

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

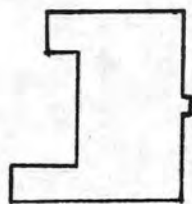
In Area no.

Form no.

K-15-537

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



MASON ST.

ST. JOSEPH ST.

1. Town Fall River, Mass.
Address 56 St. Joseph's Street
Name former St. Joseph's Orphanage
Present use Mt. St. Joseph's School
Present owner St. Joseph's Orphans Home Corp
3. Description: 4 st. w/basement & mansard
Date 1892
Source Bldg. Permit #51
Style Second Empire
Architect Louis G. Destremps
Exterior wall fabric brick, granite
Outbuildings (describe) _____
Other features granite basement story; marble sills; high convex mansard roof; copper cupola; dentilled cornice
two additions 1917, 1923
Altered main entrance Date 1930
Moved _____ Date _____
5. Lot size: 84,460 sq. ft.
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage _____
Approximate distance of building from street _____
6. Recorded by Patricia Giza
Organization FROHP
Date October 1, 1982

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) St. Joseph's Orphanage

Original use orphanage

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates school after 1963-64

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u>X</u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

St. Joseph's Orphanage is a large, imposing 4 story brick structure built in the Second Empire Style, with the design focused on the central section with its high convex mansard & copper cupola.

Founded by Rev. Msgr. Jean-Alfred Prevost, then pastor of Notre Dame Church Mt. St. Joseph's was known as L'Orphelinat St. Joseph. In answer to an appeal by his parishioners who sought help for some 75 French orphans in the Flint neighborhood, Msgr. Prevost opened the institution on June 9, 1890.

Originally the orphanage was housed in a two story frame building where the present Notre Dame School stands now.

In the early days, the Sisters of Charity collected money from Notre Dame and other Franco-American parishes and begged from door to door throughout the area to keep the home operating.

In 1891 after a fund raising drive to collect \$40,000.00, Louis G. Destremps, a Fall River architect who specialized in Catholic ecclesiastical work and a member of Notre Dame parish was hired to design the structure. Around 1915 the new building housed about 400 children and was already over-crowded. Two new wings were added, one in 1917 and one in 1923. During the years when it was an orphanage, up until 1964, Mount St. Joseph's was home for over 20,000 children, sometimes as many as 500 at one time. Many of these children went on to become prominent citizens in a variety of different fields.

Although many people still tend to think of Mt. St. Joseph's School as "a French School", it has in fact a unique population of students who come not only from Fall River but from other states and countries. At one time the school was

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Fall River and its Points of Interest, 1896 p. 35 (name of architect)

Fall River Herald News, March 25, 1974 p. 3

Bldg. Dept.: St. Joseph's Orphanage, March 25, 1892 #51, brick & stone orphanage, Mason St. 70x120 50,000

Water Dept.: St. Joseph's Orphanage, Dec. 8, 1892, #5617

Bldg. Dept.: St. Joseph's Orphanage, April 1, 1930 #91, brick and stone, main entrance to home 29x25, 2st. \$6000, Samuel Boucher

St. Joseph's Orphanage, June 16, 1930, #299, brick addition for

laundry 36x50, 1st. \$6000, Samuel Boucher

Atlas 1895: shown

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Fall River, Mass.	Form No: K-15-5
Property Name: Former St. Joseph's Orphanage	

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

9. Historical significance Cont'd

for French speaking catholics. The Sisters of Charity still operate the school, which although part of the diocesan system, is not directly associated with any parish.

As a distinctive example of its style, carefully-crafted and well-preserved, and as an important Fall River social institution, St. Joseph's Orphanage meets criteria A and C of the National Register, individually.

St. Joseph's Orphanage forms a major element within the French-Canadian Notre Dame parish, which was established in 1874. Although the church complex contained six interrelated properties, because the cathedral burned in 1982 only the three most significant components to survive are being nominated to the National Register. These structures remain as major symbols of the church's role in the community.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

115/83

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 9 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 81. St. Joseph's Orphanage | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>2/16/83 [Signature]</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 82. St. Louis Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 83. St. Mary's Cathedral and Rectory | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 84. St. Patrick's Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 85. Stafford Mills | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 86. Union Mills | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 87. Valentine-French House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 88. Wampanoag Mills | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 89. Winslow, Luther Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 90. Woman's Club of Fall River | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>2/16/83 Delores Byers</u> |
| | | Attest | |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

St. Joseph's Orphanage (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 1583-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria etc/accept
Reviewer Mr. Long
Discipline A. H.
Date 2-16-83
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unsurveyed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



INST. 5-12A

MT. ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL *crpharag*
56 ST. JOSEPH'S ST.

Fell River MRA, Ms

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279