

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	23A-173

212



Northampton
85 Beacon Street
Church of the Annunciation
present use parish church

present owner Church of the Annunciation

description:

1879-1880
Hampshire Gazette & Northampton Courier, 16 Sept. 1879

Late Victorian Gothic

architect Patrick W. Ford of Boston

exterior wall fabric timber frame

a small, wooden
Outbuildings (describe) carriage house/
garage (late 19th c.)

Other features stands to the east and
rear of the church; a 2-story,
brick parochial school (1925, John
Donoghue, archt.) stands to its
west. All are on same lot.

interior
Altered moderate-~~large~~ Date 20th c.

Moved No Date --

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre 1.98

Approximate frontage 460' on Beacon St.

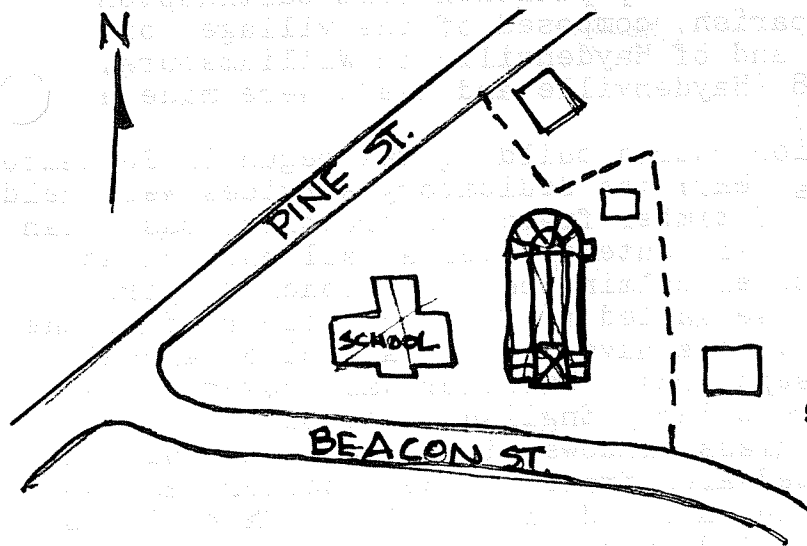
Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by S. J. Roper

Organization Northampton Historical Commission

Date 28 April 1978



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Church of the Annunciation

Original use Roman Catholic parish church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates -----

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

A well preserved late Victorian church of considerable charm; an integral part of a coherent late 19th/early 20th century residential and institutional neighborhood in the village of Florence.

The first Catholic mass in Northampton was said in a private house in Leeds in 1834. In 1866, St. Mary's, Northampton, was established as an independent parish serving the Catholic population from Easthampton to Hoosac Mountain. Annunciation parish, composed of the villages of Florence and Leeds in Northampton, and of Haydenville in Williamsburg, was set off from St. Mary's in 1878 (Haydenville and Leeds were made a separate parish eleven years later).

Construction of the Annunciation church building was begun in September of 1879 and completed the following year; the dedicatory services were held on October 2, 1880. The church is of timber-frame construction, basilican in form, with a well-proportioned tower centered over a tall narthex at the building's southern end. The tower culminates in a broached spire; the narthex is covered by a transverse gabled roof. The gable roof of the nave is broken by a blind clerestory; the nave ends in a semi-octagonal apse; there are no projecting transept arms. Exterior wall covering is of clapboards, broken by flush-boarded Early English style buttresses and other flush-boarded trim. Stained glass windows (imported from Munich in 1947) are set in pairs within pointed-arch frames. The interior has two rows of Gothic columns separating the nave and side aisles. There is no vaulting, but a pointed arch with filled spandrel is thrown across the central aisle between each pair of columns and a similar half-arch is thrown across the side aisles. The apse is ribbed. The pipe organ was installed in the 1890s; the pews, furniture, and paint are all modern.

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

Hampshire Gazette & Northampton Courier, 16 Sept. 1879, 5 Oct. 1880

Nora Flahive, "History of the Church of the Annunciation," MS in Forbes Library, Northampton.

Michael J. Shea, ed., A Century of Catholicism in Western Massachusetts (Springfield, Mass.: Mirror Press, Inc., 1931), pp. 189-192.