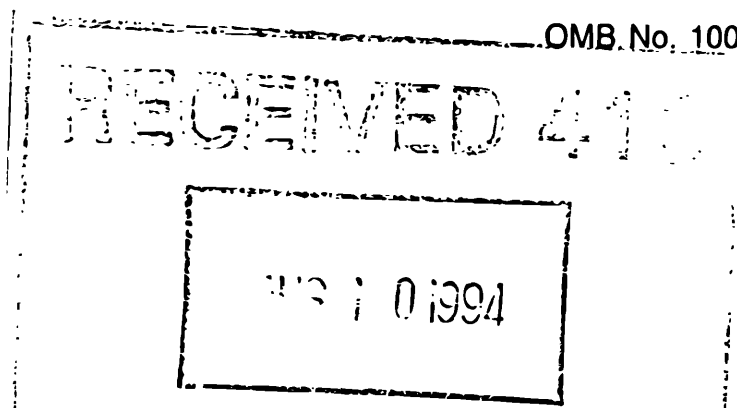


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Busiel, John W., House

other names/site number St. Joseph Rectory

2. Location

street & number 30 Church Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Laconia

N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Belknap code 001 zip code 03246

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Marcy C. Miller July 28, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 9/19/94

Busiel, John W., House
Name of Property

Belknap, NH
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description: see Continuation Sheets, pp. 1-6
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Busiel, John W., House
Name of Property

Belknap, NH
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1865

Significant Dates

1865

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arthur L. Davis

Narrative Statement of Significance: see Continuation Sheets, pp. 6-10
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography: see Continuation Sheets, pp. 10-11

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Busiel, John W., House
Name of Property

Belknap, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	3 0 0 3 2 0	4 8 2 2 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: see Continuation Sheets, p.11
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification: see Continuation Sheets, p.11
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gilbert S. Center

organization _____ date Spring 1994

street & number 24 Folsom Street telephone (603)524-5432

city or town Laconia, state NH zip code 03246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Diocese of Manchester, attn: Rev. Mqsr. John E. Molan

street & number 153 Ash Street telephone (603)669-3100

city or town Manchester state NH zip code 03105

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

AGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Section number 7 Page 1 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

DESCRIPTION

Summary

The John W. Busiel House is a French Second Empire frame residence located in downtown Laconia, New Hampshire. It consists of a two-story plus mansard main block with a two-story wing extending to the side (east). The three-bay main block is distinguished by its elegant one-bay entrance porch, and the front elevation of the wing is graced by a delicate porch. Sheathing is of rusticated wood articulated with simulated quoins of wood at the corners. Projecting cornices are embellished with modillions and dentils.

Narrative

Readers of The Laconia Democrat of May 12, 1865, were informed, "John W. Busiel Esq., manufacturer of this place, is erecting a fine set of buildings on his lot north-east of the North Church, on the Lake Village road. The house is to be a French Villa, with French roof, curved rafters, dormar (sic) windows, and an observatory with a traple (triple?) window in its four sides. The other buildings, ell, shed and barn, are to be of the French style. . . . Their cost is to be about \$15,000."

Busiel had purchased the lot the previous year for \$800. It can be assumed that he coveted the site, for by erecting his home opposite Beacon Street he would have a view of his mill (NRHP). After his death in 1872, the buildings and lot of the John W. Busiel Homestead, as designated in the inventory of his estate and subsequent deeds and probate papers, were appraised at \$21,000. Today, without the observatory (cupola) and barn, Busiel's villa, not including the land, is appraised at \$242,800.

When, in 1895, the property was pictured in Wood's New Hampshire Homes, it was described as, "a building of most thorough construction inside and out, and at the time of its erection was among the most elegant in New Hampshire, a reputation it well retains today." Nearly a century later it was represented in the traveling exhibit which accompanied the Mill on Main Street project of the New Hampshire State Library, funded by the New Hampshire Council on the Humanities. It is one of the city's finest basically-unaltered historic residential properties, the oldest and about the last surviving example of post-bellum architecture which once lined both sides of that part of Church Street in downtown Laconia. The neighborhood has given way to a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Description, continued

mixture of religious (St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Holy Trinity School, Religious Education Center), government (U.S. Post Office, Laconia Police Department), commercial and apartment uses. Two prominent structures dominate the Main Street corners, those of the Gale Memorial Library (NRHP) and the Tavern Apartments (four-story, neo-Spanish, former Laconia Tavern Hotel).

The basic plan of the wood-framed property consists of a high-posted central block of two stories plus mansard with a three-bay facade and two-bay side; a lower-posted ell of two stories with unbroken mansard roof and five-bay facade; and a one-story, one-bay, flat-roofed former shed to which the carriage barn, no longer extant, was attached, all on a handsome rusticated granite foundation.

It is highly eclectic in style, combining as it does elements of several styles popular before and after the Civil War. The dominant feature of the central block, which as a whole presents a studied formalism, is the concave mansard roof, the chief characteristic of the French Second Empire style. The Tolles' Guide to New Hampshire Architecture states that the style made its first appearance in the state shortly before the war but did not flourish until the 1870s when it became increasingly asymmetrical and ornate. Busiel's 1865 house was very likely the first expression of the style in a Laconia residence; certainly, it is the oldest surviving example. The roof rests on a robust eave entablature which consists of a strongly projecting cornice supported by modillions, a frieze with elaborated dentils, and an architrave. Rusticated siding and corner quoins simulate cut stone. All of the first and second floor windows have flat window caps with modillions and elaborated dentils, both of which repeat on a smaller scale those on the main roof entablature. All windows, except in the middle bay of the facade and the rear elevation, are 2/2 double-hung sash. The mansard dormers on all four sides have curved roofs and window caps, the latter with modillions and dentils like those over the windows on the floors below. In the absence of a pavilion, another feature of the French Second Empire style, the eye is drawn to the one-bay entrance porch which is centered on the facade. The shallow mansard-type roof is supported by a three-part entablature which repeats in appropriate scale that which is below the main roof; it rests on fluted Scamozzi pilasters which flank the entrance and on paired pillars with pedestals at the front corners. The corner ones are attenuated, fluted Scamozzi, each flanked by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Description, continued

slender crocketed columns topped with modillions. The whole combination makes for a frontispiece entrance. The doorway consists of handsome three-paneled double doors, the top panel being of fine etched and engraved glass, with similar sidelights and transom. Above, on the second floor level, is a large tripart window of stained glass; the window opening is flanked by Scamozzi pilasters. The mansard dormer directly above is larger than the others and its window has sidelights, thus carrying out the intent to give prominence to the features of the middle bay. The cupola which was centered on the roof was removed in 1953 to correct a problem with water leakage. At some uncertain time the chimney to the west side of the cupola was also removed.

The ell is a concession to post-bellum tastes and offsets the calculated formalism of the central block. It is recessed from the front (but not back) of that block. A one-story, three-bay piazza extends from the corner of the main block and across the extent of the ell. It repeats details of the main entrance, as does the siding and window treatment, but all in a slightly reduced scale that presents a subtle balance with the grander scale of the main block. Modern iron railings have been added to meet safety requirements. Two doors open off the piazza, one to the main block, the other to the ell. The latter is flanked on either side by closely-paired windows, all arranged to balance the three bays of the piazza. There are no window openings on the second floor level of the side elevation. The attached former shed is slightly recessed from the front of the ell, and, where broken by the removal of the carriage barn to make way for construction of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in 1929, was finished to conform to the original architectural details.

The interior of the central block is on the central hall plan. One is admitted through a shallow air-lock entry between two pairs of double three-paneled doors which exceed eight feet in height. Like the exterior pair, the interior ones have fine engraved and etched glass in each of the top panels. The scale of the entrance hall, which extends the depth of the block to double stained-glass doors, is accentuated by the original twelve-foot high ceiling with egg-and-dart and foliated pressed plaster mouldings. A open-string stairway of gentle slope is graced by ornamental brackets and mahogany handrail and turned balusters, all anchored by an ornate newel post. To the left, at either end of the hallway, are doorways to the parlor. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Description, continued

doors, typical of all on the first floor, are approximately eight feet in height, composed of five (2/1/2) panels, and hung with two large two-knuckle hinges. They are framed with deep architrave trim. Turn-of-the-century pictures of the room and of the dining room suggest that all standing woodwork in the house, now painted, was originally in natural finish.

The parlor occupies the entire depth of the building, one bay wide and two long. There is no space to compare with it in any other 19th century residence in Laconia and, with the exception of the Charles E. Tilton Mansion (NRHP) in Tilton, very likely in the area. It is interesting to note that Mr. Tilton was Mrs. Busiel's brother. A fine ornamental steel ceiling conceals the impressive pressed plaster one shown in the old photograph, but deep elaborated-dentil and egg-and-dart plaster mouldings are original. Picture mouldings shown in early photos are no longer in evidence anywhere in the house. Centered on the inside wall is a white marble fireplace with round-arched opening, plain colonettes, paneled spandrels, and a cartouche; a cast-iron screen and damper fills the opening. The chimney having been removed, the fireplace is no longer in use.

On the other side of the central hall, exactly opposite the front entrance to the parlor, is a doorway to the room now used as the parish office but which very likely was what the 1872 inventory referred to as the sitting room. There is also access to it from the piazza of the ell and from the back hall. The door from the piazza appears to be a replacement, and the transom space has been filled in. A fireplace, similar to that in the parlor, but with a different cast-iron screen, can still be used. The woodwork matches that in the other main floor rooms. A suspended ceiling conceals the original one.

The back hall gives access to storage closets, at least one of which has been converted to use as an elevator shaft and another as a lavatory. It also leads to the dining room which occupies the depth of the ell and is lighted by paired windows in its facade and rear elevation. Centered on an inside wall is another usable fireplace similar to, but not a duplicate of, those in the other rooms. A low paneled wainscot, the only one in the house, surrounds the room. Otherwise, the trim is like that in the other main rooms. Here, too, a suspended ceiling conceals the original one which had foliated pressed plaster moulding as shown in the old photo. Doors flank the fireplace.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Description, continued

One opens into the kitchen, the other into a small hallway, the same into which the doorway in the central bay enters. If its paneled door is original, the two glass panels are replacements. The transom is now covered. From the hallway a rounded dogleg stairway with lesser ornate newel post, handrail, and balusters ascends to the second floor. But first, another inside door opens into the kitchen area. Window and door frames are original, but the space has been developed as a modern kitchen. From it one steps into the former shed which has been equipped as a laundry and provides passage to the rear service entrance.

The rounded, partly-enclosed stairway just mentioned connects with second floor bedchambers of plain trim. There is no mention of them in the 1872 inventory. It is possible that domestics who probably occupied them furnished them with their own personal belongings, so were not included.

The inventory does mention Northwest, Southwest, East, and North chambers. On the second floor of the central block, four chamber areas with 19th century door and window framing can be discerned. Some space adjustments have been made to accommodate the clergy with 20th century amenities. The central hallway is naturally lighted at each end by stained glass windows which may or may not be original. Over the first floor parlor is the pastor's suite which includes a private bathroom. Occupying space over the first floor parish office, originally the sitting room, is a TV room. On the inside wall is a fireplace similar to but not a duplicate of the other three in the house. Space occupied by the fourth original chamber has been adapted into storage spaces, elevator landing, and bathroom shared by up to two priests who might occupy the two-room suites now provided in the ell.

The inventory, as already suggested, does not mention any other sleeping chambers, but it does list an attic. It was very likely the space enclosed by the mansard roof and is now subdivided into four one-room apartments and one shared bathroom used in the recent past for young priests and priests-in-training assigned to the parish. In finish, they are of plain trim with plain 2/2 panel doors.

Centered on the rear of the central block on the first floor level is a 20th century one-story sun porch, access to which is from the central hallway through double doors containing full-length stained glass panels. Also on the same level of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7,8 Page 6 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Description, continued

central block is a window which was added for the lavatory and in the ell another over the kitchen sink; they do not have ornamented caps as do the original windows.

The balance of the nominated property consists of front and rear lawn areas, each shaded by trees. A cast iron fountain shown in the earliest known photograph of the Busiel house still graces the front lawn.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The John W. Busiel House qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C for the period 1865 (date of construction). This French Second Empire residence is the earliest and most representative in Laconia. It exemplifies the style in its use of mansard roof with dormer windows, molded curbs, and elaborated projecting cornices. Despite the loss of carriage barn and cupola the building retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Its immediate setting differs somewhat from the 1860s in that new buildings have replaced some which existed at the time, and infill construction has taken place in locations which were not then built upon.

In scale and exterior/interior architectural elements, even without the cupola and barn, the John W. Busiel House is the most distinguished one of the French Second Empire style in the city. Of the ten other such residences, only the one at 252 Pleasant Street has most of its original features intact. Interestingly, the building at 52 Church Street is also a part of the St. Joseph parish complex, having been moved from the site now occupied by Holy Trinity School; unfortunately, the structure has been inappropriately sided. The architectural integrity of the others has been impaired for the same reason or by alterations made during their conversions into multiple family residences.

Narrative

The John W. Busiel house is one of the most significant domestic structures in Laconia. Not only is it a local reminder of New

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Statement of Significance, continued

England's preeminence for over a century in the American textile industry and of the Winnepesaukee River valley's chief contribution to the development of American technology, it is also a symbol of the role played by the home front in the Civil War which in itself was a watershed in local and national experience. All things considered, it has come to be regarded as the best and earliest example in the city of the unique contributions of oft-forgotten untrained architect-builders to the American townscape in the days before schools of architecture.

Busiel, born in Moultonborough in 1815, arrived in Meredith Bridge in 1846. Soon after, two local developments had an important impact on the mid-19th century life-style and psyche of the residents of the community. The line of the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad (later incorporated into the Boston & Maine system) was extended in 1848 to the village of Meredith Bridge and soon after to Lake Village and The Weirs, bringing an end to the relative isolation of the area. Then, by 1855, the three neighborhoods were separated from the older Town of Meredith (granted 1748) and incorporated as the Town of Laconia which, after the annexation of parts of Gilford (until 1811 part of Gilmanton, granted 1727), was chartered as a city in 1893.

Census reports for 1850, 1860, and 1870 reflect something of the dynamics of the period. Laconia's population in 1860, five years after its incorporation and one year before the outbreak of the Civil War, was 1,806, only 189 more than Meredith's population loss since the 1850 census, that loss largely the result of the incorporating of the separate Town of Laconia. By 1870 and with no change in boundaries, Laconia's population had increased by nearly 28% to 2,309. In 1850 there were only three textile mills, one producing cotton cloth, the others woolen yarn, but by 1860 there were eight textile mills, seven of them producing hosiery. The largest was the manufactory of John W. Busiel--a distinction it was to maintain into the next century.

He had started learning his trade when only twelve years old by associating himself with his great uncle's carding and flannel mill in Loudon. Seven years later he moved on to Amesbury, Massachusetts, but soon returned to New Hampshire, first to Meredith Village where for ten years he operated a carding and fulling mill and manufactured satinet cloth and knitting yarns until relocating in Meredith Bridge. He was awarded a gold

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Statement of Significance, continued

medal for the best mixture of cotton and woolen yarns at the Crystal Palace exhibition. After fire destroyed the Strafford Mill and extensively damaged his own, he purchased that company's land and waterpower and erected a brick structure on the site in 1853 (subsequently doubled in size, it shared the sluiceway which powered the 1823 brick Belknap Mill, both NRHP properties). There he added the production of Saxony and Germantown yarns.

When the Aiken brothers invented a practical circular ribbed knitting machine in 1856 at nearby Franklin, Busiel was quick to see its possibilities. He was the first local manufacturer to install some, initially producing Shaker socks and underwear. The success of the enterprise is reflected in the local proliferation of hosiery mills as reported in the 1860 census. With the coming of the Civil War he added the production of army socks, and after the conflict the manufacture of a variety of hosiery became the sole specialty of the company.

The rapid expansion of hosiery production and the development and improvement of the technology which made it possible were closely intertwined and dependent upon each other. Related to it all, and sometimes overlooked, was the spate of enterprises which flourished alongside the hosiery mills and knitting machine and knitting machine needle manufactories--pattern shops; foundries; dye houses; paper box factories; lumber mills that provided stretching boards and crates; printing shops that supplied business forms, catalogs, manuals and labels; and others. It is worthy of note that in the early stages of the technology hosiery was finished by hand and outside the mills. At the time, it was estimated that a woman could heel and toe four pairs per day working full time. On that basis it would have required 6,170 women in and for twenty miles around the Laconia area to complete the 643,700 dozen pairs of hose produced in the seven Laconia mills recorded in the 1860 census. The physical and economic growth of the communities in the Winnepesaukee River valley reflected the rise and ultimate decline in all these aspects of the hosiery industry in the area. Indeed, one can conclude from such authorities as Sulloway and Parsons that no other area of its size contributed more inventions and improvements in circular knitting machines and knitting machine needles than did this small area of New Hampshire which also was the hosiery making center of the country for so many years.

By the time that the outcome of the fratricidal war was becoming

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO, NH

Statement of Significance, continued

clear, Busiel was thinking of erecting a new dwelling which would be a testimony to his prosperous condition and reflect pride in his business and community. He purchased a lot from which he could see his mill and selected Arthur L. Davis as his architect-builder. A native of Loudon where Busiel had started to learn his trade, Davis had come to Laconia in 1861. Well before his death in 1922 he had left his imprint on the community. The Folsom Opera House block (1862) survived two major exterior alterations until it was demolished during the downtown urban renewal in the 1970s. He did the residences of Busiel's sons, Charles A. (first mayor of Laconia, 1893-95, and governor, 1895-7) and John T., and might have done major alterations for another son, Frank A. Of the three homes, only the latter has survived and that without its impressive tower that pierced the roof above the central entrance. Davis also erected fine residences for merchant Dennis O'Shea, railroad car industrialist Perley Putnam, and knitting machine manufacturer John S. Crane. It was probably through Busiel's influence and largess that Davis was selected to enlarge the North Church, Congregational, and, until the handsome steeple was blown down in the 1938 Hurricane, it dominated Laconia's skyline (as the Evangelical Baptist Church, it is a NRHP property). Davis's most highly visible achievement was the New Hampshire Building at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the only structure that was dismantled and reerected elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Mr. Busiel exercised public responsibility and leadership. He was a generous supporter of public projects and plans for the community's progress and prosperity, being cited for having manufactured the first gas burned in Laconia, laid the first slate used there for roofing purposes, and installed the first boiler and steam heat in the town. He represented his community in the state legislature in 1870-71. Following his death in 1872 the business was continued and the mill enlarged by his three sons.

His widow, the former Julia M. Tilton of Meredith, occupied the house until her death in 1901. A woman of keen intellect and strong convictions, she took great interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement and prosperity of the community. At the same time, she was remembered as being kind-hearted, unassuming, charitable, a good neighbor, and a friend to all--high or low, rich or poor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8,9 Page 10 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Statement of Significance, continued

In 1905 the Roman Catholic Bishop of Manchester purchased the property from the Busiel estate. From that time to the present it has been the rectory for St. Joseph Parish. Meticulously maintained, it is in an excellent state of preservation. Except for the moving and subsequent demolition of the barn and removal of the observatory or cupola, its integrity is remarkably intact. It survives as the oldest and best preserved structure in what was Laconia's first fashionable neighborhood.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books, Monographs, Periodicals

- Bacon, George F., Central New Hampshire and its Leading Business Men. Boston: Mercantile Publishing Company, 1890.
- Center, Gilbert S., "Made in Laconia," Mill on Main Street, a statewide humanities project sponsored by the New Hampshire State Library and funded by the New Hampshire Council for the Humanities, 1985.
- Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, St. Joseph's Church, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1929-1979.
- Parsons, George A., "The Knitting Machine Needle Industry in New Hampshire," Historical New Hampshire, XII: December 1956.
- Sulloway, Richard W., "New Hampshire's Part in the Evolution of Modern Knitting Machinery," Historical New Hampshire, XII: December 1956.
- Tolles, Bryant F. jr., with Carolyn K. Tolles, New Hampshire Architecture. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1979.
- Vaughan, Charles W., compiler, The Illustrated Laconian. Laconia: Louis B. Martin, 1899.

Newspapers

- Laconia Democrat, May 12, 1865, p.2, "J. W. Busiel Esq., manufacturer of this place, is erecting a fine set of buildings
.
.
.
August 1, 1872, p.2, "John W. Busiel, Esq."
February 1, 1901, p.4, "Mrs. Julia M. Busiel."
April 21, 1922, p.4, "Death of Arthur L. Davis."
Laconia Evening Citizen, May 6, 1929, p.1, "Ground Broken."
July 11, 1953, p.8, "Cupola Being Removed."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9, 10 Page 11 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

Bibliography, continued

Government Records

Belknap County Register of Deeds, Lyford to Busiel, 39:336,
January 11, 1864; Busiel Estate to Bishop of Manchester,
116:265, September 20, 1905.

Belknap County Register of Probate, Docket #2654 (John W. Busiel
estate inventory).

United States Census, New Hampshire population and industry,
1850, 1860, and 1870.

Interview

Rev. William L. Quirk, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Laconia, NH,
February 22, 1994.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by the heavy
dashed line on the attached sketch map (Continuation Sheets,
p.12).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

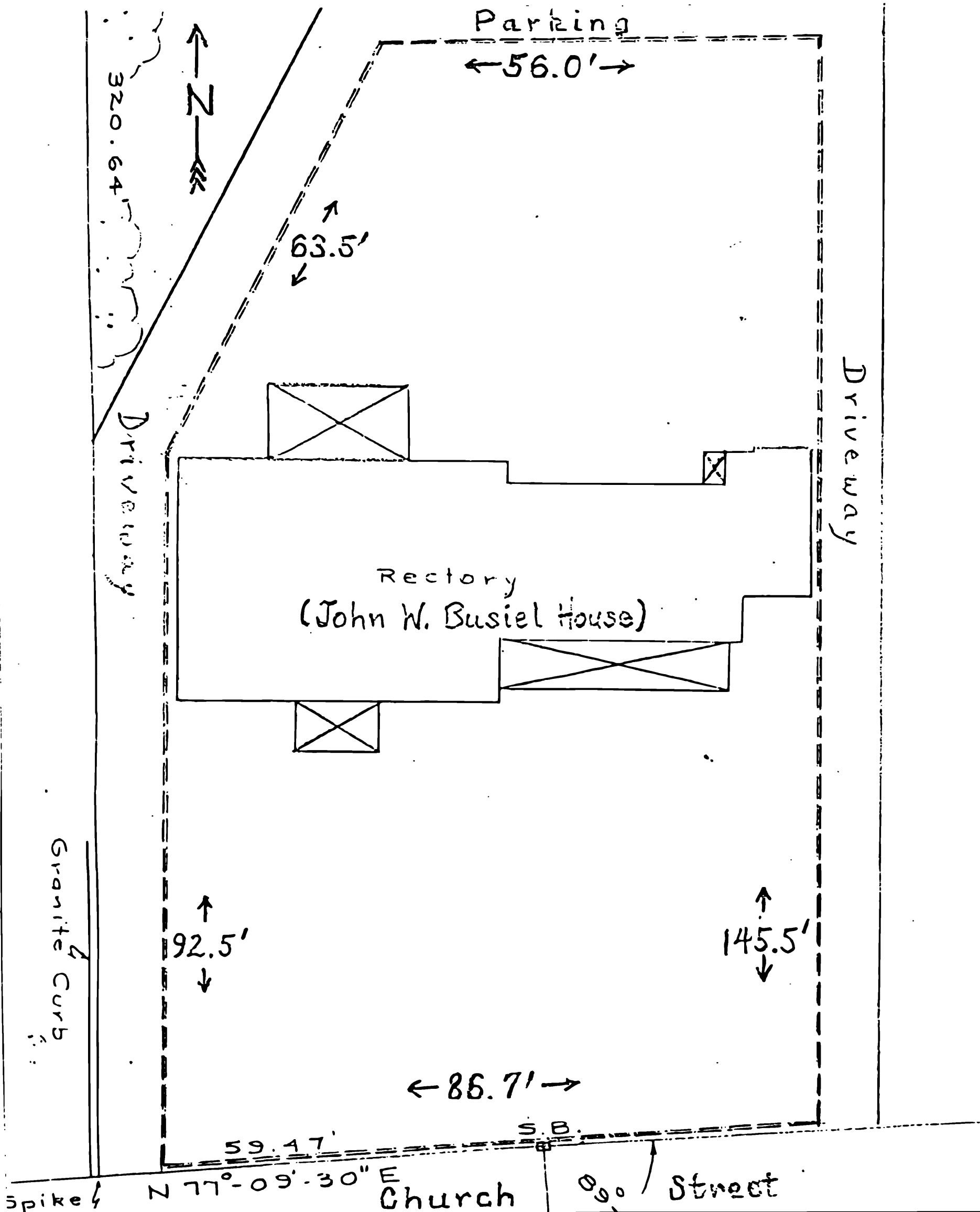
Boundaries have been drawn to include the John W. Busiel House,
eligible under Criteria C for architecture, and the immediate
lawn areas. Beyond these boundaries the lot is paved in asphalt
to accommodate circulation and parking for the adjacent church.
(See Continuation Sheets, p.12.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

SKETCH MAP: boundaries (---) of nominated property superimposed on part of "Plan of Property, St. Joseph's Parish, Laconia, N.H., Aug. 1956, Scale 1"=20'" on file at City of Laconia Public Works Department.



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Section number _____ Page 13 JOHN W. BUSIEL HOUSE, LACONIA, BELKNAP CO., NH

PHOTOGRAPHS

- #1. Name of photographer: Gilbert S. Center
Date of photograph: 25 April 1994
Location of negative: New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources
Description: South facade and west side elevation, looking northeast
- #2. Name of photographer: Gilbert S. Center
Date of photograph: 25 April 1994
Location of negative: New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources
Description: South facade and east side elevations, looking northwest
- #3. Name of photographer: Gilbert S. Center
Date of photograph: 25 April 1994
Location of negative: New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources
Description: Rear facade, looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94001094

Date Listed: 09/19/94


Busiel, John W., House
Property Name

Belknap
County

NH
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/19/94
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations

Criteria exception A applies to the property because it is owned and used by a religious organization.

This information was confirmed with Parker Potter, NHSPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)