

MAY 22 1989

625

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

154

Winchester, Mass. MRA

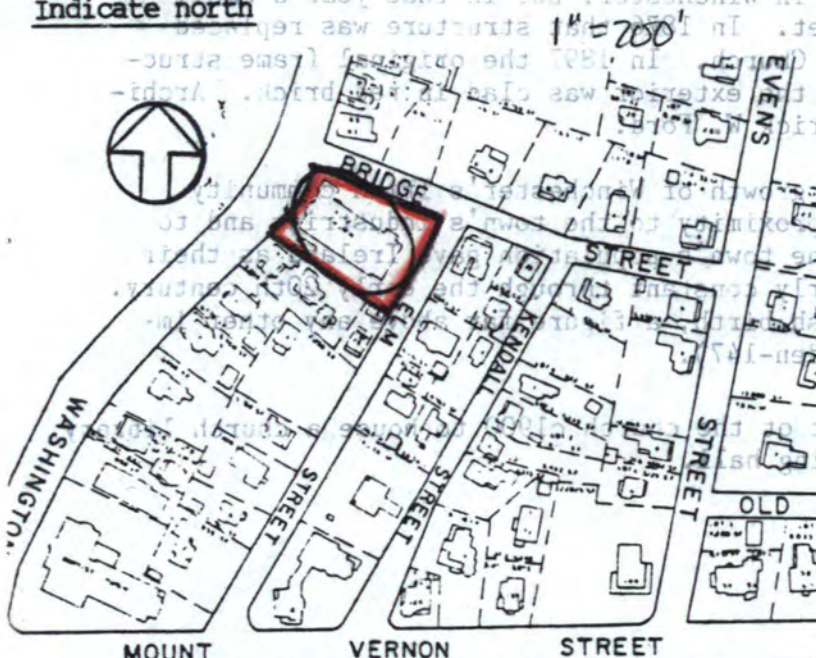
Town WINCHESTERAddress 159 Washington StreetHistoric Name St. Mary's Catholic ChurchUse: Present churchOriginal church

DESCRIPTION

Date 1876/1897Source Chapman's HistoryStyle Gothic RevivalArchitect Patrick W. FordExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings small brick Baptistry-cl900-CMajor Alterations (with dates) remodeled1897 by P.W. FordCondition goodMoved no Date n/aAcreage 20,567 sq. ft. / .47A / 04-0197Setting located on busy thoroughfare ofmixed use.Recorded by Henry Simonds, Carol ElyOrganization Winchester Historical Comm.Date 12/78; 10/87 revised by C. Jenkins

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white). Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19.324650. 47 02 190USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, MASS.SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

St. Mary's Catholic Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as a well detailed example of Gothic Revival style architecture designed by P.W. Ford, an architect noted for his commissions for the Roman Catholic Church. The design, which is executed in brick, features pointed arch windows and doors, buttresses, heavy corbeled cornices and an offset bell-tower. The church is also important for its associations with Winchester's emerging Irish Catholic community. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

St. Mary's Catholic Church is located on Washington Street in the midst of Winchester's 19th century Irish community. It originated in 1876 as a wood-frame structure; its present brick clad appearance results from an extensive 1897 remodeling by Patrick W. Ford, a well known architect of the Catholic Church. The design of the church is loosely based on the early 19th century Federal meetinghouse form, with the nave facing gable end to the church. The offset tower reflects later 19th century taste. The church is richly trimmed with corbeled cornices, decorative buttresses on the side elevations and pointed arch moldings over doors and windows. The corbelling and general heaviness of the design are derived from the Romanesque Revival style design. The lower portion of the tower displays the same features as the nave including buttresses and corbelling; the upper stage belfry was rebuilt in 1907. A small, brick Baptistry of c1900 stands immediately adjacent to the church on the south.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Until 1874, there was no Roman Catholic Church in Winchester, but in that year a small wood-frame chapel was built on Washington Street. In 1876 that structure was replaced by the present building of St. Mary's Catholic Church. In 1897 the original frame structure of 1876 was renovated on the interior and the exterior was clad in red brick. Architect for this extensive remodeling job was Patrick W. Ford.

Construction of the church reflected the rapid growth of Winchester's Irish community which was concentrated in the area due to its proximity to the town's industries and to the railroad. By 1865, approximately 12% of the town's population gave Ireland as their place of birth, a percentage that remained fairly constant through the early 20th century. The census of 1915 listed 936 residents of Irish birth, a figure far above any other immigrant group (Nova Scotia-262, Italy-159, Sweden-147).

A small brick building was constructed adjacent to the church c1900 to house a church library. It has since been used as a Baptistry and meeting hall.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chapman, Henry Smith. History of Winchester, Mass. 1936.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. Winchester Town Report. 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 22 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Winchester MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 41. Remick, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 42. Richardson, Zachariah, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 43. Russell, Charles, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 44. Russell, Arthur H., House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 45. Sharon House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 46. Simonds, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 47. Skillings Estate House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 48. St. Mary's Catholic Church | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 49. Stanton, Jacob, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u>Shelton Byers</u> 7/5/89 | Attest _____ |
| 50. Sullivan, Edward, House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u>John F. Savage</u> 7-5-89 | Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Mary's Catholic Church

MULTIPLE NAME: Winchester MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000625

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 7/5/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



^{Catholics}
St. Mary's Church
Washington St.
Winchester MA MRA

1/88

MHC Inv # 154



Ca. 1880

St. Mary's Church
Washington Street 1/88
Winchester MA MRA

MHC Inv # 154

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303