

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 25 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 13 1979

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

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Pine Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry

STREET & NUMBER

East Pine Street

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sussex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

The Circle

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey

S-111

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Hall of Records

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a three-bay rectangular brick structure with a gable roof and flared eaves. A tall Gothic steeple with spire with pent eaves and cross gables rises from the center bay at the front of the church. The steeple is supported at the front corners with stepped buttresses. Lancet windows pierce the steeple in the area between the buttresses at the second floor level. The area above the two lancet windows on the steeple, the belfry, and the cross gables of the spire contain elaborate wooden curved and arched bracing as does the interior of the nave and the apse to the rear of the nave.

Small lean-to wings flare out from the apse at the rear of the building, reproducing on a lower level the flared effect of the nave.

Inflected arch lancet windows with quadrefoil tracery are located in the left and right front bays. Three such windows extend along each side wall of the nave. Paired, recessed, small lancet windows are located in the west side wall of the west wing of the apse. A later addition to the southeastern apse wall extends back along Academy Street, which runs along the eastern side of the church, and runs into East Pine Street. The addition, which dates from the 1940's, is not significant to the main church structure, though it closely follows the earlier style. Behind it is a modern church hall.

A massive stained-glass rose window over the alter, which also dates from the 1940's when it was imported from England and installed by European artisans, is significant for its workmanship. It is believed to be the largest and finest window of the type in Delaware.

A modern vestibule at the front of the church reproduces the Gothic timbered decoration and arched portals of the main church. The main door is timbered with ornamental strap hinges. It is of rectangular shape. Three lancet windows are set into the overdoor area beneath the peak of the arch.

The interior of the nave has plaster walls, a wooden-planked, arched ceiling, and ornamental rafters and curved braces rising from heavy wooden pillars.

The apse contains finely-detailed Gothic wainscoating and similar ornamental beams and bracing. A pipe organ dating from the 1930's fills the west wall of the apse. The Gothic detailing of the wainscoating is reproduced in a raised pulpit at the east side of the apse. A large 19th century Bible rests on a carved wooden stand supported by a finely carved wooden eagle at the west side of the apse..

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church which dates from the early 1840's and replaces an earlier 19th century frame church structure on the same site, is significant both for its role in the religious history of Georgetown and because of its remodelling along Victorian Gothic lines in 1880 attributed to the famed architect Charles McKim.

The congregation was founded in 1794 and met in the Sussex County Courthouse until a frame church was built during the second decade of the 19th century. In 1843 work was begun on the present structure. It was completed in 1844, the year the Rev. John Linn McKim became rector. McKim was the uncle of the future architect Charles McKim, one of the founders of the leading 19th and early 20th century firm of McKim, Meade, and White.

McKim continued as pastor of the church until 1867 at which time he turned his attention to missionary work in the outlying regions of Sussex County. McKim continued to play an active role in the affairs of the church, however, and lived just across a side street from the church.

Although it can be verified that McKim was the uncle of Charles McKim, vestry records and other sources make no mention of a direct role by Charles McKim in the renovation which took place in 1880. Many local historians have claimed over the years that both McKim and Stanford White, who became a partner in his firm in 1880, were frequent visitors to Georgetown the summer months. McKim's parents and other relatives lived in Philadelphia and it is conceivable that he did, in fact, visit Georgetown regularly.

The records do indicate that the vestry took little part in the design of the renovations and that they were left up to the rector and to other interested members of the congregation, including the former rector, Rev. McKim.

While it can not be conclusively proven that Charles McKim did in fact lend his talents to the remodelling of the church, it is clear that in style, the present early Victorian Gothic-style church building is unlike anything else in Sussex County or lower Delaware, except Christ Church in Milford whose rector was John McKim's son and Charles McKim's cousin.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

16 Miles From Anywhere - A History of Georgetown, Del. , Wm. J. Wade; -
Georgetown, Delaware, 1976

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(Note: there are no UTM grid marks on the map; see continuation sheet for geograhic coordinates)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Georgetown

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Dick Carter, Sussex County Historical Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Sussex County Planning and Zoning Department

DATE

October 26, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

The Courthouse

TELEPHONE

302-856-7701

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Delaware

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE

Chief, Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

Sept. 11, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-13-79

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Coordinator

DATE

11-13-79

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Description: (Continued)	7	1

While it is difficult to determine what features date from the building's initial construction in 1844 and which date from its "Gothicization" in 1880, there is some evidence on the rear wall of an original rear gallery. With the exception of the Gothic detailing of the steeple, the windows, and modern additions, the exterior of the building is extremely severe. This may indicate that most if not all of the Gothic features date from the 1880 alterations.

The six side stained glass windows and the two in the front wall, together with the rose window represent an extremely fine collection of stained glass design ranging from the mid 19th century through the first half of the 20th century.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Statement of Significance: (Continued)	8	1

There is little architectural evidence to indicate the appearance of the building before the 1880 remodelling. It does appear from an inspection of the interior plaster walls that there was once a rear gallery. The wooden ceilings and massive carved columns, beams, collar beams and braces, ridge beam and other interior details probably date from the "Gothicization" of the structure. McKim is directly credited with having designed the nave of the church with its detailed Victorian Gothic wainscoat panelling, altar, and raised pulpit. The narrow inflected arch windows with quadrefoil tracery also appear to date from the same period. The stained glass in the church is a good cross-section of designs ranging from mid-19th century to early 20th century.

The church, for which two lotteries have been authorized at various times by the Delaware General Assembly to raise construction funds (1806 and 1827) has played an important part in the affairs of the town for nearly 200 years. The cemetery contains the graves of several Delaware governors, U.S. senators, generals, and other high officials.

The modern rear addition, a parish house, is not significant to the architectural quality of the structure.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Geographical Data: (Continued)	10	1

There are no UTM Grid Marks on the GEORGETOWN U.S.G.S. Map.
The Geographic Coordinates are as follows:

75 degrees 22 minutes 58 seconds longitude

38 degrees 41 minutes 26 seconds latitude

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

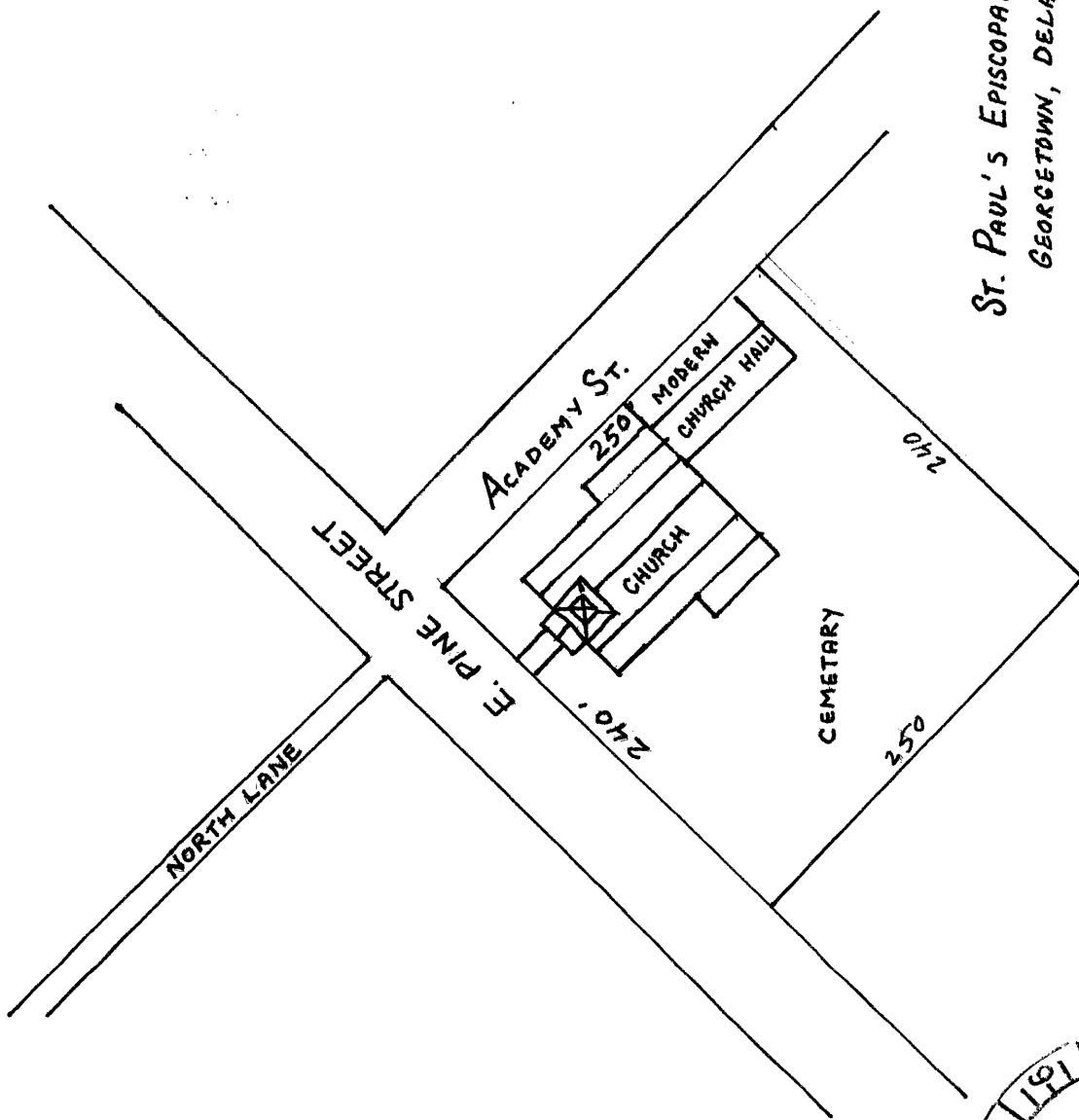
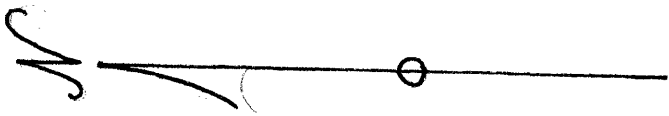
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Verbal Boundary Description)	10	2

The boundary of the area being nominated is a rectangle of 240 feet along East Pine Street by 250 feet along Academy Street. Specifically, the boundary line begins at the southwest corner of East Pine and Academy Streets and runs southwest for 240 feet along East Pine Street. Then it turns 90 degrees to the southeast and runs for 250 feet to a point where it turns 90 degrees to the northeast and runs 240 feet to Academy Street. At the point where the line intersects with Academy Street, it turns 90 degrees to the northwest and runs for 250 feet to the point of beginning.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

1" = 100'

