

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 29 1980  
DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

L'Ecole Saintes-Anges

AND/OR COMMON

Holy Angels Convent

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

247 Lake Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Albans

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VT

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lynnfield Development Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

31 Milk Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Albans City Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

St. Albans

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

August, 1980

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

# 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

Holy Angels Convent is an imposing brick Romanesque Revival edifice located in the heart of one of St. Albans' largest residential neighborhoods. The three-story rectangular main block is oriented with its broad side toward the street, and is framed by prominent polygonal towers at the corners. A large two-story ell projects toward the rear, making the building's overall plan a T shape. A raised foundation, constructed of rock-faced granite, supports brick walls bonded by alternating headers and stretchers every eight courses. The hip roofs are clad with slate, and trimmed by a stamped metal cornice with an elaborately corbelled brick frieze.

The five-bay facade which fronts on Lake Street is the building's most extensively detailed elevation. The polygonal corner projections employ hinged brick construction and continuous hip roofs. The east projection is surmounted by an ornate belltower enriched with an iron roof crest, corbelled brick frieze, and narrow round-arched louvres with granite sills and keystones. The west corner projection is capped by an iron finial. The center bay round-arched entrance is deeply recessed and has granite keystone and impost blocks on the corbelled exterior surround. The double-leaf doors are panelled and glazed, and topped by a large round-arched transom light. A secondary front entrance at the base of the belltower is similar but narrower and not recessed. A stone tablet beside it is engraved with a Christian cross and "1899" in the center, and has delicate maple leaves carved in the dormers.

The regularly spaced fenestration features arched brick lintels with granite keystones and corbelled drip moldings, as well as granite sills and mostly one-over-one sash. The first and second story windows have segmental arched openings, while the third story has round arches, and the ell first story has flat arches, two-over-two sash, and rectangular transom lights. Large hipped wall dormers centered on the east, south, and west elevations have corbelled friezes and round-arched muntin windows with granite sills and keystones. The east, north, and south elevation rooflines are also broken by small shingle-clad gable dormers with round-arched windows (six-over-six in the rear).

The rear ell has panelled doors with transom lights on all three sides. Original east and west elevation porches with turned posts and balustrades have been almost completely removed. Two iron fire escapes are appended to the east facade. In the far rear of the property is a small, semi-enclosed religious shrine.

# 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 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 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holy Angels Convent is significant both for its high Victorian architecture and for its historic role as the cultural bastion of St. Albans' large Catholic French-Canadian population. It is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style, employing such typical elements as large round arches, corner towers, and a corbelled brick facade trimmed with stone. The building's French-Canadian heritage is evident both in its distinctive continental styling, exemplified by an ornate iron roof crest crowning the bell-tower, and more directly in the delicately carved maple leaves which enrich the corners of the stone dedication tablet. The three-story main block originally housed living quarters for the resident teaching nuns, and is more richly detailed than the two-story rear ell, which contained classrooms and an auditorium. Although the Convent's original designer is unknown, the resemblance of certain of its stylistic details to features on downtown commercial blocks of the same period suggests a local architect.

The Holy Angels Convent exemplifies the role which the Catholic Church played in the late nineteenth century immigrant experience, not only St. Albans, but in any American neighborhood where French Canadians, Poles, or Italians predominated. Although French speaking Quebecers had settled in northern Vermont since the frontier years, the earliest immigrants readily assimilated into the Yankee culture, economy, and language. When, in the 1850's, a St. Albans financier gained control of the Central Vermont Railroad and moved its offices and main yards to his home town, the resulting job opportunities attracted Canadian labor to St. Albans in unprecedented and less easily assimilatable numbers. These new immigrants brought with them their church, which early on adopted an anti-assimilation policy and fervently sought to preserve their native culture, language and religion. The church's strongest weapon in this effort was the parochial school system. In the 1860's it erected the first Holy Angels Convent ("L'Ecole Saintes-Anges"), a brick dwelling which still stands several blocks to the north. Classes were taught exclusively in French; it was not until the turn of the century that a bilingual policy was adopted. By the 1890's, St. Albans had grown into one of the largest rail centers on the United States-Canadian border. This development in turn engendered the growth of a large, predominantly French speaking working class, much of which lived in modest homes on the west side of the city. To accommodate the increased number of students, the church built this large new convent in 1899. For three quarters of a century it served its neighborhood as a school, religious center, social center and meeting hall. Residents of the surrounding district are still overwhelming of French descent and for many of them L'Ecole Saintes-Anges has been a cultural focal point since childhood.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Album Souvenir, Ecole des Saintes-Anges (1949, St. Albans)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

St. Albans Quadrangle

Scale 1:24000

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <sup>+</sup> 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,5,0	6,8,0	4,9	6,3	5,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the north side of Lake Street, 200 feet west of North Elm Street, the Holy Angels Convent property line runs north for 180 feet; thence west for 110 feet, north again for 84 feet, and east again for 38 feet; thence south, back to Lake Street, 265 feet along an existing chain link fence; and finally east 160 feet along the sidewalk to the point of beginning.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John C. Page

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Consultant

DATE

August 12, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

802-644-2796

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Waterville

Vermont

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William B. Pinney*

TITLE

William B. Pinney, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/8/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol O'Shea*

DATE

11-28-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

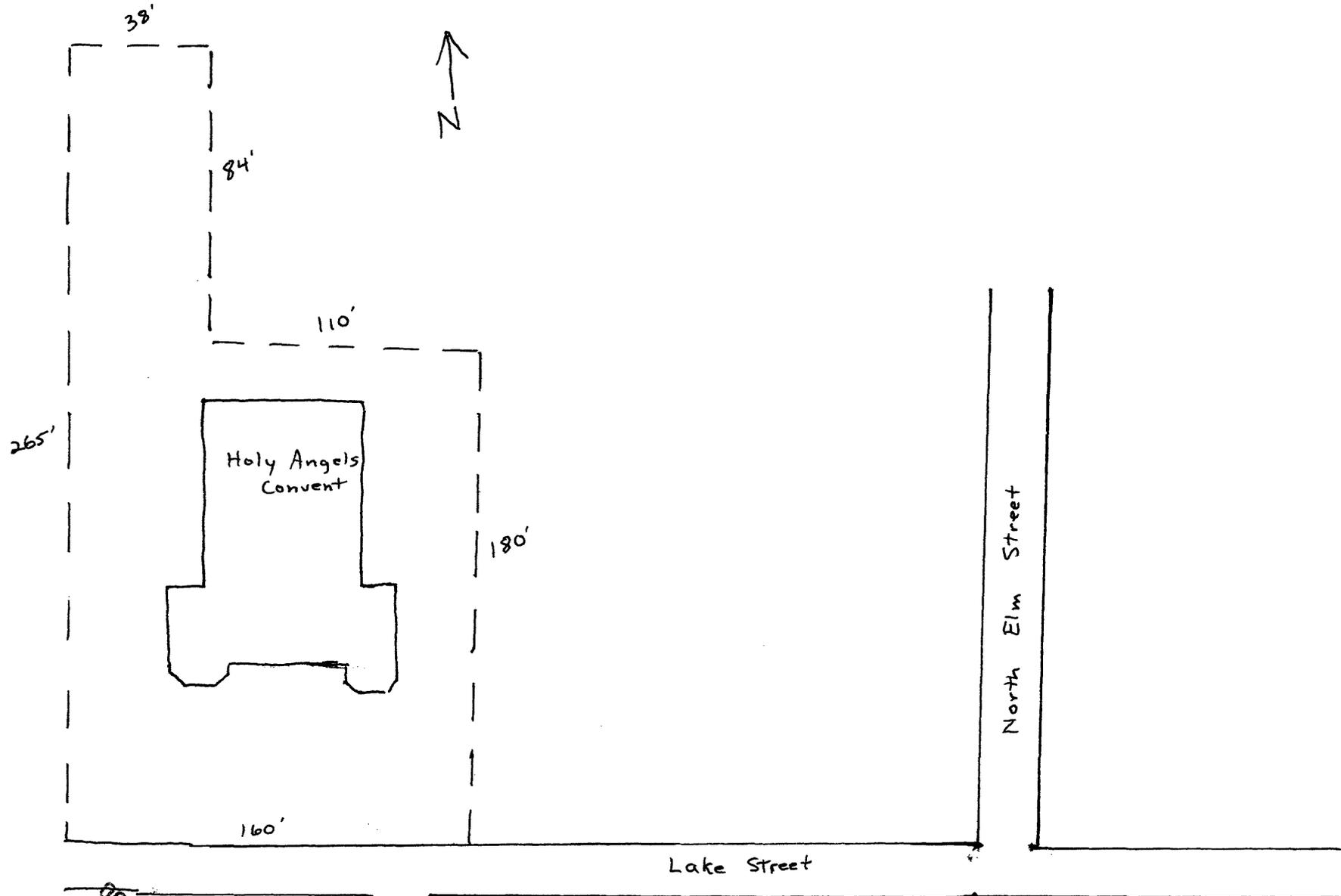
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrews*

DATE

11/28/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Sketch Map of  
 Holy Angels Convent,  
 St. Albans, Vermont  
 (not drawn to scale)

John C. Page  
 9/12/80