

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 30 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
House of Prayer Episcopal Church and Rectory

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad St. north of State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newark

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34** COUNTY: **Essex** CODE: **013**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
House of Prayer Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad St. North of State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Newark** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Essex County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
High Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Newark** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory 2186.3 and 2186.16

DATE OF SURVEY: **1961** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Sites Division, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET AND NUMBER:
John Fitch Plaza, P.O. Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**

COUNTY: **Essex**

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ENTRY NUMBER: **OCT 30 1972**

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 Brownstone - Recent

Renovation - exterior portion (following a fire of several years earlier) really did not have to make any substantive change in order to recapture the original which had merely weathered. On the interior, there are no major changes either to the more basic heavy structure, although many details have changed. This, of course allows for noted architect and parishioner Wm. Halsey Wood's east end changes of 1896 including a fine carved Caen stone altar and reredos.

The stone chancel railing is removed and many minor appointments including the small pulpit are similarly gone or rearranged. Subsequently, a perforated "decor-block" rood-screen was erected, with the still accessible Wood sculpture still faintly visible in the background through it --- ahead of which screen was a very simple altar even much closer to the congregation. A clergyman of another Episcopal parish advises the compiler (1971) that this screen has been removed again after only several years.

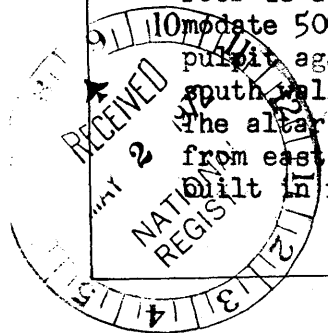
Interior - power ful, bold, worshipful simplicity: columns, arches, ceiling-roof structure, and the repetitive deep-set round trefoil windows along the nave just below the roof line.

The church is described as "four pointed Gothic" and other Gothic.

The best original description on the House of Prayer is Frank Wills', in his noted 1850 book: Ancient English Ecclesiastical Architecture: "Owing to peculiarity of site, the Tower is placed at east end of Nave, south of Chancel. By this means orientation is preserved, and the Tower is rendered conspicuous, which could not have been had it been placed at any distance back from the street. It was impossible to make the Chancel quite as deep as could have been desired, it is however deep enough to be divided into Choir and Sacrarium and is nearly one-third the length of Nave. Its dimensions are twenty feet by eighteen feet in the clear; the Nave and Aisles are sixty-eight feet by forty-four feet. The Porch is in the first bay of the south Aisle. The Aisles are separated from Nave by arcades of five bays; the pillars are alternately circular and octagonal; instead of responds the extreme arches are supported on semi-octagonal corbels. The Clerestory is perforated by quatrefoils within circles. The side windows of Aisles are couplets; at west end of Aisles are single lancets; at west end of Nave is a couplet internally, externally a pentiplet, the center and extreme windows being filled with masonry, and forming simply an arcade or panneling. The walls, including Tower and Spire, are of stone. The total height of Spire is about one hundred and twenty feet; the apex of Nave roof is about forty-three feet. The seats are all open, and will accommodate 500 persons. The organ will be at east end of north Aisle. The pulpit against north pier of Chancel Archway in Nave. Against north and south walls of Choir or outer Chancel, will be handsomely carved stalls. The altar will be of stone raised six steps above Nave, and detached from east wall. A Credence of stone in the form of a corbel is to be built in north wall. The Front is adjoining main entrance doorway. A

Continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

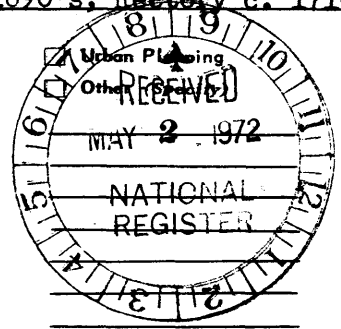
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849, 1850, 1853, altar 1890's; Rectory c. 1710

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The chief significance of the church itself is architectural, as it was the product of an international master of the Gothic Revival (early), and added to by another master who happened to be also a parish member.

The church - always referred to as the House of Prayer, is justly famous in its own right - as distinguished from its adjoining Rectory - which is the Plume House, built c. 1710 and probably the oldest building in America's 3rd. oldest major city. The house (Rectory) aside from its identification with the Revolution was the scene of a variety of scientific experiments, notably in the attic-observatory used by Rector - Rev. Hannibal Goodwin, inventor of celluloid photo film which made moves possible; the historic site should, therefore, include all buildings of the Parish group, but the processing of voluminous history on the Rectory is being delayed. Frank Wills, architect, is second to none as a master architect of churches in the U.S. and Canada, in the middle of the early Gothic Revival. By 1849, he was brought to New Jersey by American Protestantism's foremost hierarchical art patron and moving spirit of the Ecclesiological Movement toward "proper" English Parish Gothic - the Bishop of New Jersey, Doane, doing also Christ Church, Newark in the same 1849-50 period. Likely no one other than Frank Wills could have competed on equal or even superior terms with the greatest architect of the day - Richard Upjohn. It was Wills, not Upjohn, who was Official Architect of the New York Ecclesiological Society - a counterpart of the London Eccles. Soc. and the spearhead of most-skilled architects, church professionals and Protestant hierarchy who were the most influential Gothic Revival force in America.

On the front, Broad St. facade, which is also for reasons Wills explains, uniquely the altar or "east end" as well, is carved in stone in sizable letters (Old English lettering) just below the "east end" windows filled-in by Wood's later flush reredos) the relevant inscription "My house shall be called the house of prayer". The relevance of Parish outreach has also been pronounced, - in the 19th Century when the Church pioneered in social outreach work in the nearby (then-Old First Ward) neighborhood, and again in recent years, when, with its nearby constituency largely lower income and now ethnically modified, it has reached out principally to blacks - with socially and artistically elevating programs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schnell, Kenneth B. A Survey 1965 Thesis, Newark. St. Coll.; Newark Public Library
 Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture Hopkins, 1968.
 Wills, Frank Early English Ecclesiastical Architecture 1850. And Church Architecture, Daily Advertiser, Newark, November 28, 1849
News, Newark, January 31, 1965.
Sentinel, Newark, November 26, December 3, 1850.
 3 booklets: The House of Prayer, 50th Anniversary and 75th Anniversary

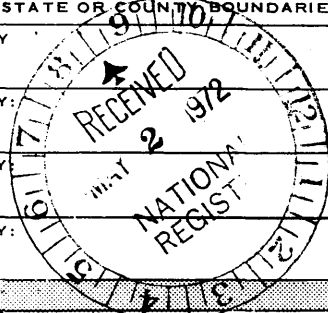
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 44' 53"	74° 10' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: licensed "professional planner" & architectural historian
Donald W. Geyer,
 ORGANIZATION _____ DATE 9/71
 STREET AND NUMBER: 351 Broad St.
 CITY OR TOWN: Newark STATE New Jersey CODE 34

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 Richard J. Sullivan
 Title Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
 Date April 25, 1972

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

Robert W. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/30/72

ATTEST:
William M. Galt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-30-72

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
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	OCT 30 1972

(Number all entries)

House of Prayer Church & Rectory

7. Continued - Description

New Jersey: Code 34

Essex: Code 013

recess formed in north Chancel wall surmounted by a carved canopy, is to be the Bishop's stall. All the windows are to be filled with painted glass, executed by Mr. Bolton. All the seats, pulpit, Altar-rails, lectern, etc., are being executed in black walnut - the open roof of pine. The contract for this Church, including every thing, is about \$13,000.00!

The Rectory (Plume House) is constructed of native sandstone from neighborhood quarries. It has broad and thick panellings, hand hewn beams and flooring, and deep window sills characteristic of the domestic architecture of the period.

Congressional Representation

Honorable Harrison A. Williams - U.S. Senator
Honorable Clifford P. Case - U.S. Senator
Honorable Peter W. Rodino Jr. - Congressman (10th District)

