

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church ~~Complex~~ *Rectory and School*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Market Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

10th

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

034

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

West Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

__ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registrar of Deeds, Essex County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, built in 1871-1880 by Jeremiah O'Rourke, is a brownstone church in the Gothic style. Measuring approximately 70 by 165 feet, the building is oriented with the apse facing east and the main entrance facing west. The structure consists of a tall central nave flanked by lower aisles and transepts, entrance vestibules, a ground floor underneath the entire church area, and a two-story projection that wraps around the east end of the church.

The long nave has a steep, slate gable roof. Lower, less inclined roofs cover the aisles which are separated from the nave by seven bays of pointed arches on slender columns and elaborate Corinthian capitals. Across the fifth and sixth bays there are shallow transepts on both sides of the nave.

Each bay is articulated at the ceiling by wooden trusses with the pointed arch motif. The original ceiling was redesigned in the 1950's to accommodate new downlights. There are traces of murals painted on canvas or cloth along the walls that have received new finishes.

There are three entrances to the church: one for each aisle and the main entrance along the nave. A balcony rises above the entrance vestibule area and overhangs into the nave. The apse consists of a blank wall with three tall stained glass lancet windows above. Side altars, articulated by arches, flank the main altar at the end of each aisle.

The front facade is an asymmetrical arrangement of the central nave with its steep gable roof, a low aisle with a projecting entrance vestibule and a heavy, square, corner bell tower with a flat top. Along the sides at each bay is a tall stained glass pointed arch window. All around the exterior are stone buttresses supporting the walls and corners.

There is no physical or historical evidence indicating that the tower was ever higher than it is now or that it ever had a spire.

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 1871-1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jeremiah O'Rourke

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church Complex reflects the expansion of Catholicism in the City of Newark (and particularly in this section) in the late 19th century to the second quarter of the 20th century.

The church building itself is a good example of Victorian Gothic architecture, although numerous examples exist in Newark. Designed by prominent New Jersey architect Jeremiah O'Rourke, the nearly pristine interior features of Saint Joseph's makes this an important example of his work.

The adjacent school (which dates as far back as 1859) evidences the parishoners firm belief in a thorough, but religiously based, education for their youngsters.

Both the church and the school provided important religious and social interaction with people of similar backgrounds (predominately Irish) and beliefs.

The significance of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church rests on its architecture and its role in the religious and social history of Newark. As the seventh Catholic Church in the City, it represents the first step to organize the Catholics in the growing section of Newark called the "Hill".

Founded in 1859 by Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, first bishop of the Newark Diocese, a two-story brick church-school building was built next to the present site to serve increasing numbers of immigrants settling there. The "Hill" was originally a part of the St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral parish but the construction of the Morris Canal bisected the parish while it attracted many immigrants to the area. The newcomers were mostly workers in Newark's industries such as the quarries, coach-making shops, hat and shoe factories and leather tanneries.

The Reverend Bernard McQuaid, pastor of the St. Patrick's, first president of Seton Hall and later bishop of Rochester, New York, bought the land where the church was to be built. For nine years priests from St. Patrick's continued to serve St. Joseph's until 1868 when the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Flynn, Joseph M., The Catholic Church in New Jersey, The Publisher's Printing Co., New York, NY, 1904.

Article, Newark News, May 17, 1959.

Original building contracts, New Jersey Historical Society

UTM NOT VERIFIED (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .72 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Elizabeth U.S.G.S. Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 5,6,8,7,0,0 4,5,1,0,3,4,0

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point at the intersection of West Market and Warren Streets, Newark, and proceeding SE 232.50', thence SW - 102.47', thence SE - 37.54', thence SW - 125', thence NW - 114.02', thence SW - 25', thence S - 63.22', thence NW - 104.2', thence N - 360.26', thence NE - 134.16', to the place of beginning, being lots 1 & 2 on

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES Block 417 and lot 7 on Block 418.

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Roz Li, Architect

ORGANIZATION

New Community Corporation

DATE

2/5/1980

STREET & NUMBER

755 South Orange Avenue

TELEPHONE

(201) 399-3400

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

STATE

New Jersey

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 National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Lauren Schmidt

TITLE

DATE 10/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

12/8/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

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

St. Joseph's Roman Church Complex, Newark, NJ

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Description (continued)

Built in 1885, St. Joseph's Rectory is a 3-story brick structure with a cubical mass. The foundation is stone. The building has a four bay front facade with a two story projecting brick bay. The central double door entranceway up a flight of stairs is embraced by a decorative iron fence. This door presently has a modern aluminum awning.

Windows are 2/2 sash with modern aluminum storms fixed over them. The fenestration has stone lintels and sill on the first and second level. Flat brick arches are at the third level.

The roof appears to have a low pitch with a slightly projecting pediment at the north end of the front facade. The overhanging cornice has brackets and a frieze board. There are double brick chimneys with fine corbelled caps on each end facade.

An eclectic structure with Gothic arches and Jacobethan features, St. Joseph's School located immediately north of the church, is a 4-story brick rectangular building constructed in 1894. This building is located on the site of an earlier two story brick church-school built in 1859. The present building has a cornerstone with the 1859 date inscribed in it, but architectural features ascribe a much later date to the building.

The narrow Market Street facade is the current main entrance to the school although there was probably an entrance on the linear facade along Warren Street as well.

The Market Street facade has a center entrance frontispiece with Flemish gable. The first and second levels and the projecting frontispiece is defined by a decorative terra cotta belt course. The center stone Gothic arch entrance is flanked by slightly smaller brick Gothic arch secondary entranceways. The north doorway has been bricked over while the south door is a modern steel fire door.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Newark, NJ
Continuation sheet item number 7

Description (continued)

The linear facade has nine bays visually divided into three equal segments. The center portion projects slightly from the main building and has a stepped gable.

The roof is hip with brackets beneath the overhanging eave. The foundation of the building is stone. The building is in deteriorating condition with plywood over all openings on the top floor and numerous broken windows throughout.

Interior spaces consist of one large room on the first floor with cast iron columns. This room served as an auditorium. The upper floors typically have a central hallway with classrooms on both sides. Wide stairs are located on both ends of the building.

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

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Newark, NJ



980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Significance (continued)

Reverend James F. Dalton of the Cathedral was named pastor. Shortly after, on a visit to Ireland he brought over a stone from the historic vale of Glendalough to be used as corner stone for the proposed new church, as the need for a bigger edifice soon became apparent. The stone was laid with great pomp and ceremony on Thanksgiving Day, 1872.

The design of the church was undertaken by Jeremiah O'Rourke, a famous architect who designed several churches, among them St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and St. Aloysius' Roman Catholic Church in Newark. O'Rourke chose to design St. Joseph's Church in the Gothic style. The plan departs from the traditional Catholic church lay-out in the simplicity of its apse and in the shallowness of its transepts. The church is a good example of the Gothic style in church architecture especially since it has maintained its original form and details in spite of some minor renovations done to it earlier.

Construction of the church was delayed considerably. It was not until April 18, 1880 that the church was dedicated, and by that time Father Dalton had already been succeeded by Reverend Thomas J. Toomey who became responsible for the completion of the church after his appointment as pastor in 1876.

The next thirty years became a period of growth for St. Joseph's. The new pastor in 1895 was the Diocesan Vicar General, Reverend John J. O'Connor who later became the fourth bishop of Newark. St. Joseph's became the leading parish in the City and its membership climbed.

After World War II the movement towards the suburb began to change the fate of the church. With the massive clearance of areas surrounding the church for Urban Renewal, the parish was diminished to its presently miniscule population which is not enough to support the activities and the cost of maintaining the large church.

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

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Complex, Newark, NJ
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

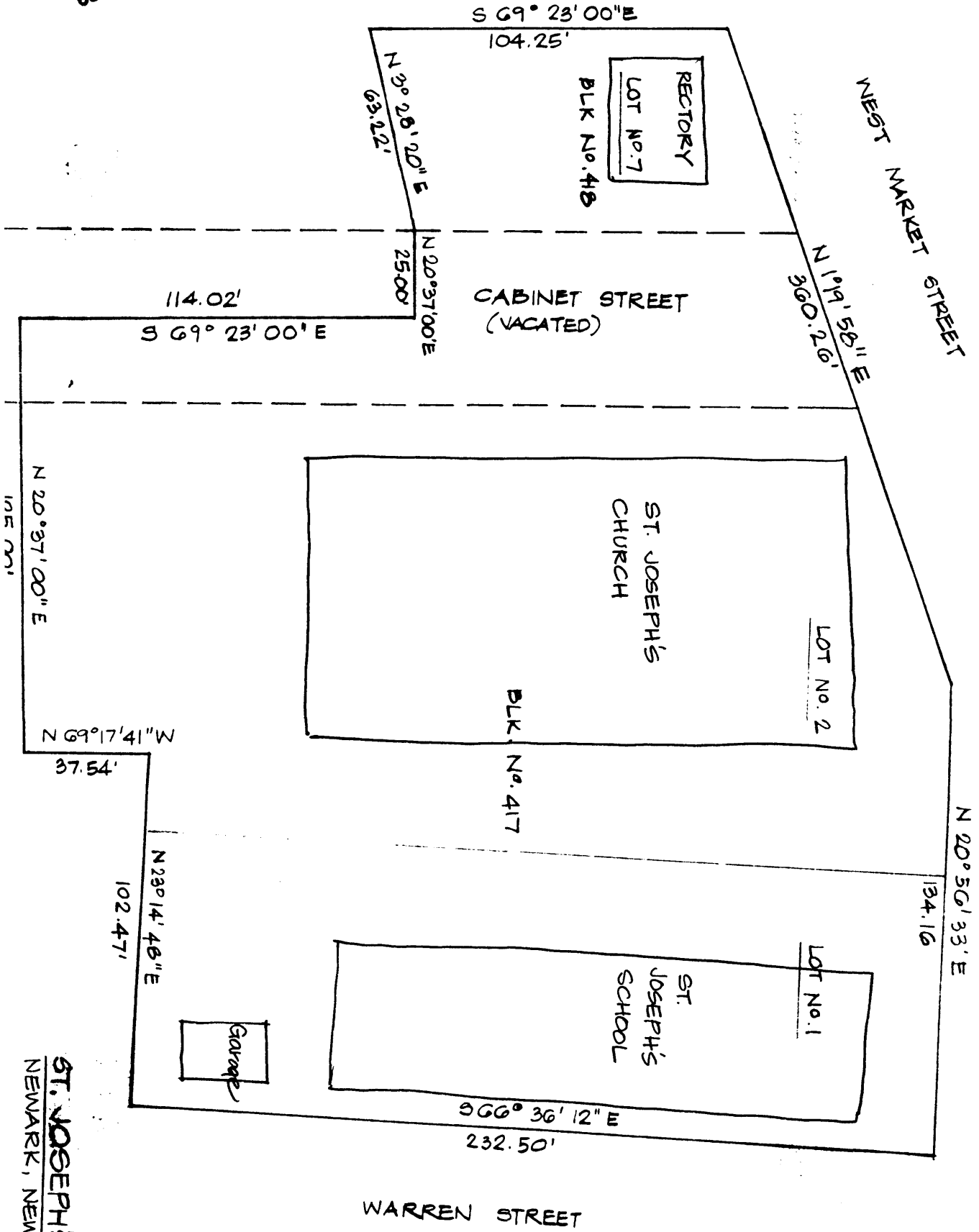
Page 1

Folsom, Joseph F. The Municipalities of Essex County, New Jersey 1666-1924. Four volumes, New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1925.

Urquhart, Frank. A History of the City of Newark, New Jersey, Three volumes, New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913.

Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Complex
Newark City, Essex County, NJ

0861 & AON



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

