

PH0011592

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
915.11.0006	5/6/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Grace Protestant Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mission Church for Canal Boatmen

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1041 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. (Georgetown)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Episcopal Diocese of Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
Episcopal Church House, Mt. St. Alban

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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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

Grace Church is set well back from Wisconsin Avenue on a hill between the C & O Canal and the Potomac River. It is basically a rectangular two-story gable-roofed church in the Gothic Revival style. The building is 38' 3" wide across its 3-bay west front and approximately 70' deep. Exterior walls are of coursed rubble and ashlar masonry construction. With the exception of some deterioration of the sandstone framing around the doors and windows, this elegant little church is in good condition. It is little changed from its date of construction 104 years ago.

Projecting out from the principal west facade is a small one-story gable-roofed porch with a central entrance door. This pointed-arch, six-panelled double wood door, which leads into the narthex, is framed in sandstone. Flanking the porch at either side is a small four panelled wood door set within a masonry opening under a segmental pointed arch and three-pane transom. Above each of these side doors, which open into the ground floor, is a three-pane lancet window framed by a pointed trefoil arch. Above the porch in the center of the facade is a larger, leaded glass casement window set within a pointed sandstone arch. A 2' two-stage buttress with beveled stone cap projects 2'6" out from the west wall at both the north and the south corner. The ridge of the slate-covered gabled roof (45°-50° pitch) runs east-west. Astride this main gable and corbelled slightly beyond the west wall is a rectangular gable-roofed, masonry bell-cote capped by a simple wooden cross. It is almost identical to the bell-cote on Renwick's Oak Hill Chapel.

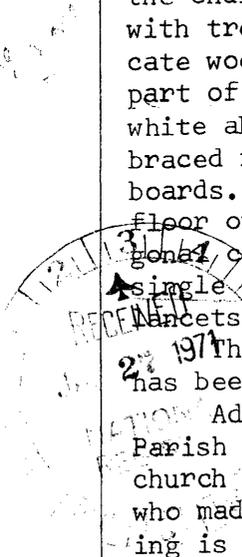
On the 5-bay north and south elevations, the lower 10/8 light double-hung windows carry segmental pointed arches with slightly projecting keystones. Upper windows of these facades are paired single-hung wooden sash lancets of light amber leaded glass, with sandstone sills and pointed arches.

The interior of this small church is particularly noteworthy. From the central entrance door, eight risers through the narthex lead to a landing from which seven more risers on either side lead to landings at entrances to the two-aisled nave. At either end of the upper narthex area, a narrow flight of stairs leads up to the second floor gallery. This west gallery or choir loft has a projecting curved central section which is supported from the church floor by a single fluted column. The loft parapet is decorated with trefoil elements set in rectangular panels which are crowned by a delicate wooden balustrade. The trim in the loft area and the pews in the main part of the church have been painted black. The plaster walls are painted white above the wooden wainscoting, while the exposed decking of the collar-braced roof is stained dark oak. The flooring in the nave is of 2"-wide oak boards. At the east end of the nave, the altar is raised one step above the floor on a platform. There is a distinguished paneled reredos with an octagonal carved canopy which is probably not original. Above the reredos, the single large stained glass east window is composed of two pointed trefoil lancets below a quatrefoil, set within a pointed arch.

The lower level of the church, which was once apparently a single room, has been separated into several smaller rooms.

Adjoining the church to the north is the 1898 Parish Hall. West of the Parish Hall stands the 1895 Rectory. In the S.W. corner of the spacious church yard a 12'-high granite cross is inscribed: "In Memory of our Boys who made the Supreme Sacrifice in the Great War Jesu Mercy." The landscaping is informal.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

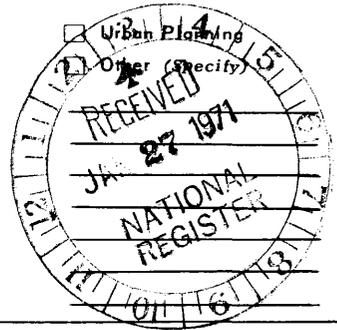
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1866-1867

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

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated Grace Church a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. Grace Church was founded in 1854 or 1855 as a mission for Georgetown harbor sailors and canal boatmen. The existing Gothic Revival style church, erected in 1866, is of particular architectural interest because of its close resemblance to James Renwick's 1850 Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel nearby. The only church in the waterfront area, this 103-year old structure remains practically unaltered from the time when the port of Georgetown and the C. & O. Canal were the center of Washington's commercial life.

About 1854 or 1855, Messrs. Thomas, Rittenhouse and Ridgely, three vestrymen from St. John's Episcopal Church (Georgetown), provided the funds to build a small frame chapel to serve Georgetown's sailors and boatmen. This chapel was constructed on a site just S.W. of the present church. During the mission's early years, the Rev. Henderson Suter, later rector of Christ Church, Alexandria, organized a Sunday School, and students from the Virginia Seminary acted as lay readers. In 1863, J. Eastburn Brown became the first regular rector in charge.

In 1865-66, District of Columbia Governor Henry D. Cooke, a member of the banking firm of Jay Cooke & Co., purchased several lots adjacent to the original property and donated \$25,000 to build the present church. The cornerstone was laid on July 29, 1866, and the church was finished in time for Easter services in 1867. Although Grace Church was made an independent parish by the Diocesan Convention in Baltimore in May 1866, it was largely supported by St. John's Church and Christ Church (Georgetown) for many years. Because Gov. Cooke neglected to execute and record the Deed of Property before the bankruptcy of Jay Cooke & Co. in 1873, the Trustees of that firm tried to confiscate the property. In 1877 the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia conveyed the property to the Trustees of Grace Church.

After the Rev. George Howell became rector in 1892, Grace Church became financially independent. The Rectory was built in 1895; the parish hall in 1898. Extensive improvements were made to the church and parish hall in 1922.

Grace Church has never had a large membership and in the last 20 years its parish has dwindled rapidly. Until recently the church held art shows and ballet programs, and was the permanent home of a professional theater group--The Garrick Players. These activities ceased late in 1967 because of a potential legal threat to the property which will revert to Cooke's heirs if it is not used as a Protestant Episcopal Church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Georgetown Commercial Architecture, Wisconsin Avenue, Historic American Buildings and Survey Selections Number 3, Issued Jointly by the Commission of Fine Arts and the Historic American Buildings Survey, March 1967.
 Georgetown Historic Waterfront, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1968.
 Newspaper articles, Washington Star, Georgetowner
 "Sketch and History of Grace P.E. Church, Georgetown, D.C. as compiled from records by Reverend Henry L. Durrant, 1855-1824."

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	54'	13"	77°	03'	45"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 24,884 square feet *2 acre*

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy C. Taylor, Landmark Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: November 3, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 726 Jackson Place, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

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: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner
 Date: January 21, 1971

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAY 6 1971

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 8 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

