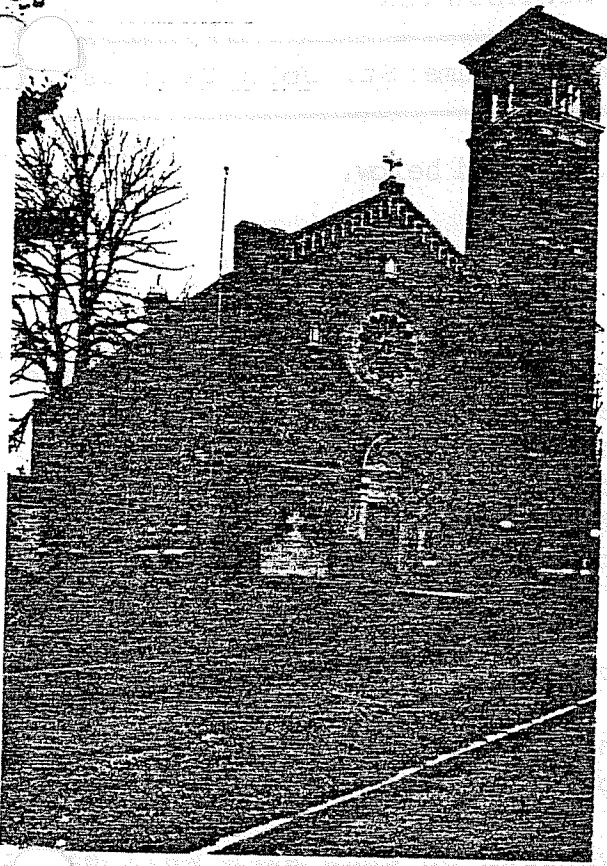


FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	32A-171

SSION
oston



ion
and

1. Town Northampton
 Address Hawley St.
 Name St. John Cantius Church
 Present use church

Present owner Roman Catholic Bishop

3. Description: of Springfield

Date 1912

Source cornerstone

Style Romanesque Revival

Architect John W. Donohue

Exterior wall fabric buff brick and terra cotta

Outbuildings (describe) rectory and social

Other features hall

Altered interior redecoration Date 1971

Moved -- Date ---

5. Lot size:

One acre or less --- Over one acre 1.85

Approximate frontage 200'

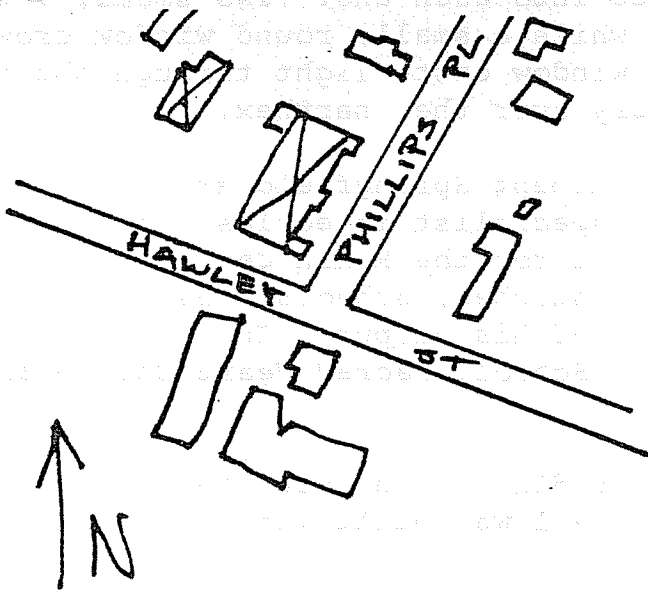
Approximate distance of building from street

30'

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan

Organization NHC

Date April-1980



(over)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

704

Community: NORTHAMPTON	Form No: 32A-171
Property Name: St. John Cantius	

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

Church

9. Historical Significance.

on each side. The fifth floor is open, and has a triple, round-arched opening on each side. The tower is capped by a low-pitched red tile roof and a cross. The facade of the church has a thin corbel table and a central rose window. A central, arched portico is supported by fluted columns. The sides have tall windows recessed within round-arched forms and gabled projections at the transept area. The red tile roof has a cupola over the transept.

The interior has a ribbed, barrel-vaulted ceiling with decorative frescos. Chapels are located in the apses on each side, and flank the main altar, which is located in the chancel apse. The backdrop of the main altar is of carved and painted wood, in the Romanesque style, with marbleized columns flanking the saint's niches. There is oak wainscotting under the leaded glass windows on each side wall and the oak pews have round arched designs carved into each end. Two small, arched, colored windows light each side chapel while a small, round window crowns the entry on the north side. The rose window casts light through the organ pipes, which are contained in the gallery over the narthex.

John William Donohue was 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 for 25 years. Churches, schools, hospitals, convents and rectories form the majority of his output. In Northampton he also drew the plans for St. Michael's School, Sacred Heart Church and Annunciation School.

The rectory was constructed for \$12,000 in 1916, most likely from plans of Mr. Donohue, and a parish hall was built within the last decade.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Original owner (if known) Roman Catholic Church

Original use 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	<u> x </u>				

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

The Poles were late comers to Northampton, not arriving in any significant numbers until the 1890's. Most of the early immigrants were males who were brought in as contract laborers for the farms where they were much in demand as being good, hard workers. Once a little money was saved the wives and children were sent for and they helped work in the fields until a piece of land could be bought. The Poles were the only significant foreign-born group to increase in Northampton after 1900, and they came so quickly that by 1915 they were second only to the Irish in numbers. They remained attached to the land, and estimates have been made that by 1940 over 80% of the farms in Northampton were owned by Poles.

Soon after the turn of the century attempts were made to provide for the Poles' religious needs. The Blodgett house on Prospect St. was bought in 1904 and transformed into a church. This was obviously only a temporary measure, and by 1908 the location had been chosen for a new church. Work was begun in 1911 and the church was dedicated in 1913.

The church is built of buff brick with terra cotta trim. The major feature is the five story tower at the southeast corner of the building. The first four floors are enclosed and have recessed panels

cont'

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

Daily Hampshire Gazette, Nov. 10, 1954; April 21, 1913; Aug. 7, 1911; July 8, 1908; Oct. 30, 1905; June 14, 1904; April 30, 1904.

A Century of Catholicism in Western Mass., Michael Shea (ed.) 1931, p. 193.

Springfield Republican, March 5, 1941.

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