

PH0024201

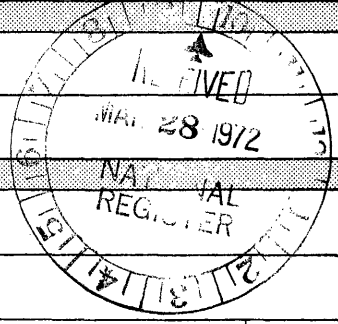
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |             |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| STATE:           | Kentucky    |  |
| COUNTY:          | Davies      |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |  |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |  |
|                  | APR 10 1972 |  |



See instructions  
11/26/75

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Trinity Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 403 West Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Owensboro

STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Davies CODE: 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |                                     |  |   |                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious         | <u>Cliff Hagan</u>                                  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific        | <u>Boys Club</u>                                    |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Trinity Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 720 Ford Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Owensboro STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Davies County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Owensboro STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: March, 1971  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |                                    |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                        |   |                               |                                       |   |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                        |   |                               | (Check One)                           |   |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

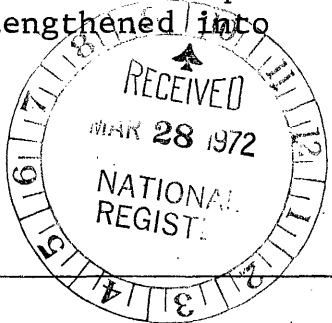
Old Trinity Episcopal Church (1875) 403 West Fifth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky is a good example of the English influence on early church architecture in the United States. This church's heritage dates back to the early English style of the English Mediaeval Architectural period from 1189 to 1307 in England. This thirteenth-century style, also known as Lancet, comprises the reigns of Richard I (1189-99), John (1199-1216), Henry III (1216-72), and Edward I (1272-1307). English, less massive than Norman, depends for effect on pleasing proportions, well-defined outlines, and simplicity in ornament. Tall and narrow Lancet openings give height to the design, and exteriors are marked by projecting buttresses, pinnacles, and steep-pitched roofs.

To describe the influence of this period of architecture on Trinity Church of Owensboro, one must study Trinity's floor plan, exterior elevations, roof construction, and ornamentation; and if still original its wood and metal work, windows, doorways, mouldings, piers, caps, and bases, and chancel screens.

Since much of the interior of Trinity Church has been gutted of its furnishings, the interior analysis is based upon photographs taken in 1958. Reverend Glenn Coppick, minister of Trinity Episcopal Church indicated that the interior furnishings were not a part of the original church contract. Therefore, an historical evaluation of the furnishings is not included in this description. The exterior of the church remains today, much the same as originally constructed. This is substantiated by a photograph of an original lithograph showing the church as first built.

**FLOOR PLAN** - This early English floor plan is very similar to the Norman plan and the dominant characteristics of this period are apsidal ends, towers of square, and massive proportions and naves of conspicuous length to width ratio. The chief difference between the Norman and Early English plans, exemplified by Trinity's plan, is chiefly brought about by the pointed arch, which made it possible to construct oblong instead of square compartments, while many Norman apses were lengthened into square-ended naves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## SIGNIFICANCE

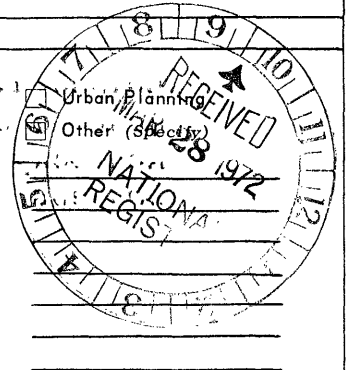
## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 403 West Fifth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky (Daviness County). The organization of this church was done, according to early records, in the Masonic Lodge. "Services and meetings were held over Dr. McGill's drug store at the corner of Third & St. Ann Streets. Later, the members bought a carpenter's shop on Frederica Street near Sixth Street and worshipped there until they built on Fifth Street." According to the original contractual agreement, circa 1874, between the vestrymen and Mr. Brown and Mr. Burch, contractors, the church was to be built for \$4,600 and was to be completed by December 1875. This date was evidently kept, as the cornerstone of the building reads 1875 and church records show it was "finished and occupied July 9, 1876." The new church could seat 600 people and was thought by some to be too large for the city. This same building was used as a house of worship until 1964, when the parish built a new building at 720 Ford Avenue (New Trinity Episcopal Church). The Cliff Hagan's Boys Club will occupy the building until their new quarters are completed some time in 1972.

The original charter of 1853 on the Old Trinity Church lists six men of the community who were closely tied to its founding. Two of these men, Mr. D.M. Griffith and Dr. C.H. Todd, have very notable ancestry and are well documented in the History of Daviness County, Kentucky. Mr. Griffith was married to Virginia Shelby Todd, daughter of Colonel Charles S. Todd and granddaughter of Governor Isaac Shelby, first Governor of Kentucky. Dr. Charles H. Todd "was the youngest child of Colonel Charles S. Todd, who was chief of staff for General Harrison in the War of 1812, minister to South America under Mr. Adams in 1826, and minister to Russia under General Harrison in 1840. He is a grandson of Judge Thomas Todd, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the youngest grandchild of Governor Isaac Shelby."

(See continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Episcopal Historical Society  
 Green River Area Development District  
 Owensboro-Daviess County Heritage Commission  
 Episcopal Church records, Owensboro, Kentucky  
 History of Daviess County  
 Kentucky Heritage Commission III-19  
 Daviess County Historical Society

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

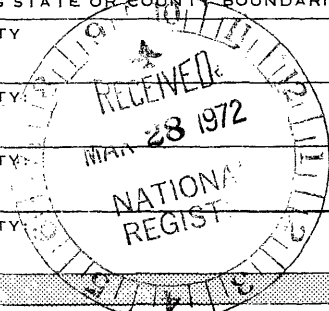
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |           |                 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE |                 |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees   | Minutes Seconds |
| NW   | 0                       | 0                       | 0   | 37°       | 46' 18"         |
| NE   | 0                       | 0                       | 0   | 87°       | 06' 52"         |
| SE   | 0                       | 0                       | 0   |           |                 |
| SW   | 0                       | 0                       | 0   |           |                 |

UTM  
 16/489890/  
 4180376  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **City Lot (draft attached)**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mrs. M. David Orrahood, Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Daviess County Heritage Commission** DATE: **2/7/72**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2725 Frederica Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Owensboro** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: **State Liaison Officer**  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/10/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 1 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| Kentucky         |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Davies           |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | APR 10 1972 |

(Number all entries) #7 Description

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - The front or south elevation of Trinity Church has the square and massive bell tower set to the west of the nave. Wall openings are of pointed Lancet arches. The window opening of the nave is glazed in tracery stained glass and cusps are let into the soffit of the Lancet arch in separate pieces to produce trefoil openings. The door openings are set with wood doors, apparently not original, simple and plain in design with no relief or ornamentation. The metal work of the door includes: probably hinges of (Kent or Essex origin) and escutcheons and door handles of a more recent heritage. The buttresses are Norman in their simplicity and Early English in articulation. The roof is steeply-pitched, with a cross set at the ridge of the roof. The cross is Botonee in design, that is, having a cluster of three balls or knobs at the end of each arm. There is one other cross of stone let into the brick work of the bell tower. It is Latin in design.

The east and west elevations have openings of Lancet arches glazed with single stained glass lights, and buttresses as previously described.

The north elevation is the apsidal end of the church with two openings the same as on the east and west elevation.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION AND ORNAMENTATION - Trinity's roof is of the tie-beam classification that was found often in Early English Mediaeval Architecture. The roof is steeply-pitched and the tie-beams represent a "Baulk-Tie" which joins the wall posts of the side aisle, on the west side of the nave to the solid masonry wall, of the east side. The tie-beams are placed to prevent the wall plates from spreading. Springing from pendent posts the tie-beams are cambered upwards, to carry plain crown-posts or king-posts, in turn, and with the aid of struts, sustain in a collar-purlin, linking the collar and giving rigidity to a roof otherwise of the trussed-rafter class. This roof framing principle almost invariably belonged to the south-eastern half of England, during that period.



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

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            |             |
| Kentucky         |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Davies           |             |
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| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | APR 10 1972 |

(Number all entries)

#7 Description

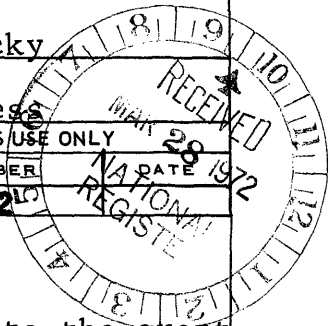
SUMMARY - Trinity Church is a good example of the early English style architecture of the English Mediaeval Architectural period. It is apparently in fair to good structural condition considering its age; its design, and its detail have weathered well over the past century.



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

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            | Kentucky    |
| COUNTY           | Daviess     |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |             |
| DATE             | APR 10 1972 |



(Number all entries)

#8 Statement of Significance

Dr. Charles H. Todd was also a "nephew by marriage to the great ovariologist, Dr. Ephriam McDowell."

Perhaps of greatest interest to present researchers of the Old Trinity Church is the fact that in the old parish record book one Rev. Benjamin H. Latrobe, Jr. (copied from the Diocesan Journal) has boldly and beautifully signed his name as Rector from August 1, 1875 until his resignation April 9, 1877. During his two years here he performed ten baptisms between August 1875 and April 8, 1877. Listed in the Baptismal records as witnesses (for the same time period) were Mrs. B. H. Latrobe and Jennie E. Latrobe. In the Confirmation records for July 9, 1876, Rev. Benjamin H. Latrobe, Jr., presented for Confirmation five young people to the Right Rev. T.W. Dudley, Assistant Bishop of Kentucky.

It is possible that this Rev. Benjamin H. Latrobe, Jr. is closely related to the famous architect, Benjamin H. Latrobe (1766-1820) who, along with Charles Bulfinch, modified William Thornton's designs for the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. and who designed the lovely Gothic Baltimore Cathedral (1805-21).

Interest in the Old Trinity Church has not limited itself to pure history. Art has played a part in documenting this building. Mr. C.G. Morehead, "Artist of Property," known throughout the Commonwealth and the country, painted the front door of the church in 1970. Mr. Morehead has said that the print is "the most popular print now, and is selling for \$140." (see attachment).

This church was designated and registered as an historic building of Daviess County, Kentucky in 1970 by the Kentucky Heritage Commission, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The structure of the Trinity Episcopal Church has the beautiful, straightforward lines of the typical village Gothic Chapel that is found throughout the English countryside. This type of structure was new in this country and certainly in this area in 1875. B. H. Latrobe, the famous architect, is said to have brought this type of Gothic church from England to the United

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

(Continuation Sheet) # 2

|                  |  |          |  |
|------------------|--|----------|--|
| STATE            |  | Kentucky |  |
| COUNTY           |  | Davies   |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |  |          |  |
| ENTRY NUMBER     |  | DATE     |  |
| APR 10 1972      |  |          |  |

(Number all entries)

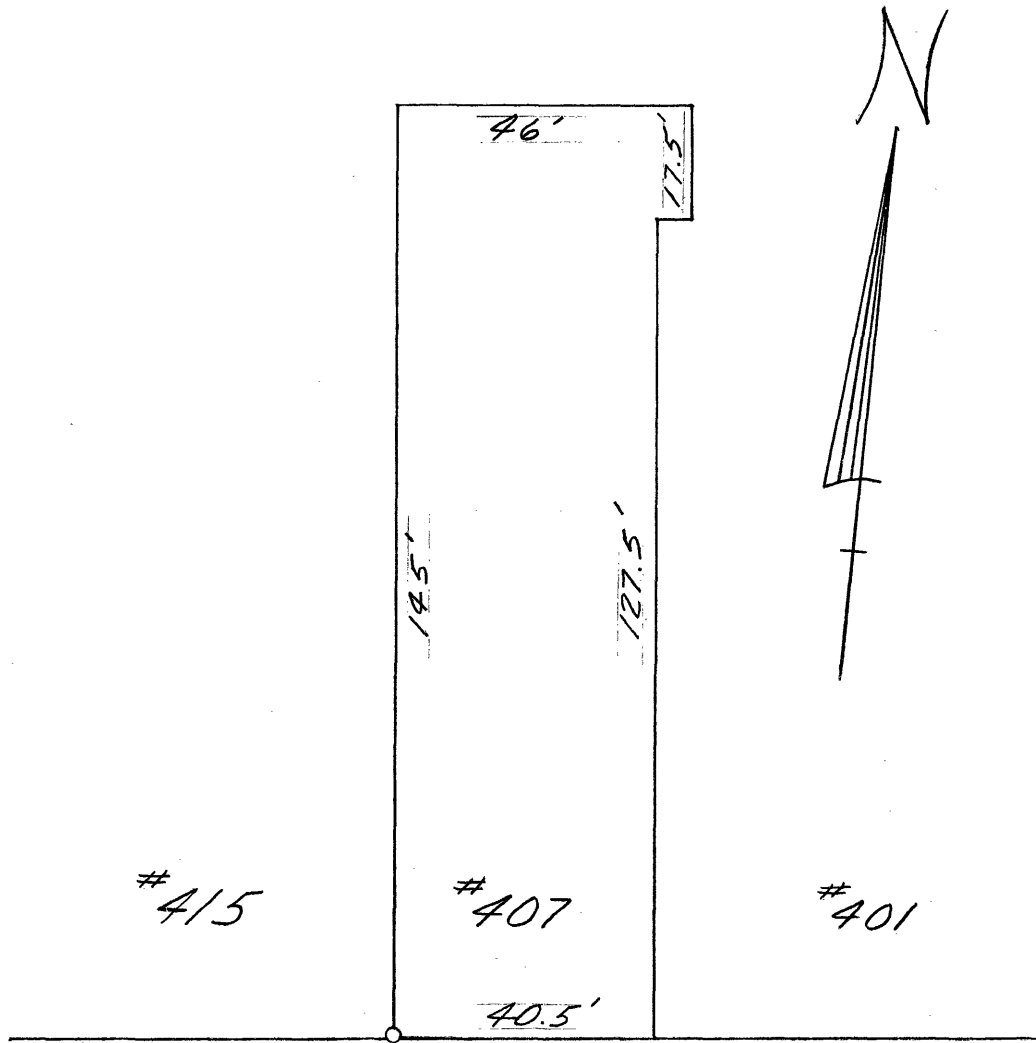
#8 Statement of Significance

States. Soft, weathered, buff-red brick frames the exterior, a lovely west-facing tower and a slate roof form the quaint and lovely building. There is one twelve foot stained glass window and several smaller windows, each with a religious symbol. The two front wooden doors, with their pointed vault-tops and wrought-iron fittings are charming (see attached photographs).

The interior of the building, when in full use as a sanctuary, was magnificent. The altar was made of carved and polished wood as was the baptismal font. The apse, in which the altar rests, is of a style rarely carried over to American churches. There was a balcony over the front doors and to one side of the nave. It is said that family servants were in attendance during Sunday services in the early days of the church and that the balcony was for their use. Heavy beams form an interesting design on the ceiling of the church.







WEST 5<sup>TH</sup> ST.

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PROPERTY OF  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SCALE 1"=30'