Inventory No: BOS.8324
Historic Name: Saint Gabriel's Monastery
Common Name: Boston College Dormitory
Address: 159 Washington St
City/Town: Boston
Village/Neighborhood: Allston - Brighton; Brighton
Local No: AB 515
Year Constructed:
Architect(s): Sheehan, T. Edward
Architectural Style(s): Spanish Eclectic
Use(s): Business Office; Classroom; Dormitory; Hospital; Monastery
Significance: Architecture; Education; Health Medicine; Religion
Area(s): BOS.KG: Washington - Warren Streets Institutional Area
Designation(s): Local Landmark (1/25/1989); Preservation Restriction (6/23/2003)
Building Materials(s): Roof: Ceramic Tile; Glazed Terra Cotta; Asphalt Shingle
Wall: Stucco; Brick; Ceramic Tile; Glass
Foundation: Stone, Cut

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

This file was accessed on: Monday, June 13, 2016 at 11:51 AM
Inventory No: BOS.8324

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FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
2. MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph

Sketch Map

Town: Brighton  Boston (Brighton)
Place (neighborhood or village): Brighton Center
Address: 159 Washington Street

Historic Name: St. Gabriel’s Monastery
Uses: Present: St. Elizabeth’s Foundation and Hospital offices
Original: Monastery for the Passionists, a Roman Catholic Religious Order
Date of Construction: 1909
Source: Corner stone
Style/Form: Mission
Architect/Builder: unknown
Exterior Materials:
  Foundation: Stone
  Wall/Trim: Stucco
  Roof: Spanish tile

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Fair
Moved □ no □ yes Date
Acreage: 14
Setting: Hospital campus and residential area.

RECEIVED
SEP 30 2006

MASS. HIST. COMM

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION □ see continuation sheet

St. Gabriel’s Monastery is built in the Mission-style of architecture, including red tile roofs with wide overhangs, porches with square columns with arched between, shaped Mission dormers and parapets, corner towers, and stucco coating.

St. Gabriel’s Monastery was approximately “T” in plan, along the north-south axis. The building is three-stories tall, built in various stages. One-story porches are located on the north and south elevations. The main and porch roofs are covered with red clay Spanish-type tile (the north porch roof is currently partially covered with asphalt shingles). A tower extends above the roof at the southeast corner of the building with shaped Mission parapets; other shaped Mission parapets extend above the roof in various areas. The walls of the monastery are stucco clad brick masonry, with a pinkish coating.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE □ see continuation sheet

In 1907 the Passionists received permission to establish a monastery in Boston. Father Fidelis Kent Stone, husband, father and widower, former Episcopal minister, President of Kenyon and Hobart Colleges, convert, Paulist priest and Passionist, pioneered the effort. In 1908 the Nevins Estate in Brighton was purchased. Dedicated in 1911, St. Gabriel’s Monastery, built with attention to Spanish architecture, was soon home to a small community of itinerant preachers and a public chapel where many came for spiritual consolation. St. Gabriel’s also served as a Passionist house of studies. From 1911 to 1978, St. Gabriel’s was home to a laymen’s retreat movement. A separate retreat wing was added to the monastery in 1927 and expanded in 1950. In the post-conciliar era this ministry grew and changed from a monastic style retreat to a team approach.

In 1928 a church was built on the property to replace the chapel. Weekly devotions in honor of Passionists saints, an outreach to the community, especially the many hospitals and public housing developments, and an option for the poor with parish projects have been important ministries over the decades.

From 1970 until 1977, a portion of the monastery served as the first Passionist health care facility. In 1978 the Passionists decided to close St. Gabriel’s Monastery due to financial concerns and lack of personnel. In 1980 it was sold to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. From the early 1980s until the late 1990s, a small Passionist community resided at St. Gabriel’s Residence, adjacent to the original property.

In 1934 St. Gabriel’s Parish was created, with offices in the monastery. In 1966 Our Lady of Fatima Shrine was built by the monastery community, but now the services are conducted by church and lay personnel. In 1967 a convent was completed for the parish school; however, by 1970 the school closed, the Sisters of St. Joseph moved, and the Passionist parish staff relocated in the convent. The school building has remained a vibrant site for alternative educational programs. In the 1970s a Spanish liturgy was initiated in the parish.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES □ see continuation sheet

The Passionist Historical Archives (website: www.cpprovince.org), 526 Monastery Place, Union City, NJ 07087.

□ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION Building Information Form Form No. AB515

ADDRESS Washington St. COR. Fidelis Way

NAME St. Gabriel's Passionist Monastery

MAP No. 23N-5E SUB AREA Brighton

DATE 1909 Building Permit

ARCHITECT J. Edward Sherman

BUILDER not listed

OWNER Brothers of the Passionist Order

PHOTOGRAPHS AB 11 4/1 4/2 78

TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 3 plus 1/8

ROOF gable, hipped, dormers 2 hipped along front facade

MATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles (Stucco) asphalt, asbestos, alum/vinyl
(Other) brick, stone, concrete, iron/steel/alum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION Irregularly shaped mission-style institutional building with 1-story ascended front porch, central entrance marked by shaped gable, square 4-level corner towers w/ shaped gables

EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor moderate drastic

CONDITION good fair poor LOT AREA 607.880 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS Monastery has hill-top site with views of Boston, Cambridge, well-treed area with landscaping

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) good example of the mission style popular for Brighton religious institutions

(Map)
Moved; date if known

Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal    Conservation    Recreation
Agricultural  Education     Religion
Architectural Exploration/settlement    Science/invention
The Arts      Industry      Social/humanitarian
Commerce      Military      Transportation
Community/development

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

Monastery closed Sept 1, 1978 because of decline in the number of priests and brothers in the Passionist Order. The mission-style monastery building is presently leased to Boston College for use as a dormitory. The adjacent St. Gabriel's Church continues in use for Religious Services.

Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: Date Due: Date Reviewed: 1/4/89

Type: Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: St. Gabriel's Monastery Complex
Address: Washington St., Brighton

Requested by:
Action: Honor ITC Grant R & C Other:
Agency: Staff in charge of Review: MARC

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CRITERIA:
A: Local
B: State
C: National
D

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Katherine Boorin

St. Gabriel's Monastery complex meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the Passionist Order's history in the Boston area and as an example of ecclesiastical and institutional architecture. The Monastery building (1909-1910) is a good example of the mission style, which was used infrequently in Boston. The church (1929) is by Maginnis and Walsh, an architecture firm noted for their design of Roman Catholic churches. The retreat home (1927), although not in itself remarkable, serves to join these two buildings into a coherent whole through the use of compatible materials and design.
The landscape setting, designed in part by the Olmsted Bros., has suffered some loss of integrity, and probably does not constitute a significant historic designed landscape. However, it does contribute to the setting of the complex, and boundaries that of the nomination should include the entire parcel. More information on the monastery path would determine if it too should be included with this complex.
ST. GABRIEL'S MONASTERY COMPLEX
159 Washington Street
Brighton, MA
Boundaries of Petitioned Area
BRA Planimetric & Topographic
Series, Map #s 22N-4E 22N-6E
1" = 200'