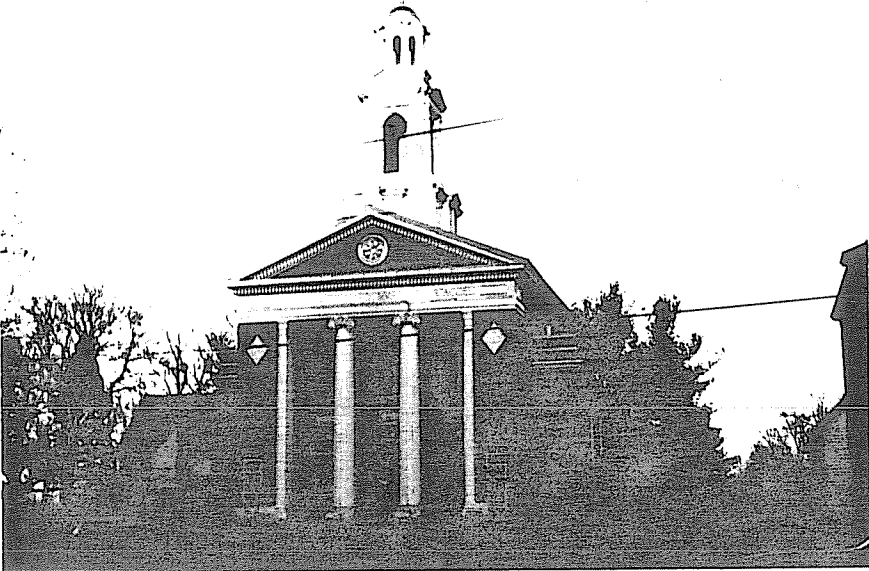


Area	Form no.
	31B-159-2



Northampton

99 King St.

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Private organization

Roman Catholic Bishop of

Public Springfield

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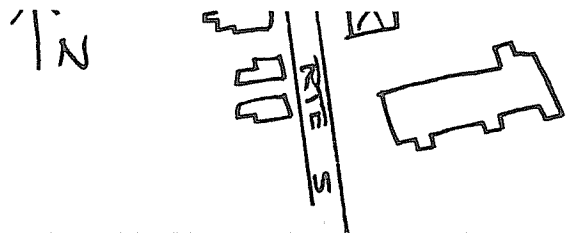
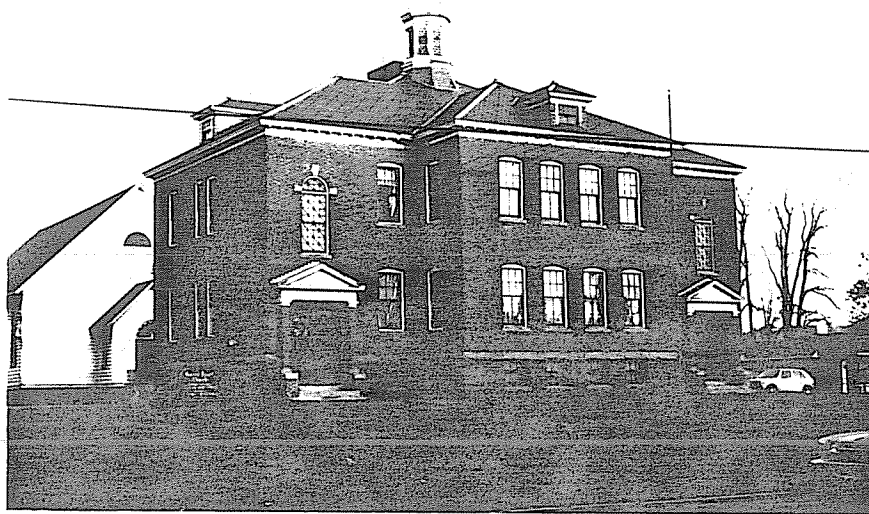
1916

rice Gazette Nov. 13, 1916

ect John W. Donahue

or wall fabric brick

ldings see back



Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved --- Date _____

Approx. acreage 1.8 Acres

Setting _____

Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date March 1980

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The church is in the Roman Classic style. The basic Roman temple form with its classic, pedimented portico has an added cupola-like tower with arched and pedimented forms painted white to contrast with the red and black-glazed brick which is laid alternately on the building's surface. Geometrical patterning on the facade adds color and form to the brick walls. The two large Ionic columns are balanced by pilasters which support the sides of the portico. Under the clerestory windows on either side there are flat-roofed extensions which contain the aisles and also have small projections for the centered, side chapels.

cont'

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

By 1885 there was a sizable French-Canadian population in Northampton. This group, largely non-English speaking, felt the need for a church of their own. At that time there was one Roman Catholic Church serving all of Northampton center. St. Mary's, located on King St. (at the present Church and Hooker Sts.), was a small church, with the congregation almost entirely Irish. In 1885 a new St. Mary's Church was built on lower Elm St. and after petitioning the bishop, the French Catholics received the old church. The influx of French-Canadians was so rapid that a new church was almost immediately needed.

In 1889 the Erastus Hopkins homestead on King St. was bought, and the Gazette carried a drawing and description of the proposed church. It was to be built of brick and brownstone, and would cost \$20,000. The Hopkins House would serve as the parsonage. This plan was never realized. A frame chapel and school were constructed in 1891 at a cost of \$9000, and the Hopkins House, built in 1825 from designs of Isaac Damon, was remodeled to serve as a parsonage. Soon afterwards a wood-frame convent for the French-speaking Sisters of Saint Joseph was constructed. The next step was the construction of a separate facility to serve as a school. The present two-story brick school was built in 1911. This is probably from designs of John W. Donahue.

The desire for a larger, more substantial church continued, and in 1916 the present church was dedicated. This was designed by Mr. Donahue, a prominent Springfield architect of the first third of the 20th century. A specialist in ecclesiastical design, he served as the official architect for the Roman Catholic diocese of western Massachusetts. Churches, schools, hospitals, convents and rectories form the majority of this out-put. In Northampton he also drew the plans for St. Michael's School,

cont'

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1873, 1884, 1895, and 1915 Atlases.
Hampshire Gazette July 9, 1889; Oct. 26, 1892; May 17, 1915; Nov. 13, 1916, April 13, 1966, March 13, 1968.
"A Century of Catholicism in Western Mass." Michael Shea editor. p. 193.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 31B-159-
Property Name: Sacred Heart Church	

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

Architectural Significance

The The interior is of the basilica form with the rounded apse containing the canopied alter retable. The ceiling, which is flat, has 27 recessed, painted apnels separated by large beams. The beams are supported at each end by scroll brackets, while the ceiling itself is supported by Corinthian columns separated by eight round-arched forms. Sets of three clerestory windows crown these arches and give additional light. The side walls contain six arched windows with leaded, colored glass, and have small, arched chaped projections in each wall. The main alter is free-standing and of marble.

Historical Significance

St. John Cantius Church and Annunciation School.

