

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CHI.171
Historic Name:	Saint George's French Catholic Church
Common Name:	
Address:	7 Belcher St East Main and Belcher Sts
City/Town:	Chicopee
Village/Neighborhood:	Chicopee Falls
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1923
Architect(s):	Fuguere, George H.; Roy, Albert J.
Architectural Style(s):	Neo Gothic Revival
Use(s):	Church
Significance:	Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Glass; Sandstone



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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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Chic Falls
USGS - SPRING, N
SELT - B

CH1171

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	171



Chicopee

East Main and Belcher Streets

Historic Name St. George's French Catholic Church

Present Church

Original "

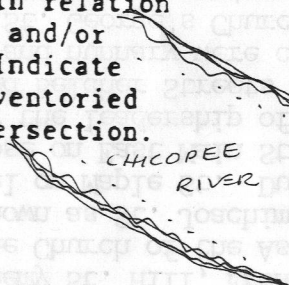
DESCRIPTION:

1923

SKETCH MAP

Roll #110 2/2

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Source newspaper clippings

Style late Gothic Revival

Architect George H. Fugere

Exterior wall fabric brick and sandstone

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting on high, well-landscaped rise over looking Chicopee River and Chicopee Falls.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Office of Community Development

Date February 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

Since 1923 the tall Gothicized tower of St. George's church has been a major Chicopee Falls landmark. Constructed of red sandstone and brick, this late Gothic Revival Church's components include (in addition to the tower) a projecting vestibule, long nose with (clerestory), transept and apse. In general its walls are pieced by pointed arch and quatre foil windows with heavy sandstone moldings. Butt rises appear at the tower. The main on Belcher St. entrances exhibits three deeply recessed pointed arch openings.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

After the Civil War, French Canadians came to Chicopee in great numbers to work in the textile mills and other Chicopee River valley industries. As early as 1871 the first French Catholic parish was organized in Chicopee. By 1885 a Canadian American parish had been established on Academy St. Hill, Front St. on what is now the site of Chicopee High School, known as the Church of the Assumption, it burned in 1912. St. George's parish was originally known as St. Joachim. Organized in 1893, it was originally located in a small chapel on Maple St. During the early 1890's this parish the Greek Revival Pliny Cadwell House on East Main St. to serve as a rectory. The first pastor was Alexis Delphos under the leadership of Father Gagnon. The present Gothic Revival building at East Main and Belcher Streets was erected at a cost of \$225,000 - at that time a parochial school and nunnary were completed on the property. St. George's was dedicated in 1923. St. George's Church was designed by George H. Fugere of George H. Fugere and Sons, architects and enginners, 112 Main St. Chicopee Falls.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Maps/Atlases 1885, 1894, 1912
Chicopee Public Library files - "Religion"
Springfield Public Library files

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town

Property Address

Chicopee East Main St.

Area(s)

Form No.

CHIT 171



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF INSPECTION
PLAN RECORD

CASE 0 RACK 2 APART. 10 NO. 79121 alt.

BUILDING St. George's Church STORIES

CITY OR TOWN Chicopee STREET -

TO BE USED FOR church purposes CLASS

OWNER St. George's Church

ARCHITECT Albert J. Roy - Boston

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL - SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS - REFERRED

DATE 10/15/52

INSPECTOR J.E. Powers

FORM BU.1 5M-4-48-23404