

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Trinity Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
50, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pawtucket

STATE: Rhode Island, 02860

CODE: ~~80~~ 44

COUNTY: Providence

CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRE. EN. USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Trinity Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
50, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pawtucket

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
8044

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
137, Roosevelt Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Pawtucket

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
8044

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church was built from plans drawn in 1850-1851 by Samuel J. Ladd; actual construction began in May, 1852, and reached completion in July, 1853, except for the upper part of the tower, finished in 1854. The building is of stone and timber construction, steeply gabled, and carries a slate roof. The tower is at the north-west (front and entrance) corner and is capped by a peaked hipped roof interrupted on its four sides by gables containing lancet-arched, louvred openings; it contains the church bell. Along the west side of the church body (which for convenience may be said to be on a north-south axis) is built out along its full length an ambulatory or side-chapel extension, shed-roofed. Between the bays of this extension are jogged or stepped stone buttresses, duplicated along the opposite side of the church and at all its angles. On this (west) side only, a series of gabled dormers containing lancet windows is let into the roof of the church proper. Exterior walls are of native grey-beige fieldstone in random ashlar; dressings or cappings are of brown sandstone (now painted, probably to prevent flaking).

The over-all exterior appearance is reminiscent of a modest XIV Century English parish church in the "pointed" style. This no doubt is what was wanted and all that could be afforded in the 1850's by a young congregation in the Pawtucket locale. Like its models, the church is simply and honestly constructed: the only external adornment is in the window and door shapes (of lancet form throughout, excepting small trefoils in the tower and main gables) and in the arrangement of outward forms housing, and indicating, interior accommodation. This church is of course a product of the Gothic Revival, but by its lack of attempted exterior embellishment it actually gains in "period" integrity or character: there are no harsh surface contrasts, and there is no pretentious mechanically produced stone or wood carving.

Internally the original plan gives a long, barn-like, gabled church auditorium, entered from the tower and a cross-hall at the north and having a chancel recess at the south. Its roof is supported by heavy rafters with high collar-beams sustained by braces of pointed-arch form, with a stretch of purlins between eaves and peak. The braces have a simple cut-out adornment of slim triangles above circles near their lower terminations, which are supported on posts projecting slightly from the side walls. These posts define the bays of the auditorium's length. The large and high opening to the chancel is of pointed form, conforming to that of the braces, and the chancel has a tripartite window (one tall, two lower lancet openings) above the altar and reredos. There is a five-part graduated grouping of windows at the opposite or north end. All windows contain stained glass. Below the eaves line, the west side of the auditorium opens, in each bay, to the above-mentioned ambulatory or group of side-chapels through pointed archways.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1850-1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal | Education | Political | Urban Planning |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Italian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Trinity Church has architectural significance (lying in both its exterior appearance and its internal structure and decoration) as a good, intact example of the Gothic Revival in America in its ecclesiastical phase, at the parish-church level. Of this it is indeed a good example, and worthy of preservation--though unpublished, hitherto little known outside its own locale and by an architect of no fame whatsoever. In Pawtucket, however, it is a landmark, being on a hillside site above the river which divides that city. Church and tower, together with the adjacent Slack House of the early 1800's (owned by the church) are visible in a quite picturesque manner from the business section of the city on an opposite embankment.

This church once marked a part of the borders of the most prosperous and architecturally interesting residential section of the city, though this section has been sliced through, ravine-like, by Interstate Route 95, with the loss of many of its best old residences. The occupants of these residences, many of them the guiding and supporting families of Pawtucket and its industries, were over a long period leading members, as well, of Trinity Church's congregation and vestry. Many of them have been important contributors to its maintenance and adornment (extensions, stained glass, hanging lanterns, altar and reredos etc.). Due to continuous and judicious care and taste in maintenance of the structure's fabric, it "is the oldest church building which has held its original form in the city," except of course for the very minor, unobtrusive and sympathetic extensions mentioned in Section 7, "Description."

A small church in a secondary city, Trinity nevertheless can claim national importance in another area--that of the Anglican Rite in this country, for it was here, soon after 1862, that an important and enduring innovation in the church service was made. The Reverend George W. Brown, a man with musical as well as priestly training, "introduced for the first time in this country, on a large scale, purely congregational singing. The church became the center of attraction ... and ... was often crowded to overflow," thus causing the 1865 enlargement. From Trinity Church,

(See Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description.

The foregoing has described the basic original structure. There have since the 1850's been minor modifications, extensions and improvements, all sympathetically applied. In 1865 a small lateral enlargement was made at the south bay of the west extension. After 1865 the ceiling was handsomely painted with ornamental and emblematic designs on a plain background. In 1902 an attached parish house was completed at the south-west of the church property. In 1908 the organ was removed from its northern loft and relocated in the chancel area; and in 1914 an adjacent choir-room was added. Memorial windows and tablets have been placed from time to time; a reredos installed; ceiling lanterns of appropriate design hung--all enhancing the building but not really changing it.

8. Significance.

then, emanated an important, increased form of vocal and energetic participation in worship, now used by Protestants in this country for more than one hundred years. This gives it a significant place in American church history exceeding even the local importances of its continuing maintenance and use and of its quality as an architectural landmark.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Booth, Mrs. John H., and others: One Hundred Years, 1843-1943, Trinity Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island (Pawtucket, R. I., 1943).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 52' 34" N	71 ° 22' 52" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: August 6, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90, Smith Street,

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: RI 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

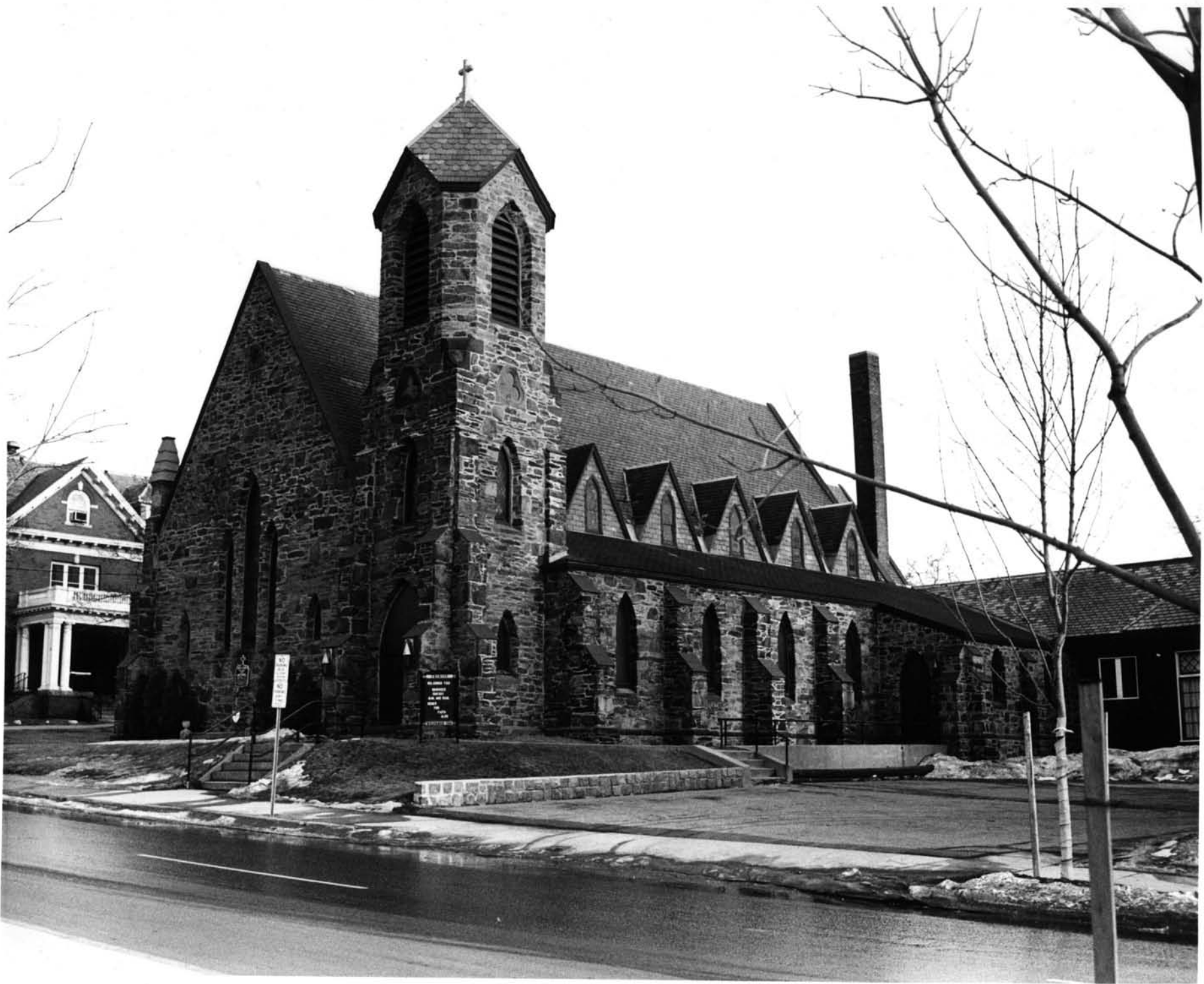
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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50, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Pawtucket

STATE:

Rhode Island, 02860

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from the north-west.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CODE

COUNTY:

0044

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of David J. Kyle

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90, Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Interior, looking towards altar and chancel.

PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
 RHCDE ISLAND
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

71° 22' 40" W
 4637 1/4 NE
 (ATTLEBORO)



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
 Latitude: 41° 52' 31" N
 Longitude: 71° 22' 52" W

PROVIDENCE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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44

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Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.