

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

The Immaculate Conception Church was built in the style of the Early Gothic Revival. Features of the Church design which are characteristic of the style are the pinnacles and window tracery. The tracery is of wood and is of a simple pattern formed by twin arches within the arch of the window. The lancet windows, without tracery, are English. Most medieval prototypes are English during this period. Buildings of the Early Gothic Revival are often of wood, but when of brick they are typically covered with mastic to produce a monochromatic effect. This was the case in the Immaculate Conception Church, although the mastic has been removed. Today the church is painted brick red. (cont.)

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

In 1851, John H. Nichols purchased land on Green Street for the construction of a Catholic Church. The land formerly belonged to Moses E. Hale and John Osgood. The property was then conveyed to Bishop Fitzpatrick of Boston for the Catholics of Newburyport. The cornerstone of the church was laid on April 27, 1852, by Bishop Fitzpatrick. The church was constructed to the design of Peter C. Keely, at a cost of \$20,000.00. It was dedicated on St. Patrick's Day 1853, without bell deck, bell or spire. The contractor was Albert Currier of Newburyport. The painter was Peter McQuade of Albany.

The spire and bell deck were constructed 20 years later. It was also designed by Peter C. Keely of New York, and was built by Mr. Wigglesworth of Boston, Mass., at a cost of \$5,000.00. The bell itself was from the foundry of McNeely and Company of West Troy, New York. It was hung March 15, 1874. In 1877, the doors on the front of the church were enlarged to provide adequate egress. The architect for the alteration was James Murphy, of Providence, R. I. and the cost was \$1,275.00.

The chapel adjacent to the church was built in 1881.

In 1903, the interior of the church was painted and decorated by Lorenzo Scattaglia, of Philadelphia. A New altar was installed at that time. It was of white marble and replaced on which had been placed in the church in 1879. The earlier altar was purchased from Charles E. Hall of Boston, Mass.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

D. Hurd, History of Essex County  
Assessor's Records

J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, Vols. I and II,  
reprint, Newburyport 1977.

Newburyport Daily News, August 11, 1954, May 2, 1903.

Newburyport Daily Herald, June 20, 1879.

Newburyport Daily Evening Union, March 17, 1853.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 330
Property Name: 40 Green Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.  
Immaculate Conception Church

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

The Immaculate Conception Church has been active in education since 1879 when they built a school on the corner of Court and Washington Streets. The church also had infant schools in the North and South ends. In 1954, the church built three new buildings to house a grammar school, high school and auditorium.

The architect who designed the Immaculate Conception Church was Mr. Peter C. Keely of Brooklyn. He was well known for his church designs, also having designed the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, both in Boston's South End. In 1945, the original church spire was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt.

There are several Early Gothic Revival churches in Newburyport, including the Baptist Church at 26 Green Street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	330

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 224 Washington Street Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport

Address 40 Green Street

Historic Name Immaculate Conception Church

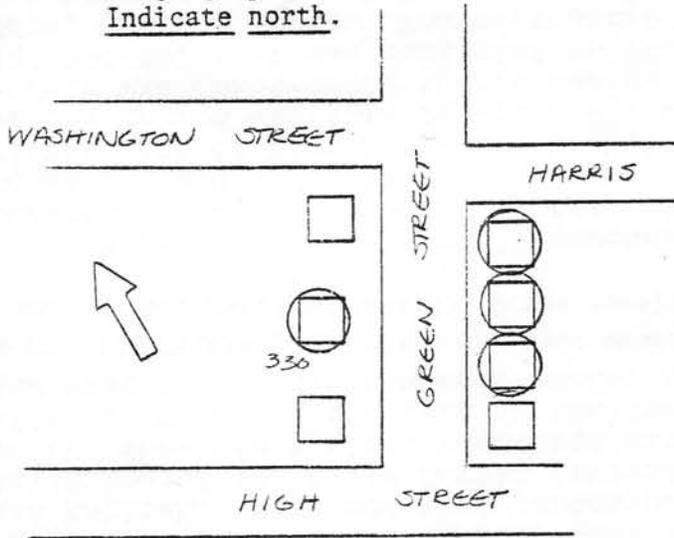
Original Church

Present Church

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization Immaculate Conception Church  
 Public

Original owner Immaculate Conception Church

Draw map showing location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1856

Source Hurd, "History of Essex County"

Style Early Gothic Revival

Architect Peter C. Keely

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings Chapel

Major alterations (with dates) Two original front doors enlarged and one door added

(1877). Mastic removed from brick (date unknown)

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 12,280 sq. ft.

Setting Church is set on Green Street in an area of Georgian and Federal domestic architecture, presently occupied by a mixture of residential and commercial interests.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 6-30-80

(Staple additional sheets here)