

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

I	101, 102
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WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town WalthamName of Area (if any) St. Mary's RomanCatholic Church ComplexPresent Use churchGeneral Date or Period 1858-1920sGeneral Condition excellent

4.810 Acres
Acreage 209,547 sq. ft. 51-13-3

Recorded by Ed GordonOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white). Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

see attached map

RESOURCE COUNT:

buildings: 5 C 2 NC

UTM REFERENCE

A 191315720 14694120
B 191315880 14694140
C 191315900 14694030
D 191315720 14693960

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

St. Mary's Church Complex possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as Waltham's oldest Roman Catholic parish with strong connections to the city's 19th and 20th century ethnic population. It is also a fully developed and well preserved complex with multi-functioned buildings dating from 1858 to the 1920s. The two oldest--the 1858 Romanesque Revival style church and the 1872 Second Empire style rectory--are particularly fine examples of their respective architectural styles. The complex thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

St. Mary's Church Complex occupies a 4.8 acre site in central Waltham at the corner of School Street (S), Lexington Street (E) and Pond Street (N); residential structures form the boundary on the west. The buildings are surrounded by a large paved parking lot with the entrance on Pond Street. The northeast corner of the parking lot which has been subdivided has been deleted from the boundaries. Similarly, the southeast corner which contains the former North Jr. High School has been deleted.

St. Mary's Church (A) is a red brick structure designed in the early Romanesque Revival style. Construction began in 1858 and was completed in 1872. In 1875-77, the church was enlarged to double its capacity; this cross-axial rear addition was dedicated on 4/8/1877. Murphy of Providence is cited as the architect for the \$40,000 enlargement, with improvements by Cowen & Hanrahan. In 1902 the church was renovated for \$50,000. The original structure consists of gabled nave with central projecting bell tower which is surmounted by a

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

St. Mary's Parish was formed to serve Waltham's growing Roman Catholic population which was made up largely of Irish immigrants. While there is mention of an Acadian French presence in Waltham before the Revolution, the Catholic Society was not formed until 1830. In 1835, Waltham was made into a parish. A small wood-frame church was erected on land formerly owned by the Second Society on Church Street. In 1839, the resident pastor, the Rev. T. Fitzsimmons was appointed; he was followed by the Rev. Michael Lynch (1840-42), the Rev. James Strain (1843-44) and the Rev. Patrick Flood (1844-63).

When the church was destroyed by fire in 1846, the center of the Parish moved to Watertown until 1858 when Father Flood began the erection of the present St. Mary's Church. When he died suddenly in 1863, only a portion of the church was in use, the rest being unfinished. He was succeeded by his relative, Rev. Bernard Flood who completed the church and, in 1875, started to enlarge it. Bernard died in 1876 and was succeeded by the Rev. Timothy Brosnahan whose pastorate lasted for 42 years. The church was rededicated in the present form on April 8, 1877, with \$40,000 having been expended. In 1879, 17 acres of land was purchased to increase the size of Calvary Cemetery, and in 1880 a church bell was purchased for \$1,500.

In 1882-83 a rectory was built adjacent to the church to provide for the enlarged parish. In 1886-88, the complex was further expanded with construction of St. Joseph's Parochial School (demolished early 1970s) which provided instruction for 850 students. Teaching for the girls was provided by the sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and later for the boys by the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hurd, D.H. History of Middlesex County. Vol. III. 1890.
Sullivan, James. S. One Hundred Years of Progress. The Catholic Church in N.E. 1895.
W.P.L. Collections. Waltham; A Book of Waltham Photographs. 1891
St. Mary's Church Publication. "130th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Waltham" 1935.
Paper in collection of W.P.L. "St. Mary's Church".

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham	Form No: A
Property Name: St. Mary's Church Com.	

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

Architectural Significance (cont)

buttressed belfry and octagonal spire with pinnacles. Round arched entries are located on the tower and flanking bays. Long roundarched windows define the side elevations. The interior aisles, nave and transept display barrel, groin and ribbed vaults. Stained glass is said to be by Samuel West of Boston.

St. Mary's Rectory (B), dating from 1882-83, is one of Waltham's finest examples of the Second Empire style. Constructed of brick, it consists of a 2½ story main block, 1½ story rear ell, and accompanying free-standing carriage house (G). The steeply profiled roof retains original slates, and contains dormers of Eastlake detail on the lower slope. The symmetrical three bay facade exhibits a center pavillion with recessed double-leaf entry. A bracketed cornice runs beneath the roof.

St. Mary's High School (C) is a red brick structure designed in the Classical Revival style; it rises two stories from a high basement to a stylized parapet with a central panel dated 1922. Its facade is organized into a nine bay central section framed by three bay projecting end pavillions. A large recessed double-leaf entry is headed by a segmental pediment. Windows contain 12/12 sash and are headed by splayed lintels.

St. Mary's Religious Education Center (D) is a 1920s red brick Georgian Revival structure located directly behind the church. It rises three stories from a high basement to a stylized parapet above a cornice. Its five bay facade is centered on an entry with fan and sidelights headed by an arched hood. It is framed by brick quoins. Windows contain 12/2 sash and are headed by splayed lintels.

A two story brick apartment house which appears to date from the late 1930s faces Pond Street. It is a sparse Georgian Revival style brick building and does not appear to contribute to the historic or architectural character of the complex (E). The most recent building on the site is a brick garage adjacent to the carriage house (F).

Historical Significance (cont)

Brothers of Christian Schools in 1891. With the arrival of the Brothers, St. Joseph's High School for Girls and LaSalle High School for Boys was built. In 1894 a center for French speaking Catholics was built. During the pastorate of the Rev. James Baxter (1914-35), a new high school was constructed and the name was changed to St. Mary's. In 1925 the Stigmatist Fathers established another church on River Street to serve Italian Catholics. In 1928 a function division of St. Mary's was effected by the establishment of the parish of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted. While St. Mary's High School closed in 1973, the parish remains a flourishing one which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1985.

Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary is confined to the church complex and the lot on which it stands in recognition of its unique role in Waltham's historical development. Surrounding commercial and residential properties are excluded.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

WALTHAM, MA		DISTRICT DATA SHEET		SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH COMPLEX		
<u>Street Address</u>	<u>MRA Assessor's #</u>	<u>Square Ft.</u>	<u>Historic Name/Inventory #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
133 School Street	51-13-3	209,547	St. Mary's Church/MHC#101	1858	Romanesque Revival	C
			St. Mary's Rectory/MHC#102	1882-1883	Second Empire	C
			St. Mary's High School	1922	Classical Revival	C
			St. Mary's Religious Education Center	1920	Georgian Revival	C
			St. Joseph's School	1930	Georgian Revival	C
					carriage house	N
					garage	N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

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

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

81. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Complex
Substantive Review
Keeper Betty L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
82. Stanley, Leonard W., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
83. Stark Building
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
84. Stark, Robert M., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
85. Stearns, Amos, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
86. Stewart, Henry, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
87. Swasey, James, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
88. Tyler, Frank J., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
89. United States Watch Company
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
90. Waltham Gas Light Company
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001527

Date Listed: 09/28/89

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Property Name

Middlesex
County

MA
State

Waltham MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Beth L. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/89
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria considerations

Criteria exception A is applicable for the property's religious function.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, Acting National Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 Roman Catholic Church Complex

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001527

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: Y SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept 9+C
REVIEWER Swan
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/28/89

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____

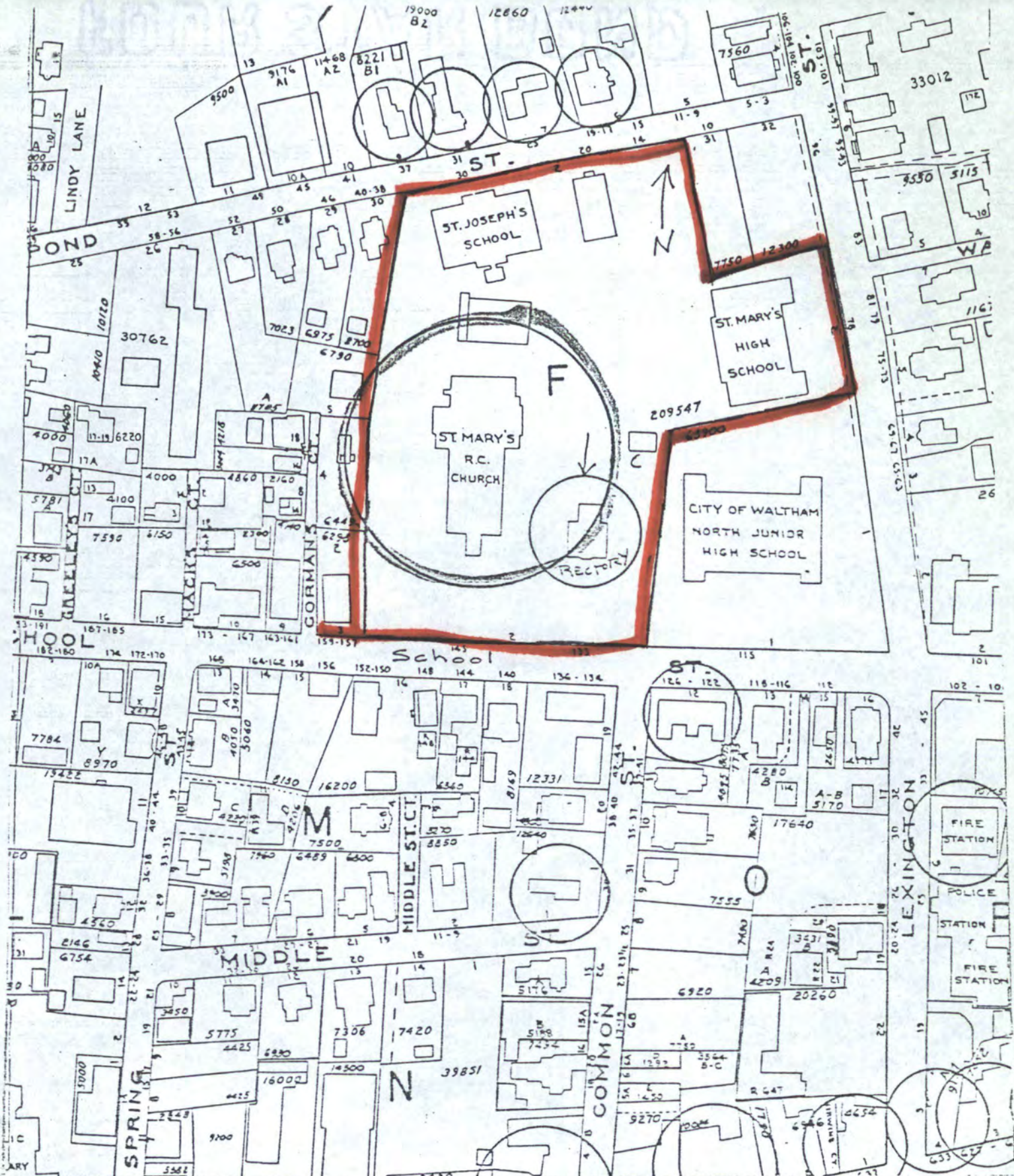


St. Mary's Church Complex - Area I

ST. MARY'S R.C. Church
145 School St
MHC # 102 Waltham, MA MRN

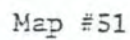


Waltham MA MRA
St. Mary's Church Complex
Rectory
133 School St. Area I



1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
 Compiled by the Waltham
 Engineering Division
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, MA MRA
 133 School St.
 Waltham, MA.
 MRA # 101
 111-112



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301