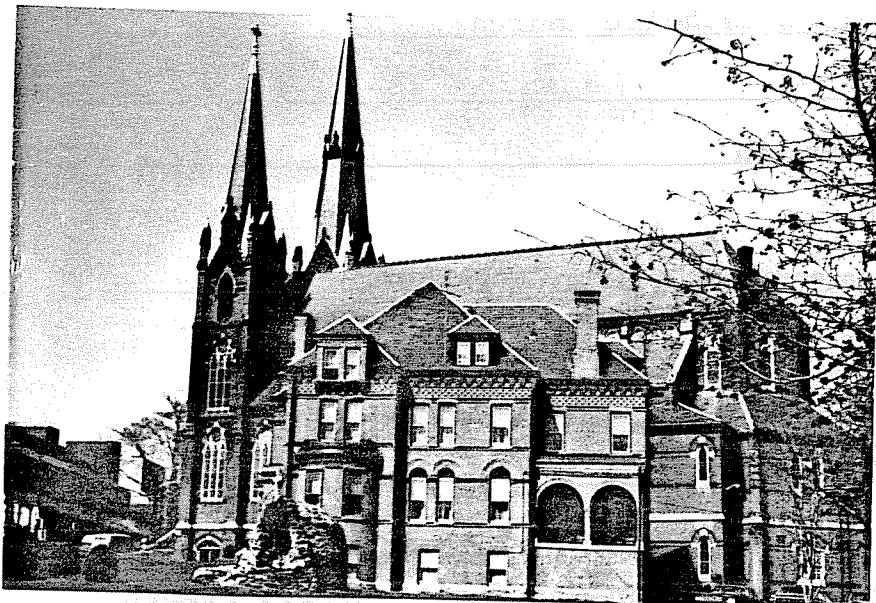


FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR 765

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>31D-103</u>
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Northampton  
Elm Street  
St. Mary of the Assumption  
Church and parsonage

Saint Mary's Catholic Church  
 description:

church-1881; parsonage-1888  
Daily Hampshire Gazette  
 source

High Victorian Gothic  
church- P. W. Ford of Boston  
parsonage-unknown  
 architect

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) Church and parsonage

Other features church-High Victorian Ecclesiastical Gothic; parsonage-Queen Anne

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:  
 One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x

Approximate frontage 300 feet

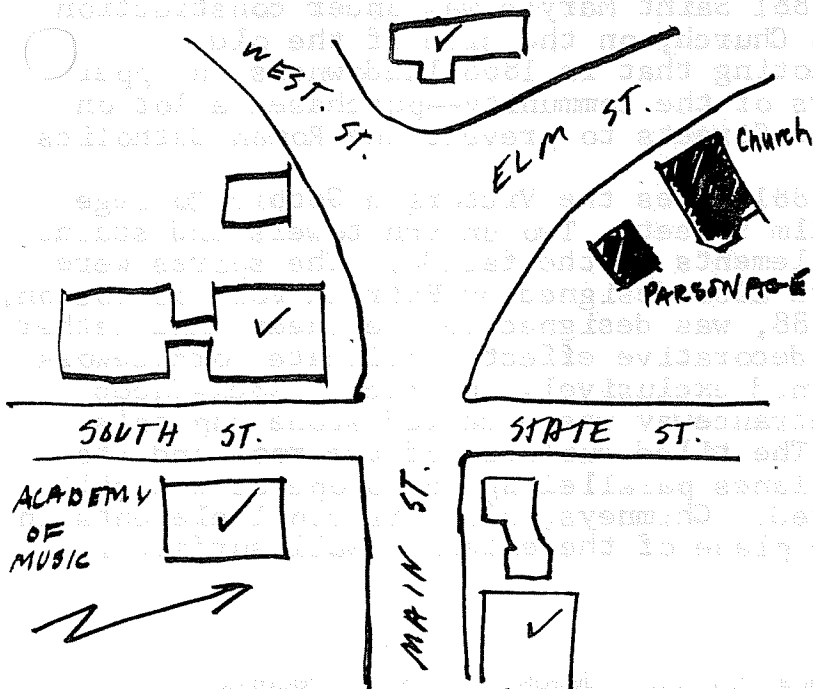
Approximate distance of building from street  
church-10 feet; parsonage-30 feet.

6. Recorded by C. Dubie

Organization Northampton Historical

Commission Date August 1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



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

✓ inventoried structure

(over)

APR 5 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates church

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Roman Catholics in Northampton—at first chiefly French men and women—first worshipped on King Street. The "Catholic Society" built there a church and a parsonage in 1866. By the 1870's the Catholic population was large enough that a separate parish was organized for Florence, Haydenville, and Leeds. In 1880 the Florence church was completed and in 1881 Saint Mary's was under construction on the Hill above the Edwards Church, on the site of the old Mansion House. It is worth noting that in 1866 landowners on upper Elm Street—Protestant pillars of the community—purchased a lot on the corner of Elm and Prospect Streets to prevent the Roman Catholics from locating there.

The church designed in 1881 faces the Victorian Gothic College Hall, Smith College, across Elm Street. Two uneven towers and stained glass windows are principal elements in the facade. The spires were added later, in 1895, and were also designed by Patrick Ford of Boston.

The rectory, built in 1888, was designed in the Queen Anne rather than the Gothic style. Rich decorative effects—delicate cornice work and stringcourses—are fashioned exclusively in brick. Rock-faced stone is introduced in the entranceway where carved stone capitals support a low arched porch. The tiled surfaces of the roof and its dormers provide a series of planes paralleling the slope of the hill on which the rectory is located. Chimneys, also principal elements in the design, are placed in the plane of the exterior wall surfaces.

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

- Daily Hampshire Gazette, 2/6/1866.
- The Northampton Book, p. 392.
- Daily Hampshire Gazette, June 12, 1888, July 10, 1888.