

PH0671461

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 18 1976  
DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\* Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

239 East 600 South

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Utah

— VICINITY OF

CODE

049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

239 East 6th South

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Salt Lake City and County Building Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 South State Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

February, 1976

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE  
Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The A.M.E. Church is a small, brick structure of no particular style but modestly Gothic in overall effect. The building has a split-level plan although the original entry is now concealed within a new brick addition which cuts across the front facade of the church. The addition has a flat roof, rusticated brick, square window bays with metal framed sliding windows and plain doors--all of which are inconsistent with the original building and therefore constitute a major intrusion. The window bay in the tower has also been bricked in with rusticated brick. Paint on the exterior brick, air conditioners in some side windows, and a composition roof are also changes from the original appearance of the church.

In plan the church is rectangular and has a gabled roof which is hipped at the rear on north end. A square tower with a spiked steeple is connected to the southwest corner of the front facade and causes the asymmetrical arrangement of bays in the facade. The three window bays and original entry are symmetrical together but situated to the side of the centerline of the facade as opposed to conventional symmetrical centering.

The church's major decorative elements are the art glass leaded windows which are found in all of the front and side bays. The windows display various foliated and geometric patterns and are quite colorful. While the windows themselves are square, their bays are segmented and feature corbeled brick arches. A corbeled brick cross is situated in the center of the front gable. The cornice is simply molded and the original chimneys are still intact.

The interior of the A.M.E. Church has been extensively remodeled. Ceilings have been lowered, new wall coverings and new pews added, etc. The building presently does not have a great deal of architectural integrity or significance. However, the present owners intend to restore the church to its original appearance and have been locally funded to accomplish this work.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hurley Howell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized as Utah's first black congregation in the 1880's. Meeting in members' homes and rented quarters, the congregation appeared to have started construction of a church building in 1891, somewhere on Fourth West Street below Sixth South in Salt Lake City. The cornerstone was laid by the then Territorial Governor Thomas. However, it would appear that the black members lacked the funds to complete the structure and so returned to meeting in homes and rented accommodations.

In 1907 the church purchased the property at 239 East Sixth South with funds donated by a Mary Bright, a black cook who had made a fortune working in the mining camp of Leadville, Colorado. The church building was constructed around 1909 by the members of the congregation, according to plans drawn by another member, Hurley Howell.

The importance of the Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church lies not in its architecture, although it will look quite pleasant once some unfortunate accretions are removed as part of their current restoration project. What is important is its symbolic value to the black community as the focus of black social, educational, and religious activity in Utah for over 60 years. The role of the black churches in acting as a cohesive force in the black community, and as both a refuge and a strength, takes on especial meaning in a state where they are such a tiny minority. The history of the Trinity A.M.E. Church is the major part of black history in Utah.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Birdie Langon, Utah and the Early Black Settlers (Salt Lake City, n.d.)  
 The Tribune, 22 June 1891, p. 5.  
 Oral Interviews.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John S. H. Smith/Preservation Planner, Allen D. Roberts/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

June 11, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  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.

*Milton L. Weilenmann*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Milton L. Weilenmann,  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 11, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE *7-30-76*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *W. Donatus*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-30-76

DATE 7-30-76