

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 1 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Grace Church Van Vorst
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 268 Second Street
CITY, TOWN Jersey City VICINITY OF 14th
STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Hudson CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Rector Wardens and Vestrymen of Grace Church Van Vorst /
STREET & NUMBER 268 Second Street
CITY, TOWN Jersey City VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hudson County Administration Building
STREET & NUMBER 595 Newark Avenue
CITY, TOWN Jersey City STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey
DATE 1967 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Heritage Cons. and Rec. Ser., U.S. Dept. of Interior
CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Episcopalian Grace Church Van Vorst, located in Downtown Jersey City, was completed in 1853; its major architectural influence is early English Gothic style. The detached building is constructed of brownstone from the Belleville quarries, hammer dressed, with buttresses and ornamental work. The roof is slate, pointed for ornament, the ridge supporting an iron cresting, and the gables surmounted by stone crosses. Midway on the south side of the church is a baptistry with a groined ceiling and from this, a circular staircase of cut stone leads to the room above. This is known as Saint Margaret's Room, which is used for the keeping of the archives of the church. Above is a square tower with embattlement sides, terminating at four corners with finials which are surmounted with quatrefoil crosses. The tower is 57 feet high and was consecrated by Bishop Lines on Sunday, February 23, 1913.

Inside, the building is open roofed, the arches resting on twelve solid stone columns and has nave, aisles and vestry room - the floors of these last being paved with inlaid mosaic tile, bedded in cement. The dimensions of the church are 125 feet deep and 52 feet broad. There are 173 pews, which seat 800. The pews, wainscoting and other woodwork in the body of the church are black walnut. There are stained glass windows which were manufactured in England, France and America.

The interior of the church was frescoed and beautified in 1872 through the help of Benjamin Illingworth and John Van Vorst. This remained until 1913 when, the ravages of time necessitated redecorating, it was painted in oil by J & R Lamb of New York city. At the same time the brass work was reburnished, the organ redecorated and put in good order, and all work, inside and out, of all the parish buildings overhauled and a new steam heating plant installed.

An addition to the church was made in 1964 by the construction of a parish hall attached to the north wall of Grace Church. Architecturally, the addition is built in a style that is unsympathetic to the architecture of the original building. The structural integrity of the nominated building is not adversely affected by the 1964 addition.

Located adjacent to Grace Church Van Vorst is the church's rectory. Constructed at the time the church was built, the rectory was also designed by Detlef Lineau and was built in a style similar to that of the nominated structure.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 Construction 1850-1853 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Detlef Lineau

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

Grace Church Van Vorst, built in the mid-19th century and designed by the highly respected architect, Detlef Lineau, remains as a fine example of English Gothic architecture. Representative of the early ecclesiastical architecture of Detlef Lineau, a founder of the American Institute of Architects, Grace Church displays a wealth of ornament and detail, adding a notable contribution to the architecture of Jersey City. Aware that it is the last standing church of those designed by Lineau, Grace Church is afforded added significance. In addition to its architectural importance, the church is in the unique opportunity to serve as a pillar of stability in a neighborhood that has deteriorated in recent years. Serving area residents spiritually and administering social/humanitarian services creates a vital need to maintain the viability of Grace Church. Landmark designation would not only preserve the architectural heritage of Grace Church Van Vorst, but would in addition, extend the financial and psychological support needed for the church's continued existence.

The Grace Church Van Vorst Parish was formed in 1847 at a meeting held in Henry A. Booraem's home. Services were then held at a Baptist meeting place and next in a little wooden church on Grove Street in the town that was then called Van Vorst. As the parish grew, the need for a larger church became necessary. In 1848, land was conveyed (the title was registered on September 18, 1851) by four women: Sarah Van Vorst, Mrs. Cornelia (nee Van Vorst) Booraem - her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Frances (nee Van Vorst) Bacot - another daughter who later married Michael Lineau (see below), and Emily (nee Bacot) Van Vorst, wife of John Van Vorst.

Each lot was twenty five feet wide by one hundred feet deep and took up the frontage on Erie Street and South Seventh Street (now Second Street). Each deed contained a reservation that the land shall not be used for any other purpose than for a Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, and if otherwise used, shall revert to its donor.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4/10th

QUADRANGLE NAME Jersey City QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18 580660	4508190	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated comprises a lot 17,500 square feet at the northwest corner of Second and Erie Streets.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-292-2028)

NAME / TITLE	Charles E. Wyatt, Principle Planner
ORGANIZATION	City of Jersey City, Office of Planning
STREET & NUMBER	280 Grove Street
CITY OR TOWN	Jersey City
DATE	12/78
TELEPHONE	(201) 547-5010
STATE	New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

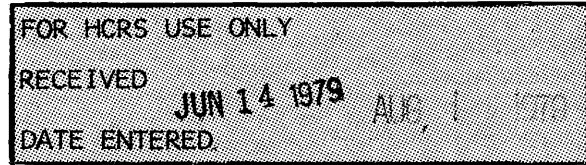
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy *[Signature]*
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

5-24-79

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environ. Prot. DATE May 24, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 8-1-79
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE 7/29/79



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Grace Church Van Vorst
Jersey City
Hudson County New Jersey 034

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The Parish chose Detlef Lineau as the architect for the new building. It was a natural choice because Michael Lineau, Detlef's brother, was an active member of the congregation as well as the brother-in-law of Henry A. Booraem, the founder of Grace Church Van Vorst.

Detlef Lineau (1818-87) was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark and had his architectural training in both France and Germany. He came to the United States with his family and settled in Jersey City in 1848. At the time he was chosen to design Grace Church Van Vorst, Lineau was a young architect just starting to practice in the United States. Later, he became an established architect designing many buildings in the metropolitan New York area, as well as in Savannah, Georgia, Ontario, Canada and Northern Germany. Since all Lineau's buildings were constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century and most of his work was located in the urban downtown areas, only a few of his major buildings remain.

During his lifetime, Lineau designed many banks, factory buildings, residences (including a beautiful blockfront consisting of marble frontages along 705-19 Fifth Avenue, New York City - the home of Mrs. Rebecca Colford Jones, a socialite). He also designed buildings for the Schermerhorns, August Belmont, and two members of the Astor family.

Lineau built many buildings in Jersey City besides Grace Church Van Vorst: a cottage for his brother, Michael Lineau (on what is today Lineau Place in Jersey City Heights), the original First National Bank Building at 1 Exchange Place (1864), the Mechanics and Traders Bank Building (1859), and sugar refinery for F.O. Matthiessen-Weichers-New Jersey Sugar Refining Company, Washington Street (1862-67) merged into American Sugar Refinery.

His most famous existing building is the Lockwood Mathews Mansion (1864) in South Norwalk, Connecticut which was placed on the National Register in 1969.

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For the design of Grace Church Van Vorst, Detlef Lineau employed a style which has been described as "eclectic" because it combined various sources including early English Gothic and Italo-German Romanesque stylistic elements with German traditions of timber construction.

Construction of the new church began in 1850 and the church was first opened for a special service on May 11, 1853 to celebrate the marriage of the architect, Detlef Lineau to Catherine Van Giessen, the widow of Robert Diedrichs, Michael Lineau's former partner and Henry A. Booraem's younger sister. A week later, on May 18, the first general service was held, followed by a luncheon for the entire parish at the home of John Van Vorst. It can be readily seen that the building of Grace Church was a family endeavor sponsored and pushed by the Van Vorsts and the Booraems.

In 1864, in accordance with Lineau's plans, the Church was enlarged by the addition of two bays to the west, at which time the former entrance through the tower was converted into a baptistery, and a new porch was constructed further west. In 1872 the entire church property was enclosed by an iron fence given by Joseph McCoy.

The tower, however, was not built until 1912, the first story being covered with a board roof during the first sixty years. Finally through the exertions of Saint Margaret's Guild, the room over the baptistery was built, and the tower completed through the help of Mrs. May Ann King, a most generous benefactor of Grace Church.

A final addition was made to the church in 1964, by the construction of a parish hall attached to the north wall of Grace Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Grace Church Van Vorst

Jersey City

Hudson County

New Jersey 034 SIGNIFICANCE

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The total cost of the church was approximately \$1.6 million. In the 131 years of its existence, the parish has grown and changed with the neighborhood. In 1949, two years after celebrating its 100th anniversary, the fortunes and congregation of the church declined to the point that there was talk of closing the church. A smaller downtown Episcopal church, St. Mark's, had gone out of existence and things looked bleak. At the same time, two young priests and a seminarian at General Theological Seminary in New York City were seeking a parish which would offer them an opportunity to work directly with the underprivileged and alienated people of a deteriorating urban community. These young clerics were Reverend C. Kilmer Myers, the Reverend Robert Pegram, and the Reverend Paul Moore, Jr. Their valient efforts to aid the inner city were chronicled by Jenny Moore, wife of Paul Moore, in the People on Second Street. (Paul Moore is currently Bishop of the Diocese of New York.)

The Grace Church Van Vorst Parish continued its efforts to place its faith in the urban community. Under the guidance of Reverend Arthur Pedersen, the Church formed a non-profit corporation to rehabilitate many run-down tenements near the church. Thus the Church has continued to play an active role in the lives of its parishioners.

Grace Church Van Vorst has been recognized for its historical and architectural merits by the Historic American Building Survey, which in 1967 included the Church in its inventory of historical sites. The Church clearly retains Lineau's "eclectic" architectural design of combining early English Gothic and Italo-German Romanesque stylistic elements with German traditions of timber construction. Changes have been made to its interior although these have been primarily superficial alterations. Deterioration, both in its interior and exterior, is increasingly evident as monies are unavailable to meet the continued maintenance costs of the aging structure. Further deterioration, if not halted in the near future, will pose a serious threat to the architectural detail of Grace Church.

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Elizabeth Anne, Sister. Personal communication, 1978.

Grace Church Van Vorst Parish Records. Located at 278 Second Street, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Historic American Building Survey. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 1967.

Kramer, Ellen., "Domestic Architecture of Detlef Lineau, A Conservative Victorian." Doctoral Thesis on file, New York University (1957).

Moore, Jenny. People on Second Street. New York: William Moore Company, 1968.

Pedersen, The Reverend Arthur G. Personal communication, 1978.