

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 29 1981

DATE ENTERED JAN 28 1982

**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

Grace Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

220 East Sixth Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hopkinsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Christian

CODE

047

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

C/O Reverend Raymond Lord, Rector

STREET & NUMBER

216 East Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

Hopkinsville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Christian County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hopkinsville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1977

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grace Episcopal Church is located in downtown Hopkinsville, Kentucky, two blocks east of the Christian County Courthouse and three blocks north of the Post Office on the edge of the city's business district.¹ The church occupies a key site on the northwest corner of Sixth and Liberty streets, and its tall corner spire serves as a visual landmark for central Hopkinsville.

Completed in 1884, Grace Church is constructed of brick with stone trim in the Gothic Revival style (see photo 1). The building is composed of a five-bay nave with a polygonal apse centered in the north wall and a square corner tower terminating in a spire which provides vertical emphasis to the overall composition. The main (south) facade is divided into thirds: a double lancet window occupying the west bay; the central bay containing the entrance; and the east tower. A brick gable trimmed with stone and supported by stone columns frames the pointed arch entrance. Directly above the entrance is a rose window, and a Celtic cross rests atop the church.

Brick buttresses interspersed between the lancet windows visually strengthen the east and west walls of the nave. The extreme north bay projects slightly from the east wall and consists of a large pointed arch window within a gable which may have been matched by a corresponding element on the west wall. However, in 1906 an addition was made on the west for a parish house. Taking on the form of an elongated transept, this wing blends harmoniously with the original church structure (see sketch). A gabled entrance trimmed with stone and accented by buttresses gives access to the parish house from the south.

The principal exterior element is the southeast corner tower. Demolished by a tornado in May of 1978, the tower has been reconstructed based upon an 1890s photograph (see photos 1, 2, 3, and newspaper photo). Although cost prevented the replacement of a slate roof, the design for the new tower restored the gables at the base of the spire which had been covered by a 1950s roof. At the same time, alterations were made which consisted of subtly inserting windows in place of the tower doors and replacing the paired lancet windows in the tower with single pointed arch apertures. In addition, the entire exterior of the structure was sandblasted to remove grey paint applied in the late 1940s, and all joints were repointed.

On the interior, ca. 1950s electric lanterns suspended from the ceiling have replaced the original gas fixtures; however, some of the gas jets remain in the narthex and choir. The present altar is a 1929 replacement of the original. The Estey organ installed in 1906 still serves the church. Stained glass memorial windows have been continually donated since the time of construction with the most recent window being installed in the narthex in 1980. The interior has been completely repainted and rewired since 1978.

The nominated acreage consists of the city lot on which the church is located.

1

This western Kentucky community of approximately 21,400 was surveyed in 1977 as part of the comprehensive survey of Christian County conducted by the Kentucky Heritage Commission.

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 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 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 1883-1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Mills/J. Rosenplanter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Episcopal Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, was constructed in 1883-84 and represents the most academic local manifestation of Gothic Revival church architecture. The gable roof, brick buttresses, pointed arch openings trimmed with stone, and the corner tower evoke a distinctly Victorian English quality. Recent damage from a 1978 tornado resulted in a sympathetic reconstruction of the southeast corner tower, a key element in the fabric of downtown Hopkinsville.

Lying in the southwestern section of Kentucky adjoining the Tennessee line, Christian County was formed in 1796 as the twenty-first county in the state. The county seat of Hopkinsville was laid out in 1799 and was known as Elizabethtown until 1804 when it was incorporated with its present name. Located in a fertile agricultural region, Hopkinsville steadily developed as an important tobacco and railroad center for western Kentucky in the nineteenth century.

Grace Episcopal Church was founded as a mission parish in Hopkinsville in 1831, only two years after the formal organization of the Diocese of Kentucky in 1829. The first meeting to establish a Protestant Episcopal parish in Hopkinsville was held on October 7, 1831, in the Presbyterian Meeting House; however, no parish records exist until 1839 when a meeting was held in the schoolroom of the Reverend George Giddings who served as the parish priest for Grace Church. Plans for acquiring property and erecting a church edifice were discussed in 1844, and it appears that a start on such a building had begun by 1850. This first church was a frame structure located at Virginia and Fifth streets.

However, the lack of a proper place of worship did not prevent Grace Church from developing in its early years. Reverend Giddings held services in nearby communities as well as serving the parish in Hopkinsville. In 1832, the parish was host to the Fourth Annual Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky, "the farthest west diocesan meeting in the American Church up to that time."¹ At the convention, Grace and three other mission churches were admitted to the diocese, thus providing the necessary number of delegates to elect the first bishop of the diocese, the Rt. Reverend Benjamin Bosworth Smith of Christ Church, Lexington.

By 1868, plans were being considered for a new church building. The new structure, located on the present site at Sixth and Liberty, was designed by J. Rosenplanter of Clarksville, Tennessee, and was constructed by contractor Robert Mills, also of Clarksville. The first services in the new church were held on August 17, 1884.

1

Frances Keller Swinford and Rebecca Smith Lee, The Great Elm Tree: Heritage of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington (Lexington: Faith House Press, 1969), p. 76.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Richard H. History of Kentucky. Covington, Kentucky: Richard H. Collins, 1874. Vol. II, pp. 124-128 and pp. 344-345.

Letter from Dr. T. Raymond Lord, Rector, dated June 17, 1980.

Snider, Nell Bass. "A History of Grace Episcopal Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky." Hopkinsville, Kentucky: Unpublished Manuscript, 1961.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Hopkinsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	4,5,6,7,0,0	4,0,7,9,9,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Rectangular lot measuring 137.5' x 81.26' on the northwest corner of Sixth and Liberty. See property identification map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Calvin P. Jones, Senior Historian; Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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

Anne E. Thompson

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE 12-15-81

FOR NPS USE ONLY		
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER		
<i>Shelton Byers</i>	Entered in the	DATE <u>1/28/82</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	National Register	
ATTEST:		DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION		

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Grace Episcopal Church
Christian County, Kentucky
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Throughout its ninety-six years at the present location, Grace Church has served both as a visual landmark and as a center for social and cultural activities in Hopkinsville. The damage wrought by the 1978 tornado was quickly repaired with a conscious effort to preserve those qualities that have made the structure an integral part of the history of Hopkinsville.

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Swinford, Frances Keller, and Lee, Rebecca Smith. The Great Elm Tree:
Heritage of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington. Lexington: Faith
House Press, 1969.