

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:
St. Stephen's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
111 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: RI COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Stephen's Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
111 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02906

CODE:
RI

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE:
RI

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built between 1860 and 1862, St. Stephen's Church is an interesting example of Richard Upjohn's later Gothic churches. It stands separated from the street by an iron and stone fence and a narrow planting strip, with some sheltering trees.

Its large rectangular mass (120 feet wide, east to west, by 100 feet deep) is rendered picturesque by the arrangement of its southern section which contains the entrance narthex at the southwest, a "lady chapel," and a slightly projecting tower at the southeast. The long gabled roof; the corner tower; the buttressed walls of gray Smithfield stone in regular coursed ashlar; the granite foundations; and the brownstone trim of belt courses, gable copings, pinnacles, and hood mouldings of doors and windows are all intended to contribute to the impression of a sizable, but relatively simple, Decorated Gothic church of mediaeval England.

The main entrance is framed by a brownstone arch and surmounted by a trefoil tympanum window. The double doors are of oak, handsomely relief-carved with figures in Gothic niches. The mullioned lancet windows of the main church and the chapel are tall at the ground level but much shorter in the clerestory. They are filled with painted glass. The roof is of gable-plus-shed form, covered with contrasting bands of pale green and reddish brown tile. The Smithfield stone tower rises one story above the eaves-line. Upjohn intended this to have a stone spire rising to 180 feet; funds were not available for this purpose until 1899, by which time the original quarry was exhausted. In 1900 Hoppin and Ely compromised by adding corner pinnacles as transition to a shorter copper-clad spire.

Within the church, the narthex leads immediately into the lady chapel along the south wall and then into the nave. The five-bay nave has three aisles and terminates at the east in an apsidal choir, a characteristic of later Upjohn churches. There is no transept. The nave arcades are supported by round or octagonal stone columns. The nave is separated from the chapel by a glazed arcade whose curvilinear Gothic tracery incorporates as part of its design a simple rose-window motif. The arcade windows can be tilted to allow an overflow congregation in the chapel to participate in the service of the main church.

The flooring in the main nave is of square earth-colored ceramic tile; it is of wood and tile in the chapel. Walls and ceilings throughout are of painted plaster, with much dark-stained wood used in contrast and in apparent support of them. The arched wooden roof trusses are exposed; and a high, simply-panelled moulded wainscot skirts both nave and chapel. The woodwork in and around the chancel, considerably more elaborate than the original 1860's work, was designed by the Boston architect Henry Vaughan, who also completed the pulpit, rood screen, choir stalls, altar and reredos--all of oak richly carved in the Decorated English Gothic style--in 1883. A parish house to the west of the church was designed by Martin and Hall and completed by 1901.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1860-1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephen's Church is significant both as a characteristic example of Richard Upjohn's mature Gothic Revival church design and as a Providence landmark.

Upjohn, the foremost proponent of the Gothic style for ecclesiastical buildings in mid-nineteenth-century America, and best known for his Trinity Church in New York (1846), continued to develop the form, plan and intended usage of the Decorated Gothic city church throughout his career. He appears to have been influenced by both the "ethical" and the romantic aspects of the Gothic Revival. Generally his churches are authentically Gothic in proportion, though not in construction, and admirably adapted to the liturgical needs of the newly-affirmed High Anglican Church. They do, however, sacrifice illumination to religious ideas of sanctity and to romantic (not historical) ideas of "gloom." (St. Stephen's Church, indeed, is locally called "Smoky Steve's" by reason of this "gloom," to which the dark woodwork, painted glass, small clerestory windows, and frosted glass of the chapel arcade all contribute.) Such romantic shadow is a radical stylistic departure from the luminous geometric clarity of earlier colonial meeting houses, as is the romantic use of unpainted wood. Another stylistic change from earlier American architecture is the use of asymmetry; the tower and spire of St. Stephen's are placed picturesquely in the corner of the mass.

St. Stephen's Church is essentially a city church, although built in a residential area. In its tight oblong niche--which is, however, no longer in an area of private residences but, rather, closely hemmed by twentieth-century pseudo-Georgian buildings of Brown University--the church today appears as an enframed work of art, like those which still pleasantly startle one in English or European cities. Beyond that, it continues to house an active religious organization which serves not only the descendants of its first parishioners but also the adjacent college community and, today, a further congregation of varied races and classes. By association with Upjohn the building is important; in consideration of what it has contained, contains now and will contain and serve in future, it attains equal or even higher importance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1957), p. 137.
 Catir, Norman Joseph, Jr.: Saint Stephen's Church in Providence. The History ... 1839-1964 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1964), pp. 34-41, 61-62, 85-86.
 Overby, Osmund: Historic American Buildings Survey, #RI-189, St. Stephen's Church (1962).
 Upjohn, Everard M.: Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York, 1939), pp. 177, 204.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 . . .	0 . . .	41° 49' 32.06" N	71° 24' 6.14" W
NE	0 . . .	0 . . .		
SE	0 . . .	0 . . .		
SW	0 . . .	0 . . .		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ancelin Vogt Lynch, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **August 14, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island, 02903** CODE: **hh**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

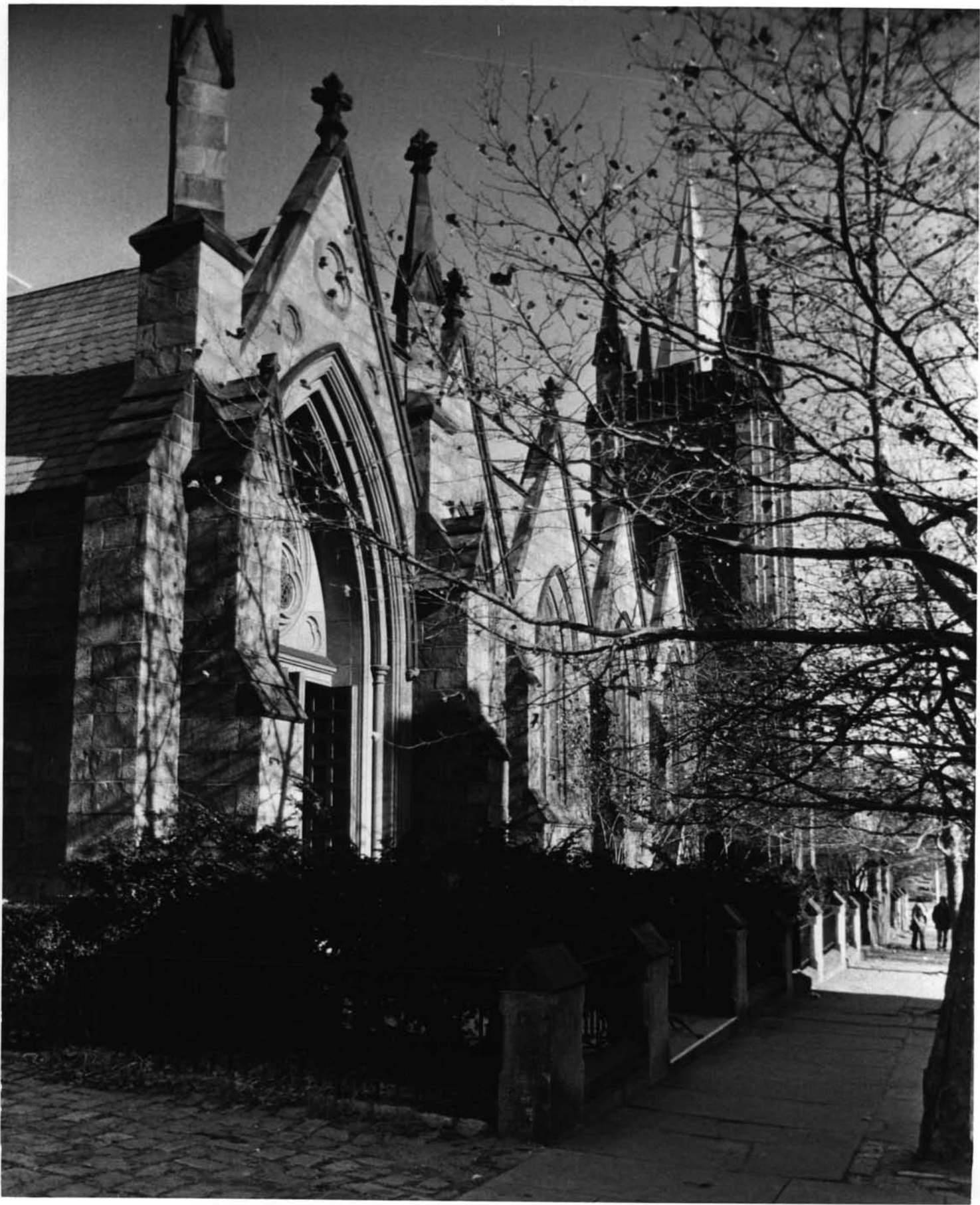
Date _____

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

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: St. Stephen's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

114 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

114

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

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

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior (main front) from the south-west.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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114 George Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

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90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Nave, looking east.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 49' 32.06" N
Longitude: 71° 24' 6.14" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
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CITY OR TOWN:			
Providence			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Rhode Island	111	Providence	007
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 21,000			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			