Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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. Description

Original: The original building, erected around 1744, was of hewn stone 63' by 150, 27' high, with a steeple 20 feet square and 95 feet high. It was a small awkwardly constructed building with straight backed uncomfortable seats and a very small pulpit in the west end - only large enough for one person. The tower was independent of the building except for its rear wall. It has round-headed front door. The main shaft was divided into three stories of equal height, then came an open lantern and a curious spire. The building was of local brownstone. The spine, presumably Georgian, rested upon a tower stump of 5 feet thick stone walls which is incorporated in the building toway.

1809 Building: In 1804 most of the original building was destroyed by a fire. The church built in 1809 to replace the original was similar in form to the old. It was basically a meeting house structure with almost all classic revival elements. Built by amateur architect Josiah Jones - essentially a clothing store proprietor - it consisted of a long nave with the old tower in front and a steeple 168 feet high. He added a portico and extended the side galleries to the east wall (shortened after the Civil War). The galleries were supported by thin doric columns larger than the ones now standing.

Upjohn Additions: Noted architect Richard Upjohn added the Gothic Revival square chancel addition featuring a large elaborate traceried pointed Gothic "east end" window above the altar. Upjohn also put the Gothic fronts on the galleries and supported the galleries with cast iron columns.

Presently, the Trinity Cathedral is a hybrid of architectural styles: Georgian, Colonial, early Gothic, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival.

The portico floor is red brick in a herringbone bond. The pillars taper slightly and have thick double torus while the abacus are flat square blocks above a wide band of necking. The architrave is a molding that is on the same height as the eaves board that continues where the portico ends around the side of the building. No frieze area is evident under the pediment, but this is compensated somewhat by the overhanging cornice that makes the tympanum area appear deeply recessed. The tympanum has a round radiating window with a thick frame and four side anscones. The central door is set deep within a round arch, beyond which is a small alcove which opens into a square vestibule. This round arch design is repeated in the shape of the second story windows which have ornate anscones on their cornices. Side doors in its facade, however, are deep set square shapes. The wall area behind the two central portico columns is set beyond the line of the side doors but is directly in line with the tower steeple. It is finished in an ashlar stone set in a plumb bond. The upper windows which rest against the molding of the portico roof have wide sills and wooden mullions in a cruciform shape with a simple plate tracery. Side pilasters are directly behind the last columns. . . have similar capitals with tapered shafts. The tower is located on both the portico and nave roof -. . . is in four stages (excluding the 2 stages of the portico facade, i.e. 4 stages above the nave portico roof). On the final stage rests the sharp spire which has spire lights and course of molding at its tip. In the side walls above the lancet panels at the points are located trefoil shapes - presumably Upjohn's tracery, added 1858-62. The rear gable wall, red brick with cement finishing, (painted brown now) was used in the extended apse and sacristy (by Upjohn) which can only be observed from the side of the building. (Continued)

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) (1)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

Trinity Cathedral

New Jersey 34 Essex 013

Section 7: Continued

The stone floor of the church was added in 1918. It is separated into a central aisle with two flanking narrow side aisles under the galleries and a transverse aisle which is under the overhanging (rear) organ loft. aisle is in front of box pews which rest against the west wall. The upper half of the five lancet windows in the side walls run from the gallery to almost the ceiling, while the lower portion begins again underneath the galleries and continues down almost to the wainscoting. All of the windows in the building are set very deep in the walls, have wide unadorned sills and have a variety of cusped points. The ceiling is flat and rectangular - product of the original Georgian meetinghouse origin - with side molding that slopes to a point where it overhangs the side walls. This ceiling is found only in the nave, the main rectangular room, and not in the extended 'east end' of the chancel and the flanking right side chapel. The 'east end' and chapel have plaster Gothic vaulting, in some detail, in relatively flatened or shallow pointed arches which may be described generally as pointed segmental. The chancel 'east end' thus is set deep within a thick round molding and is as wide as it is deep. The side walls are broken into three long pointed panels. Each panel has a deep dormer and is divided by wall ribs which terminate in the ceiling in a heavy Gothic boss, one to each rib, generally above the main altar. On the north side round cusped windows also break the lancet wall paneling. This adjoins the fully enclosed sacristy which is on the north side; on the south side is the renovated right side chapel - open to the congregation or side aisle, and in its left side - open through large upper openings between the 'east end' chancel ribs forming lancets (as on the north side) merging into the 'east end' vault. Fronting this right side chapel is a large recently added carved wood screen with draperies - which seems to balance somewhat the weight of the closed sacristy opposite on the north side and the open extended chancel in between in the center. The large window in the rear wall of the Upjohn 'east end', is of French design with double lancets and cusped rondels within a single wide arch. A simple arched recess behind the tower is entirely filled by the new organ. This huge mass of piping, in the rear organ loft and choir gallery, does not interfere with side stairwells to the galleries which are well lighted by the large side windows.

Congressional Representation

Clifford P. Case - United States Senator Harrison A. Williams - United States Senator Peter W. Rodino, Jr. - Congressman (10th District)

