

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

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received AUG 4 1980
date entered SEP 17 1980

1. Name

historic St. Saint Patrick's Parish and Buildings Complex

and/or common

2. Location

Grand St., Ocean and Bramhall Aves.

street & number Ocean Avenue, Grand Street and Bramhall Avenue not for publication

city, town Jersey City vicinity of congressional district 14th

state New Jersey code 034 county Hudson code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: dental clinic

4. Owner of Property

name Saint Patrick's Church

street & number 492 Bramhall Avenue

city, town Jersey City vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hudson County Registrar

street & number Administration Building, 595 Newark Avenue

city, town Jersey City state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Patrick's Cathedral (#1 on map). The dedication of St. Patrick's in 1877 records that "Work was begun on the new church, September 8th, 1870. On Nov. 13th of that year, Bishop Bayley blessed the corner stone. The plan consists of a nave, two aisles, chapel and chancel, with a tower on the north east corner of the front. The Architect, Mr. P.C. Keely, has skillfully placed the tower in an angle of the irregular plot, so as to hide the angle, and even add to the beauty of the building. The Pastoral Residence adjoins the Church and is connected with it by an arched Cloister. The extreme length of the new building including the Residence is 272 feet, the extreme width 138 feet, the width of the nave and aisles is 86 feet. The height of the spire to the top of the Cross will be 225 feet. The Chapel is 70 by 30 feet, and the Sacristy 30 feet square. The sitting capacity is 2,000. The walls are all built of blue flint stone obtained in the neighborhood, trimmed with silver colored hammered granite from the Hallowell quarries in Maine. Entire cost said to be \$300,000."

St. Patrick's Church, a fine example of Gothic architecture, has not changed since it was begun in 1870 by its first pastor, Father Patrick Hennessey, at the intersection of Bramhall Avenue and Grant Street, the highest point of land in the historic Bergen Hill area. The impressive gray stone edifice has withstood the ravages of time remarkably well despite its openness to weather, air pollution from nearby industrial areas, the effects of the Black Tom explosion during World War I and its 110 years. The exterior of what is the largest church in Jersey City is unchanged. The interior shows signs of past grandeur and age. The richness of the wooden pews among the many marble altars, the incredibly beautiful stain glass windows casting beams of color over the aisles, the superbly carved frames of the beautiful stations of the Cross, the tall pipes of the wonderful organ rising from the choir loft almost to the buttressed ceiling, the sun shining through the rose window over the main entrance.

St. Patrick's Cathedral is a massive rectangular block form with clerestory and side tower. The tower is truncated, has angled buttressing, pointed arch tracery windows, and a companion pinnacle. The main entrance is via an elaborately carved massive wood pointed arch door alongside the tower. Above this door is a large tracery window. The longitudinal facade is vertically divided into 8 bays by wall buttresses.

The entire church is surrounded by a cast-iron fence.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** Patrick C. Keely

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Patrick's Parish, founded in 1868, has provided religious and educational services to Jersey City for over a hundred years while providing the city with an important cultural and architectural complex.

Architecture

The Cathedral itself was designed by prolific Catholic architect Patrick C. Keely in 1870 and is a fine representation of the Victorian Gothic. This is Keely's only known commission in Jersey City. Its essentially unaltered condition makes this one of Keely's most pristine examples in New Jersey.¹ While the architect of the adjacent Rectory is unknown, the building is a good example of the Second Empire Style. St. Patrick's Parochial Building is a reserved example of the Second Renaissance Revival.

Education

Educationally, the Parochial Building has served as an elementary school in Jersey City since its construction in 1901. Originally providing a religious education for Catholic Parishioners, the major student enrollment today is non-Catholic. The theatre/auditorium in the school was an important part of the school. A staging ground for many New York dramatic and musical productions including operettas under the direction of Victor Herbert, Henry Hadley, and Edward McDowell, this facility had a significant cultural impact on the area.

Religion

St. Patrick's Parish has provided important spiritual enhancement for the Irish immigrants of Jersey City since 1868.

In 1868 Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley deeded to the pastor of St. Joseph's Church, the land at the intersection of Communipaw Avenue and Bergen Point Plankroad - now Garfield Avenue - on which a mission church was to be built. In less than a year, the mission became a separate parish of St. Patrick to which, on December 23, 1869 Father Patrick Hennessey was appointed first pastor and commissioned to build a permanent church building within parish limits.

¹ A number of Keely's Catholic church designs are presently included in the National Register of Historic Places. Three registered properties in Newark had Keely as architect. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, New York; St. Martin's and St. John's Catholic Churches in Ohio; Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Providence, Rhode Island; and St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor, Maine are all registered. Most, if not all, of these edifices are in the Gothic Revival or Victorian Gothic style of architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Patrick's Church Centennial Program.

Oral History: Elizabeth Fredericks, 78 West 5th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3

Quadrangle name Jersey City, NJ

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	7	8	3	0	0	4	5	0	7	2	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Ocean Avenue/Grand Street/Bramhall Avenue

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Reverend Eugene Squeo	Revised by the Office of Historic Preservation	2/1980
organization	St. Patrick's Church	date	10/31/79
street & number	492 Bramhall Avenue	telephone	(201) 332-8600
city or town	Jersey City	state	New Jersey

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Signature: *Eugene Squeo* date: *3-17-80*

title Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Anthony W. Ray Luce</i>	date <i>9/17/80</i>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <i>[Signature]</i>	date <i>9-17-80</i>
Chief of Registration	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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St. Patrick's Parish Complex, Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

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The interior plan of the Cathedral is a basilica form - center nave, side aisles, entrance narthex, and apse. Graceful octagon pillars support the vaulted ceiling. Gothic wooden pews and altar. The balcony in the rear has an early 20th century organ. The apse is completed in murals depicting the life of St. Patrick. The stained glass windows were replaced after the Black Tom explosion during World War I. The ribs of the vaulting are highlighted by decorative stenciling.

The adjacent Chapel (#2 on map) is rich in its simplicity. Although its color scheme has been changed within the last few years, it is still almost exactly as it was in 1870. The high ceiling sacristy has retained its beautifully made wooden closets, chests, armoires. The Rectory, dating back to 1870's, retains its original exterior. A few interior changes to increase administrative efficiency, have been kept within the original plans of decor and furnishings.

Rectory (#3 on map). Constructed around 1868, St. Patrick's Rectory is an example of Second Empire style. This 5 bay, center hall, stone building has four complete levels - a full exposed basement, a Mansard attic, and two floors in between. The center bay projects out slightly from the main facade and forms a cross gable in the roof. The fenestration is accentuated by vermiculated gray stone quoining. The Mansard roof is slate; there are four stone chimneys. Above the main entrance door is a chiseled lintel which reads RECTORY. Main entrance is gained by a flight of stone stairs with iron railing. Under this stair is a basement entry also. The interior plan has a center hall, rooms front and back on either side. Each room has a marble mantel, paneled wall wainscoting, paneled window surrounds, and heavy four panel entry door. The rooms were originally divided by a large sliding double door, but these have been covered over. The ceilings have plaster corner moldings and center medallions. Much of the original woodwork and detailing is intact, although certain features have been destroyed to accommodate modern facilities. The laundry room in the basement has a fine slate wash tub. The Rectory lawn is fronted by a fine cast-iron fence. A small one story stone vestibule on the side joins the Rectory to the Cathedral.

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St. Patrick's Parish Complex, Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

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St. Patrick's Parochial Building (#4 on map). This school was built in 1901-1910 and is an example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture. Constructed of brick, this 3 story educational building has a full exposed basement. Main entrance facade has an eleven bay front divided into a 5 bay center block flanked by two-three bay units which project slightly. The floors are horizontally organized by belt courses of granite. The windows are highlighted by trapezoidal granite arches. The roof cap has a surrounding cornice with modillions and dentils. The entrance stair is 3 bays wide and rises to three large glass encased double doors with round arches articulated in voussoirs. Roughly square, the side also has 11 bays. The main entrance hall of the school has finely polished woodwork and tile floors. To each side of the main hall are narrow hall corridors to the classrooms. Although still being used, much of the original woodwork, hardwood floors, and details are still intact, even in the classrooms.

Of particular note, in the center of the school, is a fine theatre and auditorium. Done in the Neo-Classical format similar to movie palace architect Thomas Lamb, this auditorium has three levels - ground floor, balcony, and mezzanine. Molded plaster shells, acanthus leaves, festoons, and corinthian pilasters flourish throughout the auditorium. There is a four lane bowling alley in the school basement. In the original building as well, most of this recreation facility was remodeled around 1940, although the bench and gallery are original.

St. Patrick's Convent (#5 on map). Constructed around 1910, the Convent is a 3 story, 5 bay, brick building with a hip roof and exposed rafters. A relatively simple edifice, noteworthy architectural features are the granite classical entrance door, the projecting circular chapel, and raised diamond pattern beneath the eave. This building is presently a dental clinic.

Memorial Center (#6 on map). Built between 1940-50 as a community recreational center, this is a large modern one story brick structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Doyle Mansion (#7 on map). This is an early 20th century 2 1/2 story hip-roofed frame dwelling acquired by the parish in the early 1930's. It has a 3 bay, center entrance front facade with a corner turret. The porch is Queen Anne.

The entire St. Patrick's Parish Complex is located in the Arlington-Jackson urban renewal area and is immediately adjacent to the proposed Bergen Hill Historic District.

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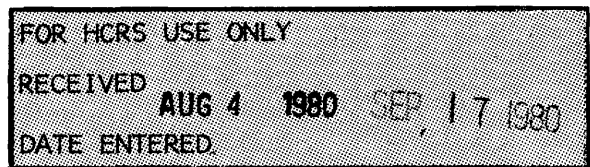
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In 1870 the parish operated from the mission church as Father Hennessey began construction on the present site at Bramhall Avenue and Grand Street, the highest point of land in the area, on land deeded to the parish at a nominal price by Hugh McKay, an active Catholic layman. On September 5, 1870 Father Hennessey set in place the first stone, taken, as was all the stone for the imposing Gothic edifice, and its adjoining Rectory, from the Central Railroad of New Jersey cut being made through the Greenville section of the city (a cut extending east to west from Randolph Avenue to West Side Avenue, between Virginia and Ege Avenues and Forrest Street). The first services were held in the Chapel on November 10, 1872. In 1877 the church was completed, and on August 19 of that year, a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Dedication was celebrated by Bishop Conroy of Albany, assisted by Bishop Ryan of Buffalo who preached the sermon. On March 1, 1896 Father Hennessey was laid to rest under a huge stone Celtic cross to the right of the church's main entrance.

His successor, Father Laurence Carroll, in an effort to break down the discrimination against Catholics and Irish, in a Protestant city, organized St. Patrick's Club which gradually became the center for social activity in the area. On October 13, 1901 Father Carroll laid the cornerstone for St. Patrick's Grammar School. Difficulties in obtaining water lines, delayed completion of the building until 1910.

Monsignor Stafford (once President of Seton Hall College) advanced the educational and cultural activity in the parish. He invited the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth to staff the school - they lived in the newly constructed Convent at the corner of Bramhall and Ocean Avenues.

An important part of the school building was a theatre, modeled after a New York legitimate theatre, where many dramatic and musical productions, including operettas under the direction of Victor Herbert, Henry Hadley, and Edward McDowell, were presented. A choir under the direction of Professor James P. Dunn, composer-director of New York and Boston symphonies was widely recognized as one of the most professional in the metropolitan area.



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St. Patrick's Parish Complex, Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Another important part of the school building was a bowling alley, comparable to the finest alleys in the area. Many local, state and metropolitan tournaments were held under the auspices of the Holy Name Club.

Msgr. Stafford died in March 1913, leaving a complete parish plant, a flourishing social center, and a scholastically superior school to Rt. Rev. Edward Kelly whose pastorate of 28 years encompassed World War I, the Great Depression, and incredible involvement to meet the needs of parishioners and non-parishioners alike to survive the great economic crisis of the time.

The Black Tom explosion had a devastating effect on the parish buildings, especially the church which had to be extensively renovated. The present stained glass windows were installed after World War I. A set of chimes to commemorate the parish men and women who served their country and gave their lives in its service, was dedicated in 1922. World War II service persons are memorialized on the marble plaques which line the Bramhall Avenue entrance to the church.

Reverend Cornelius Corcoran, a former Army Chaplain, arrived in 1941 and immediately began a program directed toward the needs of the youths. The school was enlarged and modernized; the Patrician Club for educational, social, and charitable work for and among the teenagers was opened; the Memorial Center was built and furnished with recreational facilities for the entire area.

St. Patrick's Cadets competed and won many parade and band competitions from Florida to Quebec. The entire parish engaged in Red Cross war activities as well as a spiritual renewal program. Father Corcoran literally wore himself out and died suddenly while engaged in one of his many activities.

In 1953, a parish "boy" Msgr. James Hamilton returned as pastor at a time when social, cultural, economic changes were becoming more and more apparent. Although the perplexities of the present day's city scene have had some adverse impact on parish buildings, the parish continues to serve various neighborhood needs and to be a significant part of the lives of the people in the community.

Parishioners and friends of St. Patrick's present and former, assembled on September 30, 1979 to commemorate the 110th birthday of the parish.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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Withey, Henry and Elsie. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased.
Los Angeles, 1979 (p. 333).

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Conservation and Recreation Service, 1976 (p. 298, 466, 672), Volume II (p. 359,
415, 420, 468).

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 1949, Lots 5 and 7
Block 1963, Lots 16 and 17

ST.

MADISON

AVE.

AVE.

GRAND

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
COMPLEX
JERSEY CITY
HUDSON COUNTY, NJ

ST.

AVE.

ARLINGTON
PARK

AUG 4 1980

