

PH0681563

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians (Maria Hilf Chapel)

AND/OR COMMON

Maria Hilf Chapel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4125 Union Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cheektowaga

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

38

STATE

New York

CODE

036

COUNTY

Erie

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish

STREET & NUMBER

4125 Union Road

CITY, TOWN

Cheektowaga

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Erie County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

25 Delaware Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo -

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NYS Inventory of Historic Resources

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

NYS Office of Parks and Rec., Div. for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Maria Hilf^f Chapel is situated on a limestone ridge in the town of Cheektowaga, seven miles east of downtown Buffalo, New York. There are seven buildings including Maria Hilf Chapel on the nine-acre plot of land. Joseph Batt, built the original chapel in 1853 to fulfill a vow made to Our Lady Help of Christians (Maria Hilf) on November 29, 1836, during a hurricane in the North Atlantic. The chapel is a one-story detached building with a small, rectangular brick sanctuary and a larger rectangular limestone nave. Only the Chapel is proposed for listing on the National Register.

The chapel was built in three sections: the sanctuary in 1853, the front half of the nave in 1871, and the back half of the nave and western elevation in 1926.

The original chapel, 22 by 25 feet, is constructed of handmade brick painted gray. Every seventh course is a binding course with alternating stretcher and header. There are two round arch windows in each side wall.

The nave, 35 by 78 feet, is constructed from native limestone laid in random ashlar with an occasional leveling course, with semi-circular raised pointing. The appearance is rustic. The limestone of the 1871 section is light gray with a fine texture, whereas the limestone of the 1926 section derives from an entirely different stratum and contains much chert. Six round arch windows in each wall of the nave carry forward the theme of the sanctuary. The sills are cut limestone. The gable roof has a box cornice and is higher than the low gable roof of the sanctuary. The roofing is asphalt strip shingles. There is a limestone chimney on the southern elevation.

The western elevation of the chapel is fine limestone in coursed ashlar. The whole of the elevation is flanked by two large attached round columns which support a classical cornice surmounted by a green copper-sheathed belfrey and cupola. The pediment is stuccoed. The central, round arch doorway is approached through a shallow porch with a gabled roof supported by two engaged columns. Centered above the entrance is a large rose window. Two larger than life gilded statues of Mary occupy canopied niches to either side of the entrance.

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Erie County

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Along the north facade of the 1871 section stands a stone Lourdes Grotto contiguous with, but not attached to, the wall of the nave. Along the north facade of the 1926 section a huge iron mission cross is attached to the wall. At the foot of the cross is a white iron Pieta dating from 1868.

The interior of the chapel is characteristic of an Alsatian village church. Round arch windows, barrel vaulted ceiling, frescos and pictures and stained glass windows lend a warm and intimate atmosphere. The walls of the nave are crowded with statues and stations of the cross which add to the heavy ornamentation. A distinctive feature is the evidence of the once numerous votive offerings of arms, legs, hearts, heads, polio braces and crutches associated with the Maria Hilf Pilgrimage. The votive picture of Maria Hilf was painted in 1869 by Godfrey Frohe, a Bavarian artist of local fame. It is encased in the truncated reredos of the altar. The votive statue of the Pieta occupies a prominent place.

The appearance of the front elevation of the original brick chapel remains unknown. It was removed at the time of the 1871 expansion and no drawings or pictures have been found. The western elevation of the 1871 addition to the chapel was limestone in random ashlar. The middle third of the elevation was occupied by a central round arch door, above which were three round arch lancet windows, the central window taller than the other two. In the center of the gable was a quatrefoil window in a circular frame.

With each enlargement new pews were fashioned, but the original mobiliary from 1853 and examples of the 1871 pews have been preserved in the choir loft. Stained glass windows of superb quality were installed in 1904 by Godfrey Frohe.

Before the renovation of the interior in 1926, the walls were covered with frescos, votive sculptures, and votive pictures which reflected the Alsatian origin of the chapel and pilgrimage. After the renovation, the votive pictures were displaced by statues, which, along with six additional stained glass windows, reveal the influence of many ethnic groups. These subtle but significant alterations demonstrate the cosmopolitan appeal of the chapel and pilgrimage since the turn of the century.

Sacristies added to the east and south walls of the original chapel do not significantly alter the building and could be removed since they no longer serve a useful function.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1853, 1871, 1926 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Batt (1853)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Foit and Baschnagel (1926)
Architectural Firm
George Kempf and Sons, Buffalo
(Builder)

The Maria Hilf Chapel is significant for its historic associations with the great period of European immigration to America and more particularly with the Alsatian settlement in western New York.

Joseph Batt was a leader of the local Alsatian community. He built the chapel in 1853 to fulfill a vow made to Our Lady Help of Christians (Maria Hilf) on November 29, 1836, when the sailing ship Mary Ann was near foundering in a hurricane in the North Atlantic.^{1,2} The story of the storm, of the vow, and of the safe arrival is legendary in western New York. No sooner was the chapel completed than a pilgrimage evolved. The Maria Hilf Pilgrimage is now in its 125th year. The original Pieta and the original votive painting of Maria Hilf maintain the symbolic and historic continuity with the medieval Alsatian pilgrimage at Marienthal.³

The chapel served a dual purpose as a religious center for the rural Alsatian settlement and as an immigrant pilgrimage shrine for the urban Alsations, Germans, Poles and Italians. Each succeeding group of Continental Catholic European immigrants was attracted by the familiar Maria Hilf Pilgrimage and by the atmosphere of the chapel which was reminiscent of their homeland. This was a significant factor in easing ethnic tensions and promoting the assimilation of Polish and Italian immigrants into a predominately German community.

¹"Observations by Bellville at Greenwich, London, in November, 1836", Letter (AF/M.439/67) from Mr. P.J. Meade, Director of Services Meteorological Office, London Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG122SZ, December 7, 1970.

²London Times, December 6, 1836.

³Andre Marcel Burg, Marienthal Tome III; Alsatia Monastica. Phalsbourg; Societe d'Histoire de l'Eglise d'Alsace, 1959.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 less than 1

12/5/78
Lebouch

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	6 8 33.00	47 5.4 ⁸³⁰ 80.0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Chapel is eccentrically located on the southwest quadrant of a nine acre plot of land bounded on the west by Union Road, on the north by Genesee Street, on the east by Smith Street and on the south by a single row of houses separating the property from Chapel Avenue.

see telephone log

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Ronald E. Batt, edited by Claire L. Ross

ORGANIZATION

NYS Parks and Rec., Div. for Historic Preservation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Agency Bldg. #1, Empire State Plaza

TELEPHONE

(518)474-0479

CITY OR TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XXX

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

R. Batt

TITLE Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

DATE

Aug. 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/14/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Bill Lebouch*

DATE

Dec 5, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Erie County

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PAGE 2

The chapel also served as a viable alternative to the "heroic" medical practice of the mid-nineteenth century. The practice of bleeding, blistering, puking, and purging prevalent at the time⁴ was rejected in favor of the gentler ministrations of popular religion as the many votive offerings attest. Waxen, wooden, and plaster representations of arms, legs, hearts, and heads were left as evidence of relief from illness and injury through the intercession of Maria Hilf. Polio braces and crutches hanging on the walls of the chapel are relics of this popular religious practice which continued well into the middle of the twentieth century.

The architectural significance of the 1853 Maria Hilf Chapel lies in the unique contrast between its American exterior and Alsatian interior. While the plain exterior of the building blended inconspicuously with the contemporary Greek Revival church architecture of the mid-nineteenth century western New York, the busy interior with round arch windows, barrel vaulted ceiling, wooden church mobiliary, frescos and pictures recreated the atmosphere of an Alsatian village church.

The architecture of the chapel vividly reflects the mid-nineteenth century psychology of the original Alsatian immigrants of 1828-1838. Externally they had adapted to American ways, but internally they clung to their centuries-old traditions and customs.

The 1871 addition of the nave, a much larger and taller limestone structure, reflects the growth of the chapel to accommodate regular religious services. Still, in 1871, the old traditions persisted, preserving the contrast between the exterior and the interior of the building. In 1926, the third and final section of the chapel was built and the chapel interior was renovated.

The architectural significance of the chapel as it now stands lies in its preservation of all of the essential contrasting American and Alsatian features of the original brick chapel, along with the decorative and architectural alterations which reflect the multi-national significance of the chapel and the pilgrimage. The eclectic appearance of the front-mixing of a classical pediment with a Gothic

⁴Austin Flint, ed., Buffalo Medical Journal. Buffalo, NY. Volume II, 1846.

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rose window, and an Italian Renaissance porch; the imposing German Kreuzberg (Mount Calvary Shrine), the small French Lourdes Grotto, stained glass windows reflecting the Irish devotion to Saint Patrick and the Italian devotion to Saint Joseph, the Polish icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the statue of Saint Stanislaus, and the Hungarian Infant of Prague - are all architectural or decorative modifications of the Alsatian original which show the use and adaption of the chapel by successive immigrant national groups.

The Maria Hilf Chapel, school and cemetery served as the focal point for repeated attempts at the establishment of a concentrated settlement in a rural township served by Buffalo and villages in adjacent townships. The chapel stands as one of the few remaining landmarks in a rural township now a densely populated suburb of Buffalo.

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BOOKS:

- Atwell, Glenn R. ed. Maria Hilf Chapel; Cultural, Historical and Architectural Significance. Cheektowaga, NY: By Town of Cheektowaga, 1978. (in editorial stage)
- Domas, Anna. Mary - U.S.A. Huntington, Ind.: Our Sunday Visitor Press, 1978. (in press)
- Donohue, Thomas. History of the Catholic Church in Western New York, Diocese of Buffalo. Buffalo: Catholic Historical Publishing Co., 1904.
- Donohue, Thomas. History of the Diocese of Buffalo. Buffalo: Buffalo Catholic Publication Co., 1929.
- Galvin, James J. Blessed John Neumann, Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. Baltimore: Helicon Press, 1964.
- Reukauf, Charles A., ed. Cheektowaga Cavalcade, The First Hundred Years 1839-1939. Cheektowaga, NY: By Town of Cheektowaga, 1939.
- Smith, H. Perry. ed. History of the City of Buffalo and Erie County. 2 volumes. Syracuse: D. Mason and Company, 1884.
- Strebler, Joseph. Alsaciens Au Texas: (Annexe I Histoire D'Un Emigrant Alsacien, Joseph Batt) Strasbourg: Culture Alsacienne, 1975.
- White, Truman C. ed. Erie County, New York. 2 volumes. Boston: Boston History Company, 1898.
- Zimpfer, George. The History of the Roman Catholic Parish of SS. Peter and Paul, Williamsville, NY. Williamsville, NY.: By the Parish, 5480 Main Street, 1936.

PAMPHLETS:

- "Erinnerung au die Wallfahrt nach der Maria Hilf Kapelle zu Cheektowaga, NY." Buffalo: Volksfreund Printing Co., 1889.
- "Krotki Rys Historji Zalozenia Kaplicy Matki Boskiej Nieustajacej, w Cheektowaga, NY." Buffalo: Dziennika, 1930.

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"Ricordo del Pellegrinaggio alla Cappella della Madonna dell 'Aiuto dei Cristiani a Cheektowaga, NY." Buffalo: c. 1952.

"Souvenir of the Pilgrimage to the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians at Cheektowaga, NY." Buffalo: Volksfreund Printing Co., 1901.

Zimpfer, George. "History of the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, Cheektowaga, New York." in Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel Church. Cheektowaga, NY. By the Parish, 4125 Union Road, 1959.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

Batt, Ronald E. "Joseph Batt and The Chapel, A Biographical Sketch of an Alsatian Immigrant." Niagara Frontier, 23:49, 1976. Publications of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Vol. 58, Buffalo, 1976.

Ricker, George A. "The Buffalo and Depew Railways: Street Railway Review, reprint from June 15, 1901.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Buffalo Courier. "Maria Hilf Chapel, A Second Lourdes, Near the City of Buffalo," May 13, 1894.

Buffalo Express. "Buffalo Shrines and Pilgrimages - Two Churches famous in the same way as the Shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre. - Tokens Left by Pilgrims - Our Lady Help of Christians, at Cheektowaga, and the Church of the Fourteen Holy Helpers." January 28, 1906.

MANUSCRIPTS:

Fischer, Joseph. "History of the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians" Unpublished handwritten manuscript in leatherbound book entitled Historia Missionis, Cheektowaga, NY. March 17, 1893.

Link, Leo G. "History of the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians." July, 1946.

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Erie County

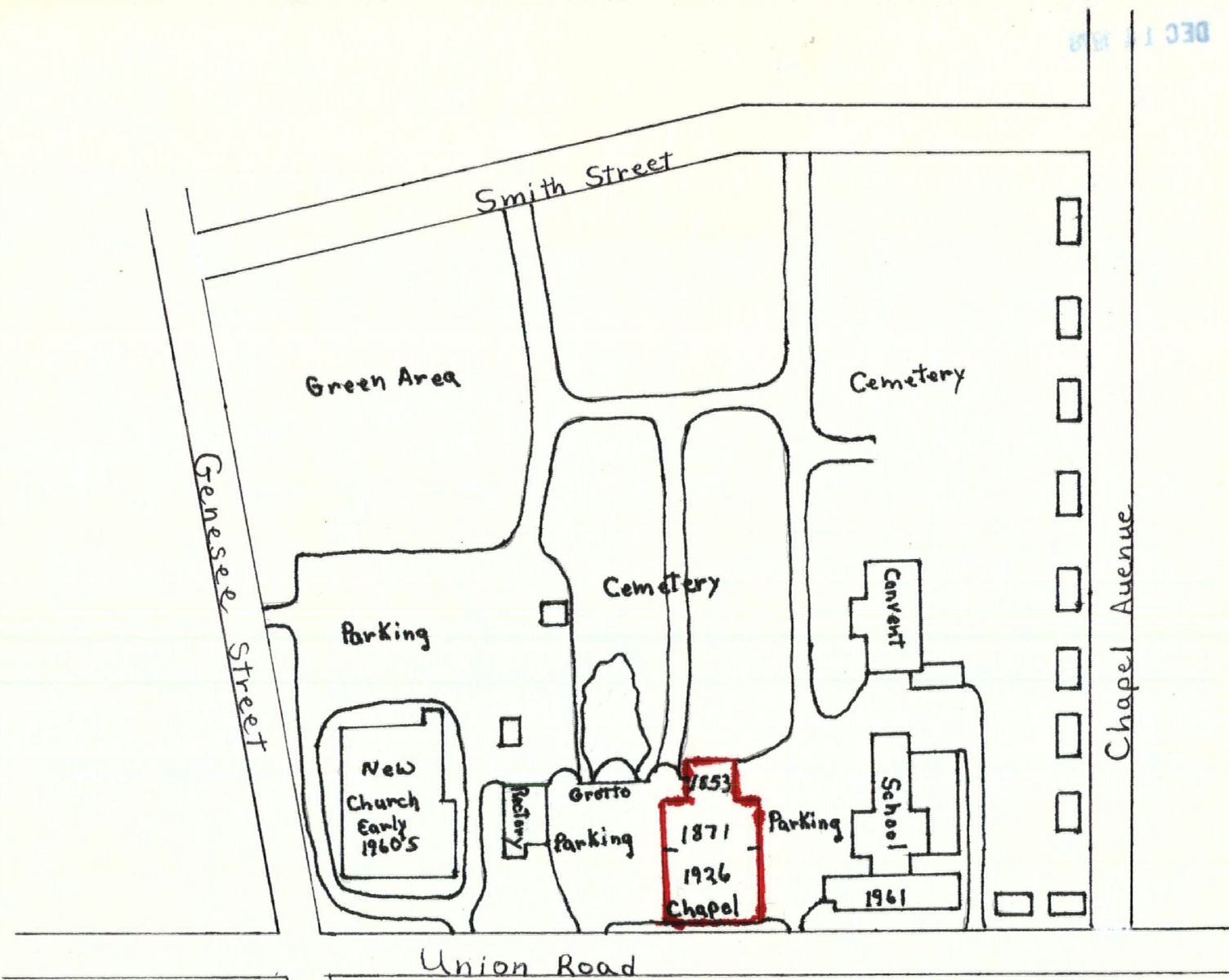
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Pax, George. "Episcopal Regulations and Other Rules and Statements About Batt's Chapel, Situated in the Town of Cheektowaga in the Boundaries of Williamsville Mission. June 27, 1871 before The Ecclesiastical Committee and Bishop Ryan."

(Copies of manuscripts are available at:)

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society
25 Nottingham Court
Buffalo, New York 14216



N ←

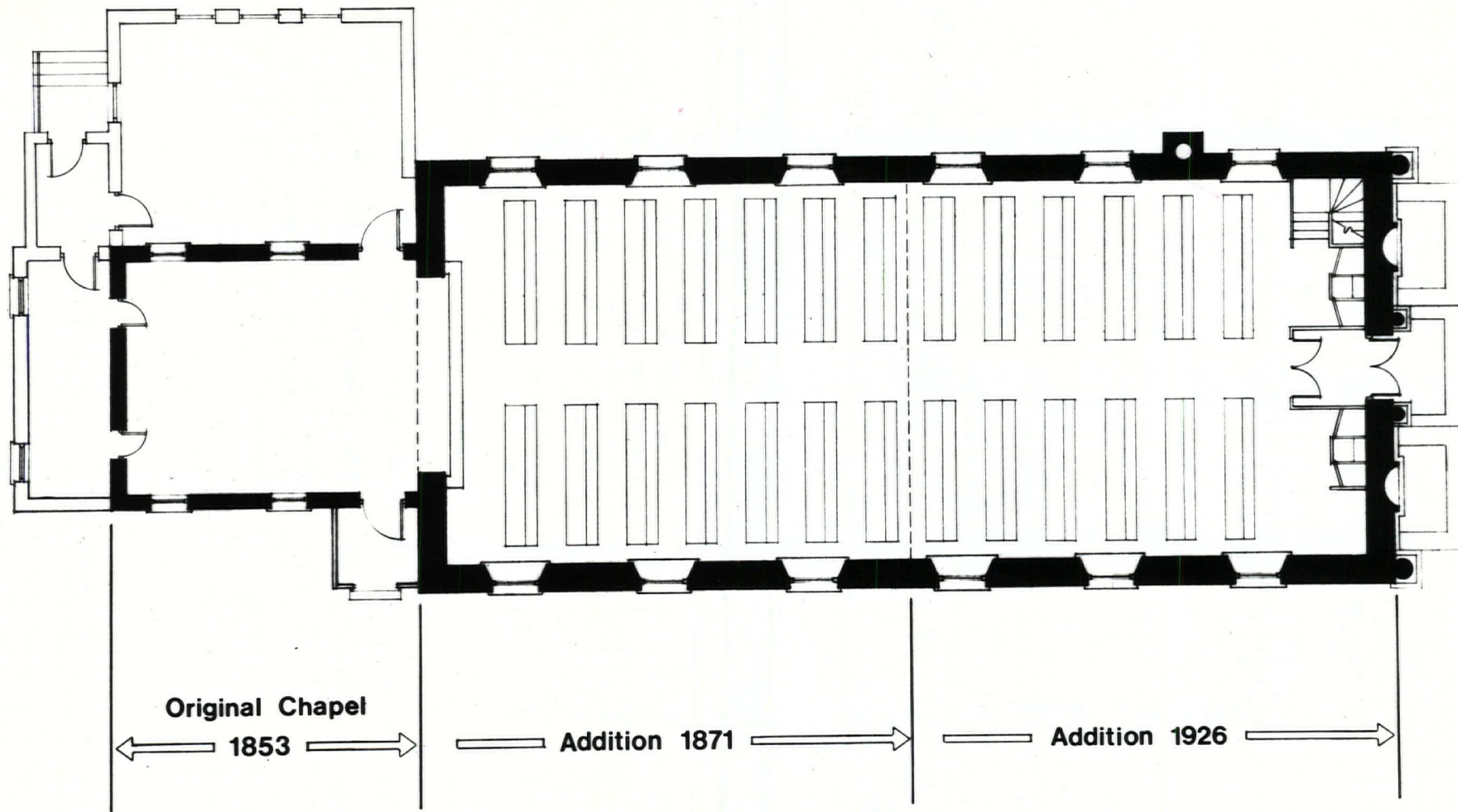
not drawn to scale



CHAPEL OF OUR LADY
HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CHEEKTOWAGA
ERIE COUNTY
NEW YORK

DEC 14 1978





Original Chapel

1853

Addition 1871

Addition 1926



5 0 5 10 15
SCALE FEET

Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga
Erie County, New York

DEC 14 1978

AUG 9 1978

Property Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians

State N. Y.

Working Number 8.9.78.3767

73001951

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

*# 12 notes date
nothing incorrect*

CONTROL

OK- 8.10.78

HISTORIAN

*Why are 9 acres nominated? After
2nd review, will call*

*Franklin
8.16.78*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*The total complex is probably
eligible - but the acreage needs to be
reduced if only the chapel is included.*

*Blarman
8.16.78*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*I would like to see entire complex's
eligibility addressed, but, chapel is
definitely of architectural and historical
significance for association for immigrant
group reflecting European church design.*

*Accept
Lebovich
12/5/78*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

2-6-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

DEC 14 1978

INT:2106-74



1. Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians ^{F1}
Cheektowaga, Erie County
Photo by: J. Boczarski, 1975
Neg. At: Cheektowaga Historical Society,
Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, 14225
View: West side - front elevation

DEC 14 1978

AUG 9 1978



2. Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie county
Photo by: J. Boczarski, 1975
Neg. At: Cheektowaga Historical Society
Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, NY, 14225
View: Looking southeast.

DEC 14 1978

AUG 9 1978



3. Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christian
Cheektowaga, Erie County
Photo by: "Drisch", 1974
Neg. At: "Drisch" studio
View: Interior-sanctuary, original
chapel.

DEC 14 1978 AUG 9 1978

WHEN ORDERING,
PLEASE USE THIS NUMBER:
NEG. No.

000243 / 5

Please Credit Photographs

"DRISCH"

311 BRYANT STREET

BUFFALO, N. Y. 14222 883-9322



WHEN ORDERING,
PLEASE USE THIS NUMBER:

I. C. No.

000243

44

4. Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie County
Photo by: "Drisch," 1974
Neg. At: "Drisch" studio
View: Interior-Choir loft.

DEC 14 1978

AUG 9 1978

Please Credit Photographs
"DRISCH"

311 BRYANT STREET 888-9322
BUFFALO, N. Y. 14222

MARIA HELP CHAPEL
CHEEKTOWAGA, ERIE CO. N.Y.



MARIA HELP CHAPEL
CHEEKTOWAGA, ERIE CO. N.Y.

5. Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie County
Photo by: "Drisch," 1974
Neg. At: "Drisch" studio
View: Wrought iron altar gates.

DEC 14 1978

AUG 9 1978

Please Credit Photographs

"DRISCH"

211 BRYANT STREET

W. N. Y. 14222 883-9322



Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie County

Photo Credit: Claire L. Ross 8/78

Neg. Filed: NYS Parks & Recreation
Division for Historic Preservation

View: Looking south



Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie County

Photo Credit: Claire L. Ross 8/78

Neg. Filed: NYS Parks & Recreation
Division for Historic Preservation

View: West side front elevation



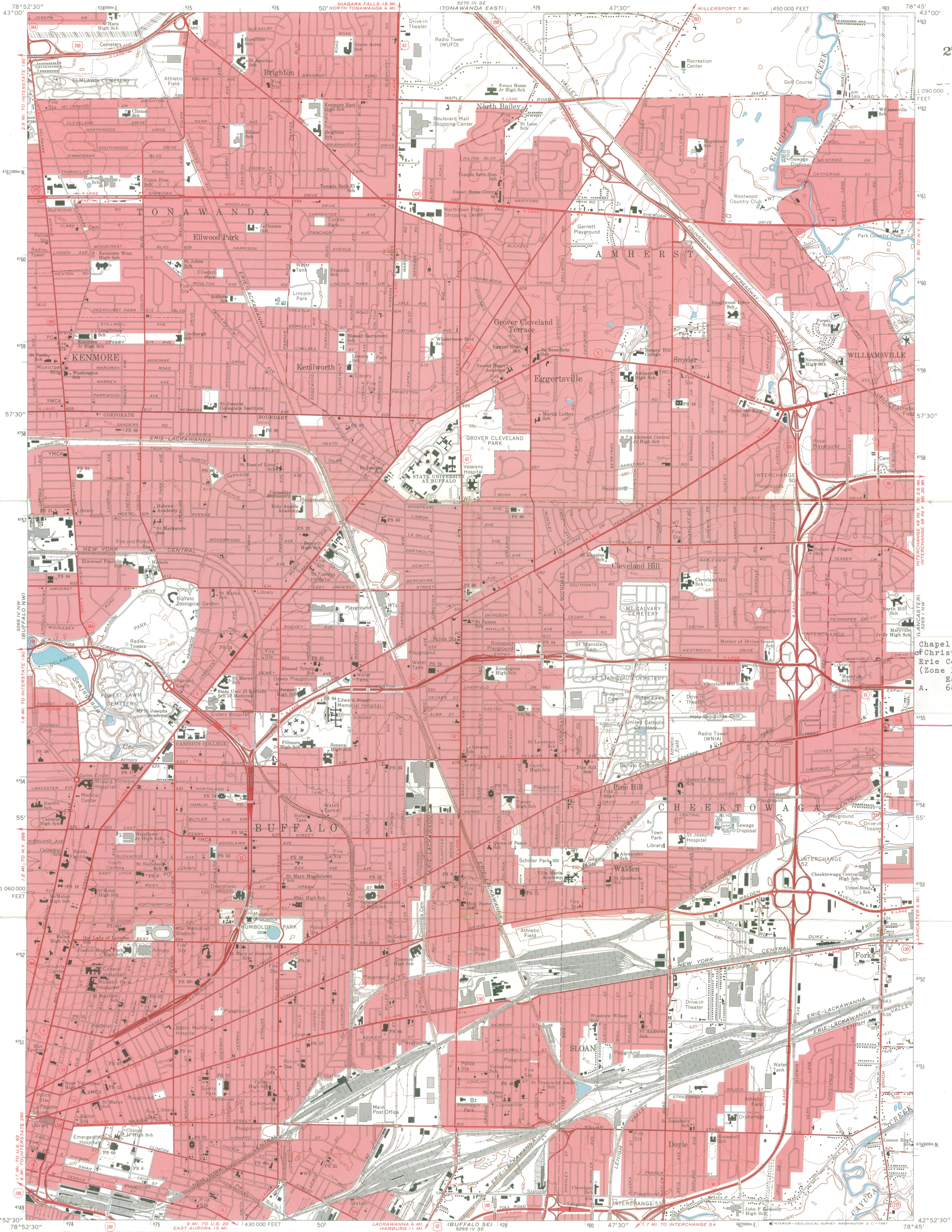
Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians
Cheektowaga, Erie County

Photo Credit: Claire Ross

8/78

Neg. Filed: NYS Parks and Recreation
Division for Historic Preservation

View: Interior - Sanctuary, original chapel



Chapel of Our Lady Help
of Christians, Cheektowaga
Erie County, New York
(Zone 17)
A. Easting 683300 Northing 475100

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with New York Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, USCS&GS, USCE, and U.S. Lake Survey
Planimetry compiled by U.S. Corps of Engineers from aerial photographs taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1948. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
- Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route

RECEIVED
AUG 9 1978
NATIONAL REGISTER
DEC 14 1978

BUFFALO NE, N. Y.
NE/4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7845.7.5

1965
AMS 5269 IV NE—SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12281, Information 518 474-0456
Orin Lehman, Commissioner

July 31, 1978



Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the Register
Dept. of Interior
18th and C. Streets
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Chapel of Our Lady Help
of Christians
Erie County

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Due to the urgency of this nomination for the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians, photographs taken in 1975-6 have been enclosed with the form. The stone wall in front of the chapel's west elevation has since been removed, but it was not part of this nomination. New photographs will be taken in August for our files and we will forward a set to the National Register as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Claire L. Ross

Claire L. Ross
Program Assistant
Historic Preservation
Field Services

CLR/rbp
Enc.

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians

TO/FROM: Larry Johnson

DATE: 12/4/78

ADDRESS: NY SHPO Staff

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: L. Beutze

DIVISION: NR

REPORT:

As stated in last sentence, 1st paragraph of Part 1, only Chapel itself is nominated.

Acres listed in part 10 (9 acres) is wrong. Change to "less than one. VBD stands because refers to chapel being located on a piece of property which is 9 acres, but sketch map is intended to show that only the chapel itself is nominated.

NAME OF PROPERTY Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christian STATE New York

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: _____

8 Statement of Significance: _____

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: Please send justification of acreage [see Other]

UTM Reference(s): _____

Verbal Boundary Description: _____

12 Certification: _____

Photographic Coverage: _____

Map Coverage: _____

Other: If only the chapel is nominated, please reduce boundaries to immediate structure. If entire complex is included, please send list and description of structures included

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Lucy B. Franklin on the National Register staff, telephone 202 343-6407

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Date: _____

Chief, Branch of Registration

INT:2105-74

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered DEC 14 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Grace and Thomaston Buildings	Great Neck Plaza Nassau County
Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians	Cheektowaga Erie County
Gilsey Hotel	New York New York County

Also Notified

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan
Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Honorable Lester L. Wolfe
Honorable Neal Green
Honorable Jack Kemp

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

DATE: 1/17/72		NUMBER: POR- 6783	
FROM: N.E.P. Jack M.C. 1/17/72		REMARKS: Reply For Sig of GARY CATRON of CA	
DESIGNATION: CATRON			
RFRD: OAHP	RFRD:	RFRD:	RFRD:
DATE: 1/17	DATE:	DATE:	DATE:
SUBJECT: RE: Maria Hilf Chapel to the NRMF C 1/17 12		ACK'D:	
		DATE REPLY DUE: 1/23	
		SIGNED:	
BOR 8 - 12a DEC. 1971		BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION	

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
1/9/79

BUREAU HCRS

Please prepare response for signature of Gary R. Catron, Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Include a copy of your final response for CL files.

DUE DATE January 24, 1979

CL-Room 6253
x6667

JACK KEMP
38TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

RANDAL TEAGUE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

LOU ROTTERMAN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WASHINGTON OFFICE.
2244 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202: 225-5265

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1101 FEDERAL BUILDING
111 WEST HURON STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202
AREA CODE 716: 846-4123

ED RUTKOWSKI
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 4, 1979

Gary R. Catron
Assistant to the Secretary and
Director of Congressional and
Legislative Affairs
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

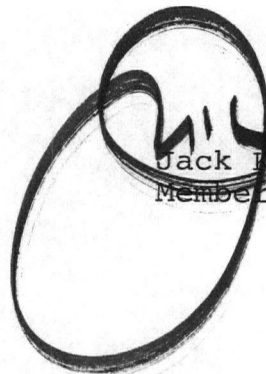
Dear Mr. Catron:

As you may recall, I have written to you previously in regard to the nomination of the Maria Hilf Chapel to the National Register of Historic Places. It has been brought to my attention that the Chapel has been included in the Register, and it is my hope that you will be able to confirm that fact.

Should this be true, I would be most grateful if the Chapel Historian, Mike Burzynski, could receive the appropriate documents by March 25, since this is the date for the Town of Cheektowaga and the Chapel dedication. It would be most appreciated if the plaque designating the Chapel as an historic landmark could be present at that time.

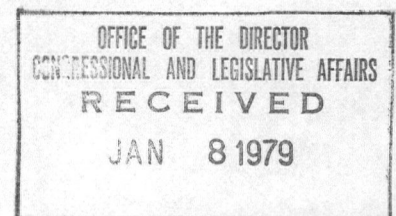
I thank you for your cooperation in this important event and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Jack Kemp
Member of Congress

BCR Mail Control No. POB 6783

JK:sg



Lightner
1-31-79

Lebovich
for
Benington

Anty
1/31/79
Connelly
2-1-79

2/13/79

Honorable Jack Kemp
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Kemp:

Thank you for your inquiry of January 4, 1979, concerning the nomination of the Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians (Maria Hilf Chapel), Erie County, New York, to the National Register of Historic Places. We are pleased to inform you that this property was entered in the National Register on December 14, 1978.

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service does not have a program to present plaques to properties listed in the National Register. However, the New York State historic preservation office does prepare certificates suitable for framing. These certificates, along with a copy of the National Register form, are forwarded to the Regional State Parks and Recreation Commission which arranges a presentation ceremony.

We have informed the New York State historic preservation office of the March 25, 1979, Chapel dedication and have been told that the certificate for the Maria Hilf Chapel is being prepared. In addition, we were told that the Regional State Parks and Recreation Commission would be pleased to coordinate the presentation with Mr. Burzynski.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know. I appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Catron

Gary R. Catron
Assistant to the Secretary
and Director of Congressional
and Legislative Affairs

A/S FWA 2/5/79

cc: Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

bcc: Secretary's File
Secretary's Reading File (2)
FW
Director's Reading File
Associate Director, Connally
Chief, OAHP
FHR-Lumpkin
FHR-CL
CL
NR
POR - 6783

FHR:S Lightner:WCC:1/26/79:343-6401

Retyped:FHR:S Lightner:lw:1-30-79:343-6401

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register:
Chapel of Our Lady Help of Christians

② OTHER NAMES:
Maria Hilf Chapel

③ date of entry:
DEC 14 1978

④ county code:
29

⑤ LOCATION street & number
4125 Union Rd.

city / town
Cheektowaga

vicinity of

state
NY

county
Erie

⑥ NPS REGION:
NA

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)

⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL

⑩ FUNDED? YES NO

⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 38th

⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?
 YES, NAME NO

⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?
 YES, NAME NO

⑮ ACREAGE

if state who prepared form?
Dr. Ronald E. Batt

LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/> excavated	

⑰ features:

<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0
<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9

INTERIOR

EXTERIOR

ENVIRONS

⑱ ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown

⑲ ADAPTIVE USE YES NO

⑳ SAVED? YES

IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVT.-21	<input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22	<input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8	<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23	<input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
<input type="checkbox"/> ART-5	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30	
			<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25	

㉒ CLAIMS: explain

'first'

'oldest'

'only'

㉓ functions

WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:

CURRENTLY:

㉔ dates of initial construction:

major alterations:

historic events:

㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s):

㉗ architect:

㉘ master builder:

㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:

㉛ interior decorator:

㉜ artist:

㉝ artisan:

㉞ builder/contractor:

㉟ NAMES give role & date

PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP