

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor' number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Lynn

D

259

Town-Winthrop

Place (neighborhood or village) Winthrop Center

Address 330 Winthrop Street

Historic Name St. John the Evangelist Church

Use: Present church

Original church

Date of Construction begun 1911, completed 1923

Source Golden Jubilee booklet-50th Anniv-St.J's 1957

Style/Form Romanesque Revival, rectangular

Architect/Builder Edward T.P. Graham- architect

Exterior Material

Foundation brick

Wall brick w/granite belt course

Roof gable w/slate shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition good

Moved yes no

Acreage aprox. one acre -including modern school to rear

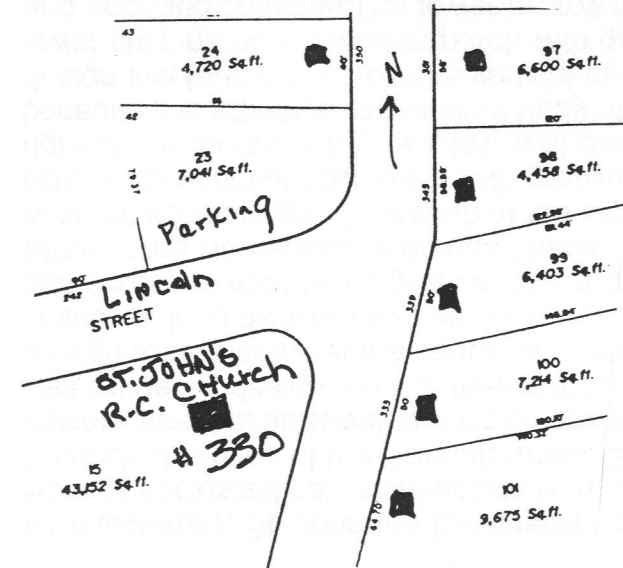
Setting Prominently sited on corner lot. Major landmark

on "skyline" of Winthrop center (actually the tallest building in this area). Surrounded by mid -late 19th century residences-many of cottage scale, this church visually reinforces the village -like qualities of Winthrop Center . Its tower strikes a particularly picturesque note as seen from Lewis Lake Park as it rises above trees and town.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

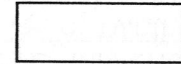
Organization Winthrop CDO+Historic Comm

Date(month/day/year) September, 1993



WTH
MHC # 259

BUILDING FORM



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

Architecturally, St. John the Evangelist Parrish Church is a fine example of Italian Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical architecture with a campanile tower which is said to have been inspired by Spanish churches of the Renaissance. St. John's is situated at the north west corner of Winthrop and Lincoln Street's. Its tower is a major landmark at Winthrop Center. This church is characterized by a well rendered design, quality masonry work, well crafted European stained glass windows as well as a large rose window at the center of the main facade. This church possesses a Greek Cross plan with vestibule, long narrow nave etc. The 4-bay x 12-bay main block features a high basement set off by a belt course of rock faced granite. The main (Winthrop Street) facade exhibits three entrances recessed within three Romanesque arches. These entrances are reached by a broad flight of granite steps with wrought iron railings. To the left of the entrance bay is a 1-bay segment which is bracketed on either side by substantial brick piers with granite block edging. Behind this segment is a side aisle. To the right of the entrance bay is a tall, well executed tower which is not exactly a campanile tower because it is attached to the main body of the church but nevertheless looks to that tower type for its design inspiration. This tower's vertical brick work panels culminate in small and narrow arches. The tower culminates in an open porch with graceful white stone arches which spring from free standing and engaged columns. The tower is crowned with a cross- surmounted low hip roof with a deep, bracketed cornice. The celebration of raised brick work patterns continues in the arched corbelling at

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.

Catholicism in Winthrop dates back to the 1843 with the coming of the Revere Copper Company to Point Shirley. By the time of the Civil War there were 150 Catholics in Winthrop, most of them employed by this copper works. As early as the mid 1850's, Point Shirley was declared a church station within a Catholic parish which encompassed Chelsea and Lynn. Until 1866 there was a modest Catholic Chapel at Point Shirley which was hauled away to East Boston on a barge after the closing of the Revere Copper Company. From 1866 until 1887, the few Catholics who lived in Winthrop had to go to East Boston for Sunday worship. As early as 1881, Reverend Michael Clarke, resident Pastor of the Star of the Sea Church in East Boston, arranged with a Mr. Jessup, a well known Boston confectioner who summered at Ocean Spray, Winthrop, to purchase the land which is now the site of the present St. John the Evangelist Church. According to Right Reverend Richard J. Quinlan, "this site is the geographical center of Winthrop. The first St. John's was a relatively modest wooden church built in the spring of 1887 and dedicated on June 19, 1887. It was during the pastorate of the popular Father Hugh Roe O'Donnell. Initially, this first church was open only during the summer

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

- Winthrop Maps/Atlases-1873, 1886, 1896, 1906 and 1914
- William H. Clark's History of Winthrop-1952
- Golden Jubilee Souvenir Booklet Commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Winthrop, MA September 23-28, 1957.
- Winthrop Library churches photo file

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

See Winthrop Center Area Form D

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Winthrop, MA</i>	Form No: <i>259</i>
Property Name: 330 Winthrop Street	

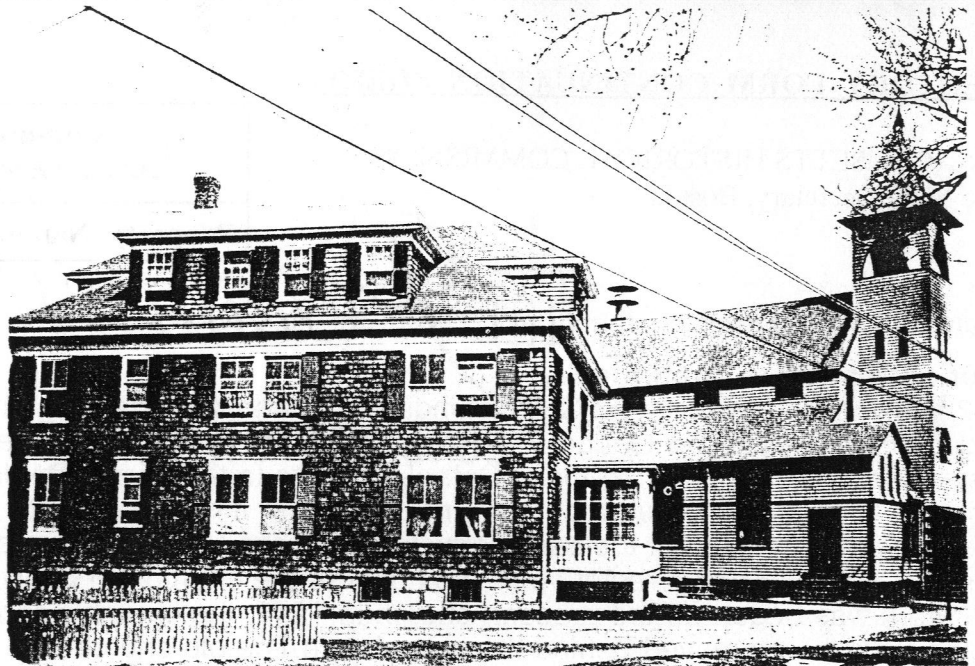
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Narrative continued

for 12 families in addition to 20 Catholic individuals who lived permanently in Winthrop. The introduction of the Narrow Gauge Railroad in 1886, proved to be a dependable, efficient means of transportation that would bring many Catholic visitors to the town. On January 3, 1907, St. John the Evangelist Church was made a permanent parish with a resident pastor, Reverend John H. Griffin. Father Griffin was a man of tireless energy who launched an ambitious building program for this parish. In 1907, he had a rectory built next door to the church on the south which is still standing. In 1911, work was begun on the present church. In 1912, the church's cornerstone was laid. The old wooden church was moved behind the new church. The old church was adapted for reuse as a Parish Hall. It was torn down in 1951 to accommodate the present St. John the Evangelist Parochial School. From 1912-1915, Holy Mass was celebrated in the unfinished upper auditorium until the basement was completed in 1916. The First World War is said to have caused a delay in construction of the church. The architect for the new church was the important church and institutional architect Edward T. P. Graham. He was active during the first half of the 20th century and Winthrop's St. John the Evangelist Church would rank among his early works. He was responsible for the design of St. Paul's Church, Harvard Square (1915) which has a more slender and taller campanile tower than that of St. John's in Winthrop. He also designed St. Anne's church, Dorchester, Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Jamaica Plain (1931) and Holy Name Church (1938-39) in West Roxbury. He also designed handsome, Classical Revival buildings including the Boston City Hall Annex (1914) at Court and State Streets, now occupied by the Boston School Department and the Forsyth Dental infirmary (1915) in Boston's East Fens. Winthrop is fortunate indeed to have such a well designed example of the work of Edward Thomas Patrick Graham. The church was built under the management of Timothy J. Maney, an early resident of Court Park and a devoted member and major financial benefactor of St. John's for 43 years. Winthrop's new Roman Catholic church was dedicated on May 6, 1923 with His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston officiating at these ceremonies. It should also be noted that the Winthrop Catholic Women's Club was inaugurated in 1920. Father Griffin did not cease his building campaign once work on the new church was completed but provided St. Mary's by-the-sea, a chapel for the summer residents of Point Shirley in 1924. It was under the pastorate of Rev. John T. O'Brien during the late 1920's that a section was added to the rectory for the extra curates and the Chapel at Point Shirley was completed. After Rev. James A. Crowley succeeded Father O'Brien in 1931, additional land was purchased behind the church for the parochial school built in 1951-52. The 1940's was a time of intensive fund raising for the parochial school under the leadership of Rev. Richard J. Quinlan. St. John the Evangelist Church continues to play a significant role within spiritual, charitable civic, educational and social realms of the lives of its parishioners.

Architectural Description continued -the main facade's gable and the cornices of the side walls and clerestory. This church's surfaces really celebrate the variety inherent in brick work surface patterns. This is particularly in evidence in the area of raised diamond shaped patterns around the main facade's rose window. In a 50th Anniversary souvenir booklet published by St. John's in 1957, this church was described as "a most inspiring structure of Italian Romanesque Style with a blend of Spanish influence in its fine campanile. The beautiful alters of high grade Convent-Sienna marble were imported from Italy. The striking Crucifixion scene which overshadows the sanctuary augments the unusual grandeur of the entire setting. The church windows are of European antique glass depicting scenes from the Holy Scriptures and the lives of the Saints."

SHC #259
WTH



Roman Catholic Church, Winthrop, Mass.

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church (right) -
predecessor church building to current
church built 1912-1923. Note rectory at
left which is still extant.