



RECEIVED  
by CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

JUN 05 1984

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
20 Vesey Street  
New York, N.Y. 10007

May 29, 1984

Att: G. Norman

As members of the Rosebank community in Staten Island, New York, we wish to request that St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church situated at 1101 Bay Street, Staten Island, be considered in establishing it as a landmark.

In 1977, St. Mary's celebrated its 125th year anniversary.

Enclosed is a copy of the history of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, which we hope will help toward reaching a decision in considering the request of the parishioners and members of the Rosebank community.

We are submitting this request on behalf of the older members of the community, their children and their grandchildren who have attended St. Mary's Church and school.

We look forward to an early reply.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Very truly yours,

*Rita Newell*  
Rita Newell

666 Tompkins Avenue  
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

*Anne Smith*  
Anne Smith  
37 Egbert Place  
Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

L. NORMAN - FYI  
D. SCHULTZ / S. ZAVIN - RESPONSE

*JN*  
6/11/84

## History of St. Mary's

In 125 years, St. Mary's has thrived in the spirit of its founder, the Rev. John Lewis, a devoted priest and practical go-getter. Born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1821, Father Lewis came to Staten Island on October 2, 1852.

Without a church, Father had to say Mass in people's homes and one of the first to open his doors to the young priest was Michael O'Connor. Shortly after Father Lewis's arrival, Mr. O'Connor and Capt. William Corry went into partnership and built the first parsonage for St. Mary's, free of charge.

After constructing the first church and school on Wood Rd., now St. Mary's Ave., Father Lewis began plans for the present St. Mary's church. The cornerstone was laid in April and Mass was celebrated for the first time on Christmas Day, 1857.

In 1858, Father Lewis saw completion of a new red-brick rectory and four years later purchased property in Grasmere to bury the parish dead. The grounds of St. Mary's Cemetery were blessed on Sunday, May 1, 1862.

In 1864 work started on the first parish school on New York Ave., now Bay St. St. Mary's is credited with being the first to operate a parish school on Staten Island. Although it was first staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of Charity took over the school in 1867, marking the beginning of many years of devoted service.

Father Lewis died on November 27, 1887 at the age of 66. He was buried in the churchyard, where a large granite stone marks his grave.

His immediate successor was Rev. Daniel J. Corkery who served St. Mary's for three years. Father Corkery was replaced by Rev. James F. Mee, whose simple ways and strong piety made him an instant success with the parishioners. Father Mee died in 1908 and the hall in the present school is named in his honor.

Father Michael J. Cunniff was appointed pastor of St. Mary's by Cardinal Farley in 1909 and was succeeded by Very Rev. D.J. McMackin in December 1909 after Father Cunniff's untimely death.

Msgr. McMackin re-organized the entire parochial structure. Concerned with children and their education, Msgr. McMackin replaced the old wooden school with the present brick structure. Working closely with the parishioners, the Monsignor was able to raise the needed funds; the school's enrollment increased and St. Mary's School became one of the model schools of the Archdiocese.

Father Edward J. Tierney succeeded Msgr. McMackin in 1916 and in 1918, Father Cornelius J. Cronan was named pastor of St. Mary's after serving as an assistant here for 19 years. Father Cronan enlarged the rectory to make room for a second assistant.

On July 1, 1926, Father Francis Hanretty succeeded Father Cronan as Pastor. Realizing that many improvements were needed, Father Hanretty set about renovating the church and school, instituted perpetual care of the graves at St. Mary's Cemetery and enlarged the work force there.

1977, 125 years  
sold

Succeeding Father Hanretty, Father William A. Gill came to St. Mary's as pastor in the late fall of 1938 and remained pastor until 1943. Father Gill, during World War II would bless the men from St. Mary's as they left for the service. He consoled the families of those who were either wounded, missing or killed during the war.

Father George J. Hatford was appointed pastor of St. Mary's in November, 1943. He often boasted that no congregation had been more loyal to a pastor than the people of St. Mary's. Without their cooperation, he had said, he could not have accomplished the improvements on the church and school.

Rev. Edmund T. Meehan succeeded Father Hatford as pastor after having been pastor of nearby St. John Baptist de la Salle. As a young man, Father Meehan was stricken with tuberculous, prayed to St. Camillus and was cured; he devoted his life to spreading devotion to the saint by publishing the monthly Society of St. Camillus booklet. A real benefactor to the poor, Father anonymously bought food and articles for his flock whenever and wherever needed.

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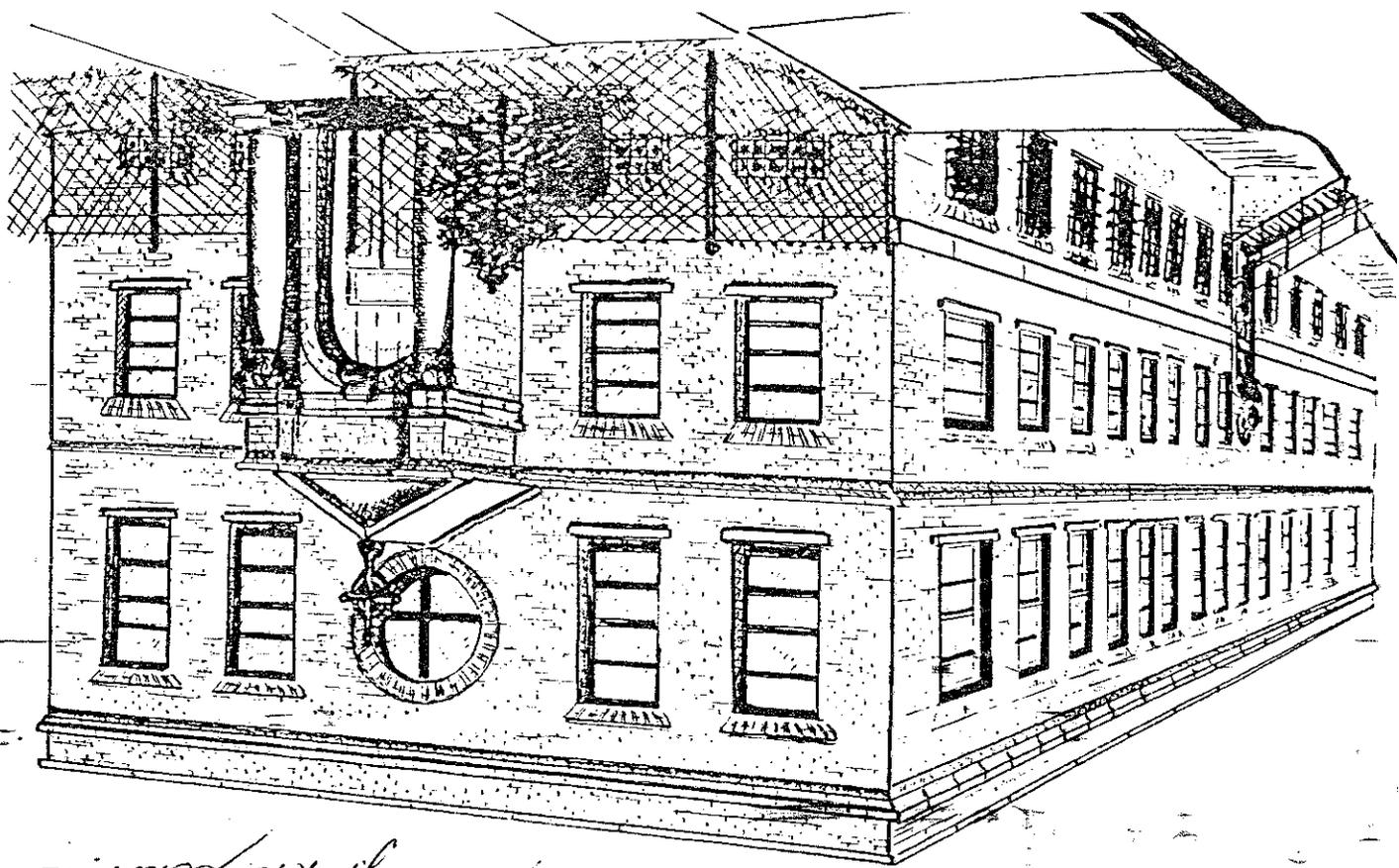
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The diocese was fearful that St. Mary's School might be forced to close due to low enrollment and increase expenses. With the aid of Sister Mary Michael and the parishioners, Father Hurley has been able to keep the doors of St. Mary's School open.

The interior of the church and school were badly in need of repair. Once again the parishioners answered Father Hurley's call and time and energy have reaped their reward - St. Mary's Church and School are ready to give many more years of service to the faithful.

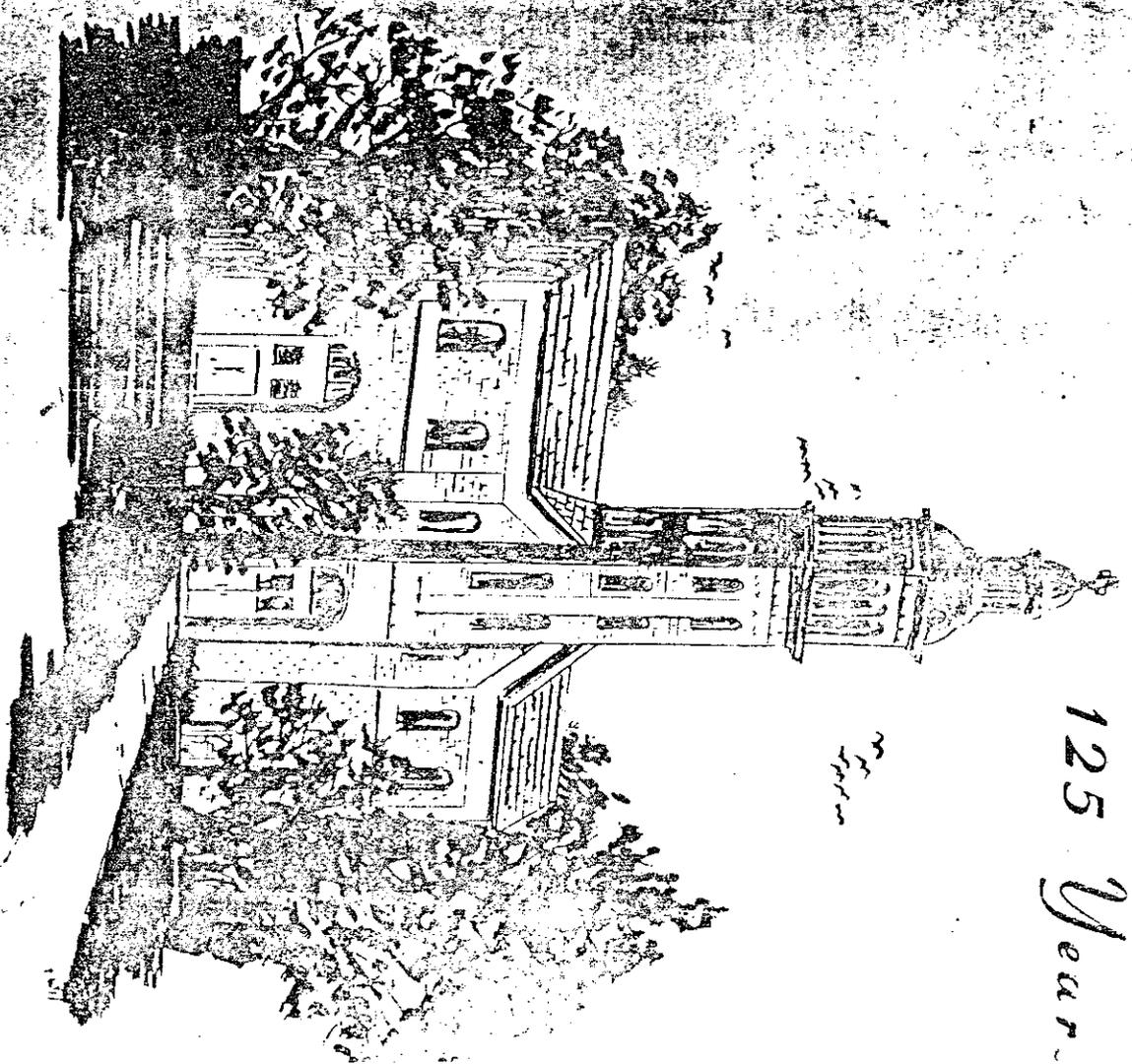
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And so, as we look back on the achievements of St. Mary's since Father Lewis first came to Rosebank let us look ahead to the next years, filled with a spirit of rededication confident that our next 125 years will be even more productive than the first.



*St. Mary's R.C. School*

*St. Mary's*



*125 Year*



LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

20 VESEY STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

566-7577

June 14, 1984

Ms. Rita Newell  
666 Tompkins Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10305

Dear Ms. Newell:

Thank you for your recent request for a field visit and determination from our professional staff with regard to the potential determination of:

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church  
1101 Bay Street

I have passed this request to Darrell Schulze, Field Director for Staten Island. He will shortly assign a field visit to be completed and a determination made. He will respond to your request when this work is completed.

Thank you for your interest in preservation and in the work of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Marjorie Pearson  
Director of Research

cc: G Norman  
D Schulze  
Anne Smith  
file



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July 6, 1984

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Staff members of the Research Department have recently completed their evaluation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, located at 1101 Bay Street.

Based on our professional judgment this structure does not appear to meet the criteria for designation as a New York City landmark. In a city the size of New York a high degree of selectivity must be exercised with regard to potential landmark designation.

We appreciate your interest in preservation and in the work of the Commission.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell Schulze".

Darrell Schulze  
Field Director

cc: Marjorie Pearson  
file



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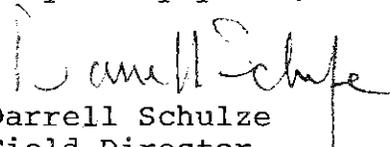
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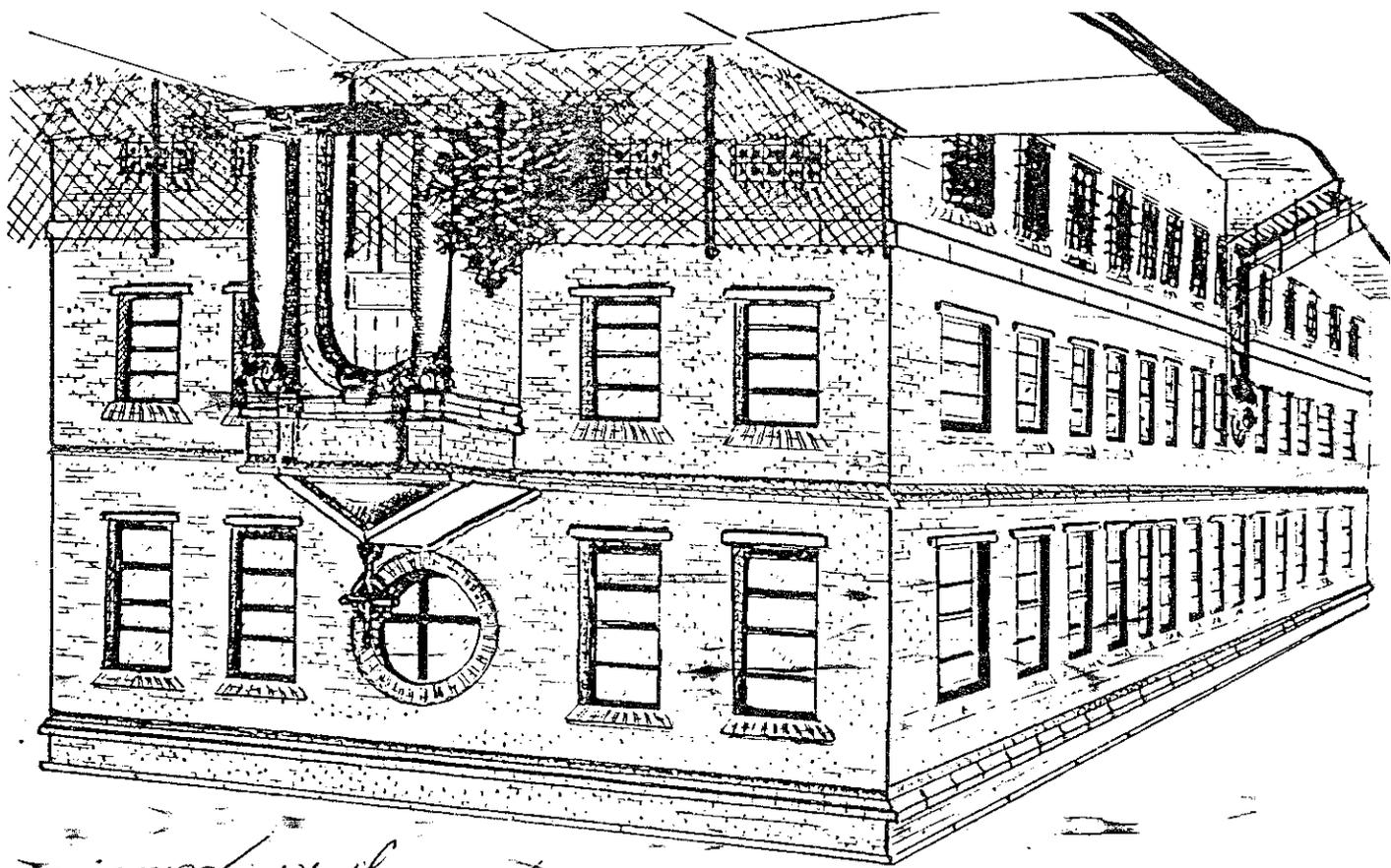
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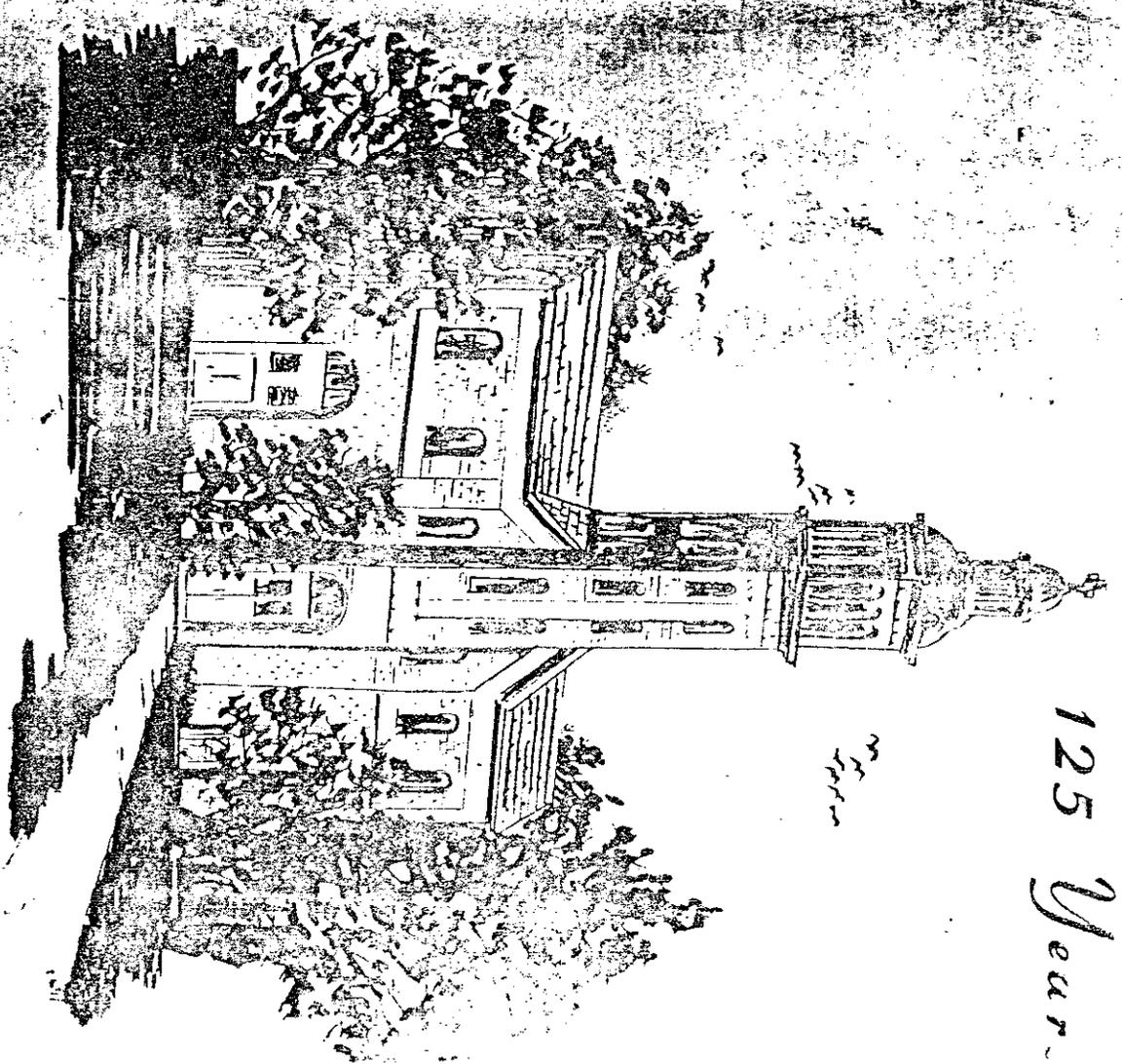
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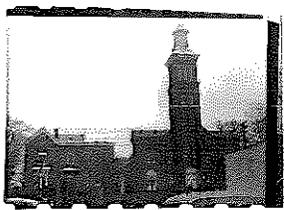
*St. Mary's, K.C. Mo.*

*St. Mary's*



*125 Years*

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

<p>1. STATE <b>New York</b>          COUNTY <b>Richmond</b>          TOWN <b>Rosebank</b> VICINITY <b>Staten Island</b>          STREET NO.  <b>1101 Bay St. opp. St. Mary's Ave.</b>          ORIGINAL OWNER <b>St. Mary's R.C. Church</b>          ORIGINAL USE <b>parish church</b>          PRESENT OWNER <b>same</b>          PRESENT USE <b>same</b>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b>          NO. OF STORIES <b>1 &amp; tall tower</b></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME <b>St. Mary's R.C. Church</b>  <b>1855</b>          DATE OR PERIOD          STYLE <b>Italianate</b>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>yes</b></span></p> <p><b>2827 - 20</b></p> <p>This church has an excellent site on the east side of Bay Street on a 40 foot rise. It is reached by two flights of steps. On the north and connected is the priests' house which was evidently built at the same time and is also of brick with white trim of wood and in the same sort of North Italian, Lombard Romanesque style.</p> <p>The tower can be seen for miles and makes a landmark for Rosebank.</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    <b>no</b>    interior    <b>excellent</b>    Exterior    <b>excellent</b></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> 
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <b>Nov. 13, 1962</b>    <b>AAG</b></p>

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
INVENTORY

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 COUNTY **Richmond**  
 TOWN **Rosebank** VICINITY **Staten Island**  
 STREET NO. **1101 Bay St. opp. St. Mary's Ave.**  
 ORIGINAL OWNER **St. Mary's R.C. Church**  
 ORIGINAL USE **parish church**  
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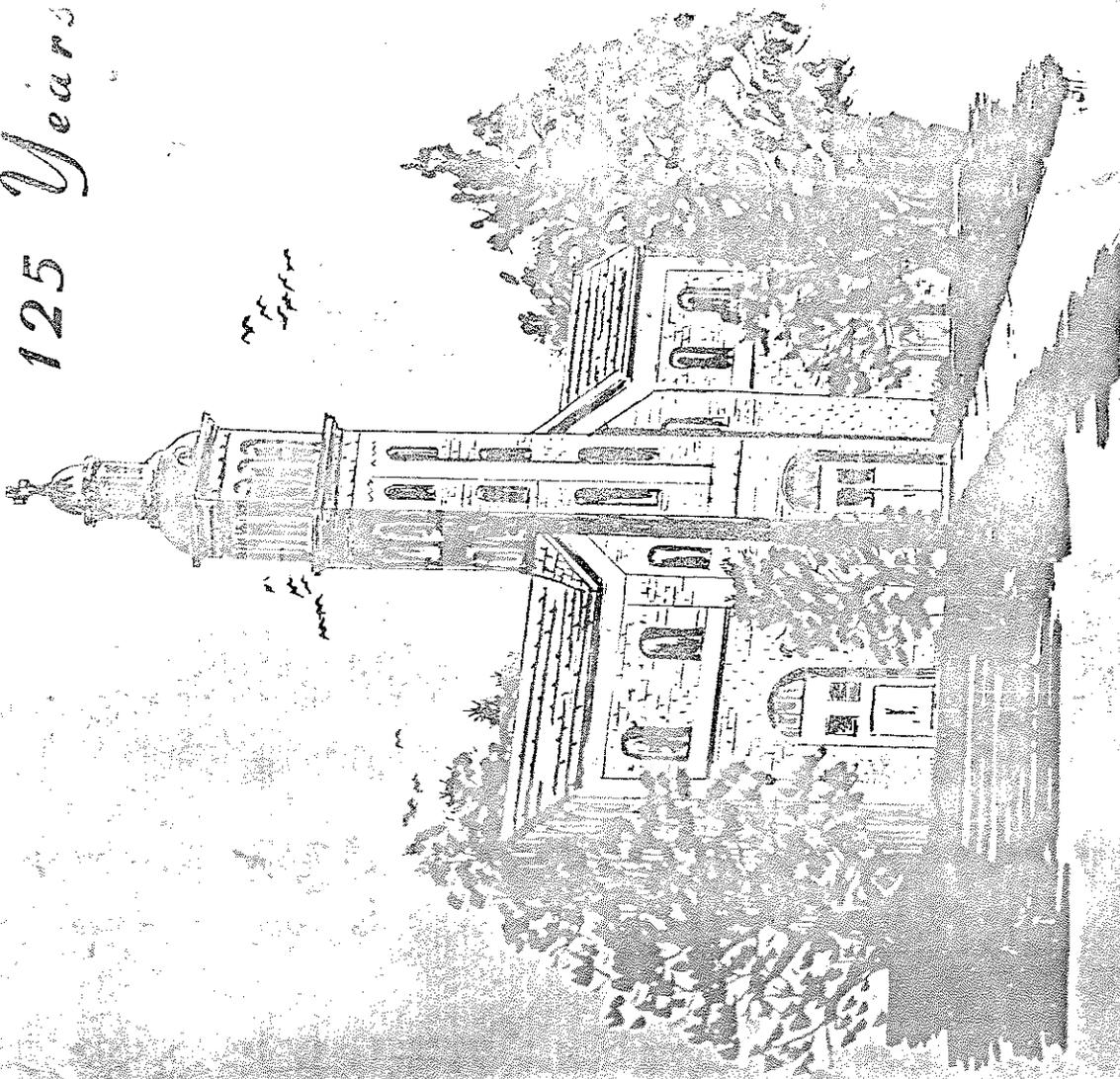
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AAG

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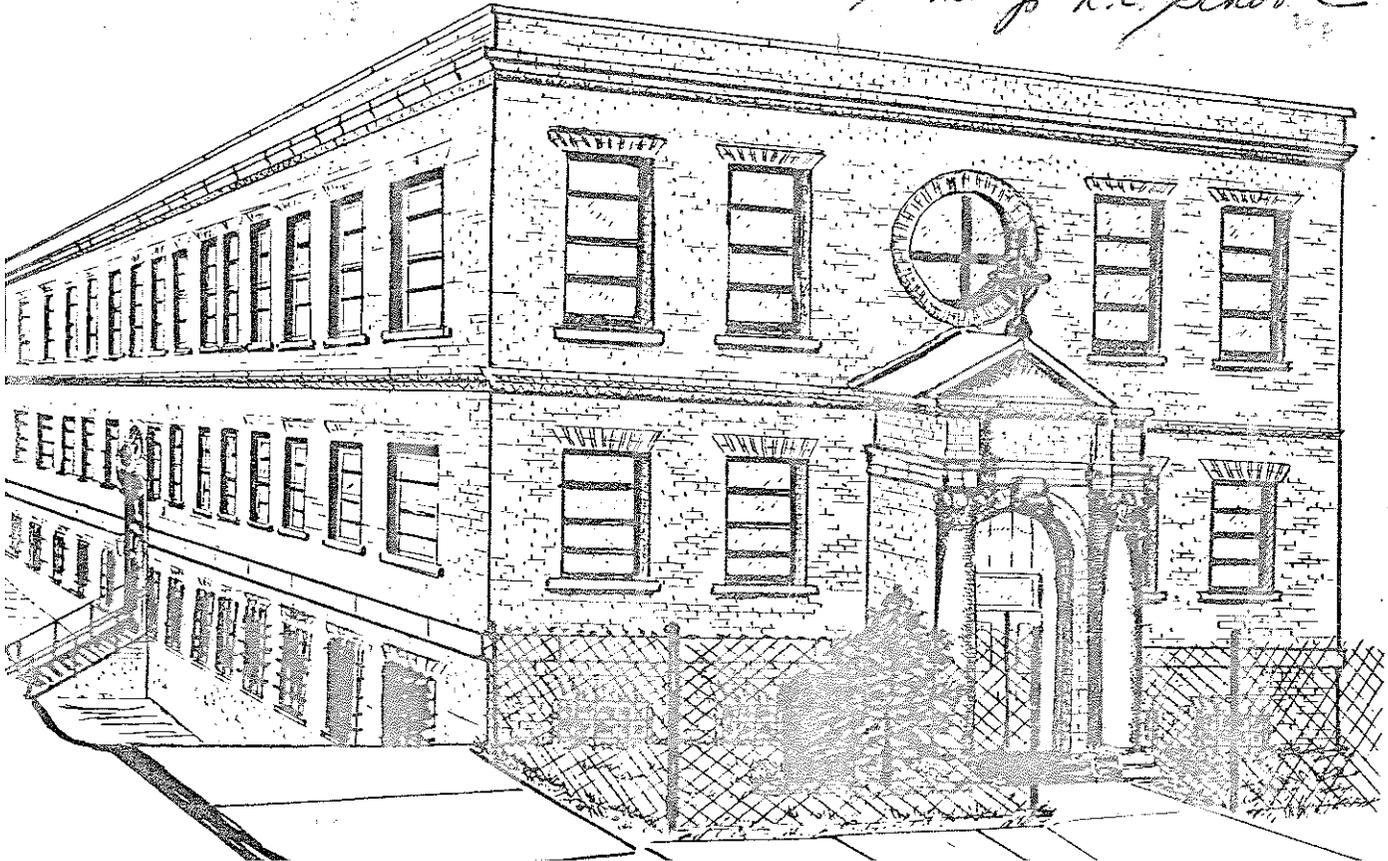
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125 Years



St. Mary's

St. Mary's R.C. School



1977 125 years Sold

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02/08/00 PUBLIC ACCESS PROPERTY PROFILE OVERVIEW BISPIQ70  
1101..... BAY STREET..... 5 STATEN ISLAND 10305 BIN# 5090823

BAY STREET 1101 - 1101 HEALTH AREA : 07 TAX BLK: 2827.  
CENSUS TRACT: 6 TAX LOT: 25...  
COMMUNITY BD: 501 CONDO :  
MULTI STRUCT: 0 CUI NO :

=====

DOB SPECIAL PLACE NAME : 1 PROPERTY RECORD(S)  
DOB BUILDING REMARKS :  
FINANCE OCCUPANCY CODE : A1-1 FAMILY DWELLING LANDMARK STATUS: NO

COUNTS FOR THIS BIN			RECORD VERIFIED : NO
ACTIONS : 1	, 2	JOBS/FILINGS (PF4)	SPECIAL STATUS :
VIOLATIONS DOB : 33	, 30	OPEN	LOCAL LAW : NO
ECB : 2	, 1	OPEN (PF12)	SRO : NO
COMPLAINTS : 2	, 0	OPEN (PF11)	

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ENTER KEY= ACTIONS, (TYPE : .... ) PF 5/6/7 = NEW ADDR/BIN/BLK-LOT  
PF 3 = ELEVATORS PF8 = BOILERS PF 9/10 = BROWSE BIN/BLK-LOT  
PF 14 = LPC/HPD/LOFT USE ONLY PF 15 = BROWSE 1 PROPERTY RECORDS  
PF 16 = ADDTN'L PROPERTY INFO

2827-20, 25  
St. Mary's R.C. Church &  
Rectory  
1101 Bay St.,  
Rosebank

Built about 1858

Anglo-Italianate

Anglo-Italianate-Victorian  
church of brick (red). The  
complex forms a  
picturesque addition to the  
landscape.

