

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666149

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 27 1978
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Trinity Church

AND/OR COMMON

Trinity Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

NH Route 12-A

CITY, TOWN

Cornish

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Sullivan

CODE

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire

STREET & NUMBER

Diocesan House, 63 Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Concord

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire 03301

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sullivan County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

24-A Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

New Hampshire 03773

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Natural, Scenic and Historic Areas in Sullivan County, New Hampshire

DATE

1968ff

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

US Soil Conservation Service, Dept. of Agriculture

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20250

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trinity is an interesting example of a New England village church. Constructed of wood, it is typically unsophisticated, unpretentious and even stark in its simplicity. It is nevertheless picturesque and beautiful in its rural setting.

The building was originally constructed in 1808 from a plan drafted by Philip Tabor, a carpenter and builder. Early records describe it as "36 feet by 44 feet with two porches and a belfry with a steeple and of suitable height." Most of the elements of the original building remain intact. The king post trusses with their hand-hewn members and mortise-and-tenon joints are in excellent condition, bearing testimony to the skill of the early craftsmen. Weathered clapboards, split-board lath, small-paned windows, and wide-paneled pine pews are among the features which appear to date back to the building's origin.

Alterations have been made over the years as an inspection of the building will reveal. A balcony which once surrounded three sides of the interior was removed, although evidence of it remains. One of the original "proches" was removed and replaced by a semi-circular chancel, which also has been removed. The lofty ceiling was replaced by a lower one, but the original is still visible.

In general, the building is in sound condition. It offers an unusually good opportunity to observe the workmanship of the New England builder who employed native materials and used ornament sparingly; and to appreciate the engineering skill of the country craftsman. It is a fine example of native, creative engineering and art.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Philip Tabor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Trinity Church has special significance inasmuch as it is part of the history of the township of Cornish. Dudley Chase was one of three men who in 1765 came up the Connecticut River in a canoe to establish the first settlement in Cornish. His son, Philander, a student at Dartmouth College, was so impressed with the Book of Common Prayer that he induced his relatives and friends to establish an Episcopal Society in Cornish in 1793. From this grew Trinity Church which was incorporated in 1795. Philander Chase became Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio and was the founder of Kenyon College. Other prominent members of the Chase family were Jonathan Chase, an officer who served with distinction in the Revolutionary War; and Salmon Portland Chase, a Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Trinity Church is closely tied to the history of Cornish and of the Chase family, which played a prominent role in both local and national affairs.

Trinity Church is located in that part of Cornish which became known as the "Cornish Colony," or "Little New York" in the late 19th century. Here a number of prominent figures in literature and the arts spent their summers. The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service, memorializes the sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens; it is located within a mile of Trinity Church. The association of the church with the Colony gives the building further significance.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Child, William H. History of Cornish, New Hampshire. 1910. Two Volumes.  
 Farmer, James and Jacob Moore. Gazatteer of New Hampshire. 1823.  
 Rawson, Barbara. History of Cornish New Hampshire, 1910-1960. 1960.  
 Speare, Eva. Colonial Meeting Houses of New Hampshire. 1939, rev. 1955.  
 Sinnott, Edmund W., Meetinghouse and Church in Early New England, (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1963

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	7, 1, 1, 5, 2, 5	4, 8, 1, 5, 7, 7, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen P. Tracy, AIA Architect

May 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

RR #2, (Cornish, NH)

TELEPHONE

603-675-2892

CITY OR TOWN

Windsor

STATE

Vermont 05089

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner NH Dept. Resources & Economic Development  
 NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE JUL 7 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-31-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Matthew Cole

DATE

7-5-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER