(July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM			Virginia			
			Portsmouth	(in city)		
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Almension Saint Me left side the brick loft and door on b for black thought t meant tha screen. <u>1607-1807</u> rood scre the churc door whic the perio (roughly and readi Originall April, 18	esent and original church was erec s being 30' x 60'. It w ry in his book <u>American</u> of this street [High] g Anglican Church, neat a benches throughout its e oth sides are two benche s who are not allowed to hat StMery's reference t the pulpit and reading Stephen P. Dorsey in <u>Ear</u> mentions the Anglican c en. Originally the pulp h on the nave side of th h, strangely enough, was d when the church was ab 1809-1820) the rood scre ng desk moved to the cen y the church had had squ 22, half of the old doub gle, in the modern style	ted <u>circa</u> 1762, as described by <u>Fourneys</u> (<u>1789-1</u>) oing up from the ad well kept. I ntire length. N s painted black. mix with the wh to a rood loft desk were joine by <u>English Churc</u> ourch in Portsmo t was on the no e rood screen ne the main entran andoned by its c en was removed a cer of the east are, high-backed be pews were cut	M. Moreau de 794): "On the Market, is t has a rood lext to the These are d to a rood hes in America outh having a rth wall of ar the north ce. During ongregation nd the pulpit wall. pews, but in down and

by adding ten feet to its width. However, after erecting the new wall "when we came to join this new work to the old, the 0 latter was found so injured by cracks and decay the whole had to be taken down and built new, like the additions; and so the entire building was made new, using for the same only a very 0 small portion of the old materials." / During the 1961 remodeling, z portions of the floor were taken up to clear the debris under S the building. At that time the workmen discovered the outer walls of the original structure, laid in Flemish bond. However, they found that instead of the ten feet being added to the width of the church in 1828 as stated by Dr. Wingfield, that approximately 6' were added to the south, 5'8" to the north, and 6'4" to the west. The west wall remains are under the present chancel steps. The 1828-29 rebuilding of the church was done with materials salvaged from the old Fort Nelson, and the walls stuccoed over to hide this somewhat coarse texture.

Rev. Wingfield's description of the church interior continues:

This building had, at first, but one gallery for the organ and choir. The chancel was changed from the east to the west of the church, and the entrance was put where formerly stood the pulpit and reading-desk - that is, when I took charge [1821]. Originally, these stood on the north side, close to the door, which was the main entrance to the building, with a cross aisle to a door opposite leading to the grave-yard. There was one other

Form 10-2000 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE Virginia	
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around the windows and doors, gold and maroon-red on the interior of the Chancel arches, etc." The annex and tower were added to the church in 1893 and the quaint old belfry destroyed.

A new "Tracker Action" organ with 23 stops powered by a water motor was installed in 1899. This caused problems due to freezing, poor water pressure, and plugged drains, and the organ was changed to an electric one in 1938.

In 1905 the church was completely redecorated by J. & R. Lamb, Inc., for \$705. The parish house was enlarged by a two-story addition in 1908. In 1913 the carpets were removed from the church, and the ceramic tile floor which is now in the aisles and chancel area was laid. In 1919 flat wall paint was applied to the interior. However, the next year "the flat paint was covered for a cost of \$2950.00 by a Baltimore firm, H. Chamber. This was the last time that elaborate stencilling and mural decoration was employed."

A new reredoes was dedicated in December, 1932. It was of Italian marble, made in Italy, designed by Seibel Studios of New York in the Romanesque style. During the 1930's the front pews were removed in the nave to increase the aisle space for those receiving Communion. Marble wainscoating was installed around the sanctuary wall, replacing the wood, during World War II.

The Parish House was renovated in 1941, but a new parish house was erected in 1954 by the architectural firm of Williams, Coile and Blanchard; construction was by J. B. Denny of Norfolk. The cornerstone of the parish house was laid March 13, 1955.

At this time it was decided to paint the church stucco yellow to match the new parish house - for many years the church had been painted battleship gray. Also, the west end arches of the Annex were enclosed to provide additional sacristy space; the pews were painted off-white and the woodwork painted to blend with the walls. In 1960, a new organ from Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticutt was installed.

The church was remodeled in 1961. The rubble was removed from beneath the church; the front North-South aisle and chancel steps were rebuilt, the gallery was removed; a new pulpit, choir railing and console enclosure were installed; the interior was repainted, all under the direction of Bradford Tazewell of Williams and Tazewell, Architects.

The communion table was the tombstone of Mrs. McFarland. The 1893 addition to the building covered the space in which her grave was located, and it was preserved in this way. The Italian

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The new church was consecrated on Sunday, steeple or cupola and bell were added in 1 In 1840 Mr. W. Butler erected side ga	830.	. The	
William Forbes contracted to alter the pew to the church. The Vestry Room was added of the church, and a new organ was purchas New York.	s and doors lead: to the rear (wes	ing in- t end)	

The gallery fronts, stairways, organ, pews and the woodwork in the vestibule have been colored walnut and varnished. The gas fixtures have been bronzed and the arch at the chancel has been painted white. A beautiful and costly Brussels carpet covers the floor of the church. The pews are uniformly cushioned in red damask. The chancel chairs have been newly upholstered in red plush and a red cloth cover, handsomely embroidered, has been placed upon the communion table. . . Carpets have been laid on the floor of the organ loft and side galleries, and some new furniture has been purchased for the vestryroom

The cornerstone of the "Chapel" or Parish House was laid on June 14, 1887; it was designed by Cassell & Cassell of Baltimore.

In 1893 the church was enlarged under the direction of W. P. Wentworth of Boston "who had built St. Luke's Church, Norfolk, and restored St. Paul's, Norfolk." E. J. N. Stent of New York was the interior decorator. "As originally painted after the enlargement, there was a fresco on the sanctuary wall, and much stenciling around the woodwork and wainscoating. The colors, which became visible in several places during the 1961 remodeling, included bright yellow walls in the nave with orange stenciling Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Portsmouth (in	city)
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7. (3) marble font is an angel holding a shell.

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15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ole and Known) 1828	-1830	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Portsmouth's historic Trinity Church was erected between 1828 and 1830 on the site of the original colonial structure dating from 1762. Located at the main crossroads of the city, the simple but elegant building has come to symbolize this port town's deep-seated connections with the past.

The history of Trinity Church's parish begins in 1761 when the Elizabeth River Parish was divided into three parts, with the area west of the Southern Branch of the river being created as Portsmouth Parish. The following year a brick church was erected on spot where the present church stands, this being the first Established Church erected in this area - Anglicans formerly had to cross the river to Norfolk to attend services. This first church building apparently was not well built: a description appearing in the Virginia <u>Gazette</u>, December 11, 1766, stated that "A church there, [Portsmouth] built within these three years is now ready to tumble down! which has obliged the Church Wardens to advertise it for repairs."

From 1809 to 1821 there were no services held in the church as the congregation dwindled in size and became scattered - some members joining other churches. The building, which was being used as a schoolhouse and a Presbyterian meeting house, fell into decay. In 1821 the church, then consisting of only ten communicants, received the Rev. John H. Wingfield as their minister, a position he held for fifty years. The church was repaired in 1823, and in 1825 it received the name "Trinity Church." In an 1828 enlargement it was found that the original fabric was so decayed that it was pulled down and the present building erected.

During the War between the States, the building was converted into a hospital, with boards being nailed to the tops of the pews to serve as beds. The church was repaired after the war, and on Easter Sunday, 1868, a new memorial window appeared in the church. Given by Rev. Wingfield, the window was dedicated to nine Portsmouth men "Who Died During the Civil War Between the Years 1861 & 1865 in Defence of Their Native State Virginia, Against the Invasion of the U. S. Forces." As Portsmouth was then part of a military district, this window offended the Federal

Punsten, Rev. J. B., "Historical Sermon on Trinity Church, Portsmouth, Virginia, 1762-1894," in Some Fugitive Items of Portsmouth & Norfolk County History, comp. by John C. Emmerson, Jr., Portsmouth, Va., 1948 (typescript). Holladay, Mildred M., "History of Portsmouth, "in Some Fugitive Items of Portsmouth & Norfolk County History, comp. by John C. Emmerson, Jr., Portsmouth, Va., 1948 (typescript). Vach, Rev. C. Charles, A History of Trinity Church, Portsmouth Parish, Portsmouth, Virginia, 1761-62 to 1961-62. CEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGE LOCATING THE PROPERTY ONNER Deress Minufe Seconds Degress Minufe Seconds Degress Minufe Seconds Set 0 NN 0 158 0 0 158 0 0 158 0 0 158 12 0 0 158 12 0 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 158 12 0 159 12 0	AJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES							
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

	MAY 14	8078
	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
	Portsmouth (in	
ES	COUNTY	
	Virginia	
	STATE	

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

forces, and an order from the Secretary of the Navy ordered the window removed; failure to comply would result in the closing of the Navy Yard. The window was removed in May, 1868, and was restored to its place in January, 1954.

Trinity churchyard was for years the only burial ground in the town of Portsmouth, and thus contains many old tombstones, the oldest extant stone dating from 1763.





NPS	Number	= 5/14/73

Title: TRINITY Episcopal Church

Loc. Portsmosth (IN city) UR.

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

VA. HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Trining Zrisupal Church, Portsmuth





National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Prepared by: Lena Sweeten McDonald Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, VA 23221 804-482-6439 Trinity Episcopal Church Name of Property Portsmouth, VA County and State N/A Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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AUG 1 4 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Additional Documentation, August 2015

The Trinity Episcopal Church was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, at which time a specific period of significance was not required nor an inventory of contributing and non-contributing resources. This additional documentation has been prepared to clarify the property's period of significance and its contributing resources.

Section 7

The original church was built in 1762, completely reconstructed in 1828 and enlarged in 1893. According to the 1973 individual nomination, a new Parish House was built in 1954 with the cornerstone laid in 1955; it is connected to the church by a colonnade. A chapel is attached to the twostory parish house and this has a cornerstone dated 1955. To the rear of the parish house is a one-story auditorium. The church staff states that all three sections were built in a single campaign. A cemetery with burials dating to 1763 also is on the property.

The 1973 National Register nomination describes both the church and the parish house/chapel/ auditorium, and summarizes the various remodeling campaigns undertaken at the church through 1961, when the church received interior updates. The property's contributing resources are the church (building), cemetery (site), and parish house/chapel/auditorium (building).

Section 8

Based on the precision of the cemetery's establishment and the original church's construction, rebuilding, and remodeling dates, the property's period of significance has been established as 1763-1961.



Timby Epinappel Church Perch house Istapel Additories Ports mouth, MA 200



Trinity Episcopal Charles Parish Hansel chapellimeters

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET
REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
PROPERTY Trinity Episcopal Church NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Portsmouth
DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 73002219
NOMINATOR: STATE
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N
COMMENT WAIVER: N VACCEPTREJECTQ-29-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

n N	
RECOM. /CRITERIA CECCO	nit 1
REVIEWER Clam Blall	DISCIPLINE Broley
TELEPHONE	DATE 9.29.15

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered MAY 1 4 1973

Name

Location

Petersburg Court House

Trinity Episcopal Church

1.41

Petersburg (City)

Portsmouth (City)

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Also Notified Hon. William L. Scott Hon. Robert Daniel, Jr. Hon. G. William Whitehurst Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr. Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission State Ninth Street Office Building Room 1106 Richmond, Virginia 23219

PHR NRowland: 1mp 5-15-73

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AUG 1 4 2015

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINA Register of Historic Places

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391 www.dhr.virginia.gov

August 4, 2015

Mr. Paul Loether Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 I ("Eye") Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Trinity Episcopal Church and Portsmouth Downtown Historic District, City of Portsmouth, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

Molly Joseph Ward

Secretary of Natural Resources

The enclosed additional documentation, referenced above, is being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Trinity Episcopal Church originally was listed in the National Register in 1973. The enclosed nomination update provides a justification and documentation for ending the property's period of significance in 1961 and a list of the property's contributing resources. The historic boundaries *have not been altered* as a result of this nomination update.

The Trinity Episcopal Church also is included as a contributing resource in the Portsmouth Downtown Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 2004. The inventory entry for the church, however, was incorrect. The enclosed additional documentation provides a corrected inventory along with an explanation for the correction. The district's historic boundaries *have not been altered* as a result of this nomination update.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

Administrative Services 10 Courthouse Ave. Petersburg, VA 23803 Tel: (804) 862-6408 Fax: (804) 862-6196 Eastern Region Office 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, VA 23221 Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391 Western Region Office 962 Kime Lane Salem, VA 24153 Tel: (540) 387-5443 Fax: (540) 387-5446 Northern Region Office 5357 Main Street PO Box 519 Stephens City, VA 22655 Tel: (540) 868-7029 Fax: (540) 868-7033

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