United States Department of the Interior
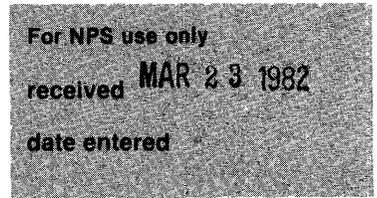National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received   MAR 2 3 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet   Item number   7   Page   7

4. (N-5719):

A. Property Name: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is
located at 21 Elkton Road where the road intersects with West Delaware Avenue.
The property being nominated includes the church building and lot of land on
which it is situated, bounded by 60 feet on Elkton Road, 150 feet on Delaware
Avenue and 218 feet at the north side (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 19,
lot no. 383).

C. Owner: Dr. Anthony Scarangelo, 102 Old Oak Road, Newark, Delaware, 19711

D. Property Description:

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church is a one story brick structure with three bays at
the south west front facade. The exterior walls of the center and original por-
tion of this building, dating from the 1840's, are composed of American common
bond brick with stucco facing. The walls are buttressed at each of the four
corners with the buttresses also stuccoed. The exterior stucco finish was pro-
bably added during the first quarter of this century. The building has a gable
roof covered with pressed tin with raised and folded seams. Designed and built
during the early years of Gothic Revival architecture, this structure features
granite sills and pointed arches with lable stops, and paneled doors with raised
double arched molding and architrave trim.

1867

The thirty-five foot entrance tower and the east rear chancel, both added a
later date, were built to exhibit architectural features consistent with the
original church building. The entrance tower, at the west front facade, has a
flat roof surrounded by a parapet wall and battlements. Gothic-arched lancet
windows, with wooden louvers, appear at three sides of the upper story belfry,
with a circular window at the east rear belfry facade. At the ground level,
exterior corner buttresses project from the tower's west front facade and a
large pointed arched window with inset multiple arched louvers is located above
the center, raised panel, double door entry. The rear chancel has a gable roof
and a lean-to at the north side; both of these additions have tin roofs with
raised folded seams. Presumably constructed of brick, with a stucco facing,
the main bay of the one story chancel displays a pointed arched window with
inset arched tracery and stained glass.

E. Historical Background:

On August 1, 1842, a group of Newark's Episcopalians met to discuss the possibi-
lity of organizing a parish in the City of Newark. Prior to this time the group
had worshipped at various parishes outside Newark including St. James in
Stanton. As a result of this meeting a vestry was elected and the decision made
to call the parish St Thomas'. Although they still did not have a church, the
parish was admitted to the Diocese of Delaware on May 31, 1843. By June 22, of
that same year the vestry had purchased a lot of ground between Elkton Road and
West Delaware Avenue at a cost of $70.00.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

| Continuation sheet | Item number | 7 | Page | 8 |

Once the ground was purchased the vestry next sought to select an architect to design the building. For many years the church was thought to be the work of Richard Upjohn, and it is known that Rev. George allen, a member of St. Thomas' vestry, communicated with Upjohn on several occasions. Allen's letters span a period of time from June 26 to August 1 of 1843. However, at a vestry meeting on July 6, 1843, it was noted that the parish still had no satisfactory design for a church. On August 1, Rev. Allen wrote to Upjohn to tell him that he hoped he could persuade the donors to the building fund to accept Upjohn's designs rather than those of another architect which he (Allen) considered inferior to Upjohn's. Although the final decision regarding an architect for St. Thomas' must have been made in August of 1843, it is unclear whose design was finally chosen and no mention of it is made in either the vestry minutes or in the church history published in 1942.
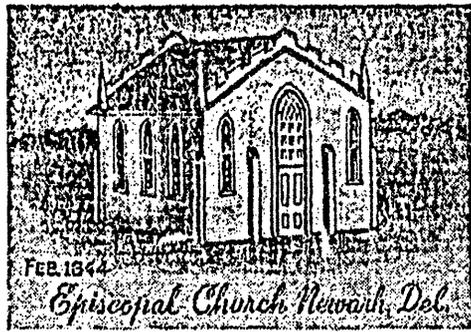
The cornerstone for St. Thomas' Episcopal Church was laid on August 24, 1843 and the building consecrated on February 25, 1845 by Alfred Lee, Bishop of Delaware. the original church measured 45'x 35' and, with neither tower nor chancel, cost approximately $3,825 to construct. By 1866 the number of communicants had almost doubled and the decision was made to enlarge the building. The renovations which included adding a chancel, robing room, vestibule, tower, and 20 new pews, cost a total of $4,600. Construction costs were financed through pew rental as well as through donations from parish members.

Today the building is covered with stucco and painted yellow. It is thought that when originally constructed it had exposed brick walls and granite sills, giving it the polychromatic look more typical of an early Gothic building. The stained glass windows were added during the late nineteenth century through donations.

In 1956 the building was deconsecrated when the parish moved to a larger church on South College Avenue. The original church was sold to the Newark Free Public Library. At the present time the building is privately owned and is unoccupied.

F. Significance:

Begun in 1843 and consecrated in 1845, the old St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is a fine example of the early Gothic style. Later additions to the building, notably in the 1860's, attempted to match the stylistic treatment of the original structure and have successfully maintained, rather than interrupted, the church's visual character. The church remains structurally unchanged since the nineteenth century and is a distinctive example of the early Gothic architectural style in Newark.

2— (20)

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

301
300
302
303
304
333

RAILROAD

OHIO

AND

BALTIMORE

337
1.14 AC.

ROAD

273

DELAWARE   AVE.

315
313
312
316
311
310
308
308
307
305
306
317
322
323
324
325
326
327
318
319
321
320

AMSTEL

(2)

328
9.18 AC.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

AVE.

ROAD

316—(25)

Original church building, 1844.

1842   C E N T E N N I A L   1942

ST. THOMAS PARISH   NEWARK, DELAWARE
THE REVEREND ANDREW W. MAYER, RECTOR

Church with 1866 tower added.