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1979

DATE ENTERED SEP 7 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Stephen's Memorial Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church'

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

74 South Common Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Stephen's Church

STREET & NUMBER

74 South Common Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Essex County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #504

DATE

1978

FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Stephen's Church occupies a prominent site facing the Lynn Common at the southwest corner of South Common and Blossom Streets. Containing elements of Romanesque and Gothic Revival styles, the church has a complex plan consisting of a Latin-cross plan church hall with covered side aisles and an ambulatory along its rear (west) wall. At the structure's northwest corner is a square plan tower which contains the church's major entry. On the church's south wall, the ambulatory and a second hallway extend south, connecting to the parish house and framing a small courtyard which contains the graves of the Mudge Family. The parish house extends along an east-west axis and contains two later additions. Except for the additions, the entire building is constructed of reddish granite rubble (quarried on the Swampscott estate of Enoch Mudge) with corner, gable and window trim of red brick. Decorative details and window tracery are of brown sandstone. The building's complex roofs are covered with red slate and have a decorative band of blue slate near the roofs' ridges.

TOWER: Rising to height of 130' from a square base (22') the tower is set north of the church hall and terminates in a steep gabled roof. At the southeast corner of the tower is a circular plan side tower with a conical roof, while on the main tower's east and west elevations are buttresses. The entry is set at the ground floor of the tower's north elevation; it consists of two vertical board doors with iron strap hinges set in a frame of receding pointed arches which are set on attached columns of polished granite. Immediately above the entry are a pair of rectangular windows which are surmounted by a single panel of carved sandstone rosettes. Above this panel is a pair of open pointed arches behind which is the belfry. These pointed arches are divided internally into two sections, a lower elongated trefoil arch and an upper trefoliate light. This arrangement is repeated on all sides of the tower except for the east elevation where the side tower allows room for only one opening at the bell landing. The tower's high gable is framed by stone pinnacles and has pointed arch openings (north and south). East and west of the gable are gabled dormers with pointed-arch lights.

CHURCH HALL: The church consists of a Latin cross plan, the nave of which extends east-west (90') and terminates in a semi-circular apse (east); the transept ends in gables on the north and south elevations. Side aisles at the angles of the cross plan are covered and included in the church hall, giving it an overall rectangular floor plan at the ground level. The north facade, facing South Common Street, is dominated at its center by the gable of the north transept in which is set a large pointed arch window. The window is divided by stone tracery into a rose window set above a colonnade of sandstone columns with carved sandstone panels, one of which bears the church's construction date. The window is framed on either side by buttresses. Immediately east of the transept is a gabled dormer with one pointed arch window which lights the nave.

The church's east elevation, facing Blossom Street, contains the gable of the nave which rises to a stepped gable containing paired arches with bells.

Extending from the end of the nave is a semi-circular apse which has evenly spaced windows (made up of paired trefoil arches) and an ornately carved sandstone cross at the first story. Above the first story, the apse is enclosed by a conical roof which is broken mid-way by a blind colonnade.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The church's west elevation consists of a one-story stone wall with paired windows at its north and south ends, which provide light for the ambulatory. Above the roof is a high hip (enclosing the nave), broken at its center by a gabled stone dormer. Centered on the dormer are two elongated windows terminating in trefoil arches with a circular light set between the arches. Extending south from the nave is a one-story hallway, enclosed by a pitched roof; this passage encloses the west side of the interior court and provides access to the parish house.

The south elevation of the church follows the general pattern of the north elevation except where its first story is covered by a one-story hallway (west of the transept) which connects to the parish house. The south elevation also has a dormer near its southwest corner (a position which is occupied on the north facade by the tower).

PARISH HOUSE: Rectangular in floor plan (built along an east-west axis), the Parish House is a one and one-half story structure which was built in three stages. The first story of the structure's east end is constructed of granite with brick trimmings, has irregular fenestration and an original two-story gable on its south wall. Originally this section was covered with a steeply pitched roof and small spire. In 1920, the original roof was removed and the present half-timbered second story was added. This addition contains a tri-partite window of pointed arches centered on its east end over the entry. Other fenestration of the addition corresponds to that of the original structure, below. This addition, as well as the present timbered entry porch on the structure's east end, were designed by Harold Field Kellogg.

In 1956, a major addition was made to the west end of the parish house. This addition follows the same roof and wall lines as the earlier parish house, although it is built of yellow/rust glazed bricks. Windows in the 1956 addition are evenly spaced and contain metal sash. Above each window of the north and south facade are dormers which break through the line of the eaves. This addition is not visible from the Church's Blossom Street elevation; further, it is set far back from the Church's north and west elevations, and was constructed without any alteration of the Church and its tower.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ware & VanBrunt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephen's Memorial Church is one of Lynn's most distinguished examples of Victorian architecture. Designed by the influential Boston firm of Ware & Van Brunt, the church was built by Enoch Reddington Mudge, a wealthy local merchant, as a memorial to his deceased children, Charles Reddington Mudge (killed at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863) and Fanny Olive Mudge. Proposals for the church were presented by two different architects to Mudge in 1880 or early 1881. From them Mudge chose the present plan. Construction began in the spring of 1881, the cornerstone was laid on May 19, 1881 and the building was completed for its dedication on November 2, 1881. Contemporary accounts note that construction was closely attended by Mudge, who died after reviewing details of the building's interior decoration in October of 1881; together with his wife and two children, Mudge is buried in an enclosed courtyard between the church and the parish house.

In its present condition, the church is virtually unaltered from its completion. The exterior is Gothic and Romanesque in design, constructed of granite quarried on Mudge's Swampscott estate, trimmed with red brick (facings and angles) and Nova Scotia "freestone" (weatherings and carvings). The structure is enclosed by a complex roof covered with red slate. The variety of carved stonework on the church and its state of preservation are unsurpassed in the city. In addition, the extreme height of the tower (130') and its position facing the Common make the church a major local landmark.

The church's interior retains many of its original fittings and is significant for the collaboration of major artists of the period in its design. The original altar and font (designed by Rotch & Tilden and carved by Evans & Tombs, all of Boston) have been removed as have been the original brass lighting fixtures designed by Ware & Van Brunt (illustrated in *American Architect & Building News*). Nonetheless, most features remain intact, including parquet and mosaic floors, hammer-beam trusses with carved timber ends (carved by Evans & Tombs), stencilled wall decoration and a variety of decorative and pictorial stained glass. Windows depicting the Annunciation, the Ascension and the martyrdom of St. Stephen are attributed designs of "St. Gaudens and Crowninshield" which were discussed in the *American Architect and Building News* of November 5, 1881:

This glass which is by the Associated Artists of New York, combined under the style of Louis C. Tiffany & Co., marks distinctly the beginning of a new era in decorative glass; it is the most monumental example of the art yet attempted in this country.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Memorial of St. Stephen's Parish. Lynn: printed by order of the Vestry, 1882.
The Making of St. Stephen's Parish, 1844-1969. (no imprint).
American Architect & Building News. Vol. X, No. 306, Nov. 5, 1881.
Withey, Henry. Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970 (reprint). pp. 632-633 & 614-615.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 74,816 sq. ft.

QUADRANGLE NAME Lynn

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 33911210 4101800
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached assessor's map on which the boundaries are delineated.
Lot #1 of Block #735 on assessor's sheet #26.

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

Brian Pfeiffer, consultant
City of Lynn

ORGANIZATION Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with

DATE

STREET & NUMBER Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 1979

CITY OR TOWN

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE
(617) 727-8470

STATE

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Peter Westwood 6/25/79

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-7-79

ATTEST: Margaret O'Neil
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7/4/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The building's architects are, as a partnership and individually, important in the development of American architecture in the late nineteenth century. William R. Ware was born in 1832 and received architectural training at the Lawrence Scientific and Technical School in Cambridge, Massachusetts and in the office of E.C. Cabot of Boston. In 1865, he was sent by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study the method of architectural training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and, in 1866, he returned to M.I.T. to establish the first school of architecture in the United States. In 1881, Ware accepted a professorship at Columbia University where he was instrumental in the development of a program of architectural training. Henry Van Brunt was born in 1832 and received architectural training in the office of George Snell of Boston and, later, in the atelier of Richard Morris Hunt of New York. From 1865 until some time around 1881, Ware & VanBrunt maintained a partnership during which they designed the First Unitarian Church in Boston, Memorial Hall at Harvard University and St. John's Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. From 1881 until 1886, Van Brunt carried on a practice in Boston with Frank Howe; after 1886 the firm moved to Kansas City, Missouri. As St. Stephen's Church was designed during the dissolution of Ware & Van Brunt and as a number of contemporary sources refer to Van Brunt, alone as the architect of the building, it is possible that Ware had little or no hand in the design.

Prior to the 1870's, the history of the Episcopal church in Lynn had been one of failing efforts to establish a congregation. Around 1818-1819 an effort was made to organize the town's first Episcopal congregation under the name of St. John's; however, within five years the small congregation had switched its allegiance to Unitarianism. By 1834, a second congregation (Christ Church) had formed a Greek Revival style church was built on North Common Street in 1837. In 1841, the second church was sold and the congregation dissolved. In 1844, St. Stephen's congregation was formed and the former Christ Church was purchased. Much of the church's financial support came from wealthy summer residents of the Lynn Beach area and Nahant; although, the church remained active between 1844 and 1876, its following was small. Soon after the hiring of Louis DeCormis as pastor in 1876, the congregation began to grow, partially as a result of DeCormis's personal popularity. By the later 1870's, the congregation had outgrown the existing church and created the need for the present structure.

TAKEN FROM:
LYNN ASSESSORS' MAPS
SHEET #26

JUL 6 1979

NATIONAL
REGISTER

BLOSSOM

429.52

245.59

221.63

St. Stephen's Church
Lot# 1 of Block 735

74,816

254.98

STREET

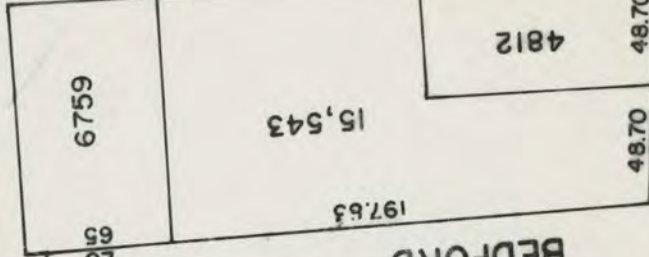
COMMON

STREET

LYNN

COMMON

SOUTH



ST. BEDFORD

26,886

230.12

7833

62.56

50

46

64.95

42.50

42

58.45

36

39-41

91.85

72.91

33-35

73.68

47-47A 49-49A

51-53

55-55 1/2

61-61A 63

65-67

72.28

STREET

SHEPARD

65-67
72.28
50.08
65.08
55-55 1/2
61-61A 63

51-53
59.71

47-47A 49-49A
73.68

39-41
91.85

72.91

33-35

47-47A 49-49A

51-53

55-55 1/2

61-61A 63

65-67

72.28

50.08

65.08

55-55 1/2

61-61A 63

65-67



STREET
COMMON

LYNN

COMMON

SOUTH

STREET

Lot 1 of Block 332
St. Stephen's Church

SHEPARD

STREET

ST
BEDFORD

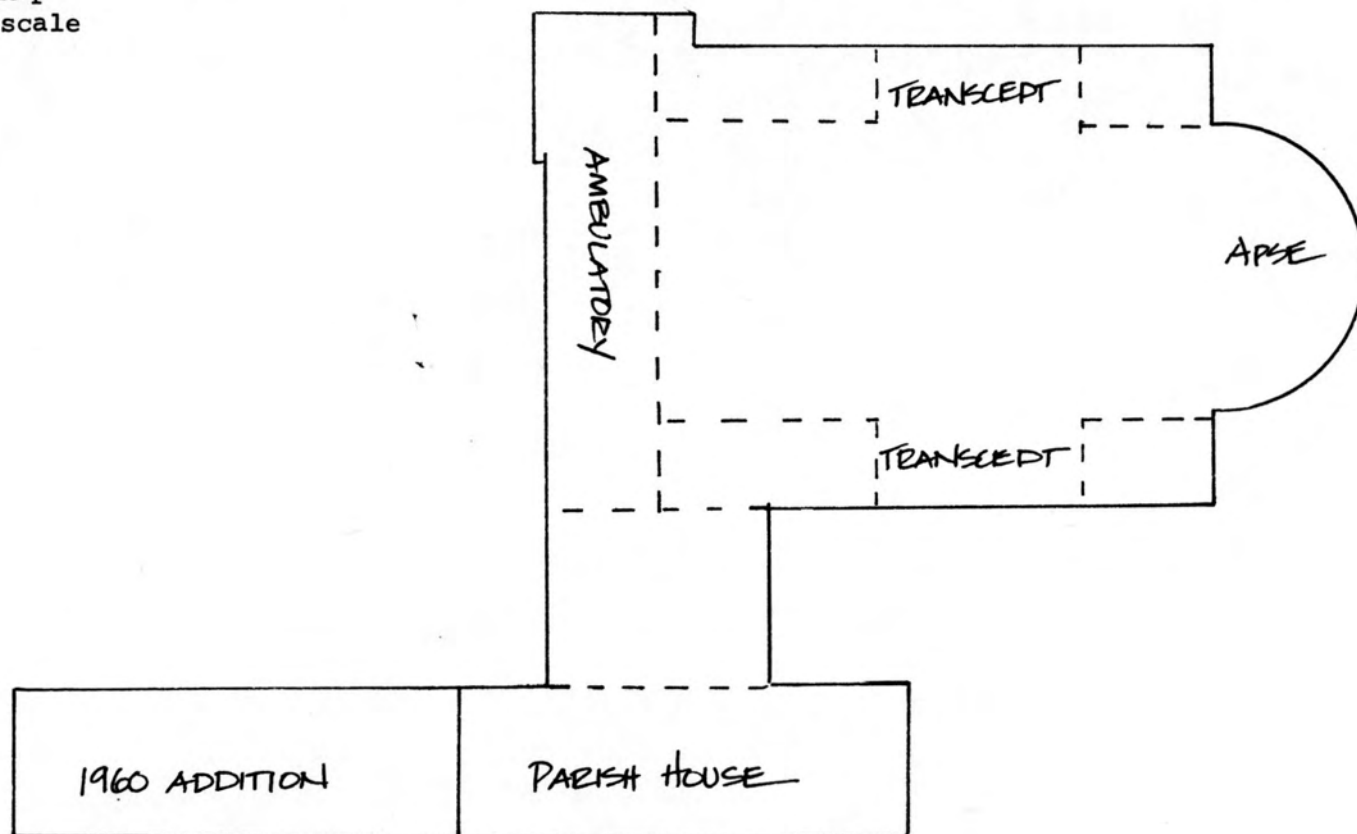
BLOSSOM

SEAL
JUL 9 1878
MASS. REG. DEEDS
JAMES H. BROWN

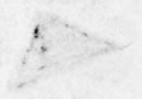
SEP 1 1878

SOUTH COMMON STREET

St. Stephen's Church
Lynn, Mass.
Sketch Map
Not to scale



10. 8/24/79
11. 8/24/79
12. 8/24/79
13. 8/24/79



SEP 7 1979

Property

St. Stephen's Memorial Church

State

Mass. (Essex)

Working Number

2.6.79.1624

TECHNICAL

Photos ☒Maps ☒

CONTROL

where it is an important element

OK 7.9.79

This major ecclesiastical structure faces the Lynn Common, ~~forming~~ of the setting by virtue of its mass and its tall tower. The variety of stonework displayed is unsurpassed in the city. Designed by Henry Van Brunt, this church is the only building attributed to Van Brunt

HISTORIAN

Accept
Oulup
9/4/79

himself rather than his firm of Ware & Van Brunt, on the basis of documentary evidence. It is therefore valuable in the definition of the style of this major area architect. It is also associated with wealthy local merchant Enoch Reddington Mudge who financed construction and closely reviewed plans for interior & exterior.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept Oulup 9/5/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

10-2-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

SEP 7 1979



memorial

St. Stephen's Church
Lynn, Mass.
Brian Pfeiffer, 1979
Lynn Community Development Dept.

Essex Co.

Photo #1
View facing southwest

JUL 6 1979

SEP 7 1979

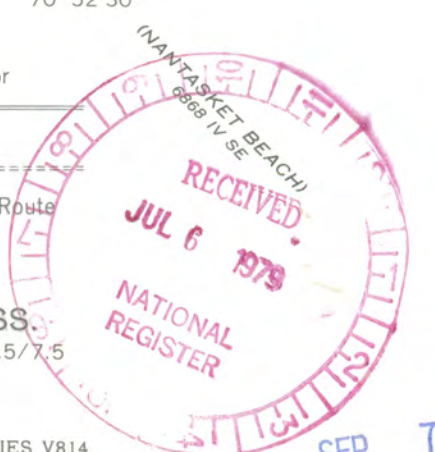
Lynn - St. Stephen's Church -
View - Facing southwest 1/79

Old Post Office

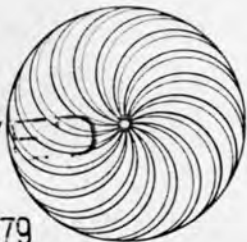
LYNN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



AMS 6868 IV NW—SERIES V814



SEP 7 1979



HELEN FORESMAN SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66045

MAR 8 1979

2 March 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



Gentlemen:

I was recently delighted to hear that Saint Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn, Massachusetts has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. I am eager to write at this time in support of that nomination. I would, in fact, be hard put to think of another building more deserving of preservation. Having recently completed a major study of the building's architect, Henry Van Brunt, I can testify to the unique importance of Saint Stephen's Church within the oeuvre of the architect.

Van Brunt began his career in 1863 in partnership with William R. Ware in Boston. He practiced actively as one of the most distinguished and respected members of his profession until his death in 1903. Saint Stephen's Church comes at a decisive moment in Van Brunt's career. In 1881 Ware departed from the partnership to found the Architectural School at Columbia University; he was replaced by a former Ware and Van Brunt apprentice, Frank Howe. In studying his works of the firms of Ware and Van Brunt and Van Brunt and Howe it is frequently difficult to determine which partner designed a given structure. The sole building which can on the basis of existing documents be attributed with absolute assurance to Van Brunt himself is Saint Stephen's Church. As such it is a uniquely important structure for the definition of this major architect's style.

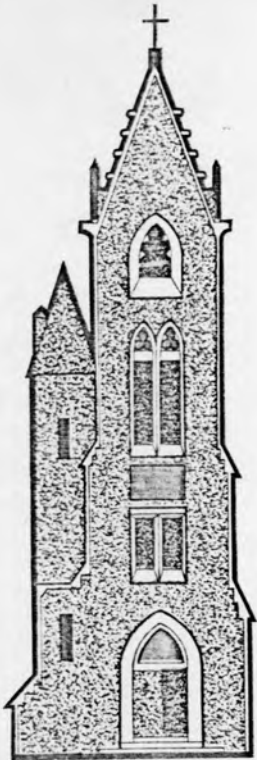
Even without this documentary interest, Saint Stephen's Church would be a worthy inclusion on the National Register. The Church is certainly one of the major ecclesiastical structures built in the Boston area during the last third of the nineteenth century--rivalled only by such works as H. H. Richardson's Trinity Church. The building is both a highly personal example of Van Brunt's architecture and a valuable document for the tastes of its times. Equally extraordinary is the fact that the Church remains in the midst of a decaying community in almost unaltered condition. A recent improvement in the Church's own finances, I understand, has at last provided a tangible means to enable the Parish to preserve this outstanding building. I can not urge you strongly enough to act favorably on this nomination.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Hennessey
Curator and Assistant Professor of Art History

TELEPHONE (913) 864-4710

WJH:clc



Saint Stephen's Memorial Church
74 South Common Street at Blossom
Lynn, Massachusetts 01902
Office telephone (617) 599-4220



March 6, 1979

Ms. Candace Jenkins
National Register Coordinator
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

We are absolutely delighted that St. Stephen's Memorial Church has been nominated to the National Register of Historical Places. It is indeed a significant building and one that should be preserved. I understand that our Historian, Mrs. John S. C. Morgan (Mary), has sent further information to you. If any additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With every best wish, I am

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. William B. Lawson
Rector

WBL/eb

Enc. (1)

P.S. Please note the correction in our official name and also address.

RECEIVED

MAR 9 1979

MASS. HIST. COMM.



MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

June 25, 1979

Mr. Ronald Greenberg, Acting Chief
Registration Branch
OAHF, Heritage, Conservation &
Recreation Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- BOSTON - Arthur J. Lynn (Schooner)
- HANOVER - Stetson House
- LAWRENCE - Downtown Lawrence Historic District
- LYNN - Lynn Armory
- LYNN - St. Stephen's Church
- SOUTHBRIDGE - Center Village Historic District

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director

CB/leaf
Encl:



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MASSACHUSETTS
STATE

Date Entered SEP 7 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stetson House	Hanover Plymouth County
Centre Village Historic District	Southbridge Worcester County
St. Stephen's Memorial Church	Lynn Essex County
Lynn Armory	Lynn Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Gerry E. Studds
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 9/12/79