Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The most prominent feature of this Gothic revival church is the gracefully proportioned central tower. The buttresses at its corners frame the arched entrance which has a handsome pair of paneled doors leading into the Narthex A tall arched louvered opening is in each tower wall in the belfry above. The tower is crowned with battlements and corner finials which are the most highly developed and decorative elements on the building's exterior. (These battlements are recent, but they exactly reproduce the original ones which had been removed years ago.) Flanking the tower on each side is a tall arched window with label mould above.

The sides of the church have unadorned arched window openings, with bays defined by buttresses that are capped above the roof line with finely detailed finials. The roof is of painted tin.

The exterior walls are of plastered masonry. This plaster contains a pink-beige sand and some areas have a green moss which appears after a rain giving subtle variations of color which add character to the building's The weathering of the exterior also adds considerable character.

A cloister connects the church building with the parish house to the left. Although this later addition is more Tudor in character and its exterior plaster is less successful than the church's, there is an overall harmony of scale and character that is very pleasant. The landscaping, particularly the cloister garden, enhances the building in its otherwise undistinguished urban setting.

In general, the most important characteristics of the exterior design is its unpretentious simplicity, judicious use of decoration, and excellent massing of elements. For example, this is a considerably more successful design than another Gothic revival church, St. John's, Savannah, which was built in the same year.

The interior has a graceful triple archway at the chancel, and the simply vaulted sanctuary originally had a large window behind the altar which was 1, later replaced by a handsome wood reredos. The recently added organ in the chancel is the only other major change that has been made. The wood trussed roof over the Nave is of particular interest, with diagonal wood decking that alternates direction between beams. A gallery is at the rear of the Nave. In general, the pictorial stained glass windows are of high quality, and the geometric stained glass windows at the rear of the Nave and in the Narthex are of particular delight.

This church has obviously received respectful care through the years. The unaffected dignity of its design, particularly its exterior, makes it one of the finest examples of parish church architecture to be found anywhere.

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Macon itself.

Christ Church, the oldest church in the Atlanta Episcopal Diocese, was organized in 1825, only two years after Macon was laid out. Land at the corner of Walnut and Third Streets was purchased in 1831 for \$400.00. first church was built on this property in 1834, but by 1850 the congregation had outgrown the building.

In 1851 Lewis Whittle (see Randolph-Whittle-Smith-Davis House) and Nathan Munroe (see Munroe-Goolsby House) were appointed to raise subscriptions, and a cornerstone was laid for the new building later that year. Bricks from the old building were removed during its razing and were used in the construction of the present church building which was consecrated on May 2, 1852.

There was a change made during construction in the original design, at the suggestion of William B. Johnston (see P.L. Hay House). He, in order to improve the structure, liberally defrayed the expense of the change.

Other prominent Maconites who were members of this parish include Dr. Ambrose Baber (see Clinic Hospital), I.C. Plant, Asher Ayres, Simri Rose (see Rose Hill Hospital), and Elam Alexander, architect builder of many of Macon's great homes.

The church bell, along with bells of other Macon churches, was melted and made into cannon balls for the Confederate government, in the latter years of the War Between the States.

In-1867 Sidney Lanier, Macon-born, world-famed poet (see Sidney Lanier Birthplace), married Miss Mary Day in this church.

This is the mother churches all Episcopal churches in this area. Missions were established in southwest Macon, the mission now being St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The church was remodeled in the 1920's and the adjacent parish house constructed in 1926.

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- 2. North arrow.

4. REQUIREMENTS

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