

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SBR.166
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Saint Matthew's Roman Catholic Church
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	105 Southville Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Southborough
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Cordaville; Southville
<b>Local No:</b>	03-31
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Gothic Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Church
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	SBR.B: Southville
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood; Glass Foundation: Brick; Stone, Cut; Granite



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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# FORM B – BUILDING

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

03-31

Marlboro

13

166

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village) Southville / Cordaville

Address 105 Southville Road

Historic Name St. Matthew's Church

Uses: Present institutional - religious

Original institutional - religious

Date of Construction 1879

Source Church History - Noble

Style/Form Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite block,

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures modern parish hall - 1999, rectory and office building - ca. 1958

Major Alterations (with dates) Replaced steeple - 1996, extension of side walls of narthex, vinyl siding - 1980s-1990s.

Condition fair (siding) / good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date n/a

Acreage

Setting In between villages of Southville and Cordaville on main east-west route paralleling railroad - Sits up above Southville Road with access from Highland Street to large parking lot and new parish hall - sloping lawn from church down to Southville Road.

Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 01/00

JUL 03 2000

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

MASS. HIST. COMM



**BUILDING FORM****ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**☐ see continuation sheet*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Although now sheathed in vinyl siding much of the architectural design remains to remind us of the late-nineteenth century intent. The gable roof church faces west with its roof ridge parallel to Southville Road along the southern edge of the property and Highland Street at the northern edge. The building consists of the six-bay main block, a smaller one-story two-bay rear addition corresponding to the area behind the altar, and slightly projecting wall gables on each long side of the building in the fourth bay from the main entrance front of the church. There are three raised basement entrances on the south side and one first-story entrance on the north side. The steeple of the building, replaced in 1996, mimics a meeting house steeple with its four square stages, not the Gothic Style belfry that is shown in old photographs of the building. Defining features include buttressed corners, pointed arched fenestration, and band courses to tie together each elevation. The most significant change besides the steeple has been expansion of the narthex by pushing out the side walls to meet the sanctuary's side walls so that the entrance in the gable end no longer is a projecting centered entrance bay. The buttresses that did articulate the front corner of the gable front entrance bay are retained. Buttresses also articulate the wall gable on each of the two side elevations. Pointed arched stained glass windows adorn each bay. In the peak of each of the wall gables there is a quatrefoil stained glass window with horizontal banding visually tying it to the gable peak. Over the front entrance is a three-part stained glass window with a quatrefoil window within the pointed arch above the pointed arches of the three parts. The centered entrance under the three-part pointed arched window has a projecting buttressed pointed arch surround. And the pointed arched motif is carried out in the bottom squared stage of the steeple just above the three-part window. This pointed arched opening retains only the bracketed tabs, but once had a projecting pointed arched surround.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**☒ see continuation sheet*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

St. Matthew's was established as a mission of the Milford Parish and held its first mass in 1861. Southborough's Catholic population grew substantially with the success of various factories in Southville and Cordaville, and later at Fayville. Many Irish had come to Southborough to work in the boot and shoe manufactories and the cotton and woolen mills. As in many communities surrounding Boston, the Irish in Southborough were the first immigrant group making up 90% of the new residents of Southborough in the early 1850s. Fr. Patrick Cudaly was the priest in charge of the newly established St. Matthew's mission. Mass first was held in Wilson Hall, which was the second floor meeting hall of the Cordaville store at 110 Southville Road, most commonly known as **Fitzgerald's Store** for the twentieth century proprietor. Milton Sanford, the mid nineteenth century owner, gave permission at that time provided that someone post a bond to cover potential damage. This was done by Philip Harrington who lived at 33 Highland Street. In 1870, St. Matthew's mission was transferred from Milford to Westborough where Fr. Richard Donovan was Pastor. In 1872 Herbert Wilson deeded one-half acre of land on the Southville/Cordaville line and when the mission passed to Father Eagan, Pastor of Westborough, excavation for the church building began. However, due to lack of funds work did not continue until 1877 when the Westborough parish was taken over by Father Cornelius Cronin who oversaw construction of the church building by 1879. In 1886 Father John F. Redican was appointed the first Pastor of Cordaville for a parish that included all four villages of Southborough. Due to the difficulty getting to St. Matthew's for worshippers from Fayville and Southborough Center, a mission was established in Fayville and Fr. Redican said mass at Clisbee Hall (no longer extant) in Fayville from 1887. By the end of 1887 St. Matthew's had 209 communicants and the

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**Town  
SOUTHBOROUGHProperty Address  
105 SOUTHVILLE ROAD  
Area(s) Form No.MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)**

new mission, St. Anne's, had 367. The new parish of St. Anne's was built at Southborough Center and dedicated in December of 1887 and Fr. Redican continued to serve as pastor of both parishes until 1892. In 1902 with the construction of a rectory at St. Anne's, it became the official Southborough parish and St. Matthew's reverted to mission status. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, until 1956, a single priest led both St. Anne's and St. Matthew's, the former as a parish, the latter as a mission. In August 1956 the new Parish Lines were drawn. In 1957, Father Eugene C. Archey became the first pastor of St. Matthew's with its newly restored status as a parish. For a short time he lived in Westborough where he also served as chaplain at the State Hospital. In all likelihood the rectory was constructed soon after the end of 1957 at which time he gave up his chaplaincy duties. By this time the Worcester Diocese had been formed (1950) and this parish received its permission to become a parish from the then Bishop of Worcester, the Most Rev. John J. Wright. Plans for many of the parishes that had been in the Springfield Diocese were transferred to the Archdiocese of Boston, however, there is no record of plans for St. Matthew or St. Anne's, thus the architects are unknown.

The **South Union School** across the street at 21 Highland Street and St. Matthew's Church are located in between the two villages of Cordaville and Southville and were built to serve both communities. However, previous survey projects listed both properties in the Southville area form, thus for consistency of MHC numbering they will be included in the Southville Area Form. It is important to recognize the relevance of the property to both Cordaville and Southville.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**☐ *see continuation sheet*

Atlases/Maps: 1898 (St. Matthew's Cath.Ch.)

Bailey, O.H. Birdseye View, "Southville and Cordaville", 1887.

Diocese of Worcester correspondence. To be given to the Southborough Historical Commission.

Noble, Richard. Fences of Stone, 1990.

Souvenir commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Parishes of St. Matthew's and St. Anne's, 1936.

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



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community      Property Address  
SOUTHBOROUGH      105 SOUTHVILLE ROAD

Area(s)      Form No.

B	166
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### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible      ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district  
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ A    ☐ B    ☐ C    ☐ D    ☐ E    ☐ F    ☐ G

Statement of Significance by     Schuler/Forbes, Consultants      
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

St. Matthew's Church is eligible for listing on the National Register individually and as part of the Southville and/or Cordaville Historic District for its association with the development of the Catholic Church in Southborough, its position between the two named villages, figuratively and physically, and for its architecture as an example of the Gothic Revival Style appropriate to the ecclesiastical use. The Church retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, association, and feeling.



(Attach photo here)



Pl. Sville 1166  
B

Southborough  
Street address Southrule Rd  
Name St. Matthews Church  
Date: original & present  
Present owner  
Open to public Yes  
Date 1886 Style Gothic Rev.  
Source of date

Development of town/city  
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Architect

Church

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Brick

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork Spire

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards Buttress-type

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

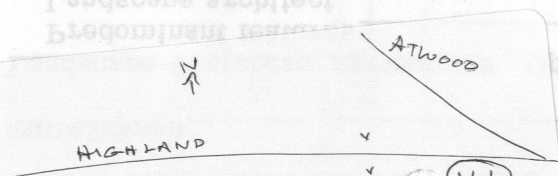
6. Footage of structure from street  
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo #6-6 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



## RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.

Venetian Gothic    Mansard    Richardsonian    Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

RESTRICTIONS

RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Need information: Book Number                      Page                     ,                      Registry of Deeds