

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	31/148-4

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

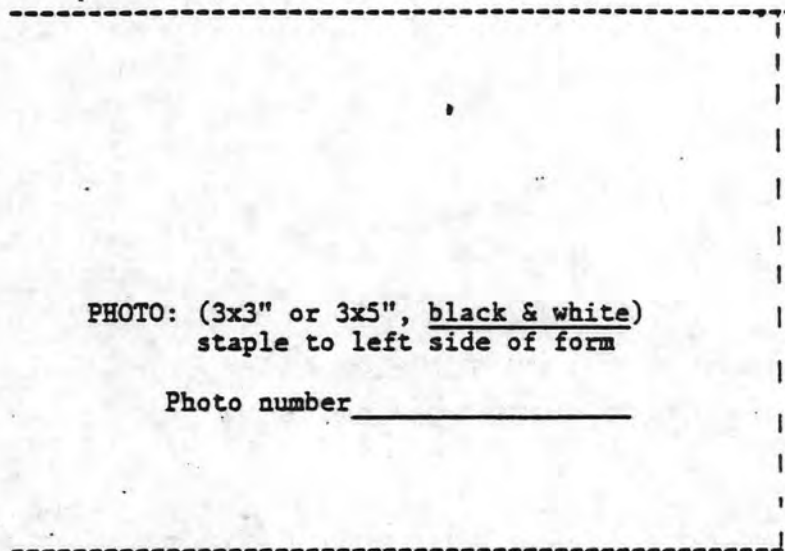


PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Recorded by Greer Hardwicke
Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.
Date 5/85

Town Brookline MRA
Address 67 Harvard St., 3,5 Linden Pl
Historic Name Saint Mary of the Assumptio
Church, Rectory, School and
Convent

Use: Present religious
Original religious

DESCRIPTION:
Church 1880-86; Rectory 1881-82;
Date School 1906; Convent (c.1843),
1899

Source Bldg. Permits, Atlases, Parish
History

Style see reverse

Architect see reverse

Exterior wall fabric see reverse

Outbuildings see reverse

Major alterations (with dates) see reverse

Moved Convent:yes* Date 1899

Approx. acreage approximately 2 acres

Setting Adjacent to Brookline Village
commercial area and abutting a dense
residential area of single, double
and triple decker houses. Overlooks
triangular Linden Park.
Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325360/4688950

(Staple additional sheets here) Map #: 76

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Saint Mary's complex includes four buildings: the Church, a Victorian Gothic structure built in 1880-86 to the designs of Peabody and Stearns; the Rectory of 1881-82, also a Peabody and Stearns Victorian Gothic design; the School, a 1906 Neo-Gothic design by Boston architect, F. Joseph Untersee; and the Convent, a c. 1843 Greek Revival house built at the time of the Linden Place subdivision, moved from Harvard Street to Hurd Road in 1899 and subsequently enlarged and veneered with brick. Also standing on the lot are a garage and a c. 1920 neo-Gothic school. Because of their alterations, recent

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.) (con't)

Saint Mary of the Assumption church was the first Catholic church established in Brookline. In June, 1852, the growing number of Irish immigrants in Brookline met in Lyceum Hall in Brookline to form a parish. The migration of Irish to Brookline was, in part, due to the opening of the Brookline branch of the Boston and Worcester Railroad, on which many Irish were employed as construction workers. The parish initially included the Brighton area of Boston as well. Services were held in Lyceum Hall for 1½ years until a board and batten Gothic Revival church was constructed in Andem Place, three blocks southeast of the present church, in 1853-4.

The first pastor of the church, Rev. Michael O'Beirne, was replaced in December, 1856 by the Rev. Joseph Finotti. When the Andem Place church burned, Finotti rebuilt it, enlarging its seating capacity to 1000 persons. During this period, Finotti resided at the Catholic rectory in Boston. In 1857, he constructed an Italianate rectory near the church (now #58 Kent Street) on land purchased from James Young and William I. Bowditch (see 9 Toxteth Street, 31/146-7; MHC 63).

The parish continued to expand due to the ongoing influx of Irish immigrants who found work in the building trades, shops, public service and

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher) (con't.)

Brookline Chronicle, Mary 26, 1894, and January 20, -1900

The Story of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and the History of the Catholic America. South Hackensack, N.J., 1977 -

Brookline Building Permits

Brookline Directories

Brookline Atlases

Brookline Tax Records

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BROOKLINE	Form No: 31/148-4
Property Name: St. Mary's Complex	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

age
Or construction outside the period of significance, the Convent, garage and garage are considered noncontributing.

Saint Mary of the Assumption church is a red brick Victorian Gothic structure with Longmeadow brownstone trim. The plan is a modified cruciform with a tower rising 146 feet next to the west transept and a circular projecting apse. The tower contains open lancet windows with hood moldings, pier buttresses, stringcourses and four pinnacles at each of its corners. There is also a bay attached to the tower which contains a ground floor door. The entrance, projecting from the main gable, consists of two arched openings and a niche containing a statue of the Virgin Mary. Other features of the design include rose windows, dormers with trefoil designs, steeply pitched roofs, brownstone hood moldings and stringcourses, and a slate roof.

The interior contains a groin vaulted roof supported by ten columns. The walls are lined with Kilkenny marble and onyx trim. The altar is of Caen stone with marble trim.

Saint Mary's Rectory is a brick, 3½ story Victorian Gothic structure with Panel Brick corbelling at the eaves. The steep pitched slate roof has two end chimneys. On the front facade is a front gable rising to a wall dormer with a peaked arch. Two peaked dormers sit on the front slope. Two porches flank the building, while the main entrance features a semi-circular porch probably added ca. 1966. In style and material, the Rectory is a harmonious complement to the nearby church and school.

Saint Mary's School is a brick schoolhouse designed in an H-plan, with a rear ell containing the auditorium. It is designed in Neo-Gothic style. The 2½ story structure has two end projecting wings and a central entrance. The entrance is a 1 story projection of glazed terra cotta with a Tudor arch, a blind trefoil arcade and bas relief sculpture. The three front gables and two side gables have stepped eaves with terra cotta coping. A variety of window shapes and detailing add interest to the building. Windows, 6/6 or diamond paned, are set within hood moldings or ogee arched enframements.

There have been almost no alterations to the church: the only change to that building was the insertion of a triple arched stained glass window on the facade in 1906. Alterations to the rectory have been minor: in 1925 the east piazza was enclosed and a sun porch added on the east side. In 1960, a 25'x16' addition was made to the building and in 1966 a door (possibly the present entrance) was installed and two windows removed. The only alteration to the school was the installation of a new front door (no date).

(continued)

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BROOKLINE	Form No: 31/148-4
Property Name: St. Mary's Complex	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

on the estates and farms in nearby Brookline Village and South Brookline. By 1865, of the 32% foreign born population in Brookline, 85% were Irish. Father Finotti was an important figure in the religious development of the area, being responsible not only for Saint Mary's founding, but also for the establishment of Saint Columba's Church in Brighton (now Saint Columbkille) and for the founding of Holyhood Cemetery in 1857 (see 123/429; MHC 27).

In 1873, Father Lawrence Morris became the church's priest. It was during his long tenure that the present church was completed, the rectory built and the school established. Born in Ireland, Morris grew up in Lowell, where his parents had immigrated. In 1873, Morris began to purchase land at the corner of Harvard Street and Linden Place, starting with the George Homer estate. The Homer House served for a time as the rectory for the parish and later was moved, bricked over and enlarged to serve as the convent, in which capacity it still serves today (Hurd Road; considered non-contributing to the complex). In 1880, when all the land purchases had been paid for, Father Morris commissioned Peabody and Stearns to design a new church.

Although the church was designed in 1880, it was not dedicated until 1886. The Pope sent a chalice to the Parish in honor of the new Church, the first in America to be named Saint Mary of the Assumption. Soon after the construction of the church was begun, Father Morris began the conversion of another existing house on the property (Woodridge House, 1844, part of the Linden Place subdivision; see 31/147-9; MHC 39) employing Peabody and Stearns to do the modifications. It seems that the original house was greatly enlarged and veneered in brick; only the rear ell of the Rectory exhibits the earlier structure with its 6/6 windows and hood molds. Morris was active in other capacities as well, founding Brookline's second Catholic parish, Saint Lawrence on Boylston Street, and serving for five years (1884-89) on the School Committee. He was buried in Holyhood Cemetery after his death in 1900. A school he started in 1899 grew to be the current Saint Mary's School.

In 1906, ground was broken for the Saint Mary's School. Originally housed in rooms in the basement of the Hurd Road convent, the school quickly outgrew its first quarters. Under the supervision of Father Morris' successor, Father McManus, the construction of the 12-room school was accomplished. Also included in the school is a hall seating 1000 persons. Saint Mary's School has served as a grammar school for Brookline Catholic as well as being a site for meetings and social events. In the 1920s, a separate High School was built behind the grammar school. The construction of the High School, a simple neo-Gothic brick structure, expanded the capacity of the educational aspect of the complex and is complementary to the complex, architecturally. Its architect is unknown.

Saint Mary of the Assumption complex meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register, for its important historical associations with the

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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establishment, growth and maturation of the Irish community in Brookline, for its associations with figures notable in Brookline's religious and cultural development, namely Father Joseph Finotti and Father Lawrence Morris, and for the distinction of its architecture, designed by noted Boston architects Peabody and Stearns and F. Joseph Untersee. Architecturally, the complex contains structures which represent the growth of the parish and which reflect the evolution of the Gothic Revival style from the 1880s through the 1920s. Individually and in their relation to each other, the buildings are distinguished by their high quality of design, materials and construction.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/1/05
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Milestone
(Boylston St.)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

62. Murphy, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

63. Orrock, Rev. John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

64. Paine Estate

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

65. Perkins Estate

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

66. Reservoir Park

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

67. Ritchie Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

68. Roughwood

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

69. Saint Aidan's Church and
Rectory

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

70. Saint Mary of the Assumption
Church, Rectory, School and
Convent

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/05

Attest

85003311

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Rectory,
School and Convent (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-17-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Rectory of St Mary's
5 Linden St
Brookline (MA) MRA

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

R 1978

MAR 1978

Prestige

by

MA



St. Mary's Church
3 Linden St.
Brookline (MA) MRA





St Mary's School
67 Harvard St.
Brookline (MA) MA

2-85

67 Harvard St.
St. Mary's School (31/148-5)
Brookline (Ma) MEA
Town of Brookline Map 1981
Scale 1/2" = 200ft

