

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

FILE COPY  
For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Grace Chapel and Hospital of Fourteenth Street

and/or common Church of the Immaculate Conception and Clergy House

## 2. Location

street & number 406-414 East 14th Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town New York \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 18

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Church of the Immaculate Conception

street & number 406-414 East 14th Street

city, town New York \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state New York

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Register's Office

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York \_\_\_\_\_ state New York

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

LP-0226 LP-0227  
title Landmarks Preservation Commission has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 7, 1966 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records 305 Broadway

city, town New York \_\_\_\_\_ state New York

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Church of the Immaculate Conception and its clergy houses are examples of the late nineteenth century French Gothic Revival style of architecture. Located four blocks east of Union Square, the church complex is in sharp contrast to the tenements and storefronts of East 14th Street. New York architects Barney & Chapman designed the church complex in 1894.

The church is rectangular in form, built of stone and smooth brown Roman brick, and rises more than three stories in height. The plain, asymmetrical gable which contains a large rose window is directly above the entrance and its arched portal. To the right of the doorway is a projecting six-sided chapel, with each side composed of paired pointed-arched windows separated by small columns. To the left and adjacent to the church is the freestanding tower. Each of its facades contains paired vertical openings, articulated by clusters of slender colonettes and terminating in pointed arches. This lofty structure is six stories high and is a handsome contrast to the steep-pitched gable roof of the church. East of the tower, the two, three-story clergy houses are joined at their base by a low arch which frames the entrance to a small courtyard. Each floor of these buildings is rhythmically articulated by double windows, and gabled dormer windows are set in the slate roof of the attic story. Belt course moldings at the second and fourth floors add decorative accents.

Within the complex, individual units are connected by cloisters, arcades, and ramps. Guastavino tile vaulting was employed for the arcaded walkways adjacent to the parking lot behind the clergy houses. The parking lot had originally been the location of the cloister garden.

The interior of the church reveals a Latin Cross plan contained within the outer rectangular form. At the south end the nave terminates in a semi-circular apse. The nave and crossing rise to the exposed roof, which is supported by stenciled braces and pointed arches. Arcaded side aisles, defined by clustered colonettes, rise a single story, above which paired and pointed arched windows form the clerestory. Inside the morning chapel is a grotto shrine, added in 1944.

The interior of the clergy houses underwent alterations when the structures were converted from a hospital into housing. Due to the church's strict policy of privacy for its clergy, an inspection of the interiors of the clergy houses was not permitted.

The original mission buildings were located directly behind the church and clergy houses. By the early 1950s, these structures were demolished and replaced with a new convent and school which are not included in this nomination.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1894 **Builder/Architect** Barney & Chapman

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church of the Immaculate Conception and Clergy Houses are superb examples of French Gothic Revival architecture, with individual distinction in design and massing. One of only two churches in New York City built in this style, the complex was originally an offshoot of Grace Church parish.

The church and its clergy houses were designed in 1894, in the French Gothic Revival style, by New York architects Barney & Chapman. Three years later the firm designed the Holy Trinity Church and St. Christopher House on East 88th Street in the same style. These two are the only churches in the French Gothic Revival style in the City of New York. John S. Barney studied architecture at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Evidence of this training can be seen in many of the hotels, churches and commercial buildings that he designed. Barney was formally associated in partnership with Otis Chapman for several years and the firm designed several residences and apartment houses on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, such as the French Beaux Arts building on East 90th Street and the neo-Federal style apartment house on East 79th Street.

Known originally as Grace Chapel and Hospital on Fourteenth Street, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was established as a "free-pew" place of worship for those less fortunate financially than the members of Grace Chapel itself.

The Grace Church congregation invested over half a million dollars in this grouping built in the style of late French Gothic. More than just another country church modeled after a romantic ideal...it was a great urban complex in the medieval tradition.<sup>1</sup>

Built to serve the Protestant immigrants from northern Europe who settled near 14th Street, language, music, industrial classes, Sunday School, and a gymnasium were provided in the mission buildings which once stood in the lot directly behind the church and clergy houses on 13th Street. The mission buildings were demolished in the late 1940s and replaced with a new convent and school building.

The clergy houses, built originally as a hospital for the elderly and for children, provided medical care and residences for senior citizens until 1943.

In 1943, the Grace Chapel and Hospital were sold to the Catholic church and the group was renamed the Church of the Immaculate Conception and Clergy Houses.

<sup>1</sup>John Tauranac. Essential New York (New York: Holt, Rineholt & Winston, Inc., 1979), p.79.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn, N.Y.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	8	5	8	5	9	1	0	4	5	1	0	1	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 441, Lots 10 & 12, and is roughly 150' x 137' in size.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Huckins, Research Consultant Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph  
for Joan Olshansky, National Register Coordinator 518-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date July, 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone (212) 566-7577

city or town New York state New York

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Stephen White*

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date 1/30/80

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Church of the Immaculate  
Conception, New York County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Landmarks Preservation Commission. Church of the Immaculate Conception  
Designation Report (LP-0226). New York: City of New York, 1966.

\_\_\_\_\_. Clergy Houses of the Church of the  
Immaculate Conception Designation Report (LP-0227). New York:  
City of New York, 1966.

New York City, Department of Buildings. Docket Book, 1894.

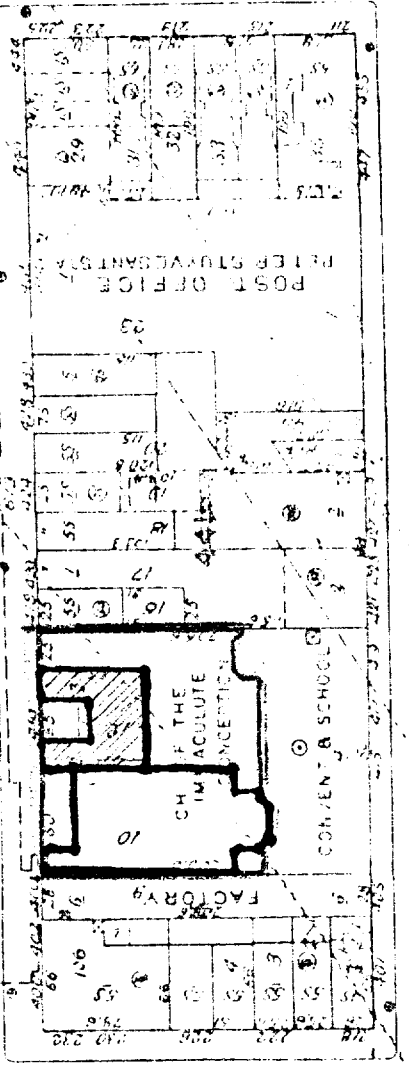
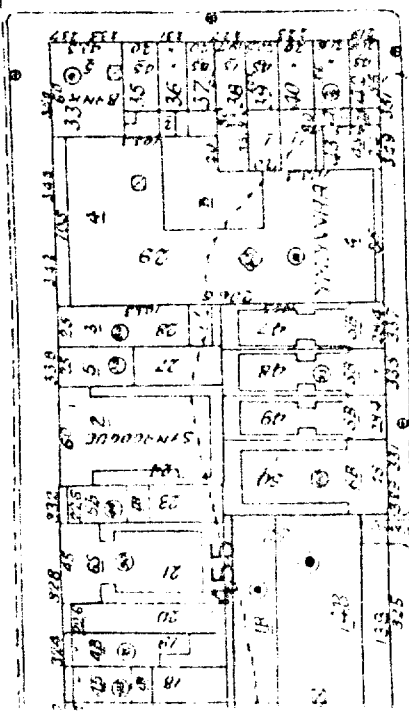
Tauranac, John. Essential New York. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.  
Inc., 1979.

"PETERS' FIELD FARM"

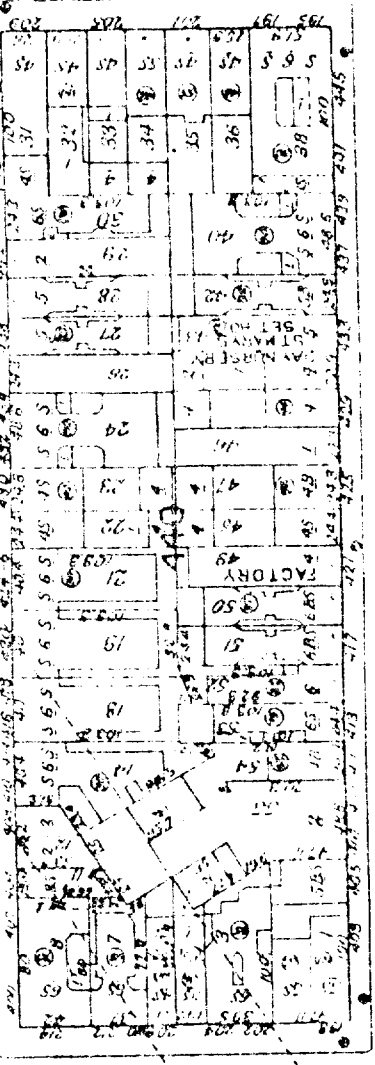
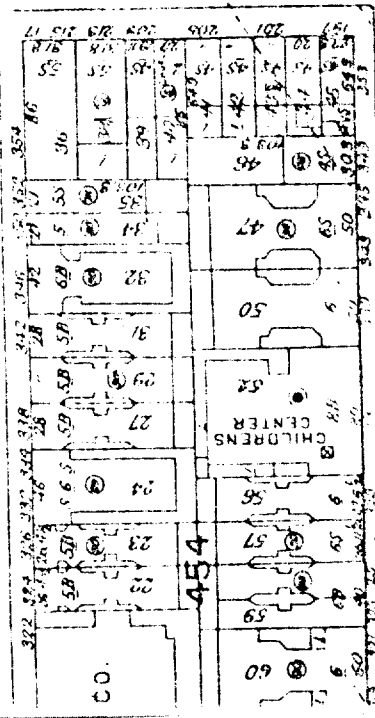
Peter G. Stuyvesant Maps, in 80, 81, 84, 163, 210 & 310

14TH

SUBWAY STATION



13TH



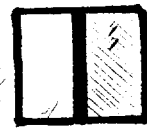
CO.

FIRST

AVE.

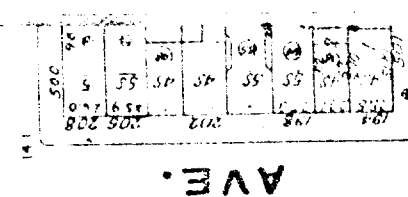
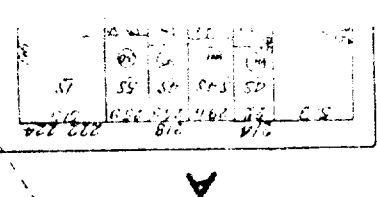
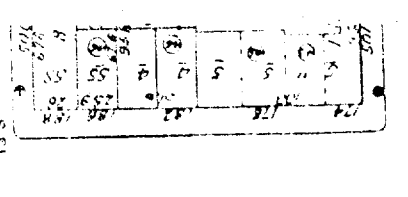
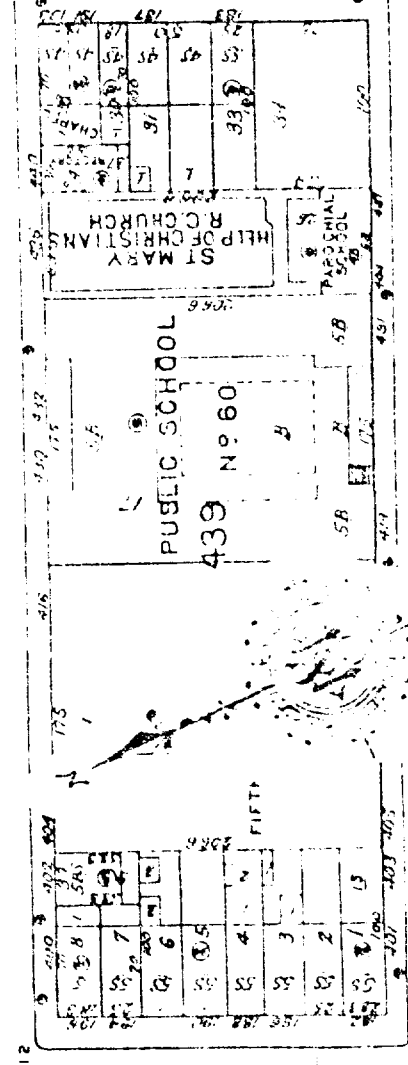
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
 AND CLERGY HOUSES  
 New York County, New York  
 Manhattan Land Book Plate 29  
 New York; Sanborn Map Co., 1977

KEY



CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CLERGY HOUSES



100

15

addr.

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

650

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

14TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

13TH

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

12

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

15

CHURCH of the  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
AND CLERGY HOUSES  
New York, New York  
UTM Reference:  
18/585910/4510140

Brooklyn Quad

