

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 6 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

**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
Christ Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
900 Broadway
CITY, TOWN
Nashville
STATE
Tennessee
VICINITY OF
Fifth
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth
COUNTY
Davidson
CODE
47
CODE
37 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Christ Church Wardens and Vestrymen
STREET & NUMBER
900 Broadway
CITY, TOWN
Nashville
STATE
Tennessee
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Public Square
CITY, TOWN
Nashville
STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Architectural Historical Survey
Downtown Area Neighborhood Development Project
DATE
April 1977
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Tennessee Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
Nashville
STATE
Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Christ Church, located ten blocks from the Tennessee State Capitol, was built in what was once a residential neighborhood in downtown Nashville. Today the church, in the Central Business District, is just one block east of Union Station, a National Historic Landmark, and one block west of two National Register properties, the Customs House and Hume-Fogg High School.

The church, built between 1890 and 1894, exhibits many fine Gothic architectural details. Fronting on Broadway, the facade is dominated by a large rose window and a rectangular tower of open-work tracery. The front portals are beneath the tower. Unique in Nashville are the stone gargoyles at Christ Church. In 1947, when funds became available, the tower was completed in accordance with the original plans. Two years later, the chimes, which ring out the time every quarter hour, were added and are a special feature downtown. In 1959, a major building program connected the chapel to the church and added administrative offices above the chapel. These additions were built of sandstone in keeping with the original construction material. In the chapel belfry is the bell from old Christ Church, the only physical link with the earlier church. Christ Church and the attached buildings are bounded on the south by Broadway, on the west by a church parking lot, on the north by an alleyway and on the west by Ninth Avenue, forming a rectangular whole on the lot.

The sanctuary of Christ Church has a distinctive early English atmosphere. The central nave, with wooden tunnel vault, is divided from the side aisles by a slightly pointed arcade supported by granite columns with foliated capitals. Above are the clerestory windows, consisting of four groups of triplet windows. In the east clerestory, the second group of stained glass windows were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and in the west clerestory the third group by the Tiffany Company. Particularly noteworthy is the handsome altarpiece, designed and executed by Melchoir Thoni, a Swiss woodcarver employed by the Edgefield and Nashville Manufacturing Company. Unusual woodcarving is seen throughout the church in the original pews, pulpit and choir stalls. In 1894, Christ Church purchased a Farrand and Votey organ, the finest electro-pneumatic organ available and the only one of its kind in the south when installed. In 1940, the organ was enlarged to 2,438 pipes and chimes.

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 1890-1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Francis Hatch Kimball

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1826 the earliest Episcopal services in Nashville were conducted by James H. Otey, who later became the first Bishop of Tennessee. In June 29, 1829, the congregation of Christ Church was organized and within two years built a church, which was the first Episcopal church building in Tennessee. Old Christ Church, a Gothic-styled stone edifice, served the parish for over fifty years. In 1888, the congregation moved to a new chapel on the present site where services were held until the new church was opened for worship on December 16, 1894.

Christ Church is considered the finest example of Victorian Gothic architecture in Nashville. Built of Sewanee sandstone and Bowling Green stone, the church is noted for its unusual woodwork and beautiful stained glass windows. The excellent condition of the church today attests to the continuing dedication by the congregation to preserve and enhance a building of major importance in the downtown area. In 1979, Christ Church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding. Plans are underway for cleaning the exterior and the windows as well as special programs and activities for the parish and the community.

Francis Hatch Kimball served as the architect for Christ Church. Mr. Kimball was born on September 24, 1845. In 1875, he became the supervising architect of Trinity College, Hartford Connecticut, designed by William Burgess, a leading exponent of the French Gothic. During this period Mr. Kimball spent several months in England studying Gothic architecture. In New York City, Mr. Kimball formed a partnership with Thomas Wisedell in 1879, and was commissioned for a wide variety of buildings. In Nashville, he drew plans for the chapel and church sanctuary for Christ Church in 1887. He died on December 20, 1919.

Christ Church has served as the training ground for future bishops. After serving as rectors at the church, eight men have become ordained bishops, two of them Bishops of Tennessee, and the other six Bishops of Arkansas, Georgia, Delaware, South Carolina, Atlanta and New York. Christ Church may rightly be called the "School for Bishops." The parish has also played an important role in the growth of the church in Tennessee. Today there are twelve Episcopal churches in the area which were organized with the support and guidance of Christ Church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christ Church Vestry Books (1829-1915)
Christ Church, Nashville, 1829-1929 (Nashville, 1929)
 Noll, Arthur Howard, History of the Church in the Diocese of Tennessee (NY, 1900)
 Withey, Henry & Elsie, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Los Angeles, 1970)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4

QUADRANGLE NAME Nashville West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 519480 4001380

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a lot which measures 108x160 feet; it is bounded as follows: beginning at the intersection of Broadway and North Ninth Street; thence approximately 160 feet northwest along north Ninth St.; thence southwest approximately 108 feet;

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

Mrs. William G. Coke, Jr., Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Christ Church

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

900 Broadway

TELEPHONE

(615) 255-7729

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Herbert L. Hays

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/30/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

FOR KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles A. ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11-14-78

DATE

11-13-78

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

thence southeast approximately 160 feet to Broadway; thence approximately 108 feet northeast along Broadway to the point of beginning.