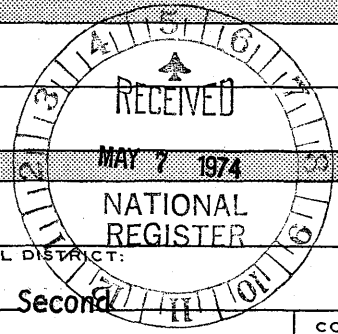


HS 253170  
2013 4571200

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **Nebraska**  
 COUNTY: **Douglas**  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: **AUG 7 1974**



**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: **Trinity Cathedral**  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **113 North 18th Street**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **Second**  
 STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31** COUNTY: **Douglas** CODE: **055**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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: **The Bishop of the Diocese and the Vestry and Membership of the Cathedral.**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **113 North 18th Street**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds, Douglas County Courthouse**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **18th and Farnam Streets**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Omaha** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic Preservation in Nebraska**  
 DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Nebraska State Historical Society**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **1500 "R" Street**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Lincoln** STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Nebraska**  
 COUNTY: **Douglas**  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **AUG 7 1974**  
 DATE: **1974**  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

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	

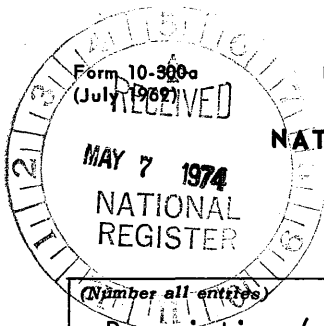
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trinity Cathedral, constructed from 1880-1883, is a beautiful and well-preserved example of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture. The masonry walls, stone bar tracery, monochrome coloring, uncomplicated plan and the English Perpendicular influence, all reflect the Late Gothic Revival style. Built of light-gray natural textured stone, it basically follows the cruciform plan with the addition of a single tower. Serving as the main entrance, this tower is extended from the building and placed near the corner of the block so it is easily visible along the street from both directions. Every door, window, and gable is outlined in smoothly-dressed gray stone which is the same material as in the mullions and tracery of the windows. Stone or metal crosses occur in a variety of places over the building, such as atop buttresses, gables, and the tower. The exterior has remained unchanged over the years and has recently been sandblasted to show the original color. In the last few years the small lawn has been landscaped to provide a peaceful area for sitting and walking and also enhances the cathedral.

The overall design and details of the interior is concerned with a Gothic appearance. The plan gives the semblance of being cruciform but the transepts extend only to the outer aisle wall. Each transept holds a large, stained-glass window; a side entrance is located in the north transept. Wooden beams vault straight across the ceiling, not utilizing the traditional Gothic vault forms. The line of the wooden beams is carried to the floor by pilasters on the clerestory level and piers on the nave. The most traditional Gothic features of the cathedral are the fine wood carving in the chancel area and the many colorful stained-glass windows throughout the building.

The chancel area contains the most outstanding craftsmanship in the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-900a  
(July 1967)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STATE	
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(Number all entries)

Description (cont'd)

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cathedral. Five bronze panels by Sibell of New York depicting scenes from the life of Christ decorate the wooden altar and were a gift from J. M. Woolworth, chancellor of the diocese at the time of the cathedral's construction. The wooden screen behind the altar is carved in the ornate Gothic pointed arch design, which is a common motif throughout the church. A mosaic in honor of Bishop Robert H. Clarkson, who was in office when the cathedral was built, is on the floor directly in front of the altar. The thrones of the bishop and dean are carved from oak, each ornamented with an elaborate cross-gabled roof. Carvings pierce each gable and a finial tops each point. The chairs are carved with the official coat of arms of the Province of Canterbury, England, and the Diocese of Nebraska. The credence on the wall just south of the altar also has an ornately carved roof. The choir pews are original although a few have been removed to create a larger center aisle. An ornately carved chancel railing of oak, also a memorial gift, is still maintained.

Fine craftsmanship in small details greatly enhances the cathedral. Beautiful brass work decorates the chancel area in the form of the eagle lectern, the altar cross, the Bible markers, the candelabra and the altar rail. The pulpit is encircled at its base by statues of Christ and the four evangelists carved from wood. The white baptismal font was carved from a design by Henry G. Harrison, the architect of the cathedral, and presented to the church as a memorial.

The many stained-glass windows, all of which are gifts, give the church much of its rich Gothic character. The three largest windows, in the north and south transepts and at the west end, show the English Perpendicular style

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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Description (cont'd)

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influence in the curvilinear bar tracery. The small clerestory windows designed with geometric patterns number twenty-eight in all and were given by the other churches in the diocese with the name and city of each church in the center of a window. Thirteen stained-glass windows are in the chancel area each depicting Christ or one of the twelve apostles. The ten nave windows were memorials to individual people and the scenes reflect that person. Three Tiffany windows on the south side of the nave were given by the W. B. Ogden family of New York City. Several memorial plaques in honor of various clergy and lay people have been placed on the walls of the nave.

Alterations have been few in the long life of the cathedral. Only minor changes such as new lighting, a new organ, carpeting and fresh paint have been added. Otherwise the original design and furnishings have been maintained and restored when needed to preserve the beautiful Gothic character of the cathedral.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

**completed in 1883**

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 checked="" 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

Trinity Parish was organized in the early days of Omaha. The church was founded and the vestry was elected on April 12, 1856, two years after the village of Omaha was first settled. The first Episcopal service in Nebraska was held the next day. In 1868 Trinity was designated the bishop's church, and since that time the bishop has had the right to direct the ritual, preach when in the city, and use the church for his offices. With this added prestige, Trinity Church was named a cathedral. This parish has been influential in the religious and social growth of eastern Nebraska since the early days of Omaha. The present building was completed in 1883 and is located in downtown Omaha. The church vestry elected to restore the present structure and not move to a more residential neighborhood, as many churches have done. Among the members of the congregation were many important pioneer names of Omaha. The cathedral has always felt a need to provide leadership in its diocese. Being the first church in its area, it was responsible for helping to establish many churches in eastern Nebraska and to found a school, Brownell Hall, presently named Brownell-Talbot School.

The cathedral building is a beautiful example of Late Gothic Revival architecture with emphasis on the English Perpendicular style of Gothic. Even though it is a relatively small church, the design, the workmanship,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. (Cambridge, Mass. M.I.T. Press, 1969)

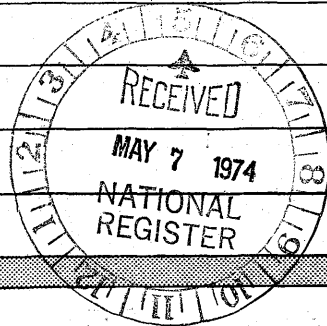
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 15' 37"	95° 56' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre approximately

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: 4/18/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**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 Martin O'Keefe

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date 4/18/74

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/7/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 4/11/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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significance (cont'd)

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the attention to detail, and the excellent maintenance have combined to create an impressive architectural space. The architect is Henry G. Harrison (1813-1895), an Englishman who is most known for his plans for Garden City, Long Island, of which only the Memorial Cathedral was built. Trinity Cathedral is believed to have used the same plans as the Memorial Cathedral but on a smaller scale. The supervising architect was Alfred R. Dufrene of Omaha, for Harrison did not visit the site.

