

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Lakeville Manor
other names/site number St. Joseph Convent and St. Mary's Parish School

2. Location

street & number 12 Elm Street; 33 Sharon Road not for publication
city or town Lakeville vicinity
state CT code CT county Litchfield code 005 zip code 06039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Stacy Vaisio 3.26.14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DSHPO - SHPO / DECD
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

for [Signature] 4/8/14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

RECREATION AND CULTURE: park; picnic area

RELIGION: church school; church-related residence

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Second Empire

OTHER: Victorian vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: granite

walls: WOOD: weatherboard

roof: STONE: slate

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Lakeville Manor is located in the rural Connecticut village of Lakeville, town of Salisbury, about fifty miles northwest of Hartford in the state's scenic Litchfield Hills. The 1.61-acre site consists of two adjacent parcels historically connected as one property throughout its period of significance. It contains two contributing buildings erected contemporaneously in 1883: the former St. Joseph's Convent (12 Elm Street), designed in the Second Empire style, and the St. Mary's Parish School (33 Sharon Road), a simple vernacular Victorian-style structure. In 1923 both buildings became part of a summer retreat and camp known as Lakeville Manor, which operated under the auspices of the Connecticut Council of Catholic Women until about 1968. In the 1980s the buildings were converted to apartments before falling into disrepair and eventually becoming vacant. The three-story convent was renovated in 2010 to house five luxury apartments (two on the first and second floors and a penthouse on the third floor). The building, now known as Lakeville Manor House, is in excellent condition and has had few exterior alterations since it was erected, with the exception of the recent addition of a three-sided bay and entry porch on the rear (west) elevation. Surviving interior features were saved during renovation. The parish school is in good overall condition. A faceted belltower and front-gable truss were long ago removed from the building. Renovation of the school, to contain two apartments, is currently under way. Few interior features in that building remained after the 1980s conversion. The original two-over-two double-hung window sash has been removed for restoration and the window openings are temporarily boarded over. The original fir floors are intact.

The property contains one non-contributing resource, a shed-roofed wood-frame storage shed with clapboard sheathing and asphalt-shingle roof cladding. This simple structure, which stands at the edge of the parking area to the south of the convent building, was erected in 2010.

Narrative Description

All three buildings occupy a grassy expanse shaded by mature maples and evergreens. The property is bordered on its west side by Elm Street, a quiet, dead-end residential lane located east of Wononskopomuc Lake; neighboring buildings include a mix of modest Victorian balloon-frame houses and larger Colonial Revival estates. Running on the site's east side is State Route 41/Sharon Road, a busy through street, which is lined with simple wood-frame residences and a few shops (late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries). Both the former convent and former parish school are oriented to Route 41 (Site Map A). To the north of the site is the village of Lakeville, with a mix of industrial, commercial and residential buildings dating from the 1750s to the 1930s. A paved drive enters the property running westward off Route 41, connecting to a paved parking area that serves the parish school and a wood-frame Masonic Hall building on a neighboring parcel to its south. The driveway continues up a slope, passing north of the school and south of the convent to arrive at a parking area at that building's southwest corner. The dominant structure on the Lakeville Manor site is the former convent, an imposing three-story, balloon-frame structure that stands well back from the road on a moderate rise and is fronted by a broad, sloping front lawn. The building has a rectangular plan, measuring 48 x 74 feet, with the shorter elevations facing west and east. The foundation is made of dressed granite ashlar, and the exterior sheathing is clapboard. Among the convent's most distinctive features is its slate-clad mansard roof—its primary face punctuated at intervals by dormers (open pediments with flared moldings) and bordered top and bottom by heavy cornices.

See continuation sheet, Section 7.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1883–1963

Significant Dates

1883

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Bown & Rorty, Hartford, CT

Period of Significance (justification)

The dates 1883–1968 describe the period when the buildings were associated with the Catholic Church.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Lakeville Manor site is significant for reflecting an effort by Connecticut's Catholic Church to strengthen its influence and identity in rural areas during a period of 19th-century growth associated with the state's rising numbers of Irish immigrants. The 1883 St. Joseph's Convent and St. Mary's Parish School, erected on a prominent site at considerable expense, was a landmark achievement for St. Mary's Parish in Lakeville. The buildings helped solidify the presence of the Catholic Church in this predominantly Protestant town with two institutions dedicated specifically to advancing Catholic teachings. St. Mary's Parish served a sizable regional population of Irish Catholics, most employed in Northwest Connecticut's famous ironworks. The parish's activities made an important contribution to the social history of a community being re-shaped by changing demographics in an age of industrialization; St. Mary's Parish School was particularly noteworthy as one of the first parochial schools in the region. The site's later adaptive reuse for retreats and youth camps sponsored by the Connecticut Council of Catholic Women perpetuated its association with the Catholic Church well into the 1960s.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

At the time that Lakeville was named the seat of St. Mary's Parish in 1875, the mineral-rich region had become a major American iron-production center, known for the most advanced blast-furnace technology in the United States. Northwestern Connecticut had begun developing its legendary iron-ore industry early in the previous century, when the area was discovered to be a significant source of brown hematite. While this exceptionally high-quality ore is associated with a huge vein running from southern Vermont as far south as New Jersey, the largest and richest deposits were contained in Ore Hill in the Lakeville section of Salisbury. It was in honor of Ore Hill that the greater hematite region is known as the Salisbury District, and minerals extracted throughout the vein were designated Salisbury Ore regardless of their local origin.

Colonial miners had begun prospecting on Ore Hill as early as 1732, and Lakeville's first blast furnace was established in 1762 (Ethan Allen and Samuel Forbes, principal partners) at the eastern outlet of Wononskopomuc Lake. High-efficiency operations made Salisbury a vital center of munitions manufacturing during the Revolutionary War, when the Wononskopomuc furnace produced iron used to fabricate cannons and shot for the Continental Army. The oldest surviving blast furnace

See Continuation Sheet, Section 8.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Archbishop Gives Permission to Negotiate Land Purchase," *Hartford Courant*, Mar. 10, 1975.

Catholic Encyclopedia. Online resource: www. Catholic.org.

"Corner Stone Laying, St. Joseph's Convent at Lakeville," *Hartford Daily Courant*, June 19, 1882.

Council of Catholic Women. Annual Report, 1965-1966: Archdiocese of Hartford, Education and Service.

"Excursions to Lakeville," *Hartford Courant*, June 21, 1878

Goodenough, Arthur. *The Clergy of Litchfield County*. Litchfield: Litchfield County University Club, 1909.

_____. *The Leading Citizens of Litchfield County*. Boston, MA: Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1896.

"Grand Ceremony at Lakeville," *The Connecticut Catholic*, June 24, 1882.

"Lakeville's Convent," *The Connecticut Catholic*, Sept. 8, 1883.

"Lakeville's Religious War," *Hartford Daily Courant*, Oct. 25, 1883

Land Records, Town of Salisbury, Office of the Town Clerk.

J.W. Lewis & Co. *History of Litchfield County, Connecticut*. Philadelphia, PA: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1881.

Maloney, John. Oral History Transcript, Salisbury Association (no date).

Map of Property of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Congregation, Village of Lakeville, Town of Salisbury. Town of Salisbury, Office of the Town Clerk, April 15, 1970.

O'Reilly, Sister Mary Cecilia. *Sisters of Mercy in the Diocese of Hartford*. Hartford, 1931.

Ransom, David. "National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Salisbury Center Historic District," 1996.

Rossano, Geoffrey. "National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Lakeville Historic District," 1996.

Roth, Matthew. *Connecticut: An Inventory of Historical Engineering Sites*. Washington, D.C.: Society for Industrial Archeology, 1981.

Rudd, Malcolm Day. *An Historical Sketch of Salisbury, Connecticut*. New York, 1899.

Soulsby, Mary G. "National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Mount Riga Ironworks Site," 1993.

"St. Joseph's Convent at Lakeville," *The Connecticut Catholic*, Sept. 1, 1883.

Salisbury Association Historic Photograph File, Salisbury Association, Salisbury, CT.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1904, 1909, 1923.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.61 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

St. Joseph Convent (Manor House): 41.962385°,-73.440427°

St. Mary's Parish School: 41.962309°,-73.439865°

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property consists of two contiguous parcels, Tax Map 49, Block 26 and Map 49, Block 26/1, as recorded by the Town of Salisbury, Office of Tax Assessor.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the historical boundaries of the site of the St. Joseph Convent and St. Mary's Parish School. The total acreage of the two parcels, 1.61 acres, has remained the same from the time of the construction of the two buildings in 1883 until the present.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Carley

organization Preservation Consultant date September, 2012

street & number 10 Camp Dutton Road telephone 860-567-5132

city or town Litchfield state CT zip code 06759

e-mail rcarley@snet.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lakeville Manor

City or Vicinity: Salisbury

County: Litchfield State: CT

Photographer: Rachel Carley

Date Photographed: Winter/ Summer 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photograph 1 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0001
East and south elevation, looking northwest

Photograph 2 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0002
North and west elevation, looking southeast

Photograph 3 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0003
Lancet windows, south elevation, looking north

Photograph 4 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0004
Front vestibule, looking east

Photograph 5 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0005
Fireplace, southeast apartment, first floor, looking south

Photograph 6 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0006
Newel post, front vestibule, looking west

Photograph 7 of 7: CT_Litchfield County_Lakeville Manor_0007
Parish School, east elevation, looking west

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lakeville Manor LLC, C/O William Muecke

street & number PO Box 282 telephone 212-796-5626

city or town Lakeville state CT zip code 06039

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5-31-2012)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property Lakeville Manor
County and State Litchfield, CT
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

DESCRIPTION

Section number 7 Page 10

The lower cornice displays a distinct overhang supported on incised console brackets (*cyma reversa*). The roof's shallow second pitch (not visible from the ground) angles toward a central domed cupola, designed with a triangular pediment on each of its four sides. Window sash is primarily two-over-two double hung; first-story windows on the building's north, west and south elevations are crowned by heavy bracketed lintels. Flat lintels over the second-floor windows are integrated by a continuous molded stringcourse.

Serving as the façade, the east elevation (Photograph 1) has a symmetrical composition dominated by a three-sided pavilion that projects from the building's center. The entire elevation is fronted by a one-story, open porch incorporating a high clipped gable at center, to serve as an entry bay, and flanking side bays with hipped roofs. These three parts are unified by a continuous overhanging cornice supported on incised scroll brackets (smaller versions of the roof brackets), each set over a chamfered porch post (double brackets appear over corner posts). Turned balusters form a railing for the porch and stair. Sheltered by the central porch bay, a pair of paneled front doors is topped by a two-pane, flat-arched transom. Pairs of segmentally arched windows appear to either side, their balanced placement repeated by that of simpler rectangular windows at the second story. A convex mansard roof crowns the central pavilion at the third story, where, punctuated by a molded round-arched dormer, it makes a distinct contrast with the angular face of the main roof.

The primary feature of the asymmetrically massed north elevation (Photograph 2) is a three-sided rectangular bay, crowned by a projecting mansard and lit by double-hung windows set over paneled insets. The south elevation (Photograph 1) is noteworthy for the rectangular one-story, three-sided bay projecting from the building's southwest corner. The exterior wall of the original convent chapel, this architectural feature is crowned by a hipped roof with deep, bracketed eaves, and lit by three single-pane lancet windows, offset to the east (Photograph 3). Two brick chimneys rise from the roof at the third story. The rear, southwest end of the building is accessed by a central door set under a clipped-gable entry porch; the door is flanked by two-pane sidelights and crowned with a segmentally arched transom (Photograph 2). A three-sided bay is positioned above.

The convent interior, broken into thirteen units in the 1980s,

has been consolidated into two two-bedroom apartments (two-and-one-half baths) running front to back on the first and second stories, and a four-bedroom penthouse on the third floor. Circulation is provided by the original vestibule and front hall (Photograph 4) and a small rear

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor
Name of Property
Litchfield, CT
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

DESCRIPTION

Section number 7 Page 2

entry hall. Among the noteworthy interior features surviving from 1883 are molded window frames with bulls-eye corner blocks and a carved marble fireplace with marble hearth and chapel windows (southeast apartment, first floor; Photograph 5). Of particular note is the oak newel post, carved with panels, billet moldings and inset floral medallions in the front hall (Photograph 6). Oak and fir flooring and window sash throughout the structure are also original.

The former parish school is a simple one-story balloon-frame structure designed in a Victorian vernacular style and measuring 32 x 54 feet (Photograph 7). Due to a slightly sloping site, the building gains a two-foot water table on its east side and south end, whereas the rear, west elevation and north end are level with grade. The clapboard-clad school is set on a foundation of dressed granite ashlar, defined by a pronounced drip course. Above, a flat-board stringcourse travels around the building, connecting through the window sills. Clad in asphalt shingle, the building's roof is distinguished by deep eaves and clipped (jerkinhead) gables at the north and south ends.

Flanked by paired window openings, a centrally placed gable framed by corner posts intersects with the northeast façade, where the gable roof angles into a steep pitch accentuated by deep, molded eaves. Chamfered brackets trimmed with beveled blocks extend from the top of the corner posts to the gable's overhanging cornice. Crowned by a three-pane transom, a pair of heavy paneled wood doors (two long panels over two short) is centered under a peak-roofed entry porch, mounted on bracketed posts; on the underside are exposed rafters with decoratively cut tails. A valance of pointed slats and a V-shaped cross brace fills the porch's roof peak. Wooden railings connect the porch posts to the façade, and a low wooden staircase descends to the ground. Windows throughout (four on each gable end and five on the rear elevation) are trimmed with simple frames with narrow lintel moldings and slightly projecting sills. A bulkhead is located at the building's the southeast gable.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor
Name of Property
Litchfield, CT
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 1

in Connecticut, Salisbury's Mount Riga Ironworks was established in 1806-10, and Salisbury was once again called on to supply munitions at the outbreak of the War of 1812.¹

Prior to its purchase by St. Mary's Parish, the Lakeville Manor site was part of substantial real estate holdings accumulated by the Holleys, a family of leading Connecticut industrialists who made a fortune from their local empire of mines, furnaces and forges. In 1844 Lakeville's Alexander H. Holley (1804-87), future governor of Connecticut, established the state's first cutlery factory at the Wononskopomuc ironworks in Lakeville.

Within a few decades, local and regional operations had become known for the range and quality of their output. Local finishing shops turned out everything from nails and farm tools to household utensils and anchors. When the Ore Hill mine was working full time, its weekly payroll amounted to more than \$1,500—the largest single payroll between Torrington, Connecticut to the east and Poughkeepsie, New York to the west. Meanwhile, Lakeville coalesced into a traditional company town, with its own post office and shops catering to mill employees.² About one-half the Ore Hill miners and their families lived in company housing in Lakeville Village. (Rents, ranging from 60 to 90 cents per week, were deducted from wages.)

Irish immigrants probably began joining the iron-manufacturing workforce in the greater Lakeville area in the 1830s and 1840s, around the same time they migrated to Northwest Connecticut to take railroad construction jobs. The rise of the Irish population in Connecticut at that time reflected the impact of a mass migration responsible for bringing two million Irish to America in the 1840s alone. One million of these refugees settled in New England—driven to this country both by famine and by the religious and political strife then affecting the Catholic Church in their homeland.³

The first Catholic mass in Salisbury was celebrated on July 4, 1849, under a tree near the Davis ore bed (on present-day Route 41

¹ The Mount Riga Ironworks, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

² Much of the village was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Lakeville Historic District in 1996.

³ In the decades before the potato famine of 1845 to 1852, Irish Catholics were already fleeing the political domination by minority Anglican landowners and the Church of Ireland, an era of Irish history known as the Protestant Ascendancy, which had begun in the late 1600s.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor

Name of Property

Litchfield, CT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 2

north of Lincoln City Road.)⁴ The following year, the first Catholic parish seat in the region was established, in Falls Village, a few miles east of Lakeville. The Rev. Christopher Moore was installed as resident pastor, and Salisbury was included as a mission under his jurisdiction, along with the villages of Canaan, Cornwall, Goshen, and Sharon. Having no church in which to gather his flock, Moore delivered services in private homes. St. Patrick's, the first Catholic church in Connecticut's Northwest Corner, was built in Falls Village in 1854.

Overseen by the Rev. Henry Lynch, the relocation of the parish seat from Falls Village to Lakeville in 1875 shifted it to a more central location in a region of ironworks then manned by substantial numbers of Irish Catholic immigrants. According to one oral history, Irish accounted for a full eighty percent of miners in the area around this time.⁵ In addition to the Ore Hill mine, the Chatfield, Davis and Porter mines and the Chapman and Scovill bed, all local, were also major suppliers of raw ore. Among the many noted Salisbury processors depending on their output were the Mount Riga Ironworks and the Barnum-Richardson Co., manufacturer of railroad car wheels in the Lime Rock section of town and in nearby East Canaan.

By the 1870s about 200 Irish held jobs in the Ore Hill bed and 800 Irish worked at the Ames Ironworks in Amesville, east of Lime Rock. The Barnum-Richardson Company had yet another 1,600 Irish on the payrolls in the same era. "The Catholics are Irish to the heart's core and are as industrious as they are sociable," reported *The Connecticut Catholic*, a weekly newspaper published by the Hartford Diocese. "You meet frequently on the roads teamsters whistling their favorite songs as they carry the ore from the iron mines to the neighboring furnaces," added the enthusiastic editors.⁶

Upon shifting the parish seat to Lakeville, Father Lynch immediately built the town a proper Gothic Revival church, St. Mary's (76 Sharon Road), and an adjacent rectory, both of which serve the parish to this day. It was Lynch who also oversaw construction of the two buildings on the Lakeville Manor site: one to serve as a convent and a boarding academy for young ladies (some preparing for the

⁴ As only three resident priests then served Connecticut, a Catholic clergyman from Poughkeepsie, New York was called in to officiate.

⁵ John Maloney, Oral history Transcript: Salisbury Association Historical Society (no date). According to this source, the remaining twenty per cent were miners in Cornwall, England.

⁶ *The Connecticut Catholic*, June 24, 1882.

novitiate) and the other to be used as a private parish school for day students.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor
Name of Property
Litchfield, CT
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 3

In May 1882, Lynch arranged to purchase property from Alexander H. Holley. The location was especially appealing, for it not only overlooked Wononskopomuc Lake, but also fronted the pleasure ground known as Hollywood, a waterside grove, complete with bandstand and pavilion, established by Governor Holley earlier in the century. Holley sold the parcel to the Catholic parish for \$2,000 with the proviso that the land never be used for a cemetery.

Drawing some 4,000 attendees, laying of the cornerstones for the two buildings, scheduled for Sunday, June 18, 1882, generated extensive coverage in *The Connecticut Catholic*. Editors boasted the "largest crowd ever assembled on such an occasion is expected to be present." Offering tickets at a reduced price (\$1.00 round trip), special excursion trains brought passengers from the Connecticut cities of Hartford, Waterbury and Bridgeport, as well as from Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Despite a storm—which presumably precluded plans for refreshments in the grove and steamer excursions on the lake—the event was a huge success.

The day began with High Mass, followed by administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation to more than 150 children and adults. As a band played, visitors marched in procession with clergy members from St. Mary's Church to the building site 175 yards down present-day Sharon Road. Delivering a sermon on the struggles and triumphs of the Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. W.A. Harty, rector of St. Joseph's Church in Winsted, Connecticut, touched on the important symbolism of the new buildings. "Let it stand as an argument in stone and mortar, Harty declared, "that religion and education must go hand in hand... ."⁷

Fundraising began immediately. According to newspaper reports, the estimated cost for both structures, erected (and probably designed) by the Hartford contracting firm of Bown & Rorty, was \$30,000—nearly the same value as the existing church and rectory. When completed in 1883, the convent surely ranked as one of the most impressive buildings in Salisbury. With its slate mansard roof and cupola, the large three-story structure held a commanding site on its rise overlooking the lake and picnic ground. Its faceted façade, lively silhouette, textured materials and multi-hued color scheme epitomized the prevailing

⁷ "Corner Stone Laying, The St. Joseph's Convent at Lakeville," *Hartford Daily Current*, June 19, 1882.

Victorian architectural aesthetic. The convent's style reflected the enduring appeal of the French-inspired Second Empire mode, which had gained wide popularity in America under the presidential administration of Ulysses S. Grant (1869-77) and remained fashionable a decade later.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor
Name of Property
Litchfield CT
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 4

As if in deference to the more important convent, the one-story parish school to its south was much smaller, featuring clipped gables, decorative gable trusswork and a wooden bell tower. While far more simple, the vernacular design nevertheless complemented that of the neighboring building.

On September 5, 1883, the two buildings were dedicated during a day of religious services and picnicking in Holleywood Grove. Newspaper accounts praised the architectural beauty of the convent, which contained a small chapel in its southwest corner, where Gothic-arched window openings are still intact. Dedication day also marked the arrival of four nuns from the Sisters of Mercy, a Catholic order started in the 1820s in Ireland. In 1852 the Sisters of Mercy had founded a Hartford branch devoted to the care of orphans and the destitute and to the religious and moral education of female children. The order's responsibilities in Lakeville included supervision of both the convent/academy and the parish school (heretofore conducted by a lay teacher in the basement of St. Mary's). The two institutions opened their doors simultaneously to students the day after dedication services. There are conflicting reports about the size of the enrollments, but according to the *History of the Diocese of Hartford*, published in 1900, the St. Mary's school had 71 pupils as of that year.

It is not surprising that glowing reports of the 1883 dedication ceremonies in the Catholic press failed to mention an ugly controversy that had recently erupted after Father Lynch's installation of a life-size, and lifelike, crucifix in front of St. Mary's Church. Amid rumors that similar religious statuary was to go up on the convent grounds, the railroad office had tried to prevent the addition of extra trains scheduled for dedication day, while Sen. William H. Barnum threatened to dismiss the 1,600 Catholic workers he employed at Barnum-Richardson. Angry members of the Protestant community—mostly village shopkeepers—framed a petition against Father Lynch only to have the Lakeville Catholics who made up the bulk of their customers retaliate with a boycott. Father Lynch meanwhile was denounced as a "drunk" and an "ignoramus."

It got worse. In October 1883 *The Hartford Daily Courant* ran an article under the headline, "Lakeville's Religious War," reporting that

a group of Lakeville women were organizing an effort to ban the hiring of Catholic domestic servants in favor of blacks. The paper also noted that attendance at the public district schools had fallen off dramatically due to the success of the parish school, which was siphoning off pupils, including a number of Protestants. Perhaps more

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lakeville Manor
Name of Property
Litchfield, CT
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SIGNIFICANCE

Section number 8 Page 5

to the chagrin of many locals, Father Lynch had been elected to the school board. Accused of political maneuvering, the priest ascribed the entire fracas to political partisanship, citing the recent election of several other Catholics to prominent positions in town government.

The bishop from the Hartford diocese was finally called in to mediate. The fate of the offending crucifix is unknown, but nothing more than a simple cross ever appeared on the convent and parish school. The Reverend Lynch remained in Lakeville only a few more years.

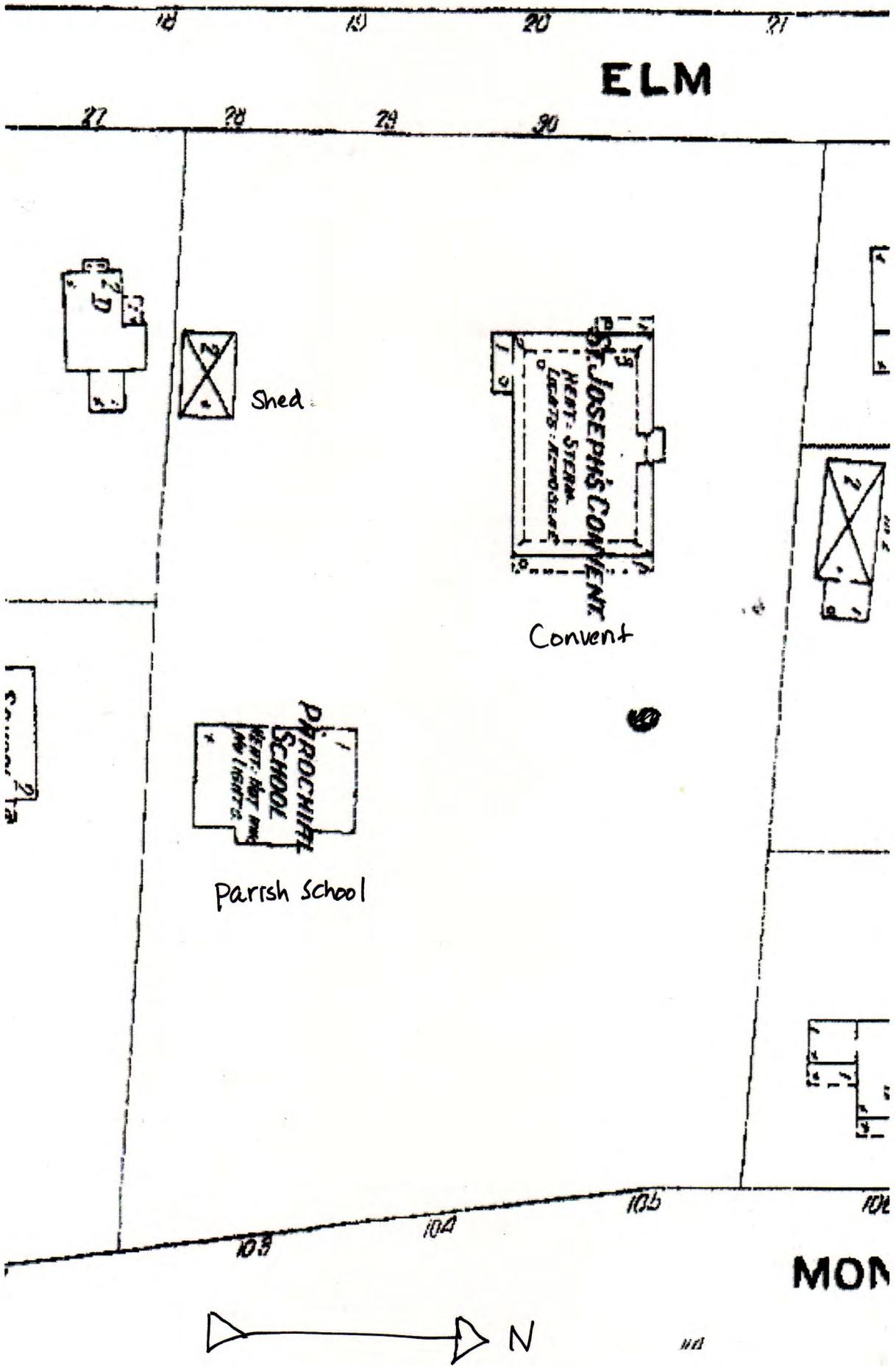
Although the parish school was still doing well in 1900, the St. Joseph's convent academy had already been discontinued as part of a move by the Sisters of Mercy to transfer students from small convents to larger boarding schools. The parish school continued operating until 1920, and the building subsequently served as a parish hall for St. Mary's. The convent closed in June 1921. These events paralleled a downturn in the fortunes of Salisbury's iron industry, which had been declining since the early 1900s. Ironically, the region's blast furnaces, once so advanced, had failed to keep up with changing technology in more recent years. The last Salisbury furnace closed down in 1923.

The same year the Connecticut Council of Catholic Women took over the convent building for use as Lakeville Manor, where the council hosted annual conferences, a vacation house for adults and a summer camp for girls. According to a 1927 issue of *The Hartford Courant*, the Manor offered 65 beds, in single and double rooms and dormitories, while a dining hall and drawing rooms afforded "every advantage of home life." A Girl Scout week was instituted in 1928, and in the late 1930s time was set aside for Boy Scouts as well.

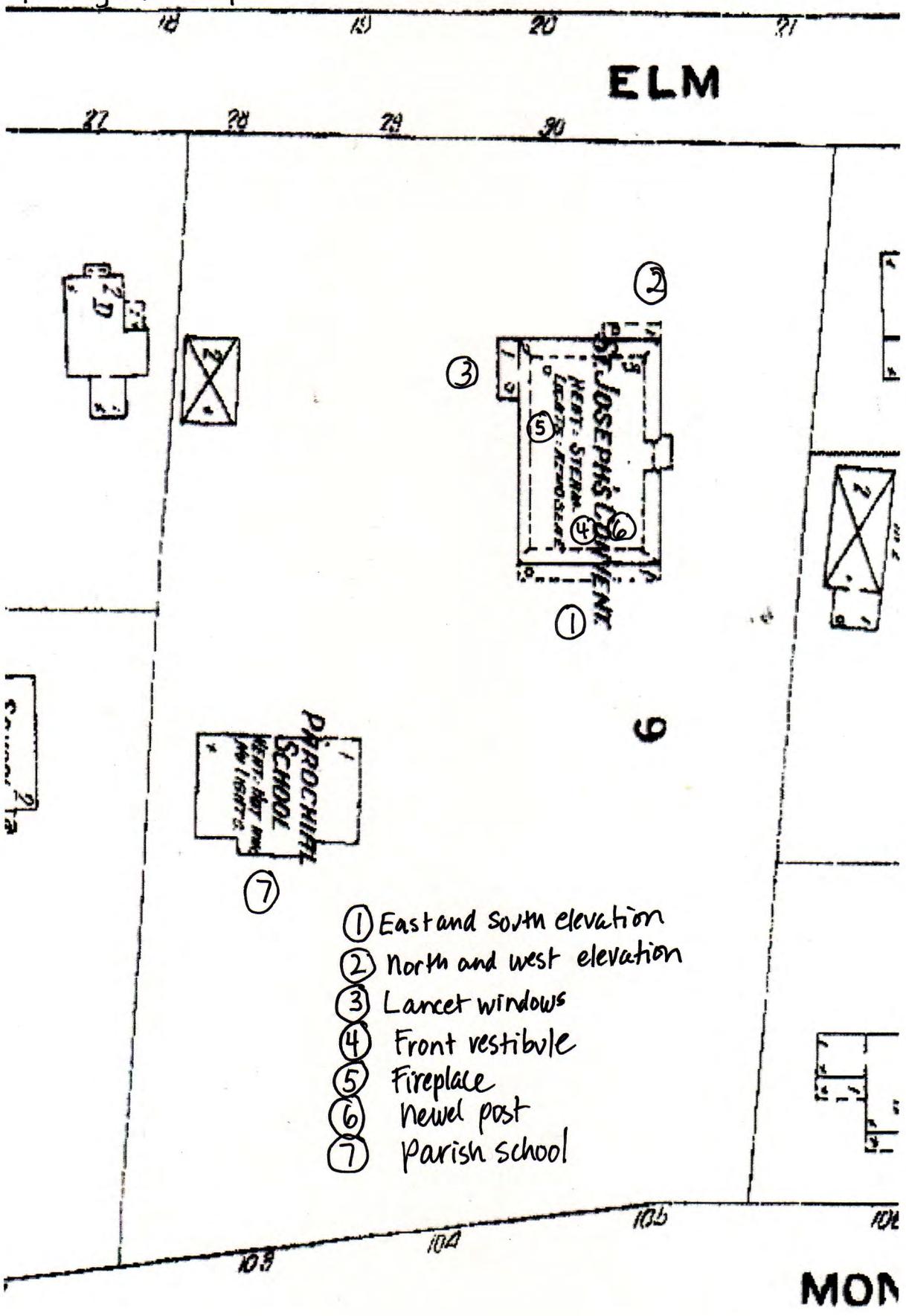
Records indicate that Lakeville Manor opened for its final season in 1968; by 1971 the annual women's conference had relocated to St. Mary's Church up the road. In 1975 the Archbishop of the Hartford Diocese granted permission to St. Mary's to sell the property. Both the convent and school were converted to multi-family residential use, and the buildings were eventually neglected to the point of dereliction. The recent renovation and occupation of the convent represents an excellent example of adaptive reuse. Both Victorian buildings contribute significantly to the character of their historic neighborhood and remain important representations of the role played by

an influential Catholic parish in the educational and cultural life of its community.

Lakeville Manor, Litchfield County, CT
Sketch Map A



Lakeville Manor
 Litchfield County, CT
 photograph key



- ① East and south elevation
- ② North and west elevation
- ③ Lancet windows
- ④ Front vestibule
- ⑤ Fireplace
- ⑥ Newel post
- ⑦ Parish school

MON



Lakeville Manor

Lakeville Manor
Lakeville, Litchfield County, CT

Manor House: 41.962385°,-73.440427°

Parish School: 41.962309°,-73.439865°

Directions: [To here](#) - [From here](#)

Lakeville Manor

436 ft









BUILDING SECURITY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
The following information is provided for your information and is not intended to be a contract. It is your responsibility to read and understand the terms and conditions of the agreement. If you have any questions, please contact the building manager.





