

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TOWN NO.: SITE NO.:  
UTM: 18/6/23/400/45/45/160  
QUAD:  
DISTRICT: S NR: ACTUAL  
POTENTIAL

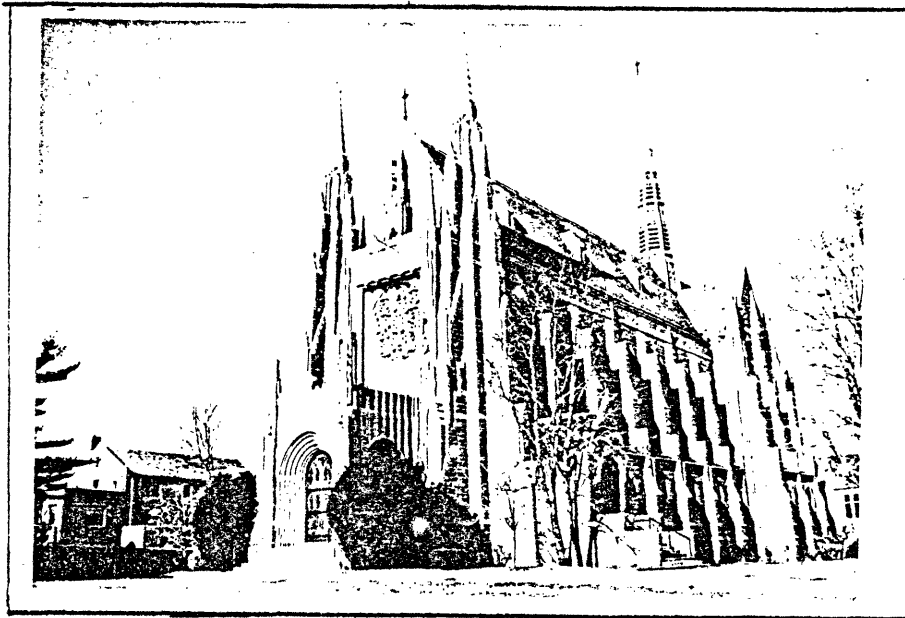
Inventory # 5

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: St. Mary's Church Historic: St. Mary's Church
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Stamford COUNTY: Fairfield
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 540 Elm Street
- 4. OWNER(S): St. Mary's Church
- 5. USE: Present: Church Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: (Late Gothic Revival, 5/15/87)  
Neo - Gothic DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1928
- 8. APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 43' x 104'
- 9. ARCHITECT Francis L.S. Mayers BUILDER Unknown



photographer: Steven Hirschberg name: Renee Kahn Associates date: July 77-Mar.  
 date: July 1977-Mar. 1979 view: S/W organization: Stamford Community Development Program  
 negative on file: Stamford Historical Society address: 429 Atlantic Street

10. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

See attached sheet.

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CONTINUATION SHEET St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 540 Elm St.  
Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/79

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES

A veritable cathedral, this freestanding all-masonry church reflects the rather fussy elegance of late French Gothic architecture. Complete with buttresses at the nave and a metal "fleche", a louvred belfry at the crossing, it presents its imposing mass to the public eye. The very steep roof forms a high gable at the front, the most conspicuous feature of which is the large tracered rose window at the center. This, in turn, is flanked by an array of final crowned corner buttresses. Just above the rose window, where the gallery of Saints is usually located, is a delicately wrought projected stone screen which extends across the front between the corner buttresses. Surmounting it is a high canopied niche with a statue of the patron saint set against the high front gable of the roof, which has a crocketed raking coping crowned at the apex by a cross. In front, beneath the rose window, an enclosed porch extends outward, containing the entrance doors which are set in a deep compound arch; the side windows are arched. The vertical accent is emphasized here by means of a system of ribs and two corner finials. The transepts are both gabled and heavily buttressed.

SIGNIFICANCE

Located on its imposing open site, this tall, Cathedral-like church is a conspicuous feature, as seen from below, and makes a living contribution to its congregation and the neighborhood.

prepared by  
Alan Burnham F.A.I.A.

Francis L.S. Mayers, member of a noted NY Arch firm  
specializing in ecclesiastical renovations.  
see A. Burnham, New York Landmarks

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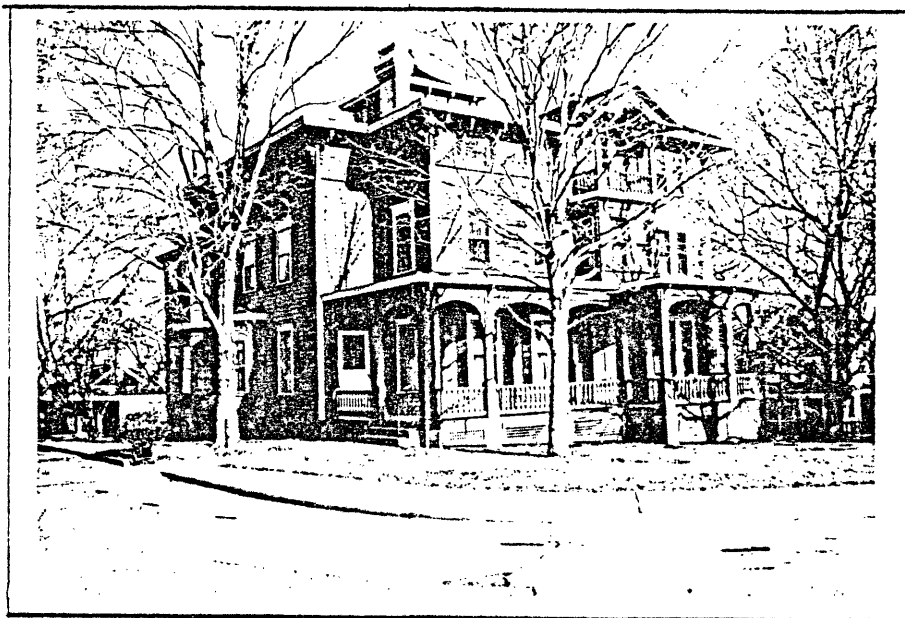
Inventory # 6

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Rectory- St. Mary's R.C. Church Historic: Isaac Wardwell House
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Stamford COUNTY: Fairfield
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 566 Elm Street
- 4. OWNER(S): St. Mary's Church
- 5. USE: Present: Religious Historic: Single-family
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Italianate DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1860
- 8. APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 38' x 32'
- 9. ARCHITECT Unknown BUILDER Unknown



photographer: Steven Hirschberg name: Renee Kahn Associates date: July 77-Mar.  
 date: July 1977-Mar. 1979 view: S/E organization: Stamford Community Development Program  
 negative on file: Stamford Historical Society address: 429 Atlantic Street

10. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Rectory, 566 Elm St.

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/79

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES

This notable and well preserved Italianate villa, two stories high with attic, expressed an asymmetrical theme. A vertical emphasis, off center to the right, is created by a bay in the full-width front porch surmounted by a rectilinear bay window and, in turn, at the attic floor, by a balcony above the bay. The porch roof is carried on a series of square columns set on bases and connected at their tops by curvilinear brackets which support low arches with panels in the spandrels.

The boldly projected eaves of the roof are carried on deep openwork curvilinear brackets with acorn drops. The porch roof is also carried on smaller brackets with drops. The second floor windows have blind segmental arches and cap moldings. The most striking feature of this house is the balcony at the top of the vertical tier above the front porch. It has a balustered railing like that of the front porch and two columns supporting a wide low gable, beneath which there is a ornamental valance or skirt formed by vertical slats scalloped at their bottoms to form a segmental arch. Corbelled brick chimneys, a cupola with brackets and a dished pyramidal roof crown the low roof. At the right-hand (south) side, there is a second floor balcony with dished roof, and the balcony is carried on brackets. On the left-hand (north) side, there is a three-sided bay at the first floor. The fenestration of the house consists generally of evenly spaced single windows, except to the right of the vertical tier of the front where they are paired; those at the attic are arched.

SIGNIFICANCE

This handsome Italianate villa, set in spacious grounds and serving as a rectory for St. Mary's church, is remarkable not only for the fine state of its preservation but for its fine Italianate detail, a worthy adjunct to the beautiful church which it serves.

This structure was originally the property of the prominent Wardwell family. According to Father Pohli of St. Mary's Church, it stood about 100 ft. to the north of its present location, and is depicted that way on both the 1867 and 1879 maps.

prepared by

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