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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.

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. Andre's Parish
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 73 Bacon Street, 75 Bacon Street, 39 Sullivan Street, & 41 Sullivan Street
City or town: Biddeford State: Maine County: York
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A _____ B C _____ D

		<u>9/18/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: _____		Date
MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION		
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

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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:)

[Handwritten Signature]

11/10/15

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

3

2

buildings

sites

structures

objects

3

2

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/church-related residence

RELIGION/church school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Second EmpireLATE VICTORIAN / RomanesqueLATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH C. REVIVALS / Colonial Revival**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)Principal exterior materials of the property: foundation: Concrete; walls: Brick; roof: Slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

St. Andre's Roman Catholic parish is located just southeast of downtown Biddeford in a neighborhood dominated by single and multi-family dwellings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The complex is bounded by Bacon Street (south), Sullivan Street (west), High Street (east), and several house lots to the north. Included in the parish complex are four principal buildings (church, school, convent and rectory), each of which stands on its own city lot. There is also a small garage associated with the rectory parcel (10,019 square feet lot). The church, rectory and convent are contributing elements in the district, while the school and garage are noncontributing. The Romanesque-style church and Second Empire-style rectory face Bacon Street, while the Colonial Revival-style convent and former school front on Sullivan Street (see attached sketch map for location of buildings). The principal buildings are all set close to the public sidewalk, with setbacks of roughly 10 feet, while the vernacular garage is located near the center of the complex between the church and rectory. The lot on which the church stands includes 21,344 square feet, while the convent parcel measures 12,632 square feet. The largest of the lots (1.9 acres) holds the former school building (now housing) and a large paved parking lot. A smaller paved parking area is located between the convent and rectory. A paved driveway runs from Sullivan Street, between the convent and former school, to High Street.

Although the school building has been substantially altered and lost its architectural integrity, the church, rectory and convent are all well-preserved resources with only minor modifications. The complex retains its integrity as a whole, and has not been notably impacted by building alterations. There has been very little loss of historic resources within the complex, most notably a statue that stood between the church and rectory but was removed by the parish when they moved off the site in 2010.

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The principal buildings and outbuildings of the parish remain on the site and have not been compromised by construction of modern buildings.

Narrative Description

There is a small grass lawn extending from the garage out toward Bacon Street and another more substantial lawn on the east side of the former school. Grass elsewhere on the site is limited to narrow strips alongside the buildings. The Sullivan Street boundary of the complex is lined with evenly-spaced mature deciduous trees. Along this same side, a low hedge runs in front of the convent and rectory; the hedge is interrupted by concrete walkways leading to the convent and rectory and by the driveway leading to the parking lot between the two buildings. Further north along Sullivan Street, between the former school and the northern boundary of the complex, a chain link fence runs along the property line. Where Sullivan Street slopes downward at the northernmost end of the complex, the chain link fence rests on a granite block retaining wall. The granite retaining wall continues along the northern boundary of the complex and around to the High Street side, where a portion of the wall at the northeast corner was rebuilt in concrete; the wall then continues up High Street until the street levels off just before reaching the former school building. As is the case along Sullivan Street, a chain link fence runs along the property line of the former school lot at High Street as well, being interrupted only by the entrance to the parking lot. A modern wood stockade fence extends along the east side of the school lot until it joins a chain link fence running perpendicular to High Street along the school's south lot line. Only one tree remains of a row planted along the east side of the church, along High Street. Three large mature deciduous trees rise from the sidewalk in front of the church (on Bacon Street). Further west on Bacon Street, a low hedge runs along the front of the rectory, interrupted by a concrete walkway leading to the rectory entry. All buildings are currently owned by entities of the Biddeford Housing Authority.

1. **Church** - (1900 and 1909/10; Photographs 1 & 4-7) 1 contributing building
 75 Bacon Street
 Architect - Chickering & O'Connell

St. Andre's Church was constructed in two phases, the first being the lower raised basement level that was built in 1900 to serve as the temporary worship space until the upper main sanctuary was completed in 1909/1910 (see Figure 1). The Romanesque Revival style church is constructed of red brick trimmed with what appear to be painted cast stone elements, in the form of belt courses, window sills, hood molds, caps, arched hood molds at the windows, and brackets at the cornice. Rising from a very low rough-cut granite foundation, the church follows a traditional cruciform plan. The transept and apse are located at the north end of the nave. A central tower at the facade (south elevation) rises above the narthex. The church is enclosed by a steeply pitched slate-covered gable roof with small triangular dormers running along the sides. The rooflines at the side and rear elevations are defined by corbeled brick in the form of stylized arcading.

The transept is identified by cross gables, while brick buttresses define the tower corners and bays of the nave. The facade features three towers, with the central tower rising above the other two. The base of each tower holds an entry consisting of a tall arched opening framed by a compound architrave. All three entries have modern double doors set beneath an arched transom that likely held stained glass windows at one time. Access to each of the entries is by means of a modern concrete stoop with metal hand railings. Historic images of the building suggest that the original stoops had brick cheek walls. All three towers have similar detailing, including round arched windows topped by voussoir

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and hood molds. Tripartite windows at the third level of the flanking towers are further defined by quoins. The fourth level of the east tower retains all of its original decorative elements, while some were removed from the west tower (date unknown). The upper portion of the central tower, above the third level window, was covered with sheet metal, resulting in removal of some of the detailing (date unknown - Figure 2 shows original detail). The east face of the east tower (facing High Street) has a wide doorway at the lower level; the doorway holds what appear to be historic wood double doors. In the corresponding location on the west tower (facing west) is a brick entry enclosure that appears to be an original feature.

At all elevations, windows above the basement level have arched heads; some are topped by smooth voussoir and hood molds, while others have simple brick arches with hood molds. The nave is lit through large arched openings in the side elevations (one in each of the four bays of the nave). Each opening holds paired windows topped by arched tracery panels. The cross gable at each side elevation (one bay wide) is dominated by a large arched window with a tracery panel; the gable holds two narrow arched windows. The lower level of the side elevations of the main block has smaller rectangular windows (one per bay).

The north elevation has a two-story brick ell, above which rises the curved apse wall of the church. The ell (three bays at side elevations and five at the rear) has asymmetrical fenestration with simple segmental arched window openings. Access to the ell is by means of an arched doorway on the east face (holding a modern door). The clerestory level of the curved apse wall above the ell features a band of narrow arched windows with tracery panels. A blind arcade with wide brick piers decorates the upper level of the curved apse wall. All stained glass windows were removed from the church after services were discontinued in 2010; what remains are the clear exterior storm panels that covered the stained glass.

The interior of the church remains very much intact, although the altar railing was removed and the original altar itself was replaced (see figure 3 and photograph 4). The main worship space, vestibules, and galleries retain the historic layout and finishes, including wood pews, light fixtures, decorative plasterwork, wood staircases, and wood balustrades. The most notable modifications to the main floor are the modern aluminum doors in the three vestibule entrances. The lower level, which was originally used as the main worship space and then a community hall, remains a large open space with a raised stage and pressed tin ceiling.

2. **Rectory** - (1900; Photograph 1 & 8-10)
73 Bacon Street

1 contributing building

The St. Andre's rectory is a two-story structure with a third story enclosed beneath a mansard roof. The rectory includes a rectangular two-story main block, narrower two-story rear wing, and single-story rear ell (all of which appear to be original). Rising from a rough granite block foundation, this wood-frame structure is finished with clapboards, while the mansard is finished with slate shingles. A wood cornice with brackets defines the roofline. Shallow dormers with pedimented gables appear at each elevation of the mansard. A single-story porch runs across the façade (south elevation) and wraps around to the west elevation where it covers one bay. The existing wood porch, which replaced the original porch (c. 1950-1970s - see Figure 4), has brick piers, square posts, and railings with solid panels in place of balusters. The facade features a tall central tower with the main entry at its base, an additional doorway at the second floor, and a Palladian window at the third floor. The main entry holds a glazed wood replacement door flanked by partial sidelights. The second floor entry has a glazed wood replacement door with partial sidelights and an arched transom. The sidelights and transom hold historic stained glass windows. This second floor entry originally provided access to an upper level of

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the front porch but the current porch was rebuilt without the upper railings. Flanking the central tower are two double-height bay windows with deep overhanging eaves and brackets.

Side elevations of the main block are three bays wide, while the ell is two bays wide. Windows on both are a combination of paired and singles and are topped by shallow hoods at the first floor and pediments at the second floor. The only exceptions are three smaller windows (for kitchens and bathrooms), which have simple narrow casings. Window sills are supported on small wood brackets. The west elevation, facing Sullivan Street, features a bay window with brackets, and original entry porch and two historic entrances holding original glazed wood doors. The east elevation has a simple single-story wood porch for access to a secondary entry into the rear ell; the entry holds an original glazed wood door. This porch appears to be a mid-20th century replacement of the original porch. The window and door surrounds of the one-story rear ell match those of the main block. The ell is enclosed by a hip roof finished with asphalt shingles. The roof has deep overhanging eaves that are unembellished.

The interior layout of the main front block appears to have been altered little over time, the most notable changes being removal of one wall at the first floor to create a large room along the east side. The one-story rear ell and the first floor of the two-story rear wing hold the dining room and kitchens and have been altered to a greater extent, although changes were more in the way of finishes and fixtures rather than floor plan. The house has a central main entry vestibule that opens into a stairhall; rooms open off either side of the central north/south stairhall in the main block. A secondary hallway in the main block provides access to the west side entry. The entry at the north end of the west elevation opens into a small rear stairhall. A rear stair runs along the north wall of the two-story rear wing. Historic finishes, including trim, doors, staircases, and wood flooring remain throughout the house, although carpeting covers many of the floors.

According to historical research, St. Andre's Rectory was constructed in 1900, although the Second Empire style detailing is more in keeping with residential design from the 1860s and 1870s. One explanation is that the house was moved here from another site, although there is no evidence of that and a newspaper article from 1900 notes that construction of the rectory is "well under way, with the frame and walls all up,"¹ suggesting that the building was being constructed from scratch. Another possible explanation is that the parish may have wanted a building design similar to the 1870s Second Empire style rectory at St. Joseph's, an earlier French Canadian parish in Biddeford.

3. **Garage** (c. 1930s; Photograph 3 & 18)
73 Bacon Street

1 non-contributing building

A single-story garage (c. 1930s) stands alongside the rectory. This wood-frame utilitarian structure rests on a low concrete foundation and is finished with clapboard siding trimmed with narrow corner boards. It is enclosed by a hip roof finished with asphalt shingles. The roofline is defined by a simple box cornice. There are three vehicle entrances on the north facade (photograph 10) and a window and door on the west elevation; all openings are trimmed with flat wood stock. The vehicle bays hold overhead garage doors that appear to date to the mid-20th century. A six-panel wood door is located in the pedestrian entry, while the window holds a wood double-hung sash – both door and window appear to be historic features. There is no fenestration on the street-facing south elevation

¹ *Biddeford Weekly Journal*. June 22, 1900, 3.

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(photograph 9) or the east elevation. This building was historically used to store automobiles and had no direct association to operations of the church or school.²

4. **Convent** (1916 & 1930; Photographs 11-15)
41 Sullivan Street

1 contributing building

The convent is a two-story building with a rectangular footprint three bays wide and thirteen bays deep. The building was constructed in two principal phases, the first in 1916 when the front nine bays were constructed. In 1930 four additional bays were added to the rear, joining the convent to the church. There is access between the two buildings via one doorway per floor. An added brick enclosed stair off the southeast corner of the convent (visible in photograph 13) provides access to both the convent and the church.

Designed in the Colonial Revival style, the brick convent has a raised basement and is enclosed by a flat roof framed by a low brick parapet. A historic photograph of the building shows that there was originally a cap atop the parapet walls (see Figure 5). It also appears that the front wall of the parapet was reconstructed at some point; the original included patterned bricks and short pilasters. Architectural detailing is similar at all elevations and includes rusticated brick facing at the basement level, brick quoins at the building corners, a heavy projecting wood cornice with modillions, and a painted belt course between the basement and first floor. It is likely that the belt course, window sills, basement window lintels, and window keystones were fabricated in cast stone, although all are now covered by painted sheet metal, except the cast stone keystones of the rear addition.

Window openings are evenly spaced and hold a combination of original windows and recent replacements. Most window openings at the first and second floors have flat splayed brick heads with keystones. Basement windows have simple flat lintels covered by painted sheet metal.

The facade (west elevation) features a slightly projecting central bay defined by brick quoins and topped by a pedimented gable. The gable is crowned by a cross. The main entry is located at the base of this center bay and is sheltered by a small wood porch with painted concrete piers. Historic photograph of the building shows that the original porch was topped by a balustrade and had what appear to be cast stone columns. At some point (c. 1950s-1970s) the original porch was replaced by the existing one, leaving the original engaged pilasters flanking the doorway. The existing door and side light replaced the original glazed wood double doors and transom. Above the entry is a tripartite window with multi-pane casements and transoms. A mitered brick bay projects from the first floor just south of the entry (in the location of the chapel apse). This bay was originally topped by a balustrade and features two small stained glass windows and a panel bearing the image of St. Ignatius. On the opposite side of the entry is the only paired window on the building.

The north and south side elevations feature a series of irregularly-spaced single windows. A secondary entry at the north elevation is sheltered by a wood canopy set on large brackets. An added tunnel, running largely below grade, formerly joined the convent to the adjacent school building (tunnel now infilled). The concrete tunnel enclosure is visible on the north elevation of the convent, where it was constructed in the location of a window (likely c. 1940s-1950s). The south elevation features three arched windows at the first floor, in the location of the chapel. These arched windows hold simple steel sash that are inconsistent with the rest of the building. There are two original blind windows in the westernmost bay of the south elevation (first and second floor); the one at the first floor includes an arched transom. A three-story brick chimney projects from the center of the south elevation.

² In reviewing the HPCA Part 1, the National Park Service determined that the garage did not contribute to the significance of the property and was not a certified historic structure.

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The interior of the convent remains very much intact. Each floor has a central corridor with rooms opening off both sides (north and south). Corridors retain historic finishes, including vertical board wainscoting, glazed/paneled wood doors, and door casings. Access between floors is by means of two original wood staircases. While rooms at the lower level are more utilitarian, historic finishes at the two upper floors include window casings, paneled doors, door casings, baseboards, and some tin ceilings. A small chapel at the first floor is largely intact.

5. School (1925; 1927; 1998; Photographs 2, 16 & 17)
41 Sullivan Street

1 noncontributing building

The former school building has been substantially altered (both exterior and interior), to the extent that it no longer retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship or feeling. (See figure 6.) Research indicates that the school was built in two phases, 1925 and 1927, but the building is so altered today that it is difficult to know if there was a visible distinction between the two phases of construction. In 1998 a major renovation was undertaken to convert the school building into apartment units. No historic fabric remains visible. This brick building rests on a rough-cut granite foundation and is enclosed by a flat roof. The roofline is defined by a corbelled brick cornice. Due to the slope of the site, there are three exposed floors at the south elevation and four fully exposed floors at the north elevation. Brick belt courses separate the upper three floors. All exterior brick has been painted. A painted belt course (material unknown) also runs above the lower level. Window openings are defined by brick sills and lintels and all hold modern aluminum replacement windows. The existing window arrangement reflects changes made in 1998; the building originally had large banded multi-pane windows at all elevations.

The historic main entry is centered on the façade (west elevation). This arched entry with modern aluminum doors is framed by simple flat granite surrounds inscribed with the words "Ecole St Andre" and the date "1925." A modern concrete stoop provides access to the entry. The two window openings above the entry, a large rectangular opening at the second floor and an arched window at the third floor, are the only historic window openings on the façade. A cross projects above the roof at the center of the façade. The central bay at the rear (east) elevation also has an arched entry with modern doors and an arched window at the upper floor.

A new entry and entry enclosure were added to the east end of the north elevation (1998). A brick elevator shaft that rises above the entry was constructed at the same time. The south elevation features a brick chimney at its east end; this appears to be an original element.

The interior was completely renovated in 1998 so that no historic fabric remains. There is a central corridor running east/west with apartment units opening off either side.

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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.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900-1965

Significant Dates

1900

1916

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Chickering, George W.

O'Connell, Timothy G.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The St. Andre's Parish complex possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C. The period of significance for the parish runs from 1900, the date of earliest construction, to 1965, the National Park Service 50-year cut-off date for National Register listing. Under Criterion A, St. Andre's parish is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage for its association with the French-Canadian community in Biddeford. The complex is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a collection of well-designed early 20th century buildings that collectively form a noteworthy example of a Roman Catholic parish complex. The church is also important as a local example of the work of Boston architects Chickering & O'Connell, representing an important component of the firm's work. St. Andre's Parish includes three contributing historic buildings (a church, rectory and convent) and two noncontributing buildings (an altered school and an added garage).

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

Criterion A: Ethnic History

St. Andre's Parish is significant in the area of ethnic history for the crucial role it played in maintaining and preserving the culture and traditions of the French-Canadian/Franco American community in Biddeford. Although the primary function of the property was religious, its significance was also expressed through the preservation of the language, the social clubs joined by the members, and the education of children.

As was typical of many immigrant populations, the French Canadians sought to maintain their ethnic identity, settling in neighborhoods where the French language was spoken and their cultural heritage was preserved through social, religious and educational avenues. For most, this meant a community centered around a parish church associated with their Roman Catholic faith. For these immigrants, their Catholic faith was inextricably bound with their French language. According to historian Michael J. Guignard, there is an old French Canadian saying that "He who loses his language loses his faith."³ Thus it is not surprising that those French Canadians who came to America were vehement in their efforts to maintain their language and culture through the establishment of French speaking parishes. Throughout New England, French Canadians rapidly grew impatient with Catholic parishes that were established to serve the Irish immigrants and ministered by English-speaking priests. The French Canadians throughout New England moved to create their own places of worship, resulting in the establishment of numerous French-speaking parishes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Prior to 1870 Biddeford had only one Catholic church, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. St. Mary's was established in 1855 to accommodate the large Irish Catholic population of Biddeford. The first church building was erected just a few blocks west of the mill district in downtown Biddeford in 1858 (12 St. Mary's Street). Rapidly growing numbers of French Canadian residents in Biddeford after

³ Guignard, *La Foi - La Langue - La Culture, The Franco-Americans of Biddeford, Maine*. Biddeford, Maine: self published, 1982, 4.

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1860 resulted in the establishment of a second Catholic parish in Biddeford, one specifically to serve the French speaking communities in Biddeford and Saco. St. Joseph's was only the second French speaking parish to be established in the Portland Diocese. (A French speaking parish was not established in Saco until 1916.) Formed in 1870, St. Joseph's parish initially worshipped in a former Methodist church at the corner of Alfred and Bacon Streets (no longer extant) but in 1873 construction began on the present brick church building at 178 Elm Street, just a few blocks southwest of St. Mary's Church. St. Joseph's established a French-speaking parochial school in 1875 and had built a brick school building on Birch Street in 1888. (St. Joseph's School was listed in the National Register in 1983.) By the 1890s St. Joseph's had 8,000 members and the church facilities were grossly overcrowded. As a result, Biddeford's second French speaking church, St. Andre's, was founded in 1899.

St. Andre's Church was established less than a mile from St. Joseph's Church, in the heart the French Canadian neighborhood located southeast of Elm Street and south of Main Street. By June of 1900 three contiguous lots had been purchased for the new parish (a fourth adjoining lot on High Street was acquired by 1914 but the exact date of purchase is unclear). The church would be constructed on two of the lots (at the corner of Bacon and High Streets). Under the direction of Rev. Louis Bergeron, masons Boucher & Sons of Waterville began construction of the church in June of 1900.⁴ Only the basement level of the building, which had a reported capacity for 900 people, was built in the first phase of construction. This practice was not uncommon among parishes, as it provided a location for services to be held while the long process of securing funds and constructing the main body of the church was underway. For nearly a decade masses were held in the basement level until the main sanctuary, with a capacity for 1800 people, was completed in 1910.

As construction was beginning on St. Andre's Church, work was also underway building a rectory on the adjacent lot at the corner of Bacon and Sullivan Streets. A preexisting two-family house at the rear of the lot remained on the site as late as 1906 but was later removed (date of removal unknown). It is not known if this residence was used by St. Andre's parish before being removed from the site. According to an article in the *Biddeford Weekly Journal* from June 22, 1900, another preexisting house, this one on the church lot, was moved from its location facing Bacon Street around to the rear of the church onto High Street where it was renovated for use as a parochial school and living quarters for the nuns who taught at the school.

Establishment of a bilingual school was common practice in the French Canadian parishes and was yet another way to preserve their cultural heritage. All Catholic parishes were mandated to establish parochial schools following the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884 (a formal convocation of American Catholic Bishops), where a proclamation was issued calling for the erection of a school for every parish declaring that all Catholic parents were bound to send their children to the parochial school. The ensuing system of parochial schools in the United States became the largest private school system in the world. The French-Canadian parishes took this a step further, utilizing the schools to perpetuate their ancestral language and customs by staffing them with French speaking nuns from the homeland.

Classes were initially taught by Sisters of the Good Shepard, who were associated with nearby St. Joseph's parish. In 1904 education of St. Andre's students was taken over by Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. The existing convent building at the St. Andre's complex, located on Sullivan Street just north of the rectory, was constructed in 1916 on land that had been purchased by the parish in 1904. In 1930 the convent was enlarged with an addition on the rear that joins the convent to the church.

⁴*Biddeford Weekly Journal*, 3.

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By 1917 enrollment in the St. Andre's School reached approximately 1,850, at a time when there were three times as many students in the local parochial schools than in the Biddeford public schools.⁵ By 1925 the parish had outgrown the first school building and construction commenced on the existing school on Sullivan Street. Land on which the new school was built was purchased by the parish in 1920 and included two adjacent parcels, one of which was vacant but formerly held Biddeford's 4th District School House. The other lot was occupied by a two-story multi-family house, which was replaced by the new school. Research indicates that the new St. Andre's school was built in two phases, 1925 and 1927⁶, but the building is so altered today that it is difficult to know if there was a visible distinction between the two phases of construction. It appears that the old school on High Street was removed when the new school was built. By 1944 the parish had purchased six additional lots adjoining the parish complex to the northeast. At the time of purchase the lots held a collection of wood frame residences, most multi-family. All of the buildings were removed to provide space for parking.

There were a number of parish institutions associated with St. Andre's, due in large part to the work of Fr. Arthur Décary, pastor of St. Andre's from 1920 until 1950. Décary himself was reportedly quite wealthy and personally financed the new school and convent at St. Andre's.⁷ He also established a child care center in the lower level of the church in 1930.

St. Andre's parish served the local Catholic community for over 100 years. In addition to holding masses in the church and educating children in the school, St. Andre's hosted a number of religious and charitable societies, including La Ligue du Sacré Coeur for men, Les Enfants de Marie for young single women, Les Dames de Ste. Anne for married women, and temperance societies for both men and women. These groups helped further the goal of maintaining parishioners' cultural identity and centralizing the French Canadian community. In 1992 St. Andre's school closed when St. James tri-parish school (grades pre-K to eight) was established for the three Biddeford parishes of St. Andre's, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's. In 1998 the former school building at St. Andre's was converted to housing for the elderly. In 2008, as the result of dwindling congregations and continued expenses, the Diocese of Portland merged several parishes, including the three in Biddeford, to create Good Shepherd Parish. Mass was last celebrated in the St. Andre's Church in December of 2010. The church, convent and rectory are currently unused.

Criterion C - Architecture

The complex is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a noteworthy example of a Roman Catholic parish complex that retains its major components - church, rectory, school and convent. It is the most intact and most cohesive of the city's three Catholic parish complexes. With the exception of the school, the buildings in the St. Andre's complex remain largely intact and embody distinctive characteristics of their styles. The church is further important as a local example of the work of Boston architects Chickering & O'Connell. The church was built at a time when Chickering & O'Connell were highly regarded for their ecclesiastic designs and it expresses an important element of the firm's work.

Because the parochial parishes served not only as the religious focus for local Catholic communities but also fulfilled educational and cultural roles, it is not surprising that parishes included multiple buildings to accommodate the various functions of the congregation. A parish is typically comprised of a church as the principal worship space, a rectory to house the priests and administrative offices, a school (generally elementary level), and a convent to serve as residence for nuns teaching at the school. While St. Andre's has a single school building it is not uncommon to find larger parishes

⁵Guignard, *La Foi - La Langue - La Culture*, 59.

⁶St. Andre's Parish, *Programme Souvenir des Jubilés d'Or de la Paroisse St-André* (1949).

⁷Guignard, *La Foi - La Langue - La Culture*, 55.

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with both an elementary school and high school. The buildings themselves at St. Andre's also contain components that are typical of Catholic architecture. The church is largely occupied by the vast worship space but also includes a large open meeting space at the lower level. This lower level was constructed first and finished off to serve as the principal worship space until the upper sanctuary could be completed. This was a common practice in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when it could take years to build a church and there was a need for temporary quarters to hold Masses. The rectory incorporates reception parlors and offices on the first floor, as well as a common dining room. St. Andre's convent also has features that are typical of its type, including a chapel, parlor and office at the first floor, and a refectory on the lower level.

Unlike the two other Catholic parishes in Biddeford, St. Andre's buildings are located on contiguous lots and form a cohesive collection of functionally related historic buildings. Buildings that were historically associated with St. Joseph's parish are located in close proximity to the church but not on adjoining lots. St. Joseph's rectory stands on the opposite side of Elm Street from the church (church still in use as Good Shepard parish), while the former school buildings are about a third of a mile away on Birch Street. The convent was erected on Pool Street outside of the downtown area. St. Mary's parish has lost two of its principal buildings and is no longer a cohesive collection. The church and rectory (both vacant) stand together on St. Mary's Street but the convent and school that stood nearby were demolished.

Although the school at St. Andre's was heavily altered and has lost integrity, the church, rectory and convent are well-preserved examples of their respective styles. Despite the modest means of most New England Catholic parishes, no expense was spared on ornamentation and high style design, particularly notable in at St. Andre's Church. The Romanesque Revival style church (completed 1910), with its broad round arches, imposing brick facades, and ornate interior detailing, has undergone little change over time. The rectory (built 1900) is dominated by Second Empire style design details, such as the mansard roof, window pediments and engaged front tower. Aside from modifications to the porch, the rectory retains its original form, including a rear wing and rear ell. The convent (built 1916 with a 1930 addition) is an intact example of the Colonial Revival style, a style used extensively for early 20th century institutional buildings. Its brick exterior with contrasting cast stone details, tall cornice with dentils, symmetrical facade, and front pediment are characteristic of the style. The school building was heavily altered, as noted, but was originally designed in a more modern vocabulary than the older buildings of the complex, with stylized detailing, bands of large multi-pane windows, and a flat roof.

The architects responsible for the design of St. Andre's convent, school, and rectory have not been identified but St. Andre's Church was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Chickering & O'Connell, one of New England's preeminent ecclesiastic design firms during the short duration of its existence from 1901 until 1911. St. Andre's Church is representative of an important component of the firm's work, the design of Catholic churches. Their church designs were highly regarded and the firm was much sought after by Catholic parishes. Partner George W. Chickering (1869 - c. 1935) attended MIT and acquired additional training as head draftsman in the Haverhill, Massachusetts firm of C.W. & C.P. Damon from 1892 to 1894. Chickering subsequently worked in partnership with Timothy G. O'Connell (1868-1955), another MIT trained architect. O'Connell later came to be considered the "most prolific architect of Catholic buildings in New England."⁸ The firm was also awarded commissions from the Episcopal church but those were far fewer in number. The firm's churches were predominantly Gothic and Romanesque Revival style designs of varying sizes and level of detailing, from the diminutive wood-frame St. Joseph Church in Lincoln, Massachusetts to the monumental stone edifice of St. Anne's Church in Waterbury, Connecticut. Despite the diversity of the Chickering & O'Connell's church designs, they are most well-known for their large impressive red brick churches with abundant

⁸Earle G. Shettleworth and Roger G. Reed, "Timothy G. O'Connell 1868-1955," *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine* Volume VI (Portland, Maine: Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation, 1991).

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high-style Romanesque Revival or Gothic Revival detailing, such as St. Laurence O'Toole Church (Lawrence, Massachusetts – 1903), St. Stanislaus Church (New Haven, Connecticut – 1904), St. Andre's Church (Biddeford, Maine - 1909), St. Louis Church (Fort Kent, Maine – 1910), St. David's Church (Madawaska, Maine – 1911, NR: 73000101). Historians disagree on the exact dates that the partnership was in existence but it appears the firm was active from about 1901 until 1911.⁹ Research suggests that the firm maintained offices in Boston, Manchester, New Hampshire and Springfield, Massachusetts.

Criteria Consideration A

While the buildings in the district was built for a Catholic congregation, it is eligible for National Register listing for its historical associations with the local community and for its architectural significance rather than for any religious associations. St. Andre's Parish is significant in the area of ethnic history for the crucial role it played in maintaining and preserving the culture and traditions of the French-Canadian/Franco American community in Biddeford. The complex is significant as a noteworthy example of a Roman Catholic parish complex that retains its major components - church, rectory, school and convent. With the exception of the school, the buildings in the St. Andre's complex remain largely intact and embody distinctive characteristics of their styles.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

The earliest settlement in what is today Biddeford occurred around 1616 on the tip of a narrow peninsula at the mouth of the Saco River, several miles southeast of the current downtown. This small coastal village, known as Winter Harbor (Biddeford Pool today) formed what is said to have been the earliest permanent settlement in Maine. Biddeford was incorporated as a town in 1718, at which time the municipality included the current city of Saco. Saco was set off as an independent town in 1762. Biddeford's status was changed to that of a city in 1855.

The Saco River, which separates the towns of Biddeford and Saco, includes falls of about 40 feet that drop in two stages, only about 100 feet apart. The industrial value of these falls, located approximately four miles from Biddeford Pool, was recognized very early on and by the 18th century the focus of development had shifted from Biddeford Pool to the area known as the Falls. Industrial development in Biddeford, particularly cotton manufacturing, fueled growth and expansion of the city in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, resulting in the downtown that exists today. The population of Biddeford soared from 2,874 in 1840 to 6,095 in 1850 and reached roughly 9,000 by 1856. The number of local residents employed at the nearby Saco Water Power Company, Laconia Mill, Pepperell and York mills reached roughly 6,000 at its peak around 1900.

Biddeford's Immigrant Population

As was the case throughout New England, the growth of industry in Biddeford brought with it a large workforce that helped shape and define the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Prior to the Civil War, most of the mill workers in Biddeford were young women from agricultural communities of New England, who typically worked for a few years to save up money and then returned home. In 1851 roughly 86% of the Biddeford mill workers were Maine natives (20% of those from Biddeford itself), most of the remainder were from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The New England girls were gradually replaced by Irish immigrant workers, who began to arrive in New England

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in the late 1840s and found employment in the major mill cities throughout the region, including Biddeford. The mill companies welcomed this new workforce, one that was willing to work for lower wages and take on added responsibility. At roughly the same time, New England mill towns began attracting French Canadian immigrants in even larger numbers than the Irish. Most of the French Canadians who came to New England were from rural areas of Quebec, where life for farmers had become increasingly difficult. Financial hardship and encouragement from American mill company recruiters prompted French Canadians to move to the America in unprecedented numbers. This was the beginning of a massive emigration that brought roughly half a million people from rural Quebec to New England, primarily to work in the logging and textile industries. By 1860 most of the French Canadian emigrants who moved to New England had settled in Vermont (16,500), Massachusetts (7,780) and Maine (7,490), with much smaller numbers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, which had the fewest (1,780). It was not until after the American Civil War that French Canadians emigrated in staggering numbers. By 1870 approximately 15% of workers at the Pepperell Mills in downtown Biddeford were French Canadian. The percentage of French Canadian workers rapidly increased to over 30% in 1880 and approximately 55% by 1891. Similar statistics were found at the York Mills on the opposite side of the river in Saco, Maine. The 1880 census data indicates that 34% of Biddeford residents were French Canadian.¹⁰

Chickering & O'Connell - Supplemental Information

In addition to St. Andre's Church, Chickering & O'Connell designed a significant number of Catholic churches and associated buildings in New England :

Maine:

Star of the Sea Church (York Beach)
 St. Louis Church (Auburn)
 St. Mary's Convent (Biddeford)
 St. Joseph's Convent (Portland)
 St. Louis Church (Fort Kent)
 St. John's School (Bangor)
 St. David's Church (Madawaska)
 St. Andre's Church (Biddeford)

New Hampshire:

St. Francis Xavier Church (Nashua)
 St. George Church (Dover)
 St. Mary Church (Hillsborough)
 St. Kieran Church (Berlin)

Massachusetts:

St. John's Church (Millers Falls)
 Our Lady Help of Christians Church (West Concord)
 St. Patrick's Church (Monson)
 St. Paul's Church (Warren)
 St. Lawrence O'Toole Church (Lawrence)
 St. Louis de France (West Springfield)
 St. Joseph's Church (Lincoln)

¹⁰ Guignard, *La Foi - La Langue - La Culture*, 21-22.

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St. Bernard's Church (Concord)
 Academie Brochu (Southbridge)
 Cheverus School (Maldon)

Connecticut:

St. Ann's Church (Waterbury)
 Sacred Heart Church (Taftville)
 St. Stanislus Church (New Haven)
 St. Joseph Church (Meriden)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Atlas of York County, Maine. Philadelphia: Sanford, Everts & Co., 1872.

Byrne, William. *History of The Catholic Church in The New England States* Vol. 1. Boston: The Hurd & Everts Co., 1899.

"New Church," *Biddeford Weekly Journal*, June 22, 1900, 3.

Deeds, various years. York County Registry of Deeds, York County Courthouse, Alfred, Maine.

Guignard, Michael J. *La Foi - La Langue - La Culture, The Franco-Americans of Biddeford, Maine.* Biddeford, Maine: self published, 1982

Parish histories for St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and St. Andre's in Biddeford, Maine on Good Shepherd Parish website.

<http://goodshepherdparish.us/>

Accessed 3/2/2014

St. Andre's Parish, *Programme Souvenir des Jubilés d'Or de la Paroisse St-André et de son Curé* Msgr. Arthur M. Décary, Biddeford, Maine, 23-24-25 Octobre, 1949. Biddeford, Maine: 1949. (In collection of McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Maine.)

Insurance Atlas of Biddeford, Maine. Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1906.

Shettleworth, Earle G. and Roger G. Reed. "Timothy G. O'Connell 1868-1955," *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine* Volume VI. Portland, Maine: Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation, 1991.

"Timothy G. O'Connell," Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_G._O'Connell

Accessed 12/11/2014.

Repositories

ST. ANDRE'S PARISH

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McArthur Library, Biddeford, Maine. Collection includes vertical file and photographs of St. Andre's parish.

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: McArthur Library, Biddeford, Maine

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.9

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19	Easting: 382724	Northing: 4816326
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

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

The boundaries include the following four contiguous city lots, identified by the City of Biddeford assessors department with the following block and lot numbers:

39-130
39-130-1
39-130-2
39-130-3

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include all four contiguous city lots that contain all land historically associated with the St. Andre's Parish complex.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christine S. Beard
 organization: Tremont Preservation Services
 street & number: 21 Market Street
 city or town: Ipswich state: MA zip code: 01938
 e-mail: chris@tremontpreservation.com
 telephone: 978-356-0322
 date: January, 2015

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: St. Andre's Parish

City or Vicinity: Biddeford

County: York State: Maine

Photographer: Christine Beard

Date Photographed: 1/3/2014 (Photographs 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17)
 2/4/2014 (Photographs 6, 13)
 8/19/2014 (Photographs 3, 14, 15, 18)
 1/8/2015 (Photographs 4, 8)
 4/29/2015 (Photographs 9, 10)

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0001.tif
Streetscape view northeast along Bacon St. showing rectory (left) and church (right)
- 2 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0002.tif
Streetscape view southeast along Sullivan St. showing school (left) and convent (right)
- 3 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0003.tif
Site photo – view south showing church (left), garage (center) and rectory (right)
- 4 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0004.tif
View northwest showing church façade
- 5 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0005.tif
View northwest showing church façade (left) and east elevation (right)
- 6 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0006.tif
View east showing west elevation of church (center)
- 7 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0007.tif
View north showing church sanctuary
- 8 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0008.tif
View northwest showing rectory rectory façade (right) and west elevation (left)
- 9 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0009.tif
View southeast showing rectory – west elevation (right) and north elevation (left)
- 10 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0010.tif
View south in rectory showing second floor stairhall
- 11 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0011.tif
View east showing convent façade (west elevation)
- 12 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0012.tif
View southeast showing convent façade (right) and north elevation (left)
- 13 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0013.tif
View northeast showing convent – south elevation
- 14 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0014.tif
View southwest in convent showing west end of chapel

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- 15 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0015.tif
View east in convent showing second floor stairhall
- 16 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0016.tif
View southeast showing school façade (right) and north elevation (left)
- 17 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0017.tif
View southeast in school showing typical finishes in common room
- 18 of 18 ME_York County_St.Andres_0018.tif
View southeast showing garage – north elevation (left) and west elevation (right)

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 100 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.

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FIGURE 1

St. Andre's Church and School
(c. 1900)

*Image from collection of Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine - obtained through Maine Memory Network website.
(<https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/64424> - accessed 3/2/2014)*



FIGURE 2

St. Andre's Church
(c. 1900)

*Postcard image from ebay sale posting.
(<http://www.ebay.com/itm/St-Andrews-Church-Biddeford-Maine-ME-/230450625492> - accessed 3/2/2014)*

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Name of Property

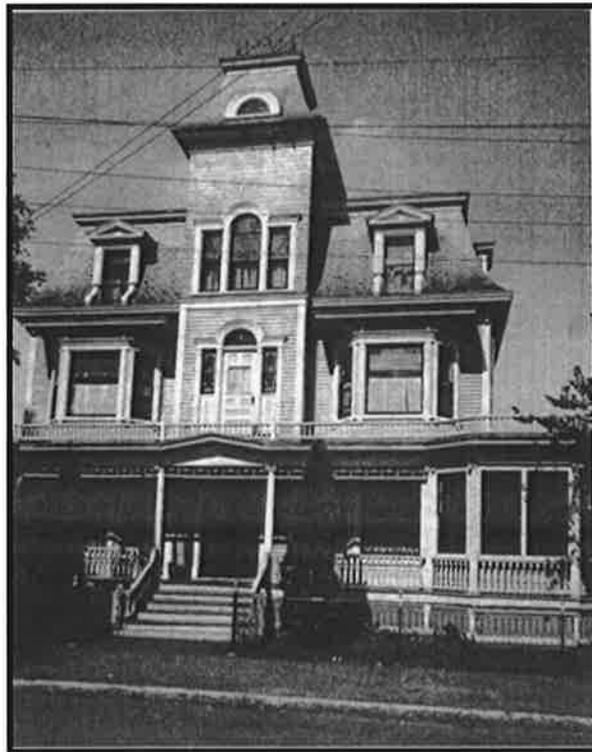
YORK COUNTY, MAINE

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**FIGURE 3**

St. Andre's Church (c. 1910)

*Image from collection of McArthur Library, Biddeford, Maine - obtained through Maine Memory Network website.
(<https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/7526> - accessed 3/2/2014)*

**FIGURE 4**

St. Andre's Rectory

(c. 1949)

*Image from Programme Souvenir des Jubilés d'Or de la Paroisse St-André. Biddeford, Maine: 1949.
(Pamphlet in collection of McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Maine)*

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FIGURE 5
 St. Andre's Convent
 (c. 1930)

Image from collection of McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Maine.

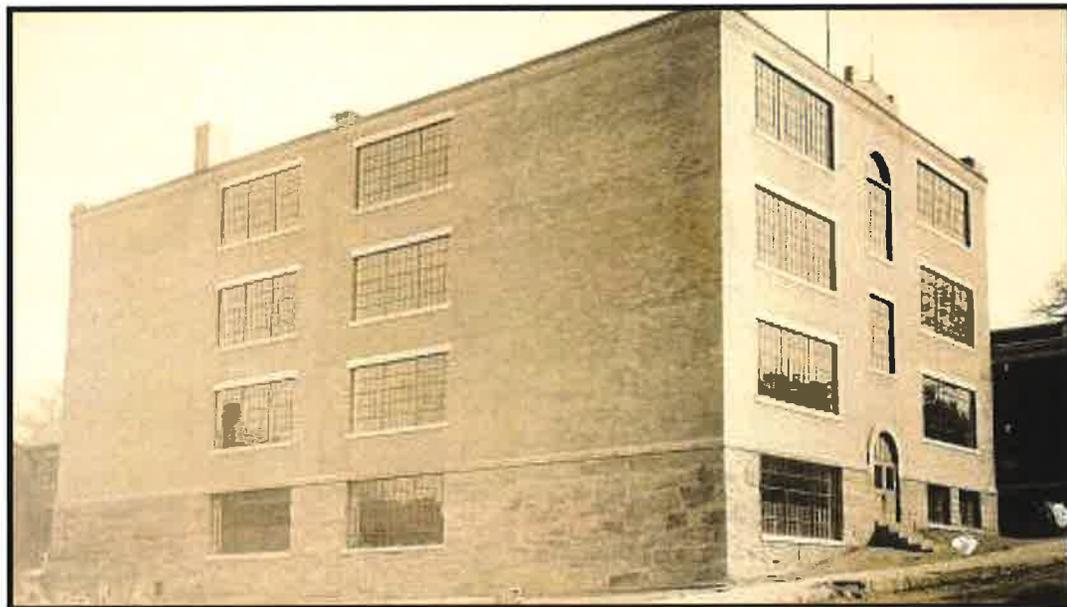


FIGURE 6
 St. Andre's School
 (c. 1925)

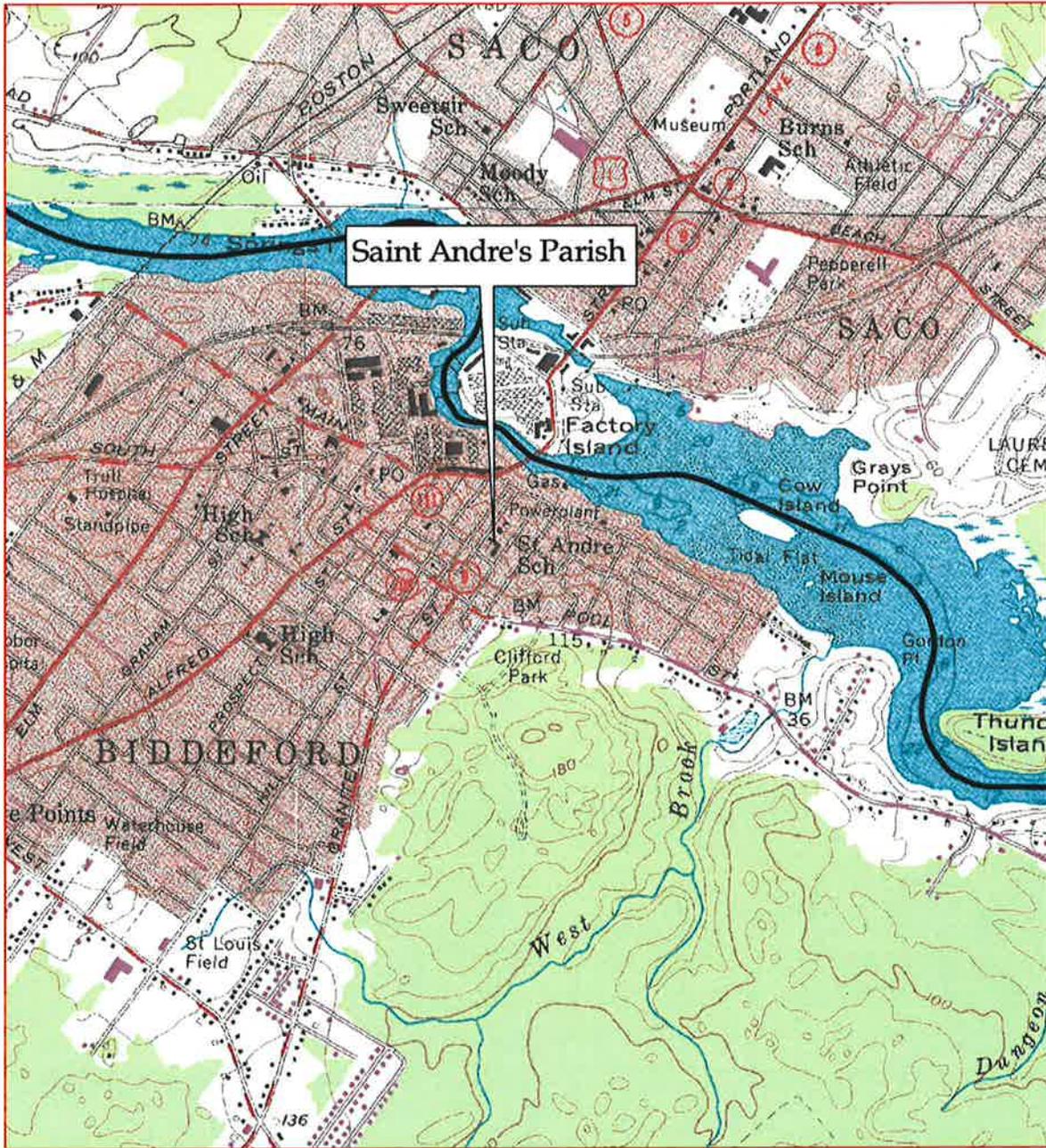
Image from collection of Biddeford Historical Society, Biddeford, Maine - obtained through Maine Memory Network website. (<https://www.mainememory.net/artifact/64423> - accessed 1/21/2014)

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**SAINT ANDRE'S PARISH
YORK COUNTY, MAINE
26 May 2015**

UTMs NAD 83 19/ 382724 / 4816326



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**ST. ANDRE'S PARISH COMPLEX
SKETCH MAP**

→ = Photo Numbers
 C = Contributing Resource
 NC = Noncontributing Resource
 — = District Boundary

 <p>Tremont PRESERVATION SERVICES</p>	<p>ST. ANDRE'S PARISH BIDDEFORD, MAINE</p>	<p>Sketch Map</p>	
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Biddeford
Catholic
Center

41



Benedetto
Catholic
Centre













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