



St. Hyacinth School and Convent

Westbrook, Maine

*National Register Nomination**

Sutherland Conservation & Consulting researched and wrote the National Register Nomination for the St. Hyacinth School and Convent in Westbrook. The 1894 school building was designed by Coburn & Son of Lewiston; the 1921 convent by O'Connell & Shaw of Boston.

Originally associated with an adjacent church, the St. Hyacinth School and Convent were primarily significant for the role they played in meeting the educational and cultural needs of a growing immigrant community of French Canadians and Franco-Americans.

The establishment of Catholic parish schools in the country

was a requirement of the church. Ethnic parish schools came about as cultural heritage among immigrants became important to survival in the community.

By the 1920s, the St. Hyacinth school had reached between 600 and 900 pupils. Comparatively, the public schools of Westbrook had between 1187 and 1338 students. St. Hyacinth made up approximately 30-40% of the elementary school enrollment.

*SCC prepared the National Register Nomination of this property in conjunction with a certified historic tax credit rehabilitation project.

