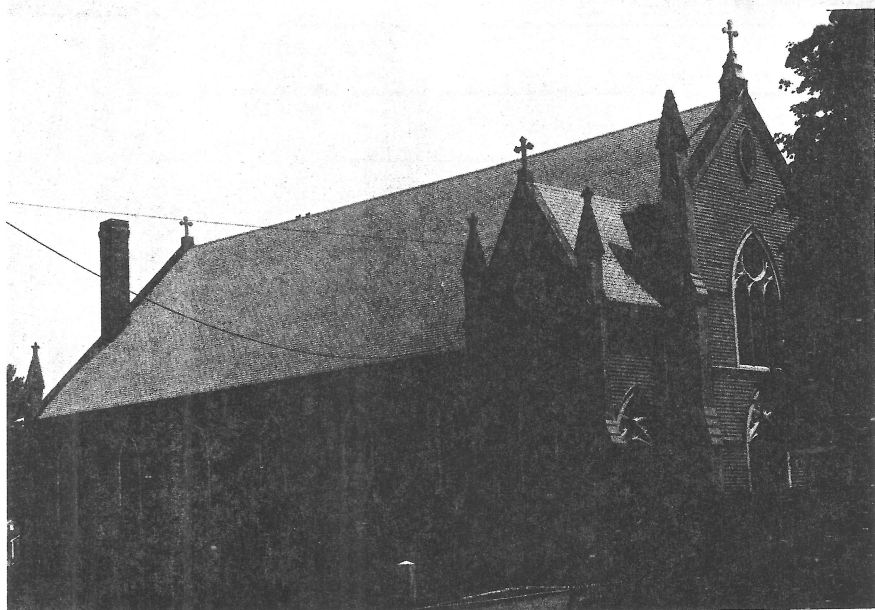


FORM B - BUILDING

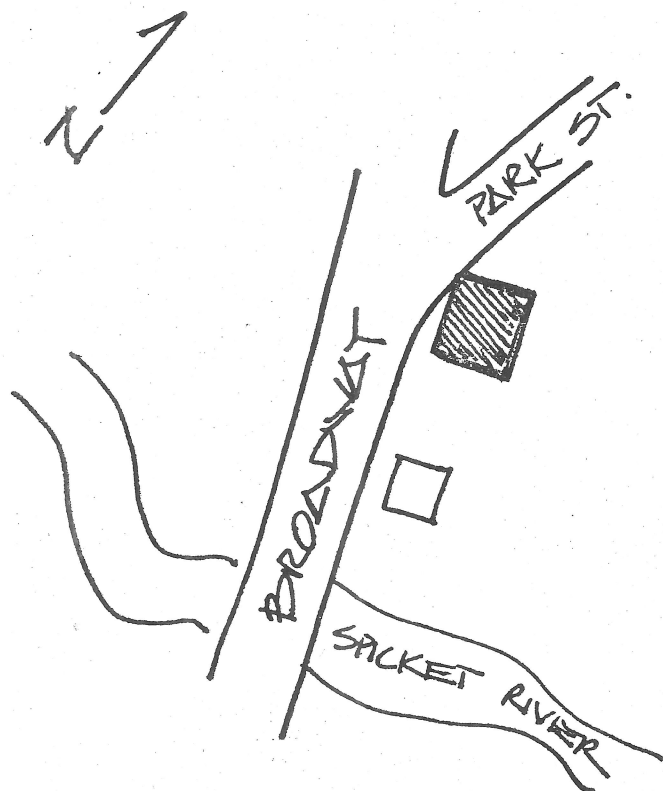
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



In Area no. Block 10 Lot 18	Form no. 89
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Methuen
231 Broadway
St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church
ent use Same
ent owner Same
ription:
1896
urce Cornerstone
Victorian Gothic

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



Architect
Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
Outbuildings (describe)
Other features pointed arch windows with tracery. multiple corner buttresses.
front doors
Altered brick steps & glass Date 20th C.
Moved No Date

5. Lot size:
One acre or less X Over one acre
Approximate frontage 150' (Broadway)
Approximate distance of building from street
100'

6. Recorded by Gail Hunton
Organization Landscape Research
Date May 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) St. Monica's Catholic Church

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

3. 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	_____				

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

representative of late 19th century church architecture in Methuen.

The Catholic Church in Methuen was organized in 1875. Originally, services were held in the Town Hall.

ARCH. St. Monica's Catholic Church is an excellent example of late nineteenth century Gothic Revival church architecture and is among the best-preserved churches in Methuen. Constructed in 1896, St. Monica's is a longitudinal plan pitched roof church with short transepts flanking the main facade. Traceried lancet windows light the nave; glazed oculi with quatrefoil tracery light the transepts. The corners of the clapboard-clad building are treated with slender paneled buttresses terminating in short spires. Brick steps and glazed

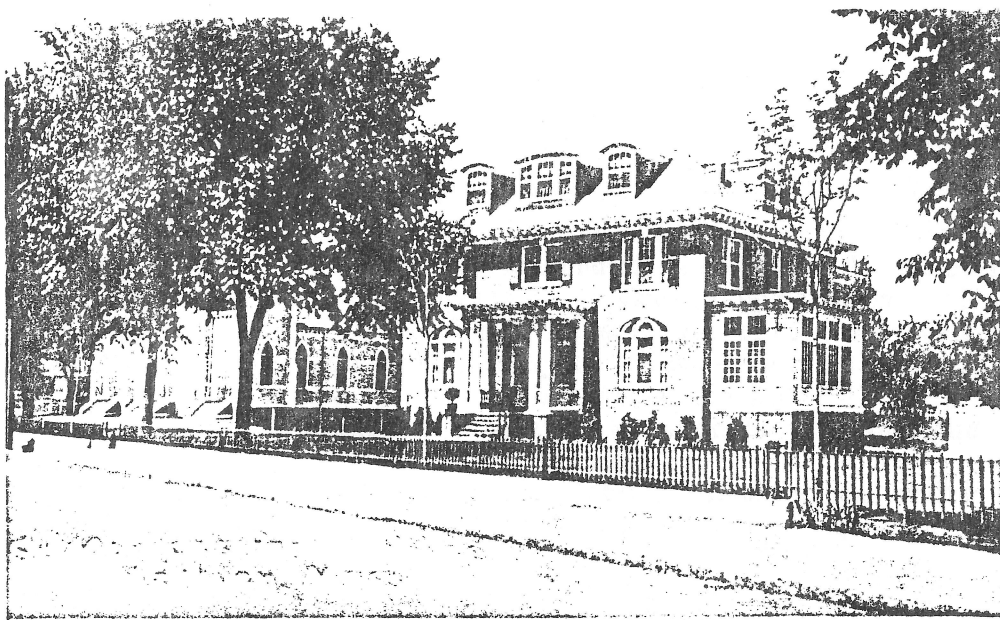
HIST.

St. Monica's possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials and workmanship and is representative of church architecture in Methuen in the late nineteenth century. It meets Criterion C of the NRHP. The Catholic Church in Methuen was organized in 1875. Prior to construction of St. Monica's ch.

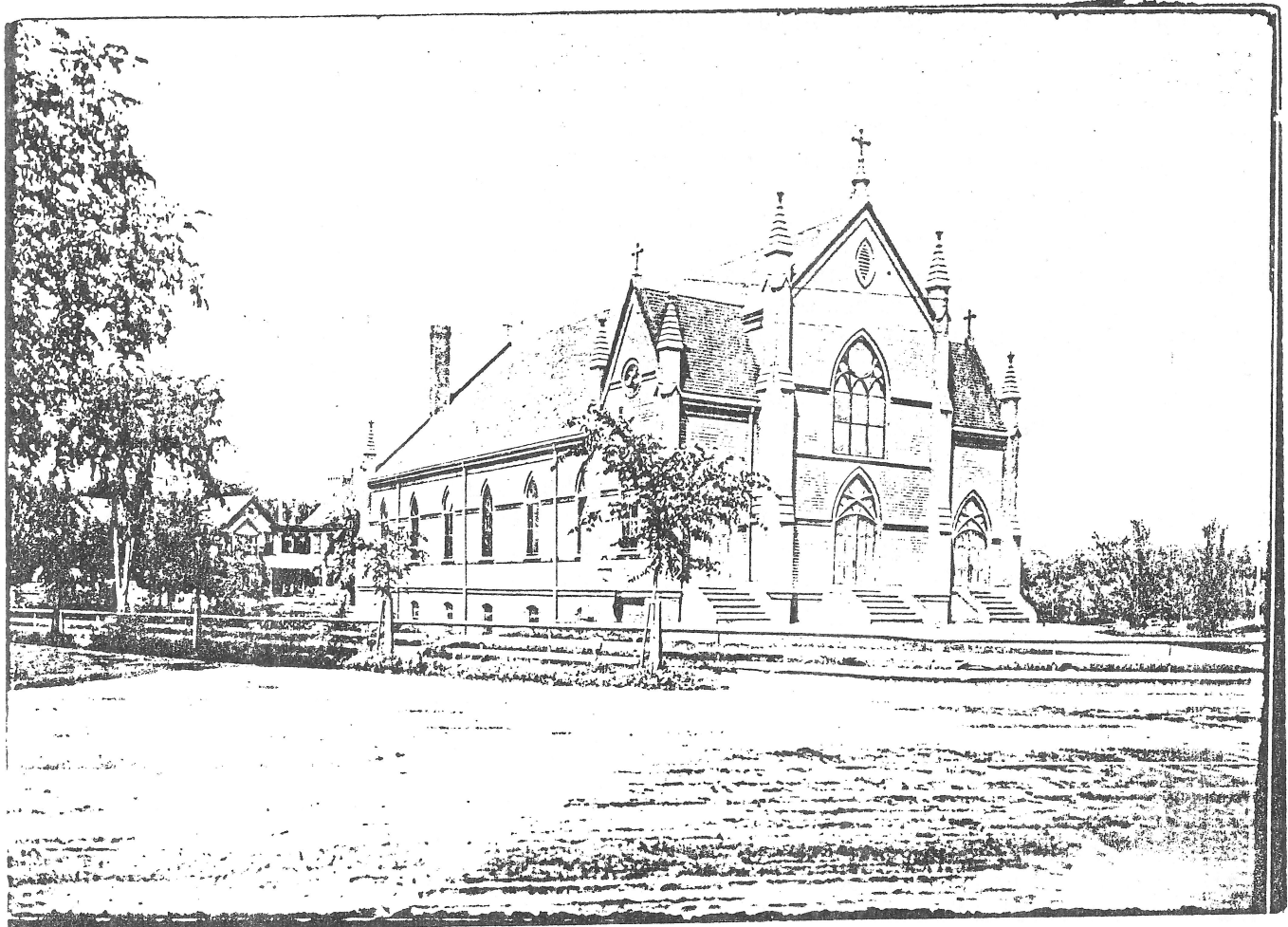
0. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
→ services were held in several locations including the Town Hall.

Hurd, D. Hamilton, History of Essex County, Massachusetts. 1888. Volume One

early doors are on
nineteenth century
exterior.



Methuen #89
231 Broadway
St. Monica's Church



St. Monica's Church

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Siting/Significance: St. Monica's Church is sited at the prominent southeast corner of Broadway (W) and Park Street (NW), with Morrison Court forming the north boundary, and the Spicket River located to the south. All elevations are visible from those right-of-ways. It shares the site with a rectory (see form). The site is landscaped with shrubs and trees, and the front is set off from Broadway by a cast stone curb and wrought iron picket fence. The church is a well-detailed and preserved example of the Gothic Revival style that also represents the strong private institutional presence in the district. Both historically and architecturally, it makes an important contribution to the character of the district.

Defining Features: Some of the important Gothic Revival style features of this church are its longitudinal nave plan with short pinnacled transepts framing the main facade, lancet and quatrefoil windows, and buttresses.

General Description: St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church is a wood-frame Gothic Revival style structure that rises one story from a brick foundation to a slate gable roof. It is sheathed with white aluminum and trimmed with buttresses at the corners and on the front and rear elevations. Six bay side elevations are marked by pointed arched windows. Front and rear elevations display large pointed arched windows. The facade contains three pointed arched entries fronted by a brick porch.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

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.

Historical Narrative: In the mid 19th-century, a Bishop Fitzpatrick purchased land for a church on Broadway at the corner of Park Street. In 1876, Reverend Father Marsden began holding Mass in the Town Hall (290 Broadway), presumably as a result of the community's growing numbers of Irish Catholic factory workers. By 1865, Methuen's foreign-born population, consisting mainly of Irish, had reached 320, or 12.4% of the total. The percentage of foreign-born residents grew to 38.8% by 1915, but by that time the largest group were English. Catholics did not have their own place of worship in Methuen until construction of Saint Monica's church on the Broadway site began in 1896. First services were held in the new church on Easter Sunday of that year by Reverend Father Mc Cleanon.

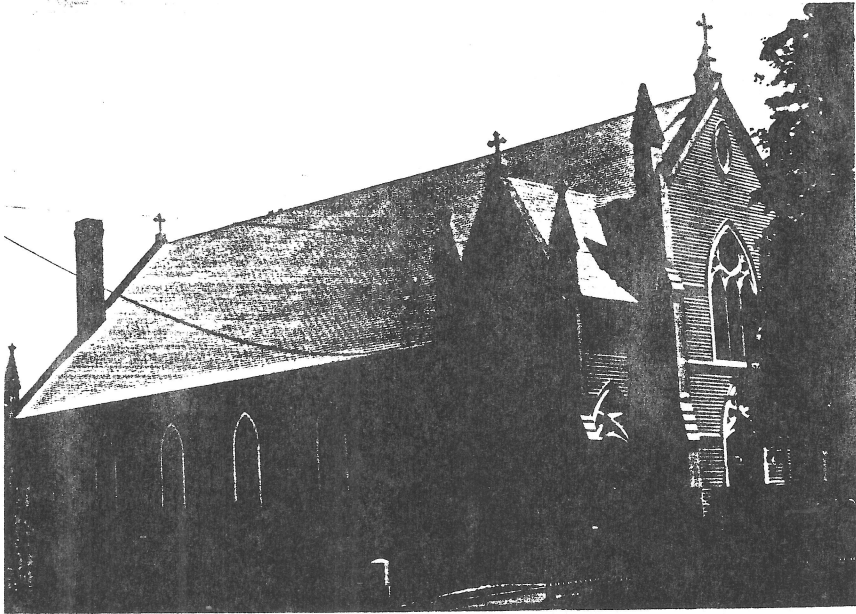
Community benefactor, Edward F. Searles promised to build a stone church and rectory for Saint Monica's but died before it could be done. Arthur Walker, trustee for Searles estate, later deeded land to the church for construction of the rectory which was begun in 1922. Saint Monica's school built in 1957 and a convent for the teaching sisters completed in 1960, bear witness to the strength of the Catholic community in Methuen.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Methuen Transcript: Christmas Supplement, December 23, 1898
Lawrence Eagle Tribune, September 23, 1967
The Town of Methuen Pictorial Souvenir p. 20

FORM B - BUILDING

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



In Area no. Block 10 Lot 18 E	Form no. 89
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Methuen

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St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church

t use Same

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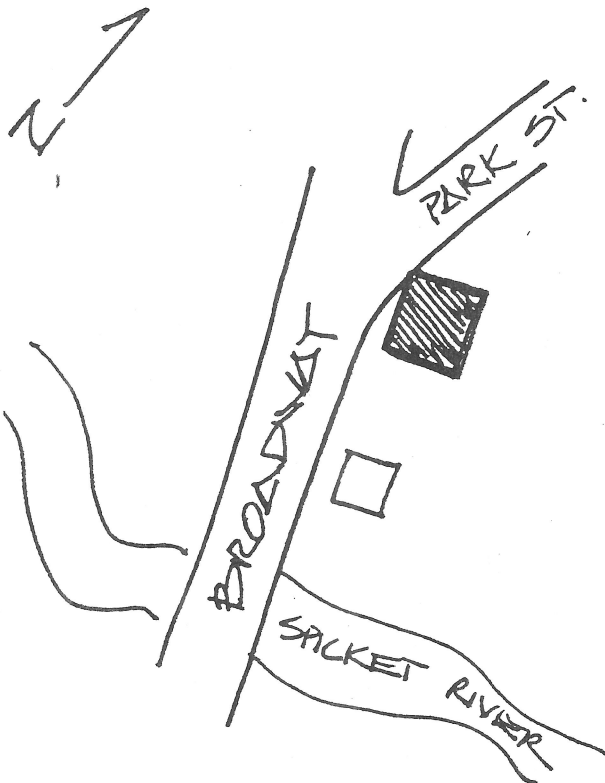
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Outbuildings (describe)

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Moved No Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre

Approximate frontage 150' (Broadway)

Approximate distance of building from street
100'

6. Recorded by Gail Hunton

Organization Landscape Research Ltd.

Date May 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>X</u>
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Communication	_____	Political	_____		
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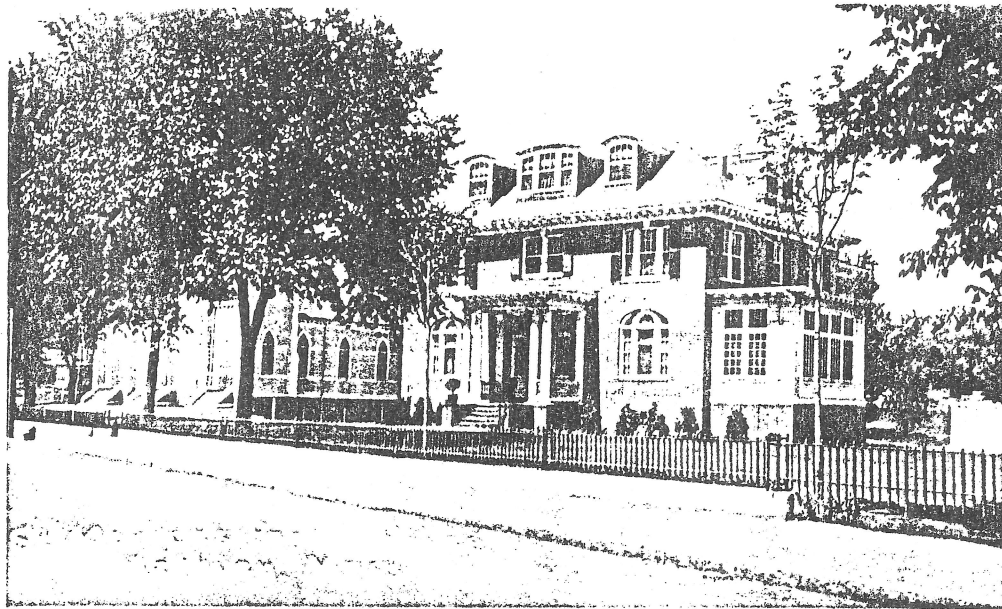
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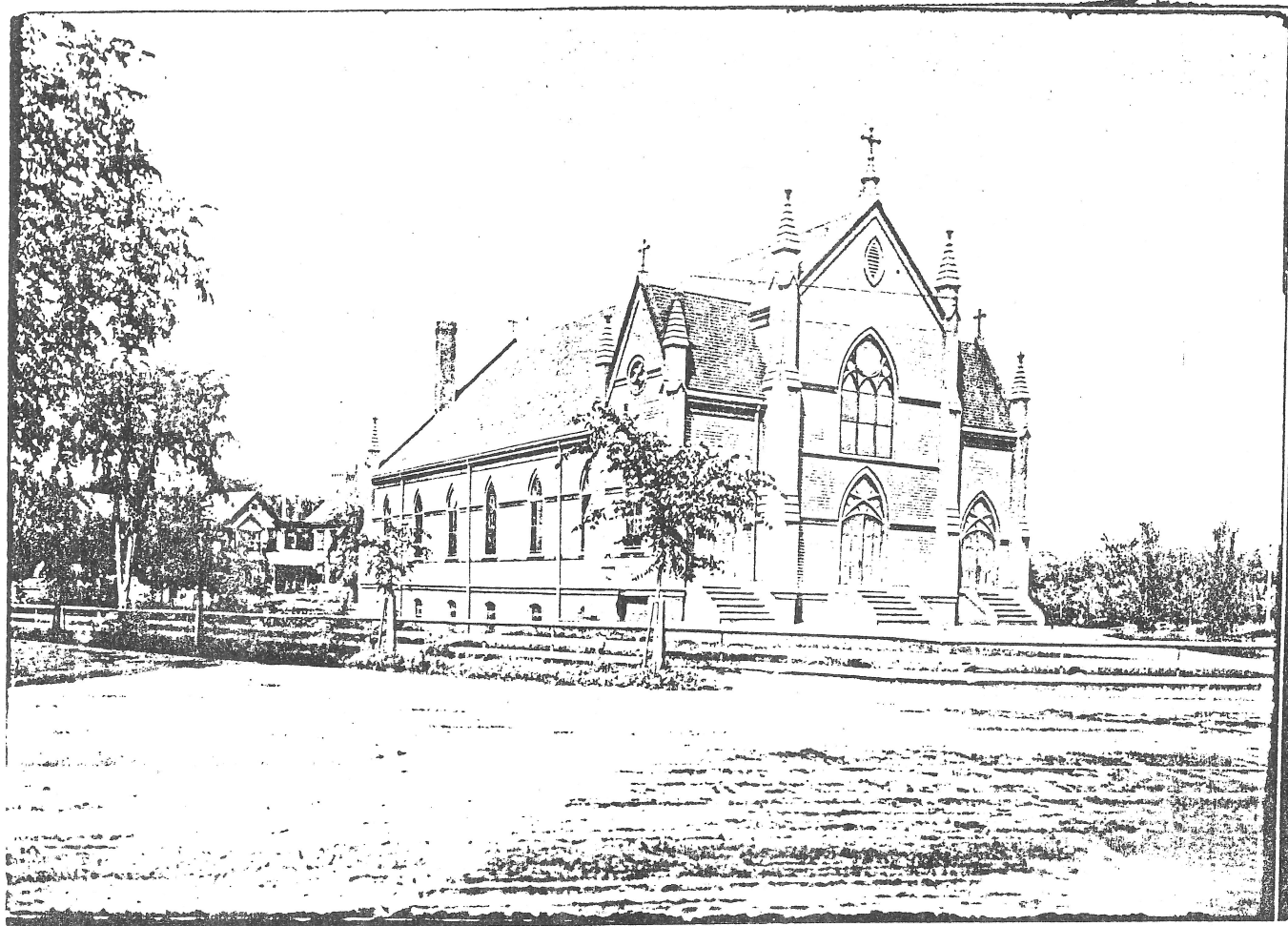
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(over)

Date May 1978



Methuen #89
231 Broadway
St. Monica's Church



St. Monica's Church

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessor's number

714-10-8

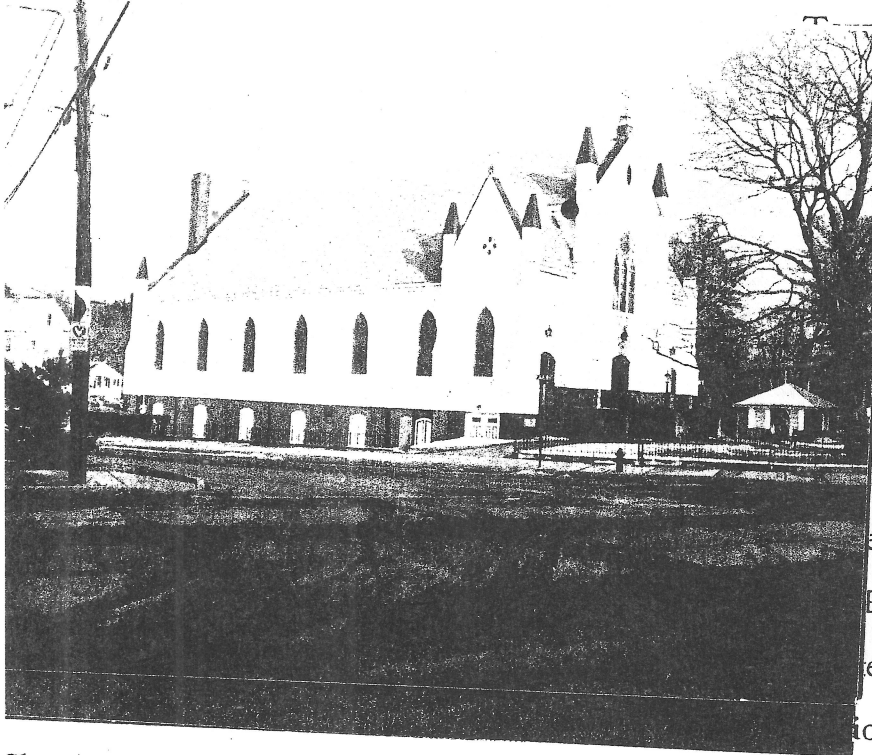
USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

E

BA



Methuen

(neighborhood or village)

Central Methuen

231 Broadway

ic Name St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church

Present church

Original church

of Construction 1896

cornerstone

Form Gothic Revival

ect/Builder unknown

or Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim white aluminum siding

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Rectory (see form)

Major Alterations (with dates)

siding c1980

Condition excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

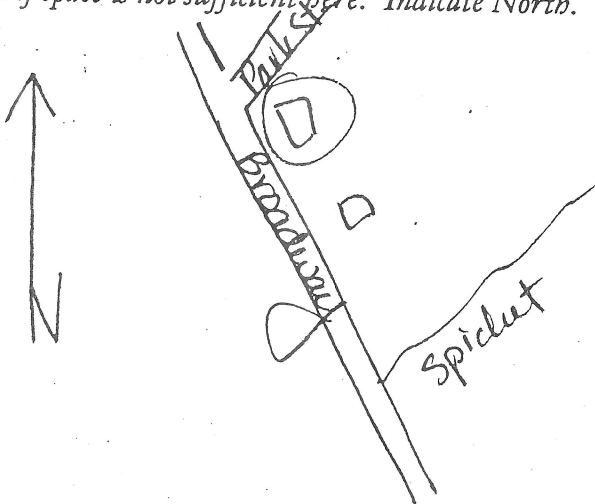
Acreage 3.5 acres

Setting busy intersection; mixed uses

part of STNHD

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization MHDC

Date (month/day/year) 5/25/92

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

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Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
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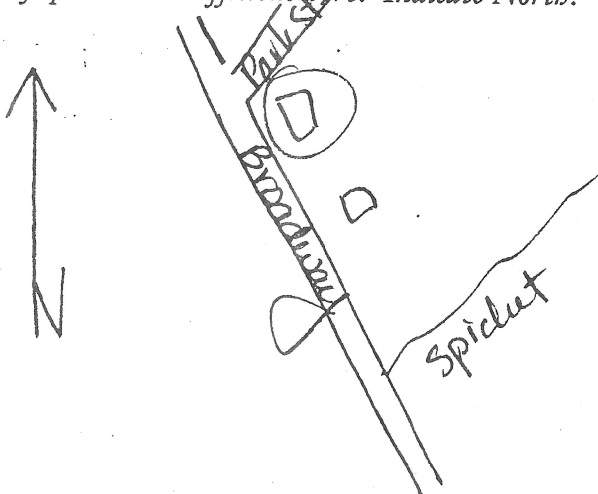
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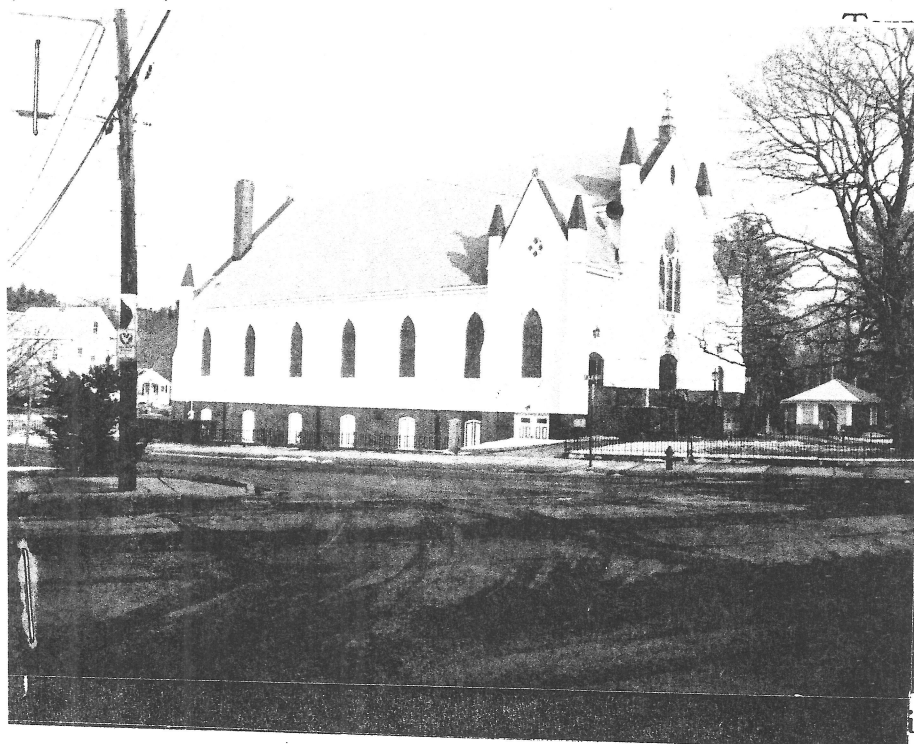
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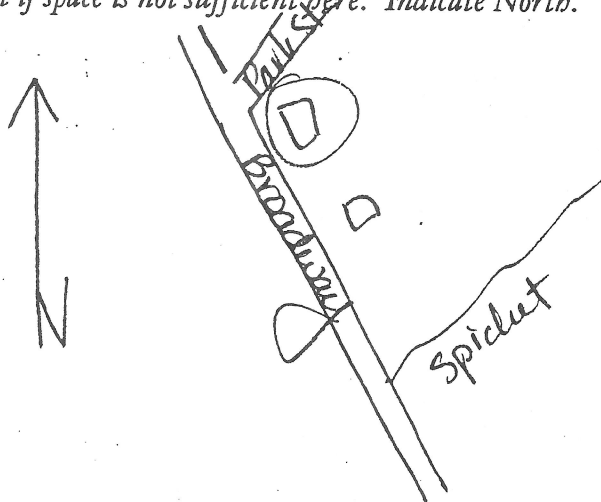
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