

FORM B - Building

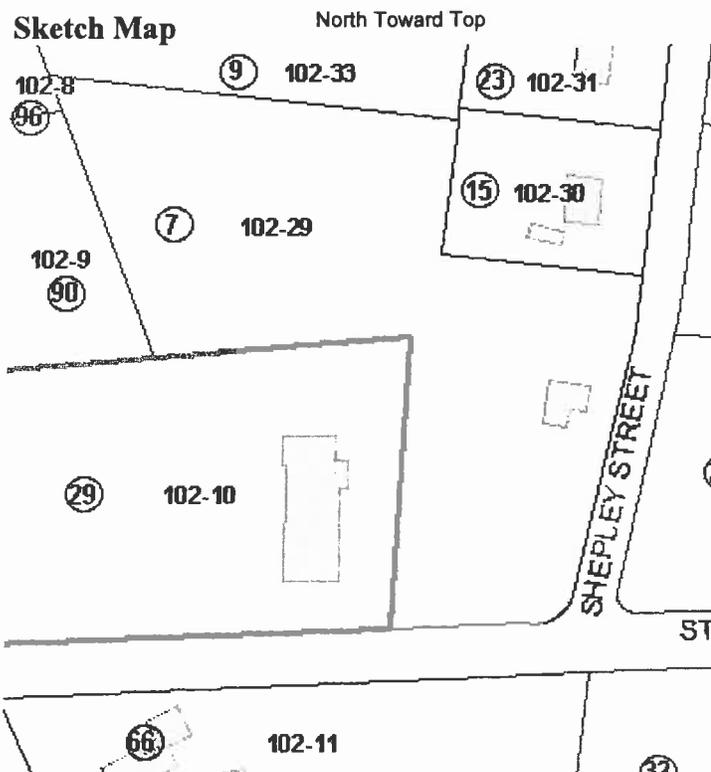
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Photograph

(3"x3" or 3-1/2x5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

Sketch Map



Recorded by Sanford Johnson

Organization Groton Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 12/08

Map and Lot # 102 10 USGS Quad Area(s) W Form Number 247

Town Groton3

Place (neighborhood or village)

West Groton

Address 29 St. James Avenue

Historic Name St James Church

Uses: Present Church

Original Church

Date of Construction 1929

Source Groton Tercentenary Booklet

Style/Form English Revival

Architect/Builder William B. Colleary, Architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation Cobblestone

Wall/Trim Cobblestone

Roof Slate shingle

Outbuildings/secondary structure

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.67

Setting Rural village

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

- * The front-gabled, 3x7-bay Saint James Church is built of cobblestone and has elements of the Gothic, Craftsman and English Revival styles
- * A square tower at the southwest corner rises to the level of the roof ridge and is trimmed with crenellations; it appears to contain a bell-deck judging by the louvered opening near the top; additional secondary masses appear at north sides of the rear of the plan and at the façade in the form of a stairway
- * Windows in the side walls are casement types with multiple panes; windows in the façade include a central pointed arched form with cobblestone vussoirs, stained glass and tracery in the arch; smaller arched windows also trimmed in cobblestone flank the center entrance
- * The center entry has a pointed arch form with wood panels in the arch, double leaf doors and a Gibbs or English Revival style surround
- * Side walls are supported by cobblestone buttresses placed between the window openings
- * A cobblestone chimney rises from the rear of the east side roof slope
- * A cross is mounted to the front of the roof ridge
- * The cobblestone building is rare in Groton although a residential example exists at 176 Main Street

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheets

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners /occupants played within the community.

The St. James Catholic Church was completed in 1929 by the parishioners and by Father Edward Mitchell, priest at the time. Father Mitchell took a prominent role not only in the fundraising but in the construction, hauling stone from Townsend in a wagon, overseeing construction, acquiring recycled building materials and personally laying up stone. The architect was William B. Colleary of Boston who drew the plans in 1924 according to records of the Massachusetts Archives in the Fire Safety Plan file. He was also responsible for the design of St. Joseph's Church in Portland, ME. Land for the church was donated by Ellen Fallon of West Groton. Dedication of the building by Bishop John B. Peterson occurred in June, 1929, six years after construction began. Despite his efforts, Father Mitchell was transferred out of Groton to Weymouth the year after the church opened. The church continues to serve West Groton's Catholic population.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

continuation sheet

Mass. Archives Fire Safety Plans; Groton Tercentenary Booklet; Groton at 350,pp. 135, 138

**** All properties mentioned in bold type are individually inventoried resources**

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement Form.
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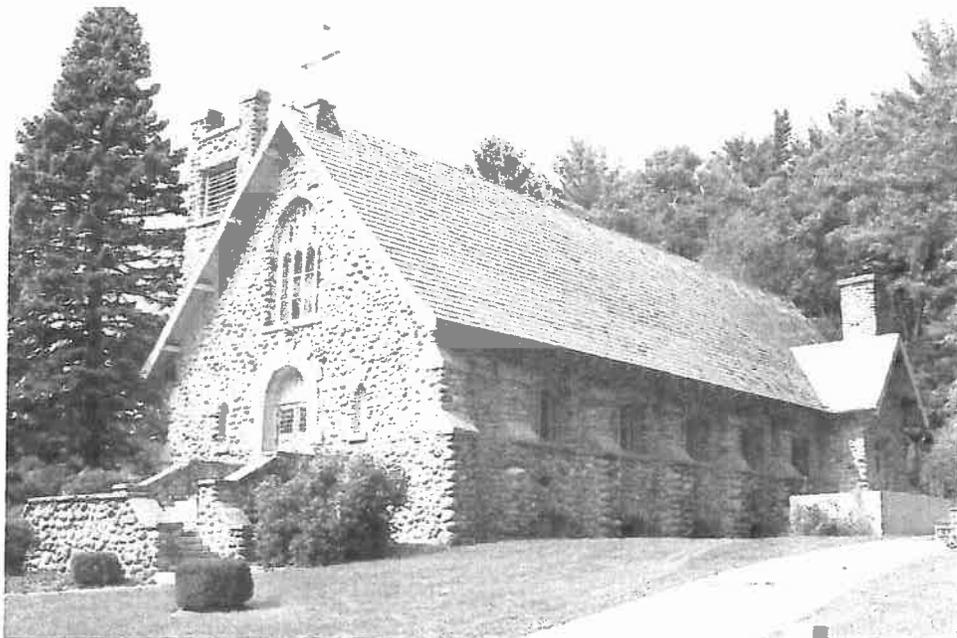
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town **Property Address**
Groton

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Massachusetts Archives Building
Boston, MA 02125

Photos Taken 3-6/08

Area(s)
Form No.



29 St. James Ave, St. James Catholic Church