



Mayor
Erin V. Joyce

Department of Planning and Community Development

Melissa M. SantucciRozzi, Director
1 JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184
msantucci@braintreema.gov
Phone: 781-794-8234

Historical Commission

Kate Nedelman Herbst, Chair
Rayna Rubin, Vice Chair
Thomas Devin, Member
Ronald Frazier, Member
Santina Giannino, Member
Carl R. Johnson III, Member
Wesley Painter, Member

DEMOLITION DELAY APPLICATION FORM

TO BE COMPLETED IF A PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED

Project Street Address: Elm Street a/k/a 7 Hawthorn Road

Assessors' Map 2065 Plot(s) 0-34

Property Owner: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston

Mailing Address: 66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

Email Address: Deborah_dillon@rcab.org

Daytime Telephone # 617-254-0100

Applicant: George Clements, Manager of Clements Investments, LLC

Mailing Address: 63 Monatiquot Avenue
Braintree, MA 02184

Email Address: george@sascomanagement.com

Daytime Telephone # 781-974-0844

PLANNING/COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

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BRAINTREE, MA
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Structure to be Demolished (Check all that apply):

- House
- Non-Residential Building
- Barn
- Garage
- Other Church

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Brief Existing Structure Description: Roman Catholic Church that was completed and opened in 1940, and was considered the local parish servicing the East Braintree area and extended also into the North Braintree area. The church permanently closed its doors in 2021 to this parish. The parishioners became members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Weymouth Landing, Massachusetts.

What year was the structure built? 1940 (Please Attache Documentation in Support) (*attached*)

Has an Inventory Form ever been completed: Yes (Please Attach) No

Is the structure located in a local historic district? Yes No

Is the structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No

Description of How the Demolition Will be Completed: A licensed and experienced demolition company will be hired to conduct this demolition, and will take all necessary steps to make certain that no damage will be done to the neighboring buildings and homes in the area. All necessary permits will be obtained.

Summary of any historical, architectural or known history of the project: The church was the location of many thousands of baptisms, first holy communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals over eighty-one (81) years. There is no specific known architectural history of this church.

Applicant's Signature:
Date: February 12, 2024

George Clements
George Clements, Manager
Clements Investments, LLC

Tel. No.: 781-974-0844

Property Owner Signature:
Date: 02/14/2024

Deborah C. Dillon
Deborah C. Dillon, Director of Property Management
Archdiocese of Boston
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184
Tel. No. 617-746-5986
Fax: 617-779-4510

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Town of Braintree
Department of Planning and
Community Development
Melissa M. SantucciRozzi, Director

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Historical Commission
Kate Nedelman Herbst, Chair

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NARRATIVE ON PROPERTY HISTORY

Property: El Street a/k/a 7 Hawthorn Road, Braintree
Property Owner: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston
Applicant: Clements Investments, LLC

Please be advised that I represent George Clements, Manager of Clements Investments, LLC and Charles E. Batchelder, Manager of Bass Realty, LLC. My clients have signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement for their two (2) limited liability companies to buy the 11.86 acres of land and the buildings currently owned by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, a Corporation created by Chapter 506 of the Acts of 1897. Said closing is now due to occur sometime in June, 2024.

This Roman Catholic Church was built in Braintree, MA and was completed and opened on November 3, 1940, and was considered the local Roman Catholic parish servicing both the East Braintree area and extended also into the North Braintree area. The church permanently closed its doors in 2021 to this parish. As a result of the closure of St. Thomas More, the parishioners became members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Weymouth Landing, Massachusetts.

The church also had a school on the premises for many years for education purposes for children from the first grade through the eighth grade. The school closed in the late 1980's due to declining enrollment. The St. Thomas More Church and school were vital to the Town and younger school age children for decades. The church was important to the parishioners for many years where parish children were baptized, received first holy communion and confirmation. It was also the place that couples were married and deceased parishioners had their funeral services conducted for families.



Erin V Joyce
Mayor

TOWN OF BRAintree
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184
Tel: 781-794-8056

Paul J. Sullivan
MAA#978
Deputy Assessor

Board of Assessors
Robert Cusack
Chair
Susan O'Brien
Vice Chair
Robert Connolly
Member

DATE: February 14, 2024
APPLICANT: Clements Investments
OWNER: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston
ADDRESS: Elm St. aka 7 Hawthorn Rd.
MAP & LOT: 2065 0 34

This is to certify that at the time of submission of this form to the Board of Assessors, the names and addresses of the parties assessed as adjoining owners to the parcel of land shown and described are as written and are the parties according to the records of the Assessors.

Office of the Board of Assessors

Robert M Cusack
Chairman

PLANNING/COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

FEB 14 2024

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**Braintree
Abutters List**

Subject Parcel ID:

Subject Property Location:

ParcelID	Location	Owner	Co-Owner	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
2006 0 10	27 ADAMS ST	SAJ ADAMS STREET PROPERTIE		27 ADAMS STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2006 0 17	275 ELM ST	275 ELM STREET LLC		237 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE L	HANOVER	MA	02339
2006 0 8	293 ELM ST	ELM MIDDLE STREET LLC		80 PIONEER TRAIL	MARSHFIELD	MA	02050
2006 0 9	25 ADAMS ST	TENAGLIA REALTY LLC		25 ADAMS STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2006 0 9A	MIDDLE ST	ELM MIDDLE STREET LLC		80 PIONEER TRAIL	MARSHFIELD	MA	02050
2065 0 17	147 PARK ST	STEWART JAMES P	STEWART JACQUELINE N	147 PARK STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 18	153 PARK ST	OBRIEN BOBACK JEAN		153 PARK ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 19	40 HAWTHORN RD	YUNG TSZ CHUN	CHAU SAU YEE A TBYE	40 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 20	32 HAWTHORN RD	LEWIS CHRISTOPHER M	LEWIS EILEEN TBYE	32 HAWTHORN ROAD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 21	24 HAWTHORN RD	MCCARTHY BRENDAN J TR	EUGENE MCCARTHY 2019 I	24 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 22	20 HAWTHORN RD	RICHTER DOUGLAS M JR/ MAURE	RICHTER INVESTMENT TRU	20 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 23	14 HAWTHORN RD	WALSH TRACEY D		14 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 24	37 CEDAR ST	DORAN BRIAN T	DORAN KAREN M	37 CEDAR STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 25	23 CEDAR ST	SHANNON JAMES P	SHANNON CAROL E TBYE	23 CEDAR ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 26	21 CEDAR ST	DUNNE EDWARD T + JILDA G TR	DUNNE REALTY TRUST	21 CEDAR ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 27	17 CEDAR ST	FERRICK MYLES R	GANNON PATRICIA M TBYE	17 CEDAR ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 28	15 CEDAR ST	SAMPSON STEPHEN F SR	SAMPSON ELIZABETH J T	15 CEDAR ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 30	274 ELM ST	GOMES JASON		274 ELM STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 31	280 ELM ST	LERMA MELINDA J	BARKOWSKI GARY TBYE	280 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 33	8 HAWTHORN RD	ROMAN CATH ARCH OF BOSTON	OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEAC	55 COMMERCIAL ST	WEYMOUTH	MA	02188
2065 0 34	ELM ST	ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP	OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEAC	55 COMMERCIAL ST	WEYMOUTH	MA	02188
2065 0 35	21 HAWTHORN RD	WALSH JOHN F	WALSH LINDA L TBYE	21 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 36	29 HAWTHORN RD	TOOHEY CLARE M	TOOHEY CATHERINE M	29 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 37	33 HAWTHORN RD	CARROLL CURTIS R SR	CARROLL COLEEN TBYE	33 HAWTHORN ROAD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 38	39 HAWTHORN RD	CHAN JERRY	HUH VICTORIA J JTS	39 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2065 0 39	45 HAWTHORN RD	NORLING EDWARD W	NORLING HIDEKO	45 HAWTHORN RD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2071 0 5	338 ELM ST	ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP	OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEAC	55 COMMERCIAL ST	WEYMOUTH	MA	02188
2076 0 1	327 329 ELM ST	MCMASTERS KERRY M	MCMASTERS JOAN P	329 ELM STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 1A	321 ELM ST	LYNCH COLLEEN K		321 ELM STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 2	12 ADAMS ST	MCHUGH ROSEANNE	WILLIAMS MICHAEL TRS	39 ADAMS STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 7D	349 ELM ST	SAMSING ALICE M LE	ZABLOCKI ANNE M	349 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 7E	343 ELM ST	BARRY CAROL ANN	BARRY DIANE P	343 ELM STREET	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 7F	337 ELM ST	LAROSE AMY L		337 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 7G	331 ELM ST	HARVEY ALBERT J/ MARSHA J LE	KIRRRANE MICHELLE L TR	331 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2076 0 7O	ELM ST	BRAINTREE TOWN OF		1 JFK MEMORIAL DRIVE	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2084 0 1	330 ELM ST	BILOTAS JOHN F	BILOTAS DIANNE K	330 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2084 0 2	336 ELM ST	DEMPSEY FRANCIS J	DEMPSEY MAUREEN T TB	336 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2084 0 3	342 ELM ST	MCLAUGHLIN MICHAEL J TR	PATRICIA A MCLAUGHLIN I	342 ELM ST	BRAINTREE	MA	02184
2084 0 4	4 BLANCHARD BD	WALSH NANCY M		4 BLANCHARD BLVD	BRAINTREE	MA	02184

**Braintree
Abutters List**

Subject Parcel ID:

Subject Property Location:

ParcelID Location Owner Co-Owner Mailing Address City State Zip

Parcel Count: 39

End of Report

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	BRA.371
Historic Name:	Saint Thomas More Roman Catholic Church
Common Name:	
Address:	Elm St Elm St and Hawthorn Rd
City/Town:	Braintree
Village/Neighborhood:	North Braintree;
Local No:	2065-0-34;
Year Constructed:	1940
Architectural Style(s):	Neo Gothic Revival;
Architect(s):	deCastro, Antonio; Edwards, William J.; McDonough, Thomas F.; McPherson, John A.; Walsh Brothers;
Use(s):	Chapel; Church;
Significance:	Architecture; Religion;
Area(s):	BRA.O
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	Roof: Slate; Wall: Brick; Copper; Glass; Limestone; Stone, Cut; Foundation: Concrete Unspecified;
Demolished	No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 11:33 AM

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FORM B – BUILDING

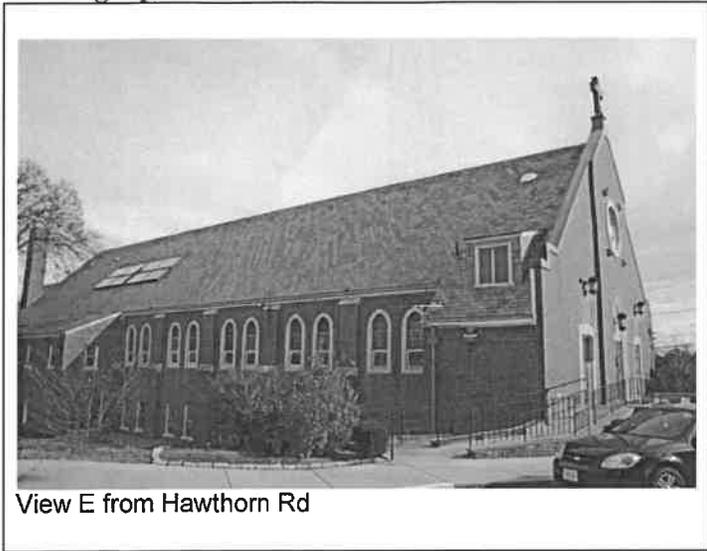
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

2065-0-34	Weymouth	BRA.O	BRA.371
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Town/City: Braintree
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Braintree

Photograph



View E from Hawthorn Rd

Address: Elm St at Hawthorn Rd
Historic Name: St. Thomas More Church
Uses: Present: institutional - church
Original: institutional - church
Date of Construction: 1940
Source: Public Safety plans, cornerstone
Style/Form: Neo-Gothic Revival
Architect/Builder: Thomas F. McDonough
Exterior Material:
Foundation: concrete
Wall/Trim: brick/limestone
Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

rear addition of sacristy, baptistry, and side chapel (1963)

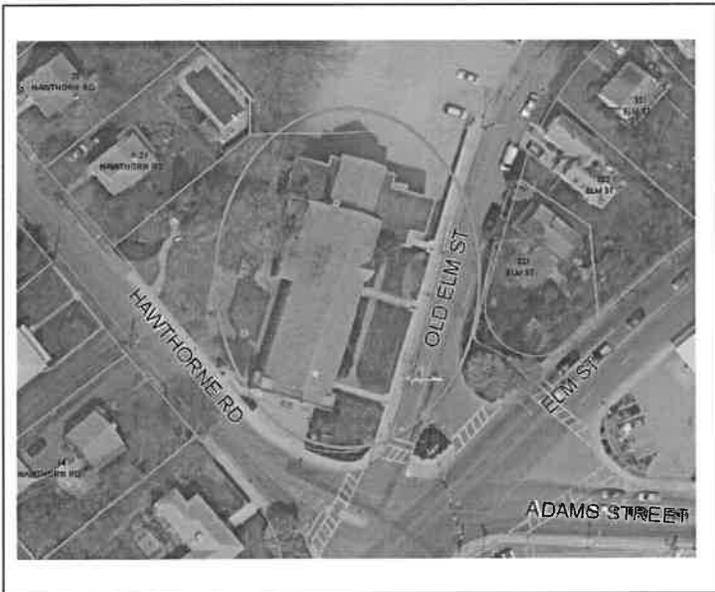
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.519 acres

Setting: largely residential area immediately east of Braintree Square and Route 3 highway corridor, and north of Monaquot River and MBTA Greenbush line

Locus Map



Recorded by: Kathleen Kelly Broomer, consultant
Organization: Braintree Historical Commission
Date (*month / year*): April 2014

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

ELM ST AT HAWTHORN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA.O

BRA.371

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

In 1998, the three buildings encompassing St. Thomas More parish complex (church, rectory, and school) were inventoried during a comprehensive survey conducted by the Braintree Historical Commission. This narrative updates the church description drafted in 1998. For additional information, see MHC area form for St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex (BRA.O).

The exterior of the church does not appear to have changed significantly since 1998, though the architectural style of the building would now be classified in MHC's MACRIS database as Neo-Gothic Revival. Character-defining features of the design include the stepped parapet on the façade; brick buttresses; stylized limestone door and window surrounds, many displaying a pointed-arch form; wood batten doors; stained glass windows; and slate roof. The 1963 rear addition fronting Elm Street, which provided a new sanctuary, baptistery, and chapel for the church while allowing the expansion of the nave seating into the former sanctuary, has now attained 50 years of age and consequently may be considered to contribute to the building's historic integrity for National Register eligibility purposes. While contributing to the small National Register-eligible historic district recommended for the St. Thomas More parish buildings in 1998, the church also is recommended for individual listing in the National Register.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

St. Thomas More Church was previously recorded with an MHC area inventory form, along with the rectory and parish school. This narrative amends the 1998 form. See BRA.O for additional details on the history of the parish buildings.

St. Thomas More parish was established in April 1938 to serve Roman Catholics residing in the central and northern sections of Braintree. Until 1903, Braintree was part of the Quincy parish. Priests from St. John's, Quincy, served Braintree Catholics at the mission church of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicated in 1879 at South Braintree. Following the creation of a separate parish of St. Francis of Assisi in 1903, a new church was built at 850 Washington Street, South Braintree, in 1911, and expanded in 1927 (see BRA.H). A mission church at East Braintree, served from St. Francis Xavier's, South Weymouth, was apparently abandoned about 1912 after the establishment of St. Francis parish. Continued growth of Braintree's population – from 6,879 in 1905 to 16,378 in 1940 – led to the formation of St. Thomas More as the town's second Catholic parish. [Lord, iii, 324, 713]

The first pastor, the Rev. Thomas A. Flynn, built St. Thomas More Church, which was dedicated 3 November 1940. A graduate of St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Father Flynn was ordained 2 June 1916. He later served as pastor of St. John's parish in Roxbury. [Sexton] St. Thomas parish built a school in 1956, staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, one of the orders of women religious most frequently represented in schools within the Archdiocese of Boston. The Jaconias Thayer House, 216 Elm Street (see form) served as the convent. St. Thomas More School reportedly closed in 1969.

Architect of the church, Thomas F. McDonough, AIA (1900-1964) was born in Boston and served as a draftsman in the office of Parker, Thomas & Rice (1916-1920) before engaging in special studies at Harvard University Graduate School of Design from 1922 to 1924. He was a designer for the firms of Lockwood & Greene (1924-1928) and widely known Boston church architects Maginnis & Walsh (1928-1930) before starting his own firm in 1931. McDonough was a lecturer at Boston University from 1946 to 1953, served as chairman of the Boston City Planning Board from 1948 to 1954, and was a member of both the city's Board of Zoning Adjustments and the Real Property Board from 1948 to 1954. His commissions include St. Margaret Church, Westwood (1933); the Marist Seminary, Framingham (1937); St. Holy Ghost Hospital, Cambridge (1940); St. Joseph Rectory, 21 Chapel Road (1940, BOS.15289), the second St. Joseph Church, 175 Wood Avenue (1955, BOS.15287), and the Hyde Park

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

ELM ST AT HAWTHORN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA.O

BRA.371

School (1953), all in Hyde Park; St. Margaret's Hospital, Dorchester (1944); Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Rectory, 128-134 Gove Street, East Boston (1955, BOS.15268); the Grove Hall Welfare Building, 515 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury (1951, BOS.15312); and a nursery at Boston City Hospital (1957).

In addition to designing the St. Thomas More Rectory, 8 Hawthorn Road (1962-1963, see form), John A. McPherson, AIA (1898-1964) served as architect of the rear addition on the church, also built in 1963. A resident of Melrose, he organized his architecture firm in 1932, with a business address of 250 Huntington Avenue, Boston. His works in Massachusetts include the Poor Clare Convent, Andover (1933); Church of the Annunciation [location undetermined] parish house (1935), school (1956), and convent (1960); St. Colletta's School, Hanover (1951 and 1955); Chapel of Our Lady of Good Voyage, 65 Northern Avenue, Boston (1952, BOS.15229), a worker chapel on the Boston waterfront; St. Peter's School, Cambridge (1958); Church of the Incarnation of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Melrose (1958); Most Precious Blood School, Hyde Park (1960, BOS.15279); and Sacred Heart School, Kingston (1961).

St. Thomas More parish is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Card file index for building inspection plans (a/k/a public safety plans), 1889-1987. Massachusetts State Archives, Boston.
- MHC. Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex, <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=BRA.O>. 1998.
- . Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). Database searches for Thomas F. McDonough and John A. McPherson.
- Entries for Thomas F. McDonough and John A. McPherson. *AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*. Via www.aia.org. Retrieved January 2014.
- Lord, Robert H., John E. Sexton, and Edward T. Harrington. *History of the Archdiocese of Boston in the Various Stages of its Development, 1604 to 1943*. 3 vols. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1944.
- Sexton, John E. and Arthur J. Riley. *History of St. John's Seminary, Brighton*. Boston: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, 1945. (includes directory of seminary graduates)
- St. Thomas More parish web site, <http://www.stmparish.org>. Retrieved January 2014.



1963 rear addition from Elm Street. View W.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

ELM ST AT HAWTHORN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA.O BRA.371

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by **Kathleen Kelly Broomer**
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The second oldest Roman Catholic church in Braintree, and the first permanent Catholic church established in the northern end of the town, St. Thomas More Church (1940) represents the establishment of a new parish in Braintree during a period of substantial population growth in the first half of the 20th century. Further growth within the parish is demonstrated by the construction in 1963 of a rear addition, which is now fifty years old and therefore may be considered to contribute to the building's historic integrity. Architecturally, the church's Neo-Gothic design is a more modern interpretation of Gothic precedent than is seen elsewhere in Braintree, executed by architects known for their contributions to Roman Catholic Church architecture in the metropolitan Boston area. Together with the St. Thomas More School, 338 Elm Street (1956, see form) and the St. Thomas More Rectory, 6 Hawthorn Road (1962-1963, see form), the church forms a small historic district of three buildings illustrating the expansion of the parish's role in the social history of North Braintree during the post-World War II era. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, St. Thomas More Church is recommended for the National Register individually and in a small historic district of parish buildings, meeting Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration A (for religious properties) at the local level.

See also National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form for **St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex (BRA.O)**.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: BRA.372
Historic Name: Saint Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Rectory
Common Name:
Address: 8 Hawthorn Rd
City/Town: Braintree
Village/Neighborhood: North Braintree;
Local No: 2065-0-33;
Year Constructed: 1963
Architectural Style(s): Postwar Traditional;
Architect(s): McPherson, John A.;
Use(s): Rectory;
Significance: Architecture; Religion;
Area(s): BRA.O
Designation(s):
Building Materials: Roof: Slate;
Wall: Brick Veneer; Copper; Stone, Cut; Vinyl Siding; Wood; Wood Clapboard;
Foundation: Concrete Unspecified;
Demolished No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

PLANNING/COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

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FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

2065-0-33	Weymouth	BRA.O	BRA.372
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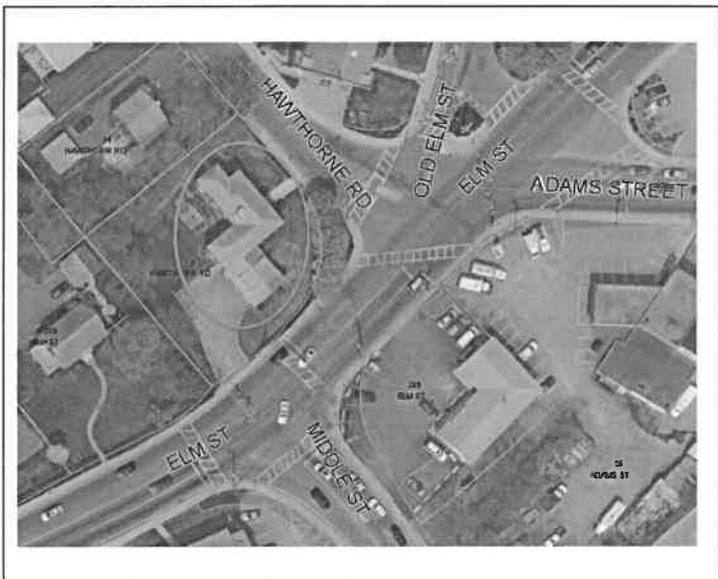
Town/City: Braintree
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Braintree

Photograph



Address: 8 Hawthorn Rd
Historic Name: St. Thomas More Rectory
Uses: Present: institutional - rectory
Original: institutional - rectory
Date of Construction: 1962-1963
Source: building permit (Sept '62)
cornerstone (1963)
Style/Form: Postwar Traditional
Architect/Builder: John A. McPherson
Exterior Material:
Foundation: concrete
Wall/Trim: brick veneer
Roof: slate

Locus Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
door opening on attached garage enlarged (1972)

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.417 acres

Setting: largely residential area immediately east of Braintree Square and Route 3 highway corridor, and north of Monaquot River and MBTA Greenbush line

Recorded by: Kathleen Kelly Broomer, consultant
Organization: Braintree Historical Commission
Date (*month / year*): April 2014

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

8 HAWTHORN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA.O BRA.372

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. District only – see BRA.O for 1998 criteria statement form
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 features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

In 1998, the three buildings encompassing St. Thomas More parish complex (church, rectory, and school) were inventoried during a comprehensive survey conducted by the Braintree Historical Commission. This narrative updates the rectory description drafted in 1998. For additional information, see MHC area form for St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex (BRA.O).

The exterior of the rectory does not appear to have changed since 1998, though the architectural style of the building would now be classified in MHC's MACRIS database as Postwar Traditional. Character-defining features of the design include the brick veneer walls, slate hipped roof, balanced (though asymmetrical) façade, and double-hung wood sash arranged in single, paired, and tripartite window openings. The stone entry surround and marquee door hood impart a modern institutional character to this otherwise residential building form. Some vinyl windows were installed in 1994, along with vinyl siding on the side walls of the garage dormers. The rectory has now attained 50 years of age, and consequently could be considered eligible for the National Register individually. However, given its limited architectural significance, and the importance of its association with the church across the street for its historic significance, the rectory is not recommended for individual listing in the National Register. The building continues to be part of the small National Register-eligible historic district recommended for the St. Thomas More parish buildings in 1998.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

St. Thomas More Rectory was previously recorded with an MHC area inventory form, along with the church and parish school. This narrative amends the 1998 form. See BRA.O for additional details on the history of the parish buildings.

St. Thomas More parish was established in April 1938 to serve Roman Catholics residing in the central and northern sections of Braintree. Until 1903, Braintree was part of the Quincy parish. Priests from St. John's, Quincy, served Braintree Catholics at the mission church of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicated in 1879 at South Braintree. Following the creation of a separate parish of St. Francis of Assisi in 1903, a new church was built at 850 Washington Street, South Braintree, in 1911, and expanded in 1927 (see BRA.H). A mission church at East Braintree, served from St. Francis Xavier's, South Weymouth, was apparently abandoned about 1912 after the establishment of St. Francis parish. Continued growth of Braintree's population – from 6,879 in 1905 to 16,378 in 1940 – led to the creation of St. Thomas More as the town's second Catholic parish. [Lord, iii, 324, 713]

The first occupants of the rectory, recorded in the 1964 residents list, were the Rev. Bernard J. O'Rourke, pastor; the Rev. James M. Hutchinson, assistant priest; the Rev. John F. Scannell, assistant priest; and Cecelia G. Fleming, housekeeper. Father O'Rourke, Father Hutchinson, and Miss Fleming previously resided nearby at 133 Park Street. Father Scannell joined St. Thomas parish from Marshfield.

Architect of the rectory, John A. McPherson, AIA (1898-1964), also designed the rear addition on the church in 1963. A resident of Melrose, he organized his architecture firm in 1932, with a business address of 250 Huntington Avenue, Boston. His works in Massachusetts include the Poor Clare Convent, Andover (1933); Church of the Annunciation [location undetermined] parish house (1935), school (1956), and convent (1960); St. Colletta's School, Hanover (1951 and 1955); Chapel of Our Lady of Good Voyage, 65 Northern Avenue, Boston (1952, BOS.15229), a worker chapel on the Boston waterfront; St. Peter's School, Cambridge (1958); Church of the Incarnation of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Melrose (1958); Most Precious Blood School,

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

8 HAWTHORN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA.O

BRA.372

Hyde Park (1960, BOS.15279); and Sacred Heart School, Kingston (1961). Builder of the rectory was Ambrosia Construction Company of Quincy.

St. Thomas More parish is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Entry for John A. McPherson. *AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*. Via www.aia.org. Retrieved January 2014.

Lord, Robert H., John E. Sexton, and Edward T. Harrington. *History of the Archdiocese of Boston in the Various Stages of its Development, 1604 to 1943*. 3 vols. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1944.

St. Thomas More parish web site, <http://www.stmparish.org>. Retrieved January 2014.



Rear elevation. View NE from Elm Street.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: BRA.O
Historic Name: Saint Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex
Common Name:
City/Town: Braintree
Village/Neighborhood: Braintree;
Local No: 2017:22; 2065:33,34;
Year Constructed:
Use(s): Church; Other Religious; Parochial School;
Significance: Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Religion;
Designation(s):
Building Materials:
Demolished No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM A-AREA

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

Assessor's Sheets
2017:22,
2065:33, 34

USGS Quad
Blue Hills

Area Letter
O

Form numbers in Area
371-372

BRA.0



Town Braintree

Place Braintree Square

Name of Area St. Thomas More
Church Area

Present Use religious,
institutional

Construction Dates dedicated
Nov. 3, 1940

Overall Condition good

Alterations additions to church,
1963, school built 1957, rectory
built 1963

Major Intrusions none

Acreage 22,557 sq. ft.;
18,151 sq. ft.; 13 acres

Recorded by Dempsey/Morvan

Organization Braintree Historical
Commission

Date November 1998

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2002

MASS. HIST. COMM

BRA 371 - St. Thomas More Church



371

BRA. 0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form #

Area 0

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Saint Thomas More Church Area is composed of three separate brick structures: the church proper, which lies at the intersection of Elm and Hawthorn streets, the Rectory, which faces the church at 8 Hawthorn Street, and the former St. Thomas More School (now the May Center for Vocational Training and Education) which lies at 22 Blanchard Street, to the rear of the church parking lot. The history of the property includes the transfer of the school, as well as the expansion of the church in the 1960s.

The Saint Thomas More Church is a brick structure in the Gothic style with a slate roof and limestone trim. The end-gabled entrance facade is three bays wide, representing the nave and side aisles, with a stepped parapet wall. This parapet wall hides the fact that the entrance vestibule is slightly wider than the nave and is illuminated by two shed dormers. The nave extends to a depth of eight bays, each articulated by two lancet windows separated by a brick pier; a cross-gabled side entrance articulated with three windows is located in the seventh bay to the lateral right. A sacristy, baptistery, and side chapel were added in 1963, complicating the massing to the rear of the church. Due to the sloping configuration of the site each of these additions is of two stories, with the upper story occupying the same level as the nave. A small shed-roofed addition, whose roof extends from the eaves of the nave roof, is located to the left rear, occupying bays six through eight. Several larger additions are located to the rear, including a large, three-bay-wide, end-gabled addition centered on the nave, flanked by irregular, four-bay-wide, flat-roofed additions.

#371

Ornamentation of the church is concentrated on the openings and is obtained primarily through the use of limestone as an accent material. The main entrance bay, which projects slightly from the facade, includes batten double doors, a prominent Gothic limestone door-surround surmounted by a round rose window, and, at its peak, a stone cross. The batten doors to either side of this entrance have limestone architrave trim, upon which rest limestone medallions. Limestone is also used in the window surrounds and the brick piers. A limestone plaque, which displays the date 1940, is located to the lower left of the facade. Ornament to the additions is more restrained although it is also concentrated upon the openings. The windows, which are stained glass on the second (nave) story and 2/2 double-hung sash elsewhere, have stone lintels and brick, soldier-course lintels. The rear additions are also accented by narrow stone coping at the roofline.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form # Area

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued.

The Rectory at 8 Hawthorn Street, which bears the date of 1963 upon its cornerstone, is also a #372 brick structure with a slate roof. It consists of a two-story, four-bay wide, two-to-three-tier-deep hip block with two-story wings to the right rear and rear left, as well as a large, side-gabled, rear-entry, two-car garage to the left. The roof of the garage is interrupted by a clapboard shed dormer with two windows. The facade is articulated by 12/12 double-hung sash in mullioned pairs, as well as a triple unit composed of a single fixed sash flanked by 9/9 sash. Windows elsewhere are 8/8 sash. Stone sills and narrow wood moldings ornament the windows. The entrance is located in the second bay of the facade, and is ornamented by a hipped door hood and an ashlar door surround. Additional ornament is limited to a copper gutter and a narrow cornice molding. The building is located on a landscaped lot surrounded by a boxwood hedge. A large asphalt driveway with parking spaces is located to the rear.

The St. Thomas More School, located at 22 Blanchard Street is modern, flat-roofed brick #373 structure. It echoes the later church additions in material and style. In mass it is a simple block with a stairwell extending from its lateral right, slightly recessed from the main block. The facade is articulated on each story in three parts, with an entrance bay flanked by windows to the left, and two six-bay classroom units to the right. The same articulation is found on the rear elevation. The side elevations are primarily flat expanses of uninterrupted brick wall, although two windows are found on the lateral left. All windows, including that illuminating the stairwell, consist of a 1/1 metal double-hung unit below with a fixed panel above. Similar to both the church and the rectory, the sills are made of limestone. The entrance, which consists of metal double-doors, has been changed by the addition of a gabled entrance porch which is covered in clapboard, with an asphalt roof and narrow Doric columns. The severity of the architectural form is softened through the addition of foundation plantings along the facade. Outside of these plantings, the building is surrounded by an asphalt parking lot which slopes to the rear, opening the basement level.

REFERENCES

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Public Safety plans and drawings, Massachusetts State Archives, B-5-9-71184.
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Walker, *Atlas of Weymouth and Braintree*, 1909
Sanborn, 1886, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1919, 1926, 1926-1948

B2A-0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree**

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

Form #

Area

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Saint Thomas More Church, named for the 16th century English martyr, was founded in 1938 by William Cardinal O'Connell. It was the third Roman Catholic church in the Braintree area, where services began as early as 1846. Originally serving as a mission from the earlier Quincy parishes of St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist, the first Braintree church, St. Francis of Assisi, was built on Central Avenue in 1877 and the first parish was not established until 1903. This church was formed to serve the expanding suburban growth of the town, particularly in the northern and eastern sections of the town. After meeting in the Cochetto Club, the building was dedicated in 1940. The building seated 600, a significant portion of the nearly 1000 parishioners in the area at that time.

The church was designed by Thomas F. McDonough, 188 Dartmouth Street, Boston, and built by the Walsh Brothers, from Cambridge. The building included corner stairs in the front entry area to the balcony above, and a sacristy and chapel on either side of the altar. The basement included a boys sacristy, large open hall, and service spaces. Later alterations included the addition of a chapel and Sunday school space in the basement in 1944; this was designed by William J. Edwards. In 1963, John A. McPherson, 250 Huntington Avenue, Boston, designed a rear extension for the church. Seating in the nave was expanded into the former sanctuary, and a new sanctuary, including a new sacristy, baptistry, and another chapel. At the same time the present rectory was constructed; it had formerly been located on Lowell Street. In 1985, the church interior was remodeled, to accommodate the changes to worship associated with Vatican II, from designed by Antonio deCastro.

In 1957 a school was added, believed to be the first parochial school in the town. The plan was provided by William B. Colleary, architect, of Centerville, MA. The building was designed with a simple plan, with a long central hall and two classrooms on each side on each floor. An offset section of the building included the stairs. One end of the building included the support spaces for the building, including office, examination room, waiting room, storerooms, lavatories, and stairs. The drawings indicate a plan to construct an extension of the building at a later date, doubling the number of classrooms, but this was never completed. Both Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, and lay teachers were employed; the convent was at 216 Elm Street. There were lower grades only when the school opened. The school closed in 1969. It is now the May Center for Vocational Training and Education.

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

Community
Braintree

Area

Property Address
St. Thos. More Church area

Form #

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible.
- Contributing to a potential district.
- Eligible only in a historic district.
- Potential historic district.

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by **Claire W. Dempsey**.

During the 19th century, Braintree's overall population and density increased as the town became more suburban and industrial than rural in its economy and landscape. The **Saint Thomas More Church area** demonstrates the changing character of the town's population later in the 19th century, as Catholics became a significant portion of the population. The buildings in the complex, a church, a rectory, and a school, represent significant forms and styles associated with the building types. This area retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association, and is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

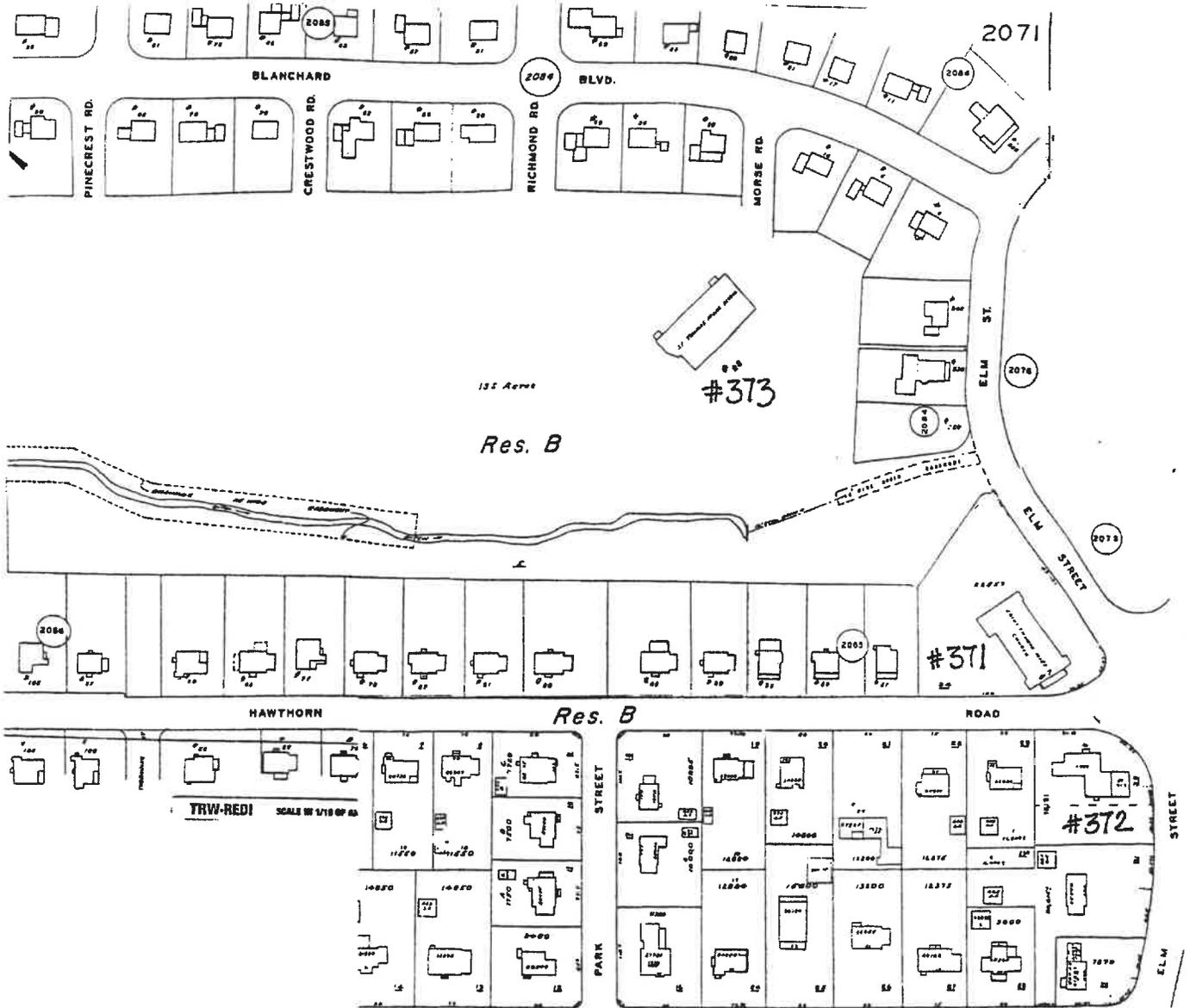
Community
Braintree

Property Address
St. Thos. More Church area

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

Area(s) 0

Form No.



BKA.0

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE **B** RACK **5** APART. **9** NO. **71184** ✓

BUILDING **St. Thomas More R. C. Church** STORIES **1**

CITY OR TOWN **Braintree** **+ School** STREET **Elm St. & Hawthorne Rd.**

TO BE USED FOR **church purposes** CLASS

OWNER **R. C. Archbishop of Boston**

ARCHITECT **Rev. Thomas A. Flynn, Tr.**
Thomas F. McDonough

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE **4/13/40**

INSPECTOR **Boyle**

Form BU. 1-2m-8-'39. No. 8087

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE **B** RACK **5** APART. **9** NO. **71184**

BUILDING **St. Thomas More Parish** STORIES

CITY OR TOWN **Braintree** STREET **Add. to Church**

TO BE USED FOR CLASS

OWNER

ARCHITECT **John A. McPherson, 250 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass.**

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE **March 11, 1963**

INSPECTOR **Joseph A. DiCicco**

FORM BU. 1-5M-6-39-925610

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE **B** RACK **5** APART. **9** NO. **71184** erection

BUILDING **St. Thomas More School** STORIES

CITY OR TOWN **Braintree** STREET **-**

TO BE USED FOR **school** CLASS

OWNER **RCA of Boston**

ARCHITECT **William B. Colleary**

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE **3/27/56**

INSPECTOR **J. Norton**

FORM BU.1. 5M-1-53-908820

BRA-0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form #

Area 0



8 Hawthorn Rd (BRA-372)



8 Hawthorn Rd (BRA-372)

BRA.0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form #

Area 0



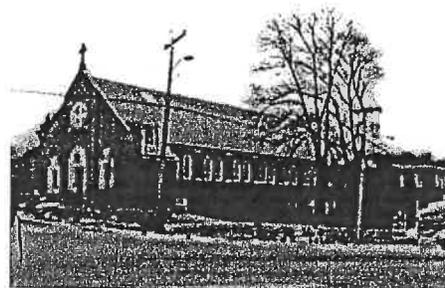
A 373
←
22 Blanchard Boulevard
(BRA 373)
↓



Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: BRA.O
Historic Name: Saint Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex
Common Name:
City/Town: Braintree
Village/Neighborhood: Braintree;
Local No: 2017:22; 2065:33,34;
Year Constructed:
Use(s): Church; Other Religious; Parochial School;
Significance: Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Religion;
Designation(s):
Building Materials:
Demolished No



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Massachusetts Historical Commission
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PLANNING/COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

FEB 14 2024

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BRA.0

FORM A-AREA

Assessor's Sheets
2017:22,
2065:33, 34

USGS Quad
Blue Hills

Area Letter
O

Form numbers in Area

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

Town Braintree

Place Braintree Square

Name of Area St. Thomas More
Church Area

Present Use religious,
institutional

Construction Dates dedicated
Nov. 3, 1940

Overall Condition good

Alterations additions to church,
1963, school built 1957, rectory
built 1963

Major Intrusions none

Acreage 22,557 sq. ft.;
18,151 sq. ft.; 13 acres

Recorded by Dempsey/Morvan

Organization Braintree Historical
Commission

Date November 1998

RECEIVED

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BRA-371 - St. Thomas More Church



371

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
BraintreeMassachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Form #

Area 0

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Saint Thomas More Church Area is composed of three separate brick structures: the church proper, which lies at the intersection of Elm and Hawthorn streets, the Rectory, which faces the church at 8 Hawthorn Street, and the former St. Thomas More School (now the May Center for Vocational Training and Education) which lies at 22 Blanchard Street, to the rear of the church parking lot. The history of the property includes the transfer of the school, as well as the expansion of the church in the 1960s.

The Saint Thomas More Church is a brick structure in the Gothic style with a slate roof and limestone trim. The end-gabled entrance facade is three bays wide, representing the nave and side aisles, with a stepped parapet wall. This parapet wall hides the fact that the entrance vestibule is slightly wider than the nave and is illuminated by two shed dormers. The nave extends to a depth of eight bays, each articulated by two lancet windows separated by a brick pier; a cross-gabled side entrance articulated with three windows is located in the seventh bay to the lateral right. A sacristy, baptistery, and side chapel were added in 1963, complicating the massing to the rear of the church. Due to the sloping configuration of the site each of these additions is of two stories, with the upper story occupying the same level as the nave. A small shed-roofed addition, whose roof extends from the eaves of the nave roof, is located to the left rear, occupying bays six through eight. Several larger additions are located to the rear, including a large, three-bay-wide, end-gabled addition centered on the nave, flanked by irregular, four-bay-wide, flat-roofed additions. #371

Ornamentation of the church is concentrated on the openings and is obtained primarily through the use of limestone as an accent material. The main entrance bay, which projects slightly from the facade, includes batten double doors, a prominent Gothic limestone door-surround surmounted by a round rose window, and, at its peak, a stone cross. The batten doors to either side of this entrance have limestone architrave trim, upon which rest limestone medallions. Limestone is also used in the window surrounds and the brick piers. A limestone plaque, which displays the date 1940, is located to the lower left of the facade. Ornament to the additions is more restrained although it is also concentrated upon the openings. The windows, which are stained glass on the second (nave) story and 2/2 double-hung sash elsewhere, have stone lintels and brick, soldier-course lintels. The rear additions are also accented by narrow stone coping at the roofline.

BRA 0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form #

Area

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued.

The Rectory at 8 Hawthorn Street, which bears the date of 1963 upon its cornerstone, is also a #372 brick structure with a slate roof. It consists of a two-story, four-bay wide, two-to-three-tier-deep hip block with two-story wings to the right rear and rear left, as well as a large, side-gabled, rear-entry, two-car garage to the left. The roof of the garage is interrupted by a clapboard shed dormer with two windows. The facade is articulated by 12/12 double-hung sash in mullioned pairs, as well as a triple unit composed of a single fixed sash flanked by 9/9 sash. Windows elsewhere are 8/8 sash. Stone sills and narrow wood moldings ornament the windows. The entrance is located in the second bay of the facade, and is ornamented by a hipped door hood and an ashlar door surround. Additional ornament is limited to a copper gutter and a narrow cornice molding. The building is located on a landscaped lot surrounded by a boxwood hedge. A large asphalt driveway with parking spaces is located to the rear.

The St. Thomas More School, located at 22 Blanchard Street is modern, flat-roofed brick #373 structure. It echoes the later church additions in material and style. In mass it is a simple block with a stairwell extending from its lateral right, slightly recessed from the main block. The facade is articulated on each story in three parts, with an entrance bay flanked by windows to the left, and two six-bay classroom units to the right. The same articulation is found on the rear elevation. The side elevations are primarily flat expanses of uninterrupted brick wall, although two windows are found on the lateral left. All windows, including that illuminating the stairwell, consist of a 1/1 metal double-hung unit below with a fixed panel above. Similar to both the church and the rectory, the sills are made of limestone. The entrance, which consists of metal double-doors, has been changed by the addition of a gabled entrance porch which is covered in clapboard, with an asphalt roof and narrow Doric columns. The severity of the architectural form is softened through the addition of foundation plantings along the facade. Outside of these plantings, the building is surrounded by an asphalt parking lot which slopes to the rear, opening the basement level.

REFERENCES

- Braintree Historical Society church files.
- Holly, *Braintree*,
- Public Safety plans and drawings, Massachusetts State Archives, B-5-9-71184.
- Walling, *Atlas of Norfolk County*, 1858
- Sherman, *Atlas of Norfolk County*, 1876
- Robinson, *Atlas of Norfolk County*, 1888
- Walker, *Atlas of Weymouth and Braintree*, 1909
- Sanborn, 1886, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1919, 1926, 1926-1948

BR A-0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree**

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

Form # Area

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Saint Thomas More Church, named for the 16th century English martyr, was founded in 1938 by William Cardinal O'Connell. It was the third Roman Catholic church in the Braintree area, where services began as early as 1846. Originally serving as a mission from the earlier Quincy parishes of St. Mary's and St. John the Baptist, the first Braintree church, St. Francis of Assisi, was built on Central Avenue in 1877 and the first parish was not established until 1903. This church was formed to serve the expanding suburban growth of the town, particularly in the northern and eastern sections of the town. After meeting in the Cocheto Club, the building was dedicated in 1940. The building seated 600, a significant portion of the nearly 1000 parishioners in the area at that time.

The church was designed by Thomas F. McDonough, 188 Dartmouth Street, Boston, and built by the Walsh Brothers, from Cambridge. The building included corner stairs in the front entry area to the balcony above, and a sacristy and chapel on either side of the altar. The basement included a boys sacristy, large open hall, and service spaces. Later alterations included the addition of a chapel and Sunday school space in the basement in 1944; this was designed by William J. Edwards. In 1963, John A. McPherson, 250 Huntington Avenue, Boston, designed a rear extension for the church. Seating in the nave was expanded into the former sanctuary, and a new sanctuary, including a new sacristy, baptistry, and another chapel. At the same time the present rectory was constructed; it had formerly been located on Lowell Street. In 1985, the church interior was remodeled, to accommodate the changes to worship associated with Vatican II, from designed by Antonio deCastro.

In 1957 a school was added, believed to be the first parochial school in the town. The plan was provided by William B. Colleary, architect, of Centerville, MA. The building was designed with a simple plan, with a long central hall and two classrooms on each side on each floor. An offset section of the building included the stairs. One end of the building included the support spaces for the building, including office, examination room, waiting room, storerooms, lavatories, and stairs. The drawings indicate a plan to construct an extension of the building at a later date, doubling the number of classrooms, but this was never completed. Both Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, and lay teachers were employed; the convent was at 216 Elm Street. There were lower grades only when the school opened. The school closed in 1969. It is now the May Center for Vocational Training and Education.

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BRA-0

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

Community
Braintree

Area

Property Address
St. Thos. More Church area

Form #

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible.
- Contributing to a potential district.
- Eligible only in a historic district.
- Potential historic district.

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by **Claire W. Dempsey.**

During the 19th century, Braintree's overall population and density increased as the town became more suburban and industrial than rural in its economy and landscape. The **Saint Thomas More Church area** demonstrates the changing character of the town's population later in the 19th century, as Catholics became a significant portion of the population. The buildings in the complex, a church, a rectory, and a school, represent significant forms and styles associated with the building types. This area retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association, and is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level.

BRA.0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

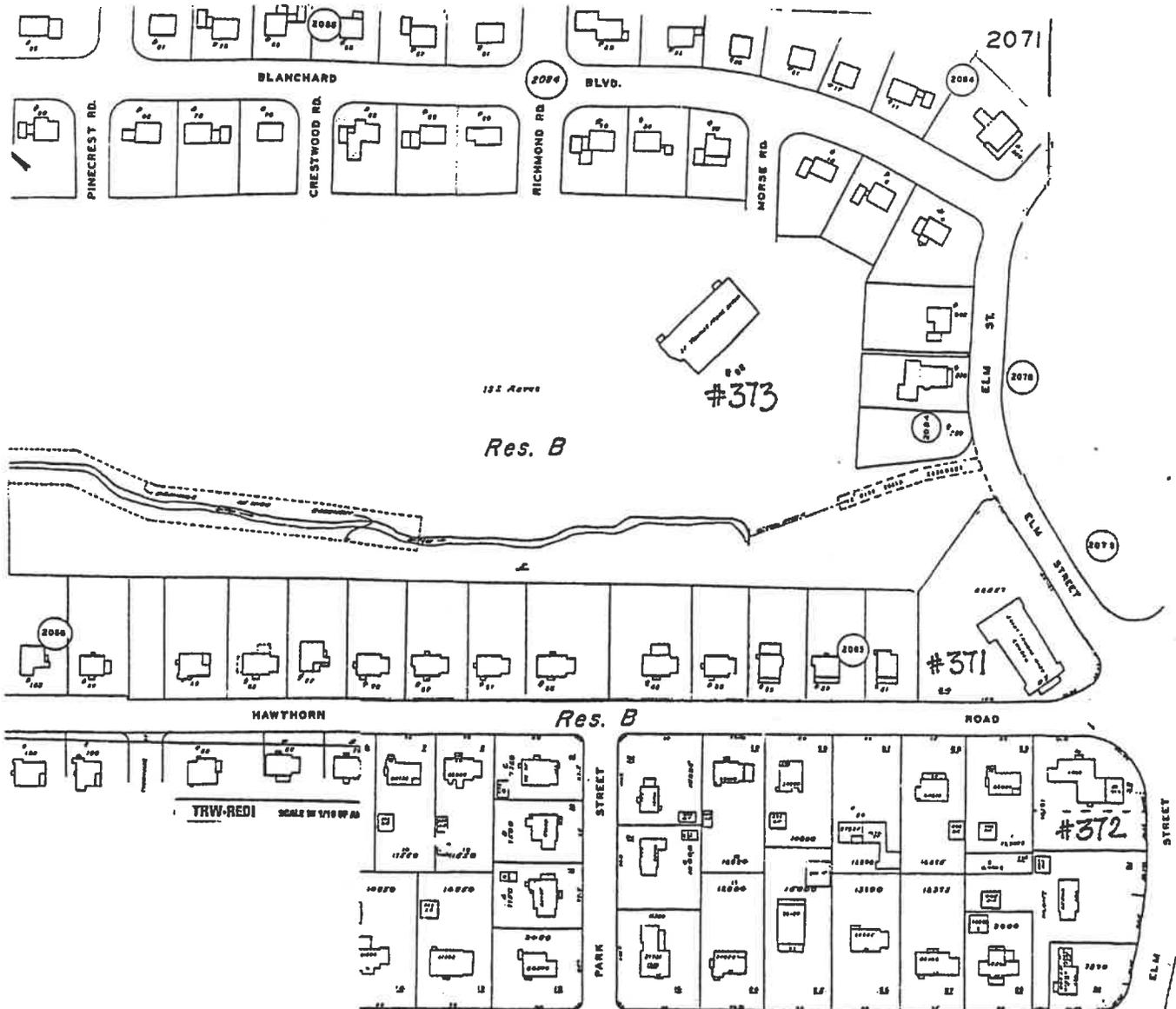
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Braintree

Property Address
St. Thos. More Church area

Area(s)

Form No.



BRA-0

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *5* APART *9* NO. *71184*

BUILDING *St. Thomas More R.C. Church* STORIES *1*

CITY OR TOWN *Braintree* STREET *7 School Elm St & Hawthorn*

TO BE USED FOR *church purposes* CLASS *HC*

OWNER *R.C. Archbishop of Boston*

ARCHITECT *Rev. Thomas A. Flynn, Tr.*

Thomas H. McDonough

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE *4/13/40*

INSPECTOR *Boyle*

Form BU. 1-2m-5-39. No. 8087

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *3* APART *9* NO. *71184*

BUILDING *St. Thomas More Parish* STORIES

CITY OR TOWN *Braintree* STREET

TO BE USED FOR

OWNER

ARCHITECT *John A. McPherson, 250 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass.*

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE *March 11, 1963*

INSPECTOR *Joseph A. DiCicco*

FORM BU. 1-5M-6-52-22810

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE *B* RACK *5* APART *9* NO. *71184* erection

BUILDING *St. Thomas More School* STORIES

CITY OR TOWN *Braintree* STREET *-*

TO BE USED FOR *school* CLASS

OWNER *RCA of Boston*

ARCHITECT *William B. Colleary*

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED

DATE *3/27/56*

INSPECTOR *J. Norton*

FORM BU. 1. 5M-1-53-80820

BRA-0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

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

Form #

Area 0



8 Hawthorn Rd (BRA. 372)



8 Hawthorn Rd (BRA. 372)

BRA.0

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Thomas More Church Area
Braintree

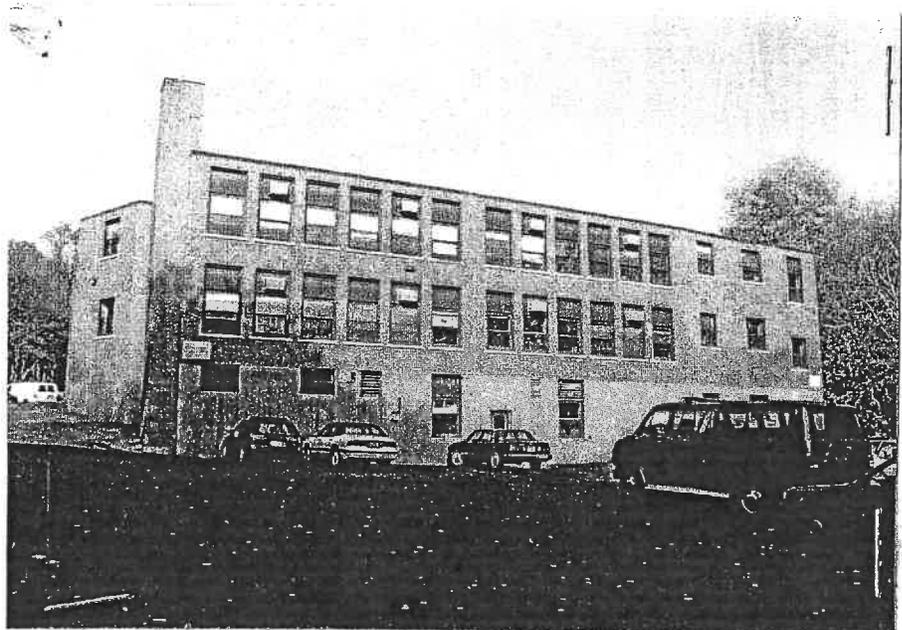
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Form #

Area 0



H
←
22 Blanchard Boulevard
(BRA 373)
↓



Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: BRA.373
Historic Name: Saint Thomas More Roman Catholic Church School
Common Name: May Center for Vocational Training and Education
Address: 338 Elm St
22 Blanchard Ave
City/Town: Braintree
Village/Neighborhood: North Braintree;
Local No: 2071-0-5;
Year Constructed: 1956
Architectural Style(s): Postwar Traditional;
Architect(s): Colleary, William B.;
Use(s): Other Educational; Other Medical; Parochial School;
Significance: Architecture; Education; Health Medicine; Religion;
Area(s): BRA.O
Designation(s):
Building Materials: Roof: Tar, Built-up;
Wall: Brick; Copper; Limestone; Stone, Cut; Vinyl Siding; Wood;
Foundation: Concrete Unspecified;
Demolished No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

PLANNING/COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 11:32 AM

FEB 14 2024

RECEIVED

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

2071-0-5	Weymouth	BRA.O	BRA.373
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Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Kathleen Kelly Broomer, consultant
Organization: Braintree Historical Commission
Date (month / year): April 2014

Town/City: Braintree
Place: (neighborhood or village): North Braintree
Address: 338 Elm St
Historic Name: St. Thomas More School
Uses: Present: institutional - school
Original: institutional - school
Date of Construction: 1956
Source: Public Safety plans
Style/Form: Postwar Traditional
Architect/Builder: William B. Colleary
Exterior Material:
Foundation: concrete
Wall/Trim: brick
Roof: tar and gravel

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (with dates):

vinyl replacement windows (late 20th cent.)

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 14.9 acres

Setting: largely residential area immediately east of Braintree Square and Route 3 highway corridor, and north of Monaquot River and MBTA Greenbush line; mostly landlocked wooded parcel uncommonly large for the neighborhood, with brook running along west property line; building faces northeast

RECEIVED
APR 30 2014
MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAINTREE

338 ELM ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA. O

BRA.373

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. District only – see BRA O for 1998 criteria statement form
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 features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

In 1998, the three buildings encompassing St. Thomas More parish complex (church, rectory, and school) were inventoried during a comprehensive survey conducted by the Braintree Historical Commission. This narrative updates the school description drafted in 1998. For additional information, see MHC area form for St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex (BRA.O).

The façade of the school building is oriented northeast, toward the driveway approach from Blanchard Avenue. The orientation of the school on the parcel places the rear elevation facing the church to the southwest, perhaps with the intention that the parking lot in between would serve both buildings. The school parcel, while identified by Braintree assessors with the address of 338 Elm Street, is also known in the community as 22 Blanchard Avenue.

The exterior of the school does not appear to have changed since 1998, though the architectural style of the building would now be classified in MHC's MACRIS database as Postwar Traditional. Character-defining features of the design include the brick walls and relatively regular fenestration pattern, displayed in a 3-6-6-1 configuration of bays, as viewed from the northeast. Installation of the present metal window sash has compromised the historic integrity of the building, and the gabled entrance porch, as noted in the 1998 inventory form, is an addition, likely dating to the last quarter of the 20th century. For these reasons, the former St. Thomas More School, while contributing to the small National Register-eligible historic district recommended for the St. Thomas More parish buildings in 1998, is not recommended for individual listing in the National Register.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

St. Thomas More School was previously recorded with an MHC area inventory form, along with the church and parish school. This narrative amends the 1998 form. See BRA.O for additional details on the history of the parish buildings.

St. Thomas More parish was established in April 1938 to serve Roman Catholics residing in the central and northern sections of Braintree. Until 1903, Braintree was part of the Quincy parish. Priests from St. John's, Quincy, served Braintree Catholics at the mission church of St. Francis of Assisi, dedicated in 1879 at South Braintree. Following the creation of a separate parish of St. Francis of Assisi in 1903, a new church was built at 850 Washington Street, South Braintree, in 1911, and expanded in 1927 (see BRA.H). A mission church at East Braintree, served from St. Francis Xavier's, South Weymouth, was apparently abandoned about 1912 after the establishment of St. Francis parish. Continued growth of Braintree's population – from 6,879 in 1905 to 16,378 in 1940 – led to the formation of St. Thomas More as the town's second Catholic parish. [Lord, iii, 324, 713]

St. Thomas More School was staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, one of the orders of women religious most frequently represented in schools within the Archdiocese of Boston. The Jechonias Thayer House, 216 Elm Street (see form) served as the convent. St. Thomas More School reportedly closed in 1969.

Architect of the school building, William B. Colleary (1890-1973), was a Marlborough native and graduate of the College of the Holy Cross (1913) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1917). He received first prize (a gold medal) from the Société des Architectes Diplomes of France for his design of a memorial to artists who died in France during World War I. He reportedly worked in offices of the Boston church architect firms of Maginnis & Walsh and T. Edward Sheehan. Colleary was briefly a member of the American Institute of Architects, from 1934 to 1937. His other school designs in Massachusetts include Pleasant Street School, Marlborough (1924, MRB.87); St. Stephen School, 25 Clinton Street, Framingham (1930, FRM.242); and

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BRAintree

338 ELM ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BRA. O

BRA.373

St. James the Apostle School, 20 Acton Street, Arlington (1949, ARL.1388). Colleary also served as architect on St. Ann Church, 755 Hancock Street, Quincy (1940, QUI.474), and the church basement for St. Mary of the Hills Church, 29 St. Mary's Road, Milton (1934, MLT.693).

The school building has been occupied in recent years by the May Institute, a nonprofit organization providing education, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other needs.

St. Thomas More parish is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- MHC. Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church Complex, <http://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhclid=BRA.O>. 1998.
- . Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). Database search for Colleary.
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- AIA Historical Directory of American Architects*. Via www.aia.org. Retrieved January 2014.
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- Lord, Robert H., John E. Sexton, and Edward T. Harrington. *History of the Archdiocese of Boston in the Various Stages of its Development, 1604 to 1943*. 3 vols. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1944.
- St. Thomas More parish web site, <http://www.stmparish.org>. Retrieved January 2014.