

DATA SHEET H0668273

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 5 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 1 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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Seventh Street at Pine Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Chattanooga

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Tennessee

VICINITY OF

CODE  
47

COUNTY  
Hamilton

CODE  
65

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Paul's, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

305 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Chattanooga

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hamilton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fountain Square

CITY, TOWN

Chattanooga

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

April 1977

FEDERAL X 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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee's fourth largest city and the seat of government for Hamilton County. W. Halsey Wood designed the church and its attached rectory and parish house. The congregation laid the cornerstone on September 7, 1886, and the building was completed at a cost of less than \$50,000 twenty months later, in May 1888.

Romanesque Revival in style and brick and stone in construction, St. Paul's has an asymmetrical floor plan. The church, with its high gable roof, was built along a north-south line, and the two-story parish house wing, which resembled the church in scale and in material, projected from the north end of the east side; the more diminutive rectory was attached near the southwest corner. A massive, off-centered, square tower dominates the south elevation. Built on a story-high, rusticated stone foundation, which has paired ornamental buttresses, the tower rises the equivalent of four stories; surmounting the tower there is a comparatively tiny pyramidal roof topped with a crucifix. Rough-cut stone quoins outline the vertical edges of the tower and accentuate the mass of the structure. A similar band around the top and the round-arched belfry apertures complete the tower trim.

The north end of the church terminates in a vaulted, polygonal apse. Elongated round-head, stained glass windows at the upper-level in the south, east, and west elevations, and in the ceiling of the apse vault provide light for the church. The stone quoins are repeated on the southwest corner. A small, closed porch joined the tower with the south elevation and sheltered the main entrance of the church.

Gable and hipped dormers were placed on the roofs of the parish house and rectory, and flat, round-head, and semi-elliptical windows were used. In 1915-16 the parish house was built; the building was designed by architects R. W. Alger and R. G. Deacon. The cornerstone of the Church School Building was laid in the spring of 1930 in a lot north of the church complex, and in 1951 the congregation rebuilt the parish house with a higher ridge and attached it to the church nearer the apse; the main axis of the new addition was now perpendicular to Pine Street and parallel to the Church School Building (later called the Oliver Hart Building). This addition also served as a church school, and the rectory became the parish house and church office. Various other additions were constructed to meet the needs of the congregation. The parish house (the former rectory) was enlarged in 1938-39 to provide a dining room (parish hall), kitchen, and more church offices. Still other changes joined together the various sections of the church complex. The front porch was transformed in 1968 into a colonnade which connected the church to the Church School Building. Chattanooga architect James R. Franklin designed the Polk Cloister in the space between the colonnade and the church wall; funds for this attractive spot were donated by Mrs. Laurence N. Polk.

Gothic and Romanesque influences are evident in the church's interior. Except for the replacement of the original pews and a new floor covering, the interior has remained largely unchanged since 1888. The nave, with its double file of pews, has no columns to obstruct the view of the altar. A two-story gallery encloses the nave and continues around the rear of the apse. Semi-elliptical arches on the lower level and lancet arches above, combined with the polychrome (buff and red) brick trim, give the gallery a graceful and colorful appearance. The dark wooden roof structural elements, with the unusual cruciform king post and the massive columns, engender in the observer a sense of stability and security.

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Mrs. William W. Yonge and Miss Catherine M. Humphreys donated the ornate Italian marble altar, and the first organ was a gift of the Women's Guild. M. P. Moller built and installed the present organ in 1950. The instrument was designed by Thomas Alexander, St. Paul's organist and chorimaster. It is of the Romantic school and divided into six sections--Great, Swell, Choir, Nave, Pedal, and a Processional Diapason; three manuals and a pedal board control these divisions. Originally there were 50 ranks (62 stops, 3,195 pipes), but in 1971 another rank of 61 pipes were added to the Choir division. On Easter Sunday 1911 a set of eleven bell chimes, a gift of Mrs. B. T. Howard and the first such chimes in Chattanooga, were played at St. Paul's.

Among the other distinctive features of the interior are the finely carved choir stalls, the exquisite wooden and brass pulpit, and the brass altar gates and lectern. The carved wooden altar from the first St. Paul's Church (ca. 1861) has been placed in St. George's Chapel located in a niche in the east wall of the church.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAY 5 1978

## 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 checked="" 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 1886-88

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. Halsey Wood

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was organized in 1852. Chattanooga had been founded only eighteen years earlier and had a population of 2,500. Colonel James Anderson Whiteside (1803-61), a Kentucky attorney, landowner, legislator, and entrepreneur settled in Chattanooga in 1835 and built turnpikes and railroads and became a banker. Whiteside also led the movement to unite the town's Episcopalians; a congregation was organized at his house on Poplar Street on January 17, 1853. The Rev. John Sandels became the first rector. By 1858 there were twelve families attending the church, and they began to consider building a permanent meeting house. After many tribulations a substantial brick church was completed on a lot on the corner of Eighth and Chestnut streets in ca. 1861. During the Civil War the Union army occupying Chattanooga commandeered all of the church buildings in the city. St. Paul's served first as a hospital and later as a warehouse. After the war the parish was reorganized, and the church building continued to be used, despite floods and yellow fever epidemics, until the present St. Paul's was completed in 1888.

While the Rev. George William Dumbell was rector, the congregation raised funds to erect a new church building; the increase in the size of the parish had dictated this action. W. Halsey Wood, who was born on the Isle of Man, designed the new church. He had been inspired by an abbey which he had seen on his native island. Wood had also participated in the design of St. John the Divine Church in New York City. Since St. Paul's was (and still is) considered the "mother parish" of all the Episcopal parishes and missions in southeastern Tennessee and northern Georgia, it was appropriate that Wood design a church which symbolized stability and permanence. The sturdiness of the Romanesque style of architecture admirably conveys this image.

St. Paul's is one of the oldest and most impressive churches in Chattanooga. A church of similar architectural design has not been found in the state. The distinctive elements of the building are the polychrome brick interior, with its cruciform king posts, galleries, and stained glass windows, and the massive brick and stone tower which has been described as English Norman Gothic in style. Over the years St. Paul's has been enlarged to satisfy the needs of a growing membership; these changes were appropriate in scale and materials. The congregation will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year, and the church has been a landmark in Chattanooga for 90 years. Considerable care has been taken to preserve the church, and the congregation plans to maintain and to continue holding services in the building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John K. Powell, History of St. Paul's Church. Chattanooga: Morgan Printing Co., 1925.

Information provided by Mrs. Z. Cartter Patten of Chattanooga.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Chattanooga

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property nominated is a square lot which measures approximately 250 feet on each side; beginning at the intersection of West Seventh Street and Pine Street; thence approximately 250 feet west; thence approximately 250 feet north; thence approximately 250 feet west to Pine Street; thence down Pine Street

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES approximately 250 feet to the point of beginning.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

(615) 741-2371

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

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. Stagner*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9.1.78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

8.30.78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION