

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 17 1976

**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 *U.S.* Grace Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *U.S. Highway 31* — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN *Spring Hill* VICINITY OF *Sixth* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE *Tennessee* CODE *47* COUNTY *Mauzy* CODE *119*

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee*
STREET & NUMBER *100 Oaks Office Tower*
CITY, TOWN *Nashville* VICINITY OF _____ STATE *Tennessee*

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Maury County Register's Office*
STREET & NUMBER *Courthouse*
CITY, TOWN *Columbia* STATE *Tennessee*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE _____
DATE _____
_____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Grace Episcopal Church has been maintained and preserved in its original form since it was built circa 1876. The picturesque frame structure is an authentic example of the "Carpenter" Gothic Revival style church architecture. The church is located in the center of the Spring Hill community, adjacent to the Old Columbia-Franklin Pike which winds its way through historic Maury County in Middle Tennessee. Along this same route, decisive Civil War battles were staged and fought, a single decade before.

The tree-shaded churchyard has been planted with ivy and honeysuckle ground cover. A summer garden features popular varieties of old-fashioned garden flowers. Half hidden by shade trees in summer the steep pointed profile of the roofline is silhouetted by the bright blue sky in the winter landscape. The original wrought iron fence, mounted to the stone retaining wall, divides the church lot from the road grade below.

An entrance vestibule is attached to the rectangular shape nave to the right of the main facade. The opposite end of the nave terminates in a raised sanctuary wing and the cruciform plan is effected by two attached vestry rooms opposite the crossing section. The chancel bench and organ are located to the right side of the aisle and below the pulpit stage and bishop's chair. Following the traditions established in Northern Europe and then in England, the design for the church is similar to the ancient stave church. Structural members of the roof construction are exposed in the ceiling. The diagonal angles of the exposed trusses and scissor braces serve to highlight the perpendicular movement, emphasized by the steeply pitched roof line and verticality of the mass form. Emphasis on perpendicular elements is furthered by the vertical board and overlay pattern of the slender wood battens which have been cut to accent the shape of the narrow lancet windows and Gothic head doorways of the attached vestry and vestibule.

A square shaped, two stage inset bell tower is located above the gable end. The tower bell was manufactured in England and stamped 1839. The linear shape of the tower transcends the main facade wall. It is punctuated by a wheel window of tiny colored glass lights and a lancet shaped memorial window. The tower roof features a carved wood Gothic cross. The wood exterior is painted monochrome white, the roof covering and doors are dark green.

The interior of the church is finished in walnut. Walls are constructed of lath and finished with plaster applied to canvas panels above the wood wainscoting. A graceful leaf and grapevine motif is featured in the hand carved altar and communion rail. The rail is solid walnut which came from trees located on the historic Ewell Farm. The wood for the rail was carved by Professor F. S. Morton who taught at the Beechcroft School, a private boys' school formerly located in Spring Hill.

All of the narrow, tall lancet shaped windows are double hung sash type, with dark walnut colored wood frames. The wide lancet windows are located at either end of the church and these are memorial windows. The "1888" window is the largest. The memorial windows are delightfully patterned in symbolic mosaic designs of vibrant colored,

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leaded glass and punctuated by bright red jewel lights. The original brass oil lamps have been replaced by electric light fixtures, suspended on chains above the center aisle. The carved wood church pews are original. The Pilcher organ was purchased by the congregation with funds which were raised by a former member of the congregation, the organist and music teacher at Beechcroft School. The organ has been electrified. It was formerly operated by a billows housed in the vestry vestibule behind the organ chamber.

The church is open to the public during the services which are held there every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

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 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

c.1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

P. J. Williamson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Episcopal Church is built in the picturesque Gothic Revival Style. It is one of the few remaining examples of the "Carpenter" Gothic Revival style church architecture in Tennessee. It is one of several outstanding architectural landmarks in the Spring Hill Community, which was established in 1838.

The church was designed by P. J. Williamson (1826-1907) an architect who came to the United States from Holland and established practice in Nashville as early as 1867. Grace Episcopal Church is one of the eight remaining examples of his work. His best known work is the Old Vanderbilt University Gymnasium located in Nashville, a property listed on the National Register. An uncommon design, this structure features both Norman and Gothic elements, giving the brick structure the appearance of a chapel, designed in high Victorian style. It is one of three university buildings he designed in the 1880s whose construction was supplemented by a \$150,000 grant donated by patron, William H. Vanderbilt.

Building funds for Grace Episcopal Church were raised by members and supporters of the church. The total construction costs were \$1,800. A prominent corner lot was selected for its scenic beauty as it had formerly graced the community as a garden. The property was donated by the Orville McKissock family.

Bishop Charles Todd Quintard visited Spring Hill on May 15, 1878 to consecrate the church. Regular services have been held in the church since the 1870s, although the congregation has never had an actual, full-time minister. The congregation increased when the Beechcroft School for Boys was opened in the community.

The structure has been carefully preserved and maintained over the intervening 100-year period. Establishing local tradition, the church is decorated with fresh greens, holly, pine, cedar and magnolia boughs for each Christmas season. Members of the Spring Hill community have sponsored a traditional Christmas Eve service for the Centennial and Bicentennial year, 1976.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garrett, Jill, "Carpenter Gothic Gems of Middle Tennessee" Columbia Herald, Nov. 8, 1975.

Brumbaugh, Thomas B. Architecture of Middle Tennessee, Nashville, Tn: Vanderbilt University Press.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Gail Hammerquist, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

1/76

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 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

1/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/17/91

ASST. DIR. OF ARCH. AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

James A. [Signature]
Charles [Signature]

DATE

5.14.26

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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There being no grid ticks on this map, the latitude and longitude of this property are:

Latitude

Longitude

35°45' 09"

86°55' 46"