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United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

MAR 16 1982

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





Type all entri	es—complete appli	cable sections				
1. Naı	me			-		
historic	Calvary Ep	iscopal Church	and Parish	House		
and/or commo	on N/A					
	ation			., , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
street & numb		and econd Street		N/A	A not for pub	lication
city, town	Memphis	N/A v	ricinity of	congressional district	Eighth	
state	Tennessee	code 047	county	Shelby	code	157
3. Cla	ssificatio	n				
Category Ownership district public building(s) private structure both site		on Accessit	cupied in progress	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:	
4. Ow	ner of Pro	perty				
name		scopal Church				
street & number	100 N 11 1	Second Street				
city, town	Memphis		icinity of	state	Tennessee	38103
	ation of L			on		
	gistry of deeds, etc.					
street & numbe	<u>er </u>	160 North Mid	-America M			
city, town		Memphis		state	Tennessee	38103
<u>6. Rep</u>	presentati	on in Exi	Sting 3	ourveys		
title	N/A		has this pro	perty been determined e	legible? y	es _X_ no
date	N/A		N/A	l federal sta	te county	loca
depository for	survey records N/A					
city, town	N/A			state	N/A	

7. Description						
_						
Condition excellent _X good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check oneX original site moved date			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Calvary Episcopal Church (1843) and Parish House (1903) occupy the southeast corner of Second Street and Adams Avenue. On the adjoining corners of the intersection are the One Hundred North Main Building (1965), the Central Police Station (1911), and the Shelby County Courthouse (1909). The church buildings cover the entire, relatively flat site except for a small courtyard and a narrow landscaped area at the church entrance surrounded by a cast iron fence.

The sanctuary is a one-story brick Gothic Revival building with a steep gable roof. Although there are no records of the brick ever being exposed, an early stucco exterior was removed in 1961, giving the church its current appearance. The church building was designed by the third Calvary rector, Reverend Philip Alston, in 1843 and constructed the same year by W. A. Bickford, a communicant of the church. After the tower was added in 1848, there were no major alterations to the church until 1881. At that time an architect and English immigrant to Memphis, James B. Cook, added the chancel and the exposed truss and rafter ceiling. Before his work on Calvary, Cook had been responsible for designing two other early and still extant Memphis churches, St. Mary's Catholic (1864) and Trinity Lutheran (1874).

The exterior of the church is dominated by an entrance and bell tower attached to the west facade and architecturally divided into four levels. Above the tower's Tudor-arched doorway, the second-level fenestration is comprised of tall pointed-arched windows with intersecting tracery. Smaller versions of these windows are used on the tower's third level, and plastered circular openings on the fourth level complete the tower's fenestration. The principal ornamentation of the tower is confined to simplified hood molds, buttress coping, crenellated parapet, and pinnacles. Also on the west facade of the church are two side entrances with simple canopies.

The bays of the north and south facades are accented by simple brick buttresses and a stuccoed water table. The repetition of these features and simple lancet windows and hood molds tie the nave and later chancel together architecturally even though the chancel projects past the north and south facades. Paired lancet windows on the east facade of the chancel frame a wide pointed-arched window.

On the interior, except for the decorative framing of the roof, the only other prominent architectural features are a simple entrance screen at the west end and an arcade of three arches dividing the nave from the chancel. The long bench pews are arranged with central and side aisles. The lancet windows of the church are late-nineteenth-century stained glass without tracery.

To the south of the church is the three-story brick Parish House in a late Gothic Revival style. The structure's architectural details are confined to the west facade and consist of a variety of window forms, an entrance and stair tower with finials and crenellated parapet, and a cross at the peak of the gable. The Parish House and church are joined at the front and rear by hyphens with a paved courtyard between the connecting wings. The first floor of the Parish House has church offices and a large, wainscotted reception hall with a fireplace and exposed beam ceiling. The second and third stories are classrooms, and the basement serves as a dining and recreation hall with a large contemporary mural on the south wall.

8. Significance

prehistoric archeology-prehist 1400–1499 archeology-historic 1500–1599 agriculture 1600–1699 architecture 1700–1799 art X 1800–1899 commerce 1900– communications	conservation conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iiterature Indicator	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Church: 1843,1848, Specific datesParish House: 1903		ip Alston, James B.	Cook

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria C

Built in 1843, Calvary Episcopal is the oldest church building remaining in Memphis, preceding by twelve years the construction of the city's other extant pre-Civil War church, St. Peter's Catholic Church. The building is equally important as a good local example of a simple Gothic Revival structure, one which is less elaborate than the city's other two remaining Gothic churches--St. Mary's Catholic Church (begun in 1864 and dedicated in 1870) and the previously mentioned St. Peter's. The restrained Gothic character of the building is achieved by simple lancet windows, hood molds, buttresses, and western tower, as well as an unadorned interior with an exposed truss and rafter ceiling. The parish house, constructed in 1903, exhibits a restrained Gothic influence through the use of a crenellated parapet and a combination of mitered, pointed arch, and lintelled windows.

9. Maj	or Bibl	iographical	Refere	ences		M Well to	لاده سد
		eservation of Tenn	essee Antiqu	uities.	Ninetee	nth Century	Churches
of Downton	wn Memphis. of Calvary F	1974. Protestant Episcop	al Church.	(1832-197	12 MET		
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10. Ge	eograpi	nical Data					
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Verbal bound	lary descriptio	on and justification					
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List all state:	s and counties	for properties overla	pping state o	r county b	oundaries		
state	N/A	code	county	N,	<u>′</u> A	code	
state	N/A	code	county	, N	′ A	code	
11. Fo	rm Pre	pared By					
name/title	Lloyd Ost	y, Preservation P	lanner	:			
organization	Memphis La	andmarks Commissio	n	date	December	r 10, 1980	
street & numbe	r 22 North I	ront Street		telephone	(901) 5	28-2834	
city or town	Memphis			state ₁	Tenness	ee 38103	
12. St	ate His	toric Prese	rvatior	Offic	cer C	ertifica	tion
The evaluated s	significance of t	his property within the st	ate is:				
	national	state	X_ local				
665), I hereby n according to the	ominate this pro	c Preservation Officer for pperty for inclusion in the ocedures set forth by the	National Regis	ter and cert	ify that it h	as been evaluate	
Deputy State Historic P	Preservation Offi	cer signature	has L. L	thype	<u>, </u>	2/12/0	
title Executi	ve Director	, Tennessee Histor	ical Commis	sion .	date	2/9/82	
For HCRS use	only	property is included in the					
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Keeper of the	National Regist		tional Rest				
Attest:					date		
Chief of Regis	tration 📲 🗓 🗀						



