

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic St. Mary's Church and Cemetery

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number 258 Concord St., Newton Lower Falls not for publication

city, town Newton vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name The Episcopal Society of St. Mary's

street & number 258 Concord St., Newton Lower Falls

city, town Newton vicinity of state Massachusetts

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. South Middlesex Courthouse

street & number 40 Thorndike St.

city, town East Cambridge state Massachusetts

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets  
title of the Commonwealth #131 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Mass.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Mary's Church and Cemetery are located in Newton Lower Falls, at the northeast corner of Concord and Washington Streets. In addition to the Church and Cemetery, the property included in this nomination contains a Parish House (1941) and Rectory (1946) both of which have been designed to harmonize with the church, although neither contributes to the property's historical significance.

St. Mary's Church is a rectangular plan structure which rests on a brick foundation, is covered with clapboards, and is enclosed by a pitched roof, now covered with asphalt. The building is trimmed with plain corner boards and a wide frieze and cornice which extend around the entire building. The church's facade faces Concord Street (west) and has a projecting central pavilion surmounted by a square plan tower. The facade of the pavilion is covered with matched boarding and is symmetrically arranged, having two identical entries flanking a high central window. Each entry consists of a door of six sunken panels and pointed arch transom, set in a surround which is trimmed by pilasters with trefoil-headed panels, supporting an ogee pointed arch with elongated trefoil panels; at the point of each arch and above each pilaster are engaged finials. Centered on the facade and breaking the cornice which forms the pavilion's pediment is an arched window made up of paired 12/12 sash surmounted by two interlaced lights. This window is surrounded by an ogee frame with raised panels and an engaged finial. Sidewalls of the pavilion (north and south) each contain a single, narrow arched window. Flanking the pavilion, the west elevation of the church's main body contains a single arched window (28/28 sash) on each side of the pavilion. Rising from the pavilion is the tower, each face of which contains a louvred oculus. The tower rises to a landing which is enclosed by a wooden railing set into wooden corner posts with urn finials. Rising from the landing is a square-plan bell tower each face of which contains an arched opening, blocked by louvres. Doric pilasters support an entablature decorated by triglyphs and mutules. The bell tower and railing were designed and re-built in 1954.

The church's north elevation contains five arched windows (28/28sash); each with a semi-circular transom and louvred blinds. These windows are evenly spaced. The church's south elevation is essentially identical to that of the north elevation, except that the parish house is attached to its east end. The church's east (rear) elevation is asymmetrically arranged and contains elements from several additions carried out between 1892 and 1941 to enlarge the sacristy and chancel.

The Parish House is attached to the Church's southeast corner and is made up of three sections, all of which rest on concrete foundations and are enclosed by pitched roof. The longest is the central section, a one-story structure with a symmetrical facade (west) containing five 16/16 windows with louvred blinds. This central section contains the parish hall and is flanked by two smaller wings with lower roofs. The north wing which connects the Parish Hall to the church has a shallow off-center pavilion containing paired doors with a semi-circular fanlight and two 4/4 windows. North of this shallow pavilion is one 12/12 window; south of it are two 12/12 windows, all with louvred blinds. The south wing has a pedimented facade containing double doors surmounted by a fanlight and flanked by two 4/4 windows.

St. Mary's Cemetery is located northeast of the Church. The earliest headstones in the cemetery date from 1813. In 1845, the cemetery was laid out in its present plan of paths and plots. As the northeast corner of the cemetery is a one-story, clapboard-covered shed, believed to have been built by John Pulcifer for the storage of a hearse in 1838.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1813-1814; 1838; 1892; 1941; 1954 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Mary's Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and historical associations to the early industrial development of Newton Lower Falls. It is the oldest extant church building in Newton and architecturally is an interesting example of a Federal church remodeled with Gothic detail.

Occupying its original lot, adjacent to the congregation's burial ground, St. Mary's was originally built as a Federalist style church in 1813-1814. Elements of the original design which remain are the building's plan, arched windows, lancet windows, sunken panel doors and oculi. In 1838, the building was extensively remodelled in Gothic taste. At this time, the Church's east end was extended 16', Gothic door and window trim was added to the facade and the central pavilion may have been re-covered with matched boarding. At the same time, the bell tower was rebuilt with Gothic trim and a gallery was constructed on the church's interior. In 1892, the chancel and sacristy (east elevation) were enlarged and in 1941 they were connected to the new Parish Hall. In 1954, the Gothic bell tower was rebuilt to a new-Federalist plan which was intended to approximate the original tower. At present, the building's exterior retains important elements of its original Federalist and later Gothic Revival style designs.

The first Episcopalian Church to be organized west of Boston after the Revolutionary War, St. Mary's began as a mission church which received heavy support from Samuel Brown, Esq. Brown, a wealthy Boston merchant, founded one of several early paper mills in Newton Lower Falls, in an apparent effort to invest money which could no longer be invested in trade due to the Embargo Act and War of 1812 which cut off overseas trade. In 1813, Brown purchased the site of St. Mary's and its cemetery, which was located near his mill in the same year. Brown donated both the land and money to build the church. In addition to Brown, many of the church's early members were associated with Newton Lower Falls' eight pre-1815 paper mills. Among the more prominent members of the congregation were Solomon Curtis and four of his nine sons, all of whom were paper manufacturers.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- mms. Sketch of the History of St. Mary's Church, Newton Lower Falls, by Reverend B.F. DeCosta, Rector from 1859-1860. Charlestown, Mass., 1863. (Original in Church Registrar of the Diocese of Mass., 1 Joy St., Boston.)
- mms. History of St. Mary's Church, William H. Hollis, Wellesley. c. 1950.
- 100 Years of Papermaking, Clarence A. Wiswall & Eleanor Boit Crafts; Reading, Mass., 1938.

(continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Natick

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map. The boundary is deliniated in red.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with Elsie M. Husher  
Newton Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1979

street & number 294 Washington St. telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston, state Massachusetts

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jaluru R. Weslowski 1/22/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

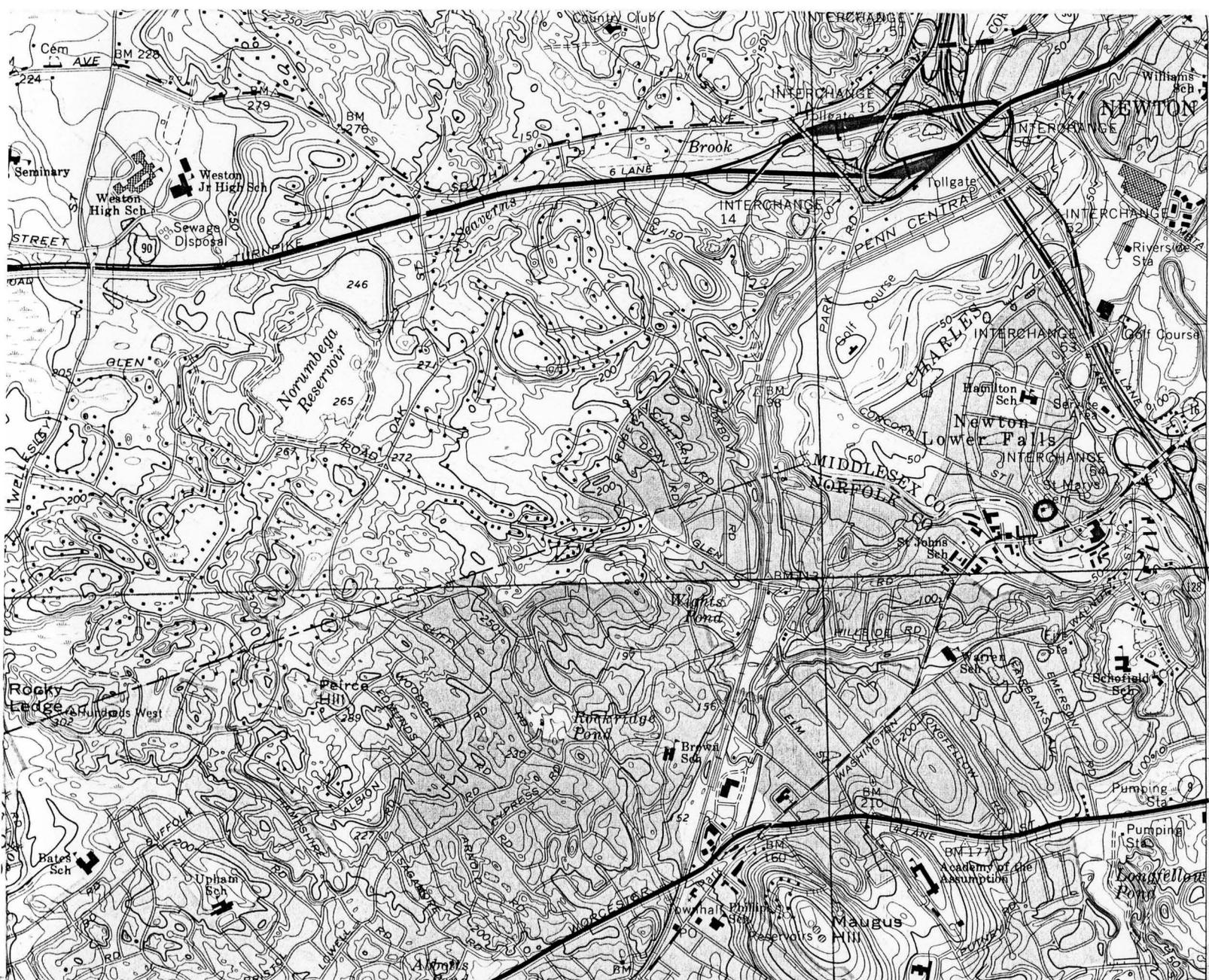
Chief of Registration

St. Mary's Church and Cemetary  
258 Concord Street  
Newton, Mass.  
Assessor's Map

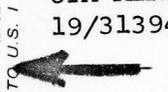


CONCORD

STREET



Bt. Mary's Church and Ceme-  
tery  
258 Concord St  
Newton, Mass.  
UTM REFERENCES:  
19/313940/4688260



4690  
20'  
4689  
9 MI. TO U.S. 1  
9 MI. (COMMON) 10 MI.  
4687  
(NEWTON)  
6768 / SW



1. West and north facades of church; west facade of parish house. (Photograph: Robert W. Chalue, 1978)