

363

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Episcopal Church

other names/site number Trinity Parish, Trinity Church

2. Location

street & number 102 Walker Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lenox N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Berkshire code 003 zip code 01240

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough 2/26/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 4-4-96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Trinity Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Berkshire County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

church school

church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

church school

church related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite

walls STONE: bluestone, sandstone

roof STONE: slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The late nineteenth century Trinity Episcopal Church complex is located in Lenox, one of the best known and most picturesque towns of Berkshire County in northwestern Massachusetts. The 1.4 acre triangular lot is situated in a residential district at the edge of the village center and within the Lenox Historic District, a local historic district along Main and Walker Streets designated in 1975 and consisting of 151 resources. Trinity Church is representative of late nineteenth century ecclesiastical architecture with accompanying buildings carrying out the same theme on a domestic scale consistent with the residential area of which the Church complex is a part. The property includes three contributing buildings, the church, the parish house and the rectory, one contributing object, a directional monument marking the corner, and a non-contributing garage all set in the surrounding mature landscape. The Trinity Episcopal Church is bordered by Kemble Street on the west, Walker Street on the northeast and the lot line on the south, southeast.

Lenox is located in the Berkshires near the western state line of Massachusetts and within thirty miles of New York's Hudson River Valley. The town has been described as a "gem among the mountains" and has been a vacation resort since the early 1800s. The area is known for its natural beauty in the Berkshire Mountains. Lenox is an arts center for music and theatre and is characterized by large nineteenth century estates, a village center oriented to those who come to enjoy the arts, and many places of interest including a couple of National Historic Landmarks and the well known Tanglewood. Ventfort Hall (NR 1993), an important residence on 11.7 acres designed by Joseph Clifford & Co. and Rotch & Tilden, lies less than a mile to the South, bounded by Kemble and Walker Streets. Trinity Episcopal Church is only a few miles north of Stockbridge and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

The land on which Trinity Church rests formerly was known as Lyman Corner and is thought to have been part of the parade ground where troops drilled during the Revolutionary War. The property was purchased by the Trinity congregation in 1884 for \$8,500. Although historic maps show a building on the land there is no record of its former use or its demolition.

The three buildings of the Trinity complex are well-preserved examples of late nineteenth century architecture with the church and parish hall representing the Romanesque Style and the Rectory representative of Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne/Shingle Style popular among so many of the summer cottages in the area. The architecture of the church set the stage for the additional buildings. Domestic in scale it is clearly influenced by Richardsonian Romanesque design with Norman overtones drawing on Church of England designs of Norman influence.

Trinity Church

Trinity Church is a picturesque, asymmetrical building consisting of the gabled roof block which is the narthex and nave, the square chancel with polygonal apse extending from the east end of the nave, a transept which is the chapel, and a choir room block attached to the transept and chancel. A small

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 2

gable front entrance extends from the southwest corner of the narthex and echoes the separate bell tower which is connected to the narthex by an open porch. In juxtaposition to the tower is a tall exterior false chimney diagonally opposite the tower on the southeast corner of the nave. A courtyard on the north side is formed by the west transept wall, the north nave wall, and the tower and arched porch connecting to the main block. The way in which the elements are put together creates a visual balance within the asymmetry.

The building is laid up in blue rusticated Berkshire limestone of random sizes and has an expansive dark red slate roof. Brownstone lines the wide and massive porch arches leading to and from the courtyard. Rounded arched windows have stained glass which are important features visually and historically. Window openings are punched into the stone, slightly recessed and articulated by cut blue limestones which face the rounded arched openings.

The main facade is the west elevation facing Kemble Street with the tower, entrance porch and main gable front with rose window. The gable front elevation is defined by a capped parapet edge at the roof line, bluestones forming corner quoins, two pairs of roundheaded arched windows at the first-story level and a large important Tiffany rose window set in the gable peak. Projections from each side of the gable block are set just behind the gable front facade and intersect with the gable block roof only about one-quarter of the way up the slope. North of this main gable front facade is the tall four-story bell tower connected by an open arched porch. The twenty foot square tower has a single window opening on each side of the first two stories, a slightly projecting band of brownstone articulating the beginning of the tower, a single large open roundheaded arch on each of the four sides of the top square level which has a projecting band of capstones and dentil molding and is topped by a tall pyramidal red slate roof. The tower has a polychromatic effect with a band of grey slate, small rounded quatrefoil openings and copper vertical flashing, tip and cross. The connecting porch is a thirteen foot square with a wide open arch faced with cut rusticated bluestone. This porch leads through to the courtyard and to the entrance to the narthex of the church on the right and the entrance to the bell tower on the left.

The south side of the building is an unbroken expanse of rusticated bluestone with four roundheaded arched stained glass windows, a steep sloping red slate roof, a gable front entrance projection from the west end of the south elevation and the false chimney on the east end. The entrance gable projection has a rounded arched door above which is a pair of roundheaded arched windows. Capstone parapet detail is the same as on the west elevation. Set slightly behind the false chimney is the south wall of the square chancel with polygonal apse.

The east side of the building has the projecting apse with double windows on each of the three wall surfaces of which the two side walls have stained glass lights and the front wall windows are blank due to the interior altar reredos. North of the apse is the gable front choir room facade with a large roundheaded opening faced with bluestone within which is a pair of stained glass roundheaded windows and a small round light at the top of the arch. A choir room entrance is punched into the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 3

left corner of this gable front facade and is defined by a slightly projecting pediment with bluestone cap and Gothic detail on the ends of the pediment.

The north elevation includes the side wall of the choir room, the gable end of the transept with three roundheaded arched windows, the interior of the courtyard and the north side of the separate bell tower. A path from Walker Street leads to the courtyard from which the church is entered through the open rounded arched entrance porch. Within the courtyard are two nave windows, one transept window, a door to the transept and the wide arched porch entrance which leads to the bell tower on the right or the church narthex on the left. Each opening is articulated by a band of rusticated bluestone and windows and doors are slightly recessed within the openings.

The interior of the church building is elaborate in detail with many decorative features in memory of various members; added at different dates in the first two to three decades of the church's history. Key elements are the ribbed ceiling with iron trusses in the nave, barrel vaulted ceiling in the chancel, oak panelling and pews, stained glass windows, rood screen between the nave and chancel, the gold leaf screen behind the alter in the apse and other ecclesiastical oak carved furnishings. There are eighteen memorial stained glass windows in the nave, chapel, apse, and choir room. Other windows in the narthex and tower retain the original diamond leaded yellow glass which probably were made by Tiffany.

The narthex, which is the first part of the interior that most see, has oak raised field panelled walls, oak turned spindle screening over the four small roundheaded windows and heavy oak furnishings on the terrazzo floor. At one end are stairs to the balcony and the south entrance door. At the other end is the wide double oak panelled door from the open porch. This is the main entrance to the church. In the narthex is the baptismal font moved from the transept to this location in 1954.

The walls of the nave are plastered with a swirl design which is pierced along the south wall by four windows and along the north by two windows; on which plaques are mounted. Oak panelled wainscoting encircles the room extending from the terrazzo floor to the plaster upper wall. The ceiling of the nave reflects the pitch of the roof and is braced with a wood ribbed structure and three decorative iron trusses. The plaster ceiling is actually canvas covered wood painted blue with decorative gold stars. Oak pews are relatively simple in design and are approached by the center aisle or side aisles which line the north and south walls of the nave. At the back of the nave is the panelled wall separating the narthex over which is the balcony. The gable end wall behind the balcony features the large rose Tiffany stained glass window which pierces the plaster wall. At the front of the nave on either side facing the pews are the intricately detailed, carved oak pulpit and lectern. These two furnishings and the rood screen were added in 1927 and are representative of the Jacobethan Style.

The rood screen, so called for its relationship in design and detail to the crucifix, separates the nave from the chancel. This screen repeats the rounded arch form with attenuated turned collonettes springing into arches over which there is a decorative frieze, topped with a rounded arch motif similar

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTrinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 4

to fret work, within which is the crucifix. The barrel vaulted chancel and half domed apse ceilings also have a blue painted ceiling with stars and wood ribbing in the chancel section. The altar is within the apse and has a highly decorative reredos or altar screen behind, which was added in 1936. It is wood with gold leaf. Pews within the chancel are perpendicular to the altar and are elaborately carved. The stained glass windows within the apse depict the life of Christ. In 1926 the magnificent pipe organ was installed in the chancel.

The chapel in the transept is separated from the nave by two wide arches which spring from a heavy stone column and which have been infilled with mullioned glass panels. Pews in the chapel face north towards the altar behind which are three stained glass windows also depicting the Life of Christ. Other furnishings in the chapel are similar to the heavy dark oak Jacobethan pulpit and lectern.

The choir room, added in 1899, has richly detailed wood panelled walls and wood carvings, a wood ribbed pitched ceiling and a stone colored brick end wall with a large rounded arch opening articulated by stone quoins into which is set two roundheaded stained glass windows and a small circular stained glass window.

Rectory

The Rectory, which provides housing and office for clergy, was constructed in 1892 in an eclectic style combining features of the Romanesque Style similar to the church building and Shingle/Queen Anne Style as found in the details of many of the surrounding grand cottages built in Lenox in the late 1800s. The building is irregular in plan and picturesque in detail. It is a spacious two and one-half story stone and shingled building with a steeply pitched hipped, asphalt shingled roof. The building sits upon a heavy stone foundation.

The first story is rusticated bluestone similar to the church building with roundheaded arches punched into the stone and slightly recessed roundheaded window sash set in wood frames. The second-story has a slightly flared apron at the base and is shingle sheathing with fenestration of various sizes, groupings, and patterns. The wide roof expanse is broken by a single off-center hipped roof dormer on each facade and by two stone chimneys; that on the north side of great height and nearly opposite the false chimney on the church building. The roof eave, which wraps around the building with a deep overhang, is further unified by paired plain cornice brackets.

The main elevation facing Kemble Street is similar to that of the church in that a recessed wide rounded arch draws the visitor to the open porch to enter the building on the north facade while the approach is from the west side. The key element on the west elevation is the two and one-half story polygonal tower with four arched windows wrapping around the stone first story level. Located on the front facade, which is double the width of the other elevations, are a pair of roundheaded windows in which the stone arches spring from a single dressed short pilaster or collonette in the middle of the two windows. This detail is repeated on the paired windows on the main block of this facade.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Second story windows are varied and range from single sixteen-over-one sash to a tripartite casement window with multi-light transom. Those in the tower have irregular mullion patterns on double hung windows and a pair of small casements with six lights over a single panel and louvered shutters below.

The north side is dominated by the wide off-center entrance porch of supporting rusticated stone walls with wide arched openings on the sides and wood round Tuscan-like columns on stone bases in front of the house. The stone walls and column bases are all part of a walled garden system and also line stone steps to the garden which is between the church and rectory. The open porch is topped with a plain balustrade.

The south elevation displays stone arched windows which are grouped in two or three and separated by a narrow dressed pilaster or colonette. At the second story level is an oriel with rounded corners and rounded sash so that the corner view from inside looking out is uninterrupted by mullions and stiles.

The interior of the rectory has fine oak panelled wainscotting, wide rounded arch openings between the main entrance hall and first-story rooms, fireplaces in each first-story room and in the three second-story bedrooms, and a detailed oak stairway and balcony with attenuated balusters. The entrance hall ceiling is raised wood panelling painted white.

Parish House

Built in 1896 the Parish House recalls the architecture of the church building with its rusticated bluestone walls, red slate roof, and rounded arched openings. Designed to resemble a Norman church the Parish House displays a cruciform plan with the half-round open projecting entrance porch and rounded steps at one end of the cross and a projecting gable end chancel at the other end. This building also has a tall exterior chimney, located within the L of the cruciform plan on the northwest side.

The most distinctive facade of the Parish House is the east side which is characterized by a gable front elevation with an intricately detailed half round open entrance porch facing Walker Street. The rusticated gable front has a finished cap stone forming a narrow parapet and a lacy rose window punched into the gable peak. The half round entrance porch has a red slate roof which is supported by paired pink granite columns. Supporting the porch and framing the entrance to the Parish House are seven sets of columns and two sets of pilasters. Each column and pilaster has a different capital. Each pair of columns rises from a single base and supports a single arch of dressed granite. These form the seven arched openings of the porch and the single arched building entrance which is within the porch. The cornice of the porch is elaborated with a reversed crenelated molding.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetTrinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 6

The west elevation displays the chancel with a group of three centered rounded arched windows in the gable end section which projects from and is off center from the main block. Each gable end has a finished capstone parapet with label stops forming the top of the corners. The tall chimney faces west and projects from the west wall of the north cross gable of the building.

On the south side of the Parish House is an additional entrance in the gable end. It is approached by wide stone steps and has a centered single arched opening with rectangular oak panelled door and transom and flanking long roundheaded windows of plain glass. Above the three arched opening is a tiny band of three rectangular windows punched into the stone. The corners of this gable end have partially formed pilasters with caps which end in the label stops of the parapet. This feature is not found on other corners and has an unfinished look.

The interior space includes a large hall with gallery and rose window at one end, the small chancel with three stained glass windows at the other, and a parlor and a kitchen in the flanking cross gables of the cruciform plan. The arrangement of the large hall, gallery and chancel is not unlike the nave, gallery and chancel of the main church. Interior ceiling rib and truss structure articulates the steep roof pitch and is carried out in the flanking rooms also. Oak panelled wainscotting wraps around the large hall and parlor.

There are several stained glass windows thought to be Tiffany windows including the intricate rose window in the east gable front peak. Over the fireplace in the parlor are two wood panel paintings set in an elaborate classical revival overmantel frame. These were painted by well known artist Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966) and display scenes from the Middle Ages. They are titled "My Duty Towards My Neighbor" and "My Duty Towards God".

Archaeological Description

No prehistoric sites are recorded on the church property or in the general area (within one mile). Locational characteristics of the property, particularly its excessive distance from wetlands (over 1,000 feet), are also not favorable for most prehistoric site locations. Given the above information, the small size of the parcel (1.4 acres), impacts from construction of the church, rectory, parish house and garage and the general lack of known historic period resources, the potential for recovering significant archaeological resources either prehistoric or historic is low. Historic period sheet refuse patterns resulting from late 19th and 20th century church activities may exist on the property, however, they are probably of limited research potential.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1888 - 1946

Significant Dates

1888, 1892, 1896

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Richard Tylden Auchmuty

McKim, Mead & White (Charles Follen McKim)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Trinity Parish

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Trinity Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Berkshire County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18	641440	4690400	3. 18	641470	4690300
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 18	641530	4690340	4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gretchen G. Schuler, edit., with Betsy Friedberg, Director of NR Program, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February 1996

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Rector, Warden, and Vestry of Trinity Church

street & number 102 Walker Street telephone

city or town Lenox state MA zip code 01240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Trinity Episcopal Church complex, Trinity Parish, Lenox, retains its setting at the intersection of Walker and Kemble Streets and displays late nineteenth century Romanesque architecture popularized for ecclesiastical buildings by H.H. Richardson's Trinity Church in Boston. The Trinity Episcopal Church complex is reflective of the wealth and taste of late nineteenth century summer "cottage residents" of Lenox. The property retains architectural and historical integrity and is significant for a period beginning in 1888 when the church was constructed to 1946 during which time the property was in continued use as a place of worship, other related church functions, and residence for the clergy. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, association, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The Trinity Episcopal Church complex meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and Criterion Exception A as a religious institution. It is significant at the local level.

Colonial settlement of Lenox was late due to the remoteness of Berkshire County. Although some settlers had come to the Berkshires from New York in the 1690s and others from Massachusetts as early as 1722, it was not until 1750 that the first settler, Jonathan Hinsdale from Connecticut stayed in Lenox. By 1767 there were fifty families and the first town meeting was held. In 1770 the first minister came to lead the established Congregational Church and the first meetinghouse was constructed by 1775.

Early industries of Lenox from the late 1700s included iron mines, a foundry, a marble quarry, a hearthstone mill and a glass factory. A noted secondary school, Lenox Academy opened in 1803 and from 1787 Lenox was the Berkshire County seat, thus a center for law and business. In 1868 the County seat was moved to Pittsfield.

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Lenox was visited and admired for its natural beauty with exceptional vistas and for its clear air. Surrounding towns and the Berkshire Mountains contributed to the desired vacation quality of the place. In the early 1800s Lenox became a retreat for literary persons and for lovers of nature. In the mid 1800s the summer and part-time residents were known as the "cottagers" for their moderate tastes and secluded life styles. And in the late 1800s and early 1900s Lenox became the location of country retreats for the most wealthy from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston.

Anglicans came to the Berkshires from the mid 1700s and the first Anglican service in Lenox is thought to have been held in 1763 with the Reverend Roger Viets of Simsbury, Connecticut officiating. Not until 1793 was the parish formed under the name of "The Protestant Episcopal Society of Lenox" and in 1805 it was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature. Trinity Parish was the twentieth parish admitted to the Diocese of Massachusetts and in 1901 when the Diocese of Western Massachusetts was formed it was the third oldest parish of the new Diocese.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

The first church building was constructed on Church Street in 1818 in the ubiquitous New England meeting house style, a wood frame building with square belfry on top of the pediment of the gable front facade. This building had Gothic inspired detail. When the new church was constructed the white frame building was sold to a parishioner who converted it to a commercial use. For many years it was Herrick's Furniture Store. It survives on Church Street, minus its belfry and is substantially altered.

For the first half of the nineteenth century the number of communicants fluctuated. The rectors also presided at other Episcopalian parishes and missions in the Berkshires. By 1870 services were restored to a regular schedule and the number of parishioners expanded considerably; in part due to many of the wealthy vacationers who started coming to Lenox were Episcopalian or chose this parish for worship during the summer. Such families included the Westinghouses, the Morgans (relatives of J. P. Morgan), Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen who was Secretary of State to President Chester Arthur, Edith Wharton, and the Shermerhorns, the great real estate investors of New York, and others of similar fame and fortune.

The small wood church was enlarged with a new chancel and added transepts by 1873. However, by 1882 Vestry minutes stated the need for a new larger building. At that time Colonel Richard Tylden Auchmuty (1821-1893) was Senior Warden. He had studied architecture with James Renwick (1818-1895) and became a partner in the firm Renwick, Auchmuty, and Sands. Following the Civil War Auchmuty married Ellen Shermerhorn, heiress to the New York real estate fortune. The Auchmutys built "The Dormers" in Lenox and essentially retired to the Berkshires devoting their time to philanthropy. Thus Auchmuty had the professional skills and the assets to guide Trinity Parish to the construction of the church building in 1888.

Following the choice of the so-called Lyman Corners lot in 1882, planning for the design began. Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909) of McKim, Mead, and White was commissioned as architect for Trinity Church. McKim had worked with Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) when Richardson was designing Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston in the 1870s. McKim was known in the Berkshires and in 1883 had designed the Norman Romanesque stone Episcopal church in Stockbridge.

The McKim designs for the Trinity Church went through four separate sets of plans. A fifth set was modified by Colonel Auchmuty with the help of James Renwick incorporating all of Auchmuty's ideas and concerns about McKim's design. This process took four years and the final plan implemented was called the "Porch Plan" which survives only in Auchmuty's report unlike McKim's four plans which are preserved in the Parish records. Auchmuty's additions and changes included the change of the porch entrance into a narthex for inclement weather, the large rose window in the west gable peak, the use of local rockfaced bluestone in place of fieldstone, removal of irregular stringcourses and dilapidated buttresses. Auchmuty was in charge of construction of the building, raised the funds and was the largest contributor, thus a memorial plaque names him as the architect of the church.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 3

The cornerstone was laid in 1885 by former President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, who has an Episcopalian and visitor at Frederick T. Frelinghuysen's. Auchmuty supervised the work of the construction, particularly that of all the craftsmen. The chancel was designed by William Brockelsby of Hartford and built by Bartlett Brothers who also laid the main roof. A local contractor doing much of the work was Hascal Dodge. Many other noted craftsmen worked on various parts of the construction such as Tiffany, who did most of the original windows. Also many items were memorial gifts. The final cost was approximately \$85,000 and all was completed and paid for in 1888.

The consecration of the new church in June 1888 included two bishops, Bishop Paddock of Massachusetts and Bishop Potter of New York, the choir from Church of the Advent in Boston, the rector, the Reverend Justin Field, and the congregation which was largely made up of summer residents who had donated heavily to the construction of the church.

The old church was memorialized in the new by relocation of memorial plaques and reuse of the pews. The plaques commemorated some of the early Anglicans of Lenox such as Major Azariah Egleston and Major General John Paterson, both of whom served in the Revolutionary War and contributed to the life of the parish. Other plaques have been added throughout the years including one dedicated to those who perished in the Great Lenox Easter Fire of 1909 which swept through the center of town, destroying four business blocks, two houses, and killing six people.

In 1892 the Parish constructed the Rectory for \$31,586.72 with donations given by many of the same wealthy summer residents who contributed to the construction of the Church. The new Rectory was dedicated by the new Bishop of Massachusetts, the Rt. Rev. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), who visited Lenox in the summers. Brooks, author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem", was the best known Bishop of Massachusetts and was rector of Trinity Church, Boston, when that was constructed by Richardson in the 1870s.

The next additions to the Trinity Church complex were donated by John E. Parson, a wealthy New York attorney and summer resident in the Berkshires. In 1896 he built the Trinity Parish House as a memorial to his wife, Mary Dumesnil Parsons. It was built to resemble a small Norman church and to be consistent with Trinity Church. Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966), was selected to paint the overmantel for the parlor which consisted of two panel oil paintings on wood. Parsons donated to the town of Lenox handsome directional markers, one of which is at the corner of the property in the form of an obelisk stone marker. They were erected in Lenox in 1892 but the marker which is now on the Trinity Church property was not moved there until 1927. The last addition to the church was the 1899 Choir Room and Sacristy, donated as a memorial to Sarah L. Lawrence, daughter of Charles and Sarah Lanier, who had donated much to the construction of the church as well.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 4

During the 1890s not only did Trinity Parish augment its own property but it also assumed responsibility for St. George's Church in Lee. Also they received as part of their parish the new Union Chapel, later called St. Helena's, in New Lenox. That church building had been constructed in 1892 as a gift from John E. Parsons who in 1896 memorialized his wife with the construction of the Parish House at Trinity. In the early 1900s, the wealth and prosperity of the parishioners allowed the parish collectively to maintain many assistance programs in the region.

In 1927 extensive decorative and ornamental work was added to the interior of the Church under the direction of the then present rector, the Rev. Latta Griswold. He chose the Jacobethan Style as the most compatible with the 1888 Romanesque Style. It was a common form in England but most uncommon in America. Some of the main features were modeled after church interiors in England. The rood screen, separating the chancel and altar from the rest of the church, was modelled after a screen found in an Oxford, England chapel. The Jacobethan furnishings such as the pulpit, lectern and font were modelled after similar furnishing in England.

Trinity Parish survived the Great Depression of the 1930s in spite of the closing of many of the large estates and loss of financial support to the Parish. When the minister serving St. Helena's retired, he was not replaced. Winter services were held in the Trinity Parish House to reduce fuel bills. Summer residents changed somewhat with the closing of some estates and the loss of money of many of the nineteenth century industrialists. However the late 1930s and early 1940s were the beginning of new life in Lenox.

In 1936 the Boston Symphony Orchestra's conductor, Serge Koussevitsky brought the Orchestra to the Berkshire Symphonic Festival. By 1945 the two had merged and the Orchestra had a permanent summer home at Tanglewood, one of local estates. Tanglewood grew into the best known of the summer music festivals. Other arts programs were also attracted to the area and by the late 1900s the Berkshires had become a destination for year round tourists. The population of Lenox has grown steadily and the parishioners of Trinity Parish have remained faithful. Thus the Parish is stable in communicants and in preservation of its resources.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Trinity Episcopal Church
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 9, 10 Page 1, 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gable, John Allen. The Goodness That Doth Crown Our Days, A History of Trinity Parish, 1993.
Palmer, C.J. History of Trinity Church, 1763-1895, Cambridge, 1895.
Tucker, G.H. History of Lenox, 1936, Republished by Lenox Library, 1992.

(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the National Register Nomination follow the legal boundaries of Lot 39 on Lenox Assessor's Map # 40. The property is bordered by Walker Street on the east northeast, by Kemble Street on the west northwest, and by the property line on the south southeast.

Boundary Justification

The 1.4 acre property includes the land on which the Trinity Church, Rectory, and Parish House rest and has been a lot with the same bounds since prior to the construction of the Parish buildings. It is a legal lot under one ownership and is directly associated with the significance of the Trinity Episcopal Church. The triangular lot is bordered by two Lenox roads, Walker and Kemble Streets, and by a lot which is privately owned on the south, southeast side.

(end)

**Trinity Parish
Lenox (Berkshire County)
Massachusetts**

PHOTOGRAPHS

LENOX, MA
Berkshire County
Trinity Parish Complex
November 1992
Photographer: Percival Williams

1. Trinity Church Main Entrance, From Kemble Street
2. Trinity Parish House, North Entrance, From Walker Street
3. Trinity Rectory, From Kemble Street
4. Trinity Church and Rectory, Southwest View, From Kemble St.
5. J.T. Parsons Directional Monument, Intersection of Kemble and Walker Streets

Trinity Church

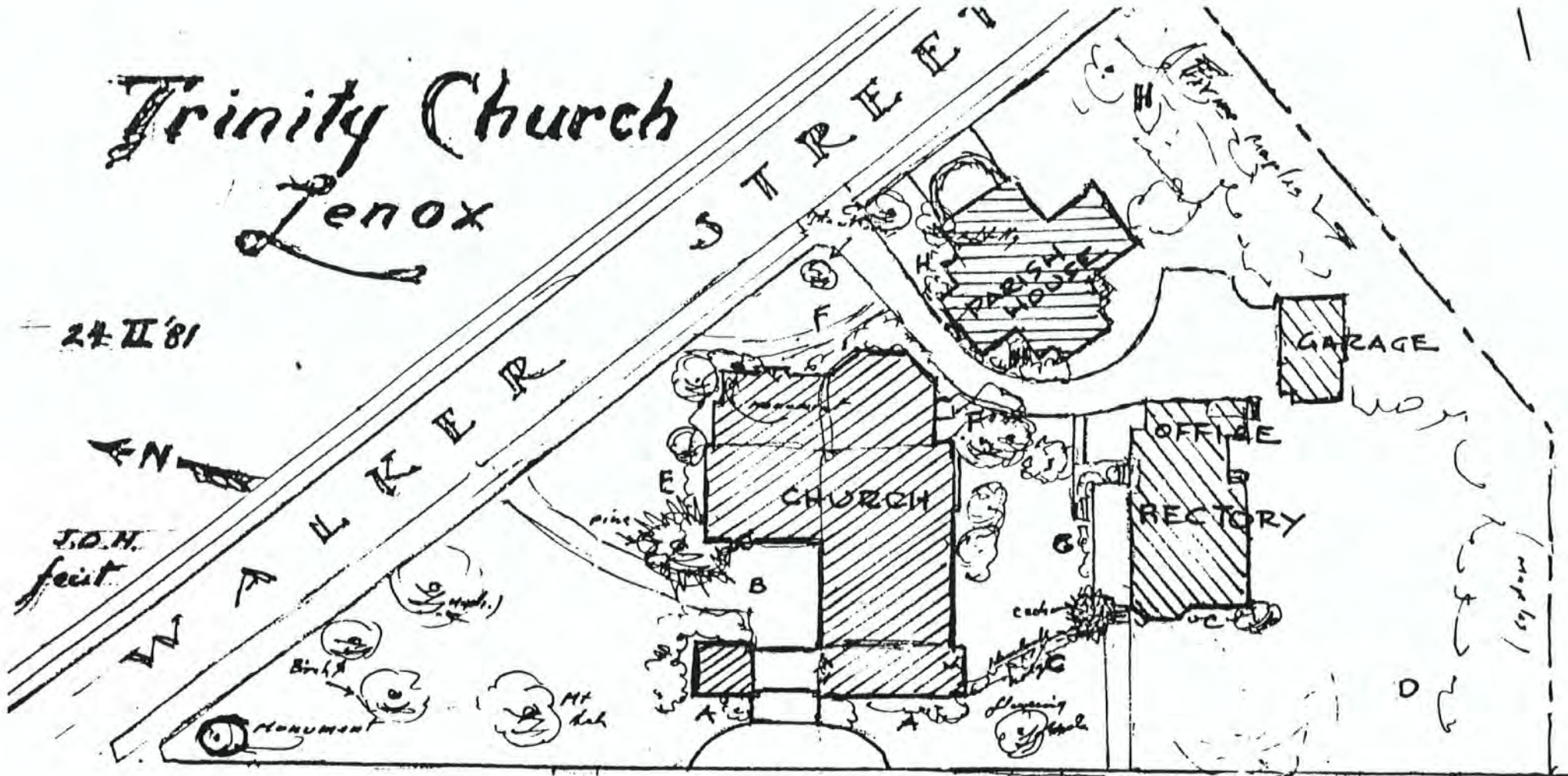
Lenox

WALKER STREET

24 II '81



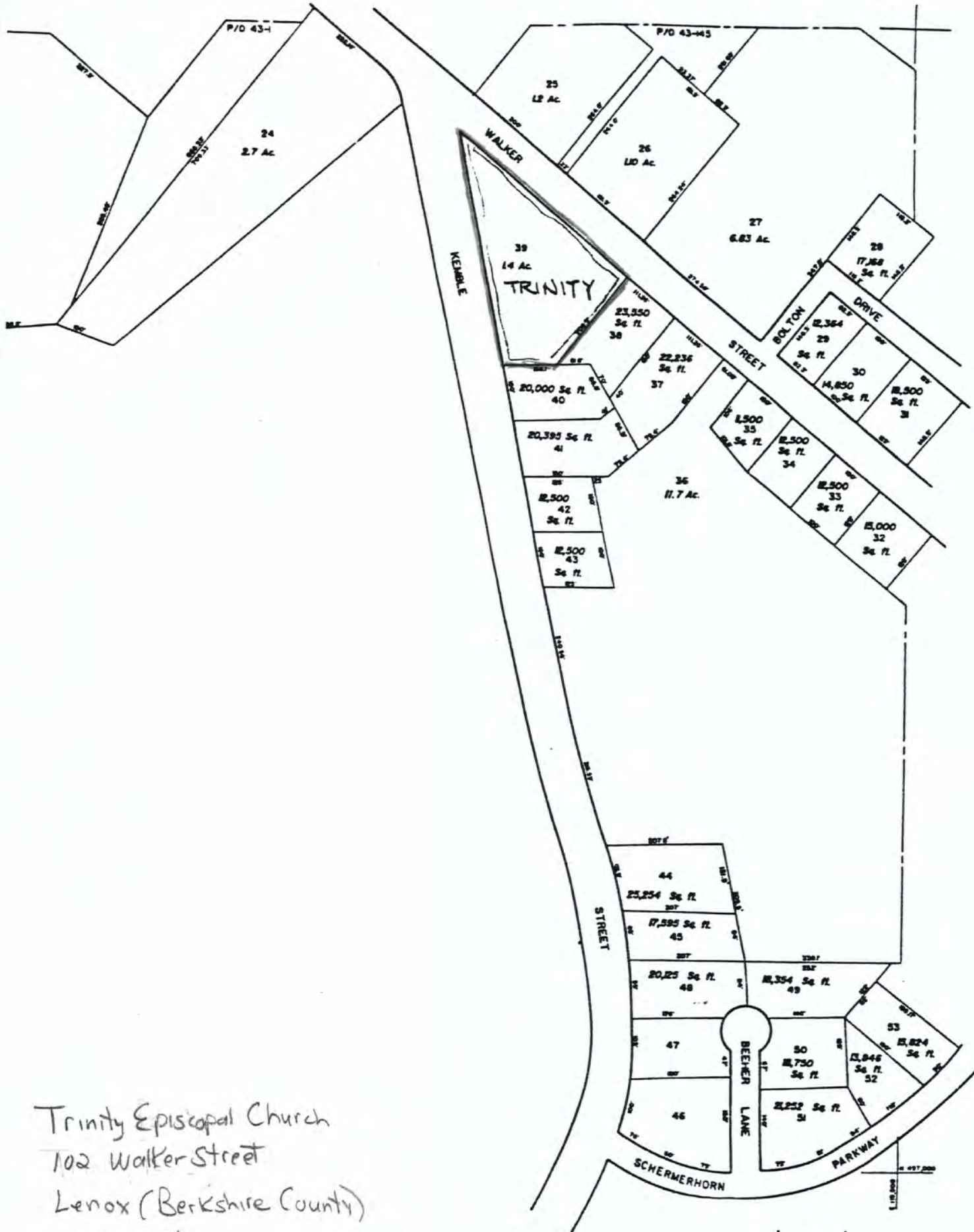
J.D.H. feat.



KEMBLE STREET

SITE PLAN

SCALE 1" = 50'



Trinity Episcopal Church
 102 Walker Street
 Lenox (Berkshire County)
 Massachusetts

TAX MAP
TOWN OF LENOX
 BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
 PREPARED BY
 JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY, OLD TOWN, MAINE
 SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET

	43	
MAP NUMBER		
	40.	41

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Trinity Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Berkshire

DATE RECEIVED: 3/05/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/19/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/04/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/19/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000363

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.4.96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Trinity Parish - 102 Walker Street
Lenox, VA - Berkshire County

Photographer: Percival Williams
November 1992

Negative: On site - Parish Office

Church looking north, northeast from Kemble St
Photograph #1

5



Lenox, MA - Berkshire County

Trinity Parish - 102 Walker Street

Photographer: Percival Williams

November 1992

Negative: On site - Parish Office

Parish House Looking South, southwest from
Walker St

Photo # 2

92



Trinity Parish. 102 Walker Street
Lenox, MA - Berkshire County

Photographer: Percival Williams

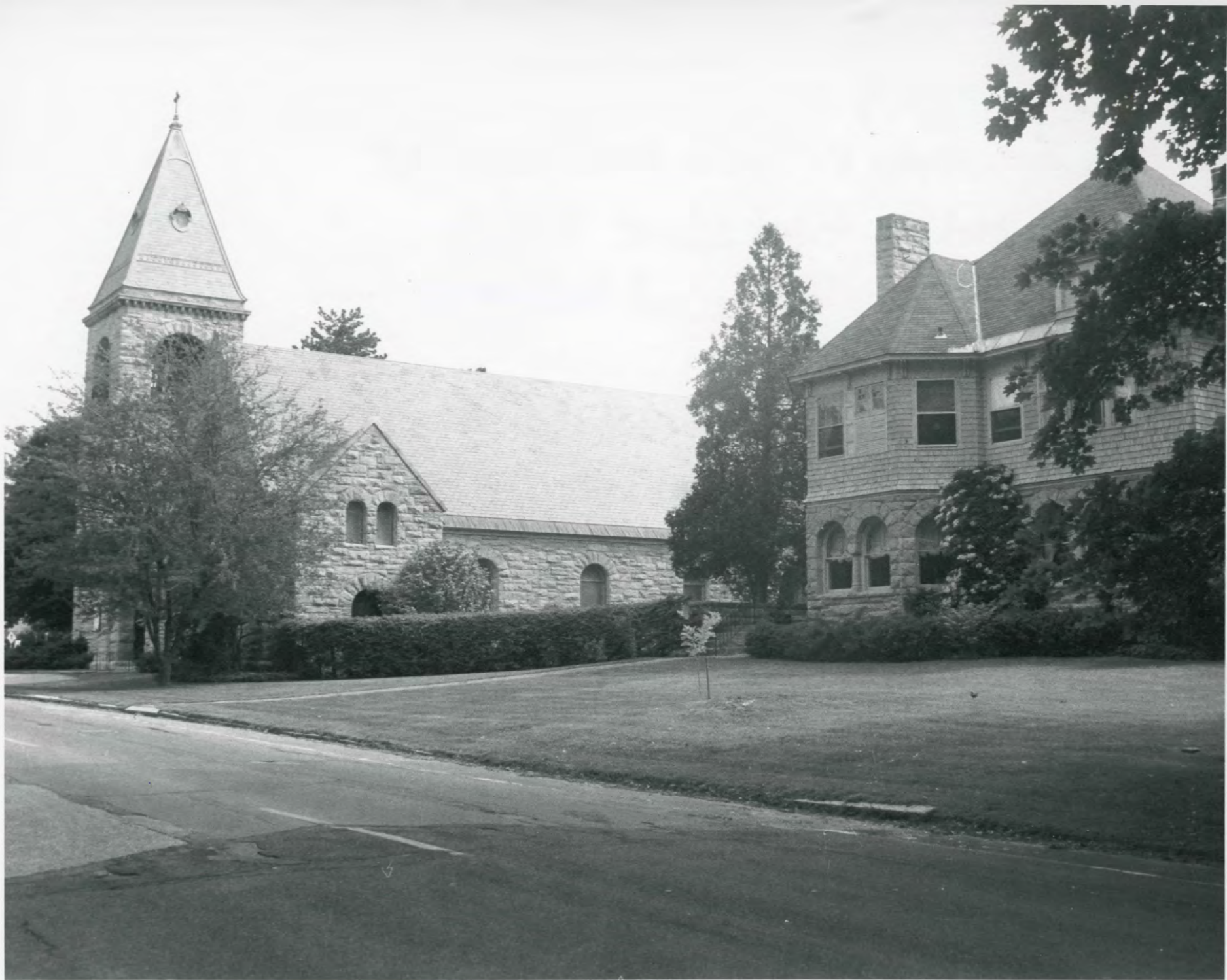
November 1992

Negative: on site - parish office

Rectory: Looking north, northeast from Kemble St

Photograph # 3

b



TRENTITY PARISH - 102 Walker Street

Lenox, MA - Berkshire County

Photographer: Percival Williams

November 1992

Negative: on site - parish office

Church + Rectory - Looking north from Kemble St.

Photograph # 4



Trinity Parish - 102 Walker Street
Lenox, MA - Berkshire County

November 1992

Negative: on site - parish office

Parson's Directional Monument - Looking South
from intersection of Kemble Walker St

Photographer: Percival Williams

Photograph # 5

33

LENOX, MA

Trinity Episcopal Church
102 Walker St.
(Berkshire County)



Stockbridge
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW YORK

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960, field checked 1981. Map edited 1987
The west half of this area also covered by 7.5-minute 1:25,000-scale map: State Line dated 1973
The east half of this area supersedes Stockbridge 1:25,000-scale map dated 1973
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18 Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone and New York coordinate system, east zone 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 36 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4043
6	19.6852
7	22.9661
8	26.2470
9	29.5279
10	32.8088

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

CONVERSION TABLE	DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS
		1 2 3
		4 5
		6 7 8

UTM grid convergence (GM) and 1983 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

1 East Chatham 1:24 000
2 Franklin Silver
3 Franklin Fair
4 Chatham 1:24 000
5 East Lee
6 Hillsdale 1:24 000
7 Green River
8 Otis

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road; trail	
Route marker: interstate; U.S.; State	
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
House; barn; church; school; large structure	
Boundary	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
Civil township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation; small park	
Land grant with monument; found section corner	
U.S. public lands survey; range, township, section	
Range, township, section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument	
Well; water well; spring	
Minor shaft; prospect; sill or ore; toxicologic section	
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	
Personal lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	
Swamp; marsh	
Summered marsh; land subject to controlled flooding	
Woodland: scattered trees	
Scrub; mangrove	
Orchard; vineyard	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS-NEW YORK
42073-C3-TM-025
1987



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

26 February 1996

Carol Shull
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Trinity Episcopal Church, 102 Walker Street, Lenox
(Barnstable County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Duncan R. McQueen, Trinity Parish
The Rector, Wardens & Vestry of Trinity Church
Marcia Brown, Chairperson, Lenox Historical Commission
Joseph H. Nolan, Chairperson, Lenox Board of Selectmen
Denis J. Lesieur, Director, Lenox Library Association