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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 94, 110, 130 & 140 Exchange Street — N/A not for publication

city or town Geneva — N/A vicinity

state New York code NY county Ontario code 069 zip code 14456

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Ruth A Pierpont DSHPO — 6/12/15
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register — ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register — ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Joe Edson for Beall — 8.10.15
Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	**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.)

RELIGION/church
RELIGION/convent
RELIGION/rectory
RELIGION/church school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/church
RELGION/convent
RELIGION/rectory
Vacant (school)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival; Romanesque Revival;
Second Empire; Italianate; Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: stone, concrete, brick
walls: Brick, stone, wood
roof: Asphalt, metal
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Geneva, New York is a small city situated at the northwest end of Seneca Lake in Ontario County in the Finger Lakes region of the state, east of Rochester and west of Syracuse. St. Francis de Sales Parish is located in the northern section of the city, north of the Geneva Commercial Historic District (NR listed 2014), on a parcel that encompasses an entire city block and includes four buildings: the church, a rectory/church office, a former school, and a convent/office building. The campus is bordered by Exchange Street to the east, Center Street to the west, State Street to the south and Toledo Street to the north. The four buildings are of brick construction, similarly set back from Exchange Street so as to provide a more substantial frontage in comparison to adjacent residential properties. The period of significance dates from 1864, when the property began to develop as a campus with a church and related buildings, and ends with 1955, when the final additions were made to church buildings (new construction and expansions of the rectory, school and convent buildings). The church is a large Gothic Revival building with some Romanesque details (rounded corbeling and rounded windows) and a large four stage steeple with a tall spire at the southeast end. The rectory is a two and one-half story brick Second Empire building built ca. 1868 with a mansard roof that was expanded in 1890. The school was also expanded; it was originally built in 1874 in the Italianate style and significantly enlarged in 1909, retaining the same detailing but removing a central bell tower. The convent to the school's north is a two and one-half story brick building built in 1874. It retains some Italianate features, but in 1910, a new roof, decorative features, entrance and a substantial rear expansion gave it the form and feeling of a Colonial Revival style building. The four buildings all face Exchange Street. The rear of the property consists of a large asphalt-paved parking lot, a mid-twentieth century single story brick parish house addition attached to the school and a five-bay single story brick garage attached to the rectory (also mid-twentieth century). The church, rectory, parish hall and convent buildings are still in use and the school is currently vacant. All buildings retain a high degree of integrity and together form a cohesive grouping of nineteenth and early twentieth century historic urban religious buildings in the midst of a largely residential neighborhood with buildings of various ages and integrity.

Narrative Description

Geneva, New York, is a small city at the northwest end of Seneca Lake in the eastern part of Ontario County. A large commercial area fronts along the lake, with the surrounding areas to the north and west being largely residential; a large college campus (Hobart-William Smith Colleges) is to the southwest. The St. Francis de Sales Parish developed in a section of the city north of the commercial area along Exchange Street that was

historically a mix of light industrial and residential properties with the industries locating along the railroad lines that snaked through the neighborhood. The parish property covers an entire city block between State and Toledo Streets on the south and north and Exchange and Center Streets on the east and west. The property consists of four parcels totaling approximately three acres that are under two owners (the Diocese of Rochester and Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes), with one building per parcel. The first is at 140 Exchange Street and is a large church, with the rectory/parish offices in the next parcel at 130 Exchange. A large parcel at 110 Exchange contains a former school (now vacant) with an attached 1955 addition currently used as the parish hall. The last parcel on the property (94 Exchange) is a convent with most of its interior space used as offices by Catholic Charities.

Situated along State Street, the church is the largest, most prominent building on the property with its primary façade facing Exchange Street and its long north and south elevations containing secondary entrances to the sanctuary. Conflicting accounts either state that the building was an expansion of an original 1832 building or new construction, but any physical evidence that could confirm the claim for expansion was obliterated by turn-of-the-twentieth century additions/improvements and by a remodeling done in 1935. The brick cornice and cornice returns in the gable ends along the roofline are often pointed to as evidence of the older church, but more research needs to be done to support the claims for an expansion. What is currently documented is that work was in progress on the large brick church in 1864 and that changes were made to the building in 1903 and again during centennial celebrations in 1935.

Following the Gothic Revival form, the church is a cruciform-shaped building with a prominent entrance facing Exchange Street. The façade is basically four bays wide with the steeple on the south end being one-bay and the others being part of single story projecting entrance. Two entrances (one in the steeple and the main entrance in the single-story projection) are set into compound, cast stone ogee arches with decorative engaged finials and are flanked by shallow stone capped buttresses and decorative iron and glass sconces. The doors are paired wood doors with trefoil arched panels in the lower portion and narrow trefoil arched windows in the upper portion. The doors also have wood and glass transoms set into the arch. Two windows in the projecting entrance have stone sills and a continuous decorative band that forms lintels and decorative connectors to the steeple and northwest corner buttress. Decorative tile work creates a narrow cornice at the entrance roofline. The recessed portion behind the entrance projection has decorative brick round-corbeling along the roof line and a centrally located round window with a paired, round arched window below it. The steeple has similar details of round arched windows with stone sills and brick corbeling between segments. The windows in the upper portions of the steeple are set into wide, round-arched surrounds. Openings in the bell tower portion of the steeple have louvers, rather than glass.

Facing State Street, the south elevation of the church is complex in terms of projecting sections, fenestration and details. The elevation consists of ten bays with the steeple counting as one bay on the east end and the remaining bays featuring openings of various sizes, most being arched window openings set into brick arch lintels, some with keystones. Windows in the main body of the sanctuary are tall with stone lintels and a large tripartite arched window is set into a large, slightly recessed arch in the projecting cruciform section. To its west is a small projecting entrance with a pitched roof and stone corbels flanking a door set into an arched opening. The door is non-historic metal and glass. Above it is a decorative window set into the transom and a sconce type lamp, similar to those on the façade. The entrance has a small arched window on either side with a brick lintel and stone sill. To the west of the entrance is a one-story projection with an original entrance with a wood door with diamond paned glass. It is flanked by two arched windows set into brick lintels with a stone keystone and diamond patterned glass. Resting in the east part of the projection is a one-story square section with a square window having a quatrefoil design. In the wall to its west is a paired casement style window. Above it is a similar window. Similar windows are in the west elevation of the church. Also visible in this elevation is a projecting five-sided apse section extending through the upper level. The north elevation is nearly identical to the south, except for an updated sanctuary entrance through a square metal and glass door protected by a slight overhang and shed roof. Visible in the gable ends of each elevation are a plain brick cornice and cornice returns. The entire church is on a stone foundation and entrances have cement steps and walks.

As previously mentioned, the interior of the church was the result of a 1935 remodeling, except for the chancel that was redone after being seriously damaged by fire in the 1960s. The interior features a cove ceiling, memorial stained glass windows, bas relief stations of the cross and ornate lamps with quatrefoil and cross metal designs. Walls contain arched wood wainscoting below the windows, some with ventilation openings. The main body of the sanctuary has two long rows of wood pews with attached kneelers and two additional sections of rows in the crossing. Behind the additional rows are box shaped confessionals. Pew ends have carved sunbursts, small columns, scrolled arm rests and inset quatrefoils. Furnishings in the chancel and the chancel rail are non-historic, dating from after the fire (1965). The east end of the sanctuary has an organ loft/balcony for a choir and an organ, accessible on either side by staircases from the narthex and steeple that also have the entrance areas with wainscoting similar to the sanctuary. Staircases are original wood with carved newels, square balustrades and arched wainscoting.

Parish offices are in the rectory building to the north of the church. A concrete walkway runs between the two buildings from the sidewalk at Exchange Street through to the parking lot along Center Street. The rectory was built in 1868 and is a two and one-half story, five-bay brick building with a center projecting bay and a concave mansard roof with rounded dormers in the main block of the building. The roof of the rest of the house is end

gabled with varying levels at different sections as they extend toward the parking lot. The roof has a wide plain frieze band running along the eave. A projecting two-story bay window is tucked into the corner of the northwest side of the building behind the main block. Another projecting portion is at the west end of the building that is clad with stucco and has two windows. An 1870 map shows the building as L-shaped and by 1903, maps show that the building was expanded to the north, making it more T-shaped. Smaller expansions are built out sections of the rectory on the north side and a full-width porch was replaced by a columned entrance portico. This entrance still exists with two fluted columns with Doric capitals supporting a flat roof with a wide, plain cornice. The entrance is flanked by two fluted pilasters and a door surround with long, narrow sidelights and wood panels. A five-light transom is over the storm door that protects an original wood and glass door. Windows in the building are all double-hung with stone sills and are two-over-one in the first floor and two-over-two in the second floor. Mansard dormer windows are one-over-one sash. The interior of the rectory has a center hall plan with rooms on both sides used for offices. Rooms retain original finishes, doors and floors and an original staircase leads to the second floor. The windows in the stair landing are leaded glass with a single floral design in the upper portion. The transoms have the letters *F*, *de*, and *S* centered in the windows. The first floor also contains an alcove on the north side and a large dining room on the west end that features built-in cabinets and enclosures with diamond paned glass, wide dark-stained moldings and a fireplace with green tile and a Colonial Revival style mantelpiece with dentil decoration and Ionic order columns. Rooms on the second floor retain historic features (wood floors, baseboard and window moldings) and one room has a fireplace with a mirrored overmantel. The firebox is metal surrounded by tile and the mantel and overmantel is stained wood with Ionic order columns.

Continuing north on the property is St. Francis de Sales School, with the south portion built in 1874-75 and the north and east portions added in 1909-10. The school is a two-story brick building with a stone foundation and a hipped, cross-gabled roof with brackets along the eaves. Classroom windows are in groups of three with windows on the first floor set into brick arches with stone sills and lintels. Windows in the second floor have straight stone lintels and stone coursing that serves as the sills. Windows on the second floor of the façade have decorative stone lintels and individual brick arches and two round windows in the gable ends. On the façade, a projecting center section contains the main entrance and a large stone tablet with the name of the school. Below it is a deteriorating cantilevered door covering. The entrance below has a pair of wood and glass doors and an infilled transom with a stone lintel. The door is flanked by two cathedral style lanterns. Over the name tablet is a pair of windows. All windows in the building appear to be double-hung sash (one-over-one) with fixed transoms. Windows in the foundation level are mostly original two-over-two set into wood sash painted gray.

When viewed from Center Street, the west elevation (rear) of the school clearly shows the 1909-1910 expansion through the different shades of brick. Windows in this elevation are paired, rather than grouped in threes, but they have the same stone lintel and brick arched details as in the other elevations. An entrance is in the 1874 section and consists of two non-historic doors and an infilled-transom. Windows are double-hung sash with fixed transoms. This section of the building is wider that the façade and the east and west rear elevations have one triple window in each level and a single window in the first floor. Throughout the building, recesses in the brick at the corners add a decorative detail in the form of a Cross of Christ (all parts of the cross are the same length). A one-story enclosed entrance is in the corner of the first floor and rear portion on the south side and currently has a wood mobility access ramp. This side of the building also has a metal fire escape, as does the north side. The north elevation shows two more entrances facing Exchange Street in the rear portion, one being historic and the other more recent, connecting the building to the 1955 single story parish hall. The historic entrance has two stone pilasters under a metal edged shed roof. The doors are wood with large glass lights in the upper portion and with a wood and glass transom. The parish hall addition was added in 1955 (as indicated by a cornerstone) when more classroom space was needed. The addition is now used for parish events and has a large non-historic metal and glass entrance on the south side and another smaller non-historic entrance on the north side. Bands of four non-historic metal and glass windows on the east and west sides are set into vertical wood board and gray brick walls. Walls in the north and south side are red brick with fenestration limited to one small window on the southeast side.

Access to the school's interior can be gained from any elevation, but the main entrance is from Exchange Street, which opens into a foyer with a staircase with a metal railing that goes up to the first floor classrooms. The plan is intact and the halls have historic travertine floors, wainscoting (some of it being beadboard), wood rails and moldings. Many of the doors survive and the floor is wood that is either carpeted or tiled with linoleum. Window and chalkboard railings are still in each classroom but most of the chalkboards were removed. Classrooms have drop ceilings, but investigation in some sections shows either lath and plaster or beadboard as the surviving historic fabric. Ceilings in the basement are beadboard and floors are concrete. Historic staircases in the rear of the building are extant and have square wood newels and square balusters with wood rails. When it closed, the school had five classrooms in the first and second floors and additional rooms in the rear portion.

Built in 1874, a convent building is the last on the property in the north parcel (94 Exchange). When built, it was an L-shaped, two-story brick residence for housing the Sisters of St. Joseph, who taught in the school. The building has a stone foundation and a stone watertable and the façade has a center projecting section with the main entrance and a columned, one-bay portico. A second floor bay window is over the entrance and is currently infilled on two sides and in the transoms. A Palladian style window is in the gable end. The other

windows are grouped in pairs and share a stone lintel and denticulated coursing. Windows have separate stone sills. All windows are double-hung sash. A double wood panel and glass door is in the main entrance behind a storm door and transom. The cornice consists of plain rows of brick corbeling ending at the roof, which is hipped with two dormers. There are four dormers in the north and south sides of the roof.

The south elevation has six more windows in the first floor and seven in the second floor. A difference in the color of the brick in the west end indicates that this is the ca. 1909 expansion, which continued the detailing from the 1874 building. The north elevation also has seven windows in the second floor but the first floor windows have been obscured by the single story addition that is partly vinyl clad and partly brick. Another vinyl clad lean-to is in the rear part of the elevation. This portion of the building is recessed and has the current entrance on the west side that enters into a foyer with a wide door and an art glass transom opening into the main hall. The interior is a center hall plan with rooms on both sides and an original staircase opposite the Exchange Street entrance. It is an open stair with a turned newell post and turned balusters. At the top of the second floor landing are private rooms that retain the original doors and transoms. On the south side of the second floor is a former chapel, now a meeting room that features an arched cove ceiling and a recessed arch that was used for the altar. Windows are diamond-paned opaque glass with religious symbols. Although most of the rooms were converted to offices, they retain original doors, baseboards and bull's eye corner block door moldings. Floors are wood covered with recent wall-to-wall carpeting.

Some uses of the buildings in the historic church campus may have changed or been reduced, but the church building still holds regular services and is part of an active parish. Catholic Charities would like to convert the former school into affordable housing, while retaining the historic features of the building and the overall historic character of the campus. St. Francis de Sales Parish has been a presence in the city of Geneva for more than a century and the parish and Catholic Charities plan to continue their mission to the local community and preserve the familiar landmark buildings in the local neighborhood.

St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY
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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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:

- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

architecture
social history

Period of Significance
1864-1955

Significant Dates
1864, 1868, 1874, 1909, 1935, 1955

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
T. Gaylord (Carpenter); John Dove & Son (Masons)

Period of Significance (justification)
The period extends from the date of the documented construction of the extant church and ends with the final expansion of the school building in 1955.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
The parish buildings are significant as high style examples of Victorian era and early twentieth century architecture that retained integrity throughout the expansion and alteration resulting from parish growth.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Significant under Criterion A in the area of social history, the St. Francis de Sales Parish is significant as a distinctive example of a late nineteenth century complex of religious buildings reflecting the rapid and extensive growth of the Roman Catholic community in Geneva and the buildings that were built and expanded as needed to fulfill the parishes' spiritual and educational mission. St. Francis de Sales has served the surrounding neighborhood and city of Geneva since it was founded in 1832. The current church property represents the revitalization of the parish in 1864, when the extant church was built, and the continued expansion of the parish through the mid twentieth century. As a religious property, the St. Francis de Sales Parish is significant primarily for its architecture expressed through four historic buildings, beginning with its church, dated to 1864, and including the 1868 rectory, 1874 school (expanded 1909) and 1874 convent (expanded 1909-10). The buildings show a progression of mid to late nineteenth century styles from mid-century Gothic Revival (church) to late Italianate (school and convent) and Second Empire (rectory), with some exterior details from the Romanesque and Colonial Revival periods. Buildings show a high degree of design and, although research has yet to identify architects, the buildings reflect the same quality and attention to detail as those found in the commercial district to the south (Geneva Commercial Historic District—NR listed 2014) or other religious buildings in the city. Building interiors show the same care and consideration, especially the interior of the church that was redecorated in 1935 by Lusk Studios of Rochester to celebrate the centennial of the parish's first church building. Although the interior was damaged by fire in 1965, much of the 1935 renovation survived, which included memorial stained glass windows, a cove ceiling and decorative ceiling lights. The St. Francis de Sales Parish played an important part in the development, support and education of the early Irish Catholic community of Geneva, providing a place of worship, education and religious stability in the Finger Lakes and Western New York. The parish continues that commitment to community service by finding new uses for the school and convent, while continuing as an active parish within the city.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early History of Geneva

Geneva was established in the late eighteenth century, when rights to the lands in the Finger Lakes and Western New York were secured by the State of New York and subsequently contracted to land companies. Investors from New England established the Phelps and Gorham Company, secured the rights to the lands

between Seneca Lake and the Genesee River, but later sold some of these the rights to other land speculators. By 1793, the lands along Seneca Lake were controlled by Pulteney Associates, a group of investors headquartered in Bath, New York, who commissioned the first survey to lay out streets for a new village. Known as Geneva, the village was incorporated in 1806 and, by that time, had a school/academy, hotels, taverns, inns and mills, sixty-eight residences, and a population of 325. Improvements in roads brought settlers from the east and affordable lands attracted farmers, a majority coming from New England.

Geneva also developed early industries, the first being the Ontario Glass Factory (1810) followed by a pearl and potash works, cooperage, blacksmith and several distilleries. A bank opened in 1817 and by 1820, Geneva had a reputation as a center of commerce and social activity. When the Erie Canal was planned in the early nineteenth century, the route from Albany to Buffalo bypassed Geneva, which would have had a devastating effect on the village by dramatically slowing its growth, making it less competitive with the canal villages of Utica, Syracuse, Buffalo, and nearby Rochester. Recognizing the threat, a group of Geneva's prominent civic and business leaders met in December 1823 and adopted a resolution calling on the state legislature to connect Seneca Lake to the Erie Canal. Prior to the construction of the canal, improvements to the outlets of Seneca and Cayuga lakes were made by the Seneca Lock Navigation Company, founded in 1813, which created a small canal between the two lakes known as the Cayuga and Seneca Canal. The result of the appeal to the state was that the operation of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal was taken over by the State of New York and improvements were made making it into a feeder canal, officially reopening the artery in 1828. Although Geneva retained its position as the terminus of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal, its growth was steady, but more gradual, when compared to nearby Rochester. By 1830, Geneva's population grew by 100 percent whereas Rochester's rate was 512 percent.[1] By the mid nineteenth century, the arrival of the railroad and the development of the nursery industry brought additional prosperity to Geneva and, in 1898 it was incorporated as a city.

St. Francis de Sales Parish

Coinciding with canal construction was that a significant number of Irish laborers settled in Geneva in the north end of the village, presumably to work on the feeder canal improvements; however, there were other significant industries developing along the Geneva Lakefront. An 1852 Ontario County map showed a number of saw mills, lumberyards, foundries and coal yards that were established in the vicinity of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva's first Roman Catholic parish. Other sizable immigrant groups also settled in Geneva, among them Scots and Germans, many of them recruited to move west by the Pulteney Associates. While the Scots

were largely Presbyterian, a number of the Germans and Irish were Roman Catholics. The Presbyterians built their first church in 1811 along Pulteney Square, which became the preferred residential area, as it was on a ridge with a clear view of Seneca Lake. The Episcopalians also built their first church (Trinity Church) in 1806 along the ridge, quickly followed by the Dutch Reformed Church in 1831, the Baptists in 1837 and the Methodists at the corner of Main and Seneca in 1839. Both the Episcopalians and Presbyterians replaced their churches with larger buildings in 1844 and 1839, respectively.

In the midst of this first era of church building, construction began on a Roman Catholic church in 1832 near the north end of the village along Exchange Street. Dedicated in 1835, the church served a parish that was formed in 1832 and named after St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of Geneva, Switzerland.[2] No historic images exist showing the church, except for a partial depiction of the building in an 1837 illustration of the village by artist Henry Walton (1804-1865) that shows St. Francis Church as a Wren-Gibbs form, Greek Revival temple-fronted building similar to the other churches further south near Pulteney Square. Apparently the church was only partially completed and was a source of dismay when Bishop John Timon visited in 1847. According to one historical account, Bishop Timon "expressed his sorrow at its poverty, its unfinished state and its debts. He shortly after made it the center of a mission and sent Reverend P. Bradley as its Pastor."[3] Under subsequent pastors, the members of the parish embarked on raising funds for completing the church and planning for a rectory and school, but "the foregoing works required much more funds than the church could supply."[4] After several years of fundraising, a church school was established in the basement of the church in 1853.

During the 1850s, a steady stream of pastors assigned to St. Francis de Sales left little time for building improvements until 1858, when the Rev. James McManus was assigned to take charge of the congregation. He remained as pastor until 1890, except for a brief period when he was assigned to a church in Rochester (1862). After his return to Geneva, construction began on a larger building, made necessary by the growing parish. Church records are vague about the construction and conflicting accounts state that either the church was expanded or a new building was constructed, which may be resolved by further research. The new church was well under construction in 1864 and dedicated in 1867, giving the parish a much larger brick, Gothic Revival style church with a tall steeple. The building differed from the 1844 Gothic Revival Trinity Church by having round arched windows in the steeple and façade and a tall, eight-sided steeple cap. The building campaign continued with a new mansard roofed rectory in 1868, replacing the first rectory that was built in

[1] G. David Brumberg, *The Making of an Upstate Community Geneva, New York* (Geneva, NY: W. F. Humphrey Press, Inc., 1976), 53.
[2] E. Thayles Emmons, "St. Francis de Sales—First Catholic Services in Geneva Believed to Have Been in Building on Exchange St,."*The Geneva Times,* 2 May 1959, 2.
[3]Rev. Walter J. Lee, "History of Church," *Geneva Daily Times,* 23 November 1935, 10.

1851. Father McManus also envisioned moving the school out of the church basement into a newer, larger school and having a separate convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, who taught in the school. The property adjacent to the church was acquired, expanding the church property to an entire city block, and in 1874, a new school and convent were constructed on the acquired property. Continued growth of the parish required that the school be expanded in 1909 and that the parish be divided in 1904, creating a second Roman Catholic parish in Geneva known as St. Stephen's. The school served both parishes for elementary and high school grades until 1930, when a new high school was built and the school on the parish property was used solely as an elementary school until 1981. In 2007, the parishes of St. Stephen's and St. Francis de Sales reunited under the name of Our Lady of Peace, made necessary by the lack of available priests and by a decree of Bishop Matthew Clark.

Although the parish has a new name, the church building on Exchange Street is still known as St. Francis de Sales Church. The church continues its religious mission, while the rectory is now used strictly for administrative and archival offices for the parish. The convent continues in a related mission as the headquarters for Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes. The convent was vacant from 1981 through 1988, when it was purchased and renovated in 2005 by Catholic Charities, preventing its demolition. The school building was used as offices and is now vacant. In 2011, plans were made to convert the building into senior housing and a community center. Catholic Charities is currently pursuing funding to purchase the school and plans are currently underway for its adaptive reuse for elder housing and support space. The 1955 addition to the school was renovated as a Parish Hall in 2008 and continues to function as that use.

Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A: Architecture

St. Francis de Sales Parish was founded in 1832 to serve a largely Irish Catholic community in Geneva, which later grew to include a large number of Italian immigrants moving into the city in the late nineteenth century to work in various industries. These immigrant groups settled in the north end of the village (later the city), near the Cayuga and Seneca Canal, which became a branch of the Erie Barge Canal system in the early twentieth century (New York State Barge Canal, State Register listed 2014). Throughout the nineteenth century, Geneva flourished as a trading and manufacturing hub, providing many jobs for the new arrivals. Under the leadership of Father James McManus (1858-1890), the parish expanded to encompass an entire city block and the massing and placement of the buildings provided a distinct and prominent character to the property. Such was the intention of Father McManus, whose goal was to create a sense of moral and spiritual values

[4] Ibid.

with the buildings for the Roman Catholic community while projecting its sophistication by adopting the latest popular architectural styles, following the building pattern established by other areas and churches in the city.

As a whole, the St. Francis de Sales Parish campus exhibited high style mid-nineteenth century religious architecture, with the 1864 church displaying a blending of the Gothic Revival and Romanesque. Throughout the Civil War and the years following, McManus oversaw the construction of a new rectory building in the popular Second Empire style and set the stage for the next significant project: the St. Francis de Sales School building and convent, both designed in the Italianate style. Such an effort to create a complete campus of buildings was only rivaled by the efforts of Trinity Church and Hobart College to establish a center for (Protestant) religion and education (in this case, a college). While Hobart College surpassed the St. Francis campus in size and scope, the expenditure of such efforts in Geneva in the second half of the nineteenth century was certainly notable and the extant buildings on both campuses attest to that effort.

Sited facing Exchange Street, the 1864 church featured an entrance portico and corner spire, large transept and nave. Waterloo granite was used for the foundation base and the exterior was built with locally sourced brick. The buildings' design followed the popular Gothic Revival style; however, it also incorporated some Romanesque elements, which included round arched window openings in the façade and steeple and round arched corbeled cornices. Windows along the sides (north and south elevations) were Gothic arched windows and doors, some set into large Gothic arched surrounds. The Gothic Revival style was popular in the mid nineteenth century, with the movement starting in England and being introduced in the United States by British architect Richard Upjohn, who came to America in the late 1830s. The Gothic Revival was extremely popular with Roman Catholic and high church Episcopal congregations in America, with the added inspiration of the European cathedrals constructed during the Middle Ages. Upjohn popularized the Gothic style church with large arched windows with elaborate wood or stone tracery and ceilings with ribbed vaulting or heavy beams. Some of his best known works were Trinity Church (1839) on Wall Street in New York City and St. Mary's Church (1846) in Burlington, New Jersey. Although the architect for St. Francis de Sales church is unknown, the designer may have been familiar with St. Mary's Gothic arched bays and tall, pointed steeple, since these details were incorporated into the 1864 church.

Little is known about the interior of the 1864 church, but a description of its 1935 renovation was printed in the local paper. Architect Herman J. Butler went into detail about the church's updated look, describing the church as appearing "longer, the depth greater and the ceilings higher." He continued:

> This impression is due in part to the color treatment, in part to a few structural changes. The elliptical shaped arch which formerly divided the nave and choir has been removed and a beam

> supported by corbels substituted…The arched openings to the side chapels have been stripped of their ornamental mouldings, and the columns have taken on a finer and simpler gothic [sic] form. The ceiling of the nave, which formerly was flat and unbroken, is now paneled by heavy beams…Other structural changes include the remodeling of the side entrances. On the epistle side a vestibule has been added which also serves as a passage way from nave to sacristy. Double doors open from this vestibule into the nave and on the opposite side doors of similar design replace the former single door. The front vestibule has been much improved by the changes made in the entrance doors and the transoms above them. Here the traceried wood panels have been removed and leaded glass panels inserted.[5]

Remodeling work was done by Lusk Studios of Rochester and supervised by architect Herman J. Butler. Another article described the paneled ceiling as having a jeweled effect in the sanctuary and that the Stations of the Cross were "exquisite in tones of ivory and gold leaf."[6] Fourteen new memorial stained glass windows were added in 1935, along with an ornately carved wooden altar and reredos, which was the only serious casualty lost to an arson fire in 1965.

Another of Father McManus's efforts was the replacement of the rectory in 1868. Priests were constantly arriving and a few were serving missions outside of the city of Geneva, requiring a larger, more suitable residence. The new rectory was built of brick to match the church to its south, but it was built in the Second Empire style with a large concave mansard roof. This upper story could be finished at a later date to accommodate more priests, if needed. Like the Gothic Revival, the Second Empire style was a European import with the name referring to the reign of French emperor Napoleon III (1852-1870). It was briefly popular in the United States after the Civil War, but it had all but disappeared by 1880. The rectory was updated in the early twentieth century with a columned Colonial Revival entrance, side porch and some Arts and Crafts style treatments in the interior (dining room with oak woodwork and built-in cupboards and side board, leaded casement windows, several new fireplaces).

Perhaps Father McManus's greatest triumph was to move the school out of the church basement into a large, new school building built north of the rectory. Both it and the convent (built at the same time) were designed in 1874 in the Italianate style, which was very popular with new buildings in the commercial district further south on Exchange Street. Although no architect or builder has been identified for the school and convent, they have features similar to the Dove Block, at 459 Exchange, which was designed by Warner and Brocket of Rochester in 1878. Both buildings feature recessed quatrefoils in the brickwork and decorative end stones in the brick lintels over rounded windows with narrow stone sills. More research needs to be done to connect the building to Brocket and Warner, especially since the school predates the Dove Block.

[5]Herman J. Butler, "Description of Church Alterations," *Geneva Daily Times,* 23 November 1935, 10.
[6] Lee, History, *Geneva Daily Times*, 23 November 1935, 10.

When originally built, the school was two bays wide with an entrance and bell tower on the north end and decorative brackets along the eaves. In 1909, the building was expanded with two more bays and around 1914, the bell tower was removed. Needing more room, a single story addition was built in 1955 on the northeast end of the building, behind the convent. Although the convent was built at the same time as the original portion of the school, its Italianate detailing was simpler, limited to plain stone lintels and a stepped corbeled cornice. In 1910, the building was expanded from an L-shape to a square when a chapel was added to the convent and the entire building was given a new hipped roof. The entrance was also given a simple Colonial Revival columned portico that complemented the entrance of the rectory.

By moving the school into a separate building, Father McManus emphasized the importance of a Catholic school education as opposed to a public school education, which had perceived Protestant overtones. As more Catholic immigrants moved into Geneva, the parish expanded its educational role in 1874 by building the newer, larger parochial school. It later chartered a high school after the expansion of the school building in 1909, officially incorporating one of the first parochial high schools outside of Rochester in 1913. This addition also allowed for the inclusion of a large second floor gymnasium and stage for physical education and arts instruction, following the latest trends in educational theory. The school marked over 100 years of parochial education at St. Francis de Sales, closing in 1981 after several years of dropping enrollment.

Conclusion

Throughout the nineteenth century, the St. Francis de Sales Parish made a significant impact on the community in the north end of Geneva that continued well into the twentieth century. Recent arrivals to the city found a welcoming neighborhood with the parish as its anchor, offering spiritual growth and comfort and providing accessible educational opportunities. The St. Francis de Sales Parish became an integral part of a diverse neighborhood, beginning with the Irish and continuing through the years with the Italian and Latino communities, serving these ethnic groups for the past 180 years and offering them a means of expressing their identity through church festivals, development of social clubs and mutual support via the common bond of religion. Religious leaders, such as Father McManus, were instrumental in the expansion of the St. Francis de Sales Parish complex and its developing into the important institution that it became and to its continual presence. The buildings of the St. Francis de Sales Parish complex are reminders of the role it played in local history in terms of architecture, education, ethnic heritage and religion and symbols of its current role as a common gathering place based on faith and vision. Seeking to build on the past, the St. Francis de Sales Parish continues to redefine itself by finding new owners and continued uses for its historic buildings. The historic buildings on the parish property are reminders of the work by Father McManus to establish a lasting

presence in the often overlooked industrial section of Geneva and its surrounding working class neighborhoods.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Lee, Rev. Walter J. "History of Church." *Geneva Daily Times,* 23 November 1935, 10.

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Taylor, Frank H. *Geneva on Seneca Lake.* Geneva, NY: Humphrey Press, 1902.

Wolf, Doris. "Restructuring Plan—Parishes Opt to Use 2 Schools." *Finger Lakes Times* 27 January 1981, 7.

Other sources:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1897-1968) City of Geneva Assessors Office Archive.
Map(s) of the Village of Geneva, 1850, 1858, 1870. Geneva Historical Society Collection.
Sketch of the Village of Geneva, 1836 by Henry Walton. Geneva Historical Society Collection.
Historic Photos, Geneva Historical Society, Daniel R. Long (Private Collection)

St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY
County and State

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 # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
_X_Other
Name of repository: **St. Francis de Sales Church Archives**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±2.3 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18N	338315	4748681	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary reflects the initial parish property that included the church and rectory. In the 1870s, the property expanded to include the grounds for the school and convent. By 1874, the parish property encompassed an entire city block, which has been the parish boundary from that time to the present.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Long, RA and Virginia L. Bartos, Ph.D., Historic Preservation Program Analyst (NYS OPRHP)
organization D. R. Long, Architect + Associates date June 2015
street & number 498 Castle St telephone 518-268-2213
city or town Geneva state NY zip code 14456
e-mail drlong@danlongarchitect.com; virginia.bartos@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: St. Francis de Sales Parish

City or Vicinity: Geneva

County: Ontario State: New York

Photographer: Virginia L. Bartos

Date Photographed: 11 May 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

0001 of 0026: St. Francis de Sales Church, east elevation looking southwest from Exchange Street.
0002 of 0026: View of parish campus, looking northwest along Exchange Street.
0003 of 0026: North and west elevations of church and west elevation of rectory, viewed from parking lot.
0004 of 0026: West and south elevations of church, view looking northeast from State Street.
0005 of 0026: Interior view of steeple entrance.
0006 of 0026: Interior view looking from steeple entrance into narthex.
0007 of 0026: View of sanctuary, looking west toward chancel.
0008 of 0026: Detail view of south side of sanctuary.
0009 of 0026: Rectory, viewed looking southwest from Exchange Street.
0010 of 0026: Interior view of rectory dining room.
0011 of 0026: Interior view of rectory stair (2nd floor landing) showing windows on south side of building.
0012 of 0026: View of school looking northwest from Exchange Street.
0013 of 0026: Detail view of school façade gable.
0014 of 0026: 1909-10 addition and entrance to 1955 parish hall, view looking west from Exchange St.
0015 of 0026: West and south elevations of school with portion of rectory garage seen on right.
0016 of 0026: Interior view of main entrance of school (Exchange Street side).
0017 of 0026: Interior view of second floor classroom.
0018 of 0026: Interior view of second floor main corridor.
0019 of 0026: Interior view of first floor classroom.
0020 of 0026: View of convent, looking northwest from Exchange Street.
0021 of 0026: North and west elevations of convent with portion of parish hall visible on right.
0022 of 0026: Interior view of office in convent.
0023 of 0026: Interior view of second floor chapel, southwest side of the convent.

St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY
County and State

0024 of 0026: Main stair in convent and second floor landing/corridor.
0025 of 0026: Overview of parish hall, convent and school from parking lot, looking northeast.
0026 of 0026: Overview of parish complex looking south along Exchange Street.

Property Owner:

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

name Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester & Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

street & number 1150 Buffalo Rd telephone 585-328-3210

city or town Rochester state NY zip code 14624

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, Fr. Thomas P. Mull, of Our Lady of Peace Parish, am the Appointed Legal Representative of the owner(s) of the property(s) at:

The St. Francis Church Campus (aka: Our Lady of Peace Parish) 130-98 Exchange Street, Geneva, New York 14456

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

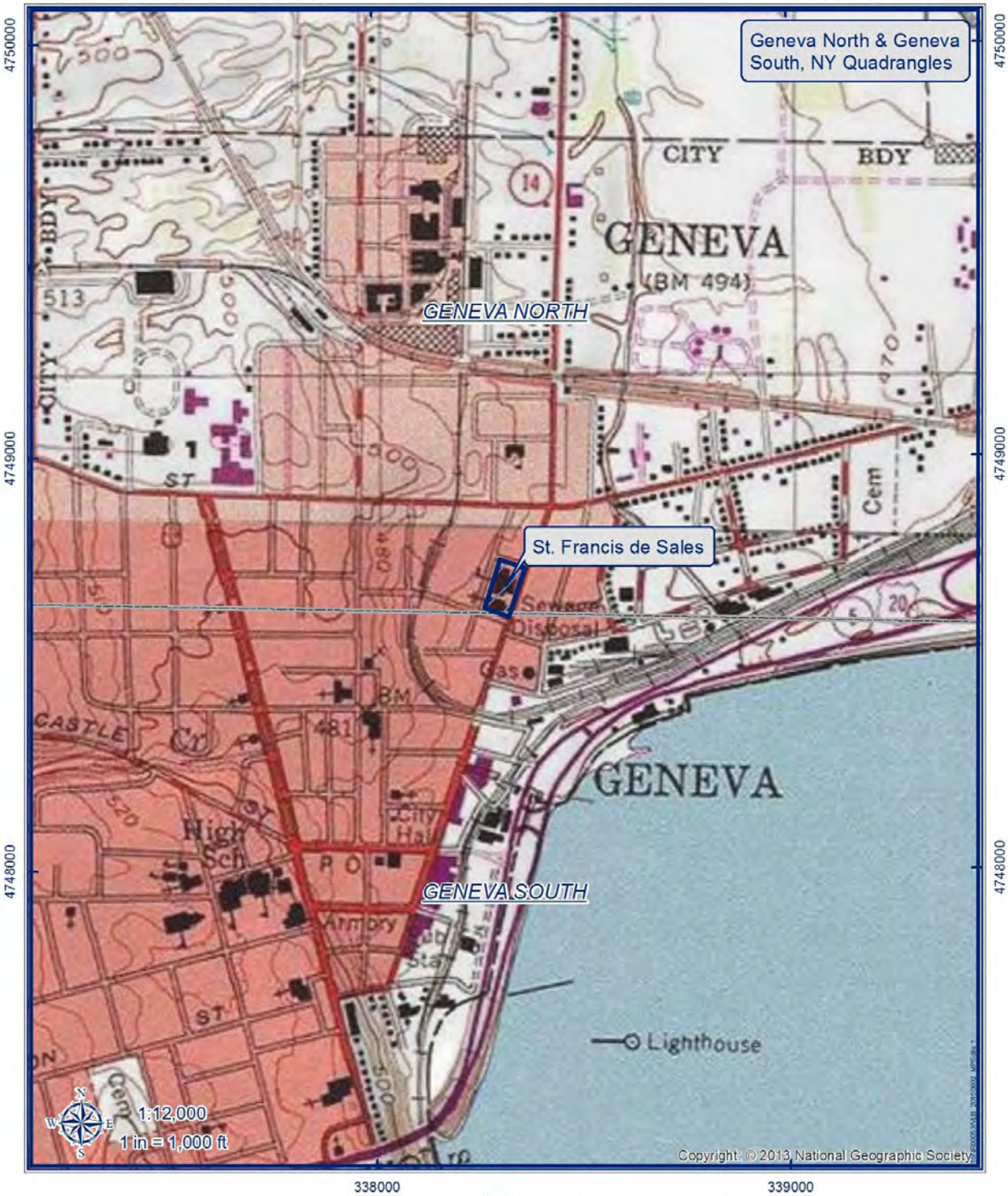
Thomas P. Mull November 7, 2014
(signature and date)

Fr. Thomas P. Mull (Pastor) - Our Lady of Peace Parish
130 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456

(mailing address)

St. Francis de Sales Parish
City of Geneva, Ontario Co.

94-140 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 295 590 1,180 Feet

St. Francis de Sales
USGS quad index

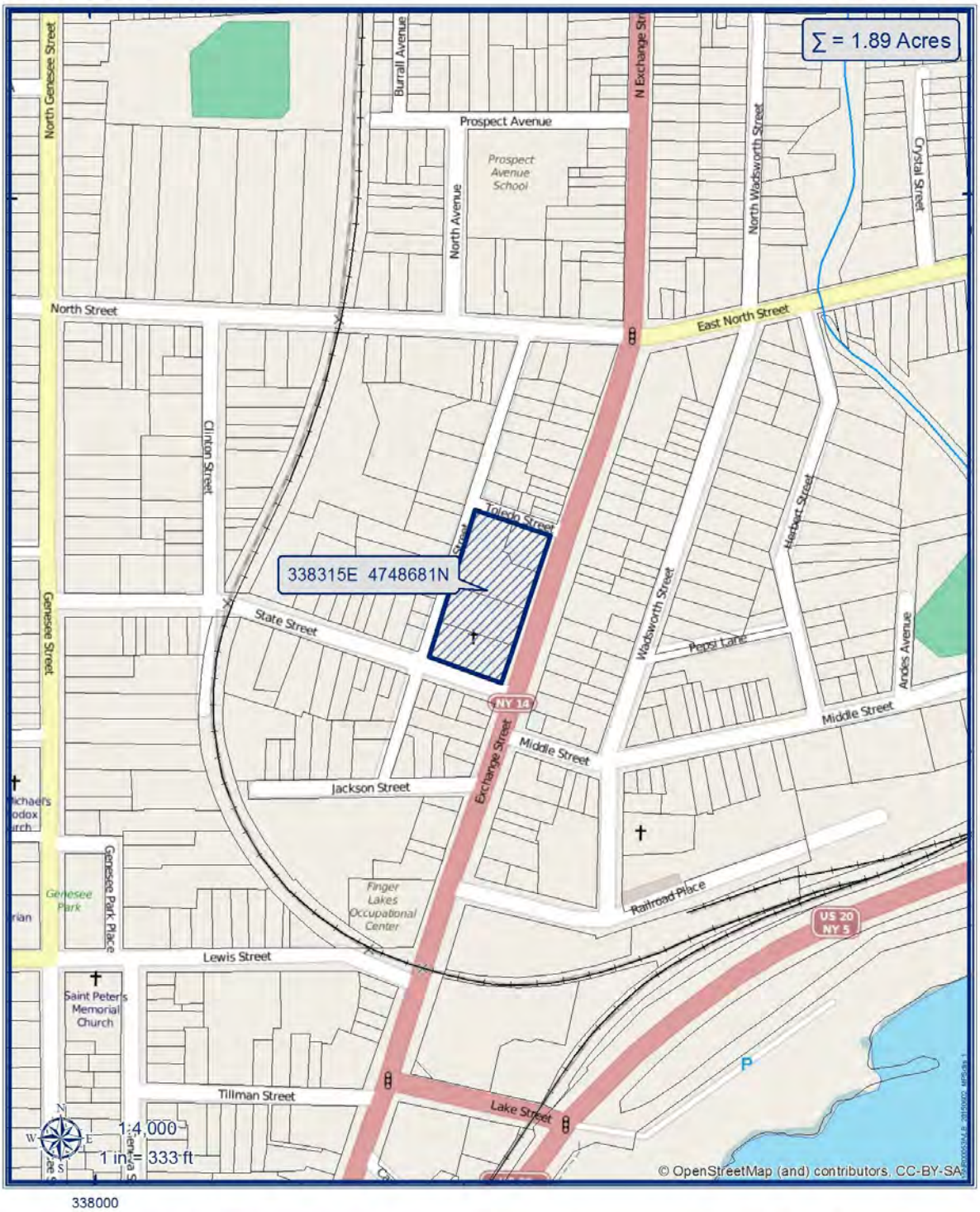
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY
County and State

St. Francis de Sales Parish
City of Geneva, Ontario Co.

94-140 Exchange Street
Geneva, NY 14456



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

Feet
0 95 190 380

St. Francis de Sales

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ST. FRANCIS DeSALES
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY MASSES
SATURDAY 4:30 PM
SUNDAY 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SPANISH MASS 11:00 NOON
CALL FOR CONFESSION
& DAILY MASS TIMES
215-739-0930

130
OUR LADY OF PEACE
PARISH OFFICES
ST. MARY-ST. PATRICK'S
CEMETERY OFFICE

SAINT FRANCIS
deSALES
SCHOOL

DESALES
YEARBOOKS
1912
2012

Catholic Charities
94

OUR LADY OF PEACE
CHAPEL &
PARISH CENTER

STOP
Catholic Charities
ENTRANCE IN REAR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Ontario

DATE RECEIVED: 6/26/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/21/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/11/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000514

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 8·10·15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 26 2015
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

22 June 2015

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following eight nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Babylon Library, Suffolk County
Barna C. Roup Residence, Wyoming County
Main School, Rockland County
St. Francis de Sales Parish Complex, Ontario County
Cottage in the Pines. Orange County
Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church Complex, Erie County
East Hill Historic District, Erie County
Daniel and Henry P. Tuthill Farm, Suffolk County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office