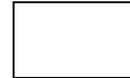


FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

59 18, 59 19 & 59
52



Photograph



Town: Tewksbury

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: St Williams Parish

Present Use: Catholic Church, Infirmary and Retirement Residence

Construction Dates or Period: 1957-1962

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

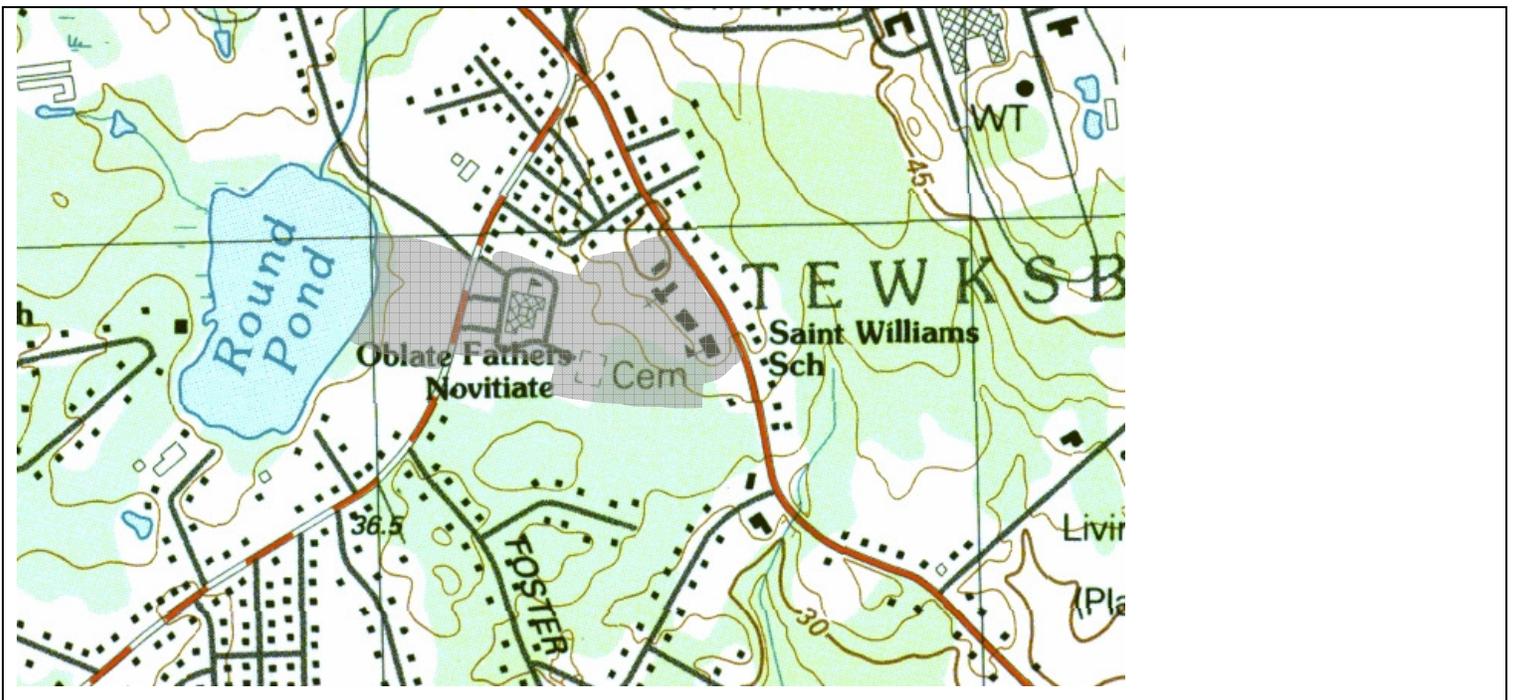
Acreage: 40.86 acres

Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects, LLC

Date (*month/year*): December 2009

Topographic or Assessor's Map



— see continuation sheet

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

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

ST. WILLIAMS PARISH

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

St William's Parish encompasses the entire Town of Tewksbury, except North Tewksbury. The center of the parish is St William's Church at 1351 Main Street. The church property includes a rectory, former convent, and former school. The church property is adjacent to the former Oblates of Mary Immaculate Novitiate at 486 Chandler Street. The Oblates Novitiate, now a retirement home for Oblates, is on a large parcel of land that extends west of Chandler Street to Round Pond.

486 Chandler Street

The **Oblate Novitiate** is located at 486 Chandler Street on a 12.75 acre lot. A second lot, part of a 19th century estate is located on the west side of Chandler Street and extends to the shores of Round Pond. A low brick wall parallels the east side of Chandler Street. Two semicircular gates flank the symmetrical entrance drives. The paved drives flank a square lawn with a sign and flag pole aligned with the front entrance to the building. Parking is located on the north, east and west side of the building. A paved drive extends around the entire perimeter of the building.

The irregularly shaped complex is comprised of connected buildings organized around a central courtyard. The building is comprised of a 2 ½ story rectangular entrance block projecting from the façade of the 21x1 bay 2 story block on the western end of the building complex. The northern end of the long block connects to a four bay garage facing north. To the east of the garage is a 13x1 bay 2 story block. At the east (rear) of the entrance block is an L-shaped one-story block that connects to the 13x1 bay block. To the east of the L-shaped block is a square one-story addition. Access to the basement of the building is at the south end of eastern façade of the long front block down a single bay concrete ramp.

The brick building rest on a concrete foundation. The brick walls extend up to a flat roof sheathed in rubber membrane roofing. A wide set of concrete stairs leads up to the main entrance. The entry is comprised of a pair of swinging glass doors.

A tree-lined walk with sculptured stations of the cross enclosed in hand-carved houses leads from the southwest of the building complex to the **Oblate Cemetery**. The cemetery is laid out in a formal geometric plan and enclosed by a high hedge and brick wall. The rectangular cemetery is organized around a central circular planting bed with a small monument. Paths radiate from the four quadrants, the north and south paths connect to secondary circular planting beds, also with small markers. Burial plots and headstones closest to the central circle are laid in semicircular rows. Subsequent burials are laid in orthogonal rows on the north and south sides

A life size Bronze of Eugene de Mazenod is located at the Novitiate.

1351 Main Street

The St. William's Church at 1351 Main Street is part of a complex of separate buildings including a rectory, former convent, and former parish school. The site of the church is adjacent to the Oblate Novitiate on Chandler Street, although a narrow band of deciduous trees separates the two clearings. The church site is mainly paved with a narrow row of trees between the parking lot and Main Street.

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St. William's Church is located near the north end of the parcel facing Main Street between the rectory and former convent. A raised planting area containing evergreen shrubs, deciduous trees, and a shrine separates the church from the surrounding bituminous paved parking lot. The Neo-Gothic Revival Church features an asymmetrical tower, steep gable ends that extend beyond the roofs to form parapets, a large circular window in the east gable, brick buttresses, and a pointed arched entry portico, all typical of the style. The T-shaped building rests on a concrete foundation. The brick walls support the steep asphalt shingled roof forms. The buttresses are capped by concrete. In between the buttresses on the north and south facades are paired rectangular windows with concrete sills. The octagonal tower is capped by a copper roof above wooden vents.

The three by four bay church was extended to the north and south by two four-by-two chapel additions in the last quarter of the 20th century. The chapel additions were constructed in a similar material and style to the main body of the church.

St. William's Convent is located to the south of St. William's Church. The building faces Main Street and is surrounded by a bituminous parking lot. The twelve by four bay building rests on a rectangular concrete foundation. The brick walls rise three stories to a flat roof clad in a rubber membrane. The entrance is centrally located on the east façade providing access between the first and second levels of the building. The entry door is protected by a projecting straight awning supported by a steel lintel and flanked by divided sidelights. Windows are primarily 1/1 double hung sashes except for several small sliding windows on secondary facades.

St. William's School is located to the south of St. William's Convent. The building faces Main Street and is surrounded by a bituminous parking lot on the south, east, and north sides. A basket ball court and play area is located to the west of the building. The five by one bay building rests on a concrete foundation. The brick walls rise two-and-a-half stories to a flat roof clad in a rubber membrane. The entrance is centrally located on the east façade providing access between the first and second levels of the building. The paired entry doors are located beneath a transom and flanked by a concrete surround that projects slightly from the main façade. Above the entrance is a concrete panel. A set of brick and concrete stairs with cast iron handrails provides access from the parking lot to the main doors. To either side of the central bay are single sash windows. The northernmost and southernmost bays contain groups of five windows. Windows are 1/1 double hung sashes except for several sashes that have been infilled with wood panels to accommodate wall mounted Air conditioning units. A metal shed is located to the north of the main stairs.

St. William's Rectory is located to the north of the church, the Rectory faces Main Street. The I-shaped building is four by eight bays. The two-story building features an asphalt clad hip roof supported by brick walls on a concrete foundation. The one-story addition to the rear, the enclosed entry porch and the corner entrance also have hipped roofs. The primary entrance is on the southeastern corner of the building. The recessed porch is accessed by a flight of concrete stairs with a cast iron rail. The main entrance door is wood with a glass panel. The glass panel is divided into a central rectangle flanked by a square in each corner and residual rectangles. Similar glass patterns are found on the large windows to the south of the door and around the corner on the large window on the south façade. Windows include the two large fixed windows, a picture window flanked by single 1/1 double hung sashes, a sliding window, and eight square fixed windows. The remaining windows on the facades are 1/1 double hung sash windows. The eight small fixed windows are located in a band above the recessed porch, four on the east elevation and four on the south elevation. Beneath each window is a projecting brick sill. Two secondary entrances are located on the south elevation.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

Although St. William's Parish was not established until 1935, the history of the Catholic Church in Tewksbury began c 1868 when the Oblates of Mary Immaculate began to come from their new parish in Lowell to serve the poor and sick at the State Almshouse, later the Tewksbury State Hospital.

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate were founded in 1816 by St Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861) in Aix-en-Provence, France. In 1867 Bishop John Williams of Boston offered the Oblates a parish to serve the French speaking people of Lowell. The first Oblates mission was in the basement of St Patrick's Church on Suffolk Street in Lowell in 1868. Within a month the congregation purchased a protestant church and named it St. Joseph's Church. Prior to 1888 Tewksbury residents travelled to Lowell to attend Mass.

In 1883 the Oblates purchased nine acres of land on Chandler Street to serve as a residence for priests serving the almshouse and for a Novitiate to train young men to work with the poor. Formerly the Kittredge Estate, the nine acres included the estate buildings and Round Pond. Although official permission from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston did not come until 1910, in 1888 the Novitiate's chapel was opened by Father Emery to local residents who previously travelled into Lowell for Mass.

In 1888 a Juniorate was added in Tewksbury but was relocated prior to 1904 to Buffalo, NY. In 1904 a Scholasticate was added in Tewksbury. In 1916 members of the program were transferred to the Oblate Scholasticate in Washington, DC (later known as Oblate College, open 1904-1997).

In February of 1895 the Kittredge house and barn on the shore of Round Pond burned. A second farmhouse on the property served as a temporary Novitiate until the second Novitiate opened in November 1896. A small chapel at the farmhouse was still attended by local Catholics for Mass.

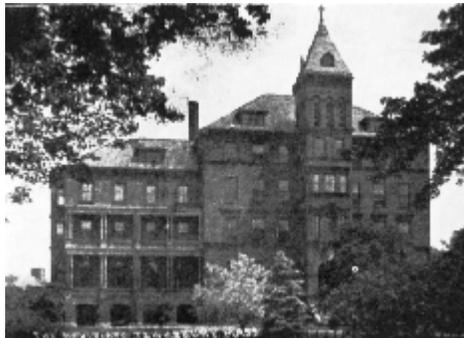


Image of 1896 Novitiate¹

In 1896 the second Novitiate, a large five-story brick Queen Anne building opened on Chandler Street. In 1898 a chapel was constructed at the State Hospital to offer regular masses and in 1911 a permanent priest was assigned to the hospital, although that priest would continue to reside at the Novitiate. Also residing at the Noviate were the priests that served St Andrew's Church in North Billerica and St Mary's Hall in South Tewksbury.

¹ _____. "Oblates of Mary Immaculate". *Church of St. William*. Web. Accessed 12/21/2009.
<http://www.tewksbury.com/stwilliams/omis.htm>

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St Mary's Hall was located at Vernon and Glenwood Road. The hall was owned by the Silver Lake Library Association c 1916 and c1919 owned by the Silver Lake Catholic Literary Association.

Throughout the 20th century the Catholic population of Tewksbury grew. In the early 1900s the local attendance at Mass outgrew the Novitiate's Chapel. Mass and Sunday school were moved to the Center School at 139 Pleasant Street (MHC# XXXX). In 1934 Rome granted Tewksbury a parish and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston signed a decree establishing St. William's parish in 1935 to be conducted by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The parish was named for the patron Saint of Cardinal William O'Connell the Archbishop of Boston at that time. St. William's Parish encompassed all of Tewksbury except North Tewksbury, whose residents continued to travel to Lowell to the Immaculate Conception Church. St. William's Parish was given permission to hold Mass in the Town Hall to accommodate the number of the Town's worshippers and the priests assigned to the new parish were to reside at the Novitiate on Chandler Street.

The first pastor was Father Denis Sullivan who was transferred to St. William's Parish from Lowell's Immaculate Conception Church. In 1937 permission was granted to purchase land for a Parish church. The site adjacent to the Novitiate was chosen and an architect was selected to create a masterplan for the entire site to include a rectory, convent, school, and playground. Construction on the church began in 1938 with the laying of the corner stone on Nov 24th. The church was formerly dedicated on August 20, 1939. In 1939 St. William's parish served 250 families and Tewksbury's summer residents. The architects were John C & Walter T Monahan.

In 1942 St Mary's Hall in South Tewksbury was purchased and renovated as a missionary chapel for St. William's parish. Tewksbury remained the location of the Oblate Novitiate until 1947 when the program was transferred to a site in Ipswich, MA. The Novitiate's property was then used as a mission house for priests. The Novitiate returned to Tewksbury in 1956.

In 1949 additional land was purchased for a convent and school. In 1954 the Parish began a fund for the construction of the convent and school buildings. Construction on the school and the convent was begun in 1957 and they were dedicated in 1958. The architect for these buildings was John A McPherson. The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY lived in the convent and staffed the Parish School.

In January of 1959, the 1896 Queen Anne Novitiate burned. Novices at the Novitiate were transferred to Essex, NY. A rectory for the St. William's Church's priest was constructed and finished in October of 1959. The third Novitiate was dedicated in 1962 to Our Lady of Hope and the novices returned from New York. The architect for the new Novitiate building was Chester F Wright. In 1969 the public mass was eliminated at the Novitiate.

A steady increase in catholic families within St. William's Parish in the mid-20th century led to the creation of St. Dorothy's in Wilmington in 1954 and St. Robert Bellarmine in Andover in 1961. In the 1960s approximately 75% of Tewksbury residents were Catholic. Double masses were held daily and in 1975 13 masses were held each weekend. By 1976 2100 families were in the parish. Expansion of the 1939 church, which seated 350, was necessary. An addition to the church was approved in 1976. In 1978 St. Mary's and St. Joseph's chapels as well as renovations to the lower church were completed. The Lower Church includes the parish hall and two smaller function rooms: the Blessed Joseph Room, used for coffee and donuts; and the St Eugene de Mazenod Room. The chapel additions increased the seating capacity of the church to 700. St. William's Church was rededicated 24 April 1978. In 1993 an addition to the offices and reception area was completed.

In the early 1990s the Parish school closed. In 2009 there were 3300 families in St. William's Parish. The convent is now used as a parish center housing the Parish Religious Education Program and meeting space for the Greater Lowell Pastoral Counseling Center, Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous and various parish groups. The former school building is used for Religious Education classes, Youth Group dances, the Tewksbury Head Start Program, Friday Night Bingo, and the annual Christmas Fair.

The Oblate Novitiate property is now an infirmary and retirement residence for oblates.

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A life size bronze of the Oblates founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, by local Tewksbury artist Mico Kaufman is located at the Novitiate Seminary. An image of St. Eugene de Mazenod is in a stained glass window in St Williams Sacristy.

Pastors of St Williams

1935-1940	Rev. Denis Sullivan, O.M.I.
1940-1941	Rev. John Doherty, O.M.I.
1941-1947	Rev. Clement Flynn, O.M.I.
1947-1955	Rev. James B. McCartin, O.M.I.
1955-1963	Rev. William Lantagne, O.M.I.
1963-1969	Rev. Garrett Barry, O.M.I.
1969-1973	Rev. John Hynes, O.M.I.
1973-1979	Rev. Patrick Hollywood, O.M.I.
1979-1985	Rev. Joseph Blaney, O.M.I.
1985-1991	Rev. George Croft, O.M.I.
1991-1997	Rev. Gerald Flater, O.M.I.
1997-Present	Rev. William O'Donnell, O.M.I.

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Altas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co

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Form A Data Sheet
Town Common Area A
Barnstable, MA

MHC No.	Assess. No.	Resource	Street Address	Date	Style
XXX 59 19		Oblates Novitiate	486 Chandler Street	1962	Contemporary
XXX 59 19		Oblates of Mary Immaculate Cemetery	486 Chandler Street	1883	-
XXX 59 19		St Eugene de Mazenod Sculpture	486 Chandler Street	1989	-
XXX 59 50		St William's Church	1351 Main Street	1939	Neo-Gothic Revival
XXX 59 50		St William's Rectory	1351 Main Street	1959	Post War Traditional
XXX 59 50		St William's Convent	1351 Main Street	1958	No Style
XXX 59 50		St William's School	1351 Main Street	1958	Post War Traditional

486 Chandler Street



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1351 Main Street



St William's Church

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St. William's Rectory



St. William's Rectory



St. William's Convent



St. William's School

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View of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Cemetery from <http://www.tewksbury.com/stwilliams/omis.htm>



Image of St William's Church prior to 1978 additions from the Church's website.

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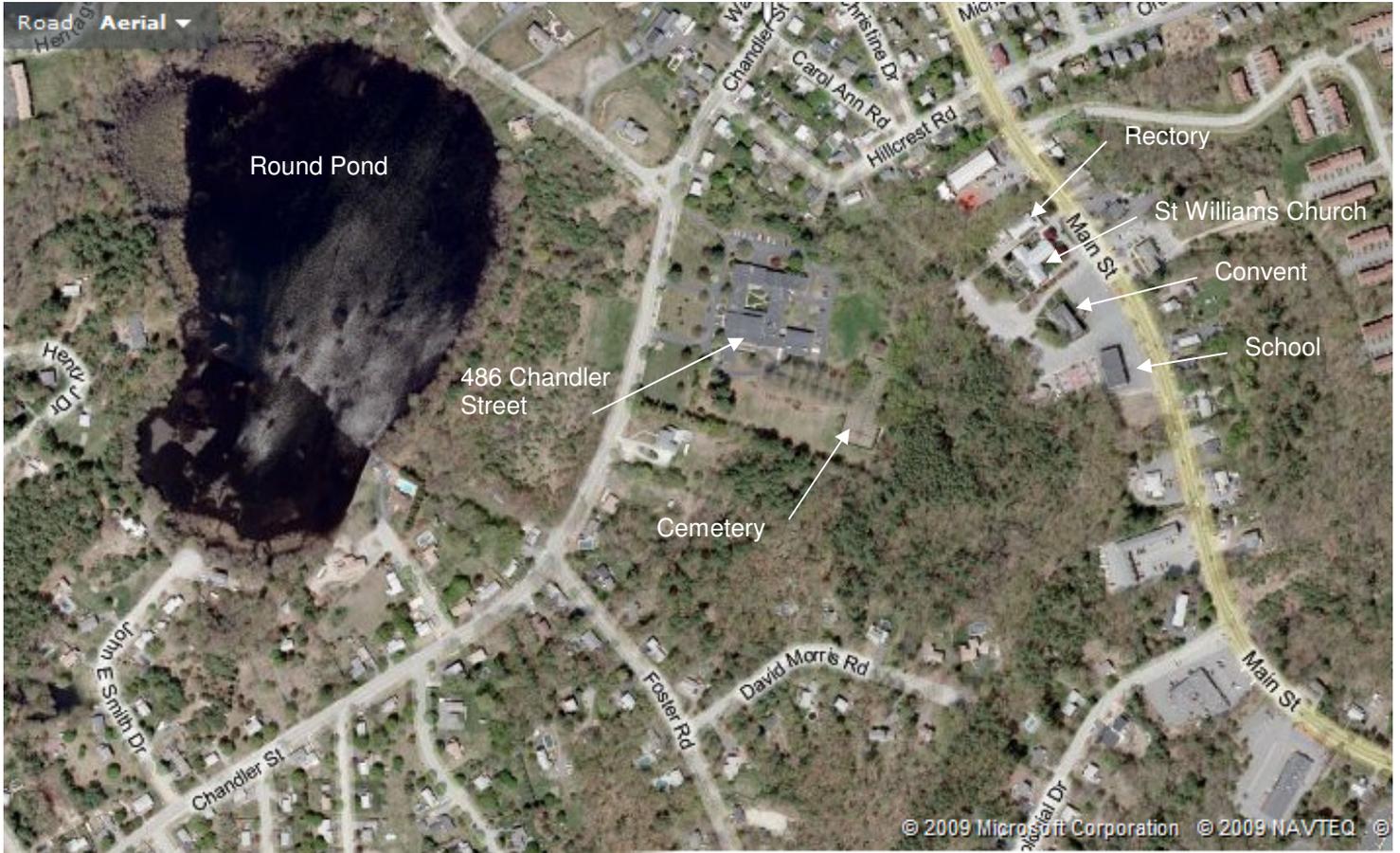
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