

5-30-73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hon. William D. Hathaway

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

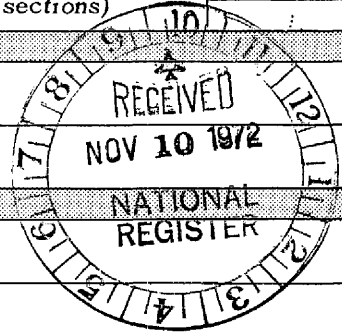
STATE:	Maine	
COUNTY:	Penobscot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	APR 2	1973

HR 518900
ZNR
N 4960950

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. John's Catholic Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
York Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Penobscot CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

STREET AND NUMBER:
510 Ocean Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Penobscot
ENTRY NUMBER:	APR 2 1973
DATE:	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Patrick
C

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The architect of St. John's Church was a Mr. Keely from New York. The actual construction was done under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Humphrey for the masonry and a Mr. Cadogan was responsible for the carpentry.

The church rests on a cut stone foundation and is constructed of brick. The architecture is Gothic and the plan cruciform. The walls are supported by buttresses at all the piers and angles and finished with offsets. The roofs are covered with blue slate and the gutter pieces are fixed to the roof several feet from the eaves to which they incline each way. The tower is 100' high and with spire and cross reaches 180'. The extreme width through the transepts is 98' and across the naves and aisles is 68'. The length of the church through the nave and chancel is 156'. The height of the nave ceiling is 58'. There are three entrances in front. Over the side doors are large rose windows filled with richly figured tracery and in the tower and turrets are large and small windows. The sides of the church have 22 windows which are 24' high.

Two stair cases lead from the vestibule through the turrets to the choir loft which extends into the nave. The interior of the church is divided into nave, aisles and transepts by an arcade supported by 22 columns whose capitals are decorated with cherubims and foliage. The ceiling is groined with many intersecting arches. The arches of the chancel are covered with rosettes and ball flowers. The walls are of a variegated light stone which contrasts well with the buff stone of the ceiling.

The side windows are of Austrian grizzled glass in small diamond patterns in iron and lead frames. The central chancel window has a life-size figure of Jesus; on the right is the Virgin Mary and on the left is St. John. The window is framed by mouldings, wreaths of vine, and ornaments which terminate in three crosses.

The main altar is supported by an arcade of columns and arches. The center niche has a figure of the Lamb and the Bible; two side niches have the Pelican and the Dove. The tabernacle is within its own niche, painted ultramarine blue and gilt, topped with a spire and cross.

The church was lighted with 115 gas burners. The pews (234) will accommodate 1,400 people. The pulpit is moveable. In each transept, there are small chapels, each with its own altar, tabernacle and niches.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

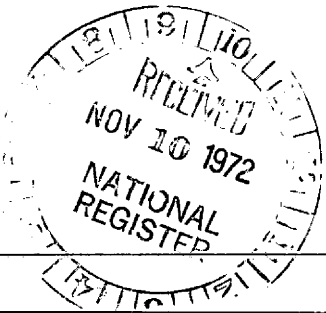
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

St. John's Catholic Church was built in 1855 by the Irish community of Bangor under the direction of Father John Bapst, a Jesuit priest. The church was to be a symbol to the Irish community of Bangor of their identity within the community as a whole. The builders of St. John's were conscious of this need, for it was fresh in their memories how their predecessors had been burned out and driven from the city by roving gangs of sailors and lumberjacks in the 1830's. Two years before, their own priest had been ridden out of Ellsworth, Maine on a rail complete with a suit of tar and feathers.

In 1855, Bangor was experiencing the height of the Know-Nothing movement; with a Know-Nothing city council and a Baptist minister for a marshall. The marshall had been appointed to end the grog trade among the predominatly Irish owned grog shops on the waterfront and he was carrying out his work with great zeal. While the church was being constructed, Irish laborers stood guard against the threats of the Know-Nothings to burn it to the ground.

The church today maintains much of its original flavor with its statue of St. Patrick to the left of the main altar and its hugh mahogany organ imported from Boston in the late 1850's. Much of the original stained glass was replaced later in the century by tyrolean stained glass but some of the original remains in its flowered pattern. The holy water fonts bear the names of the donors, James O'Donahue and his wife, an Irishman who struck gold in California in 1849 and returned to Bangor to live the life of a wealthy aristocrat.

The church stands in what was once the heart of the old Irish community in Bangor. It remains as a symbol to many of the old Irish families in Bangor of a way of life that has for the most part all but disappeared. Few of the occupants of the pews in 1972 realize that their predecessors survived faimine, riot and cholera to erect the edifice that would become a curious combination of America and Ireland and a living reminder of an all but forgotten part of the city's history.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bangor Journal: Article, January 1, 1857.

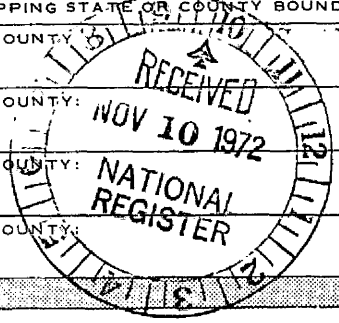
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		44 0 48	68 0 045 00 41W	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
James Mundy, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: Sept. 15, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 1, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

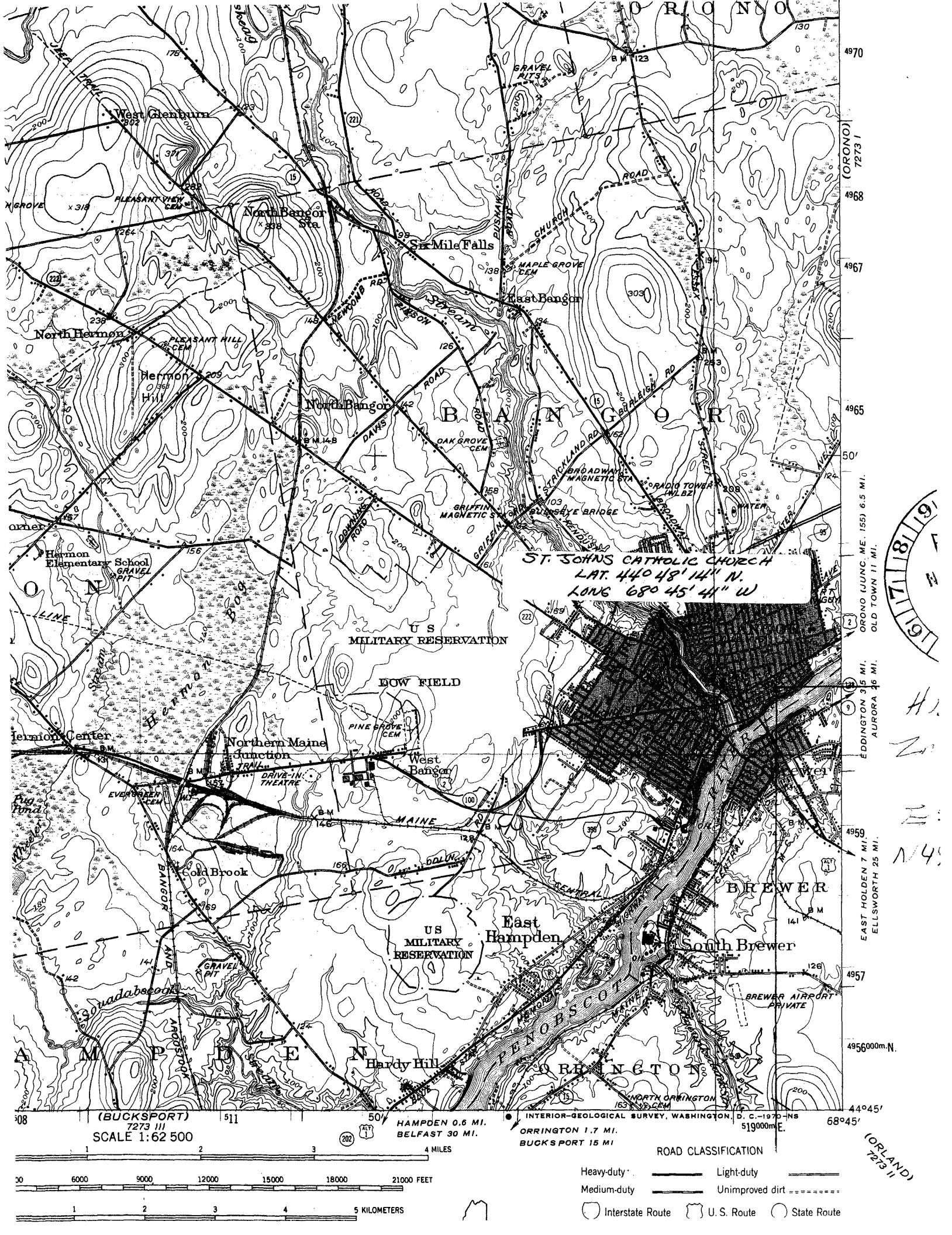
Robert Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/2/73

ATTEST:
H. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/22/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 LAT. 44° 48' 14" N.
 LONG. 68° 45' 41" W



H.
 Z.
 145

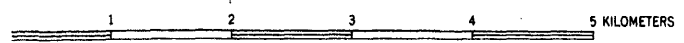
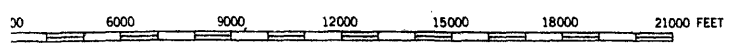
(BUCKSPORT)
 7273 111
 SCALE 1:62 500

HAMPOEN 0.6 MI.
 BELFAST 30 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1970 - NS
 ORRINGTON 1.7 MI.
 BUCKS PORT 15 MI.
 519000m E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



4970
 4968
 4967
 4965
 50'
 4959
 4957
 4956000m N.
 44°45'
 68°45'

(ORLAND)
 7273 111