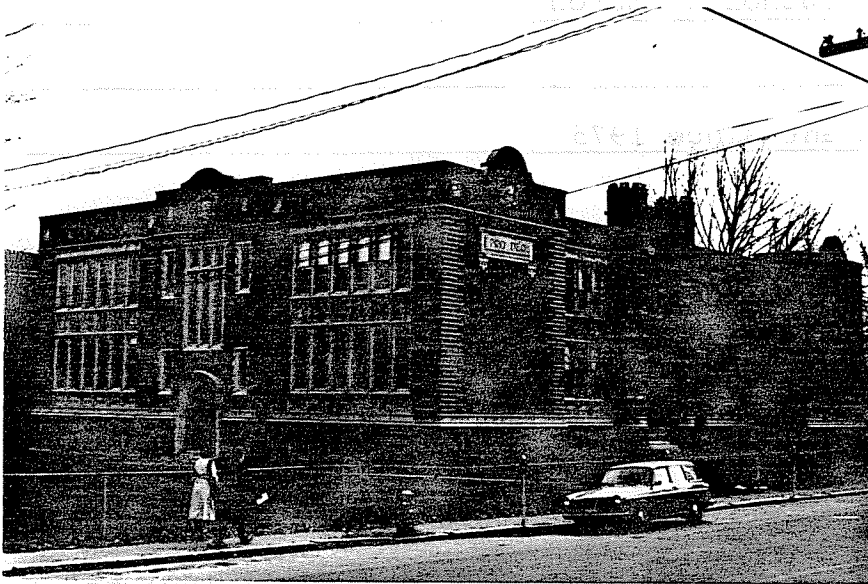


FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	31B-230

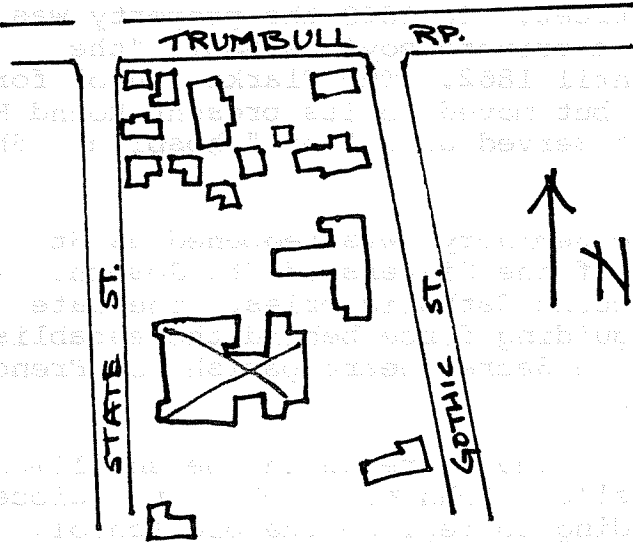
694



Northampton
 Address 71 State Street
St. Michael's School
 Present use Vacant
 Present owner Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield
 Construction: 1909
 Source on building
 Style Jacobethan
 Architect John W. Donohue

in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric brick and terra cotta
 Outbuildings (describe) --
 Other features _____



Altered rear addition Date 1929
 Moved -- Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre 3.1 A
 Approximate frontage 350 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan
 Organization NHC
 Date April, 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Roman Catholic Church

Original use school

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates vacant since 1975

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Northampton's parochial school system was established in 1891 to serve the needs of the growing Catholic population. At that time the church, St. Mary's, was located on King Street (between the present-day Church Street and Hooker Avenue). Former Mayor John B. O'Donnell purchased, on behalf of the church, the Shady Lawn property, which consisted of two residences and what was perhaps Northampton's most picturesque structure, "the Gothic Seminary". This romantic "wedding-cake" structure had been built in 1835 as an early school for girls. Its design led to the renaming of the street: Gothic Street. In 1848 the property was purchased by Lewis J. Dudley who ran a private boy's school, "the Northampton Collegiate Institute", until 1862. The Clarke School for the Deaf got its start here in 1868, but moved to its present Round Hill site within two years. After that it served as a "rest" hospital, Shady Lawn.

In September of 1891 the "Gothic Seminary" was reopened as St. Michael's School under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school was named for Northampton's second Catholic priest, the late Fr. Michael Barry, who had been the guiding force behind the establishment of parochial schools. A school in Sacred Heart parish for French children was also opened in that year.

By the early years of the century, the increase in the enrollment had led to overcrowding at St. Michael's. John W. Donohue, the diocesan architect, designed a new brick building to replace the old school.

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

Springfield Republican, March 5, 1944

Centennial History of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 1866-1966, Margaret Clifford Dwyer, 1966

The American Architect, Vol. 100, No. 1829, Dec. 27, 1911

The Northampton Book, 1954, pp. 184-200

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 31B-230
Property Name: St. Michael's Sch.	

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

The new building would face on State Street, and the old building would remain in the rear.

The two story school has elaborate brick patterning, using red, black and yellow bricks. Terra cotta is also used, for panels, spandrels, cartouches, mottos and banding. The large central entrance is Jacobethan in design and is flanked by three-story crenellated towers. The entry way has a heavy oak door with tapestry moldings, a leaded transom and ceramic tiles in the vestibule. This school was illustrated in the December, 1911, issue of The American Architect, along with Mr. Donohue's library for the Indian Orchard neighborhood in Springfield.

John William Donohue was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on June 1, 1872, and lived here his entire life, dying on March 4, 1944. After graduating from the local high school in 1887, he worked in the civil engineering department of the Boston and Albany Railroad. Later, for a period of seven years he worked for F.R. Richmond, a prominent Springfield architect of the late 19th century. In the early years of this century Mr. Donohue set up his own practice. For over twenty-five years he was the official architect for the Roman Catholic diocese of Springfield, which included all of Massachusetts west of Worcester County. Almost every town of any size has a structure designed by him. He also received several commissions in Worcester County, as well as at least one in Rhode Island. The first third of the 20th century witnessed the "coming of age" of the region's Catholic population, and Mr. Donohue was repeatedly called upon to build large brick churches, schools, hospitals, rectories and convents. His designs include studies in Jacobethan Revival, the neo-Gothic Revival, known as Collegiate Gothic, Classical Revival, and a northern Italian flavored Romanesque Revival. In Northampton Mr. Donohue also designed Annunciation School (1925) on Beacon Street in Florence, as well as St. John Cantius' Church (1912) on Hawley Street, and Sacred Heart Church (1916) on King Street.

By 1927 St. Michael's was experiencing difficulty fulfilling its role as a school for students from kindergarten through high school. The old Gothic Seminary was demolished and a new St. Michael's High School was constructed. This was connected to the rear of the 1907 school, which became St. Michael's Grammar School. In 1975 due to declining attendance and financial problems, St. Michael's was closed.

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